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I

(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1176/92**by Mr Gerardo Fernández-Albor (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(15 May 1992)**(93/C 350/01)**Subject:* New legal and financial framework for Community film societies

In recent conferences held by various European Community film societies, mention has been made of the statement by the Assembly of film society federations stressing the need to create a new framework to facilitate, both legally and financially, the distribution throughout the Community Member States of films of cultural interest which have not been put on general release since they were made.

The statement also pointed out that a new line of work has begun for European film societies, namely, setting up a specific programme for the promotion and dissemination of films as vehicles of culture.

Given the importance of films in the European cultural environment and the new ambitions of film societies, does the Commission not consider that it should respond to the wishes of such associations and promote a new legal and financial framework to facilitate the distribution amongst the EC Member States of films which enhance the cultural dimension of the cinema?

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

(2 August 1993)

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

The Commission does however agree with the Honourable Member's views on the need to facilitate the movement of films produced by Member States, especially those of cultural interest.

The Commission already facilitates the movement of films through the MEDIA programme, and in particular the EFDO projects (distribution), EURO-AIM (promotion of independent production and distribution) and the MEDIA Theatres project (promotion of European films in the cinema).

The Commission also promotes European cultural productions, particularly the work of young artists, by giving financial backing to film festivals in individual Member States.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1511/92**by Mr Gijs de Vries (LDR)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(16 June 1992)**(93/C 350/02)**Subject:* Netherlands contribution to EC own resources

According to the Netherlands Central Statistical Office, the Netherlands gross domestic product in 1987 was not Fl 430,2 billion as was previously supposed, but Fl 440,6 billion. For 1988 and 1989 the difference should be slightly smaller, at about Fl 8 to 9 billion (see *NRC Handelsblad*, 8 May 1992).

On the basis of this new calculation of its GDP, how much more should the Netherlands contribute to the EC budget?

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

(2 August 1993)

Under Article 10 (8) of Regulation (EEC) No 1552/89 ⁽¹⁾ the Commission informs the Member States of any adjustments to their GNP balances so that they can enter them in the account opened in the name of the Commission with their Treasury on the first working day of December of the same year. After 30 September of the fourth year following a given financial year, any changes to GNP are no longer taken into account, except on points previously notified either by the Commission or by the Member State.

With the exception of ad hoc financial contributions relating to earlier financial years, GNP has only been taken into account in drawing up the budget from 1988. The most recent figures supplied by Eurostat in November 1992 — GNP for the Netherlands of Fl 453 910 million in 1988 and Fl 484 470 million in 1989 — were taken into account by the Commission at the applicable rates of 0,1442 and 0,0675 % respectively for the calculation of the balances referred to in the above Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 155, 7. 5. 1989.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1859/92

by Mrs Ursula Braun-Moser (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 July 1992)

(93/C 350/03)

Subject: Disbanding of DG XXIII

Since 1989, DG XXIII, continuing where the Task Force left off, has been pursuing the policy on behalf of small firms and traders initiated by the European Parliament and has done a good deal of useful work on their behalf, as well as examining all directives for their effects on this sector, as called for by Parliament.

In view of the importance of small firms and traders as the backbone of social policy in the integration of Europe and the growing threat from the increasing number of mergers between large international undertakings, the work of DG XXIII is of the greatest value in the preservation and progress of this sector.

It is true that the Commission is thinking of disbanding DG XXIII, which has fully proved its worth, and incorporating it into DG III and is the Commission planning to inform or consult Parliament on this measure?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1973/92

by Mr Christopher Jackson (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1992)

(93/C 350/04)

Subject: Future of small and medium-sized enterprise unit, DG XXIII

Could the Commission please confirm or deny recent rumours that the SME unit, along with DG XXIII, is to be dissolved? Could the Commission also outline its future proposals for the support of SMEs within the Community?

Joint answer to Written Questions

Nos 1859/92 and 1973/92

given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi

on behalf of the Commission

(8 October 1993)

The Honourable Members are requested to refer to the Commission's answers to oral questions H-751/92, H-760/92 and H-834/92, put by Mr Kellett-Bowman, Mrs Nielsen and Mr Speciale respectively, at question time during the European Parliament's September 1992 part-session and to question H-865/92 put by Mrs Braun-Moser at question time during the European Parliament's November 1992 part-session.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2238/92

by Mr Thomas Megahy (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1992)

(93/C 350/05)

Subject: Excessive charges for currency exchange and transfer

In view of the fact that voluntary codes of conduct have clearly had no effect on the exploitation by banks and other institutions of the needs of tourists, businesses and migrant workers to exchange or transfer money across borders, what steps does the Commission intend to take to end the scandal of their profiteering?

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

(11 October 1993)

In March 1992 the Commission published a working document that envisages a series of measures for facilitating cross-border payments ⁽¹⁾.

As regards the improvement in the performance of cross-border payment systems sought by the Honourable Member, the Commission worked with the associations representing almost all credit institutions in the Community to produce a set of guidelines aimed at better customer information on such transactions. The guidelines are printed in an annex to the working document. Banks have been applying these guidelines since 1 January 1993; the Commission feels that clear and precise information of the kind called for by the guidelines will enable customers to make a more fully informed choice between the different services available, and between different banks, and will thus lead to an overall improvement in the services provided.

The Commission is closely monitoring the application of the guidelines by banks and has launched a study that is to look further into the question of transparency in cross-border remote payment services.

As regards currency-exchange transactions, the Commission is currently consulting with a working party of national experts to establish what further measures might be taken in respect of bureaux de change. Within the same working party, the Commission has forcefully encouraged the introduction of complaints procedures that would be open to customers in any dispute arising out of cross-border payment services. The Commission estimates that by the end of 1993 complaints bodies will be working or commencing operations in all Member States. These measures are likewise described in the working document of March 1992.

(¹) SEC(92) 621 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3086/92

by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 December 1992)

(93/C 350/06)

Subject: Infringements by Spain of the directives on public works contracts and public supply contracts

What are the main infringements committed by Spain in connection with the directives on public works contracts and public supply contracts (Directive 71/305/EEC (¹) and Directive 77/62/EEC (²))?

(¹) OJ No L 185, 16. 8. 1971, p. 5.

(²) OJ No L 13, 15. 1. 1977, p. 1.

Answer given by Mr Delors on behalf of the Commission

(27 September 1993)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to the 10th annual report on the monitoring of the application of Community law (¹), and in particular Annex 4 (pages 246 and 263).

(¹) COM(93) 320 final — OJ No C 233, 30. 8. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3099/92

by Mr Wilfried Telkämper (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 December 1992)

(93/C 350/07)

Subject: Community Directive on environmental impact assessment — interpretation of Article 9

Article 9 of Directive 85/337/EEC (¹) environmental impact assessment stipulates that:

‘When a decision has been taken, the competent authority or authorities shall inform the public concerned of:

- the content of the decision and any conditions attached thereto,
- the reasons and considerations on which the decision is based where the Member States’ legislation so provides.’

Does the Commission take the view that, where a decision is taken *not* to carry out an environmental impact assessment for a particular project, this decision must also be made public pursuant to Article 9?

(¹) OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985, p. 40.

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas on behalf of the Commission

(19 July 1993)

Article 9 of Directive 85/337/EEC does not require the Member States to adopt a decision when they consider that a project covered by Annex II does not need to be made subject to an environmental impact assessment, but simply makes reference to the provision of information on the granting of development consent by the competent authorities, the detailed arrangements for such information being determined by the Member States.

However, under the terms of Directive 90/313/EEC on the freedom of access to information on the environment (¹),

any interested person may request information from the competent authorities in the Member States concerning the choices they have made as to whether or not a project covered by Annex II should be made subject to an assessment.

(¹) OJ No L 158, 23. 6. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3296/92
by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(6 January 1993)
(93/C 350/08)

Subject: Adaptation of airports in Community territory for external border controls in the Member States

The impending entry into force of Community provisions on freedom of movement of persons will increase the mobility of Member State nationals within the European Community as one result of the single internal market and suitable facilities should accordingly be provided. At the same time the main Community airports should be adapted without delay to meet external control requirements in respect of third country citizens who want to enter the territory of the Member States.

However, in certain cases, the adaptation of control facilities in the main airports for entry into the European Community is causing difficulties which apparently cannot be completely resolved by 1993.

Does the Commission have any reports specifying the present situation concerning control facilities in the main airports for entry into the European Community, in order to ensure adequate checks on third country nationals wishing to enter the Member States? If certain airports do not yet have the necessary control facilities what interim measures does the Commission propose?

Answer given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi
on behalf of the Commission
(8 October 1993)

With regard to the adaptation of airport infrastructures following implementation of the rules on the elimination of baggage controls and formalities (Council Regulation (EEC) No 3925/91) (¹), the Commission has received a certain amount of information indicating that these measures have, generally speaking, been applied in a harmonious manner.

In accordance with the rules, Member States have taken the most appropriate steps to ensure the free movement of

baggage in the case of persons on an intra-Community flight while, at the same time, avoiding the upheavals that might have resulted for airport infrastructures from any misapplication of those rules.

Since the task of adapting infrastructures and/or administrative procedures at airports so as to permit the elimination of controls on passengers taking intra-Community flights is more demanding, it could not be completed by 1 January 1993.

Although the Commission does not possess a detailed report on the progress in adapting infrastructures at all airports, the work of the Schengen Group indicates that, at all but a very few of the airports concerned, the work will be completed by 1 December 1993 at the latest. By that date, controls on persons taking intra-Schengen flights will have to be dismantled. At those few airports in the Schengen area where the infrastructure work will not be completed by that date, a mixed transitional arrangement (partial adaptation of infrastructures and administrative measures) will allow controls on individuals to be discontinued.

(¹) OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 19/93
by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(3 February 1993)
(93/C 350/09)

Subject: Greek social security funds

Social security funds in Greece are calling for independence with regard to the investment of capital. More specifically, they wish for an end to government influence in their administration and to restrictions on the use they are allowed to make of their funds. The bill being proposed by the Greek Government, to be put to the vote in Parliament, contains the following provisions:

1. The authorization by the Minister responsible and the Currency Committee of the Greek Central Bank shall have to be obtained if social security funds wish to purchase shares in unit trusts;
2. Investments by social security funds in unit trusts may not exceed 20% of the liquid assets of these funds;
3. The provisions of Law 1969/91 giving social security funds the right to invest their assets in unit trusts as they wish shall be abolished.

Will the Commission take any initiative in this respect?

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

Independence in the management and investment of social security funds in Greece is an entirely domestic matter over which the Community has no jurisdiction whatsoever.

The Commission's proposal on institutions for retirement provision ⁽¹⁾, currently being discussed by the Council, on which the European Parliament issued an opinion on first reading on 18 November 1992, is concerned with the freedom of management and investment of funds across national boundaries.

In keeping with this principle, the proposal deliberately excludes from its scope institutions for retirement provision which are part of social security schemes and offer basic benefits.

The Council is currently examining the situation in the Member States to identify clearly the institutions for retirement provision which should be excluded from its scope without the need for explicit reference to specific annexes of Regulations (EEC) No 1408/71 ⁽²⁾ or (EEC) No 574/72 ⁽³⁾. It was basically the same concern which prompted amendment No 27 adopted at the first reading of the proposal at the European Parliament.

⁽¹⁾ COM(91) 301 final.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 149, 5. 7. 1971.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 74, 27. 3. 1972.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 141/93
by Sir James Scott-Hopkins (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(15 February 1993)
(93/C 350/10)

Subject: Safety regulations for children's pushchairs

Why are the proposed new standards for the safety of children's pushchairs Community-wide lower than those in the UK? Is this not an example of the danger of 'levelling down'?

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

According to information obtained by the Commission, standards relating to children's pushchairs, currently in

preparation under CEN/TC 252/WG 3, would not offer a lower level of safety than that provided for in the United Kingdom. Neither has the participating United Kingdom committee made any such comments or observations.

It should also be remembered that the abovementioned standards have not been drawn up at the Commission's request.

In principle, a standardization remit should be issued once the proposal for a Directive relating to children's articles has been drawn up. From that time on, the CEN standards to which reference will be made will have to be in accordance with the provisions of that Directive, taking as a basis the 'high level of protection' laid down in Article 100a of the EEC Treaty.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 186/93
by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(17 February 1993)
(93/C 350/11)

Subject: Consumers and insurance companies

Given that there is no effective protection for consumers against insurance companies subsidizing the cost of their business policy with profits from consumers' personal policies, what action will the Commission take to protect European citizens?

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

The question raised by the Honourable Member concerns the commercial policy of insurance undertakings. Under the EEC Treaty, insurance undertakings are free to decide what commercial strategy to pursue. When determining their products and their premiums, they take into consideration the competition which exists between the various markets, as well as the principles of the insurance business. Such competition relates not only to premiums, but also to the guarantees provided by the insurer in his policy and the service he offers throughout its life and its performance.

The application, with effect from 1 July 1994, of the third Directive on the coordination of insurance, which completes the single market in this sector, will result in keener competition between insurance undertakings and a wider choice of insurance products, which will be available to all

those seeking insurance in the Community. As the frontiers between Member States come down and the separate national markets open up, insurers will be free to do business throughout the Community, with a single authorization and under the control of their home Member State. Customers will thus have access to the whole range of policies existing in the Community, including those marketed in other Member States, and will be able to choose those which correspond to their needs.

An insurance undertaking's commercial strategy must in any event comply with the rules of its home Member State with regard to financial and prudential supervision and must not imperil its financial position. The Directives adopted in the field of insurance, which have coordinated the national provisions relating to prudential control and insurance conditions, require the financial position of insurance undertakings to be adequate to guarantee the protection of policyholders.

It is difficult to imagine that an insurance undertaking could maintain a policy of financing its loss-making activities in the industrial risks sector by charging excessive premiums for consumer insurance. Through the competition mechanism, an insurance business acting in this way would rapidly lose consumer risk business to other undertakings, which are often specialist ones, charging more competitive premiums. The increase in competition between insurers as a result of the completion of the single market will make any such practice even more difficult.

The Commission considers that harmonization at Community level in this area is not necessary.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 287/93

by Mr Isidoro Sánchez García (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 February 1993)

(93/C 350/12)

Subject: Iberia restructuring plan

The Spanish Government has submitted a plan to the Commission for the overall restructuring of Iberia for 1992—1996. The plan aims to make the company viable again and provides for an increase in capital of Ptas 120 billion, which requires Community authorization.

What is the substance of this plan and what are the Commission's conditions for approving it?

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

(11 October 1993)

The aid in favour of Iberia, which formed part of a strategic programme aimed at restructuring the airline, has benefitted from an exemption under Article 92 (C) of the EC Treaty in the light of assurance given by the Spanish government that the aid will be the last capital injection from public funds for the duration of the programme, the money will be used only for the purposes of the plan, a nationality clause embodied in Iberia's statute will be deleted and, (according to the Third Package), prices will also be cost-related in the Spanish domestic market. As regards the contents of the strategic plan the Commission is forwarding to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat General of the Parliament a copy of its decision in which the relevant points of the plan are specifically addressed.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 343/93

by Mrs Mary Banotti (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 March 1993)

(93/C 350/13)

Subject: ESF funding for childcare facilities in Ireland

Could the Commission inform me how many projects for funding under the NOW programme in Ireland have been concerned with the better provision of childcare facilities? Does the Commission have experience of reluctance on the part of the Irish authorities, in particular FAS, to forward childcare projects to Brussels because of the increased unit costs of training involved? Does the Commission have any plans in the future to promote the provision of childcare facilities under existing ESF funding programmes, in particular the NOW initiative, especially in Objective 1 regions like Ireland?

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

(18 June 1993)

In December 1991 the Commission approved the operational programmes for Ireland under the NOW initiative, amounting to a total of ECU 4 million, of which ECU 3 674 196 was from the European Social Fund (ESF) and ECU 325 804 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). All the projects implemented under these programmes are for childcare measures financed by the ERDF in order to support women's access to training.

The selection of projects falls within the field of competence of the Member States. However, the Commission can state that 17 projects have been approved by the Irish authorities in an initial phase, and that other projects are in the course of being approved under the additional budget allocated to NOW in June 1992 (ECU 1,8 million for Ireland). Among the projects presented, six are directly concerned with childcare measures and the establishment of creches, and two have been developed by the vocational training organization FAS.

Under the third medium-term Community Action Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (1991—1995), the Commission supports a Network on Childcare and other measures to reconcile working and family life.

Within this framework, a working group on the Structural Funds and Rural Areas was set up in December 1990. The main purpose of the Working Group was to identify the contribution of childcare services to the objectives of the Structural Funds, and to examine how the Structural Funds, in turn, may be utilized in the service of developing childcare provision particularly in non-advantaged areas including rural regions. A report was produced on the activities of this group in 1992, with conclusions and recommendations for future action. These recommendations are under consideration by the Commission in the context of the current review of the Structural Fund Regulations.

The exact form of future Structural Fund operations has not yet been finalized; however, new experience gathered under NOW will be taken into account in drawing up future ESF policy.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 525/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 March 1993)

(93/C 350/14)

Subject: Guaranteeing the same level of health and safety protection in all industries and all occupations in Greece

In order to guarantee the same level of protection of safety and health in all industries and all occupations, the Commission has proposed a full package of appropriate legislation, most of which has already been adopted in the form of Council directives. However, according to trade unions sources, these directives laying down minimum health and safety requirements for all workers in the Community have yet to be implemented by the Greek authorities.

Can the Commission state when the Greek authorities will bring Greek legislation into line with these directives on the health and safety of workers employed in all branches of industry and in all occupations? When does the Commission intend to ask the Greek government to legislate and introduce appropriate preventive measures and effective inspection of safety conditions at the workplace?

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

(11 October 1993)

Greece has not informed the Commission of its national measures for the implementation of the directives on the protection of the health and safety of workers, which entered into force on 1 January 1993. The Commission has therefore started the procedure provided for in Article 169 of the EEC Treaty.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 527/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 March 1993)

(93/C 350/15)

Subject: Motor vehicle accidents

In view of the alarming increase in road accident deaths and injuries throughout the Community, could the Commission have a programme drawn up for instruction in the correct use of means of transport, the Highway Code, driving, and the risks arising from the immoderate consumption of drink, the use of drugs or narcotics, fatigue, etc?

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

(11 October 1993)

The present rate of road accidents in the Community is devastating.

Following a request from the Council formulated in a resolution of 21 June 1991 the Commission adopted a communication on a road safety action programme⁽¹⁾ which is due to be presented to the Council shortly.

Implementation of the programme, which will back up the constant efforts of the Member States to combat the lack of safety on their own roads, should result in a drop in the number of road accidents in the Community as a whole.

The above communication tackles the question of road safety training and sets out those fields in which the Commission plans to take priority action.

Although this area of activity comes primarily under national, regional or local jurisdiction, the Commission could play a useful role, fully in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, by contributing towards and supporting road safety training, for instance by gathering and presenting all the pertinent information on experience gained throughout the Community. This would be a major contribution and would cost less than the separate efforts of each individual Member State.

⁽¹⁾ COM(93) 246 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 764/93

by Mr Bartho Pronk (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 April 1993)

(93/C 350/16)

Subject: Safety of open lorries

1. Can the Commission say what safety requirements are imposed by the Member States on lorries carrying unprotected loads (for example stones, waste, sand, gravel) in open containers?
2. Has any research been carried out into the dangers of the transport of such substances for traffic safety and the risks of the load or parts of it being tipped out of the lorry onto the road or other road-users?
3. If so, what conclusions were drawn, and what measures will the Commission take?
4. If not, is the Commission prepared to have the matter investigated and, depending on the conclusions drawn, take suitable measures?

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

(21 September 1993)

Secure containment of products like gravel and sand transported in open lorries is in most Member States regulated by general rules on safety, which in some cases are complemented by extensive codes of practice.

Application of these general rules is left to the competent enforcement authorities e.g. the police.

The Commission is not aware of studies or research into the road safety risks involved.

Bearing in mind that most of these products are transported locally, and that the current legal situation in Member States leaves responsibility to enforcement authorities, the Commission sees no need for action at Community level in this field.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 809/93

by Mr Leen van der Waal (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(21 April 1993)

(93/C 350/17)

Subject: State aid to Air France

Last year the Banque Nationale de Paris (the French national bank) provided a convertible bond issue of FF 1,25 billion. According to the report by the Commission to the Council of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾ of 30 March 1992 it appears that the Commission has been investigating the matter for some time.

Can the Commission say what is the outcome of its investigations and what arguments have justified its decision?

⁽¹⁾ SEC(92) 431 final.

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

(12 October 1993)

The Commission decided in July 1992 that the subscription by Banque Nationale de Paris to FF 1,25 billion of bonds redeemable into shares (ORA) of Air France is not an aid under Article 92 of the EC Treaty.

During the course of its examination the Commission considered that on the basis of the Court of Justice's case law and in particular the so-called market economy investor principle that it would not have been unreasonable for a private investor at that time (end 1991), to enter into such a financial transaction with Air France, and that therefore no State aid was involved.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 851/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(26 April 1993)

(93/C 350/18)

Subject: Research into the health hazards arising from lack of labelling on disposable medical articles

Having regard to the provisions on public health and consumer protection contained in Titles X and XI of the Treaty on European Union and the fact that there is as yet no Community legislation stipulating that labelling should contain data concerning the chemical composition and fibre content, instructions for safe disposal and standardized absorption capacities of disposable medical articles, will the Commission look into this matter and — in conformity with its obligation under Article 100A of the Treaty of Rome to promote a high level of protection for health, safety, the environment and consumers — finance research into the health hazards arising from the lack of labelling?

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

(11 October 1993)

The Commission is not aware of any particular problems resulting from a lack of labelling on these articles. In the absence of medical data on the precise nature of these hazards to the health of users, or to the public in the case of the disposal of these articles, it does not appear advisable to conduct a study of this matter.

deme of Alai Aixonai. It is a unique discovery in that the site comprises an entire urban community (houses, public buildings, temples, irrigation and sewage systems etc.), a large part of which falls within what is now block No 153 of contemporary Voula (an area of 0,8—0,9 hectares). Recently planning permission was given to build apartment blocks on the site, despite initial protests from archaeologists and various organizations concerned. Protests by local residents have brought the matter to the attention of the Council of State which is to deliberate in the near future. Building apartment blocks on this site clearly raises various serious legal and other problems in Greece but it also raises social policy issues, since substantial funds are being provided under the Delors II package for development and economic, environmental and cultural improvements in Attica which is being destroyed by decisions such as the one to concrete over such an important historical site.

Would the Commission therefore say:

1. whether such a building policy is consistent with the spirit of the policy set out in the Maastricht Treaty's new provisions on culture and the objectives of the Cohesion Fund which is to finance projects to repair similar damage made in the past, including Attica.
2. whether it intends to ask the Greek Government for an explanation, and
3. whether it might help to set up an archaeological park in the area, partly using the Community funds earmarked for projects in Attica?

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

(23 September 1993)

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1000/93

by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(3 May 1993)

(93/C 350/19)

Subject: Archaeological site in the region of Voula, Attica

During the 70s, archaeological digs in the area of Voula (Athens) unearthed some important remains of the ancient

The Commission currently has no power to take initiatives of the kind advocated by the Honourable Member.

In general terms, however, it might consider the possibility of Community financial support for projects to set up archaeological parks if the appropriate national authorities asked it to do so in accordance with the usual procedures.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1015/93

by Mr Giuseppe Mottola (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(3 May 1993)

(93/C 350/20)

Subject: Community directive on municipal abattoirs — interpretations wrongly applied with disastrous consequences for rural areas

Community legislation which in the interests of hygiene raised from 600 to 1 000 the minimum number of livestock units that have to be slaughtered annually for municipal slaughterhouses to remain approved, has given rise to various interpretations, with adverse effects on the economy of many rural areas in southern Italy already threatened by desertification.

1. Is the Commission aware of the adverse and disastrous effects on rural areas of southern Italy arising from differing interpretations of the concept of 'small slaughterhouse' by the regions concerned?
2. What compensation does the Commission propose to pay to those who have lost their jobs in slaughterhouses and to breeders who are forced to sell off their stock?
3. Does the Commission not consider that it should allocate suitable funds for local authorities wishing to adapt their facilities to the new health standards in order to meet the requirements of Community legislation?
4. Does the Commission not consider that, in order to avoid the closure of slaughterhouses which do not satisfy the 1 000 units requirement, it should not only provide funds to enable them to continue in business but also extend the period for adjustment to Community provisions from two to five years?

Answer given by Mr Steichen
on behalf of the Commission

(9 September 1993)

The Honourable Member is requested to refer to the Commission's answer to Written Question No 2474/92 by Lord O'Hagan ⁽¹⁾.

The attention of the Commission has been drawn to certain problems of small slaughterhouses in several Member States. In consequence, the limitation for the output of the small establishments according to Article 4 of the fresh meat Directive was raised by Council Directive 92/120/EEC ⁽²⁾ to 20 livestock units per week with a maximum of 1 000 livestock units per year until 31 December 1994.

In order to get a comprehensive overview on the problems in small establishments the Commission has decided to make on-the-spot visits in the Member States.

On the basis of these visits the Commission will consider the need for new proposals on the subject in the near future in order to find a permanent solution for the existing problems in small establishments.

Beside the existing Commission provisions for assisting through FEOGA and specific regional programmes, the Commission does not envisage specific financial measures in this case.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 141, 10. 5. 1993.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 62, 15. 3. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1028/93

by Mr Alex Smith (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 May 1993)

(93/C 350/21)

Subject: Transportation of plutonium nitrate — Compliance with IAEA Safety Series 6

Is the Commission aware that the present flask construction and shielding would result in rupture of the flask within around three hours of fire engulfment as specified by the IAEA, and that the International Maritime Organization has acknowledged that, typically, ship fires are of significantly elevated temperature and of much longer duration (20 to 25 hours), considerably in excess of the 30 minute engulfment period specified by the IAEA?

Answer given by Mr Matutes
on behalf of the Commission

(3 September 1993)

The Commission participates with the Member States in the joint meetings between the IAEA and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

During the second joint meeting ⁽¹⁾ on the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel (INF) by sea, the IAEA fire test specifications were under scrutiny on the basis of the latest information on accident environment, accident statistics and risk studies. The conclusion of the plenary of the joint working group IAEA/IMO was that no information challenging the adequacy of the IAEA thermal test had been provided by the Member States or anti-nuclear groups. On the contrary, there are many studies which have concluded

that the IAEA fire test is adequate for the wide range of environments to which a flask may be exposed in a severe accident.

(¹) Vienna 26—30 April 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1053/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1993)

(93/C 350/22)

Subject: Proposal for the creation of a central body to help shape Community programmes

Representatives of agricultural cooperatives and local government bodies propose setting up a network for exchanging experiences, know-how and ideas and for communication. This network would, through a central body, help to shape Community rural programmes. In other words, they propose the creation of a mechanism for providing essential information, guidance and technical assistance when setting up and evaluating programmes and monitoring their implementation.

Does the Commission consider the creation of the abovementioned coordinating body to be necessary and can it describe in outline its basic principles?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1054/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1993)

(93/C 350/23)

Subject: Eurural and tackling rural problems

Eurural is a grass-roots institution; it is an initiative of trade union, social and professional organizations in the agricultural sector operating at Community level and is intended to improve the organization and coordination of attempts to develop the rural areas in Europe. In other words, it seeks to bridge the gap between the rural areas and the EC's centres of decision-making.

Bearing in mind that economic and social activities in rural areas are becoming increasingly diversified and that rural

development concerns not only agriculture but also local craft industries, tourism, other services, health, education, culture, environmental pollution, infrastructure projects etc., will the Commission create a partnership between those who have a role to play in the countryside, which is an essential condition for identifying, classifying and tackling rural problems and determining the development choices to be made?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1055/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1993)

(93/C 350/24)

Subject: Proposal of the Panhellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives (PASEGES) for the Greek Eurural programme

Bearing in mind the need for the Greek Eurural programme to provide essential services for the organization and coordination of measures to develop the Greek countryside, will the Commission support PASEGES' offer to set up the central coordinating body of the Greek Eurural programme, and will it provide assistance for this purpose?

Joint answer to Written Questions

Nos 1053/93 to 1055/93

given by Mr Steichen

on behalf of the Commission

(3 September 1993)

The Commission is aware of the PASEGES and Eurural initiative aimed at strengthening partnership and information activities in agricultural and rural areas of Greece.

However, as regards the problems of agricultural information, the Commission must stress that the opening of information and rural development centres in Greece is a response to a need for information about Community policies and programmes of interest to rural society in one particular Member State.

One of these centres (in Thessaloniki) has been created at the Agricultural and Industrial Institute, the other two (in Egion and Ioannina) at agricultural cooperatives linked to PASEGES.

The three Greek centres, like those set up in the other Member States, are part of a Community network established by the Commission which currently consists of 23 information and rural development centres.

As regards the suggestion that a central partnership organization might be created, the Commission would recall that Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 on the tasks of the Structural Funds ⁽¹⁾ provides for close cooperation between the Commission and the competent national authorities in the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of Community programmes. However, it is for the Member States to designate the most appropriate partnership organizations at national, regional, local or other level with a view to establishing such cooperation with the Commission.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1065/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1993)

(93/C 350/25)

Subject: Development of rail services in the Peloponnese

In his answer to my Written Question No 2772/92 ⁽¹⁾ on the development of rail services in the Peloponnese, Mr Matutes provides information on lines which will be opened in the region on the basis of proposals drawn up by the Greek Government. Will Mr Matutes name the new railway lines to be constructed with the assistance of the Cohesion Fund, apart from the Corinth—Patras line?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 106, 16. 3. 1993, p. 23.

Answer given by Mr Matutes
on behalf of the Commission

(21 September 1993)

The Cohesion Fund can provide financing for railway projects, whether the construction of new lines or the upgrading of existing lines.

The selection of projects to be proposed for financing rests with the authorities of the Member States concerned.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1080/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 May 1993)

(93/C 350/26)

Subject: Protection of software products

Unlawful copying of computer programmes is very big business and the pirating of computer products has also hit Europe. In view of this, will the Commission say whether Community mechanisms will be introduced in the immediate future to protect software products?

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

(6 October 1993)

On 14 May 1991 the Council adopted Directive 91/250/EEC ⁽¹⁾ on the legal protection of computer programs.

The Directive sets out to encourage the development of computer programs and the computer industry in Europe while protecting authors. It strengthens and standardizes existing protection and, in that respect, constitutes an important legal instrument in combating piracy. It is vital that the creative capacity of firms is not diminished as a result of non-authorized copying of their products.

The Directive protects software as literary works within the meaning of the Berne Convention. Software can be protected only if it is original. However, in order to extend protection to the maximum number of software products, the required degree of originality is limited. An original program must be 'the author's own intellectual creation'.

The Directive confers on the rightholder an exclusive right to reproduce, translate, adapt and arrange the program. Any form of distribution to the public is also restricted to the rightholder (Article 4 of the Directive).

However, in order to maintain a reasonable balance between the prerogatives of the author and the rights of the software user, provision is made for exceptions to these exclusive rights. The most significant one concerns decompilation, i.e. the possibility, granted subject to strictly defined conditions, of making a computer program interoperable with other programs and of accessing the information being sought by allowing all the components of a computer system to be interconnected.

Nevertheless, the information thus obtained may not be used to create software which is substantially similar in its expression. The purpose or effect of Article 6 of the Directive must not be such as to conflict with a normal exploitation of the program or to prejudice the rightholder's legitimate interests. In addition, Article 7 strengthens the author's legal position by means of special protective measures designed to ensure that persons who are closely or indirectly involved in the pirating of computer programs are punished. Since matters of criminal law do not fall within the competence of the Community, the Directive leaves it to the Member States to take appropriate measures against persons committing any of the acts prohibited by Article 7.

Transposition of the Directive, which was to be completed by 1 January 1993, is still under way in the Member States.

(¹) OJ No L 122, 17. 5. 1991.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1084/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 May 1993)

(93/C 350/27)

Subject: The need to withdraw antiquated tankers

At least 3 600 cubic metres of oil and 270 tonnes of solid oil residue and scale are dumped every year in Greek waters from small tankers alone. According to environmental organizations, the worst ecological disasters are caused by 60—70 antiquated tankers, all between 28 and 43 years old. Will the Commission call for the withdrawal of antiquated tankers?

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission

(3 September 1993)

The information given by environmental organizations on the alleged threat of operational pollution from antiquated tankers has not been transmitted to the Commission.

Greece is a signatory party to Marpol 73/78 of which a copy is sent direct to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of the European Parliament. It specifies that any discharge in the Mediterranean sea (defined as a Special Area) of oil and oily mixtures from *any* oil tanker (regardless of age or tonnage) is prohibited. Furthermore, Article 6

establishes the rules concerning detection of violations and enforcement of the Convention.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1129/93

by Mr Dieter Rogalla (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 April 1993)

(93/C 350/28)

Subject: Acceptance of the Member States' currencies in neighbouring countries

1. What information does the Commission have regarding the flexibility of national administrative authorities, courts and other official bodies in accepting the currency of neighbouring countries, converted at official rates, as a means of payment?
2. Does the Commission share my view that rapprochement or mutual appreciation of the value of the currency of neighbouring countries has not yet been achieved in this area within the Community?
3. What is the position on the Commission's premises in Brussels; is it possible to purchase everyday necessities here with German or French currency?
4. What does the Commission intend to do — in the run-up to economic and monetary union — in the European Community institutions and official Member State institutions, including courts of law, to improve understanding and acceptance of the currencies of neighbouring countries?

Answer given by Mr Christophersen
on behalf of the Commission

(24 September 1993)

1. In order to facilitate the use of the ecu according to Article 109 L(4) of the draft Treaty on European Union the Commission undertook a study to identify the obstacles to the use of the ecu. In December 1992, a report summarizing the findings and drawing conclusions from the basic research was published in the white paper 'Removing the legal obstacles to the use of the ecu'. This study, which has also been sent to the European Parliament, confirmed that national administrations, courts and similar authorities are slow to accept calculations or payments other than in national currency.

2. The Commission agrees that there is not much understanding for the value of the neighbouring currency within the Community. However, the draft Treaty aims to create a single currency, the ecu (Article 3 A) and not to

develop the parallel uses of national currencies. The risk could be a competing currency system. This option has been rejected in the discussion and by the Treaty itself.

3. It is only Belgian francs which can be used for payment within the buildings of the Commission in Brussels, even if prices in some restaurants are expressed in ecu.

4. The Commission endeavours to support the understanding and the acceptance of the ecu. It will be supported in this task, during the second stage, by the EMI which following Article 109 f of the draft Treaty will 'facilitate the use of the ecu and oversee its development, including the smooth functioning of the ecu clearing system'.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1178/93

by Mr Karl von Wogau (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 May 1993)

(93/C 350/29)

Subject: Approval of caravans in Italy

1. Is the Commission aware that, by Article 61 (3) of the new Traffic Regulations, as from 1 July 1993 the Italian authorities have considerably reduced the maximum permissible length of caravans; i.e. between 6,5 metres and 8 metres, well below the maximum length of 12 metres laid down in Directive 92/21/EEC⁽¹⁾.

2. Does the Commission take the view that this practice by the Italian authorities in the licensing of imported caravans from other Member States is incompatible with the EEC Treaty and Community rules on free movement of goods?

3. The same situation applied two years ago, (see my Written Question No 747/91⁽²⁾) but the matter was not pursued, in the hope of clarification in the new traffic regulations adopted on 20 April 1992.

4. What will the Commission do, if it is of the opinion that this is an obvious infringement against the free movement of goods within the Community?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 129, 14. 5. 1992, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 286, 4. 11. 1991, p. 16.

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

(4 October 1993)

The Commission is indeed aware of Article 61 (3) of Italian Order (Decreto Legislativo) No 285 of 30 April 1992 on the

Highway Code, which lays down a maximum permissible length for caravans.

The Commission has examined that Article in the light of Directive 92/21/EEC of 31 March 1992 on the masses and dimensions of motor vehicles of category M1 and in the light of the EEC Treaty rules on free movement of goods. It transpires that the Directive does not apply to the case in point since it covers only motor vehicles of category M1, and not trailers.

The provisions of Italian law governing the length of caravans have already been examined by the Commission in connection with Written Question No 747/91 referring to circular No 181/89, which, by way of interpretation of Law No 38/82 and the Decree of 14 October 1987, laid down the permissible length for vehicles to be classified as 'trailers specially used for living'. Examination of the circular was suspended when Law No 38/82 and the Decree of 14 October 1987 were repealed by the Order of 30 April 1992. Consequently, only the provisions of the new Italian Highway Code are at present under examination by the Commission.

The Commission has already drawn the attention of the Italian authorities to the fact that Article 61 (3) of the Order may create barriers to the free movement of trailers and caravans originating in other Member States and not complying with Italian rules. It will certainly take any steps it deems appropriate to remove any unjustified barrier to trade.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1185/93

by Mrs Mary Banotti (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 May 1993)

(93/C 350/30)

Subject: Proposed EC directive on furniture safety

Could the Commission inform me why the Furniture Safety Directive is not part of the Commission's Work Programme for 1993?

Furniture safety legislation exists in two Member States — Ireland and the UK. Will these Member States be entitled to protect their citizens from faulty products from other Member States?

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

(3 September 1993)

Pending the first results of the necessary pre-normative research undertaken on the post-ignition behaviour of

upholstered furniture and related articles, the Commission has not yet decided its position on the necessity to include a proposal for a directive on this subject in its legislative programme.

In the absence of any Community legislation, it is for the Member States to decide the level at which they intend to protect the health and life of people taking into account the requirements of the free movement of goods within the Community.

That means that existing national legislation remains valid until Community legislation comes into force.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1267/93

by **Andrea Raggio and Luigi Colajanni (S)**
to the Commission of the European Communities
(19 May 1993)
(93/C 350/31)

Subject: The Italian Government's attitude to Community regional policy

The Italian Government intends to incorporate EEC funding earmarked for the southern regions for the period 1994 to 1999 into the state budget. This was confirmed by Minister Andreatta on 31 March 1993 when reporting to the Senate committee responsible and in an interview given to the leading daily newspaper *Il Sole-24 ore*. The Minister also spoke about the Community in disparaging terms, saying that Community provisions on regional policy were 'extravagant'. He proposed that alliances be forged with other governments with a view to 'renationalizing' regional policy which, in his view, should be confined to transferring resources to the Member States.

Has the Commission been officially notified of this position?

What steps does the Commission intend to take to support the full application in all the Community Member States, including Italy, of the principles at stake in the reform of the structural funds and the strict implementation of its objectives?

**Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission**
(15 September 1993)

The declarations mentioned by the Honourable Member have not been communicated formally to the Commission.

The revised Structural Funds regulations maintain the original principles of the Reform. The Commission will continue to give close attention to the proper application of these principles by all concerned.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1271/93

by **Mr Karl von Wogau (PPE)**
to the Commission of the European Communities
(19 May 1993)
(93/C 350/32)

Subject: Licensing of motor vehicles

1. Even after 1 January 1993, the licensing in a Member State of vehicles of a type already licensed in another Member State remains subject to obstacles; further technical tests on such vehicles are required, leading to considerable additional costs and delays.

2. To cite one particular case, the manufacture of a convertible based in South Baden is encountering great difficulties in his attempts to export this model to the neighbouring French region of Alsace. His convertible has been licensed by the TÜV enforcing authorities in the Federal Republic, where 400 models are now in circulation. The French authority responsible for licensing, the Mines Department, has insisted on extensive further tests, thus adding considerably to the difficulty of licensing.

3. Does the Commission agree that this is an infringement of the right to the free movement of goods? If so, what action does it intend to take?

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

The Commission would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that the deadline of 1 January 1993 has not altered the requirement on individuals to register their vehicles in their country of residence.

Prior to that date, the Commission took steps, through the application of the EEC Treaty rules on the free movement of goods, to ensure that vehicle type-approval and registration procedures were not such as to create obstacles to imports of vehicles from other Member States.

In addition, the Commission notice on procedures for the type-approval and registration of vehicles previously registered in another Member State⁽¹⁾ stipulates that Member States are required to carry out these different operations at reasonable costs and within reasonable periods of time.

If the Honourable Member possesses any details of administrative practices impeding the registration of vehicles imported from other Member States, the Commission would ask him to pass on those details to it for examination. In particular, it would like to obtain any information relating to the case of the manufacturer referred to by the Honourable Member so that it can contact the French authorities and assess the situation in the light of the above rules.

(¹) OJ No C 281, 4. 11. 1988.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1275/93

by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 May 1993)

(93/C 350/33)

Subject: Need for a regulation on the administrative procedure to be observed in Commission activity

My Question No 3093/92 (¹), to which I received a reply on 17 March 1993, stressed the need to draw up a regulation on the administrative procedure to be observed in Commission activity. Such a regulation should have the same sort of content as national laws on administrative procedure, which regulate the rights and duties of the governed with respect to the administration. The existence of in-house guides is something quite different; it does not cover the need for legal guarantees and general openness, which should be included in a regulation.

Does the Commission envisage taking steps to draw up a regulation on administrative procedure in the Commission?

(¹) OJ No C 145, 25. 5. 1993, p. 19.

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

(27 September 1993)

On 17 February 1993 the Commission adopted its new rules of procedure covering basic administrative procedures in the institution (¹).

A manual of operational procedures regulating the Commission's activities exists already. The Commission will not treat the next edition as an exclusively internal document, as it did the preceding editions.

(¹) OJ No L 230, 11. 9. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1276/93

by Mr Derek Prag (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 May 1993)

(93/C 350/34)

Subject: The European Social Fund

Recalling the promise of transparency made by Mrs Papandreou to the All-Party Disablement Group after the European Social Fund had been reorganized along geographical lines and the specific 'envelope' for disabled people had been abolished, would the Commission state, for the years 1991 and 1992:

1. how many disabled people were helped by the European Social Fund,
2. how many of these were helped through special projects for rehabilitation and vocational training of disabled people, and how many through the inclusion of disabled people in general vocational training projects available to all,
3. what was the total sum spent on rehabilitation and training of disabled people, and
4. what were the sums spent on rehabilitation and vocational training of disabled people as a proportion of total ESF disbursements in these years?

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

(11 October 1993)

In replying to the question the Commission uses figures extracted from Member States' operational programmes. Figures relating to the ESF long-term unemployed and young unemployed operational programmes (objectives 3 and 4) were collected from the individual operational programmes of the Member States in the course of an evaluation carried out in November 1992, on behalf of the Commission, on actions in favour of disabled people under the European Social Fund. It should be noted that these figures represent the proposals of the Member States as set out in their operational programmes. The extent to which these proposals have been acted upon will be the subject of an ex-post evaluation.

The number of disabled people helped by the European Social Fund in 1991 and 1992 under the objectives 3 and 4 was in excess of 100 000. All benefited from European Social Fund actions specifically directed towards disabled people. Figures relating to the number of disabled persons benefiting from other mainstream European Social Fund vocational training actions are not available.

The total contribution from the European Social Fund to actions in the context of objectives 3 and 4 specifically directed towards disabled people was ECU 447 million for the two years in question. In the same period ESF support for actions for disabled persons under the Community initiative Horizon was about ECU 100 million. The figure for the same period relating to the amount of European Social funding benefiting disabled people under the general vocational training actions is not available.

About 8,8 % of ESF budget under the objectives 3 and 4, and about 60 % of ESF contributions under the Community initiative Horizon were spent on these actions. As a proportion of total ESF budget however in the period 1991 and 1992 about 2 % was allocated to actions in favour of disabled people. This is due to the fact that considerable amounts of ESF monies are allocated to regional development and restructuring.

It has also to be noted that all the different Community programmes for cooperation in the fields of education and training (such as Erasmus, Comett, Petra, Force etc. . . .), pay special attention to the specific problems of disabled people and other disadvantaged groups.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1281/93

by Mr Diego de los Santos López (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 May 1993)

(93/C 350/35)

Subject: Exercise of the profession of optician and right of establishment of optical technicians

In Spain, those practising as opticians must hold a diploma in optics. This qualification coexists with that of optical technician, a qualification obtained after three years of secondary level vocational training, which entitles the holder to cut, assemble and fit spectacles and contact lenses.

These two qualifications are in conflict, as the second does not actually entitle holders to exercise the profession of optician or establish themselves as such. The Spanish government's attitude is ambivalent.

Can the Commission clarify whether the qualification of optical technician entitles the holder to practise as an optician, including the right of establishment as an optician?

Does this qualification come within the sphere of application of Council Directive 89/48/EEC⁽¹⁾ of 21 December 1988, on the general system of recognition of

higher education diplomas awarded on completion of professional education and training of at least three years' duration?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 19, 24. 1. 1989, p. 16.

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

(5 October 1993)

1. It is for the competent national authorities, and not the Commission, to decide whether or not the Spanish diploma in question should permit holders to exercise the profession of optician in Spain and to establish themselves there as such.
2. The Commission does not at present possess sufficient information to permit it to answer the question as to whether or not this diploma falls within the scope of Council Directive 89/48/EEC.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1290/93

by Mr Karl von Wogau (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 June 1993)

(93/C 350/36)

Subject: Fine imposed on crossing the Italian border

The Italian traffic police fined a German national Lit 500 000 at the Brenner Pass border crossing point, the reason being that he had equipped his caravan with four brake lights, as required in Germany. The lights had been approved by the competent German authorities (TÜV).

1. Is this action on the part of the Italian traffic police compatible with the rules on freedom of movement for goods and persons?
2. Will the Commission take steps to ensure that the fine is reimbursed if it was wrongfully exacted?

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

(5 October 1993)

The existing rules on signalling devices at Community level govern only their construction; Directive 76/756/EEC of 27 July 1976 relating to the installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on motor vehicles and their trailers⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Directive 91/663/EEC of

10 December 1992 ⁽²⁾; this Directive is at present optional for the Member States; it will become compulsory in 1996.

The problem raised by the Honourable Member, however, relates to road traffic, a matter governed by international conventions.

In accordance with these conventions, the contracting parties must allow vehicles complying with the rules in their country of registration to circulate within their borders, as long as the vehicles meet the standards laid down in the conventions. The Commission would point out that Italy has ratified the 1949 Geneva Convention, and signed but not yet ratified the 1968 Vienna Convention.

Although this is a matter governed by international conventions, the Commission is aware of the problems arising for free movement; it therefore intends to encourage further discussion at the appropriate levels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 262, 27. 9. 1976.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 366, 31. 12. 1991.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1295/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 June 1993)

(93/C 350/37)

Subject: The financial position of the Patras University Regional Hospital

One of the best hospitals in Greece, the Patras University Regional Hospital, has been placed in a difficult financial position — instead of receiving direct funding, it has been instructed to collect debts owing to it from various insurance funds. Since it is not feasible to collect these debts because of the financial state of the funds, the hospital will soon be faced with some unpleasant choices such as whether to cut down on lighting or on drugs and medical supplies. Will the Commission look into this matter to ensure that the Patras University Regional Hospital operates properly?

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

(9 September 1993)

The rules governing the Structural Funds do not normally provide for the financing of general operating costs such as those referred to in the question.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1314/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 June 1993)

(93/C 350/38)

Subject: Participation of Mongolia in programmes

Mongolia has undertaken to introduce a number of political reforms and efforts began in 1990 to reorganize the economy of the country. Does the Commission see any scope for including this country in the Phare, Tacis and Tempus programmes which have so far been applied to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS?

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

(11 October 1993)

Recent legislation has included Mongolia in the list of beneficiary states (Council Regulation (EEC) No 2053/93 of 19 July 1993 concerning the provision of technical assistance to economic reform and recovery in the independent States of the former Soviet Union and Mongolia) ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 187, 29. 7. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1322/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(3 June 1993)

(93/C 350/39)

Subject: Measures to prevent the spread of tuberculosis

A number of fatal outbreaks of tuberculosis have occurred in French prisons. Given that certain bacilli are resistant to the antibiotics currently in use, does the Commission consider that funds should be allocated for all the appropriate measures relating to prevention, diagnosis and research into means of halting the spread of this fatal epidemic?

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

(11 October 1993)

The Commission is well aware that there has been an upsurge in the number of cases of tuberculosis in several

Member States of the Community in the past two or three years, in spite of the fact that the number of cases of this contagious disease had previously been falling steadily for several decades. There are many reasons for this reversal of the trend: infection with HIV which causes AIDS, the marginalization of certain people, including drug addicts, who do not benefit from the customary health services, a relaxation of the policies of vaccination using BCG, the presence of citizens of third countries in a poorer state of health, the emergence of forms of tuberculosis which are resistant to traditional antibiotic treatments, etc. Against this background, it is not surprising that some people have died from tuberculosis in prison.

Under the terms of the Treaties, the Commission does not have the power to intervene in the Member States to force them to take the necessary measures to prevent tuberculosis from spreading, since it is an area for which the Member States bear sole responsibility. However, the Commission is not ignoring this important question of public health. Under the 'Europe against AIDS' programme and following the recommendations of a group of experts which conducted a study funded by the Commission, the Commission supports all the measures submitted to it which are designed to deal with this particular aspect of the problem of tuberculosis.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1348/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 June 1993)

(93/C 350/40)

Subject: Use of asbestos tiles in Greek bakery ovens

The Greek Ministry for Health has repealed the health regulations banning the use of asbestos tiles in bakery ovens. The decision, published on 23 March 1993 in the Greek Government Gazette, was taken by State Secretary N. Anastopoulos, repealing regulation No 10276 banning the use of asbestos tiles in bakery ovens from 27 December 1991. The repeal of this regulation has provoked a response from the Greek Consumers' Union which is calling for a review of the decision to achieve more effective protection of public health.

Given that 12 000 asbestos tiled ovens are currently in use in Greece, even though it is known that they may cause mesothelioma and bronchial cancer, what steps will the Commission take to protect the health of Greek consumers?

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

(3 September 1993)

The placing on the market and use of asbestos is governed by Council Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations ⁽¹⁾.

Asbestos fibres are the subject of the limitations provided by point 6 of Annex I to this Directive which was last adapted to technical progress by Commission Directive 91/659/EEC of 3 December 1991 ⁽²⁾. The existing provisions do not provide for limitations on the use in bakeries of plates containing asbestos unless these have a density of less than 1 g/cm³.

The Commission is aware that a number of Member States would like to extend the present partial ban on asbestos-containing products to include other asbestos-containing products. The matter has been under discussion with Member States experts for the past 18 months.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 262, 27. 9. 1976.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 363, 31. 12. 1991.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1363/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to European Political Cooperation

(4 June 1993)

(93/C 350/41)

Subject: The smuggling of nuclear materials and weapons in Croatia

A Republican group in the US Congress led by Mr Bill McCollum has drawn up a confidential report disclosing that Croatia has become a centre for the smuggling of nuclear materials in exchange for weapons and money. The report states that the Croatian Government is involved in such smuggling and that a German woman, Rita Draxler, is acting as a go-between, using secret bank accounts in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and other countries. The report states that the main suppliers are the former 'socialist' states and that the Middle East and South Africa are the main customers. Lastly, the report stresses that, since mid-1992, the Zagreb authorities have facilitated the storage and trafficking of chemical and biological weapons.

Can the Ministers meeting in EPC confirm this report by the US Congress and state what measures they intend to take to combat such smuggling by the Croatian Government to

ensure that there is no breach of the arms embargo in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and, more importantly, that Croatia ceases to be a centre for the smuggling of nuclear materials and weapons?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The question raised by the Honourable Member can be answered by referring to the answer to Written Question No 1549/93 by Mr Alex Smith on disappearance of radioactive material.

The Community and its Member States are concerned with reports about the trafficking of illicit nuclear materials from the former Soviet Union, and the illegal trade in this highly sensitive area. Member States on whose territory such trade is alleged to have occurred or whose nationals have been involved investigate all such incidents. As such a problem is of a European nature, the Council Atomic Questions Group is, in addition to bilateral cooperation, presently discussing a number of proposals forwarded by the Commission to ensure coordinated action and follow-up to this kind of event. Fortunately thus far, materials recovered in incidents which have come to light have been of no proliferation concern. But the Community and its Member States are not complacent and will continue to treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1372/93

by Mr Gerardo Fernández-Albor (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 June 1993)

(93/C 350/42)

Subject: Community support for emigration to Latin American countries

The President of the Republic of Argentina has stated that there is room in Argentina for at least 100 million inhabitants, compared with its current population of only around 33 million, and has declared his intention to promote the immigration of anyone wishing to go to Argentina provided that they are in a position to travel to that country and use their knowledge to work and make some contribution, the only condition being that they should bring with them sufficient capital of their own — between \$10 000 and \$20 000 — to cover the minimum cost of establishing their residence.

These statements have attracted the attention of a considerable number of Community citizens who are affected by the serious unemployment situation and for whom — given the current instability on the labour market

in all the Member States — making the break to start a new life in Latin America represents a promising solution to their present difficulties.

Does the Commission consider that the Community services should look into the variability of the European Community giving a favourable response to proposals such as that made by the Argentinian President and helping those Community citizens who so desire to emigrate to Argentina — or to any other Latin American country prepared to receive them — by providing the necessary logistical support?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1704/93

by Mr Edward Newman (PSE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(28 June 1993)

(93/C 350/43)

Subject: Emigration from Eastern Europe to Latin America

In his address to the European Parliament on 12 February 1992, President Menem of Argentina made known his country's proposal to accept up to 300 000 immigrants from the former Communist countries in Eastern and Central Europe, on condition that financial assistance be provided by the European Community. President Delors expressed interest in giving a follow-up to the proposal. In March 1993, thousands of Romanians responded to an offer by the Argentinian government to accept immigrants to till 'new lands'.

Is the Commission involved in any way in this migration programme, and can it give full details, especially of financial aid, if any? Moreover, since the confiscation of lands belonging to the native Indians by Latin American Governments is still going on more than 500 years after the invasion and conquest of the Americas, what guarantees has the Commission received that the so-called 'new lands' are not, in fact, confiscated or stolen areas belonging to Indian communities?

Joint answer to Written Questions

Nos 1372/93 and 1704/93

given by Mr van den Broek
on behalf of the Commission

(11 October 1993)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to the joint answer already given to Written Questions Nos 457/92 from Mr Vertemati and 470/92 from Mr Cabezon Alonso ⁽¹⁾, and to oral question H 343/92 from Mr Cano Pinto ⁽²⁾ on the same topic.

The Commission has received cooperation requests from the authorities of Argentina and other Latin American

countries to open the way for a potential flow of emigration from Central and Eastern Europe.

Contacts with the Argentinian authorities and information which the Commission possesses show that such requests have never included Community Member State nationals.

The Commission has noted this and has announced that it may participate in a study on how such cooperation would work and its implications. The Argentinian authorities recently outlined the scope of the study, which could as a result get under way soon.

As for the problem raised in Written Question No 1704/93, the issue could certainly be included in the proposed study.

(1) OJ No C 345, 30. 12. 1992.

(2) Parliament debates, No 3-417, 8 April 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1415/93

by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)

to European Political Cooperation

(9 June 1993)

(93/C 350/44)

Subject: Bosnian refugees

In the light of the increasingly tragic plight of refugees in Bosnia will European Political Cooperation take action to facilitate the reception by EC Member States of those refugees who can and wish to seek refuge in another country?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The comprehensive humanitarian strategy of the UNHCR includes the principle to provide assistance to the victims of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina as close to the place of origin as possible. The European Union, as the largest donor, have considerably contributed to the implementation of UNHCR's strategy and continue their humanitarian assistance to the distressed victims of the conflict. The European Council in Birmingham decided to speed up EC assistance and to immediately provide further staff and resources in order to strengthen UNHCR's capacity.

EC Member States, in close cooperation with UNHCR and ICRC, have contributed substantially to the humanitarian effort by providing finance and material aid and by offering place of temporary refuge for a very significant number of refugees and ex-detainees from former Yugoslavia.

The European Union will continue to respond appropriately to the urgent humanitarian requirements.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1416/93

by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 June 1993)

(93/C 350/45)

Subject: European Social fund

Can the Commission confirm reports that part of the European Social Fund budget may be diverted to finance the retraining of workers in the car industries in the Community?

If these reports are true will the Commission state why it has not established an industrial policy budget (along the lines of RECHAR) for this action instead of diverting funding away from badly needed Social Fund projects?

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

(11 October 1993)

The Commission can confirm that it is not its intention that part of the ESF budget be diverted for retraining of workers in the car industries of the Community.

The new objective 4 foreseen in the context of the Commission's proposal for the revision of the Structural Funds regulations proposes actions involving the training and retraining of workers affected by industrial change and changes in production systems. The actions are not aimed at companies themselves but would be undertaken within the economy as a whole without preference being given a priori to any specific industry or sector. Particular account will be taken of the specific needs of workers in small or medium sized enterprises.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1432/93

by Mr Mark Killilea (RDE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 June 1993)

(93/C 350/46)

Subject: EC information offices and the Maastricht debate

Two of the features of the public debate during the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty have been the lack of

understanding concerning the power, role and functions of the European institutions and the level of hostility towards these institutions amongst a significant proportion of the public in practically all European countries.

Two of the Community institutions, the Commission and Parliament, maintain a network of information offices in the Member States whose function is to inform and to generate a favourable image of these institutions and of the Community generally.

Would the Commission now agree that a fundamental review of the information policies and structures of Community institutions should be undertaken as a matter of urgency and that such a review should involve a joint examination of the Commission and Parliament's activities in this area by independent specialists in the information and public relations sector?

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

(24 September 1993)

The Commission fully shares the concern of the Honourable Member.

As the Council underlined in its Birmingham declaration, the Community must be closer to its citizens. The institutions and the Member States should combine their efforts to this effect. The Commission adopted on 30 June 1993 a communication ⁽¹⁾ on its new information and communication policy, based on a number of internal and external analyses. Following these guidelines a series of proposals on specific matters will be put to the Commission in the near future so that appropriate action can be taken without delay. In the context of the up-dating and the intensification of its information policy, the Commission intends to strengthen also its relations with the medias and counts on the support of the European Parliament as regards the necessary budgetary decisions.

⁽¹⁾ SEC(93) 916 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1441/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 June 1993)

(93/C 350/47)

Subject: Building on Korais Street which should be subject to a conservation order

Without awaiting a decision by the Council of State concerning an appeal relating to the preservation of the famous Ottonian building on the corner of Korai and

Panepistimiou Streets in Athens, the Greek Ministry of the environment and Town Planning and of Public Works has approved the construction of a nine storey monstrosity.

The building will have no setbacks and will be at least three storeys higher than any other building in Korais Street. Clearly its presence will detract from the architectural merit of the centre of Athens, with its university, Academy and Library buildings and it will involve the destruction of three historical buildings including one containing the famous Atlantis bookshop.

Will the Commission call on the Greek authorities to review their decision concerning the construction of a nine-storey building in Korais Street?

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

(27 September 1993)

The role of the Commission in protecting and safeguarding the cultural heritage is defined, notably in the conclusions of the Council of Ministers of 12 November 1992, on the guidelines on the 'guidelines for Community cultural action', and in Article 128 of the Treaty on European Union which is being ratified.

This role, which is to promote cooperation between Member States and, where appropriate, to support and supplement the action they take, acknowledges the preponderant role played by Member States and the subsidiary nature of Community action in this sphere.

The Commission is therefore unable to make representations to the Greek authorities to ask them to reconsider a decision granting a permit for the construction of a nine storey building in Korai Street in Athens. Any initiative in this area is exclusively a matter for the Greek national and/or regional authorities.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1462/93

by Mr Henry Chabert (PPE)

to European Political Cooperation

(9 June 1993)

(93/C 350/48)

Subject: Serious dangers presented by nuclear arms proliferation

On 12 March 1993 North Korea announced it was withdrawing from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty which it joined in 1985.

In view of ever-increasing instability of the situation in the former Soviet Union, the acknowledged risks of hundreds if not thousands of nuclear technicians from the former USSR offering their expertise and services to certain other states are putting mankind in serious danger.

The five traditional nuclear powers, all permanent members of the UN Security Council, have now been joined by South Africa, India, Israel and Pakistan, to which before the end of the century will probably be added Brazil, Argentina, Algeria, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Iran, both Koreas and Taiwan, with three new nuclear powers emerging after the break-up of the former USSR.

The plant is being seriously endangered not only by the proliferation of nations possessing nuclear weapons but also by galloping population growth, a surge of religious fanaticism and general impoverishment of the Third World.

Does EPC not think that the Twelve should, as a matter of priority, embark on a large-scale initiative with a view to reducing in the medium term, the dangers of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, without waiting for implementation of the Maastricht Treaty?

Does it not think it essential to make the many forms of aid given to the countries of the former USSR clearly conditional on an assurance of tighter control by these countries over the final destinations of their nuclear weapons — and above all components — and over professional commitments entered into by their researchers and scientists?

Does EPC consider such a requirement appropriate and necessarily to be taken into consideration in any new international agreements concluded with any third countries, particularly when they are signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The Community and its Member States are well aware of the threat posed to international relations by uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The regular meetings of specialist EPC working parties on non-proliferation and arms-exports issues are organized around priorities set by both current events and the need for longer-term consideration, thereby acting as a kind of European political watchdog with regard to the proliferation of dangerous weapons.

The Community and its Member States have constantly voiced in public their concern at the reluctance of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to apply in full the safeguards agreement which it signed with the IAEA in

January 1992. They have likewise made repeated representations to the States of the former Soviet Union, welcoming the accession to the NPT of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Uzbekistan. They are continuing to encourage non-signatory States, in particular Ukraine and Kazakhstan, to become members of the NPT at the earliest opportunity and to apply the Lisbon Protocol.

Full ratification of the Maastricht Treaty will make possible the implementation of genuine joint action, but the Community and its Member States are already accustomed to adopting a concerted approach in negotiations on the reduction of nuclear arsenals or in joint representations such as those made to North Korea or the CIS countries.

In addition, the Commission of the European Communities is playing a substantial role in connection with the programme of action for the development and implementation of a proper system of safeguards, as initiated by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1480/93

by Mr Marc Galle (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 June 1993)

(93/C 350/49)

Subject: Use of noise barriers as a source of electricity

I recently read in the newspapers that the relevant authorities in the Netherlands are intending to introduce an innovatory feature in a noise barrier to be built along a motorway. The upper part of the barrier is to contain solar cells, and the electricity generated from them is to be fed into the grid. The power generated in this way will apparently be sufficient to provide electricity for 30 homes.

Ought not the Community to support such an initiative, and could not the technique be applied at Community level? There are enough kilometres of motorway in the Community which have noise barriers. Railway lines could also have potential in this connection.

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

(30 September 1993)

The Commission is aware of three completed projects which employ sound barriers along highways and railways for mounting solar photovoltaic (PV) generators which are

located in Europe but outside the Community. Details of the 100 kWp PV generators which have been installed along the Bellinzona—Locarno railway line and along the Swiss highway N13 at Chur and the 40 kWp plant which has been installed along the A1 motorway in Austria, have been presented and discussed at several major conferences and meetings organized by the Commission. The results which have been obtained from these projects to date are most encouraging. More recently the Commission has learned of a new project, led by Rijkswaterstraat in the Netherlands, where 55 kWp of PV generator will be fully integrated in sound barriers along approximately 550 m of the A27 motorway between Utrecht and Hilversum. This new project is scheduled for completion in Spring 1993.

There has been a substantial increase of interest in grid connected PV generation in Europe during recent years, and this has been reflected in the numbers of proposals for grid connected PV systems which have been received by the Commission since the start of the Thermie Programme in 1990. The integration of PV modules into buildings or other structures reduces the effective cost of PV power generation, because some of the capital costs of the PV modules can be offset against the costs of the conventional structural elements which they replace.

Photovoltaic applications of this type are well suited for inclusion in the Commission's Thermie programme, which to date has supported the installation of more than 3,3 MWp of the PV generators in 110 projects throughout the Community. Until now, no proposals for grid connected PV systems to be installed along highways or railways have been submitted to the Commission's Thermie programme, so an eventual Dutch proposal would be the first of its kind. Such projects would have the benefit of high visibility for promoting power generation from renewable energies. The last call for proposals for the current Thermie programme has issued in July 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1522/93

by Mrs Cristiana Muscardini (NI)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 June 1993)
(93/C 350/50)

Subject: Minimum tax damaging to self-employed workers in Italy

Given that the minimum tax imposed by the Italian Government to replace an individually calculated graduated taxation system has already led to the closure of 150 000 commercial concerns and could seriously penalize certain categories of self-employed workers such as taxi-drivers, who because of the special nature of their work do not have

a steady, guaranteed income, does the Commission not consider it should censure the fiscal policy of the Italian Government which is damaging to small and medium-sized concerns and goes against the principles laid down in this regard in the Maastricht Treaty?

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

(1 October 1993)

Income tax is governed by national rules.

As it stands, Community legislation does not prevent Member States from applying their own legislation relating to personal income tax provided that it complies with the fundamental principles and freedoms laid down by the EEC Treaty.

Accordingly, the Commission takes the view that the Italian authorities are free to lay down whatever arrangements they deem necessary to determine the taxable income of taxpayers.

The Commission is aware of Italian Law No 438 of 14 November 1982 providing for the introduction of a minimum taxable income for the self-employed and, in its opinion, that Law does not contain any elements that might be in breach of the EEC Treaty.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1535/93

by Mr Paul Staes (V)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 June 1993)
(93/C 350/51)

Subject: Public availability of information

According to a survey carried out by the British organization Friends of the Earth (autumn 1992), the Bayer company in Germany discharges one thousand times more lead than the American Bayer company, the amount of formaldehyde discharged into the Tees by ICI Chemicals in Teesside (United Kingdom) is almost as much as that discharged by the entire American chemical industry, and Dow Chemicals in Terneuzen (Netherlands) discharges more benzene than all 2 600 chemical industries in the United States together.

1. Can the Commission confirm this?
2. How can this discrepancy be explained?

3. Since 1986, United States citizens have been entitled to information on substances discharged by companies into the water, air or soil. As a result of this law, such discharges have been swiftly reduced. When will the Commission take steps to introduce a similar law at European level?
4. Is it more reasonable to praise the environmental statements by Clinton and Gore or to achieve genuine improvements in EC policy, to bring it into line with that of the United States?
5. Is it true that multinationals are attempting to circumvent the strict legislation in the United States concerning discharges by moving the polluting production processes to branches in Europe and elsewhere in the world, where they are not legally obliged to publicize their pollutant activities?
6. Are the lamentable consequences for Europe an example of 'fair' competition within the single market?

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission**
(30 September 1993)

The Commission can neither confirm the information about discharges quoted by the Honourable Member nor explain the discrepancies reported. It should be pointed out that certain parameters (the capacity and age of the plant, the processes used and production characteristics) need to be known in order to make a proper interpretation of the differences, and that it is impossible to conclude on the basis of the small amount of raw data supplied whether US environmental legislation is in general more stringent or implemented more effectively than Community legislation in this area.

As far as US regulations on the inventory of discharges of toxic substances by industry are concerned, the Commission noted with interest the provisions of the regulations in question at the end of 1991 and is examining the possibility of introducing a similar measure in the Community. However, work to date on this subject with the other parties concerned, including environmental protection associations, the Member States and industry, suggests that for Community purposes, particularly in terms of political and administrative organization and existing national and Community legislation, any such scheme will have to be radically different from that adopted in the United States. Moreover, alternatives to regulatory action can also be considered.

In the absence of specific examples of the matters to which they refer, the Commission is unable to reply to the last three questions.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1540/93
by Mrs Marianne Thyssen (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(15 June 1993)
(93/C 350/52)

Subject: Setting up of an 'advisory committee on the social economy'

Does the Commission consider that there is an insufficient degree of consultation by its services (DGs VI, XV and XXIII and the Consumer Policy Service) and that this is such as to justify the creation of an advisory committee on the social economy?

Does not the Commission consider that attempts to introduce the concept of social economy on a general basis run counter to the principle of subsidiarity, given that it is only recognized in one country and is rejected by part of the sector concerned (see parliamentary conference on cooperatives, 4—5 May 1993).

Can the Commission say what the political objectives, working methods and composition of this advisory committee would be if it were set up? Is it true that consideration is being given to including organizations concerned with civil rights and commercial law?

Is it true that the Commission is encouraging the 'social economy' concept, not only in political terms (in its annual programme) but also by providing financial support to various initiatives?

Can the Commission say what specific activities it has funded to date (1991-1992-1993) and what was the level of the funding?

Can the Commission spare the appropriations necessary for the creation of the above committee at a time when insufficient funds are available to implement the proposed multiannual programmes in the business sector (with particular regard to SMUs, the economic and social significance of which are now generally recognized)?

Answer given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi
on behalf of the Commission
(7 October 1993)

1. The Commission has always been concerned to consult as widely as possible among European bodies

representing cooperatives, mutual bodies and associations before proposing measures or legislation. Sometimes the Commission has even proposed regulations only after being urged to do so by Parliament and after having obtained the prior opinion of the ESC. The proposal to set up an advisory committee on the social economy emanated not from the Commission, but from the bodies representing cooperatives, mutual bodies and associations at the third Social Economy Conference organized by the Portuguese Presidency in Lisbon in 1992. It is expected that proposals will be made by the organizers of the fourth Social Economy Conference planned for 9 and 10 November 1993 in Brussels. The Commission considers that it has a duty to examine all proposals for improving consultation with the sectors concerned, provided that they involve no additional funding.

2. Generally speaking, the Commission is not expected to — and does not set out to — be involved in the dissemination of concepts of whatever kind. The activities of the Commission are designed to ensure that cooperatives, mutual bodies and associations are fully included in the environment established by the provisions for the completion of the Single Market without any positive or negative discrimination in comparison to the treatment given to corporate enterprises.

In its communication of 18 December 1989, the Commission stated that the objective of its action was '[to identify] the prospects opening up for enterprises in the "économie sociale" sector in the Europe of 1992' and to '[adumbrate] the framework for Community action to ensure that enterprises in this sector enjoy access to the frontier-free market on the same footing as other enterprises'. Parliament subsequently stressed the need for 'allowing these companies to retain their individuality and their competitiveness in a frontier-free market' ⁽¹⁾.

3. The Commission's activities between 1990 and 1992 concerning cooperatives, mutual bodies and associations focused on the following areas:

- the coherence of Community policies through an analysis of their effect on the activities of cooperatives, mutual bodies and associations (for example: internal market, regional policy, employment, training, SMEs, transport, fiscal policy, external relations, etc.);
- the promotion of measures for the environment of European strategies by cooperatives, mutual bodies and associations in the Community in the context of the Single Market;
- to this end, an analysis of the position of cooperatives, mutual bodies and associations as a whole and by sector;

- liaising with all European consultation and liaison organizations which represent cooperatives, mutual bodies and associations as a whole or by sector.

⁽¹⁾ The Vayssade report on a statute for a European cooperative society and other undertakings in the mutual sector in general (Doc. A3-0312/90).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1559/93

by Mr Alex Smith (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 June 1993)

(93/C 350/53)

Subject: Transportation of plutonium

What information has the Commission received regarding plans by the UK Atomic Energy Authority to fly plutonium fuel pins from Frankfurt to the nuclear power establishment at Dounreay in Scotland?

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

(24 September 1993)

Although it is intended that some shipments of fuel pins containing plutonium will take place from Germany to Dounreay, no decision has yet been taken on the mode of transport. Air and sea transport are both under discussion.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1572/93

by Mrs Anita Pollack (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 June 1993)

(93/C 350/54)

Subject: School nurses

Does the Commission know whether school nurses in each Member State are part of a national school health service or whether the system varies from one local authority to another?

Is there any information about the level of specialist training for school nurses required in each country?

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

(4 October 1993)

The conditions for the exercise of the profession of school nurse fall within the national competence of Member States. The Commission does not have precise information concerning the circumstances in which Member States regulate the activity of school nurse.

If the activity of school nurse is carried out by nurses responsible for general care then Directive 77/453/EEC ⁽¹⁾ on the coordination of training applies. All training of nurses responsible for general care must meet the minimum requirements set out in this Directive.

If, on the other hand, in a host Member State specialist training is required for a school nurse, then a migrant wishing to exercise the profession in that Member State may be covered by one of the Directives setting up the general systems for the mutual recognition of professional education and training (Directive 89/48/EEC ⁽²⁾ and 92/51/EEC ⁽³⁾).

As these Directives rely on the principle of mutual acceptance of comparable qualifications without prior harmonization of training, this matter falls within the scope of national competence.

The Commission does not have information in all national training systems.

National coordinators are appointed in each Member State who can be consulted for further specific information for those professions falling within the scope of the General Systems Directive.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 176, 15. 7. 1977.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 19, 24. 1. 1989.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 209, 24. 7. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1582/93

by Mrs Raymonde Dury (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 June 1993)

(93/C 350/55)

Subject: Support for the European Anti-Racist Network

In its resolution on the resurgence of racism and xenophobia in Europe and the danger of right-wing extremist violence

(A3-0127/93), the European Parliament calls on the Commission to *inter alia* encourage and promote the work of NGOs campaigning against racism, and to 'promote the coordination of, and the pooling of experience gained from, initiatives in the Community directed against racism and anti-Semitism and in favour of the equal treatment of male and female immigrants'.

Several months ago, 36 organizations set up an Anti-Racist Network for Equality in Europe.

To what extent could this European network, which is sorely in need of funds, benefit from immediate aid from the Commission? Which departments would be responsible for providing adequate aid for the development of the European Anti-Racist Network and its work?

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

(24 September 1993)

The fight against racism and xenophobia is of prime concern to the Community and its Member States.

Several actions have been taken at the Community level. In particular, two budget lines allow support to organizations acting in favour of solidarity and the fight against racism and xenophobia. Budget line A-3030, under the management of the Directorate-General for External Political Relations, allows the granting of aid to organizations pursuing humanitarian aims and promoting human rights. The fight against racism and xenophobia is one of the priority themes within this budget line.

Financial support through this budget line is however no longer possible for 1993. A very large increase in the number of applications exceeds the available funds. Of course, organizations concerned may apply for funding at the beginning of next year, following approval of the budget by the Parliament.

Budget line B3-4110 focused on the promotion of social integration of migrants and may also be used to support projects combating racism. Indeed ECU 500 000 of the 1993 budget must be spent in collaboration with the European Trade Union Congress in fighting xenophobia. Some 15 anti-racism projects in seven countries are currently financed under this budget line whereas many other migrant integration projects include an anti-racism dimension as well.

Any application for funding of the 'Réseau antiraciste pour l'Égalité en Europe' mentioned by the Honourable Member would be examined in the light of the existing budget lines criteria.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1583/93
by Mrs Raymonde Dury (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
 (17 June 1993)
 (93/C 350/56)

Subject: Vocational training for the unemployed

Vocational training has figured in the list of Community policies for a long time (Article 128 of the Treaty of Rome), and the Maastricht Treaty considerably strengthens this area. The alarming increase in unemployment in the Community should mobilize swift action at all levels to solve the problem.

Having regard to Objectives 3 and 4 of the Social Fund, what are the Commission's programmes or guidelines specifically with regard to vocational training for the unemployed, and in particular for young people and women seeking work?

Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission
 (12 October 1993)

In order to underline the importance of different Community programmes for cooperation on education and training and discuss their future, the Commission adopted on 5 May 1993 a working paper on Guidelines for Community actions in these fields.

The operation of the European Social Fund is governed by Article 123 of the EEC Treaty. On 24 February and 24 March 1993 respectively, the Commission adopted proposals for amendments to the coordination and framework regulations for the structural funds and to the ESF regulation. The persistence and worsening of unemployment mean that ESF effort on behalf of the unemployed must remain a priority. This is reflected in the Commission's proposals for amendments, notably those to Article 1 of the ESF regulation. Here Objective 3 of Community structural policy is reshaped and its scope enlarged in order more effectively to deal with the principal features of unemployment and exclusion from the labour market — long term unemployment, the occupational integration of young people, exclusion from the labour market, and equal opportunities for women and men in employment. Vocational training will remain one of the principal elements of ESF attention.

As regards the unemployed, the amendment aims to ensure that ESF support reaches not just those who have been out of work for long periods but also those at clear risk of joining the ranks of the longterm unemployed (older

workers, the disabled etc.). The scope of the ESF is also enlarged to cover those excluded from the labour market but not necessarily registered as unemployed. With respect to young people the amendment is designed to ensure that ESF support for vocational training is available in a more flexible and relevant way. On equal opportunities, the Commission's proposed amendment sets out a more active approach to equal opportunities and seeks to intensify the overall impact of ESF intervention by offering women specific back-up services such as child care.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1595/93
by Mr Filippos Pierros (PPE)
to the Council of the European Communities
 (18 June 1993)
 (93/C 350/57)

Subject: Mismanagement of Phare and Tacis programmes

The European Commission has reportedly mismanaged important aspects of its Phare and Tacis technical aid programmes. The management troubles, which are reflected by an insensitivity to the wishes of aid recipients, late payments and redundant work by consultants, are reportedly rooted in a inflexible and understaffed bureaucracy.

Is the Council aware of such problems, and, if so, what is it doing to resolve them?

Answer
 (22 November 1993)

While it is true that initially there were difficulties with the management of the Phare and Tacis programmes which led to some inconsistencies and malfunctioning, the Council considers however that, overall, a positive assessment can be made. In the light of experience it has adopted new rules to be applied in the future.

In the context of the new guidelines for the Phare programme which were approved in November 1992 and the new text of the Tacis Regulation which was adopted in July 1993, the Council has taken account *inter alia* of the points raised by the Honourable Member and has endeavoured to ensure that Community technical aid is better adapted to the changing needs of recipient States in

the context of multiannual programming and on the basis of the principles of decentralization, coordination and transparency.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1598/93

by Mrs Dorothee Piermont (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 June 1993)

(93/C 350/58)

Subject: Subsidies for NGOs promoting human rights —
Budget Item A3-3030

1. What measures and projects did the Commission support in 1990, 1991, and 1992 under budget Item A3-3030, 'Subsidies for certain activities of non-governmental organizations pursuing humanitarian aims and promoting human rights'? Could it provide a complete list, specifying the amounts granted for each project?

2. Are the appropriations allocated in accordance with official criteria? What specific information is requested on the application forms and provided in the explanatory notes? What persons and organizations are entitled to obtain forms?

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

(13 October 1993)

1. The Commission grants financial aid to non-governmental organizations pursuing humanitarian aims and defending human rights, particularly those involved in providing information on the danger of racism and xenophobia in accordance with the declaration adopted by Parliament, the Council and the Commission on 11 June 1986.

A list of the bodies receiving subsidies under Article A-3030 is officially sent to Parliament at the end of each financial year.

2. Subsidies are awarded using criteria which correspond to the objectives set out by Parliament in its remarks in the budget. Application forms for such subsidies are available to NGOs on request.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1612/93

by Mrs Mary Banotti (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 June 1993)

(93/C 350/59)

Subject: European Youth Parliament

Could the Commission give figures for the amount of funding they are providing to the European Youth Parliament for 1992 and 1993? What percentage of this money is used for administrative matters and how much is used to provide grants to individual children to assist them in attending the Youth Parliament?

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

(13 October 1993)

The Commission made a grant of ECU 50 000 to the European Youth Parliament in 1992, and will grant the same amount in 1993.

The grant from the Commission represented around 7,5 % of the total planned budget of the European Youth Parliament in 1992, and around 15,5 % in 1993. It is understood that the grant for 1992 was used 100 % on accommodation, food and travel for the participating students, and it is assumed that the same will apply in 1993. According to the audited accounts for 1992, administration costs amounted to 10,9 % and organizational costs to 14,5 % respectively of the total budget.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1647/93

by Mr Llewellyn Smith (S)

to European Political Cooperation

(28 June 1993)

(93/C 350/60)

Subject: Nuclear non-proliferation policy

What discussions have taken place in EPC about the implications for nuclear non-proliferation policy on the Community and attendant export controls of the production of military-grade plutonium by North Korea in a magnox reactor copied from United Kingdom military production reactors; and of North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?

Answer
(30 November 1993)

There have been frequent discussions in EPC about the policies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly made clear their concern at the DPRK's continued refusal to affirm its commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty permanently, and at the DPRK's failure to comply with its safeguards agreement, and have supported resolutions at the IAEA Board of Governors and in the Security Council which have condemned these actions.

On 16 June 1993, the Community and its Member States took note with satisfaction of the unilateral decision of the DPRK to suspend the effectuation of its withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Community and its Member States hope that the DPRK will very soon take all steps required to meet its safeguards obligations and reaffirm its commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

As they stand firm behind their position as mentioned above, the Community and its Member States remain actively seized of this important and urgent matter and will take it up at the 37th regular session of the General Conference of the IAEA (27 September—1 October 1993). They will also continue consultations in the working group on Nuclear Non-Proliferation on a regular basis.

**Answer given by Mr Ruberti
on behalf of the Commission**
(13 October 1993)

1. The Commission both supports and supplements the efforts of the Member States to promote vocational training, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States for the content and organization of such courses. The Force decision (90/267/EEC) specifies that the Commission, in implementing transnational continuous training measures, shall 'take account of the differing needs and situations existing in the Member States'. In this context the Commission, in close cooperation with Eurostat, the Member States and the two sides of industry, is developing a global information system which includes the publication of reports on trends in national systems and the establishment of statistically comparable concepts, methods and data.

2. The Commission has always maintained that the development of partnerships between public and private bodies and between sectors of education, training organizations and undertakings is one of the best way of improving the quality of vocational training. The European Council in Copenhagen welcomed President Delors' medium-term European plan for economic revival on entering the 21st Century which recommends, among the eight priorities, adaptation of educational systems to include, for example, the right of the individual to benefit from training throughout his/her life.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1689/93

by Mrs Anna Hermans (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(28 June 1993)
(93/C 350/61)

Subject: Advanced vocational training

On several occasions, Parliament has put forward a number of proposals for a reorientation of current vocational training policy.

1. What studies and other initiatives are being planned by the Commission with a view to obtaining a clearer picture of the scope of the various initiatives and the needs which must be met in respect of advanced vocational training?
2. Does the Commission consider it possible to consult the educational sector more closely in respect of this policy (given that advanced vocational training relates not only to retraining and in-service training in companies but also 'full-time' training courses after the age of compulsory schooling?)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1752/93

by Mr Alexandros Alavanos (CG)
to the Council of the European Communities
(2 July 1993)
(93/C 350/62)

Subject: Redevelopment programme for deprived areas

At the last meeting of the Community's Council of Ministers for Housing, the Greek State Secretary for the Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works, Christos Katsiyannis, submitted a programme for the redevelopment of nine deprived areas in Greece. These areas are:

1. Nea Philadelphia (refugee area),
2. Tavros (refugee dwellings),
3. Kaisariani (apartment block programme),
4. Aitolio-Akarnania (transferring the community of Panagoulas to Mytika),

5. Prefecture of Pella (villages of Skarta and Aghios Athanasios), — the need to provide health care and counselling for the victims and their families;
6. Komotini (housing estate), — the provision of financial assistance to the various bodies working with the victims;
7. Xanthi (housing estate), — the need to expedite visa procedures for Bosnian refugees, especially those who have suffered rape?
8. Kos (redevelopment of Katerini),
9. Heraklion, Crete (the area of Patelles).

In at least one of these cases (the communities at Mytika and Panagoulas in Aitolo-Akarnania) the process of transferring families has begun without a redevelopment programme and this has already created serious problems.

In view of this, what is the Council's view of the present condition of the nine deprived areas in Greece? Will it approve the redevelopment programme submitted by the Greek government as a matter of urgency and what measures will be taken within what time-frame to implement the programme without creating social and urban planning problems?

Answer

(22 November 1993)

The Council has no part to play in the area mentioned by the Honourable Member. Implementation of the Community's structural action to assist disadvantaged regions fall within the Commission's sphere of responsibility in accordance with Article 18 of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 of 24 June 1988 and within the area of responsibility of the Greek State for matters which concern it.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1801/93

by Mrs Christine Crawley (PSE)
to European Political Cooperation

(12 July 1993)

(93/C.350/63)

Subject: Rape of women in former Yugoslavia

The delegation constituted by the European Council meeting in Edinburgh in December 1992 has now visited Bosnia-Herzegovina and has produced a preliminary report.

What steps does EPC intend to take to put into effect the recommendations set out in the report, in particular:

What steps does the EPC intend to take in response to the increasing calls for systematic rape to be recognized internationally as a war crime?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The Community and its Member States in their declaration on 1 February, welcomed the report submitted by the Warburton Mission in its findings during visits on 20—24 December 1992 and 19—26 January 1993 to the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The report confirmed that rapes were widespread and part of a recognizable and deliberate pattern of abuse, usually perpetrated with the conscious intention of demoralizing and terrorizing communities. The great majority of the many thousands of victims have been Muslims.

The European Community and its Member States are appalled by these crimes and the inhumanity which marks the present conflict. In the declaration of 1 February they declared their intention to implement the recommendations in the report on assistance to the Bosnian Muslim women victims of rape and other atrocities.

Accordingly, an amount of approximately ECU 1,8 million has been allocated from the Community budget for projects in the framework of the Warburton report. Member States have also contributed, individually and in the form of co-financing with the Community, to rehabilitation projects.

The Community and its Member States will continue to meet within their possibilities urgent humanitarian needs of refugees by *inter alia* extending protection on a temporary basis to certain vulnerable categories of the population of the former Yugoslavia.

As to the call for recognizing systematic rape as a war crime it should be noted that abuse and humiliating treatment of individuals is already considered a war crime in the terms of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. In this regard, the Community and its Member States attach great importance to the quick establishment of the ad hoc international tribunal for former Yugoslavia, which can prosecute such cases.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1830/93
 by Mrs Brigitte Ernst de la Graete (V)
 to the Commission of the European Communities
 (13 July 1993)
 (93/C 350/64)

Subject: EIB global loans to support SMEs

In its reply to my Written Question No 2351/92 ⁽¹⁾ on the EIB's contribution to Community policy to assist SMEs, the Commission mentioned the existence of a detailed annual report on the use of global loans in support of Community policies.

Would the Commission provide details of the publications which list the projects, the SMEs and the amounts granted.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 106, 16. 4. 1993, p. 4.

**Answer given by Mr Christophersen
 on behalf of the Commission**
 (29 September 1993)

The last paragraph of the answer to the Honourable Member's Written Question No 2351/92 reads: 'The (European Investment) Bank's annual report gives detailed information on the use of global loans in support of Community policies and a copy is sent to all Honourable Members'. The 1992 annual report was published on 7 June 1993, the date on which it was approved by the EIB Board of Governors, and sent to all Members of Parliament shortly afterwards. Information on the use of global loans in 1992 and for the period 1988—92 can be found on pages 104—109; pages 26, 36 and 37 also contain information on global loans.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1848/93
 by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)
 to European Political Cooperation
 (15 July 1993)
 (93/C 350/65)

Subject: Stockpiling of weapons smuggled into occupied Cyprus

According to the newspaper *Pondiki* of 8 April 1993, large quantities of weapons from the former USSR, in particular from the autonomous Muslim Chechen area, whose leaders maintain very good relations with the Denktash regime, are being stockpiled in occupied Cyprus. These weapons are

being used to arm the Turkish Cypriots principally, and Islamic forces in the Middle East and possibly Africa.

Will EPC take steps to break up the arms trafficking from the Chechen region to and from Cyprus and, if so, what action will it take?

Answer
 (30 November 1993)

The matter raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European Political Cooperation.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1888/93
 by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (NI)
 to the Commission of the European Communities
 (15 July 1993)
 (93/C 350/66)

Subject: Bronchial asthma in Greece

Mr A. Rasidakis, Professor of Pulmonology at Athens University, recently announced that cases of bronchial asthma, in any event in Greece, have doubled over the last two years, especially among young children. He also points out that asthma is not correctly treated in most countries either because of ignorance or negligence, frequently on the part of doctors. Mr Rasidakis points out that the latest research shows that it is chronic inflammation and should be treated accordingly.

What possibility is there for the Community to help the national authorities in dealing with this problem? Can the Commission provide relevant information on this matter?

**Answer given by Mr Flynn
 on behalf of the Commission**
 (8 October 1993)

The Commission is aware of increases in the incidence of asthma in a number of Member States and is in touch with some European organizations concerned with the disease. There is no specific Community asthma programme but within the general scope of health protection the Commission is willing to consider for assistance asthma prevention projects which involve several Member States and can demonstrate a clear added-value at Community level.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1953/93**by Mr James Ford (PSE)****to European Political Cooperation***(19 July 1993)**(93/C 350/67)**Subject:* Slaughter of seals in Namibia

A report from the International Fund for Animal Welfare shows that in 1992 20 000 seal pups were clubbed to death in Namibia.

In the light of the European Community ban on the importation of products made from seal skins, has the issue of this cull been raised with the Namibian authorities?

If not, will EPC please undertake to address this issue in the course of their dialogue with the Namibian Government?

Answer*(30 November 1993)*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European Political Cooperation. The ban on the importation of products made from seal skins, to which the Honourable Member refers, is a matter of Community competence.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1967/93**by Mr Ernest Glinne (PSE)****to European Political Cooperation***(19 July 1993)**(93/C 350/68)*

Subject: Need to activate the Military Staff Committee set up under Articles 26, 46 and 47 of the UN Charter

So far the Military Staff Committee set up under Articles 26, 46 and 47 of the UN Charter has been an empty shell.

Considering that it is not a good thing to entrust the role of world's policeman to a single major power, what is EPC's reaction to the calls made by Mr Boutros-Ghali, UN Secretary-General, and several governments for an armed branch to be set up under the Military Staff Committee?

Is it not for instance regrettable that the North American forces sent to Somalia were removed from UN control and that air exclusion zones were imposed on Iraq without UN authorization?

Answer*(30 November 1993)*

In its statement of 30 June 1992 the European Union approved the publication of the report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled 'An Agenda for Peace'. That report contains proposals which meet the concerns of the Honourable Member, in so far as they cover *inter alia* numerous aspects of the question of peace-keeping operations.

Amongst those proposals, attention should be drawn to the one for the Member States of the UN to make military contingents available on stand-by. Initially, the Member States of the European Union replied individually to the Secretary-General's proposals.

Another proposal concerns strengthening the services of the Secretariat responsible for managing peace-keeping operations. The Member States of the European Union support this restructuring and take part in it, for example through the temporary secondment of military personnel.

All these proposals will be examined again during the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

It should also be noted that Western European Union has already taken an active part in implementing UN Resolutions and should strengthen its capacity for action in this regard in the future.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1969/93**by Mr Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARC)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(19 July 1993)**(93/C 350/69)*

Subject: Community aid for NGOs in Chile

Further to my Written Question No 2797/92 ⁽¹⁾, what exactly were the organizations, institutions and studies which were subsidized or received funds, and for what projects?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 141, 19. 5. 1993, p. 46.

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

(4 November 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 E-1990/93

**by Mr Filippos Pierros (PPE)
to European Political Cooperation**

(19 July 1993)

(93/C 350/70)

Subject: Sanctions against Croatia

An end to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina will require a willingness to compromise by all three warring parties, including the Croats. In view of Croatia's recent assaults against Muslims in central Bosnia, its ambitious rearmament programme, and the hope of many of its leaders for a Greater Croatia, does EPC not believe sanctions against Croatia are warranted?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The European Community and its Member States never ruled out further sanctions or restrictive measures if actions from parties involved in the conflict in former Yugoslavia so warranted. They specifically insisted that all parties protect the lives and safety of relief personnel and let relief convoys pass unimpeded. In this context, the Community and its Member States continue to monitor closely all relevant developments within and outside of Bosnia.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2016/93

**by Mr Alex Smith (PSE)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(23 July 1993)

(93/C 350/71)

Subject: Non-proliferation arrangements

What specific proposals have been put forward by the Commission in furtherance of its framework plans set out at paragraph 244 of its legislative programme for 1993 ⁽¹⁾ to

amend Regulation (Euratom) 3227/76 ⁽²⁾ in order to strengthen international safeguards and non-proliferation arrangements; and what assistance and response from Member States have been received in promoting non-proliferation through this amendment?

⁽¹⁾ COM(93) 143 final.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 363, 31. 12. 1976, p. 1.

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

(5 October 1993)

The Community and its Member States have already informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of the supplementary information that will be forwarded regularly to the IAEA as a result of the amendment of Regulation (Euratom) No 3227/76 and in order to demonstrate their commitment to strengthening the international safeguards and non-proliferation regime.

The Community and its Member States take every appropriate opportunity to urge other Member States of the IAEA, who have not yet done so, to forward also to the IAEA such supplementary information.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2022/93

**by Mr Filippos Pierros (PPE)
to European Political Cooperation**

(23 July 1993)

(93/C 350/72)

Subject: Politically motivated murders in Turkey

According to evidence submitted by Amnesty International and Helsinki Watch to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in April 1993, the number of politically motivated murders and 'disappearances' in Turkey has not only failed to diminish, but it has increased alarmingly, particularly in 1992 and the first few months of 1993. At the same time, according to the annual report by the Committee to protect Journalists which has its headquarters in the USA, 11 journalists were murdered in 1992 in Turkey, while this year the number of murder victims employed by the press has reached 14.

Will EPC bring pressure to bear on Turkey finally to put an end to this unacceptable situation?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The Honourable Member will be aware that the relationship of the Community and its Member States with Turkey is

conducted through a regular dialogue bearing in mind our common attachment to democracy, respect for human rights and international law. Hence, the Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law, the full respect of human rights and the commitments to which Turkey has subscribed in CSCE, Council of Europe and UN conventions. On the occasion of the 15 September troika meeting with Turkey at the level of Political Directors, the Human Rights situation in Turkey has been addressed.

international meetings — such as those held by the United Nations in Vienna — dealing with drug prevention.

It has also maintained close contacts with third countries for mutual exchanges of information on action taken on drug prevention.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2032/93

by Mr Yves Verwaerde (LDR)

to the Council of the European Communities

(23 July 1993)

(93/C 350/73)

Subject: Campaign against drug abuse — activities of the European Committee for the Campaign against Drug Abuse

With regard to the campaign against drug abuse, will the Council provide information on the most recent activities undertaken by the European Committee for the Campaign against Drug Abuse (CELAD) set up by the European Council at the Strasbourg Summit in 1989?

Answer

(26 November 1993)

Although CELAD is an intergovernmental body for which it has no direct responsibility, the Council is able to give the Honourable Member information on its most recent activities. It should be pointed out, however, that in view of the new structures provided for in the Treaty on European Union, CELAD as such ceased to exist with the entry into force of that Treaty.

From 16 to 22 November 1992 CELAD coordinated the organization of a European Drug Prevention Week. With the active cooperation of the Commission over 200 events geared to education and prevention for young people were held in the Member States. Drawing positive lessons from this experiment, the Health Council has decided to hold a second such week in the second half of 1994.

In addition, CELAD has regularly sought to coordinate the position which the Twelve are to defend at various

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2118/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (PPE)

to European Political Cooperation

(26 July 1993)

(93/C 350/74)

Subject: Unita attack on train

On 27 May at least 355 people died in the Unita attack on a passenger train in southern Angola. As this organization, which is defiantly ignoring the outcome of last year's elections, although they were recognized by the international community, is basically controlled by Zaire, which recently, moreover, moved six divisions up to the frontier with Cabinda, does European Political Cooperation intend to undertake a new initiative to bring peace to this region?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The Community and its Member States are following developments in the situation in Angola very closely. They fully support the efforts made under the auspices of the United Nations and have appealed to all the parties, in particular UNITA, to respect the peace agreement, the outcome of the elections held in September 1992, the UN Security Council Resolutions and the Abidjan agreement.

The Community and its Member States would point out that one Member State is a member of the troika of 'Acordos de Paz' observers. The European Council in Copenhagen moreover expressed its full support for Security Council Resolution 834 of June 1993 which condemned UNITA's actions and called upon it to accept the United Nations humanitarian aid plan. They supported the latest attempt by the special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to achieve a cease-fire and will implement the sanctions against UNITA provided for in Security Council Resolution 864.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2119/93
by Mr Juan Ramírez Heredia (PSE)
to European Political Cooperation

(26 July 1993)
 (93/C 350/75)

Subject: Reactions of the Trevi Group in Copenhagen and Kolding to racist violence

At the meeting of the Trevi Group in Copenhagen and Kolding, the Ministers of Justice and the Interior expressed their horror and revulsion at the violence directed against immigrants and asylum-seekers in various Member States, decided to conduct an inquiry into racism and xenophobia in the EC and acknowledged the need for a common policy regulating flows of immigrants.

Have the Ministers meeting in EPC considered including measures in that overall policy to encourage the integration and defence of human rights?

What specific steps do they intend to take against the perpetrators of racist and xenophobic acts of violence?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

At the Copenhagen Summit on 21 and 22 June 1993 the European Council strongly condemned recent attacks on immigrants and refugees in the Member States. It reiterated its strong resolve to fight by all available means intolerance and racism in all its forms and stressed that such intolerance and racism is unacceptable in our present day societies.

The European Council confirmed the commitment to protect everybody, including immigrants and refugees, against violations of fundamental rights and freedoms as embodied in the national laws of the Member States and the international instruments on human rights, notably the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination.

The European Council decided to intensify efforts to identify and root out the causes of racism and xenophobia. It also pledged that the Member States would do their utmost to protect immigrants, refugees and others against expressions and manifestations of racism and intolerance.

The Commission on Human Rights decided in March 1993 to appoint a special rapporteur to look into contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and the intolerance which goes with them.

One outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, in which the European Community and its Member States took an active part, was an urgent plea to all Governments to prepare vigorous policies to prevent and combat all forms and manifestations of racism, xenophobia and intolerance, if necessary, by adopting appropriate laws laying down punitive sanctions and creating national institutions to combat those phenomena.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2157/93
by Mrs Ana Miranda de Lage (PSE)
to European Political Cooperation

(26 July 1993)
 (93/C 350/76)

Subject: Reintroduction of the death penalty in Peru

The Peruvian Constitutional Congress has decided that the death penalty will be reintroduced in the new constitution.

The Andean Pact agreement, to which Peru is a signatory, contains a clause invoking democratic conditionality.

Does European Political Cooperation consider the decision of the Peruvian Constitutional Congress to be compatible with this condition concerning the protection of human rights?

If it considers it incompatible, does European Political Cooperation intend to take the necessary steps to exclude Peru from the benefits of the third-generation agreement, the Generalized System of Preferences and all development aid other than strictly humanitarian assistance?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

1. On 27 August the Peruvian Constitutional Congress adopted the text of a new Constitution which will be submitted as a whole to a referendum of the people on 31 October. In Article in the new Constitution states that the death penalty may only be applied for the crime of treason against one's country and terrorism in accordance with national laws and the international treaties to which Peru is party. Before it can apply this Article — assuming that the new Constitution is approved by the referendum — the Peruvian Government will have to obtain parliamentary approval to denounce the San José Convention on Human Rights and give one year's notice of such denunciation to the Secretary-General of the OAS. Only then will it be possible to apply the death penalty to persons on whom sentence is passed in future.

2. This issue has been discussed in detail within European Political Cooperation. The Member States which so wished have had an opportunity to state both to the Constitutional Congress and to the authorities that this measure might have a negative effect on Peru's image in the outside world.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2194/93
by Mr Víctor Arbeloa Muru (PSE)
to European Political Cooperation
(29 July 1993)
(93/C 350/77)

Subject: The Middle Eastern peace process

In its answer to the author's earlier oral question (No H-0141/93) ⁽¹⁾, the Commission gave the impression, especially in the fourth paragraph, that the Community was maintaining a neutral stance towards the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel in the occupied territories.

Can the Commission state whether it is still aware of the Geneva Conventions and of the numerous resolutions of both the UN and the European Parliament, as well as its own declarations on the matter? Can it also state its position on who is actually occupying these territories, and in what manner, and whether the Jewish settlements on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem are legal?

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament No 3-430 (April 1993).

Answer
(30 November 1993)

The Community and its Member States believe that it is vital for the EC to continue to play a balanced and constructive role in the peace process. Otherwise it would fail to win the confidence on any of the parties to the dispute. This does not mean ignoring violations of UN resolutions or Conventions where they occur. The EC has spoken out against such violations at the very highest levels.

The Community and its Member States have often stated that it is for the parties themselves to the Arab-Israeli dispute to establish the terms of a settlement, which, to be effective, must be freely negotiated and agreed among them. Nevertheless they have also reiterated time and again their belief that for an agreement to prove just, lasting and comprehensive it should be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which enshrine the principle of land for peace. It should provide for the security of all States in the region, including Israel, within recognized and guaranteed borders, and for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly stressed the importance of assuring respect for human rights and of implementing confidence-building measures as a means of increasing the level of trust between the parties and taking the negotiations forward. In this regard they have called for a halt to the building and expansion of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law, and for full application of the provisions of the 4th Geneva Convention.

The Community and its Member States welcomed the latest historic agreement, reached on 13 September 1993, and have paid tribute to the vision and courage of the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who made this possible.

The European Community and its Member States will pursue their efforts and reiterate their commitment to a comprehensive peace. They hope that progress will be accomplished in other bilateral negotiations and in the multilateral talks on future cooperation.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2209/93
by Mr Ernest Glinne (PSE)
to European Political Cooperation
(29 July 1993)
(93/C 350/78)

Subject: The need to outlaw the practice of excision or infibulation of persons of the female sex within the territory of the Community

The practice of excision or infibulation of women or girls exists in certain countries. Although it is unknown in our culture, there is a risk of it occurring in the Community as a result of the movement of populations.

The UK decided to react in 1985, adopting the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act, which at least exists, despite serious inadequacies. All the Member States have, unless the present author is mistaken, adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989. Belgium has ratified this convention, by the law of 20 November 1989 and by decrees of its component communities. Article 2 (3) of the convention stipulates that 'States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children'.

The European Parliament, in its proposals on '1993: the new treaties', has affirmed that 'human dignity is inviolable'

(p. 79). The Trevi Group may, once ratification of the Treaty of Maastricht is complete, extend its field of operation. Certain authoritative figures in Africa itself, such as Mr Awa Thain, in 'La parole aux négresses' ('Black women speak'), have denounced the practices concerned, whose continuation — despite the inadequately enforced bans existing in some countries — is an increasing source of embarrassment to many of the participants in the Joint Assembly of the Lomé Convention. In Belgium, traditional mutilations are prohibited under Article 398 of the Criminal Code, which outlaws the infliction of bodily harm.

Is it not, despite all the above, vital to add to the criminal legislation of all the Member States a specific provision outlawing the practices concerned — even when, on the pretext of preventing infection, they are carried out, extraordinarily, in a hospital environment — and providing for more severe penalties where the victim is a minor?

Is it not thus essential to adapt the relevant legislation of the Member States so as specifically to condemn excision and infibulation and all violations of the physical integrity of the victims, to raise the consciousness of health professionals in the context of a policy of prevention, and to promote and ensure moral and financial participation in information campaigns, especially in the partner states of the Fourth Lomé Convention, under Article 4 of the Convention itself?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The practices to which the Honourable Member is referring are being discussed in detail within the United Nations.

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has designated a special Rapporteur who has been instructed to submit to it a plan of action for the abolition of traditional practices harmful to the health of women and children.

In the Action Programme which was adopted at the close of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993, the Conference emphasized how much work needed to be done to overcome the contradiction which may exist between the rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and religious extremism. The World Conference also urged States to combat violence against women.

At its 48th session the United Nations General Assembly will consider, with a view to adopting it, a draft Declaration on the abolition of violence against women. In the Declaration, violence against women encompasses *inter alia* genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women.

The large number of States which have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child have committed themselves to taking the necessary measures to ensure that the provisions of the Convention are implemented on a national level. An international monitoring mechanism in this sphere has been established through the creation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child which ensures that all the commitments entered into by States are honoured and implemented.

The questions raised by the Honourable Member have not been discussed in the context of Political Cooperation.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2226/93

by Mr António Capucho (LDR) and
Mr Jan Bertens (LDR)

to European Political Cooperation

(30 July 1993)

(93/C 350/79)

Subject: Middle East peace negotiations

In view of the need to make rapid progress with the peace negotiations in the Middle East so as to prevent total disillusionment among the Palestinian population with the peace process, can EPC give the assurance that it is using its influence to the maximum to ensure that all the parties to the negotiations appreciate the importance the EC and its Member States attach to the fulfilment of Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly stated that it is for the parties themselves to the Arab-Israeli dispute to establish the terms of a settlement, which, to be effective, must be freely negotiated and agreed among them. Nevertheless they have also reiterated their belief that for an agreement to prove just, lasting and comprehensive it should be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which enshrine the principle of land for peace. It should provide for the security of all States in the region, including Israel, within recognized and guaranteed borders, and for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

The Community and its Member States welcomed the historic agreement reached on 13 September 1993 and have paid tribute to the vision and courage of the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who made this possible.

The Community is firmly committed to support the process, firstly, by providing immediate aid of ECU 20 million as short term aid, secondly by substantially boosting financial assistance on medium term, and thirdly by increasing political and economic cooperation with all the states of the region involved in the success of this breakthrough.

The Community and its Member States reiterate their hope that progress will be accomplished in other bilateral negotiations and in the multilateral talks on future cooperation.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2235/93

by Mr David Morris (PSE)

to European Political Cooperation

(30 July 1993)

(93/C 350/80)

Subject: Nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union

Nuclear safety is a focal sector for cooperation in the technical assistance that the EC is providing to the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia (the former Soviet Union).

Can EPC now report on the condition of the nuclear weapons arsenal in those countries, with particular reference to the frequency of scientific inspection, the number of warheads that cannot be accounted for and the market in technical information about the component parts of nuclear weapons?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The nuclear safety of military nuclear installations does not fall within the competence of European Political Cooperation.

Nuclear assistance to Central and Eastern European countries and the countries of the former Soviet Union takes the form of projects coordinated by the European Community in the framework of its Phare and Tacis programmes. These programmes are, in their turn, part of the nuclear safety activities of the G24. In addition, the G7 has decided to establish a multilateral fund for nuclear safety in the above countries. This fund, managed by the EBRD, will receive contributions from the European Community

(ECU 20 million) and the Member States of the Community which are members of the G7.

Since European Political Cooperation has no competence in the matter of technical questions on inspection and the nuclear arsenal of the CIS, and has no relevant official sources on these questions, it is unable to reply to them.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2261/93

by Mr Filippos Pierros (PPE)

to European Political Cooperation

(1 September 1993)

(93/C 350/81)

Subject: Release by Iran of an Israeli prisoner

Since 1986 Ron Arad, an Israeli pilot, has been held as a prisoner of war initially by the Shiite organization, Amal, then by Dirani, a pro-Iranian organization which broke away from Amal, and finally by Iran itself. Despite all the efforts both by the State of Israel and the UN Secretary-General's special envoy, Giandomenico Picco, it has been impossible to secure his release. In view also of the recent resolution adopted by the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾ calling for the immediate release of Ron Arad, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC say what specific measures they intend to take to secure his release?

⁽¹⁾ Minutes of sittings (verbatim report 13 II) of 27 May 1993, p. 5.

Answer

(30 November 1993)

Representations to the Iranian authorities about Ron Arad have not been made within the EPC framework. The European Community and its Member States are unaware of his current whereabouts, but they support the efforts of the UN and of Israel to obtain his release.

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly called on Iran to respect the various international human rights instruments and covenants. They maintain a 'critical dialogue' with the Iranian government in which they frankly reflect EC concerns about Iranian behaviour in a number of areas, including human rights. They will continue to raise violations of those rights where they occur.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2342/93
by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Council of the European Communities

(1 September 1993)
 (93/C 350/82)

Subject: Commission proposal for a directive on data protection

Can the Council say when it expects to adopt the Commission's proposal for a directive on data protection ⁽¹⁾ which was submitted to it on 15 October 1992?

⁽¹⁾ COM 92/422 final.

Answer
 (22 November 1993)

The Council's bodies are making every possible effort to arrive at a common position on this highly complex proposal.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2378/93
by Mr Stephen Hughes (PSE)
to European Political Cooperation
 (1 September 1993)
 (93/C 350/83)

Subject: Export of land mines

Has EPC taken any action in response to the call by the European Parliament in December 1992 for all Member States to impose a five-year moratorium on the export of land mines?

Answer
 (30 November 1993)

The problem of limiting and banning mines has been discussed at meetings of the relevant EPC working parties.

The Member States of the Community have all signed the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons and those Member States which have not yet ratified the Convention are examining the question of ratification as a matter of urgency.

Under the circumstances, the Community and its Member States intend to make an active contribution to the deliberations of the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly, in particular as regards the preparatory work for a conference to examine the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons.

The Community and its Member States will be looking into the modifications to be made to the Convention and, in particular, its second Protocol which makes provision for 'prohibitions of or restrictions on the use of mines, booby traps and other devices'.

In the same context, the Community and its Member States are preparing a draft Resolution on assistance in mine disposal which is to be the subject of a Community initiative at the next United Nations General Assembly.

Attention should also be drawn to the fact that the Community and its Member States are contributing to several major programmes in the field of assistance in mine disposal, in particular in Asia (Cambodia) and Central America (Nicaragua).

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2389/93
by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to European Political Cooperation
 (1 September 1993)
 (93/C 350/84)

Subject: Violation by Greek companies (Evroil Abee and Mamidol-Jetoil) of the UN embargo on Bosnia

Allegations have been made in the Greek Parliament by MPs Mr D. Vrettos, Mr D. Georgakopoulos, Mr P. Poundidis and Mr V. Yeranidis that the Greek companies Evroil Abee and Mamidol-Jetoil have violated the UN embargo on Yugoslavia by supplying oil to Bosnia. Will EPC investigate to clarify this matter?

Answer
 (30 November 1993)

The European Community and its Member States attach the greatest importance to the strict application of the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and have set aside considerable resources for that purpose.

They have given their full backing to Resolution 787 of the United Nations Security Council, which stepped up sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) while making it possible to apply them, and to Resolution 820, which imposed further sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and in respect of Serb-controlled zones in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Community and its Member States are committed to ensuring that this Resolution is implemented comprehensively.

It is, however, for national authorities to see to it that the embargo is enforced where this directly concerns them.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2456/93

by Mr Claude Desama (PSE)

to the Council of the European Communities

(1 September 1993)

(93/C 350/85)

Subject: Continuing obstructions at the Community's internal land frontier

Since 1 January 1993, when the single market came into being, checks have no longer been carried out on persons and goods at the Community's internal land frontiers. However, numerous obstructions, for example series of bends, bottlenecks, very low speed limits, diversions for heavy goods vehicles, and so forth, which constitute real dangers to road traffic, remain in place at the points where customs inspections used to be carried out.

Do these obstructions not interfere with free movement of persons and goods within the Community?

If so, what steps will the Council take to remove them?

Answer

(22 November 1993)

The European Council in Copenhagen noted that 'the single market has been a legal reality since 1 January 1993; it is essential that it should also become a smoothly running practical reality, improving the competitiveness of the European economy and yielding maximum economic and social benefit for the citizen. To that end, the European Council called on all concerned, and in particular the Commission and the competent authorities of the Member States, to work together to ensure that the single market is administered efficiently with as little red-tape as possible.'

The Copenhagen European Council also stressed that 'the Single Market cannot be brought about without the full implementation of free movement of persons as well as of goods, services and capital, in accordance with Article 8A of the Treaty. This requires measures in particular with regard to cooperation aimed at combating crime and drug trafficking and ensuring effective control of the external borders.'

The obstacles to which the Honourable Member refers should therefore be seen in this context. It should also be noted that practical arrangements at border posts will also be dealt with in the context of Articles K1 and K3 of the Treaty on European Union upon its entry into force.

With regard to the free movement of goods, all administrative barriers were effectively removed on 1 January 1993. The physical obstructions referred to in the question do not constitute barriers within the meaning of the Commission's White Paper on the achievement of the single market and indeed the Commission has forwarded no proposals for action in this area to the Council.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2481/93

by Mr Luigi Vertemati (PSE)

to European Political Cooperation

(1 September 1993)

(93/C 350/86)

Subject: Growth of terrorism

The resurgence of terrorism in various parts of Europe (Spain, Italy, Germany) and in the world (Turkey, Egypt, United States, etc.) is claiming a heavy toll of victims and correspondingly fuelling tension in the countries concerned.

Does information exist about the re-emergence of terrorist groups such as the Red Brigades, the Red Army Fraction, and other, non-European, groups?

Are there European bodies capable of coordinating the operations undertaken by individual countries?

Will steps be taken to combat the criminal destabilization being fomented by terrorist groups? If so, what specific action is envisaged?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

As the Honourable Member will be aware, the Community and its Member States have reaffirmed their unstinting support for Resolution 46/51 of the United Nations General Assembly of 9 December 1991, in which the General

Assembly unequivocally condemns, as criminal and unjustifiable all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, wherever and by whomever committed and regardless of their motivation.

In this connection, the Community and its Member States are examining situations involving terrorism most attentively within bodies set up for that purpose, with particular regard to the protection of their citizens.

Several cooperation bodies have been set up for the purpose of coordinating initiatives by the various States.

First of all, in the sphere of judicial and police cooperation, I would invite the Honourable Member to address his questions about this major area of cooperation, concerning which the Trevi Group is the best known body, to our colleagues responsible for justice and home affairs.

Next, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States, meeting in political cooperation, decided in 1986 to set up a standing EPC Working Party to examine the political and legal aspects of international terrorism. This Working Party meets whenever necessary for the purpose of recommending common positions to be adopted in respect of specific instances of terrorism for coordinating the position of the Community and its Member States in international bodies such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the CSCE and for dealing with cooperation by the Community and its Member States with third countries with regard to terrorism. It undertakes liaison and information exchange with the Trevi Group.

With regard to the steps to be taken to counter the actions of terrorist groups, I would invite the Honourable Member to refer to all the public declarations by the Community and its Member States in which they have condemned the use of terrorism, as well as to the decisions of the Trevi Group.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2506/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to European Political Cooperation

(1 September 1993)
(93/C 350/87)

Subject: Radiation from missiles used to attack Iraq

Missiles emitting radiation were used in the recent attack by the USA on Iraq and throughout the duration of the Gulf war. In view of this, will the EPC show support for measures to:

1. Prevent further contamination from the remains of the missiles in the areas affected?

2. Prohibit (or at least restrict) in the immediate future the production and use of such weapons producing radiation?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The question raised in point 1 by the Honourable Member refers to the fact that depleted uranium anti-tank ammunition was used during the Gulf War. Depleted uranium seems to have been selected on account of its hardness which enables it to pierce practically all types of armour-plating and not on account of its possible radioactivity. Such radioactivity has always been presented as being negligible and therefore harmless to humans.

Although this question was not actually discussed within European Political Cooperation, there is no indication that areas have been contaminated by radiation. Combat was moreover practically confined to desert areas.

With regard to the American attack on Iraq, I would refer to the replies to Oral Questions Nos H-0779/93 and H-0787/93.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2539/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1993)
(93/C 350/88)

Subject: Failure by Greece to comply with internal market rules on movement of Community goods

Neither the central nor regional departments of the Greek Ministry of Finance are complying with internal market rules and operating without customs procedures on accordance with Article 8a of the EEC Treaty and provisions laid down by the Council and the Commission concerning the movement of goods within the Community.

In specific terms, the Association of International Hauliers of Greece allege that the Greek Ministry of Finance is not complying with Council Regulations (EEC) No 2726/90 ⁽¹⁾ and (EEC) No 1214/92 ⁽²⁾ or the provisions of Directive 77/388/EEC ⁽³⁾ (6th Directive as amended and supplemented by Directive 91/680/EEC ⁽⁴⁾ or Directive 92/111/EEC ⁽⁵⁾ on VAT or Directive 92/12/EEC ⁽⁶⁾ on products subject to excise duty.

The Association of International Hauliers of Greece has appealed to the Directorate-General for Customs and Excise

(reference No P/93/4463) but has yet to receive a reply. In view of this, will the Commission ensure that the relevant Greek provisions and circulars are brought into line with the abovementioned Community rules?

(¹) OJ No L 262, 26. 9. 1990, p. 1.

(²) OJ No L 132, 16. 5. 1992, p. 1.

(³) OJ No L 145, 13. 6. 1977, p. 1.

(⁴) OJ No L 376, 31. 12. 1991, p. 1.

(⁵) OJ No L 384, 30. 12. 1992, p. 47.

(⁶) OJ No L 76, 23. 3. 1992, p. 1.

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

(13 October 1993)

The Commission is aware of the problems referred to by the Honourable Member, in particular as regards the passage of Community goods through Greek ports designated as free zones. It has already raised this matter with the Greek authorities.

The Association of International Hauliers of Greece was notified of this on 26 July 1993.

The Commission is working with the Greek authorities to find a solution to the current problems in the various forums for consultation available.

However, if the current situation were to persist, the Commission would use all the means at its disposal under the Treaty to ensure that the internal market becomes a reality in Greece.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2575/93

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Council of the European Communities

(1 September 1993)

(93/C 350/89)

Subject: Uniform principles for the assessment of plant protection products

When does the Council intend to adopt the Commission's proposal on uniform principles for the assessment of plant protection products?

Answer

(22 November 1993)

Council Directive 91/414/EEC established the Community framework for the assessment of plant protection products. Following on from that, the Council still has to adopt uniform principles to facilitate implementation of that Directive.

The Council is aware of the importance and urgency of rapid adoption of those principles.

The proposal for a Directive referred to by the Honourable Member is one of the priorities of the current Presidency, which has already held several technical meetings of the specialized Working Party in order for examination of the dossier to be completed as soon as possible and to enable the text to be adopted before the end of the year.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2655/93

by Mrs Cristiana Muscardini (NI)

to European Political Cooperation

(1 September 1993)

(93/C 350/90)

Subject: European mediator for Somalia

Given that the UN mission to Somalia is developing from a humanitarian operation into what looks increasingly like an armed intervention without the support of local communities, partly because it is based on unclear political motives which may well lead to a further tragedy;

given that the armed forces of Community countries are involved in this mission and that the Community as such must assume the responsibilities which a genuine peace-seeking political role entails;

does European Political Cooperation not consider it necessary to send a European mediator responsible for reducing tension between the various Somalian factions, as well as between them and the international institutions involved in the Somalian question?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The Community and its Member States share the concern of the Honourable Member that a durable political solution should be actively pursued in Somalia. They have communicated this concern to the Secretary General of the United Nations, who for his part is committed to bring forward the political and humanitarian goals of the United Nations operations in Somalia. They understand that some of these goals are gradually being attained in most of the regions of Somalia, and that the situation in south Mogadiscio should not be construed as being prevalent in the rest of the country. The Community and its Member States fully and actively support the efforts of the United Nations to bring peace to Somalia. They have not considered to send a European mediator at present.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2691/93

by Mr James Ford (PSE)

to European Political Cooperation

(3 September 1993)

(93/C 350/91)

Subject: Violation of human rights of the Baha'i community in Iran

Has EPC made representations to the Government of Iran with regard to the codifying and systematizing of various types of repressive actions against Baha'is in Iran contained in the document issued by the Supreme Revolutionary Cultural Council of the Iranian Government on 25 February 1991, and in respect of the growing body of evidence of the confiscation of Baha'i properties in Yazd, Saysan and Ilkhchi?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The then Presidency made representations to the Iranian authorities both in Tehran and Geneva in June and October 1992 about the situation of the Baha'is in Iran. They raised the reportedly unfair trials of two Baha'is sentenced to death for spying and report about the confiscation of houses and properties belonging to Baha'is in Yazd, Isfahan and Tehran. Following the representations the trials of the two Baha'is were reviewed and the death sentences commuted.

The Community and its Member States have recently raised concerns about reports of the desecration of a Baha'i cemetery in Tehran.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow the situation closely and to draw to the attention of the Iranian authorities violations of human rights.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2746/93

by Mr Alexandros Alavanos (CG)

to European Political Cooperation

(16 September 1993)

(93/C 350/92)

Subject: Release of the leader of the Albanian Socialist Party

Mr F. Nano, the leader of the Albanian Socialist Party which won 54 % of the votes in the recent local elections, has been imprisoned by the Berisna régime. There are a number of

factors that suggest that this prosecution is politically-motivated.

— the public prosecutors of Tirana, A. Dotsi and S. Kokonas have refused to undertake the criminal prosecution and have resigned;

— although Mr Nano is accused of misappropriating \$8 million of foreign aid, according to his wife who has protested about this issue to international bodies his family consisting of eight persons lives in a rented, four-roomed flat in Tirana;

— Mr Nano's imprisonment comes at a time when the Greek minority is being persecuted, the president of the National Unity Party, Mr Bequiri, has been sentenced to a six-month term of imprisonment and demonstrators have been arrested en mass.

In view of the above will the EPC say:

1. whether it has asked the Albanian Government to explain why the leader of the main opposition party has been arrested;
2. whether it intends to call for the immediate release of Mr Nano until the courts issue a judgement on the charges brought against him?
3. whether it intends to warn the Albanian authorities that the Community will implement the conditions for democratic principles and will suspend the economic agreements concluded with Albanian, if the President and the Government continue to push the country towards a dictatorship?

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The Community and its Member States share the concern expressed by the Honourable Member over the latest developments in Albania.

The Albanian authorities are well aware of the importance the Community and its Member States attach to the scrupulous respect for human rights and the rule of law. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly reminded the Albanian government of its solemn commitment to abide strictly with all relevant CSCE provisions.

Furthermore, the respect for the democratic principles and the human rights constitute an essential element for the Cooperation and Economic Agreement that has been signed between the EC and Albania on 1 December 1992. They form also the basis for the structural relationship that has been set up between Albania and the Council of Europe.

As regards the specific case raised by the Honourable Member, the Community and its Member States have currently initiated a thorough examination of the circumstances which led to the arrest of the opposition leader. In the light of the outcome of this examination the

Community and its Member States will consider appropriate measures to be taken consequently.

applied in a non-discriminatory fashion throughout the territory of the Community.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2755/93

by Mrs Brigitte Ernst de la Gracte (V)
to the Council of the European Communities

(16 September 1993)

(93/C 350/93)

Subject: Directive on dual-use products

As I understand it, this directive is held up in the Council because the Member States are unable to agree on two annexes: the list of products and the list of countries of destination said to be 'at risk'.

1. Is this interpretation correct?
2. What consequences has the failure to adopt this Directive for the movement of products of this kind within the Community and for their export?
3. What steps does the Council intend to take to remedy this situation and how long does it think it will take to do this?

Answer

(26 November 1993)

The Council can assure the Honourable Member that work on Community rules for controlling exports of dual-use goods and technologies is making good progress. Since this is an extremely complex area having numerous implications, finalization of such rules inevitably involves some delays. At its meeting on 4 October 1993, the Council addressed certain key issues regarding export controls on dual-use goods on a common list, export controls on goods not included on the common list (catch-all clause) and the duration of the transitional arrangements for intra-Community trade.

The Council is aware of the importance and urgency of this matter, particularly with a view to completion of the Internal Market. Pending adoption of the legal texts being prepared, trade in dual-use goods and technologies continues to be subject to existing national legislation. However, as from 1 January 1993 — in accordance with the statement adopted by the Council on 21 December 1992, and made public — intra-Community trade in the goods in question shall no longer be subject to internal frontier controls within the Community, but solely to controls

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2795/93

by Mr Winifred Ewing (ARC)
to European Political Cooperation

(4 October 1993)

(93/C 350/94)

Subject: Israeli prisoner of war Ron Arad

Will the Foreign Ministers give their full support to the campaign for the release of Israeli Air Force Captain Ron Arad who has been held captive by Hizbollah since 1986? His family has not heard from him since 1987 as he is not allowed visits from the Red Cross, contrary to International Law.

Answer

(30 November 1993)

The European Union makes the observance, safeguarding and promoting of human rights a cornerstone of its common foreign and security policy.

The case of Ron Arad is shortly to be discussed in the course of its activities. For the moment, the Honourable Member may refer to the reply to Written Question E-2261/93 put by Mr F. Pierros ⁽¹⁾.

The European Union is anxious to see the release of all those unlawful held prisoner in the region.

⁽¹⁾ See page 39 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2841/93

by Mr Alex Smith (PSE)
to the Council of the European Communities

(4 October 1993)

(93/C 350/95)

Subject: Integration of environmental concerns in urban planning

What progress has been made by the Urban Environment Expert Group established by the Council in 1991 to advise on integration of environmental concerns in urban policy planning?

Answer*(22 November 1993)*

On 28 January 1991 the Council adopted a resolution on the Green Paper on the urban environment, in which it invited the Commission, in the light of the suggested lines of action set out in the Green Paper, to establish a group of independent experts and national representatives to consider, from an analysis of the existing situation throughout the Community, how future town and land-use planning strategies could incorporate environmental objectives and, more generally, advise the Commission on the ways in which the urban environment could be further developed within Community environment policy.

The Council invited the Commission to consider, within the context of the European Council declaration on the environment (Dublin, 25 and 26 June 1990), how the Community could, through funding, further contribute to the improvement of the urban environment.

The Council also welcomed the Commission's intention to consult widely within the Community on the ideas and proposals in the Green Paper.

The Council is awaiting the submission by the Commission of the conclusion of that consultation, and any proposals it intends to make.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2997/93

by Mr James Elles (PPE), Mr Otto Habsburg (PPE),
Mr Fernand Herman (PPE)
and Mrs Ria Oomen-Ruijten (PPE)

to the Council of the European Communities

(25 October 1993)

(93/C 350/96)

Subject: Relations between the EC, Eastern Europe and the CIS

Events have moved rapidly in the past few months, with respect to relations between the European Community and countries in Eastern Europe and the CIS. Decisions are being taken by EC authorities which appear to react to events rather than be part of a broad well thought-out strategy.

Will the Council indicate:

1. Which countries will be eligible for negotiating an association agreement with the EC? Does this include the Baltic States?

2. Does the fact of having negotiated an association agreement with the EC give a third country an implicit right to expect EC membership in the longer term?
3. How far does the EC plan to negotiate the four freedoms of the Single Market with Russia and the other republics which are currently members of the CIS?
4. Whether it is now possible to set down where the Eastern frontier of the European Community will finally be?

Answer*(26 November 1993)*

1. Since the collapse of communism, the Community's policy towards Eastern Europe has been part of a very clear general view of a new architecture of the European continent.

This policy has been regularly defined and clarified by the European Council itself, most recently by the European Council in Copenhagen, which approved very important conclusions on this subject.

2. The Council would point out first of all that, with regard to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Community's policy consists of concluding 'first generation' cooperation agreements as a first step; these will pave the way for the later conclusion of a European association agreement with the country concerned. The latter agreements, which establish a much closer and exacting relationship, between the Community and its partners, imply that progress towards political and economic reform in such as to enable this path to be taken.

At this stage European association agreements have been signed with Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

As yet, only first-generation agreements have been concluded with Albania, the Baltic States and Slovenia (this last agreement goes further in that it provides for duty-free imports).

As regards the Baltic States, the Copenhagen European Council, in order to strengthen trading and commercial links, invited the Commission to submit proposals for transforming the existing agreements into free-trade agreements, the objective remaining that of concluding a European Association agreement with those countries at the appropriate time.

3. The Copenhagen European Council confirmed that all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe linked to the Community by a European association agreement will be able, if they so wish, to become members of the European Union.

Accession will take place when the associated Member State is able to meet the obligations deriving therefrom, by fulfilling the economic and political conditions required.

For an applicant country to accede, it must have stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, respect for minorities and their protection, the existence of a viable market economy and the capacity to face competition pressure and market forces within the Union. Membership presupposes the candidate's ability to take on the obligations of membership including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

At the same time, the Union's capacity to absorb new members, while maintaining the momentum of European integration, is also an important consideration in the general interest of both the Union and the candidate countries.

The European Council moreover agreed that future cooperation with the associated countries would be geared to the objective of membership. In this context it adopted a series of measures of which details are given in the conclusion of the European Council, the main aspects of which are:

- establishment of a structured relationship with the Institutions of the Union within the framework of a reinforced multilateral dialogue and consultation on matters of common interest;
- adoption of a series of measures to increase our partners' access to Community markets;
- continuation of considerable financial support, in particular within the framework of the Phare programme, part of the funds for which may be used to develop trans-European network projects;
- provision of technical assistance to make it easier for our partners to ensure approximation of their laws to Community legislation, in particular in the field of rules on competition and protection of workers, the environment and consumers.

4. With regard to the independent States which have emerged from the former Soviet Union, Community policy does not have the same perspectives as that described for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

It aims at giving the Community's full support to the process of political and economic reform which has been initiated in the new independent States in order to facilitate the transition from totalitarianism to democracy, the transition

to a market economy and free enterprise and those States' full integration into the global economic system.

Community support, which is provided in cooperation with the other industrialized partners, is expressed at Community level by the far-ranging Tacis technical assistance programme, which has just been reformed, as well as by bilateral technical assistance programmes.

A reminder is given moreover of the generous humanitarian assistance which has been the rapid and flexible response by the Community and its Member States in particular to the increasingly disturbing shortfalls in the supply of foodstuffs and medicinal products over the last few years.

5. In order to put contractual links with the new independent States on a new, broad basis, the Community aims to conclude partnership and cooperation agreements which should establish close cooperation with those States, depending on each State's characteristics, in the political, economic, scientific and technical spheres. A initial negotiating stage should enable partnership and cooperation agreements to be concluded with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

These are non-preferential agreements which do not aim at extending to the new independent States the four freedoms governing the Single Market. The conclusion of partnership and cooperation agreements, unlike agreements concluded with Central and Eastern European States, does not seek to integrate the new independent States into the Community but to integrate those States' economies into the global economy.

6. With regard to the Agreement being negotiated with Russia, the Council has decided that it would contain a future developments clause which would enable the Agreement to be adapted so as to establish a free-trade area when circumstances permit and in particular when Russia is in a position to meet GATT obligations.

The Copenhagen European Council expressed the wish that the partnership Agreement with Russia could be rapidly concluded, in the context of creating a contractual relationship between the Community and that country which reflects the political and economic role which Russia plays on the international scene.

The Copenhagen European Council also agreed to suggest to our Russian partner that regular summit meetings be held between the President of the European Council, the President of the Commission and the Russian President, like the meetings held with our American, Japanese and Canadian partners.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3170/93
by Mr Bouke Beumer (PPE)
to the Council of the European Communities
(19 November 1993)
(93/C 350/97)

Subject: Commission's strategic programme on reinforcing the effectiveness of the Internal Market

1. Nine months after the completion of the programme contained in the White Paper on the internal market, how does the Council evaluate the current functioning of the internal market, and, in particular:
 - (a) the delays in the transposition of Community rules in the different Member States, and whether they have been correctly transposed,
 - (b) the delays in the process of standardization, and how this process could be improved,
 - (c) the necessity of facilitating access by consumers and economic operators to legal recourse in the case of abuses of the internal market (ensuring the application of Community laws, imposing sanctions/fines etc.),
 - (d) the need to ensure greater transparency and information concerning the rules, objectives, economic and social impact and possible defects of the internal market,
 - (e) the advantages and limitations of the principle of mutual recognition of national laws for the internal market,
 - (f) the reinforcement of coordination and cooperation between national administrations,
 - (g) the ways in which the creation of new technical barriers can be avoided,
 - (h) the methods envisaged by the Commission for ensuring continued monitoring of the implementation of the proposed strategic programme on the internal market?
2. By when does the Council envisage the adoption of the proposed strategic programme on the internal market?

Answer
(23 November 1993)

The Council did not wait until the deadline set in the White Paper on the completion of the internal market to start assessing the various points covered in the question from the Economic and Monetary Committee of the European Parliament.

As early as May 1992, the Council had held an informal discussion on post-1992, at the close of which it had invited the Commission to establish a framework for permanent collaboration between the Commission and the Member States in order to ensure the management of the area without internal frontiers and enable Member States to monitor the functioning of the internal market.

Successive discussions led to the adoption last December of a Council resolution on making the Single Market work. In that resolution⁽¹⁾ the Council addressed a number of requests to both the Commission and the Member States. It asked in particular that the Commission regularly informs the Council on the way in which Member States were implementing the provisions necessary for the completion of the internal market, a task which the Commission has since been carrying out. Its reports have helped to speed up considerably the process of transposing Community rules into national law.

With regard to assessment of that transposition exercise, it is, of course, first and foremost the task of the Commission as guardian of the treaties.

Regarding standardization, the Council, in its resolution of December 1992, invited the Member States and the Commission to help accelerate the formulation of European standards and to encourage mutual recognition agreements between private testing laboratories and certification bodies in the Community in order to continue efforts to eliminate barriers to the free movement of goods.

As regards the consumers and economic operators, but also all citizens, the Council, in a resolution adopted on 8 June 1993 on the quality of drafting of Community legislation, invited the Member States and the Commission to endeavour to make existing and future Community legislation clearer and more consistent, and thus more accessible, in particular through consolidation of the texts. It also expressed the wish that information concerning the transposition of Community legislation, its implementation and the channels of appeal should be widely circulated.

The Council itself undertook to give priority to examining appropriate initiatives which the Commission might decide to take to ensure harmonious operation of the single market.

At its meeting on 5 April 1993 the Council, during an open televised debate on post-1992, considered the issues of:

- improving the rights of operators and consumers, stressing in particular the role which the single market would have to play in promoting small and medium-sized undertakings;
- transparency;
- information and communication;

— administrative cooperation.

Subsequently, the Commission referred to the Council in June 1993 a communication which it also forwarded to the European Parliament, entitled 'Reinforcing the effectiveness of the internal market'. Annexed to that communication was a Commission working document entitled 'Towards a strategic programme for the internal market'.

The Council has held a policy debate on this working document, with a view to providing the Commission with a certain amount of background information aimed at helping it to draw up the strategic programme proper; this will be the subject of a further communication.

(¹) OJ No C 334, 18. 12. 1992.