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## I

*(Information)*

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 2199/90

by Mr Egon Klepsch (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(4 October 1990)**(93/C 297/01)*

*Subject:* Free trade agreement between the Community and Switzerland — obstacles to free competition

Members of the Commission of the European Communities have on several occasions advocated micro-electronic components and environmentally sound long-life micro-battery systems.

Is the Commission aware of any direct or indirect interference with the manufacture and distribution or the transfer of micro-electronic components and technology to the Member States of the Community, and, if so, what legal and political action does it intend to take to stop it?

Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan <sup>(1)</sup>  
on behalf of the Commission

*(2 July 1993)*

Apart from alleged obstruction in one instance, the Commission is not aware of any direct or indirect interference with the manufacture, distribution or transfer of micro-electronic components and technologies for long-life batteries. In the above instance the Commission received a submission in 1986 in which, in connection with long-life batteries, the Swiss Confederation was reproached for alleged breaches of the competition rules set out in Article 23 of the Free Trade Agreement between the Community and Switzerland. The nub of the applicant's

allegations was that he was being hindered in his plans to manufacture long-life batteries by an unlawful declaration on the part of the Swiss Government. After detailed investigation of the facts, the Commission came to the conclusion that there was no basis for claiming that Article 23 of the Agreement had been contravened and informed the applicant accordingly. In 1990 the latter renewed his complaint to the Commission, submitting substantially the same facts as before. There would not appear to be any grounds for altering the original evaluation.

<sup>(1)</sup> The Commission regrets the delay in supplying the answer to this question.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 1840/91

by Mrs Kirsten Jensen (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(1 September 1991)**(93/C 297/02)*

*Subject:* Debt and tropical rain forests

The problem of logging and deforestation among other causes has to do with the problem of debt repayment. Does the EC recognize this problem? How does it envisage alleviating the debt of the countries of the south on a larger scale? Will the Commission make its position on debt reduction in the developing countries known to the G7 summit in London in July and in what form will it try to put pressure on the EC heads of state?

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

(2 July 1993)

The Commission is aware of the constraints that arise from heavy external debt and debt service for a large number of developing countries. However the Commission has a limited direct role to play in this area, as the debt owed to the Community as such is limited. Coordination between Member States prior to the multilateral or bilateral negotiations on these questions could, however, significantly improve the coherence and the adequacy of the Community's interventions.

The Commission welcomes the progress that has been made during the last four or five years at the international level, in particular after the London and Munich Summits. The Paris Club has further eased the conditions on a case-by-case basis and has extended them to lower middle-income countries. The Commission supports the proposal made by several Member States and welcomes the initiatives that have been taken since then to improve the terms and conditions for the treatment of the official debt of the poorer and least-developed countries.

More specifically, in connection with the environment, the Commission follows with great attention the developments that are taking place in debt-for-nature swaps.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2394/91**

**by Mr Max Simeoni (ARC)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(22 October 1991)

(93/C 297/03)

*Subject:* Request for Community aid to the Free Ukrainian University of Munich

The Free Ukrainian University (UFU), which was founded over 70 years ago, provides teaching in philosophy, law and economics to emigrés from the Ukraine and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe. During the long years of totalitarianism it contributed to the development of Ukrainian studies in Europe and in the world in a climate of freedom.

Following the democratic revolutions in Eastern Europe, it has now begun to intensify its relations with the countries of this area in order to meet demand in different areas: academic and student exchange schemes, consultations and meetings in Eastern Europe and cooperation. Despite substantial aid from the German Ministry of the Interior

(DM 108 114,41 in 1990) and the Bavarian Ministry of Education (DM 102 088 in 1990) and the donations which it receives, the UFU is no longer able to meet expenses arising from its new responsibilities. The experience acquired by the UFU in the field of education could be of great assistance in social and economic terms to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe during their transitional phase from a centralized bureaucratic system to an open market system, which will be required to combine economic efficiency with adequate social security provisions.

Can the Commission consider the possibility of providing the UFU with a regular grant of ECU 60 000 to enable it to pursue its activities?

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

(2 July 1993)

Having studied the application for funding of ECU 60 000 for the continuation of the activities of UFU, the Commission considers that assistance of the University in Munich cannot be funded under the budget for technical assistance to the countries of the former Soviet Union. To qualify for funding under this budget, requests for funding should be made by institutions or government agencies within the former Soviet Union; the budgets do not cover direct assistance to institutions within the Community unless they directly benefit the former Soviet Union and involve a partner there. The Commission has no other funds out of which it could make a recurring grant to the UFU.

The Commission would like to express its full support, however, for the activities of the University, to which it has granted subsidies in the past. Furthermore, it looks forward to the possibility of educational links with the Ukraine under any new agreement which may be signed between the Community and Ukraine.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 623/92**

**by Mrs Annemarie Goedmakers (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(23 March 1992)

(93/C 297/04)

*Subject:* Encouraging research contracts for universities

In the United States businesses are encouraged to give research contracts to universities by granting them tax relief on such contracts.



This is not general practice within the Community. For example, in the United Kingdom companies pay a surcharge depending on the amount they devote to research contracted out to universities.

1. Does the Commission believe that tax relief on research contracts given by companies to universities can have a stimulating effect on collaboration between industry and the universities?
2. Does the Commission think that tax relief might help the Community's research effort in general and the relative scientific and technological position of the Community in particular?
3. Does the Commission think it desirable that efforts should be made to reach a common policy on tax relief to companies granting research contracts to universities?

**Answer given by Mrs Scrivener  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(28 July 1993)

The Commission takes the view that tax treatment can play a role as regards R&D activities. It also notes with satisfaction that a wide range of tax incentives are available in the individual Member States. It would seem difficult, however, to favour one research agency over another. Accordingly, the Commission is not at the moment contemplating any initiative focusing specifically on research contracts concluded with universities.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 750/92**  
**by Mrs Mary Banotti (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(6 April 1992)  
(93/C 297/05)

*Subject:* Cot death syndrome

In the content of the third framework programme (1990—1994), could the Commission inform me whether in the research programme in the field of bio-medicine and health it has funded any research projects into the cot death syndrome especially aimed at providing comparative statistics for the number of cot deaths in Member States?

**Answer given by Mr Ruberti  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(8 July 1993)

Under the third framework programme (1990—1994) and in particular under the Biomedical and Health Research Programme (1990—1994) adopted on 9 September 1991, research projects into the cot death syndrome have so far not been funded.

Among the 808 research project proposals registered in response to the second call for proposals under the Biomedical and Health Research Programme there are also no proposals for research into the cot death syndrome.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 830/92**  
**by the following members: Claudia Roth  
and Marco Taradash (V)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(14 April 1992)  
(93/C 297/06)

*Subject:* 'Comitology'

Can the Commission give a detailed and exhaustive list of all committees having official or unofficial links with the EC dealing with questions such as freedom of movement of persons, security, anti-terrorist measures, immigration, measures to combat drugs and crime, involving the Commission as a full member, a partner, an observer or in any other capacity?

Can it also give a detailed description of the structure, role and organization of these bodies?

**Answer given by Mr Delors  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(4 August 1993)

The bodies referred to by the Honourable Member are intergovernmental rather than Community bodies. Consequently, the Commission does not enjoy the same status within them as that normally conferred by the Treaties.

As regards the free movement of persons, the body concerned is the Coordinator's Group set up following the Rhodes European Council in December 1988. The Commission plays a full part in its work as well as in the horizontal data-processing group answerable to the coordinators.

In the immigration field, October 1986 saw the establishment of the ad hoc Working Group on immigration, in whose work and in whose various subgroups the Commission has played a full part from the outset.

In the matter of police cooperation, the Commission has held observer status in the various bodies of the Trevi Group since January 1991.

Where drugs are concerned, an initiative addressed by President Mitterand to the other eleven Heads of State and Government and the President of the Commission resulted in the establishment in December 1989 of the European Committee to Combat Drugs (ECCD). In 1990, this body, consisting of the 'anti-drugs coordinators' of the Member States and the Commission, drew up the European Programme for Combating Drugs, which was adopted by the Rome European Council in December 1990. In 1992, the ECCD drew up a report on the implementation and future direction of this programme, which was approved by the Edinburgh European Council in December 1992. The ECCD was also the originator of European Drug Prevention Week (16—22 November 1992) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the regulation establishing which was adopted by the Council on 8 February 1993 and will enter into force once a decision has been taken concerning the Centre's location. The Commission has been fully involved in the work of the ECCD since its inception.

Once the Treaty on European Union has come into force, the activities of these various bodies will fall within the ambit of cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs (Title VI of the Treaty). They will be placed under the authority of the Coordinating Committee provided for in Article K4 of the Treaty, which may see fit to restructure them if necessary.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1012/92**

**by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(27 April 1992)*

*(93/C 297/07)*

*Subject:* The ethnic Greeks of North America and Community programmes

The ethnic Greek population of North America is estimated at something over two million. Given their evident cultural links and close ties with one of the Member States of the Community, does the Commission agree that it should take

account of the ethnic Greek community of North America in drawing up Community programmes?

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

*(29 July 1993)*

In planning its cultural programmes, the Commission always seeks to ensure that they contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore. Moreover, the Community and the Member States also foster cooperation with non-member countries.

Any cultural project originating from the ethnic Greek population of North America which fits this description and is of a sufficiently high standard is therefore eligible for assistance from the annual budget for 'cultural action'.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1150/92**

**by Lord O'Hagan (ED)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(11 May 1992)*

*(93/C 297/08)*

*Subject:* The role of the President of the Commission

There are differences of view about the role of the President of the Commission:

1. Is the President a chairman, chief executive or, more accurately, comparable to the President of the USA?
2. Or does the President act on his own account, or only as a representative of the College of Commissioners?

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

*(14 July 1993)*

Under the Treaties establishing the European Communities, the Commission is a body of independent personalities appointed for a term of four years by common accord of the Governments of the Member States.

The President and the six Vice-Presidents are appointed from among its members for a term of two years in accordance with the same procedure.

The existence of the European Council is enshrined in the Single Act, which states that it will bring together the Heads of State or of Government of the Member States and the President of the Commission of the European Communities.

The Treaty on European Union amends the procedure for the appointment of the Commission, with the stipulation that

'the governments of the Member States shall, in consultation with the nominee for President, nominate the other persons whom they intend to appoint as members of the Commission.'

The Community's institutional structure is so different from anything that exists or has existed elsewhere that the comparisons suggested by the Honourable Member are not relevant.

When acting in his capacity as President and except where he expressly states that he is adopting a personal position or this fact is obvious from the context in which he is speaking (e.g. conferences, symposia, etc.), the President of the Commission, like the other Members, speaks on behalf of the Commission as a whole.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1160/92

by Mrs Mary Banotti (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 May 1992)

(93/C 297/09)

*Subject:* Irrigation in Spain

1. Further to my Written Question No 1088/91 <sup>(1)</sup>, can the Commission now say whether an environmental impact assessment has been conducted for the irrigation planned for the region of Ambroz, Cáceres province, which is included in the Operational Programme for the improvement of agricultural production conditions in Extremadura, and which will affect a site identified in the Commission's SFF3 list of areas of importance for bird conservation (site No 098, Embalse de Gabriel y Galán)? If not, will the Commission suspend all funds until a satisfactory EIA has been conducted?

2. In winter this site holds some 600 crane, *Grus grus*, a declining species listed on Annex I to Directive 79/409/EEC <sup>(2)</sup>. Acceptance of the SFF3 list by the Commission implies acknowledgement that the site deserves designation as a Special Protection Area under that directive. Will the Commission, in accordance with Section 3.1.4.1, first paragraph, of the Community Support Framework for Spain, ensure that priority is given to the full implementation of this directive in respect of this site, through designation of a Special Protection Area (supported by appropriate Community funds, for example under Article 21 of Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91 <sup>(3)</sup> on environmentally sensitive areas) and that other development in the area does not prejudice the objectives of this directive?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 55, 2. 3. 1992, p. 14.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 103, 25. 4. 1979, p. 1.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No L 218, 6. 8. 1991, p. 1.

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas  
on behalf of the Commission

(16 July 1993)

After consultations with the authorities of the autonomous region of Extremadura it emerged that this irrigation scheme for the Ambroz region was approved in 1973 and satisfied all the conditions imposed at that time. However, these did not include the obligation to conduct an environmental impact assessment, as introduced by Directive 85/337/EEC <sup>(1)</sup>.

Nevertheless, after the Commission had repeatedly drawn this to their attention, the autonomous regional authorities in Extremadura recently completed a study to reassess the impact of certain irrigation schemes on protection of the flora and fauna.

In this connection, the regional authorities responsible for this scheme consulted the environmental authorities and decided to take appropriate compensatory measures to conserve the natural habitat. A decision is about to be taken on these measures, which include reducing the area to be irrigated from 5 000 hectares to 3 000 hectares.

Under these circumstances, the Commission sees not infringement of the existing Community legislation, particularly considering that the area covered by the irrigation scheme has not been designated a special protection area under Directive 79/409/EEC.

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

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1421/92**  
**by Mr Francesco Speroni (ARC)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(17 June 1992)*  
*(93/C 297/10)*

*Subject:* Impact on air transport safety of new limits on working time of flight personnel

A draft document, by the Joint Committee on common European rules in the aviation sector (JAA) defining limits on flying and working time is approaching completion.

Initial indications suggest that these limits fall far below the standards of existing rules. Does the Commission intend to consult associations of flight personnel (pilots, flight technicians and flight attendants) on the subject? Does it consider that raising these limits can improve transport safety within the meaning of Article 16 of the Treaty on European Union signed in Maastricht on 7 February 1992?

**Answer given by Mr Matutes**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(16 July 1993)*

In response to both employer and employee organizations' calls for a Community wide system for the regulation of duty and rest times of flight crew in the single aviation market, the Commission has been working with these organizations, as well as medical and safety experts, for over two years. Great emphasis has always been given to the fullest possible consultations with the industry to ensure the most apposite and effective provisions.

Internal Commission consultations via the Joint Aviation Committee, a consultative body to the Commission, have yielded little progress on account of the widely divergent views of the employers and employees. The Commission has also followed the work in this field undertaken by the Joint Aviation Authorities and has participated in this body's consultation procedure on its latest draft proposals. Within this procedure, the Commission has requested further consideration of several specific safety related issues as well as (in the light of the principle of subsidiarity) less complex and mandatory provisions.

Being aware that any Community wide scheme should not be financially onerous to Community airlines nor disadvantageous to the flight crews nor jeopardize air safety standards, the Commission has reserved its final opinion on the appropriateness of the JAA proposals until they are

finalized and has also safeguarded its own right of initiative regarding their possible transposition into Community law.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1582/92**  
**by Mr Filippos Pierros (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(16 June 1992)*  
*(93/C 297/11)*

*Subject:* Use of Community CSF funds for SMUs in Greece

According to reliable information, long delays occur in allocating and using funds granted under regional development programmes to assist Greek SMUs. In particular, funds intended for technical assistance, the training of business executives and technological modernization and cooperation between undertakings etc. have not been used to the extent they should have been. In addition to the lack of adequate information concerning the availability of these funds, one of the basic problems is the ineffectiveness of the various bodies responsible for development (development and industrial associations, chambers of commerce and industry). This is due to the failure to issue the presidential decrees necessary for the proper allocation and administration of the above funds by these bodies for their intended purposes.

Because of the major importance of measures to support Greek SMUs, can the Commission say what measures it intends to take to overcome this problem?

**Answer given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(20 July 1993)*

The delay occurring in the implementation of measures to assist SMEs under regional operational programmes has led to the introduction of pilot projects in the context of the present Community support framework (CSF) in a limited number of regions. These experiments will provide a basis for discussion with a view to extending the measures to all regions in Greece in the context of the next CSF.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1637/92**

by Mr Llewellyn Smith (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 June 1992)

(93/C 297/12)

*Subject:* Codex/GATT

Does the Commission agree that one of the more contentious issues in these negotiations is the harmonization of health and environmental standards, i.e. basing domestic standards on international standards?

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1638/92**

by Mr Llewellyn Smith (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 June 1992)

(93/C 297/13)

*Subject:* Codex/GATT: harmonization framework

In the context of these negotiations does the Commission support a *harmonization framework* that accepts the need for a diversity in health and environmental standards in a family of nations, striving both for trade and development, as well as health and safety and a sustainable environment?

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1639/92**

by Mr Llewellyn Smith (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 June 1992)

(93/C 297/14)

*Subject:* Codex/GATT: health and environmental standards

In Codex/GATT negotiations what general principles underpin the Community's approach in the harmonization of health and environmental standards?

**Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 1637/92, 1638/92 and 1639/92**given by Sir Leon Brittan  
on behalf of the Commission

(29 July 1993)

1. In the context of the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations, the harmonization of health and

environmental standards had been considered in relation to the draft agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). Both these draft agreements aim at a balance between a clear recognition of the sovereign right of countries to adopt measures for the protection of legitimate public policy goals such as the protection of health or the environment — and the need to ensure that such measures are not adopted with a view or with the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to international trade. This balance is reflected in the approach followed in the two draft texts on the issue of harmonisation, which is essentially based on two principles:

- (a) International standards are recognised as having a particular value in minimizing negative effects on trade. There is therefore a presumption that measures based on international standards do not constitute an unnecessary obstacle to trade (Article 2.5. TBT; Article 10 SPS). Countries are encouraged to participate in international harmonisation activities and to base their national standards on international standards whenever appropriate.
- (b) The right of countries to apply domestic measures based on a higher level of health or environmental protection than that established by international standards is fully recognised (Article 2.4. TBT; Article 11 SPS). Such domestic measures should not, of course, constitute an unnecessary obstacle to trade and a number of criteria are established in the two agreements to avoid this.

2. The Commission's policy is to favour international harmonisation, particularly in those cases in which a proliferation of inconsistent domestic standards results in significant market fragmentation to the detriment of Community exporters. The phytosanitary field provides a good example.

Harmonization can also have a value as a means of promoting the wider acceptance by countries of appropriate levels of health and environmental protection. It goes without saying that, as is indeed required by the EC Treaty, the Commission aims at ensuring that international standards are based on a high level of health and environmental protection. International harmonization is not, however, a panacea and there are indeed a wide number of circumstances in which national measures are and will continue to be necessary. Firstly, international harmonization has its limits and in many cases domestic health or environmental standards will be adopted in advance of the development of international standards. Secondly, there are cases in which international harmonization is not an appropriate policy since efficient standards have to be adapted to local conditions and do not result in market fragmentation. This is for instance the case for many environmental standards aiming at limiting local pollution and which relate to acceptable emission levels or production methods rather than to the final characteristics of a product. Under the GATT this type of measures may not normally be applied to imported products. Finally, even in the presence of international standards, it would be

perfectly legitimate for the Community to apply different standards if international standards are based on an insufficient level of health or environmental protection.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1729/92**  
by Mr Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARC)  
to the Commission of the European Communities  
(1 July 1992)  
(93/C 297/15)

*Subject:* Use of Dutch by the Commission

I have already noted on several occasions that the Commission only gives French addresses for its offices in Brussels.

Does the Commission not think that this is prejudicial to Belgium's trilingual and Brussels' bilingual status?

Can the Commission now give assurance that changes will be made in the future?

**Answer given by Mr Delors**  
on behalf of the Commission  
(5 July 1993)

In the Directory of the Commission, the addresses of the institution and its departments located in Brussels are given in both French and Dutch.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1730/92**  
by Mr Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARC)  
to the Commission of the European Communities  
(1 July 1992)  
(93/C 297/16)

*Subject:* World Fair in Seville

It appears that I can obtain a documentation pack on Expo in Seville from the Community Commissariat-General.

Can the Commission explain the reasons behind this initiative?

Can the Commission inform me how many packs have been produced and to whom, apart from Members of the European Parliament, they have been supplied?

Would the Commission also inform me of the total cost and the price per documentation pack?

**Answer given by Mr Pinheiro**  
on behalf of the Commission  
(4 August 1993)

The documentation pack referred to by the Honourable Member was presented to official visitors to the Community Pavilion at the Universal Exposition in Seville.

It was produced with the financial support of GEIE Promolive (ECU 200 000).

Ten thousand copies were printed at a unit cost of ECU 20.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1751/92**  
by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)  
to the Commission of the European Communities  
(2 July 1992)  
(93/C 297/17)

*Subject:* Restoration of the Museum of Ali Pasha in Ioannine

On the picturesque island of Ioannine an ancient plane tree was recently blown down by strong winds and fell on the Museum of Ali Pasha causing considerable damage. Does the Commission intend to help restore this 18th Century building, and notably make available funds for this purpose?

**Answer given by Mr Pinheiro**  
on behalf of the Commission  
(26 July 1993)

The monument in question could be considered for financial support by the Commission, in the framework of its action for support of pilot projects to conserve the European architectural heritage, provided they fulfil the rules published each year in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Moreover the Commission is willing to examine the possibility of cofinancing the conservation of Ali-Pasha Museum in Ioannina in the interests of regional development, should the Greek authorities make such a request in the context of their regional development plan to be presented shortly for consideration.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1753/92**

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 July 1993)

(93/C 297/18)

*Subject:* Reconstruction of the ancient theatre and the castle in Mytiline

The ancient theatre and the castle in Mytiline, both of which are ruined monuments, are threatened by total destruction as a result of the ravages of time and human indifference. The ancient theatre is unsuitable for use in any capacity and the castle has deteriorated to a point where it represents a danger. Despite this, the castle, which is one of the largest in the Mediterranean, is considered one of the best examples of a medieval fortification. Does the Commission intend to make a financial contribution to the reconstruction of the abovementioned ancient sites?

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

(29 July 1993)

The two monuments mentioned could be considered for financial support by the Commission in the framework of its annual action for support of pilot projects to conserve the European architectural heritage, provided they fulfil the rules published each year in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Moreover the Commission is willing to examine the possibility of cofinancing the restoration of the Ancient Theatre and Fortress in Mytilini, in the interest of regional development, should the Greek authorities make such a request in the context of their regional development plan to be presented shortly for consideration.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1829/92**

by Mr Alexandros Alavanos (CG)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 July 1992)

(93/C 297/19)

*Subject:* Destruction of monuments at Ierapolis/Pamukkale in Turkey

Pamukkale/Ierapolis has been designated by the Unesco World Cultural and Physical Heritage as the most important of the seven Turkish sites and one of the most important in

the world because of the exceptional beauty of its geological formation and its historical value. Over the last 10 years, this area has become a growing attraction for tourists, who are estimated to have numbered about 1 million in 1991 alone. However, no practical steps have been taken to protect the natural and historical features of this area, and inestimable damage has been caused by the uncontrolled influx of tourists. The damage is so extensive that the Turkish 'SOS Mediterranean Office' is calling for a tourist boycott of the area for 1992 to allow time for effective measures to be taken to protect the area, as proposed by a Unesco study.

1. What information does the Commission have on the danger to the natural and historical features of Pamukkale/Ierapolis as a result of the rapid and uncontrolled development of tourism and how can the Community help to protect it?
2. What representations will it make to the Turkish government to provide effective protection for the monuments in this area?

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

(12 August 1993)

The Commission has no information on the site in question. It undertakes measures to raise awareness on the protection and conservation of architectural heritage in Europe, but it has no jurisdiction as regards safeguarding listed monuments or sites.

This falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of international bodies responsible for listed architectural sites.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1848/92**

by Mr Josep Verde i Aldea (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 July 1992)

(93/C 297/20)

*Subject:* The Commission's failure to attend the meeting of European Justice Ministers

On 9 and 10 June 1992, the Justice Ministers of the 27 member countries of the Council of Europe, which include the 12 Community Member States, held meetings to promote the state governed by the rule of law in the new

democracies in Central and Eastern Europe and to consolidate it in the other European countries. Furthermore, consideration was given to a draft European Convention on damage caused by the pursuit of activities harmful to the environment, this being the first international document laying down a general system of third party liability in respect of damage caused to the environment.

The following were also invited to attend the meetings as observers: Canada, Russia and other countries from Eastern Europe, as well as international organizations and the Commission of the European Communities. According to press reports, the Commission did not send any representatives to the Conference.

How can the Commission justify its failure to attend such an important Conference when the Treaty on European Union includes among its objectives judicial cooperation on civil and penal matters?

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

*(3 September 1993)*

The Commission attaches great importance to the Council of Europe's work in the field of judicial cooperation, and, in particular, to the topics on the agenda of the 18th Conference of Justice Ministers, held in Cyprus on 9 and 10 June 1992.

The Commission, represented by the Head of the Commission Delegation in Cyprus, Mr J.P. Derishourg, took part in the Conference.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1948/92**

**by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(1 September 1992)*

*(93/C 297/21)*

*Subject:* Setting up an atmospheric pollution monitoring station at the Acropolis

The Acropolis is deteriorating visibly every day as a result of atmospheric pollution and the Community is funding a programme to protect the Parthenon. Specific proposals have been put forward by the University of the Aegean (the Environment Department) for setting up a station to monitor atmospheric pollution at the Acropolis in order to tackle the adverse effects of such pollution not only for the marble stonework of the Acropolis but also, more generally speaking, for the Attica Basin as a whole. On 20 July 1981

Greece ratified the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage.

Bearing in mind the above considerations, can the Commission state what action the Greek authorities intend to take to combat the deterioration of the Acropolis and whether they are complying with the communication from the Commission to the Council on the protection of national treasures possessing artistic, historic or archaeological value <sup>(1)</sup>.

Can the Commission state whether there is any provision, in Community funding for the protection of the Parthenon, for monitoring pollution levels at the Acropolis and, if not, does it intend to provide funding for setting up such a monitoring station?

<sup>(1)</sup> COM(89) 594 final.

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

*(28 July 1993)*

On the initiative of the European Parliament, part of the restoration work on the Acropolis, which is carried out entirely under the responsibility of the relevant Greek departments, has been funded by the Commission every year since 1983.

To date, this restoration work, which has been presented to the international public and to conservation and restoration specialists in particular on several occasions, has been very well received.

The effect of atmospheric pollution on archaeological monuments is a major concern for the Community just as it is for the relevant authorities in Greece. However, this subject has nothing to do with the Commission's communication to the Council on the protection of national treasures of artistic and archaeological value.

That communication was followed by a proposal for a regulation on the export of cultural goods as well as by a proposal for a directive on the return of cultural goods having left the territory of a Member State illicitly. The Council reached a political agreement on these two proposals at its meeting on 10 November 1992.

In conclusion, the Commission would remind the Honourable Member that financial support for the Acropolis and the Parthenon is always granted on the basis of proposals from the relevant departments of the Member State concerned. At present, the aid is intended exclusively for restoration and conservation work.



**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2087/92**

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1992)

(93/C 297/22)

*Subject:* CAL-NAT in the vicinity of an archaeological site

The remains of the ancient city of Alos are located at Almyros near Volos on land where the CAL-NAT Company (formerly AGET — IRAKLIS) operates a system of ore conveyor belts. Does the Commission not think it should take steps to protect the environment and the cultural heritage at this site which is an integral part of the ancient past of Greece and Europe in general? What does it intend to do?

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

(4 August 1993)

The role of the Commission in protecting and safeguarding the cultural heritage is clearly defined, notably in the conclusions of the Council and the Ministers for Culture of 12 November 1992 on the 'guidelines for Community cultural action'.

Once ratified, Article 128 of the Treaty on European Union will serve to consolidate this role, which is to promote cooperation between Member States and, where appropriate, to support and supplement the action they take, whilst acknowledging the preponderant role played by the Member States and the subsidiary nature of Community action in this sphere.

The Commission is therefore unable to make representations to the Greek authorities concerning the conservation of the ancient city of Alos. Any initiative relating to the management of the Greek cultural heritage is exclusively a matter for the relevant national and/or regional authorities.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2475/92**

by Lord O'Hagan (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(8 October 1992)

(93/C 297/23)

*Subject:* Subsidiarity

To what extent would subsidiarity apply to legislation already enforced in the European Community?

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

(3 September 1993)

At its meeting in Lisbon in June 1992 the European Council asked the Commission to prepare a comprehensive report by the end of 1993 on the possibility of reviewing certain Community rules and regulations in the light of the subsidiarity principle. In response to this request, the Commission submitted to the Edinburgh European Council a report on the first fruits of its review of existing Community legislation, with examples, which was noted by the Council in its Conclusions. The Commission identified several families of rules and regulations for review in 1993.

To this end, the Commission is endeavouring to sift through existing legislation in the light of the two tests of the subsidiarity principle:

- Which regulations no longer satisfy the need-for-action test, either because it is questionable whether the Community is the most effective level of action, or because the value added by the measure, compared with action taken at national level, is no longer apparent?
- Which regulations no longer satisfy the proportionality test, either because they go into unnecessary detail or because they could more usefully take the form not of a binding legal instrument but of a more flexible measure (recommendation agreements with management and labour, mutual recognition, etc.)?

The Commission considers it vital that this process should not undermine the Community *acquis*. In practical terms, it is planning to give priority to reviewing long-standing legislation.

The Commission will make proposals to Parliament and the Council on the instruments which, in its view, could be amended or even repealed. Pending amendment of the instruments, the Commission sees no other way in which the subsidiarity principle could be applied to legislation already in force.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2567/92**

by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 October 1992)

(93/C 297/24)

*Subject:* Signing of the 'open skies' agreement between the Netherlands and the United States

The document finalized in Washington between the Netherlands and the United States and baptized 'open skies'

grants Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) landing rights at all US airports. The airline may, furthermore, pick up passengers there and transport them to any destination outside the United States.

The 'open skies' document breaks the protectionist tradition established in 1944 by the agreement signed that year in Chicago. That agreement, which was signed by most countries, was designed to protect national interests with regard to aviation. The US government has always wanted to bring it to an end and has repeatedly offered its German, French and UK counterparts free entry to its airports. In return, US airlines would enjoy the same privilege. Until now, the response has always been negative.

Does the Commission consider that the signing of the 'open skies' agreement may signal the beginning of a new policy of complete liberalization of the aviation industry worldwide, and that it should encourage this by ensuring that the abovementioned 'open skies' document signed by the Netherlands and the United States is extended to the whole of the European Community?

**Answer given by Mr Matutes  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(19 July 1993)

The Commission has taken note of the recently concluded 'open skies' agreement between the Netherlands and the United States.

The liberal policy advocated by the United States is primarily in the interest of US air carriers. Issues like foreign ownership limitation and cabotage are still considered in a very restrictive way by the US authorities.

In fact, US air carriers have a much better access into the Community, making use of their fifth freedom opportunities, than Community air carriers have in the United States.

The Commission has put forward a communication on external aviation relations with third countries. According to this document, negotiations on a Community level with the United States are considered as a priority. The main aims of Community negotiations with the US will have to be defined after careful analysis of the existing situation.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2598/92**  
**by Mrs Mary Banotti (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(27 October 1992)  
(93/C 297/25)

*Subject:* Coordination of the Commission's activities related to the media

Does the Commission have any plans for coordinating activities between the four different Directorate-Generals currently dealing with audiovisual and broadcasting policy.

**Answer given by Mr Pinheiro  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(28 July 1993)

The Directorate-General responsible for audiovisual policy as such is Directorate-General X (Audiovisual Media, Information, Communication and Culture).

Of course, other Directorates-General — for the Internal Market, Competition, External Relations or Telecommunications, Information Industries and Innovation — also have to deal with various aspects of work relating to audiovisual media within the scope of horizontal policies in their own areas.

Naturally, standard coordination procedures are observed at departmental level and within the Commission itself.

Moreover, in 1989 the Commission formed a group of members who are particularly interested in audiovisual matters to provide policy guidance in this field.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2611/92**  
**by Mr Peter Crampton (S)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(27 October 1992)  
(93/C 297/26)

*Subject:* Deep-sea pilotage

With regard to Council Directive 79/115/EEC<sup>(1)</sup> concerning pilotage of vessels by deep-sea pilots in the North Sea and English Channel, could the Commission tell me:

1. whether any Member State has complied fully with this Directive?
2. whether any Member States are actively taking steps to encourage the use of deep-sea pilots (other than by issuing the 'M' notice or other similar instruments)?
3. what steps the Commission has taken to ensure compliance with Directive 79/115/EEC?
4. whether or not the Commission intends to introduce proposals for mandatory pilotage?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 33, 8. 2. 1979, p. 32.

**Answer given by Mr Matutes  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(30 July 1993)

An invitation to tender for a general study on pilotage, including deep-sea pilotage, will be published in the Official Journal before September 1993. In the light of the findings of this study, the Commission should be in a position to determine what measures are required in this sector.

The study will incorporate a detailed analysis of the situation in the Member States, including the extent to which they have transposed Directive 79/115/EEC into national law.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2628/92**  
**by Sir James Scott-Hopkins (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(27 October 1992)  
(93/C 297/27)

*Subject:* Aid for historic buildings

What new proposals does the Commission have to help preserve the heritage within the Community, with particular regard to historic buildings?

**Answer given by Mr Pinheiro  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(28 July 1993)

The Commission recalls that on 12 November 1992 the Council and the Ministers responsible for Culture adopted the guidelines for Community cultural action (<sup>1</sup>) which

stress the importance of Community action on the cultural heritage.

In the light of these conclusions the Commission has begun work on a communication concerning, among other things, aid for the preservation of historic monuments. It will be based on the Commission's own proposals in this area and will be ready and made public in 1994.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No C 336, 19. 12. 1992.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2699/92**  
**by Hiltrud Breyer, Paul Lannoye, Virginio Bettini and  
Marguerite-Marie Dinguirard (V)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(29 October 1992)  
(93/C 297/28)

*Subject:* The TACIS Programme

1. Nuclear energy accounts for a mere 12 to 17% of energy produced in the CIS. At the same time it is estimated that total energy savings could reach at least 40%. In view of this, how does the Commission justify the fact that financial resources from the above programme have been almost exclusively concentrated on the nuclear sector?

2. (a) Is the Commission aware that various countries, and particularly OECD Member States (France, Germany and Canada) have commissioned studies on the energy supply situation in general and on nuclear plants in particular in the CIS?

(b) Is there any coordination between the individual countries and the Commission to prevent a waste of taxpayers' money through duplication of such studies?

3. (a) Can the Commission ensure that the traditionally very close links existing in the former Soviet Union between civil and military uses of nuclear energy have been severed and that EC funds are used entirely for non-military purposes?

(b) How does the Commission intend to ensure this?

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(3 September 1993)

1. The Commission does not believe that the potential energy savings of 40% referred to can be achieved in the

short term. Furthermore, the structure of electricity generation has to be evaluated at regional level. In some parts of Russia, for example, nuclear power accounts for around 30 % of electricity generation. As a result, the vast majority of nuclear power stations will have to remain in use in the years to come to meet the demand for electricity of the general public and of industry.

Consequently, the Commission believes there is a need for assistance programmes to improve the safety of nuclear reactors: roughly 20 % of the Tacis programme is given over to this aspect.

2. (a) The Commission is informed of studies commissioned by the Member States and also has good working relations with international organizations such as the OECD and the World Bank.

(b) As regards nuclear safety, coordination at G-24 level helps to prevent duplication of such studies.

A database covering all assistance projects, fed by donor countries and run by the Commission is now in operation.

3. (a) and (b) The Commission believes that the Tacis funded assistance projects in the nuclear fields are such as would be applied only in regard to non-military nuclear facilities and activities.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2752/92**

**by Mr Stephen Hughes (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(16 November 1992)*

*(93/C 297/29)*

*Subject:* European Social Fund appropriations for the Netherlands

Can the Commission give a breakdown of projects assisted in The Netherlands by the European Social Fund in each of the last three financial years?

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

*(29 July 1993)*

The reform of the Structural Funds involved a switch from a project-based approach to a programme-based approach. The partnership arrangements have led to a decentralization of the Community's structural action, enabling it to be geared more closely to realities, both in assessing needs and in implementing measures.

In agreement with the Dutch Labour and Social Affairs authorities (Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid) the selection and follow-up of the ESF-projects in the Netherlands is carried out by the 28 regional offices of Arbeidsvoorziening. Data on projects is kept by these regional offices.

The data at the disposal of the Commission is limited to that concerning the priorities of each operational programme. As a result it is not possible to give a breakdown of the projects assisted.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2769/92**

**by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(16 November 1992)*

*(93/C 297/30)*

*Subject:* Archaeological digs in Achaia

Significant discoveries of historical and archaeological value to the in-depth research into the role of Achaia in Mycenaean civilization have recently been brought to light by the archaeologist's pick. More than 500 finds have been made in more than 30 tombs uncovered in the Kallithea area, and, more particularly, on the Spenzes and Langanidia sites and in the region of the Achaia-Claus factory. However, as yet, corresponding ancient settlements have not been uncovered, due largely to the fact that the archaeological digs are being carried out on a shoe-string budget by the University of Ioannina and the Archaeological Society. Does the Commission propose to contribute towards the financing of the archaeological digs and does it intend to ask once again for new funds from the Greek Ministry of Culture?

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

*(9 July 1993)*

The Commission is not in a position to contribute to the financing of major archeological digs, since budget appropriations for Community cultural initiatives are too modest for programmes of this scale.

It should also be recalled that Member States have sovereignty in matters of cultural policy and the Community, in keeping with the principle of subsidiarity, only supplements and supports measures initiated by Member States, particularly with regard to the conservation and protection of the national heritage. The Council conclusions of 12 November 1992 on 'Guidelines for Community Cultural Action' explicitly define the

Community's role in cultural matters, and Article 128 of the Maastricht treaty reaffirms the same principle.

The Commission is not therefore competent to ask the Greek authorities to grant new funds for the archeological dig in Achaea.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2881/92**

by Mr Mauro Chiabrande (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 November 1992)

(93/C 297/31)

*Subject:* The railway through the Simplon

According to press reports the Swiss Government intends to close the shuttle service between Switzerland and Italy through the Simplon as from 3 January 1993 because of operating losses.

The questioner cannot, and does not intend to, contest the quoted losses.

However, will the Commission investigate the matter from an European point of view, particularly in connection with the agreement between the European Community and Switzerland on the European high-speed network and establish whether this measure by the Swiss Government is in accordance with the agreements reached?

In addition, account should be taken of the recent referendum in favour of a new Alpine crossing including the Loetschberg tunnel, which, together with the Simplon is intended to become a major European rail link in the third millennium.

The Novara Provincial Council has already expressed its views on this matter and drawn it to the attention of the Italian Government.

Can the Commission give this matter immediate consideration and make representations to the Swiss Government to ensure that it takes account of the unfavourable impact of its decision on European major transport network planning and say what steps it will take to ensure that such projects, including the Simplon, can successfully proceed?

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

(27 May 1993)

The closure concerned will actually affect the transport of vehicles along the route Iselle di Transquera (Italian borderstation) — Brig (Swiss borderstation) — Kandersteg.

According to the informations available to the Commission the decision to abolish the service has been taken owing to lack of traffic; the amount of 50 000 vehicles/year, identified as the minimum quantity of traffic justifying the maintenance of the service, has not been attained.

The Commission has no competence, which could justify an intervention in the matter. The decision does not affect the international importance of the Simplon line, nor does it modify the role of the line in the transEuropean transport networks. The decision is actually dealing with a mostly italo-Swiss issue.

The Commission will pursue its efforts towards the completion of the transEuropean transport network (highspeed trains, combined transport, conventional rail) in respect of which the functions of the Simplon line can by no means be underestimated.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2893/92**

by Mr Carlos Perreau de Pinninck Domenéch (RDE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 November 1992)

(93/C 297/32)

*Subject:* Financial situation of Spain in the Community

1. Can the Commission give an estimate of Spain's contributions to the Community budget since its accession in 1986?

2. Can it also give an estimate of payments to Spain from Community funds (ESF, ERDF, EAGGF, etc.) and through various Community policies since its accession, for whatever purposes?

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

(12 August 1993)

The Commission has made a rule of not publishing figures broken down by heading to calculate the net balance — in budget or cash terms — of Member States' contributions.

It would, however, draw the Honourable Member's attention to the information contained in the annual report of the Court of Auditors.

Spain's actual payments to the Community budget since 1986 appear in the revenue and expenditure accounts, in the same way as those of the other Member States:

*(in ECU million)*

Budget	Spain's contribution
1986	2 321
1987	1 709
1988	2 678
1989	3 575
1990	3 671
1991	4 580
1992	4 828

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2956/92**  
 by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)  
 to the Commission of the European Communities  
 (24 November 1992)  
 (93/C 297/33)

*Subject:* Use of pesticides

According to the Greek Centre for Environmental Research (PAKOE), a great many farmers die each year as a result of careless use of pesticides. In the village of Tymbaki on Crete, more than 850 farmers, both men and women, have died of intestinal cancer over the last 10 years for this very reason. What steps will the Commission take to protect farmers from the effects of pesticides?

**Answer given by Mr Steichen**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
 (13 July 1993)

The Commission has been unable to obtain confirmation of the Honourable Member's claim of 850 deaths from cancer of the large bowel as a result of careless use of pesticides. Its information from the Greek authorities is that in the last 10 years there have been 303 deaths in Tymbaki and 228 in the closest village, Mirai, the cause of death being cancer in 40 and 42 cases respectively.

On the question of protection of farmers' health when they use pesticides, Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market <sup>(1)</sup> sets very strict marketing requirements affording a very high level of protection of health and the environment. These requirements will be more precisely defined following the Council's adoption of the Commission's proposal for Annex VI to the Directive.

Directive 91/414/EEC is to be applied by the Member States from 25 July 1993. Under it Member States may not grant authorization for a plant protection product unless it is

shown that when properly used it has no harmful effect, direct or indirect, on human health.

Furthermore, the Directive provides for Community reassessment over a twelve-year period of all active substances currently on the market and following reassessment of each substance review by the Member States of the authorizations of all plant protection products containing that substance.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 230, 19. 8. 1991.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3018/92**  
 by Mr Gerardo Fernández-Albor (PPE)  
 to the Commission of the European Communities  
 (30 November 1992)  
 (93/C 297/34)

*Subject:* Community participation in the Year of St James

The celebration of the Year of St James in 1993 should provide an opportunity for our Community to participate in the age-old spiritual commemoration which has led the peoples of Europe to Santiago de Compostela throughout history.

The European Community, which today represents the union of the citizens of those countries which shared a common ideal in defence of values upheld throughout the continent, cannot remain on the sidelines of the vast pro-European convergence on Santiago de Compostela which will take place during the Year of St James.

Has the Commission therefore considered the inclusion in its 1993 programme of a series of activities reflecting Community participation in Santiago's celebrations, allocating staff and budgetary resources to this effect? Through its presence in Santiago, the European Community would thus project itself to the pilgrims and visitors arriving in the city as the heir to the shared ideal realized by the pilgrims who travelled to Santiago de Compostela from all over Europe to express their unity of faith, within the context of continental coexistence?

**Answer given by Mr Pinheiro**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
 (19 July 1993)

On 17 May 1993 the Ministers for Cultural Affairs meeting within the Council, adopted a declaration welcoming the initiatives taken by several Member States to help identify and preserve the historical and artistic heritage of the Camino de Santiago (the pilgrims' way to Santiago de Compostela).

They welcomed the action taken by several Member States to make the Camino de Santiago, which is part of Europe's cultural heritage, better known and their efforts to encourage participation in this work by citizens and by members of cultural associations and bodies.

The declaration emphasizes the leading role of the Council of Europe in the promotion of the Camino de Santiago as a 'cultural itinerary of the Council of Europe' and the part played by that Institution in the celebrations for the Year of St James.

In this exceptional year the declaration by the Ministers for cultural affairs associates the Community with the celebration of the cultural itinerary of Europe.

The Commission itself cannot draw on any specific appropriations in the 1993 budget to enable it to participate in the ceremonies commemorating the Year of St James.

For exceptional symbolic activities, namely those outside established annual events, the Commission may grant special financial assistance only in response to a specific decision by Parliament and/or the Council, or in the event of a major disaster (e.g. the fire in the Chiado in Lisbon or the car bomb explosion outside the Uffizi Gallery in Florence).

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3039/92**

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 December 1992)

(93/C 297/35)

*Subject:* Pilot projects in respect of families

In view of the growing importance of the family and the economic changes that will accompany the completion of the internal market and the consequences of these changes on population growth in Europe, does the Commission intend to propose measures aimed at improving relations between working and family life? Does it consider that ESF and Structural Fund resources should be made available to fund pilot projects for poor and disadvantaged families?

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

(19 July 1993)

The Commission has recently taken action as regards the reconciliation of work with family life.

On 30 and 31 March it organized a conference on 'Family and business: how to bring them together' in cooperation with the Belgian Ministry of Labour and Employment, which has undertaken pilot measures in this field. The event was an opportunity to bring together representatives of governments, businesses, unions and family organizations to discuss the subject. To follow up this conference the Commission is currently setting up a group of employers' and workers' representatives who will be responsible for identifying and promoting good business practice both in family policies at the work place and in special measures for families frequently changing their place of residence in the Community.

Under the second medium-term Community Action Programme on Equal Opportunities (1985—90), an expert network on childcare and other measures to reconcile working and family life was set up, in order to assist implementation of the programme. The network's main task, since its establishment in 1986, has been to monitor relevant developments in the Community; to examine specific issues and to publish reports (for example, quality and workers in childcare services, men as carers, the needs of rural families); to collect and disseminate information; and to make recommendations for action.

The Council also recently adopted a recommendation and a directive which have a direct link with the reconciliation of work and family life. The recommendation, adopted on 31 March 1992, relates to childcare <sup>(1)</sup>, and the directive, which was adopted on 19 October 1992, concerns the protection of pregnant workers <sup>(2)</sup>.

Community projects to assist poor and disadvantaged families fit into the more general framework of activities designed to combat poverty and social exclusion.

The Community has only limited jurisdiction and means at its disposal in this area. Its activity is directed essentially towards supporting and stimulating initiatives taken by public authorities and the private sector in Member States.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 123, 8. 5. 1992.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 348, 28. 11. 1992.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3063/92**

by Mr Neil Blaney (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 December 1992)

(93/C 297/36)

*Subject:* Fishery agreements

Will the Commission provide the Parliament with an overview of the bilateral agreements under which the

Community acquires fishery rights in the waters of third countries? The information required, in a succinct form, is: country; fishing rights acquired (with details of species, tonnages, types of vessel, etc.); compensation paid by the Community (with details about its use); duration of the agreement (with dates when current agreement took effect and will expire); share-out of the acquired rights between the Member States?

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

(17 September 1993)

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

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3068/92**

**by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)  
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(14 December 1992)

(93/C 297/37)

*Subject:* Termites

In view of the damage which wood-eating termites cause to buildings, particularly those of most historical value, and the fact that insect plagues are no respecters of borders, can the Commission say whether there is any possibility that basic research may help to reduce this danger and whether measures such as those introduced by the French town of Arles are being taken at national level?

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

(2 August 1993)

The role of the Commission in protecting and safeguarding the cultural heritage is clearly defined, notably in the conclusions of the Council and the Ministers for Culture of 12 November 1992 on the 'guidelines for Community cultural action'.

Once ratified, Article 128 of the Treaty on European Union will serve to consolidate this role, which is to promote cooperation between Member States and, where appropriate, to support and supplement the action they take, whilst acknowledging the preponderant role played by the Member States and the subsidiary nature of Community action in this sphere.

As regards Community research, considerable work on the conservation and protection of the European cultural heritage is done under the 'Environment R & D' programme. The purpose of this research is to understand and reduce the effects of environmental pollution on fixed and movable cultural assets. However, the damage caused by insects such as termites is not covered by the current programme.

Nonetheless, the many Community projects provided for in the framework programme will lead to advances in the methods used for assessing the overall state of the cultural heritage and could therefore lead to better ways and means of identifying and preventing the damage caused by termites.

Although damage caused by termites can be substantially reduced by appropriate management and practices, some aspects warrant the extension of the R & D projects, more especially in the following areas

- earlier detection of termite infestation;
- better methods for the analysis and testing of preventive chemical products;
- improvement and wider use of biological control methods (e.g. pheromones, insecticides, pathogens etc).

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3070/92**

**by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)  
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(14 December 1992)

(93/C 297/38)

*Subject:* The European literary heritage

The first three volumes of a series of 12 on Europe's literary heritage have just been published in Brussels by De Boeck-Wesmael. Professor Jean Claude Polet of the Catholic University of Louvain is in charge of the collection.

According to a review of this work published in *Le Monde* on Friday, 30 October 1992 (page 30), 'the various European institutions in Brussels did not consider it worthwhile to give their support either'. What was the nature of the request received by the Commission, what attitude did it take to the matter and what was its assessment, if any, of the importance of this 'monumental anthology of the literatures of Europe' in creating a shared cultural awareness, with the possibility of publishing translations or adaptations of the work in the other Community languages?



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

(14 July 1993)

The work to which the Honourable Member refers and similar works on comparative European literature are, without doubt, considerable contributions to the enrichment of the common cultural heritage. However, the Commission has to confine its activity in the field of books and reading to what is contained in its programme. And the programme makes no provision for direct assistance to publishing, though it does allow for assistance to translation in certain circumstances.

The Commission's programme for the promotion of books and reading is based on the resolution adopted by the Council and the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs on 18 May 1989 <sup>(1)</sup>. The annex to the resolution (which specifies eight areas of action) makes no reference to the possibility of granting direct assistance to publishing. Because of this, the Commission cannot consider any application for assistance of this nature.

As for translation, since 1989 there has been a pilot scheme for assistance in the translation of contemporary literature works with an annual budget of ECU 200 000. A notice giving details of the scheme is published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* each year, and the final selection is made on the basis of a report from a group of experts nominated by the Member States and appointed by the Commission.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 183, 20. 7. 1989.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3160/92**

by Mr Wilfried Telkämper (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 January 1993)

(93/C 297/39)

*Subject:* Implementation of an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the appropriate Directive with regard to the legal procedure for compulsory purchase in connection with the A 100 motorway in Berlin

1. Is it true that the Commission is currently examining a complaint involving the application of Directive 85/337/EEC <sup>(1)</sup> submitted by persons affected by the compulsory purchase procedure for the A 100 motorway in Berlin?

2. Have any results been forthcoming, and if so, what are they? If not, what stage has been reached?

3. Is the Commission aware that this compulsory purchase procedure is being implemented in accordance with the Law to accelerate transport planning and that a first- and last-instance action brought before the Federal Administrative Court will have no suspensive effect?

4. Is the Commission aware that a Berlin-based association for the protection of the natural environment has brought an action before the Federal Administrative Court?

5. What does the Commission propose to do, if the above complaint leads to findings which justify the opening of formal proceedings and at the same time, the absence of any suspensive effect of a court action means that work starts on the construction of the A 100 motorway and gives rise to a situation in which the rights of those making the complaint are in fact infringed?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985, p. 40.

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

(19 July 1993)

1 and 2. The Commission has been informed of the proposed A 100 motorway in Berlin. The German authorities take the view that they have carried out the environmental impact assessment required under their administrative authorization procedure (Planfeststellung). The Commission referred the question of the equivalence of this administrative procedure with the procedures laid down in Directive 85/337/EEC on environmental impact to the Court of Justice on 23 December 1992.

3. Yes.

4. No.

5. Complaints addressed to the Commission never have suspensory effect. Only the Court of Justice may prescribe interim measures pursuant to Article 186 of the EEC Treaty and under the conditions laid down therein.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3169/92**

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 January 1993)

(93/C 297/40)

*Subject:* Resistance printshop in Kallithea

At the beginning of 1942, two members of the resistance, acting on orders, dug out an area beneath a house located in

Skra Street in Kallithea and set up the '8 square metres' printshop, which, until 12 October 1944, printed the newspaper *Eleftheri Ellada* (Free Greece), leaflets, posters and pamphlets. The two members of the resistance kept the existence of the printshop secret for over 40 years — until November 1984 — and when the State learned of its existence, it promised to turn the site into a National Resistance Museum. However, the Greek Ministry of Culture has recently decided to rescind that decision and to declassify the site on the ground that the Greek State does not have the money to set up and maintain the museum. Will the Commission assist the resistance organizations, the local authority and the Greek State in general to protect this monument to the fight against Nazism, which is perhaps the only one of its kind anywhere in Europe?

**Answer given by Mr Pinheiro  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(23 July 1993)

The Commission fully appreciates the interest of the Greek people in the resistance printshop in Kallithea. However, the Commission's role with respect to the protection of the cultural heritage is clearly defined, in particular in the conclusions of the Council and the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs on 12 November 1992 concerning the guidelines for Community cultural action. Article 128 of the Treaty on European Union (in the process of ratification) will be the basis for future Community action in the field.

Community action will be aimed at encouraging cooperation between the Member States, if necessary, supporting and supplementing their action, bearing in mind the Member States' preponderant role in the cultural field and the subsidiary nature of Community action.

Accordingly, the Commission is not in a position to deliver an opinion on decisions by the competent authorities in Greece as to whether or not to list sites.

It should also be borne in mind that budget Item B3-2000 at present earmarked to finance Community measures for the conservation and preservation of the cultural heritage does not allow the Commission to contribute to the establishment and/or the operating costs of museums in the Member States.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3170/92**  
**by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(6 January 1993)  
(93/C 297/41)

*Subject:* Protection of the cultural heritage of Pikri, Rethimnon

Pikri is one of the very few Greek villages with a notable Byzantine and Venetian history. It is 18 kilometres from Rethimnon. However, the merciless passage of time is taking its toll on the history of the village as architecturally important buildings that have stood for centuries start to crumble into ruins. Large Venetian arches, the famous historic sixteenth century gate, Vila Clodio, mansions, old houses and squares will soon have suffered irreparable damage if measures are not taken to protect them. Will the Commission take action to protect the important cultural heritage of Pikri?

**Answer given by Mr Pinheiro  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(7 July 1993)

In accordance with the conclusions adopted by the Council on 12 November 1992, Community action in the cultural field, including the conservation and protection of Europe's architectural heritage, must take into account the preponderant role of the Member States in this area and the subsidiarity of Community measures.

Moreover, the new Article 128 inserted in the EC Treaty by the Maastricht Treaty, which is currently in the process of being ratified, states that Community measures to conserve and protect the European cultural heritage must be aimed primarily at encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, supporting and supplementing their action.

Notwithstanding the cultural significance of the village of Pikri in Rethimnon (Crete), the management and protection of historic sites in the Member States is the sole responsibility of the relevant national, regional or local authorities. The Commission therefore has no power to intervene in the matter.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3321/92****by Mr Gerardo Fernández-Albor (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(6 January 1993)**(93/C 297/42)**Subject: Preparation of history textbooks*

History is an essential subject in forming the attitudes of young people towards other countries, cultures, races and religions. Consequently, textbook stereotypes and prejudices must be eliminated so that textbooks reflect and identify all the peoples of Europe and so help to foster the cultural identity of a Europe which is already a political and economic entity.

Can the Council say what steps it intends to take to recommend Member States to prepare objective and impartial history textbooks and to ensure that such textbooks are included in their educational syllabuses?

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

*(26 July 1993)*

The Commission does not plan to use its right of initiative to call on the Council of Ministers to introduce a European entry card for museums and monuments in the Community, for which the practical arrangements would have to be determined.

However, the Treaty on European Union (in the process of ratification) provides that Community action may encourage cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, support and supplement their action in such areas as improvement of the knowledge and dissemination of the culture and history of the European peoples and conservation of the cultural heritage.

On the basis of a Commission communication on new prospects for Community cultural action, the Ministers for Cultural Affairs meeting within the Council requested the Commission to prepare a discussion paper on the cultural heritage (both fixed and movable). The general question of the access of Community citizens to museums and monuments in Europe will certainly be discussed at the consultation meetings to be held in this context. The Commission will then be able to make proposals based on a consensus and on priorities established by those concerned.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3223/92****by Mrs Christine Crawley (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(6 January 1993)**(93/C 297/43)**Subject: Equality implications of removing minimum wage protection in the United Kingdom*

Is the Commission aware that the United Kingdom Government has placed proposals before Parliament to abolish Wages Councils, which set legal minimum rates of pay for people working in retail, catering, clothing, hairdressing and other low-paid jobs? Could the Commission comment on the implication of this proposal in respect of European equality legislation, given that women represent three quarters of those protected by Wages Councils and the pay gap between men and women is wider in the United Kingdom than in any other Member State? What would the Commission's response be were the UK Government to decide to become the only Member State without legally enforceable minimum wage protection?

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

*(29 July 1993)*

The Commission is aware of the United Kingdom government's proposals to abolish Wages Councils. It is also aware that Wages Councils set minimum rates of pay for 2,5 million low-paid workers of whom almost 80 % are women, many working part-time or as homeworkers.

The Commission is concerned about the likely effects of the proposal on pay equality. A recent Commission study has highlighted the importance of general pay regularity systems for the promotion of pay equality and pointed out that the positive impact of the equal pay Directive on women's pay is likely to be diminished in Member States which are characterized by an absence of regulatory systems establishing minimum labour standards (Rubery (1992)).

It may be noted in general that although the abolition of the Wages Councils would not in fact leave the United Kingdom as the only country without legally enforceable minimum wage protection, nevertheless the proportion of employees in the UK covered by collective agreements fixing minimum

levels of pay is at present lower than in other countries which do not have statutory minimum wages.

The Commission has not yet received the Foundation's annual report and accounts for 1992.

The Foundation is located in Paris.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3252/92**  
by Mr Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARC)  
to the Commission of the European Communities  
(6 January 1993)  
(93/C 297/44)

*Subject:* Subsidies to the European Foundation for Freedom of Expression

Budget Item A-3031 provides for an appropriation for a subsidy for the European Foundation for Freedom of Expression.

How was this appropriation spent in 1991 and 1992? If possible, please supply a summary of the activities subsidized.

Where is the organization based?

**Answer given by Mr Delors**  
on behalf of the Commission  
(29 July 1993)

Of the ECU 200 000 provided in the 1991 budget, ECU 189 803 were paid to the Foundation.

This sum covered the running costs for 1991 as well as the organization of the following projects of the Foundation:

- Visit by Polish and Bulgarian mayors to meetings with some of their counterparts to discuss the role of local authorities in promoting democracy.
- Visit by the Union des Forces Démocratiques to meetings with members of national parliaments.
- East-West summer school for local authority representatives and representations of associations from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania, Yugoslavia and the Baltic states,
- Technical studies on the operations of the press in Bulgaria and Romania.
- Preparation of a number of projects, training courses, conferences for 1992.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3271/92**  
by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)  
to the Commission of the European Communities  
(6 January 1993)  
(93/C 297/45)

*Subject:* Technical school, Andikira

At the beginning of 1986, the ERDF decided to fund a scheme to found a technical training school at Andikira, Voiotia. The scheme had been proposed and promoted by the trade union at the company Alumínio tis Ellados, which provided financial assistance and donated the site for the school free of charge. Work started in 1987 and it was envisaged that the school would be able to train up to 400 young people to a high standard in industrial skills. An important element of their training was to be the proximity of Alumínio tis Ellados, the country's largest industrial unit, where they should have the opportunity of applying and practising what they had learned. Despite the scheme's evident importance for the region and for the Greek economy, it is not yet operational. The Greek authorities have periodically raised various objections even though they have intermittently made arrangements to enable the school to operate as planned under a tripartite system of supervision and management (together with the company's management and union).

1. Is the Commission following the progress of the project and can it state the reasons for the delay?
2. Has the Greek Government made its contribution as planned, and if not, why not?
3. What action does the Commission propose to take to ensure that the project is completed in the way originally conceived and approved so that the region benefits and the money already spent is not wasted?

**Answer given by Mr Millan**  
on behalf of the Commission  
(27 May 1993)

The follow-up of projects implemented in the context of Community Support Frameworks relies principally on Member States' control mechanisms, while the Commission carries out regular on-the-spot checks itself.

The specific project mentioned by the Honourable Member was financed before the implementation of the reform of the Structural Funds in 1989.

The information available to the Commission indicates that the project which was grant-aided by the European Regional Development funds (i.e. the building of the training school in question) is in fact complete.

The problem mentioned by the Honourable Member appears to relate to the arrangements for running the training school. Those are a matter for the competent authorities of the Member State.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3336/92**

**by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(25 January 1993)*

*(93/C 297/46)*

*Subject:* Setting up of a criminal investigation department in Greece

A decision on the request of the Greek first instance and second instance judicial authorities for the immediate establishment of a criminal investigation department has been deferred indefinitely, while the related bill which had previously been drafted and tabled in the Greek parliament will be 'filed' at the Ministry of Justice. Will the Commission recommend that the Greek Government grant the Greek judicial authorities' request?

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

*(4 August 1993)*

Since the internal organization of the judicial and police authorities is entirely a matter for the Member States it is not the Commission's place to make suggestions in this area.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3501/92**

**by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(28 January 1993)*

*(93/C 297/47)*

*Subject:* The Kromyona antiquities

If the Athens-Corinth motorway is widened at the 62nd kilometre, as planned, and junctions are constructed the

result will probably be catastrophic because archaeological findings have already been unearthed at this location, such as part of a geometrical burial ground of a Greek settlement of Ancient Kromyona, clay statuettes, etc. Is the Commission planning to express its concern so that the necessary technical works can be undertaken in cooperation with the Greek authorities so as to save the antiquities of Kromyona?

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

*(9 July 1993)*

The role of the Commission in the protection and conservation of the European heritage is clearly defined in the Council conclusions of 12 November 1992 on 'Guidelines for Community cultural action'.

Its role — which will be greater when the Treaty on European Union is ratified and Article 128 thereof comes into force — is to encourage cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, support and supplement any action they may take. The primary role of Member States in this area is thereby acknowledged, as is the subsidiary role of Community measures.

The Commission would therefore point out to the Honourable Member that it has no power to intervene in the matter of technical works to protect the Kromyona antiquities. This is the sole responsibility of the relevant Greek authorities, in this case the Ministry of Culture.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 30/93**

**by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(3 February 1993)*

*(93/C 297/48)*

*Subject:* The European schools

In view of the need to promote the European teaching in the Community and having regard to the demand by the European school in Luxembourg for the European schools to be adequately subsidized, does the Commission intend to support the European dimension of education which is currently provided for more than 15 000 pupils, including 3 250 in Luxembourg, who are mainly the children of Community officials or European children with various social backgrounds?

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

(12 May 1993)

Discovery of the European dimension is built into the everyday life of education in the European schools. European hours, social and cultural activities and sports are organized from the very start of primary school, bringing together all pupils of the same level regardless of nationality and basic language. Having been taught modern languages by a direct method, at secondary level pupils are then able to take core subjects in their first foreign language. Each school organizes annual events to spread awareness of life in the Community.

The new Convention defining the Statute of the European Schools, proposed by the Commission, to which the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council agreed on 27 November 1992, specifically includes the European dimension in the School's curricula as a fundamental principle of their organization.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 68/93**

by Mr André Sainjon (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 February 1993)

(93/C 297/49)

*Subject:* Software for HDTV

On 19 November last, the Council of Ministers decided in principle on an action plan in which pride of place would be reserved for the D2MAC standard. Whereas in April the Commission has proposed spending ECU 850 million over five years, it seems that we are heading towards a compromise in the region of ECU 400 million, of which around ECU 200 million will be allocated to software.

The share of the budget assigned to programme production is inadequate for the purpose of enabling the D2MAC standard and in the near future the HDMAC standard to become genuinely established among the public. The main difficulties lie in converting 16 mm fictional material and dubbing sports programmes, the infrastructure for which currently uses the 4/3 format. The additional costs involved will not be fully covered by the Community aid envisaged.

How does the Commission intend to find the necessary additional funding to generate genuine synergy between broadcasters and the audiovisual programme production industry?

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

(26 July 1993)

The proposal for a decision on an action plan for the introduction of advanced television services in Europe seeks to promote accelerated development of the market of advanced satellite and cable television services in Europe.

The aim of the 'programming' component is to help give the new services access to European programmes of adequate quality and to encourage the audiovisual programmes industry to prepare for the advent of HDTV by adapting to the new production methods necessary for survival and development.

The Commission proposal seeks to achieve this aim by stressing the concept of the supply of an advanced television service, including all stages of customer service, including either distribution by satellite or cable, the availability of adequate programmes and the existence of enough receivers on the market. With regard to programmes, the Commission envisages special aid mechanisms suited to the needs of all producers, whether broadcasters or independent producers.

These mechanisms take account of the artistic, technical and economic characteristics of various production media which may be used, such as 35 mm film or high definition video tapes. They are designed to cover only part of the extra expenditure entailed, since the Commission believes that the producers should contribute themselves to assuring that their catalogues will have a long life.

The Council formally adopted the action plan on 22 July 1993.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 220/93**

by Mr Sérgio Ribeiro (CG)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 February 1993)

(93/C 297/50)

*Subject:* Tagus International — important transfrontier natural park project at risk

The Tagus International is considered by the Portuguese National Parks, Nature Reserves and Conservation Service, and other competent international bodies, as 'an area to be added to the list of zones of special protection under Directive 79/409/EEC (1)'.

Quercus, the Portuguese ecology association, together with other ecology associations in Spain, began a transfrontier project to protect threatened species. The project was considered as a priority pilot scheme, as well as an important Community action in 1989, and raised Unesco's interest, with the possibility that the area might be categorized as a biosphere reserve.

However, despite reluctance shown by the Minister of the Environment, the Portuguese Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, granted the status of a hunting area to areas included in the project, and the implementation of those licences has resulted in non-compliance with the plan presented at the time the licences were granted, aggravating the risk, threatening the project and possibly rendering it inviable. Other measures and actions have also been identified which tend to counteract and undermine the project.

Considering the seriousness of the environmental threat, with regard to its transfrontier nature and given the support the project has warranted, could/should the Commission not support the efforts being made at national level, by at least making inquiries concerning the situation and its inconsistencies?

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

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(19 May 1993)

The 'Tejo internacional' is considered to be an area of major appeal for the protection of wild birds, but it has still not been classified by Portugal as a special protection area in accordance with Article 4.1 of Directive 79/409/EEC on the protection of wild birds.

The 'Proteccão do Rio Tejo internacional' project has been under way since 1989 with joint Community financing under CAE Regulation No 2242/87 on Community action on the environment.

The Portuguese Quercus Association and the National Parks Department are responsible for carrying out the project. The Commission is kept informed of the situation on the spot by maintaining regular contact with those bodies. So far the monitoring of the project has not demonstrated any need for specific action by the Commission.

However, the aims of this cross-frontier project do not, as a first priority, require a ban on shooting throughout the area in question. Nevertheless the Community is currently examining whether certain recently created syndicated shooting areas are compatible with those aims and with Community law.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 221/93**  
**by Mr Sérgio Ribeiro (CG)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(18 February 1993)  
(93/C 297/51)

*Subject:* Panasqueira mines — restructuring with Community funding and dismissals

Last Saturday, 16 January 1993, the trade union committee of the Panasqueira mines in central Portugal was informed by the Anglo-American Corporation, the licence holder of these mines, that 400 workers were to be made redundant.

This measure follows redundancies — with financial compensation — of many workers after letters and administrative pressure from the A-AC, which is still not satisfied and wants to reduce the work-force to around a hundred workers, on the way to what appears to be the closure of the mines.

These measures seem incompatible with the fact that the corporation recently received Esc 500 million from the ERDF to restructure the mines; furthermore, about 5 000 people living within the mine compound depend directly on the mine for work and, according to trade union sources, there would be 'chaos and drama' should the mines close without preventive measures being taken against the social consequences.

My question to the Commission is whether assistance from the ERDF was granted with these developments in mind?

**Answer given by Mr Millan  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(24 June 1993)

The investments referred to by the Honourable Member have been given a grant of 500 million escudos (ECU 2 800 000) from the investment aid scheme SIBR (Sistema de Incentivos a Base Regional) cofinanced by the Community (70 %) and Portugal (30 %). To date, 131,25 million escudos (ECU 737 000) of the Community share of the aid have been advanced to the enterprise.

In conformity with the principle of subsidiarity, the management of SIBR lies with the competent Portuguese authorities. They have informed the Commission that they are examining the investments in question in order to form a judgment on the capacity of the enterprise to meet the conditions attached to the SIBR grant. They will inform the Commission of the outcome of their examination.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 223/93**  
**by Mr Siegbert Alber (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(18 February 1993)*  
*(93/C 297/52)*

*Subject:* Polish exports of iron and steel products to the Community

Would the Commission publish statistics for the following:

1. the tonnage of iron and steel products exported by Polish firms to the Community during 1989
2. the percentage that this tonnage represented of total imports by the Community of iron and steel products during 1989
3. the statistics for (1) and (2) above for 1991 and 1992
4. the statistics for expected quota exports of iron and steel products by Polish firms to the Community during 1993, and the estimated percentage that these exports will represent of total Community imports of iron and steel products during 1993.

Does the Commission consider that quotas for Polish exports of iron and steel products to the Community reflect the shift away from the conditions existing during the dictatorship to those of a government grappling with the problems of introducing pluralism into all aspects of national life and seeking integration with the Community?

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(6 July 1993)*

The Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) publishes regularly in printed form or on electronic support, statistical data on trade with third countries. Moreover, the European Parliament has access to data bases of the SOEC, containing the most recent data available on trade with third countries.

From these it will appear that the tonnage of iron and steel imports from Poland represented 3,8 % of EC imports in 1989 and 6,2 % in 1991.

There is no quantitative restriction on Polish steel imports. The Commission monitors imports from Poland as well as other Central and Eastern European countries very closely and would take appropriate action in the case of a surge in imports connected with abnormally low prices.

Since 1992, there are no Community quotas for Polish exports of iron and steel products to the Community. The

Honourable Member is referred to the reply to Written Question No 224/93 by Mrs Braun-Moser <sup>(1)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 283, 20. 10. 1993, p. 44.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 257/93**  
**by Mr Gérard Deprez (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(23 February 1993)*  
*(93/C 297/53)*

*Subject:* Recognition of diplomas for access to a regulated profession — free movement of workers.

A French national who had studied in a third country obtained the qualification 'Doctor of dental surgery'. Having asked him to do some written and oral examinations, the Belgian authorities recognized his original qualification as equivalent to the Belgian 'Licencié en sciences dentaires' ('bachelor of dental science'), which allowed him to practise dentistry in Belgium. Both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland have also recognized this qualification as equivalent to the qualification required by law to practise dentistry in those countries, but so far France has refused to do so.

1. Is it true that under the Directives currently in force on the recognition of diplomas in this specific area (78/686/EEC <sup>(1)</sup> and 78/687/EEC <sup>(2)</sup>) it is not possible to compel the French authorities to allow this person to practise his profession in his own country of origin?
2. If this is the case, does the Commission consider that the non-effectiveness of the system for the recognition of diplomas in this case authorizes France to prevent one of its own nationals from effectively enjoying the right of free movement of workers, guaranteed by the EEC Treaty to all persons subject to Community law?
3. Is the Commission able and does it intend to take measures to ensure that this type of situation — which is to say the least absurd — does not reoccur?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 233, 24. 8. 1978, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 233, 24. 8. 1978, p. 10.

**Answer given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(29 July 1993)*

1. The Commission confirms that, under the terms of the 'dentistry' Directives 78/686/EEC and 78/687/EEC, which apply to the case in point, the French authorities are not obliged to recognize the diploma of the person concerned nor, consequently, to authorize him to practise dentistry in France.



It follows from Article 1 (4) of Directive 78/687/EEC that Member States remain free to authorize, in accordance with their own rules and in respect of their own territory, holders of diplomas which have not been obtained in a Member State to take up and pursue the activities of a dental practitioner. The fact that a number of Member States have recognized a third-country diploma in no way obliges other Member States to do the same.

This is a consequence of the system of automatic recognition of diplomas introduced by the Directives; automatic recognition is based on procedures ensuring mutual trust between Member States (each Member State awards a diploma in respect of training given in its territory which it guarantees as meeting the minimum training standards laid down in Directive 78/687/EEC). Yet it follows from Article 1 (4) referred to above that Member States have not been — and are still not — prepared to trust one another in the case of training received in a third country, the reason being that the Member State granting recognition is not able to verify such training to the same degree as that received in its territory.

2. The Commission does not regard Directives 78/686/EEC and 78/687/EEC as contrary to the principle of freedom of movement guaranteed by the EEC Treaty.

3. The Commission has pointed out to the Committee of Senior Officials on Public Health <sup>(1)</sup> that the Directive in question should be amended, as should other directives specific to certain health professions, in particular to bring them into line with Directives 89/48/EEC and 92/51/EEC <sup>(2)</sup> introducing general systems for the recognition of diplomas. These two general Directives in fact provide for the recognition, between Member States, of diplomas attesting education and training which were not received mainly in the Community, provided that the holders have three years' professional experience certified by the Member State which recognized the third-country diplomas. However, this recognition is not automatic in the same way as that provided for in the 'dentistry' Directives, since the two general Directives do not establish a minimum level of coordination of education and training and, consequently, allow the host Member State to require, subject to certain conditions, further training to be undertaken in the event of significant deficiencies.

The detailed discussions which have taken place within the Committee have not resulted in a broad consensus that would allow consideration to be given to presenting to the Council a proposal bringing the specific Directives into line with the general Directives as regards the recognition of third-country diplomas.

<sup>(1)</sup> Set up by Council Decision 75/365/EEC of 16 June 1975 (OJ No L 167, 30. 6. 1975), as amended by Council Decision 78/689/EEC of 25 July 1978 (OJ No L 233, 24. 8. 1978) in respect of dental practitioners.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 19, 24. 1. 1989 and OJ No L 209, 24. 7. 1992.

### WRITTEN QUESTION No 277/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 February 1993)

(93/C 297/54)

*Subject:* Harmonization of Greek legislation with Community Directive 79/409/EEC

Bearing in mind the recent protest by the Greek Centre for the Care of Wild Animals and Birds against the massacre by hunters of hundreds of swans, will the Commission look into whether Greek legislation is in line with Community Directive 79/409/EEC <sup>(1)</sup> and its stipulations regarding the beginning and end of the hunting period? Will the Commission call for effective protection of the habitats concerned and demand that hunters who kill wild animals and birds in violation of the law are arrested and given heavy penalties?

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

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

(2 September 1993)

The Commission is taking steps to ensure that Greece implements the said Directive properly.

One aspect of the Directive concerns the opening and closing dates for the hunting season.

Moreover, in virtue of the powers conferred on it by the EEC Treaty, the Commission is taking every reasonable step to ensure that biotopes are given effective protection.

The penalties imposed for violating the provisions of Directive 79/409/EEC are entirely a matter for the Greek authorities.

### WRITTEN QUESTION No 304/93

by Mr Isidoro Sánchez García (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 March 1993)

(93/C 297/55)

*Subject:* Emigration to non-EEC countries

Does the Commission envisage any social action projects for Community citizens (essentially Spanish, Portuguese and Italian citizens) and their descendants who were forced in the past, for various reasons, to emigrate to countries outside the European Community, generally in Latin America?

**Answer given by Mr Flynn  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(7 September 1993)

There are at present no initiatives along the lines suggested by the Honourable Member. This matter is regulated by bilateral agreements between the Member States and third countries concerned.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 351/93**

**by Mr Virginio Bettini (V)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(2 March 1993)  
(93/C 297/56)

*Subject:* Critical water supply situation

At the conclusion of a meeting in Geneva to consider measures to improve effectiveness of national and international water supplies, experts from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) called for better management of water resources.

According to WMO estimates, in the year 2000 only 1 083 000 m<sup>3</sup> of water will be available annually for each inhabitant of the planet, compared with 2 903 000 m<sup>3</sup> in 1950.

Seven Spanish provinces have been hit by serious droughts, causing water cuts in Madrid and Seville. Spain is Europe's largest water consumer (and the world's third largest).

In view of this:

1. What steps has the Commission taken to deal with this problem?
2. Will the Commission launch a European public awareness campaign and promote a European water management day?
3. Will the Commission encourage the introduction of an international procedure for studying the water cycle, taking account of imbalances between the use of ground water for agricultural purposes and as drinking water?

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(5 July 1993)

The Commission is fully aware of the need to protect water resources. Consequently, it organized together with the

Dutch Presidency in November 1991, a Ministerial seminar on groundwater protection to discuss the lines for a future policy on water management.

In its resolution of 25 February 1992 on the future Community groundwater policy (92/C 59/02) the Council invited the Commission to submit a detailed action programme based on the final declaration of the Ministerial seminar.

Furthermore, a number of collaborating research projects in STEP and Epoch (1989—1992) and in the fifth environment research programme (1990—1994) deal with the hydrological cycle, probable modifications due to climate change and safeguarding of water resources from pollution.

In addition the Commission has budgeted financial support, for example in the Life-programme, to protect and conserve areas of fresh ground water. This is regarded as a priority area for action.

Due to the different diverse problems of water pollution and water scarcity in the Member States different approaches for awareness campaigns are necessary. The principle of subsidiarity would indicate that actions on public awareness campaigns should first be taken at regional and national level. In principle the Commission will be ready to support suitable actions.

In the working document concerning the fourth framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and development (1994—1998) the Commission addresses the problem of water resources in the core theme 'Environment'. In particular it is proposed to support international research on the development of generic technologies to monitor, assess and manage water resources. This reflects to a certain degree the outcome of the study 'Research and technical development for the supply and use of freshwater resources', (EUR 14725, 14726, 14727, 14728, 14729 EN) which was carried out by the Commission as part of the Monitor-SAST (Strategic Analysis in Science and Technology).

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 393/93**

**by Mrs Maria Belo (S)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(5 March 1993)  
(93/C 297/57)

*Subject:* Conservation of the architectural heritage — Romanesque Cistercian Abbey of Santa Maria do Bouro — Portugal

Following a competition for pilot projects as part of a scheme to support conservation of the community's

architectural heritage, in 1987 the Portuguese Government received ECU 43 000 in two instalments for the restoration and conservation of the Abbey of Santa Maria do Bouro.

To date, only PTE 972 000 plus VAT have been spent to clean up the cloisters, in accordance with an agreement concluded in 1990.

Can the Commission say:

1. Why was it only in 1990 that this was done?
2. How was the rest of the aid used, given that the Abbey remains as it was except for the cleaning of the cloisters, of which there is no longer any trace?

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

*(7 July 1993)*

In 1987, as part of its measures to support the conservation of Europe's architectural heritage, the Commission, acting on the recommendation of a panel of international experts, made available to the Instituto Português do Património Cultural ECU 43 000 (a first payment of ECU 34 400 on 6 August 1987 on receipt of the signed contract (Article 82) and a second payment of ECU 8 600 on receipt of a report on the progress of work) for the conservation of the Convento de Santa Maria do Bouro, Amare, Braga.

The conservation project was prepared by the Institute and was submitted to the Commission on 28 July 1986; it was planned that work should continue until the end of 1992.

According to the Institute's report of 21 October 1987, restoration work on the church began in 1986. Consolidation work on the monastery walls was to be completed in 1987, and work was to begin on the roof, flooring and window frames.

As regards financing, the report stated that ESC 14 157 000 had been disbursed at 21 October 1987. Of this, ESC 7 018 000 represented the Community subsidy.

In response to the questions raised by the Honourable Member, the Commission would point out that the Community contribution of ECU 43 000 concerns conservation and restoration work on the monument in general to be carried out in the context of a multiannual programme under the supervision of the national authority concerned, in this case the Instituto Português do Património Cultural.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 406/93**

**by Sir James Scott-Hopkins (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(5 March 1993)*

*(93/C 297/58)*

*Subject:* Privatization of export credit insurance agencies

What is the Commission doing to encourage Member States to privatize their export credit insurance agencies, or is it the case that this policy has been abandoned?

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

*(6 July 1993)*

It is not the Commission's intention to encourage Member States to privatize their export credit insurance agencies. Whether these agencies are public or private raises in itself no problem. There is a problem, however, when public agencies can benefit from state aids (guarantees, free reinsurance, exemption from taxes, etc.) which private agencies are not able to obtain and therefore suffer from distorted competition. The Commission's intention is to eliminate the distortive effects of such aids with the aim of creating market conditions under which private and public export credit insurance agencies can compete with each other on an equal footing.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 409/93**

**by Mr Gerardo Gaibisso (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(5 March 1993)*

*(93/C 297/59)*

*Subject:* High-speed rail network in Italy — procedures violating Community rules

On 31 December 1992, in great haste and almost in secret, an invitation to tender was issued for the construction of the high-speed rail network in Italy, with the glaringly obvious, worrying aim of preventing competition and allocating the work to particularly favoured firms.

In the Italian Senate, the leader of the MSI Group, Mr Romano Misserville, tabled an urgent question to the Italian

Prime Minister which included the statement that the tender procedures had been invented in order to prevent competition from European firms which were untainted by the corruption now dominating the headlines.

The question also stated that the Environment Minister, Carlo Ripa de Meana, who had never been consulted, had expressed his complete opposition to implementation of such a project without any assessment of the environmental impact.

Can the Commission state:

- Whether notice of the invitation to tender was published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*?
- What measures it intends to take to persuade the Italian authorities to comply with Community rules on freedom of competition and environmental protection?

**Answer given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi  
on behalf of the Commission**

(19 July 1993)

The Commission was informed that Ente Ferrovie dello Stato had awarded to the company TAV a contract for the construction and operation of a high-speed rail network in Italy. According to the information in its possession, the search for partners had been open when that company had been set up, and there had been no discrimination on grounds of nationality.

It would seem that, for its part, TAV has award contracts for the construction of railway lines.

Environmental impact assessments must be carried out for the railway line projects specified in Annex 1 to Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment <sup>(1)</sup> before they can be authorized.

According to the information currently available to the Commission, there has been no breach of Community law. However, the Commission has made the necessary contracts to assemble all the details of the abovementioned contracts. Where appropriate, it will be certain to investigate the matter under the procedure provided for in Article 169 of the EEC Treaty.

If the Honourable Member considers that there has been a breach of the procedure laid down in Directive 85/337/EEC, the Commission will look into any particulars notified to it in this connection.

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

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 412/93**

**by the following members: Mireille Elmalan  
and Sérgio Ribeiro (CG)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(5 March 1993)

(93/C 297/60)

*Subject: Night work*

Following the Court of Justice judgment of 25 July 1991 in the Stoeckel case and despite the demands of trade unions and the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament on 9 April 1992 and the withdrawal of ILO Convention No 89, neither the Commission nor the Council has attempted to fill the legal vacuum existing with regard to night work.

1. Is the Commission aware that, as a result of the withdrawal of Convention No 89 and the absence of Community legislation on this subject, there is increasing deregulation in this area, with many employers forcing their employees to work at night?
2. What steps does the Commission intend to take to fill the legal vacuum existing with regard to night work, given that this situation constitutes a weakness in the social legislation of many of the Member States?

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

(8 July 1993)

The denunciation of ILO Convention No 89 by the six Member States still bound by it — which does not take effect until one year after it has been filed — does not create a legal vacuum in Community legislation on night work.

In the first place, Convention No 89 does not govern night work in general but simply prohibits night work for women. The question of recourse to night work and the conditions to be fulfilled are governed at the moment by the domestic legislation of the Community Member States. In the light of the ruling of the Court of Justice in the Stoeckel case, those Member States which still maintain the principle of the prohibition of night work for women in their domestic legislation will have to amend it in the interests of non-discrimination.

Secondly, several Member States have already announced the imminent ratification of ILO Convention No 171 of June 1990, which provides for the improvement of night working conditions for workers of both sexes.

With the general aim of improving working conditions, the Commission proposed, in September 1990, a directive on working time in order to establish minimum Community provisions to protect the health and safety of workers. The purpose of those provisions in this proposal for a directive which govern night work is to ensure protection throughout the Community for all employees working at night, whether they are men or women.

- the human capital and mobility programme has devoted around 10 % of its budget to social sciences;
- the environment programme has a special sub-programme, SEER, for socio-economic research;
- research activities with the countries of central and Eastern Europe have devoted around 10 % of the budget to the social sciences; and
- six concerted actions by COST have been supported in the social sciences.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 478/93**

by Mr Michel Hervé (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 March 1993)

(93/C 297/61)

*Subject:* Taking account of human and social sciences in drawing up the Community framework research programme

In view of the drawing up of the fourth framework research programme and the widening of Community research objectives under Article 130f of the Treaty on European Union, what steps will the Commission take to ensure that human and social sciences are fully integrated into future Community research programmes?

What steps will the Commission take in response to the recommendations contained in the study drawn up by the European Science Foundation for DG XII on social sciences in the context of the European Community and the conclusions of the memorandum by the DG XII Interservice Group on Social Sciences and Technology?

More particularly, does the Commission not consider it necessary to propose — as suggested in the above studies — the introduction of a specific programme of research in the field of human and social sciences as part of the next Community framework research programme?

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

(9 July 1993)

In recent years the social sciences have featured more and more prominently in the Community's activities of research and technological development, for example:

Furthermore, the FAST programme (Forecast and Assessment in Science and Technology) has applied since its start, in 1978, social science research for developing global long term scenarios on science, technology and society.

For the future, the Commission intends to give the social and economic sciences a higher profile. Preparatory actions were taken with the formation in 1990 of an internal group on the 'Interface on social sciences technology' in order to discuss the scope for new activities in this area and to provide some possible guidelines for the fourth framework programme. The report prepared by the European Science Foundation was also a valuable contribution to these reflections.

The Commission working document concerning the fourth framework programme <sup>(1)</sup>, suggested for the first time some specific core research themes with an important social scientific content in particular those dealing with the urban environment and the phenomenon of social exclusion. Social sciences and humanities also play a central role in connection to the actions to improve the relationship between the RTD system and society and to evaluate the impact of science and technology on society (technology assessment). As the Commission has already indicated to the Parliament, the Commission's recent discussions on future Community RTD policy have concluded that work on such topics could usefully be addressed as part of a socio-economic research theme to complement work done in these areas under other parts of the programmes. More information on these ideas are contained in a further Commission working document <sup>(2)</sup>.

More generally, the Commission seeks to ensure that socio-economic factors and needs, alongside those of the market, are taken into account in the determination of research priorities and in the assessment of the impact of scientific and technological developments on the whole fabric of the economy, industry and society.

<sup>(1)</sup> COM(92) 406.

<sup>(2)</sup> COM(93) 158.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 503/93**

by Mr Reinhold Bocklet (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 March 1993)

(93/C 297/62)

*Subject:* Fairer treatment under the Council Directive on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas

In April 1975, the Council adopted Directive 75/268/EEC <sup>(1)</sup> on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas in order to ensure the continuation of farming in unfavourable locations, and thereby counteract depopulation and weakening of rural economies. The main instrument for this purpose is a compensatory grant. Since the Directive is based on a geographical definition of unfavourable locations (for example mountain and hill areas, less-favoured areas, inaccessible areas, islands and small areas) it discriminates against all unfavourable locations outside the specified areas. Even the extension of less-favoured areas in recent years has failed to solve this problem. As a result, similar cases receive different treatment from the Community legislature or national authorities.

1. What steps will the Commission take to end this unequal treatment of farms facing similar disadvantages arising from their location?
2. How does the Commission view the possibility of treating farms which are situated in unfavourable locations outside less-favoured areas as less-favoured farms on an individual basis so that they are also eligible for the compensation payment?
3. Is the Commission prepared to submit to the Council and the European Parliament a corresponding proposal to amend the relevant directive?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 128, 19. 5. 1975, p. 1.

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

(9 July 1993)

To safeguard agriculture in the long term in the Community's naturally disadvantaged areas Member States can grant compensatory allowances. To this end Council Directive 75/268/EEC defines homogeneous areas.

The aim of the grant is to compensate for the higher production costs occasioned by the permanent natural handicaps. Member States can vary the amount of the grant according to the following criteria:

- the severity of the natural handicap;
- the income of the farmer;
- the size of the holding.

To answer the Honourable Member's individual questions:

- Any delimitation of areas for the purpose of granting aid will generally be regarded subjectively as unfair by some of the parties concerned — especially those on the edges of the areas. Absolute fairness in delimiting areas is, despite the best efforts of the bodies concerned, scarcely possible. It can be approached under certain circumstances if delimitation is undertaken at holding level. However, this would have to be done for all holdings — for reasons of equal treatment — and not merely for holdings outside the areas already delimited.
- Delimitation at the holding level is not currently possible because the wording of the Directive expressly requires the delimitation of homogeneous areas.
- Moreover, delimitation at the holding level, as is currently practised in Austria, would require the classification and evaluation of the individual plots on the holding. Most of the Member States do not possess such detailed information, so a database would have to be created first. This would require considerable administrative work for which the necessary resources are not available, at least not at present. Also, the results of the surveys would certainly not be available in the short term.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 516/93**

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 March 1993)

(93/C 297/63)

*Subject:* The closure of Kydep (the Central Department for the Management of Domestic Produce) in Greece

The Greek Government intends to wind up, close and sell off the Kydep cooperative. The size and nature of Kydep has meant that it has provided hundreds of thousands of farmers in Greece with a guaranteed income and also employed hundreds of staff. What are the Commission's views on the fate of Kydep and its staff and how does it feel, more generally, that the problems which will result from its closure should be tackled?

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

(14 June 1993)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to the answers it has already given to his Written Questions Nos 3192/92 <sup>(1)</sup>, 3332/92 <sup>(2)</sup> and 3239/92 <sup>(3)</sup>.

Kydep is a third tier cooperative made up, according to the Commission's information of cooperative unions which in their turn group individual cooperatives.

If within the framework of a re-organization of the agricultural cooperative movement in Greece power was to be devolved away from Kydep to cooperative unions and individual cooperatives this would not be regarded by the Commission as involving a weakening of the undoubted benefits of agricultural cooperation to Greek farmers.

Furthermore the guarantees to the revenues of Greek farmers under the mechanisms of common agricultural policy do not in any way depend on the continued existence of Kydep.

The determination of property rights in the event of a liquidation of Kydep is a matter for Greek national law. On the other hand if Greece proposed to advance moneys in order to facilitate the continued functioning of the organization or its successors the Commission would need to examine the matter under Articles 92 and 93 of the EEC Treaty.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 207, 30. 7. 1993, p. 14.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 195, 19. 7. 1993, p. 34.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No C 185, 7. 7. 1993, p. 37.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 530/93**

**by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(29 March 1993)

(93/C 297/64)

*Subject:* The situation of women in the Islamic countries

Every day the Muslim fundamentalist movement is gaining ground in the Islamic countries, one of the results of which is sex discrimination and the oppression of women. In view of the Community's priorities in developing relations with the Islamic countries, does not the Commission consider that it should conduct studies forthwith into Muslim movements and the resulting situation of women in the Islamic countries, with a view to changing Community policy accordingly?

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

(17 June 1993)

The Commission is aware of the situation of women in Muslim countries.

Through their cooperation policy, the Community and its Member States actively seek to promote human rights and the full participation of all individuals and groups in society, with special reference to the role of women.

The Commission gives priority to the role of women in its cooperation projects and programmes and attaches particular importance to initiatives by women from the Muslim world.

One such initiative is the foundation of a training and research centre for Arab women, to be cofinanced by the Commission with the UN, Agfund (the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations) and the IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation).

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 538/93**

**by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(30 March 1993)

(93/C 297/65)

*Subject:* Community policy on coastal zones

On the initiative of the Dutch Presidency the Council adopted a resolution on 25 February 1992 <sup>(1)</sup> on the future Community policy concerning the European coastal zone. When does the Commission intend to propose a strategy for integrated coastal zone management which will provide a framework for conservation and sustainable use? Does it intend to cover not only the geomorphological aspects of the problem but also to take a global approach to all the features of sensitive coastal areas (geomorphology, geology, biology, etc.)?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 59, 6. 3. 1992, p. 1.

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

(5 July 1993)

In accordance with the Council resolution adopted on 25 February 1992, the Commission is preparing a

communication on 'A Community strategy for integrated management of coastal zones'.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 558/93**

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

(30 March 1993)

(93/C 297/66)

*Subject:* Container line shipping in the major shipping zones

Is the Commission aware of the latest Drewry report <sup>(1)</sup> on the profitability of container line shipping in the major shipping zones, which shows that without the Trans-Atlantic Agreement carriers operating in the Atlantic would be forced to abandon business on a massive scale, in view of intolerable losses?

Does the Commission agree that even with the help of the Trans-Atlantic Agreement and the Capacity Management Programme such losses remain substantial?

What measures does the EEC intend to take — possibly in the form of further exemptions pursuant to Article 85 (3) of the EEC Treaty, or even by making conference agreements binding — to combat recurrent aggressive competition in the major shipping zones in the Atlantic and on routes to the Far East?

<sup>(1)</sup> 'Container Market Profitability to 1997. Will stabilization agreements save carriers from checkmate?' December 1992, Drewry Shipping Consultants Ltd., 11 Heron Quay, London E14 4JF.

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

(19 July 1993)

The Commission is aware of the report cited by the Honourable Member. It is being taken into consideration in the assessment of the compatibility of the Trans-Atlantic Agreement (TAA) with the Community's rules.

This case originates in an application, filed in August 1992, for exemption of TAA under Article 85 (3) of the EEC Treaty and in various complaints lodged by transport users and one port authority on the basis of Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty.

In December 1992, the Commission received three applications for interim measures from transport users, who claimed the agreement was causing them serious and irreparable harm.

The Commission opened a formal procedure and sent a statement of objections to the participating shipping lines in April 1993.

The Commission will take into account the submissions and the evidence submitted by carriers and users and will take due regard of the Community shipping and trading interests involved.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 569/93**

**by Mr John Bird (S)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(31 March 1993)

(93/C 297/67)

*Subject:* European firearms pass

Will the Commission inform me

1. Which Member States have fully implemented Directive 91/477/EEC <sup>(1)</sup> in respect of weapons?
2. Which Member States are operating correctly the European firearms pass legislation?
3. What steps are being taken to ensure the full implementation of Directive 91/477/EEC?
4. How it envisages the European firearms pass functioning with regard to safe and legitimate firearms throughout the EC, especially where a citizen wishes to take a firearm from one Member State for use in another?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 256, 13. 9. 1991, p. 51.

**Answer given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi**  
**on behalf of the Commission**

(29 July 1993)

To date, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy and the United Kingdom have informed the Commission of the national measures they have adopted to implement Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.

The Commission is examining whether these measures ensure full and accurate transposition of the Directive.

The Commission has initiated infringement proceedings against those Member States which did not notify their national implementing measures by the stipulated deadline (1 January 1993).

Work is in hand on the introduction of the European firearms pass, for which a uniform layout was proposed in a Commission recommendation of 25 February 1993 <sup>(1)</sup>.



Some difficulties are being encountered because Member States which have the legislation to issue the pass require information on the law of the Member States visited by hunters and marksmen. This information is necessary for certain particulars to be entered into the relevant sections when the pass is issued. The current difficulties affecting the European firearms pass should gradually diminish as the number of transpositions increases and the information exchange network set up between the Member States is developed.

Handled as provided for by the Directive, the European firearms pass strikes a balance between the desire to simplify procedures for legitimate users of firearms, i.e. hunters and marksmen, and the need to prevent freedom of movement from lowering security. Taking security, it should be remembered that hunters and marksmen may only move within the Community carrying the European firearms pass if they are transporting the firearms indicated on the pass and if they are able to prove why they are making the journey, for example by producing an invitation.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 93, 17. 4. 1993.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 580/93**

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(30 March 1993)

(93/C 297/68)

*Subject:* Substances on the market which are hazardous to health

Certain substances on the market manufactured by companies which claim they produce weight loss, rekindle sexual desire and even cure diseases, are surely a health risk. As pointed out by the National Pharmaceutical Organization in Greece, many of these products are unlicensed. What steps will the Commission take to end this practice?

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

(5 July 1993)

According to Article 1 of Directive 65/65/EEC (<sup>1</sup>) any product which claims to prevent or treat disease or which contains substances with pharmacological properties liable to present a health risk, is considered to be a medicinal product.

Under Community law, therefore, marketing authorization must be obtained for these products, after submission of a dossier to the national drug control authorities.

The illicit distribution of unauthorized medicinal products is in breach of the Community directives, and should therefore be the subject of punitive action by the competent authorities in the country concerned, in this case Greece.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No 22, 9. 2. 1965.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 601/93**

by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 April 1993)

(93/C 297/69)

*Subject:* Spanish Government action plans for the Doñana Park

The media have recently reported that the Spanish Government has submitted a special action plan to the Commission concerning the Doñana National Park.

What is the general substance of this action plan, the relevant Community budget entry, the deadline for commencing and developing the plan, the total amount involved and the percentage of Community co-funding?

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1107/93**

by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 April 1993)

(93/C 297/70)

*Subject:* Financing of the Parque Doñana operational plan

According to press reports, Commissioners Yannis Paleokrassas and Bruce Millan, who are responsible for the environment and regional policy respectively, have confirmed the Commission's undertaking to provide a financial contribution to the Parque Doñana action plan. A Community contribution of 40 billion has been mentioned. Given the confusion over statements, what budget heading will this Commission contribution be charged to and will the projected investment plan comply with the guidelines set out in the report by the Committee of Experts?

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1274/93**  
**by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(19 May 1993)*  
*(93/C 297/71)*

*Subject:* Confused situation regarding possible EC measures in the Doñana National Park area

Statements by the Andalusian Government on the plan of measures to be taken in the Doñana National Park area, described as 'imminent', have been consistent; the EC's share in the funding has been given as some Ptas 40 000 million. This openness on the part of the Andalusian Government contrasts with the silence of the Commission, or, to be more precise, with that of the office of the Commissioner for Regional Policy. There are several parliamentary questions on this subject still awaiting a reply. The media have already denounced the 'lack of transparency'.

In view of widespread public awareness of this problem, can the Commission issue a general statement on the present situation and reply without delay to the questions submitted on the Doñana National Park?

**Joint answer to Written Questions**  
**Nos 601/93, 1107/93 and 1274/93**  
**given by Mr Millan**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(14 July 1993)*

The Spanish authorities have recently submitted to the Commission the 'Sustainable development plan for the Doñana Park'.

The plan covers the period 1993—2000 and its cost is estimated at Ptas 62 884 million. The Commission is being asked to provide cofinancing totalling Ptas 47 163 million.

In its general content, the plan covers:

- integral water management
- agriculture
- environment
- tourism
- equipment and road infrastructure
- promotion of economic activities
- training and cultural heritage
- additional planning measures and management.

The Commission has begun its appraisal of this plan. No decision has yet been taken regarding the rate of financing or

the choice of financing sources, which could include the Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund, the EAGGF Guarantee Section and LIFE.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 603/93**  
**by Mr Ben Fayot (S)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(1 April 1993)*  
*(93/C 297/72)*

*Subject:* Access by small and medium-sized undertakings to public and private procurement contracts in Belgium and France

Community SMUs wishing to work in Belgium and France are faced with numerous difficulties.

In Belgium, a foreign company requesting a VAT number is obliged to submit a copy of one or more orders from local customers. However, orders can only be obtained if the company has a VAT number.

In addition, the withholding of a VAT number without an order prevents a company from registering as a business and applying for authorization to tender for Belgian public procurement contracts.

In France, a foreign undertaking is unable to obtain the necessary certification, which is reserved for French undertakings although considered 'desirable' by the French authorities in their invitations to tender. As a result, the competitive position of foreign companies is seriously weakened.

Is the Commission aware of these discriminatory practices?

What steps will it take to remedy matters?

**Answer given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(19 July 1993)*

Where Belgium is concerned, the Commission has been informed of the discriminatory practices pointed out by the Honourable Member and has begun examining whether they comply with Community law. Its examination will focus on compliance with Articles 52 and 69 of the EEC Treaty and with the Sixth VAT Directive.

Where France is concerned, the Commission has not been informed of the discriminatory practices described by the Honourable Member.

There is no official list of approved contractors. The *Organisme Professionnel de Qualification et de Classification du Bâtiment* (OPQCB), which issues certificates to firms which so desire, is a private-law association founded in 1949 by the main trades in the construction industry. The certificates in no way constitute approval for contractors and, if the contracting authorities sometimes request an OPQCB certificate in the contract notices published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, they are nevertheless obliged to accept any other certificate of professional competence issued by an equivalent body or any other proof of a contractor's technical capacity, as provided for in Articles 23 to 26 of Directive 71/305/EEC<sup>(1)</sup> as amended by Directive 89/440/EEC<sup>(2)</sup>. Those provisions are contained in the specimen contract notices adopted by the Decree of 12 June 1992, which applies to all contracting authorities.

Although not discriminatory in intent, the differences in pre-qualification procedures between Member States can cause particular difficulties for SMEs, especially where works contracts are concerned. The Commission has issued a mandate to the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) — approved by the Committee on Standards and Technical Regulations of Directive 83/189/EFC — for a study determining the elements of European standards setting out a framework for pre-qualification requirements. Until the results of this study are available, it would be premature to comment further.

The Commission would ask the Honourable Member to draw its attention to any specific behaviour by the contracting authorities which, in the context of the two questions raised here, might affect the competitiveness of foreign firms.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 185, 16. 8. 1971.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 210, 21. 7. 1989.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 640/93**

**by Mr Dieter Rogalla (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(5 April 1993)

(93/C 297/73)

*Subject:* Employment of the disabled

1. How many posts has the Commission filled with disabled persons?

2. Is the number of disabled persons employed at the Commission in each career bracket above or below the average number in similar jobs in the individual Member States, and by how much?

3. Is it true that the Commission has set up a separate department for European initiatives in this area? If so, what achievement and developments have resulted?

4. What posts for disabled persons did the Commission apply for and obtain in the 1993 budget and to what extent have these posts been filled?

5. Does the Commission agree that a number of the additional posts granted by the Council and European Parliament should be earmarked for the disabled in proportion to the original demands? How could this be guaranteed in administrative terms?

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

(30 June 1993)

1 and 2. The Commission does not compile statistics concerning the disabled people it employs.

3. It has however established a division to deal with all aspects of the integration of disabled people in the Community including the Community action programme to assist disabled people — Helios I (1988—1991) and Helios II (1993—1996).

The results of Helios I were set out in a report presented by the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on 6 July 1992<sup>(1)</sup>. This report describes, amongst other things, specific action and policy initiatives in relation to the employment of disabled people.

Helios II is the subject of a Council Decision of 25 February 1993 (93/136/EEC)<sup>(2)</sup>. The programme's objectives include the promotion of effective approaches and measures in respect of economic integration. This objective will be pursued through activities such as seminars, conferences and exchange visits. Proposals for further action or policy initiatives will be considered by the Commission and Member States in the light of the results of these activities.

4 and 5. As the Honourable Member is aware, the Commission proposed in its draft preliminary budget for 1993 that 25 posts should be allocated specifically for the recruitment of disabled persons. To this end work started on the production of guidelines to determine how these posts

should be filled. Although the allocation of posts did not materialize, work continued and should result in a practical policy in the first half of this year.

(<sup>1</sup>) SEC(92) 1206 final.

(<sup>2</sup>) OJ No L 56, 9. 3. 1993.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 658/93**

by the following members: Virginio Bettini (V)  
and Tullio Regge (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 April 1993)

(93/C 297/74)

*Subject:* Using a second sun to light up Siberia

Whereas at 5.20 GMT on the night of 4 to 5 February 1993 an experiment took place involving the refraction of sunlight with a 20 m diameter mirror mounted on the Russian space station 'Peace',

whereas the resulting beam of light was seen in France, Switzerland and Germany,

whereas the aim of the Russian scientists directing the 'Energy' project is to demonstrate that there is a real possibility of lighting up vast areas of the globe, and particularly of Russia's polar regions, simply by diverting sunlight,

whereas no one has taken the trouble to study the environmental effects on an ecological system which has developed by adapting to sharp and prolonged switches between day and night, thus fuelling the strong suspicion that to light up an area of 6 000 sq km with a 'beacon' 50 times more powerful than the moon would mean subjecting the ecosystem of the tundra to enormous stress,

can the Commission say whether, as part of the scientific cooperation between the EEC and the CIS, Community finance has been used for this project and whether it does not intend to ensure that Community funds are not used for research the scientific usefulness and practical results of which are questionable?

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

(6 July 1993)

The Commission was not involved in funding the project to which the Honourable Member refers.

Scientific and technological research projects under the Community R&D policy are selected after detailed examination of their technical and scientific content. This is done by committees of highly qualified experts who are able to assess the environmental impact of the projects. Environmental protection is one of the main selection criteria.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 698/93**

by Mr Arthur Newens (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 April 1993)

(93/C 297/75)

*Subject:* Fissile material trade with Iraq

Is the Commission aware of any violation of the provisions of Euratom by the UK Government, with regard to present or past trade in fissile materials with Iraq, and does it consider that it has a Treaty obligation to investigate the possibility of such violation and take appropriate action *vis-à-vis* the UK Government?

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

(6 July 1993)

The Commission is not aware of a violation by the United Kingdom of the provisions of the Euratom Treaty arising out of fissile material trade with Iraq. Had such a violation been detected, the Commission would have taken the appropriate action, as provided in the Treaty.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 700/93**

by Mr Alexandros Alavanos (CG)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 April 1993)

(93/C 297/76)

*Subject:* Information centres for the population in rural areas in Greece

The Community Carrefour programme provides for the creation of information centres for the population of rural areas.

What specific centres have been approved or will be approved for Greece and on the basis of what criteria?

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

*(28 July 1993)*

To date 21 rural carrefours have been set up as a pilot initiative.

Three of them are in Greece:

- at the Union of Agricultural Cooperatives in Egeion
- at the Asic Company in Ioannina
- at the Agricultural and Industrial Institute in Thessaloniki.

In order to be able to operate as carrefours, the 'host structures' must have:

- considerable experience in providing assistance and advice to the rural communities in their region;
- a good knowledge of Community policies;
- close links with other organizations which are active on the rural front;
- relations with national and regional authorities and with rural development networks.

The Commission would be happy to provide the Honourable Member with additional information, should he so require.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 709/93**

**by Mr Diego de los Santos López (ARC)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(7 April 1993)*

*(93/C 297/77)*

*Subject:* Fraud in the manufacture of Community motor vehicles

According to persistent accusations by certain people, some Community motor vehicle manufacturers established in various Member States are obtaining official type approval regardless of the fact that they are producing vehicles in the various national markets which, for a given model, contain disparities with regard to the type of motor, age of

components etc. which vary according to the Member State concerned. In this way the same model may be a different vehicle, depending on whether it is purchased in Spain or France, for example.

Does the Commission not think that this is a form of consumer fraud?

Is it possible to type-approve a given model in each Member State, although its component parts are different?

What information does the Commission have on practices of this kind in the Community?

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

*(19 July 1993)*

Prior to the entry into force of Community type-approval, each Member State approved vehicles for registration within its territory on the basis of its own national rules.

The result is that, although the national rules of most of the Member States are very similar, technical differences do exist between vehicles, even those of the same make and model, depending on the Member State in which they are marketed.

The fact that differences exist between vehicles depending on the country of destination, and whether they are marketed within or outside the Community, in no sense constitutes consumer fraud, as the vehicles conform in each case to the type approved by the legislation of the country where they are marketed.

This situation, while it does not constitute fraud, does however create a non-uniform market. For this reason the Community adopted Directive 92/53/EEC <sup>(1)</sup> amending Directive 70/156/EEC on the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers, which entered into force on 1 January 1993.

This Directive lays down the Community type-approval procedure which is to be followed by manufacturers on a voluntary basis until 31 December 1995, and thereafter on a compulsory basis. It applies to passenger vehicles in category M1, and will later be extended to all other vehicles.

The application of this Directive means that vehicles marketed in all the Member States will meet the same technical specifications laid down by the specific Directives, which will be made binding.

Obviously, there will continue to be differences in the optional equipment fitted to vehicles, of the kind which exist even now within each Member State.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 225, 10. 8. 1992.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 728/93**

**by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(14 April 1993)

(93/C 297/78)

*Subject:* The 12 Member States have failed to implement the Directive on active implantable medical devices

Is the Commission aware of the chaotic situation of the 12 Member States with regard to a matter which is of such importance for the health and safety of patients, namely the general failure to implement the directive on active implantable medical devices (Directive 90/385/EEC (<sup>1</sup>))?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 189, 20. 7. 1990, p. 17.

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

(12 July 1993)

The Commission is concerned at the delay in transposing Council Directive 90/385/EEC of 20 June 1990 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to active implantable medical devices, a process which should have been completed by 1 July 1992 at the latest.

By the end of March 1993, five Member States had communicated their national implementing measures to the Commission and in some of the other Member States the procedure for transposing the Directive is at an advanced stage. Proceedings under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty initiated in 1992 are in progress in respect of those Member States which have not yet transposed the Directive.

In any event, it should be noted that the provisions of national law protecting patients and users in this area will continue to apply until the end of 1994. However, any manufacturer who has opted to apply the rules provided for in the Directive during the abovementioned period is entitled to market devices bearing the CE mark in the Community?

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 736/93**

**by Mrs Christine Oddy (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(14 April 1993)

(93/C 297/79)

*Subject:* Redundancies at Jaguar Radford plant Coventry

Is the European Commission aware that despite having received an award for Q101 quality, 185 people are to be made redundant at the Jaguar Radford plant Coventry?

Is the European Commission aware how serious the recession is in the West Midlands, particularly in the car industry?

What plans does the European Commission have to assist the car industry in the West Midlands in 1994?

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

(29 July 1993)

The West Midlands region, where the Jaguar Coventry plant is situated, comes under Objective 2 of the Structural Funds. Accordingly, ESF funds amounting to ECU 33 million were allocated to programmes there during the period 1990—91. For 1992—93, commitments from the ESF total ECU 36 million (these sums are included in the overall figure of ECU 400 million allocated from all the Structural Funds since 1989).

However, owing to specific provisions of the UK's economic legislation, funds from the ESF may, in the West Midlands, be allocated only to SMEs. Since Jaguar is not a SME, the company does not qualify for joint financing under Objective 2.

Under the current ESF legislation, long-term unemployed persons, including those made redundant at Jaguar, may benefit from ESF measures in the context of Objective 3. Moreover, the Commission decided on 24 March 1993 to apply a derogation provided for in the ESF Regulation, whereby any Member State may, in certain circumstances, take measures under Objective 3, with assistance from the Fund, to help persons who have been unemployed for less than 12 months. The new ESF Regulation reinforces this increased flexibility by referring to persons exposed to long-term unemployment.

The new Objective 4, aimed at facilitating workers' adaptation to industrial change, will come into effect in 1994. This Objective is designed to consolidate employment and enhance job qualifications through measures entailing

anticipation, counselling, networking and training throughout the Community.

Where a genuine need for training or occupational retraining of workers is identified on the basis of criteria common to several economic sectors, appropriate measures tailored to future requirements, particularly with regard to changes in production systems and work organization, could be considered eligible for joint financing. The final selection is up to the extended partnership involving the regions, the Member State and the Commission.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 739/93**

**by Mr Panayotis Roumeliotis (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(14 April 1993)*

*(93/C 297/80)*

*Subject:* Protection of the Fokaia wetlands

Although the Fokaia wetlands in the Chalkidi are regarded as among the most important in Europe under the Corine programme, delays affecting official recognition and a delimitation of the area are causing enormous problems, placing certain rare protected species in immediate danger of extinction because of hunting activities.

What view does the Commission take of this?

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

*(5 July 1993)*

The last update of the Corine biotope inventory includes the community of Nea Fokaia, a coastal marshland which meets the Corine scientific criteria of major importance for nature conservation in the European Community.

Along with other information sources, the Corine biotopes inventory is now used as a tool for the preparation of the implementation of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora <sup>(1)</sup>. This should help the Greek authorities to make a decision about the suitable level and legal status to give to this site.

Furthermore, Greece has not classified the zone under consideration as a special protection area according to Article 4 of the Directive 79/409/EEC, concerning the

conservation of wild birds <sup>(2)</sup>, which is the only legal basis for Community intervention for nature conservation applicable at present.

Consequently, it is, at present, the responsibility of the Greek authorities to take the necessary measures for the wise use and protection of the biotope in question.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 206, 22. 7. 1992.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 103, 25. 4. 1979.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 750/93**

**by Mr Diego de los Santos López (ARC)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(15 April 1993)*

*(93/C 297/81)*

*Subject:* Storage of waste in El Cabril (Andalusia)

The El Cabril storage plant for radioactive and nuclear waste is situated in the Sierra Albarrana, which is also the location of the Carbonell mine, one of the richest uranium deposits in the world, according to the World Radioactivity Congress held in Chicago, USA, in 1936.

This means that the area is unsuitable for the location of a waste storage plant, given the accumulative nature of the radioactive emissions, which could have an unfavourable effect on the local inhabitants, and the flora and fauna as a result of alpha-ray emissions.

Despite this, the existing plant has been extended in order for it to be used as a storage centre.

In reply to Written Question No 714/92 <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission referred to the information provided by the Spanish Government, pursuant to Article 37 of the EAEC Treaty concerning possible unfavourable repercussions for the inhabitants of other Member States.

What information does the Commission have on the radioactive contamination of the Sierra Albarrana, in particular the effect on the flora and fauna and all the people living in the areas near the storage centre?

Does the Commission consider the El Cabril location to be appropriate in view of the proximity of the Carbonell mine?

Does the Commission believe that proper measures are being taken in respect of the transport of waste to El Cabril?

Does it consider that visits by students and other members of the public to El Cabril should be prohibited?

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 16, 21. 1. 1993, p. 4.

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

(8 July 1993)

In its opinion on the 'El Cabril' storage plan, given under Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission only considered the possible effects on neighbouring Member States. Nevertheless, the data sent to the Commission by the Member State under Article 36 of the Euratom Treaty do not show any level of radioactivity in the area that could imply exceeding the dose limits laid down in Council Directive 80/836/Euratom of 15 July 1980 on the basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation <sup>(1)</sup>.

According to the data available to the Commission, apart from the radioactive waste storage facility there are no other nuclear or radioactive installations in the zone giving rise to discharges that may produce a cumulative effect with those released by the installation at 'El Cabril'.

The Commission has no information on the transport used. However Spain, like all other Member States, applies the IAEA transport rules, which give adequate protection to the population and the environment.

Provided that appropriate radiation protection measures are taken, the Commission has no objections to this kind of visit, which may help to inform the general public about the different activities involving ionizing radiation, and thus create confidence among the population. Concerning visits of students and civilian population the Commission draws the attention of the Honourable Member to its communication on the implementation of Council Directive 89/618/Euratom of November 1989 on informing the general public about health protection measures to be applied and steps to be taken in the event of a radiological emergency <sup>(2)</sup>. In paragraph 6 of this Communication the Commission states that 'the competent authorities in the Member States should . . . set out in detail how to inform the local population, as a community — for example by . . . arranging visits to installations . . .'.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 246, 17. 9. 1980.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 103, 19. 4. 1991.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 806/93**

by Mr Thomas Megahy (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 April 1993)

(93/C 297/82)

*Subject:* Racial discrimination in employment

If a non-white citizen of a Member State was refused employment (for which they were well qualified) in another

Member State, and had good reason to believe that this was on grounds of ethnicity rather than nationality, would he or she have any recourse to redress under Community law, given the fact that most Member States have no legislation specifically forbidding such discrimination?

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

(8 July 1993)

In the circumstances described by the Honourable Member, a coloured Community citizen is the target of discrimination, being refused employment solely on racial grounds in a Member State other than that of his or her nationality.

In such a case, only national law can be applied, since the Community's powers in this field are extremely limited. The coloured citizen exercising his or her right to freedom of movement, who is thereby entitled to the same treatment as national workers, will have to seek redress under national legislation and, where appropriate, international law applicable to the case in question, in the same way as nationals of the host country. It is true that all the Member States have not adopted specific national legislation, as shown by the recent Commission study concerning legal means to combat racism and xenophobia.

However, the Commission wishes to point out that the Council, in its resolution 90/C/157-01 of 29 May 1990 <sup>(1)</sup>, calls on those countries which have not yet done so to draw up laws 'aimed at preventing or curbing discrimination or xenophobic acts'.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 157, 27. 6. 1990.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 816/93**

by Mr Peter Crampton (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(21 April 1993)

(93/C 297/83)

*Subject:* Fisheries: third country agreements

Is the Commission currently negotiating or planning to negotiate fishing agreements with any of the countries of the former 'Communist bloc'? If so, could it list which countries are involved and indicate the state of progress of these negotiations?



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

*(6 July 1993)*

As the Commission explained during the 'Fisheries' Sub-Committee meeting on 22 and 23 March 1993, exploratory talks were held in February with the Russian Federation in order to see if it was possible to conclude a fisheries agreement.

In the light of these exploratory talks, the Commission transmitted on 17 March 1993 a recommendation for a

Council Decision, authorizing the Commission to negotiate a fisheries agreement with the Russian Federation. This document is currently the subject of Council discussion.

The Community has on a number of occasions indicated an interest in concluding a fisheries agreement with Poland. The Polish authorities have however indicated that Poland is not yet prepared to conclude such an agreement.

In 1992 the Community concluded fisheries agreements with Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

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