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I

(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1287/91
 by Siegbert Alber (PPE)
 to the Commission
 (14 June 1991)
 (94/C 296/01)

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
 on behalf of the Commission
 (29 October 1993)

Subject: Studies ordered by the Commission

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* often contains advertisements calling for tenders for studies on the most varied themes. These studies are ordered (and paid for) in every case by the Commission.

1. Can the Commission provide a list of the studies and pilot programmes it has ordered in the last ten years:
 - (a) on environmental protection;
 - (b) on consumer protection in general, but including the law on foodstuffs (labelling, additives, health regulations, controls);
 - (c) health problems such as toxicology, AIDS, drugs, tobacco, cancer, etc.?
2. How many of these studies have been published?
3. Is the European Parliament informed of these studies, and in what form are they made accessible to Parliament?
4. How much money has been spent in the last ten years on carrying out studies on:
 - (a) the environment;
 - (b) consumer protection
 - (c) health?

1. The Commission is not in a position to provide a definitive list of the studies ordered over the past (ten) years. It can, however, cite the following examples:

- (a) on the environment (sample):
 - nature conservation;
 - industrial pollution;
 - water pollution;
 - waste;
 - chemical pollution;
 - urban environment;
 - global environment;
 - environment legislation;
 - environment/economy;
 - awareness;
 - radioprotection;
 - civil protection.
- (b) on consumer protection: (matters regulated in the internal market context and, more particularly, the agri-food sector)
 - Member States' foodstuffs policies;
 - claims made in the foodstuffs sector;
 - use of the term 'non-alcoholic';
 - Member States' legislation on product descriptions and the emphasis given to particular ingredients;

- Member States' legislation on foodstuff labelling;
 - labelling and classification of foods;
 - labelling and nutrition;
 - parallel food testing in the Community;
 - inspection and control;
 - preparation of a paper on official systems for Community-level checks on foodstuffs.
- (c) on health:
- AIDS and drug addiction;
 - alcohol;
 - general methodology (statistics);
 - dental health.

2. The reports are not generally published, although they are distributed to interested parties at the Commission and to anyone else who asks for them.

3. Parliament is informed of the studies as part of the budgetary process. The relevant documentation is available from the Commission's archives.

4. Spending on studies has been as follows:

- (a) environmental studies: ECU 902 000 (1987—1991);
- (b) consumer protection: ECU 217 000 (1987—1991);
- (c) health studies: ECU 335 000 (1988—1989).

The Commission recently had cause to look into the way studies are conducted on its behalf. As a result, it is now taking steps to improve the procedures for their implementation and utilization.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3036/91

by Dieter Rogalla (PSE)

to the Commission

(13 January 1992)

(94/C 296/02)

Subject: Subsidies in the form of road tolls

1. From the point of view of Community law, what view does the Commission take on the levying of road tolls by

legally independent undertakings responsible for road construction and administration in the various Member States?

2. Does the Commission agree this constitutes an indirect or hidden form of subsidy to these undertakings by the Member States concerned, possibly infringing the EC Treaty?

3. What is the legal situation in individual cases if such payments are not the only form of State funding provided?

4. How are these road tolls treated for the purposes of turnover tax and how are they incorporated in the amounts payable by the Member State concerned as a basis for the calculation or assessment of the proportion of tax payable by Member States?

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

(30 July 1993)

1. The Commission has no objection to the levying of road tolls by legally independent firms, provided that the Member States and the firms concerned comply with Community rules, including those on the free movement of goods, services, people and capital as well as the rules on competition, on non-discrimination and on abolition of controls at internal frontiers.

2. The Commission does not agree that the levying of road tolls necessarily involves an indirect or hidden form of subsidy granted to these firms by Member States. While this possibility cannot entirely be ruled out, the Commission is not aware of any cases of aid being given by these means.

3. Member States are under an obligation pursuant to Article 93 (3) of the EEC Treaty to notify any aid that distorts or threatens to distort competition and affect trade between Member States. If Member States did not notify and obtain the Commission's approval for such aid, the aid would be illegal.

4. The Commission considers that the tolls levied by firms responsible for the administration of roads constitute consideration for services subject to VAT. Consequently, the taxable amount must be included in any calculation of the Communities' own resources.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-394/92by **Madron Seligman (PPE)**

to the Commission

(27 February 1992)

(94/C 296/03)

Subject: Age discrimination in job recruitment

In its answer to Written Question No 750/91 ⁽¹⁾ from Mrs Christine Crawley, who had questioned an age qualification in a job advertisement for a typist, the Commission sought to evade the issue deftly, but unconvincingly.

A constituent of mine has drawn to my attention recruitment advertisements for Commission appointments in the following varied fields:

- Waste treatment and disposal
- Cardiology, Neurology
- Programme management
- Socio-economics of the environment

where all candidates 'must have been born after 1 March 1956'.

Why does the Commission allow Community institutions to discriminate unfairly against potential candidates who may have been born before 1956?

At a time when unemployment is a major social problem in the EC and the Commission pays lip service to a policy of non-discrimination in employment, why does the Commission condone such advertisements which can only reinforce discriminatory prejudices in the minds of ordinary employers?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 20, 27. 1. 1992, p. 5.

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

(17 December 1993)

The Commission is aware that a limited number of Member States have recently removed age limits for their own recruitment. Several specific factors explain the continued application of age limits by the Commission — for certain categories of recruitment — in addition to those underlying the maintenance of age limits by the majority of Member States.

First, the Commission has to recruit on the broadest possible geographical basis, but without recourse to national quotas

to achieve this goal. It is therefore essential to attract a balanced mix of candidates from all over the Community. Experience indicates clearly that mobility decreases with age, and in relation to the physical distance of the candidate from the place of employment. Removing age limits indiscriminately would attract disproportionately more applications from those already living close to the main working places, and exacerbate an already serious imbalance in their favour.

Second, the Commission is conscious of the need to encourage more applications from women. The emphasis it has placed in the last few years on recruiting more recent (and therefore more mobile) graduates has had a noticeable effect in this respect, supported by the derogations allowed from the age limits applied, and aimed particularly at allowing for interruptions to women's careers due to family commitments.

With regard to personnel policy, the institutions are therefore in different situation from national administrations, which recruit solely from a relatively homogenous home population, and from other international organizations, which operate quota systems for the different nationalities represented. This situation renders more complex the elimination of different forms of discrimination.

The Staff Regulations, which provide the legal framework governing recruitment, have long placed an obligation on the institutions to recruit on the broadest possible geographical basis. The revision to the Staff Regulations, currently approaching adoption following consultation of the Parliament, will introduce a reference to eliminating discrimination on the grounds of sex. The Commission is therefore obliged to confront these discriminations above others in its recruitment policy.

Nevertheless, the Commission is sensitive to the arguments advanced by the Honourable Member, in so far as responding to them does not introduce other distortions. This would appear to be the case with experienced and specialist staff (usually selected on a non-permanent basis), for whom a more detailed job profile can be defined. The Commission intends progressively to remove age limits for recruitment to this type of post.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1626/92**by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)****to the Commission***(24 June 1992)**(94/C 296/04)*

Subject: The deduction of tax from subsidies to farmers

The Greek Government has decided to draw up draft legislation providing for tax to be deducted from subsidies paid to farmers, based on their output irrespective of their tax-paying capacity. It should be pointed out that tax is not deducted from subsidies in any Community Member State, and in Greece tax has not been deducted from gross income to date. Does the Commission consider that this decision is in line with Community law and, if not, what steps does it intend to take?

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

(1 April 1993)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 2901/92 by Mr Dessylas and to his Written Question No 2955/92 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 145, 25. 5. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-156/93**by José Valverde López (PPE)****to the Commission***(17 February 1993)**(94/C 296/05)*

Subject: Remuneration of doctors

The Spanish Government has been accused of failing to act in connection with the remuneration of doctors under Directive 75/363/EEC ⁽¹⁾. What are the chief irregularities noted by the Commission?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 167, 30. 6. 1975, p. 14.

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

(10 May 1993)

Directive 75/363/EEC concerning the coordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative

action in respect of activities of doctors sets out, in the Annex added to it by Directive 82/76/EEC ⁽¹⁾ the principal characteristics of the training of specialists.

These provisions lay down *inter alia* that such training must be carried out in specific posts recognized by the competent authority and must involve the participation of the doctor in all the medical activities in question so that he devotes all his professional activity to such training. Consequently, these posts must carry an appropriate remuneration.

The Spanish Government transposed Directive 75/363/EEC into national law by Royal Decree No 1691 of 29 December 1989. In the Commission's view, the provisions of the Royal Decree relating to the remuneration requirement do not comply with the Directive.

Accordingly, the Commission has issued a reasoned opinion in accordance with the infringement procedure provided for in Article 169 of the EEC Treaty.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 43, 15. 2. 1982.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-237/93**by Gerardo Fernández-Albor (PPE)****to the Commission***(23 February 1993)**(94/C 296/06)*

Subject: Community aid to the persons affected by the 'Aegean Sea' disaster

The agreement reached by the Spanish Government with the consortium of insurance companies concerned by the accident involving the 'Aegean Sea' tanker in the waters off A Coruna (La Coruna), Spain, is aimed at speeding matters up and avoiding a situation similar to that which occurred in the case of the sinking of the 'Urquiola' tanker in the same bay, where compensation was paid only 15 years after the event.

Given the situation regarding these compensation payments, the persons affected by the oil slick following the sinking of the 'Aegean Sea' wish to know whether the aid promised by the Commission as compensation will be paid with similar rapidity.

Can the Commission state whether it intends to take steps to ensure rapid payment of the aid it has agreed to provide to those affected by this maritime disaster, to enable them to receive compensation as soon as possible for the economic damage they are currently suffering?

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

(11 October 1993)

Following the running-afground of the oil-tanker 'Aegean Sea' on 3 December 1992, the Spanish authorities informed the Community of the situation *vis-à-vis* the Spanish fishing fleet and asked the Commission to work out arrangements to compensate ship-owners and crews for losses incurred as a result of contamination in the areas which they customarily fish.

On 9 December the Commission approved a grant of ECU 650 000 in emergency humanitarian aid for shell fishermen and inshore fishermen most affected by oil pollution. This aid was distributed, in partnership with the Spanish authorities, through the Spanish civilian rescue organization in liaison with the Commission's Press and Information Office in Madrid.

The Commission has also implemented, under Article 32 of Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86, special structural measures in the fisheries sector which include compensation for fishermen and ship-owners affected by the disaster.

A decision was taken on 5 April 1993 in conjunction with the Spanish authorities on a measure involving the payment to Spain of provisional compensation for ship-owners and crews.

Under this decision, Community aid totalling a maximum of ECU 1 628 840 was to be allocated over a period of two months from 3 December 1992. The aid, distributed in accordance with procedures determined by Spain and approved by the Commission, is granted subject to the actual suspension of activity by vessels and their crews during the compensation period.

These accelerated measures demonstrate that the Commission does act, and is prepared to act, in the swiftest manner possible following such disasters.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-491/93

by **Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)**

to the Commission

(12 March 1993)

(94/C 296/07)

Subject: Infringement of the Directive on the conservation of wild birds

On 19 January 1993, the members of the Greek Centre for the Care of Wild Animals and Birds organized a protest meeting in Athens at which they displayed swans, falcons, gulls, herons and flamingoes, all rare protected species which

had been killed by unscrupulous hunters. 500 swans had been killed.

— These species (mainly Bewick's swans and Whooper swan) are protected under Council Directive 79/409/EEC ⁽¹⁾, which was adopted by the Greek Government under Joint Ministerial Decision No 414985/85.

— They are strictly protected by the Bern Convention, Article 6 of which prohibits all forms of deliberate capture, keeping or killing of species specified in Appendix II and the deliberate disturbance of wild fauna particularly during the breeding, rearing and hibernation periods.

— Article 6 of the Bern Convention states that 'each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild fauna species specified in Appendix II'.

— In answer to my Written Question H-402/89 ⁽²⁾ on special protection areas in Greece, the Commission stated that Greece had so far designated 26 zones without providing details of specific protective measures for these zones and that the Commission had taken action under Article 169 of the Treaty.

— In answer to Written Question No 850/91 ⁽³⁾ the Commission states that 'there are problems regarding surveillance and monitoring' of application of the relevant Greek legislation. In addition, the Commission had already taken infringement proceedings against Greece for failure duly to implement the provisions of Directive 79/409/EEC, in particular those regarding hunting.

In view of this:

1. What 'special measures' has Greece taken to date to designate wetland habitats and ensure that they are effectively protected?
2. What pressure will the Commission bring to bear on the Greek authorities with a view to ensuring that they are fully aware of their obligations concerning the supervision of hunting and compliance with specific hunting bans which they themselves enact?
3. What stage has been reached in proceedings under Article 169 against Greece for the above infringements and will the Commission take steps to speed up these proceedings?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 103, 25. 4. 1979, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ European Parliament debates No 3-383 (November 1989).

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 209, 15. 8. 1992, p. 4.

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission**
(10 November 1993)

1. Greece has classified all its wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention, as special protection areas in accordance with Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds. However, the Commission has not yet received details of the demarcation of these areas.

The Commission is aware that management plans are currently being drawn up which include protection measures. Some have even been completed, though none has yet entered into force or been notified to the Commission.

Once they have been officially communicated, the Commission reserves the right to assess their conformity with Directive 79/409/EEC.

2. It is not for the Commission to put pressure on the Greek authorities to recognize their obligations under national law.

3. The Commission is continuing to hold bilateral discussions with the competent Greek authorities to make sure that all the special protection areas are designated and demarcated and that they are protected effectively in compliance with Directive 79/409/EEC.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-560/93
by **Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)**
to the Commission
(30 March 1993)
(94/C 296/08)

Subject: Legality of the practice of 'mileage' as a marketing technique in air transport

The liberalization of passenger air fares is leading to numerous attempts by airlines to take advantage of the new situation without altering the customary rules under which companies traditionally acknowledged that they should not encroach on each other's territory.

Following a number of attempts, which were more like one-off gimmicks than marketing strategies based on the new liberalization, some companies have announced the introduction of special fares under the 'mileage' system, by which regular travellers may, in exchange for their loyalty to an airline, receive a free ticket after flying so many thousands of miles with the company in question.

This marketing strategy, known as 'mileage' has aroused protests from other airlines which believe that giving free

tickets to travellers who have clocked up a sufficient number of miles amounts to unfair competition and a distortion of real fares.

Could the Commission arbitrate on the practice of air 'mileage' as a type of air fare liberalization, by indicating whether or not this marketing practice is legal?

**Answer given by Mr Matutes
on behalf of the Commission**
(8 December 1993)

In the last two years Community airlines have been introducing their own 'frequent flyer programmes', spurred on by the action of US airlines in extending such schemes to the Community market. Although 'air miles' are a form of price competition, however, they cannot be considered a result of the liberalization of Community airfares on 1 January 1993.

The Commission is currently considering the compatibility of frequent flyer programmes with the single market in civil aviation, with particular reference to competition rules. The Commission's main concern is that programmes run by established airlines with extensive route networks may distort competition to the detriment of new market entrants. Consideration is being given to the possibility of published a notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* setting out the restrictions imposed on such programmes *inter alia* by Article 86 of the EEC Treaty prohibiting abuse of a dominant position. Another possibility would be a Community code of conduct laying down guidelines for the use of frequent flyer programmes generally. The Commission is considering what approach to adopt.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-606/93
by **Christine Crawley (PSE)**
to the Commission
(1 April 1993)
(94/C 296/09)

Subject: Phone-tapping

What regulatory controls exist in Member States to limit phone-tapping and other surveillance devices within the telecommunication systems of Member States? Is the Single Market of 1993 relevant to this area?

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

(11 June 1993)

The areas of phone-tapping and surveillance of communications within telecommunications systems by national authorities are regulated exclusively by the Member States. As by virtue of the EEC Treaty the Member States continue to be, in principle, free to determine the requirements of public policy in the light of their national needs, the Commission does not dispose of the information on the relevant legislation existing in the Member States.

However, the issues of protection of personal data and privacy in telecommunications networks are relevant to the creation of a Single Market for telecommunications services. In this respect the Commission has submitted a proposal for a Council Directive concerning the protection of personal data and privacy in the context of public digital telecommunications networks, in particular the integrated services digital network (ISDN) and public digital mobile networks⁽¹⁾ which is currently re-examined in conformity with the conclusions of the European Council of Edinburgh of last December.

⁽¹⁾ COM(90) 314 final; OJ No C 277, 5. 11. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-836/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(21 April 1993)

(94/C 296/10)

Subject: Exploitation of water resources in Crete

Many regions in Crete, and in particular the Prefectures of Iraklion and Lasithi, face an acute water shortage. However, Crete is in a position to meet its water supply needs since, as experts have pointed out, the island has abundant water resources (notably rainwater estimated at over 7 billion cubic metres a year), although it currently lacks dams and reservoirs to contain and store this water. Can the Commission say whether the Greek Government has submitted for approval a programme for the effective exploitation of the water resources of the Island of Crete, and, in particular, of the Prefectures of Iraklion and Lasithi?

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

(22 September 1993)

Crete has benefited from a series of schemes involving the use of water resources in the context of the IMP (Integrated Mediterranean Programme) for Crete and the national programme on agricultural structures.

More particularly, a number of projects such as reservoirs and dams are in progress under the above national programme in the prefectures of Iraklion and Lasithi.

In addition, a study on the integrated management of water resources in eastern Crete is being financed under the regional programme for Crete.

Although there is no requirement in the existing Community legislation on the environment calling for such a programme, Greece has given priority to the use of water resources within the framework of the new cohesion financial instrument.

None of the formal applications so far concerns Crete.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-936/93

by Enrico Falqui (V)

to the Commission

(29 April 1993)

(94/C 296/11)

Subject: Financing of a transport interchange in central Tuscany within the Community Support Framework for Tuscany (Objective 2 of the Structural Funds)

Amendments have been made to the Tuscany CSF for 1989—1993 (originally approved for Objective 2 of the Structural Funds) which, excluding the initiatives for financing the Guasticce transport interchange, the ZIA road network, the Strada dei Marmi, the Prato primary aqueduct and the Navicelli canal, have enabled resources to be carried over which have been used to construct the first stage of the Prato transport interchange. To enable the second stage to be built the Tuscany Region intends to ask the Community for a further tranche of funding under the same Community Support Framework by the end of this year.

Did the Commission ask for an environmental impact assessment study to be carried out as a precondition for the granting of resources for the first stage of the project (which falls within the category of 'infrastructure projects — urban

development projects' in Annex II of Directive 85/337/EEC ⁽¹⁾ and, as regards the possible Community financing of the second stage of the project, are negotiations already under way with the Tuscany Region?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985, p. 40.

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

(2 September 1993)

The first instalment of the 'Interporto di Prato' project was financed by the ERDF under the 1989—1991 Objective 2 operational programme for Tuscany, in full conformity with the Community support framework adopted on 20 December 1989.

The Commission would point out that, under Directive 85/337/EEC, it is up to the Member States to decide if the characteristics of a project such as that undertaken at Prato require an environmental impact assessment.

Nevertheless, the Commission checked with the Italian authorities that work had been completed to avoid possible negative effects on the environment, in particular the water table.

With regard to financing the second instalment, the project in question has not yet been submitted to the monitoring committee for examination.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-984/93

by Gérard Deprez (PPE)

to the Commission

(29 April 1993)

(94/C 296/12)

Subject: Discrepancies between wage bills in the European Community

Does the Commission agree that 'pockets' of social dumping are developing in the European Community which are likely to have wide-ranging economic and social repercussions in certain regions as a result of companies relocating their registered offices or places of business?

If so, does the Commission think that the development of these 'pockets' is closely related to discrepancies between wage bills within the European Community and that these may be exacerbated following the devaluation of certain European currencies?

Is it correct that it is possible to calculate that the distortion between wage bills including social security contributions, in the UK, compared with those in Belgium is 47%?

Are there any provisions or mechanisms in the Treaties which enable such disparities between wage bills to be reduced?

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

(8 December 1993)

The minimum standard social measures already introduced by the Community and those currently proposed by the Commission in application of the principles and objectives laid down in the charter of the fundamental social rights of workers are a means of ensuring that unfair competitive advantage is not gained by regions or Member States seeking to lower social standards.

As regards the specific issue of labour costs, including non-wage labour costs, it is broadly the case that differences in costs are off-set by differences in productivity. In 1992, while wage costs in the UK (nominal compensation per employee) were only 69,5 % of the equivalent Belgian level, GDP per person employed (productivity) in the UK was also only 70 % of the Belgian level. Thus labour costs per unit of production are broadly evened out between Member States, and the existence of lower wages in one part of the Community is not, therefore, necessarily a reason to expect companies to displace production units to those areas, or to set up new businesses there.

Wage trends are clearly not the only factor influencing the relative competitiveness of Member States. Exchange rate developments also play a key role, at least in the short run, and can create trade and production distortions. Therefore the Commission has been monitoring exchange rate movements in the Community, which have their origins in a large number of factors, including an inadequate policy mix and non-synchronized cyclical developments in the Community. The present currency difficulties must be addressed by a coordinated rebalancing of the policy mix in the Community, for which Article 103 of the Treaty on European Union provides a legal basis.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1119/93by **Florus Wijsenbeek (ELDR)**

to the Commission

(29 April 1993)

(94/C 296/13)

Subject: Traffic law in Italy

Is the Commission aware of the new traffic law in Italy that entered into force at the beginning of the year?

Does not the Commission feel that this law causes discrimination, insofar as non-residents of that Member State must pay the exorbitant fines provided for in that law in cash, while Italians are not required to do so?

Does not the Commission also feel that the confiscation of driving licences and vehicle registration certificates represents a lighter punishment for Italians, since they can retrieve them more easily on the spot than non-residents of the State in question?

Does the Commission intend to intervene?

If so, how will it do so?

If not, why not?

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

(20 December 1993)

The Commission is examining the provision of the new Italian road traffic legislation dealing with penalties for infringements in order to determine whether they are compatible with Community law.

The Honourable Member will be informed as soon as possible of the findings of that examination.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1156/93by **Paul Staes (V)**

to the Commission

(12 May 1993)

(94/C 296/14)

Subject: Lorry drivers' rest periods

In its answer to my Written Question No 2799/91 ⁽¹⁾ the Commission reports that it has decided to bring the matter before the Court of Justice.

1. Has it now done so?
2. What is the present situation?
3. What conclusions does the Commission draw from this position?

4. What steps, if any, will the Commission be taking?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 209, 15. 8. 1992, p. 22.

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

(27 July 1993)

In 1991 the Commission decided to bring proceedings against Belgium before the Court of Justice for failing to transpose Council Directive No 88/599 of 23 November 1988 on standard checking procedures for the implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport and Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport. Then in 1992 it suspended proceedings, since Belgium had submitted a draft royal decree to implement the Directive.

However, upon examination of this draft it transpired that it did not adequately provide for the full application of the Directive. Moreover, further work remained to be done on the draft, and amendments were to be introduced, and the Commission has still not received the definitive version. Bearing in mind the time that Belgium has already been allowed to implement the Directive, the Commission therefore decided to proceed with the matter, and the case was submitted to the Court of Justice on 28 June 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1166/93by **Margaret Daly (PPE)**

to the Commission

(12 May 1993)

(94/C 296/15)

Subject: Council Directive on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat

1. What is meant in each Member State by the term 'veterinarian' in Directive 64/433/EEC ⁽¹⁾ (as amended)?
2. What qualifications and experience are required to comply with the term 'veterinarian' in each Member State?
3. Who pays the fees for these veterinarians in each Member State?
4. Can these fees be reimbursed by the government or by other organizations?
5. Was a cost impact evaluation carried out by the Standing Veterinary Committee when it produced the 'Vade

Mecum Fresh Meat' issues in December 1992 (No VI/III/92 EN Rev. 2)? If so, what were the results?

6. Will the Commission confirm its willingness to re-examine these Directives with a view to reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and expense on slaughterhouse owners, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises?

(¹) OJ No L 121, 29. 7. 1964, p. 2012.

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

(3 December 1993)

1. An official veterinarian, as mentioned in Directive 64/433/EEC (as amended), is a veterinarian designated by the competent authority of a Member State to carry out the official tasks laid down in the Directive.

2. An official veterinarian must have the qualifications of a veterinarian according to Council Directives 78/1026/EEC (¹) and 78/1027/EEC.

3 and 4. Concerning the financing of veterinary inspections and health controls of fresh meat, Community rules have been adopted by Council Directives 85/73/EEC (²) and 88/408/EEC (³). As a result, Member States must ensure that fees are collected for the costs occasioned by health inspections and controls. In accordance with Article 6 of Directive 88/408/EEC the fees shall be payable by the natural or legal person who has the slaughtering, cutting or storage operation carried out. Any direct or indirect refund is prohibited in accordance with the third indent of Article 1 of Directive 85/73/EEC.

5. Council Directive 64/433/EEC of 26 June 1964 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat (as amended) is designed to establish uniform health protection arrangements for meat in establishments handling fresh meat.

In order to ensure uniform application of the provisions of the Directive veterinary experts from the Commission are required to make on-site checks in cooperation with the national authorities. The Commission is required to draw up a recommendation concerning the rules to be followed in carrying out these checks. The document referred to by the Honourable Member is an internal document which is still subject to study. Although the abovementioned Directive is drawn up with regard to hygiene, the Standing Veterinary Committee when consulted will no doubt consider the question of the most cost effective use of resources.

6. The Commission does intend to review the Directives concerned in the near future.

(¹) OJ No L 362, 23. 12. 1978.

(²) OJ No L 32, 5. 2. 1985.

(³) OJ No L 194, 22. 7. 1988.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1176/93

by Ben Visser (PSE)

to the Commission

(13 May 1993)

(94/C 296/16)

Subject: Declaration of European Interest

In COM(92) 15 final, the Commission brought forward a proposal to introduce a Declaration of European Interest. The DEI will play an important role in facilitating private co-funding of projects in connection with the financing of trans-European networks.

Parliament welcomed this initiative and approved it in the Porto report. The DEI proposal was placed on the agenda of the Internal Market Council on one occasion but, as far as I understand, nothing further has been heard of it since.

1. What exactly happened to the DEI proposal during and after the Internal Market Council?
2. Can the Commission comment on the position?
3. What further action does the Commission intend to take on the DEI proposal?

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

(5 October 1993)

The Council postponed discussion of the three proposals for Regulations on the Declaration of European Interest pending Parliament's opinion. Parliament delivered its opinion on 20 November 1992, but the Presidency has not so far entered this item on the agenda for a Council meeting (internal market).

The Commission, for its part, adopted on 16 April this year amended versions of the three proposals incorporating those amendments proposed by Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee which the Commission, during the debate in Parliament in November 1992, indicated that it could accept.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1206/93

by Neil Blaney (ARC)
to the Commission
(18 May 1993)
(94/C 296/17)

Subject: Fish import quotas

In view of the pressures on the market from fish imports from non-member countries, and the resultant hardship for Community fishermen, will the Commission consider suspending the 'autonomous' import quotas due to take effect in April 1993?

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission
(6 December 1993)

The Council adopted on 23 November 1992 certain autonomous tariff measures for fishery products. The EEA agreement was at that time foreseen to enter into force on 1 January 1993, and these tariff concessions were explicitly meant as supplementary measures to the EEA Agreement, partly covering products falling outside the EEA, partly additional quantities needed for Community processors.

These tariff measures were:

- from 1 January 1993 tariff suspensions for frozen fillets of hake and Alaska pollack (Regulation (EEC) No 3413/92 ⁽¹⁾);
- from 1 April 1993 tariff quotas for surimi, shrimps and fresh/frozen cod, hake and Alaska pollack (Regulation (EEC) No 3412/92).

Due to the outcome of the Swiss referendum, the entry into force of the EEA has been significantly delayed.

The need for supplementary and guaranteed raw material supplies to the Community processing industry has therefore been accentuated, so far, as concerns the products supposed to be included in the EEA Agreement. As a result, the Council adopted Regulation (EEC) No 1272/93 ⁽²⁾ providing the following additional tariff measures:

- from 31 May 1993 tariff quotas for certain salted and/or dried presentations of whitefish, and
- from 1 July 1993 tariff quotas for fresh/frozen cod and coalfish.

As a consequence of the difficult market situation the Commission — on the request of the Council — re-examined, during the month of September, the tariff

quotas, opened by Regulation (EEC) No 1272/93. This re-examination did not result in any modification of the provisions laid down in the said Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 347, 28. 11. 1992.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 131, 28. 5. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1236/93

by Bouke Beumer (PPE)
to the Commission
(18 May 1993)
(94/C 296/18)

Subject: Transferring money to another Member State

In March 1992 the European Bureau of Consumers' Unions (EBCU) carried out 160 transactions in 22 banks in 11 Member States. In each case some ECU 150 was transferred to a bank in another Member State. Of the 160 sums of money transferred, three disappeared without trace. Stranger still, the banks concerned were unable or unwilling to issue a statement about the disappearance of the sums in question, and refused to provide any compensation.

Moreover, the costs of transferring money to a bank in another Member State were exorbitant — approximately 15 % of the sum transferred. The results of this survey were published and submitted to the Commission in the autumn of 1992.

1. Can the Commission confirm that it recommended the banks back in 1990 to provide clients with better information about the costs of transferring money to banks in another Member State, but that the EBCU's survey has shown that the banks have paid little or no attention to this request?
2. Can Commissioner Van Miert confirm his response to the EBCU's report, and particularly to cost-related aspects ('Unless rapid progress is made, the Commission will have to resort to binding rules to protect the consumer's interests')? Can the Commission say whether such binding rules will be adopted in the near future?
3. Can the Commission say whether the banks have now made better arrangements to inform clients about the costs of transferring money to other Member States and reduced costs to a more acceptable level?
4. Can the Commission indicate what measures it has taken to ensure that transactions are carried out with greater care, so that money transfers cannot disappear without trace in future?

**Answer given by Mrs Scrivener
on behalf of the Commission**
(2 September 1993)

In September 1990, the Commission drew up its first general document on methods of payment ⁽¹⁾. In March 1992, it announced its work programme, one aspect of which was improving money transfers.

In 1988, the European Bureau of Consumers' Unions (EBCU) carried out a transfer experiment involving 144 transactions. The results of that study constituted one of the factors prompting the Commission, in February 1990, to issue a recommendation on the subject. Early in 1992, the EBCU repeated the experiment, this time examining 160 transactions. The main conclusion was that the situation had not improved, particularly regarding the cost of transactions.

Following publication of the results of the study, the Commission decided to repeat the operation on a larger scale, examining some thousand transfers. The results of this study will be known in October 1993. In its working document 'on a strategic programme on the internal market' ⁽²⁾, the Commission re-issued its warning, stating that if no progress had been made, it would draw the necessary conclusions, where appropriate in terms of legislative action.

In the course of work by the Payment System Users Liaison Group, the banks put forward guidelines which were accepted by the Commission and set down in the latter's communication of March 1992 ⁽³⁾. Various information documents were published by the banking establishments.

The banking establishments are progressively setting up various new networks or linking existing ones for greater efficiency. By this means, the problems described, particularly those in connection with non-receipt of transfers by the payee, should be resolved. The Commission would, however, urge Member States to set up an ombudsman-type claims settlement system for cross-border operations. Such a system now exists in eleven Member States.

⁽¹⁾ Making payments in the internal market — COM(90) 447.

⁽²⁾ COM(93) 256.

⁽³⁾ Easier cross-border payments: breaking down the barriers — SEC(92) 621.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1257/93
by **Jessica Larive (ELDR)**
to the Commission
(19 May 1993)
(94/C 296/19)

Subject: Labelling and policy on the elderly

Does the Commission agree

- having regard to the Council resolution of 2 March 1993 calling on the Commission to consider future measures relating to labelling,
- and in the context of the European Year of the Elderly and Solidarity between the Generations,

that particular attention must also be given to the specific wishes of older consumers — such as print size — which have not been taken into consideration hitherto in drawing up labelling laws at EC level?

If so, what does the Commission intend to do about this?

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

The Commission shares the view that the needs of older consumers, as well as those of other categories of 'weaker' consumers, must be taken into account in product labelling. This view will guide the conduct of the study requested by the Council.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1264/93
by **Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop (PSE)**
to the Commission
(19 May 1993)
(94/C 296/20)

Subject: Promotion of the theatre and music in the Community

Last year, the European Parliament created a new item for the 1993 budget, namely Item B3-2002 on promotion of the theatre and music in the Community, which was given a p.m. entry.

Much of the legal basis laid down in the remarks pertaining to this item and many of the measures in question are already provided for in the remarks relating to the general

item B3-2001 on measures to encourage cultural initiatives in connection with European influence.

Does the Commission not agree that, for the purposes of better management and clarification of Community action in the cultural sphere, it would be much better to provide funding for this new item for the next budgetary year and incorporate the measures already being implemented in the sphere of theatre and music under Item B3-2001 into the new Item B3-2002?

Does the Commission therefore intend to earmark funds under its 1994 preliminary draft budget for this item?

Does the Commission already have an idea of the amount of funding to be provided this year for measures to promote music and the theatre in the Community under Item B3-2001? If it does not yet know, can it state what funding was provided for the 1992 financial year?

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

(30 November 1993)

Community cultural action has developed in response to resolutions adopted by the Council and Parliament.

From its first resolution adopted on 27 May 1988 ⁽¹⁾ to the latest adopted on 12 November 1992 ⁽²⁾, the Council has limited Community cultural action by setting priority objectives. Since 1988 these have been the audio-visual media, books and reading, culture-related training schemes and business sponsorship.

In its communication on 'New prospects for Community cultural action' ⁽³⁾ the Commission proposed its extension into other areas, including music and the theatre (p. 9). The Council did not take up this suggestion in its November 1992 resolution, preferring to stick to existing objectives and explicitly adding the cultural heritage (both movable and fixed), already covered by the Commission on the basis of various Parliament resolutions ⁽⁴⁾ and Council resolutions ⁽⁵⁾.

The Commission has, however, supported a number of musical and theatrical ventures under the Kaleidoscope Programme, which promotes cultural events with a European dimension. Also worth mentioning are the subsidies granted to the European Community Youth Orchestra and the European Baroque Orchestra, both of which appear in the Remarks to Item B3-2001.

In 1992, under Action 1 (cultural events) of the Kaleidoscope Programme, the Commission supported 52 ventures in the drama, music and dance categories of a total of 126 appearing on a shortlist (see press release of 24 July 1992) ⁽⁶⁾. In 1993 it supported 61 ventures in the same categories of a total of 93 on the shortlist for that year (see

press release of 4 June 1993) ⁽⁷⁾. Action 2 (artistic and cultural creation) and Action 3 (cooperation through networks) of the Kaleidoscope Programme also received support (17 of the 42 live theatre projects short-listed).

If these subsidies are combined with financial contributions to the two orchestras, it will be seen that more than 50 % of the appropriations in Item B3-2001 went directly to music and the theatre. Furthermore, grants to Madrid (European City of Culture in 1992), Antwerp (European City of Culture in 1993) and the European Festival organized by the British Presidency in the first half of 1992 reached music and the theatre indirectly thanks to their inclusion in the programme of events.

The Commission is actively contemplating a larger budget to promote music and the theatre. It must not be forgotten, however, that it needs to establish clear priorities for cultural action given its limited competences and to develop a coherent approach to all areas of a vast field given the limited financial and human resources at its disposal.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 197, 27. 7. 1988.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 336, 19. 12. 1992.

⁽³⁾ COM(92) 149 final.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No C 62, 30. 5. 1974; OJ No C 267, 11. 10. 1982 and OJ No C 320, 13. 12. 1986.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No C 320, 13. 12. 1986.

⁽⁶⁾ IP(92) 614.

⁽⁷⁾ IP(93) 438.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1347/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(4 June 1993)

(94/C 296/21)

Subject: Policy to prevent AIDS in children

According to WHO estimates, the number of children with the AIDS virus is expected to reach 12 million by the end of the decade. This data was provided by the International Union of Family Organizations, a UN advisory body, which adds that preventive policies must be devised, even in the 'developed' countries. Contamination of children by the

virus mainly occurs at present through infection from HIV-positive mothers in the womb, during the birth and possibly through breast feeding.

Can the Commission call for a more stringent preventive policy to protect children from the virus in the Member States and for more resources to be set aside for this purpose?

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

(8 November 1993)

The Commission is well aware of the increasing number of children being infected with HIV and of the severe problems this is posing for them, their families and society.

It is for each Member State to decide what priority and what resources to allocate to this issue.

For its part, the Commission intends to put a specific emphasis on the issue of HIV and children in its proposals for the continuation of actions under the 'Europe against AIDS' programme in 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1387/93

by **Karl von Wogau (PPE)**

to the Commission

(8 June 1993)

(94/C 296/22)

Subject: Admission to the weekly market in Strasbourg

1. Is the Commission aware that German farmers from the border area of Baden are being refused access to the Strasbourg weekly market on the grounds that their principal place of residence is not in France?

2. Does the Commission not agree that this runs counter to the provisions of the EC Treaty on the free movement of goods?

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

(3 December 1993)

1. The Commission is unaware of the state of affairs described by the Honourable Member.

2. In the Commission's opinion, farmers from other Member States may be discriminated against by virtue of a residence requirement if they do not at all times satisfy that requirement.

Very early on, the European Court of Justice had to deal with cases in which the opportunity to provide services was hampered by residence requirements. It invariably ruled against such requirements on the ground that they constituted unjustified restrictions on freedom to provide services within the meaning of Article 59 of the EC Treaty ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Case 33/74 Van Binsbergen [1974] ECR 1299, Paragraphs 10—16; Case 39/75 Coenen [1975] ECR 1547.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1401/93

by **Hiltrud Breyer (V)**

to the Commission

(8 June 1993)

(94/C 296/23)

Subject: Reprocessing

1. Which substances — apart from uranium and plutonium — can genuinely be extracted through reprocessing and utilized?

2. What quantities of these substances have been extracted from spent fuel elements since 1984 and to what use have they been put?

3. What measures can be taken to ensure that highly radioactive material from reprocessing plants returned to the countries of origin

(a) corresponds precisely to the material originally delivered, and

(b) is so conditioned as to meet the requirements of a German permanent storage site?

4. Does the Commission support the call by the author of this question for reprocessing to be abandoned immediately?

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

(10 November 1993)

1. No substances apart from uranium and plutonium are extracted from irradiated nuclear fuels.

Actinides other than uranium and plutonium could be extracted should this be shown to be necessary.

2. None.

3. Systems exist for the allocation of highly radioactive products covered by reprocessing contracts to ensure that the material returned to the country of origin corresponds in quantity and quality to the fuels which were delivered and processed.

The specifications concerning the conditioning of radioactive waste drawn up jointly by the sectors concerned

must be approved by the safety authorities in the country of origin. By giving their approval, the authorities confirm that the specifications meet the requirements for the storage of such waste in their country.

4. As long as the Commission is satisfied that all reprocessing activities are and continue to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Euratom Treaty, it cannot echo the call made by the Honourable Member for an end to the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuels.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1450/93

**by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission**

(9 June 1993)

(94/C 296/24)

Subject: Bergamot

Given that bergamot is an essential ingredient in the manufacture of perfumes and medicines and must be protected as part of environment conservation measures and that, to date, no support has been provided for its cultivation in the Community, will the Commission call for measures to protect and promote its production?

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

(21 December 1993)

Since bergamot is fruit, it is covered by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables ⁽¹⁾. It is therefore eligible, in particular, for measures such as those to encourage the creation of producers' organizations with a view to improving the conditions in which products are produced and marketed.

Moreover, as regards the processing of the basic product into essential oil, bergamot can also benefit from measures under Regulation (EEC) No 866/90 on improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural products ⁽²⁾.

Imports are relatively low and there is therefore little risk of a disturbance of the Community market.

In view of the specific structural characteristics of this crop and the general measures already implemented, the

Commission does not consider it appropriate to introduce further measures.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 118, 20. 5. 1972.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 91, 6. 4. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1506/93

**by Nel van Dijk (V)
to the Commission**

(14 June 1993)

(94/C 296/25)

Subject: Abduction of Albanian children for the purposes of organ trafficking

According to information given to the French press agency, AFP, by a senior police official from Tirana (Albania), more than 80, mainly handicapped, children were abducted last year by organized gangs in Albania and sold to transplant clinics in Italy and Greece.

Although it has proved difficult in the past to prove that children have been abducted for the purposes of removing their organs for transplant purposes, is the Commission nevertheless prepared, in collaboration with the competent authorities in the countries concerned, to take suitable action to clarify matters?

In view of this illegal trafficking of transplants and/or donors in and to the European Community, is the Commission considering the introduction of complaints offices in order to clarify the dimensions of the problem, facilitate criminal proceedings and assist victims?

If not, what other steps is the Commission considering and can it inform me whether it has taken a decision?

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

(22 December 1993)

The Commission is unaware of the circumstances to which the Honourable Member refers. The criminal law under which organ traffickers would be prosecuted is in any case a matter for the Member States. Cooperation between the police forces and judiciaries of Member States and non-member countries is subject to agreement between them. For these reasons, the Commission is unable to take the measures suggested by the Honourable Member.

The right to life and the integrity of the person is an inalienable human right. Albania has undertaken, notably as a participant in the CSCE, to respect and promote human

rights. It has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19 of which stipulates that 'States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation . . . '.

The Commission, which pays particular attention to the plight of abandoned and mistreated children in Albania and elsewhere, is backing a number of projects being carried out by specialized NGOs, among them the opening in Tirana of a children's centre offering temporary shelter and basic care.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1591/93

by Gérard Deprez (PPE)

to the Commission

(18 June 1993)

(94/C 296/26)

Subject: Advisory document on trade communication within the European Community

At a public hearing on 'Consumers, Advertising and the Internal Market' held by the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection on 25 November 1992, a Commission representative stated that the Commission was going to draw up an advisory document on trade communication within the Community.

1. Is this document already available?
2. What is the Commission's aim in publishing such a document? Is it to increase the transparency of Community policy on advertising by defining the guiding principles, or is it to establish an overview of the various national situations in order to assess with the professionals concerned the advisability of a more or less binding Community policy?

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

(6 October 1993)

The Green Paper on Commercial Communication in the Internal Market announced by the Commission in the Parliamentary hearing to which the question refers is currently under preparation. It will consist of a review of:

- the role of commercial communication in all of its forms within the Internal Market.
- the regulatory framework (including self-regulation) encompassing this activity within the Member States and the Community.

This review will allow for the four primary objectives of the Green paper to be met:

- (a) to improve transparency of European policy-making in this area by establishing a well defined contact point for the Commercial Communication sectors within the Commission.
- (b) to ensure that policy in this area is coordinated within the Commission in the most effective manner by formulating some substantive guide-lines that ensure that the guiding principles on which Community action is based are applied in a rigorous manner for all existing and future initiatives in this field. These guide-lines together with the contact point will help to improve transparency of the Community's policy making in this field as suggested by the Honourable Member.
- (c) to establish a market monitoring procedure that will allow for a policy approach that is pre-emptive rather than retro-active in nature.
- (d) to identify to what extent, if at all, there exist restrictions on the free circulation of such services within the Internal Market. If such restrictions become evident then the Commission will consider how best to remove them.

The Commission agrees with the Honourable Member that practitioners' views should be taken into account in this initiative. Indeed it has started a fact-finding procedure consisting of two consultative initiatives.

First, in June 1993 the Commission took part in a series of commercially funded seminars (organized by Advertising Seminars International) where key issues were discussed with senior decision makers from industry, with parliamentarians and with consumer representatives. Second, the Commission will shortly launch a survey of the views of interested parties on the issue of commercial communication within the Internal Market. After the Green paper has been circulated European federations will be invited to attend and comment on the findings at a hearing.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1611/93

by Mary Banotti (PPE)

to the Commission

(18 June 1993)

(94/C 296/27)

Subject: EC research on Neurofibromatosis

Is the Commission assisting in research on the genetic disorder Neurofibromatosis and if so, how are they assisting

in the research and assistance for those suffering from this disease?

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

(10 November 1993)

Under the Third Framework Programme (1990—1994) and in particular under the Biomedical and Health Research Programme (1990—1994) adopted on 9 September 1991 research projects into neurofibromatosis have so far not been funded. Following a second call for proposals ⁽¹⁾ the selection of projects under the Biomedical and Health Research Programme is currently taking place. The Commission will inform the Honourable Member of any selected research project into Neurofibromatosis, especially aimed at providing assistance for those suffering from such disease.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 324, 10. 12. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1681/93

by Paul Staes (V)

to the Commission

(28 June 1993)

(94/C 296/28)

Subject: Risk of a disaster in the Baltic and the North Sea

On 12 March 1992, the European Parliament adopted an urgent resolution (Rule 64) on the dumping of massive-quantities of armaments (toxic gases and explosives) in the Baltic and the North Sea ⁽¹⁾.

This resolution:

- Calls for the authorities concerned to cooperate in charting where, and in what quantities, these munitions had been dumped;
- Calls on the German authorities to conduct an in-depth study to reconstruct the precise details of the operation which led to the dumping of arms and to conduct a study of possible ways of recovering the chemical products without any further damage to man or the environment;
- Calls for all weaponry to be removed from Community waters as soon as possible pending its total destruction;
- Calls for a thorough report on possible ways of disposing of the munitions;
- Urges the Commission, the Council and the Member States to act without delay.

1. What initiatives has the Commission since taken?

2. What were the results?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 94, 13. 4. 1992, p. 272.

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

(29 November 1993)

The dumping of munitions (toxic gases and explosives) dating from World War II in the Baltic Sea cannot be dealt with under Community law.

The Commission considers that it is for the authorities concerned to provide the information sought as to the nature and quantities of munitions and their exact location, where this is known.

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Questions No 923/89 ⁽¹⁾ and 429/90 ⁽²⁾ from Mr Muntingh on the same subject. In its opinion, the drawing up of an inventory of the sites where munitions were dumped should be a task for the international convention in this field, whether of general or regional application, such as the London and Oslo Conventions on dumping at sea.

It would stress that the dumping of chemical weapons at sea was raised at the 10th, 11th and 16th meetings of the Oslo Commission.

At the first meeting of the ad hoc working party on the dumping of chemical weapons at sea held in St Petersburg from 19 to 21 April 1993 under the Helsinki Convention, the various participants made it clear that they were unable to instigate research into the matter. A further meeting is planned to discuss other points in more detail. There is a possibility of proposals being submitted at the next meeting of the Helsinki Commission.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 139, 7. 6. 1990.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 325, 24. 12. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1554/93

by Alex Smith (PSE)

to the Commission

(16 June 1993)

(94/C 296/29)

Subject: Wild birds

What studies have been (a) undertaken and (b) commissioned into the extent of killing wild birds in Malta, and its compatibility with EC and international conventions, prior to consideration of Malta's application to join the European Community?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1743/93

by Glyn Ford (PSE)

to the Commission

(29 June 1993)

(94/C 296/30)

Subject: Shooting wild birds for sport on Malta

Has the Commission made representations to Malta in objection to the widespread practice there of shooting wild birds in the name of sport? If not, will the matter be raised in future discussions on their application for EC membership?

Joint answer to Written Questions E-1554/93 and E-1743/93given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission

(20 January 1994)

The Commission's opinion on Malta's application to join the Community, as adopted by the Council on 4 October 1993, explicitly refers to the concerns about bird hunting in Malta.

In this connection, the following paragraph from the abovementioned opinion should answer the Honourable Members' question:

'However, unsustainable bird hunting in Malta is an issue of particular importance. Even though the Maltese authorities have enacted regulations to control bird hunting more strictly, these are not sufficient to comply with Community legislation. Considerable efforts will therefore have to be made by the Maltese authorities to implement Community provisions and they should give the Community clear undertakings on this.'

The Commission has no powers to carry out research and studies of the kind mentioned in the Honourable Members' question in a non-Community country. Nevertheless, the Maltese Government recently asked the Commission for support with definition and formulation of its environment strategy. In this context, the Commission has expressly requested the Maltese authorities to take account of bird hunting and give an undertaking to implement the measures necessary to remedy this problem.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1766/93

by Nino Pisoni (PPE)

to the Commission

(2 July 1993)

(94/C 296/31)

Subject: Unlawful marketing of milk

1. Is the Commission aware that certain Dutch milk producers' cooperatives are unlawfully disposing of large

quantities of milk (in liquid and powder form) on the Italian and French markets, evading tax in the process?

2. What were the findings of the investigations recently called for to tackle this still-unresolved problem?

3. Does not the Commission believe that a committee of inquiry should be set up to ascertain the facts of the case and check on the efficiency of the Netherlands Government's supervisory bodies?

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

(13 October 1993)

1. In the course of the mission carried out in connection with the clearance of the accounts for 1990 the Commission revealed the existence of middle-men who export in particular quantities of milk which are not taken into account under the milk quota system.

2. These findings gave rise to procedures for the recovery of the amounts corresponding to the additional levies owed, and the Dutch authorities introduced a procedure for registering recognized purchasers.

3. The Commission is at present carrying out an investigation concerning the booking of milk products in intra-Community trade under CN heading 0401. A mission in the Netherlands is planned.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1767/93

by Lord Inglewood (PPE)

to the Commission

(2 July 1993)

(94/C 296/32)

Subject: Valuation of farm livestock for income tax purposes

Is the system for the valuation of farm livestock for income tax purposes similar across the Community, and, if not, what are the principal characteristics of each Member State's system?

**Answer given by Mrs Scrivener
on behalf of the Commission**
(5 October 1993)

In principle, income tax is governed by national provisions and the Commission does not plan to make proposals for harmonizing livestock valuation methods.

For this reason, it has no information on the methods applied by the Member States and is therefore unable to provide the details requested by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1787/93

by Jean-Pierre Raffin (V)
to the Commission
(12 July 1993)
(94/C 296/33)

Subject: Discharge of red mud into the submarine canyon at Cassis (France)

Every year, 300 000 tonnes of mud produced by the Pechiney aluminium plant are discharged into the sea.

Although the amount of mud discharged has fallen in recent years, the question of the effects of this practice (silting up, cloudiness, contamination by heavy metals, etc.) still remains.

Would the Commission say:

1. whether it feels the continuation of this practice to be compatible with fishing and protection of the Mediterranean?
2. what alternatives to this practice currently exist around the world, and whether such alternatives are more satisfactory from the point of view of health and the environment?
3. what storage facilities and techniques are used in other Community countries, particularly Italy and Germany?
4. whether some use could be made of this mud and, if so, what?

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission**
(14 December 1993)

1. The red sludge resulting from bauxite processing normally contains only non-toxic natural minerals some of which might be covered by List II of Directive 76/464/EEC ⁽¹⁾ on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community.

Under this Directive, Member States are responsible for fixing limit values and quality objectives for the discharges in question.

Provided that these parameters have been fixed in advance by the competent French authorities, the Commission does not consider that the discharges in question infringe Community legislation in this area.

The Commission is not aware of any scientific data indicating that these discharges are incompatible with fishing in the Mediterranean.

2. The only alternatives are burial or ensilage after desiccation and immobilization or processing into inert materials.

3. The Commission has no information about the various storage techniques used by individual countries. The most frequent techniques are storage in water-proof silos and tipping.

4. As this sludge is mineral in nature, no use can be made of it, according to the information currently available to the Commission.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 129, 18. 5. 1976.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1797/93

by Anita Pollack (PSE)
to the Commission
(20 July 1993)
(94/C 296/34)

Subject: Parental leave

Does the Commission intend to revive and pursue the Parental Leave Directive which has been lying on the Council's table for a decade?

**Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission**
(21 December 1993)

As indicated in the reply to Written Question No 1238/93 by Mr Deprez ⁽¹⁾ the Commission's proposal for a Directive on parental leave and leave for family reasons was based on Article 100 of the EC Treaty, which requires unanimity in the Council for its adoption. The proposal was discussed regularly in the Council from November 1983 until December 1985. After that time discussions were suspended, as the necessary support for adoption of the Directive was not forthcoming.

Council deliberations on the proposal were resumed under the Belgian Presidency, and indeed, the Council (Social Affairs) came close to agreement on it on 23 November.

Once again, however, the necessary unanimity was not achieved. The Commission hopes that the matter can be brought to a satisfactory conclusion under the forthcoming Greek Presidency of the Council.

(¹) OJ No C 25, 28. 1. 1994.

examined according to the rules applicable for the new Structural Funds programming period commencing on 1 January 1994.

(¹) OJ No L 91, 6. 4. 1990.

(²) OJ No L 163, 29. 6. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1866/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(15 July 1993)

(94/C 296/35)

Subject: Cheese dairies in Thrace

In view of the fact that there are many cheese dairies in Thrace and in Greece as a whole, but that there is a shortage of raw materials (fresh sheep and goat's milk) making it impossible for new enterprises to be set up, can the Commission help to ensure the modernization of the viable traditional cheese dairies in Thrace?

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

(20 December 1993)

The modernization of traditional cheese dairies in Greece may be eligible for Community assistance under Council Regulation (EEC) No 866/90 of 29 March 1990 on improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural products (¹), which establishes an investment aid scheme for the processing of agricultural products.

The conditions under which such investments are eligible for aid include the selection criteria laid down in Commission Decision 90/342/EEC (²).

The abovementioned Regulation provides that the aid scheme is to be established in the first instance at national level. It is therefore the responsibility of the Member State concerned to examine individual cases.

However, the Commission regularly requests information on the situation in the regions for which a Member State proposes investment. This procedure allows the Commission to obtain an overall view of each sector and region (including the milk and milk products sector).

The Greek authorities' new applications for part-financing of investment projects relating to the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products will be

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1884/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(15 July 1993)

(94/C 296/36)

Subject: Effectiveness of vocational training programmes

The European Community is helping to run a wide range of special vocational training programmes for the workforce in the Greek regions of Achaia, Kozani, Lavrion in Attica, Mandoudion in Evvia and Syros.

Can the Commission say whether statistics are available on the economic and general social situation of these workers today so that the effectiveness of vocational training programmes held in similar circumstances can be evaluated?

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

(18 October 1993)

The vocational training measures which have been implemented in the regions mentioned by the Honourable Member are funded by the ESF under the regional operational programmes in application of the 1989—1993 Community Support Framework for Greece.

These programmes are designed to promote occupational reintegration or self-employment for employees who have been made redundant.

First reports indicate considerable interest on the part of employees in the regions in question. For example, in the regions of Mantoudi and Akhaia, the numbers of people taking part in these measures were 2 404 and 1 116 respectively.

The Commission does not yet have all the information it needs to make an overall assessment of these measures.

When the current Community Support Framework has been completed, the Commission should have all the figures it needs to assess the quality of all these programmes.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1897/93by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(15 July 1993)

(94/C 296/37)

Subject: Support for saffron production

The saffron producers of Kozani have encountered difficulties. What scope is there for Community support for saffron production and the cooperative organization promoting this valuable product?

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

(10 December 1993)

The Community does not grant aid to promote the cultivation of crocuses for industrial use, i.e. for production of dyes for clothing.

Although aware of the importance of this crop in Greece, since it makes intensive use of local labour, the Commission believes that the problem is less one of production than one of cooperative marketing.

The Commission has received an application from the Irish Cooperative Organization Society Ltd for part-financing of a survey on the economic situation of cooperatives in Greece under Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 ⁽¹⁾. As stated in its reply to the Honourable Member's Written Question No 1862/93 ⁽²⁾, the Commission is inclined to accept this proposal.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 374, 21. 12. 1988.⁽²⁾ OJ No C 268, 26. 9. 1994, p. 7.**WRITTEN QUESTION E-1906/93**by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(15 July 1993)

(94/C 296/38)

Subject: Support for rail transport

The EC has come down in favour of supporting rail transport in an endeavour to improve environmental protection, energy saving, comfort and safety compared with road transport. An important factor for the development of the railways is the modernization and

renewal of rolling-stock and, in particular, the provision of new intercity lines, small and flexible rail-cars for sub-urban lines or lines between towns and an increase in the number of locomotives.

What sort of proposals will the Commission put forward in order to encourage greater use of the railways in the Community?

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

(6 December 1993)

The Honourable Member is correct that the Commission has indicated its intention to assist in the development of an efficient railway system in the Community. A full list of means that the Commission is considering in the field of railways may be found in Annex III of the Commission proposals for 'The Future Development of the Common Transport Policy' ⁽¹⁾. In particular the Commission is considering measures to assist in the construction and modernization of the rail system, notably for high speed trains and combined transport, in liberalizing the access to the rail system to facilitate new entrants who will provide an extended range of services and in research into new technologies that can be applied to signaling systems, etc. All these measures will be accompanied by proposals that seek to ensure to maintain the railways' existing reputation for safety and will have a wide geographical scope to ensure that all parts of the Community benefit from these actions.

⁽¹⁾ COM(92) 494 final.**WRITTEN QUESTION E-1916/93**by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(15 July 1993)

(94/C 296/39)

Subject: Damage to trees in Greek cities

Every year the small plantations of trees (pines) in many cities, at least in Greece, suffer great damage from attack by caterpillars, under the indifferent eyes of the authorities. For example, such disasters have befallen woodland on Lykabetos in Athens, and in Patras. Arboriculturalists maintain that these disasters could have been avoided if the woods had been sprayed with the proper chemicals at the right time. Will the Commission express its support for the campaign by the inhabitants of Greek cities seeking to ensure the survival of woodland in cities, and call on the Greek authorities to take appropriate action to prevent such disasters in future?

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

(13 October 1993)

Since there is no Community legislation on the management and maintenance of trees and shrubbery in urban areas, and since this matter falls exclusively within the sphere of competence of the Member States and their regional and local authorities, the Commission is not in a position to intervene directly to protect the areas referred to by the Honourable Member.

The Commission fully appreciates the importance, particularly in ecological and aesthetic terms, of trees and shrubbery in urban areas. They play an essential role in improving the urban environment, a matter in which the Commission takes a constant interest. With this in mind the Commission has drawn the attention of the Greek Minister for Agriculture to the issues raised by the Honourable Member.

Greece has adequately implemented:

- Directive 83/477/EEC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work,
- Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations, as amended by Commission Directive 91/659/EEC ⁽¹⁾ (not 91/157/EEC which relates to batteries),

As appears from the tenth report on the control of application of Community law ⁽²⁾ the Commission has opened infringement proceedings against Greece for the non-communication of national measures implementing Directives 90/394/EEC and 91/382/EEC.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 363, 31. 12. 1991.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 233, 30. 8. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1917/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(15 July 1993)

(94/C 296/40)

Subject: Implementation of Directives on asbestos by Greece

Community Directives on asbestos are not being applied by Greece. I refer in particular to Directive 83/477/EEC ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Directive 91/382/EEC ⁽²⁾, and Directive 76/769/EEC ⁽³⁾, as amended by Directive 91/157/EEC ⁽⁴⁾ and finally Directive 90/394/EEC ⁽⁵⁾. Does the Commission intend to take action, and if so what action, to ensure that Greece does comply with these Directives?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 263, 24. 9. 1983, p. 25.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 206, 29. 7. 1991, p. 16.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 262, 27. 9. 1976, p. 201.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 78, 23. 3. 1991, p. 38.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 196, 26. 7. 1990, p. 1.

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

(8 November 1993)

In meeting its obligation, under Article 155 of the EC Treaty, to ensure that the provisions of the Treaty and measures taken by the institutions pursuant thereto are applied, the Commission has checked whether the relevant provisions of Directives on asbestos have been properly incorporated into Greek legislation.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1961/93

by Barry Desmond (PSE)

to the Commission

(19 July 1993)

(94/C 296/41)

Subject: Development of a high-speed ship

With reference to the Commission reply to Written Question No 711/92 ⁽¹⁾ by Mr Enrique Sapena Granell, it appears the Commission is clearly well informed of the R&D currently taking place in the Bay of Kobe, Japan.

1. Will the Commission now give details of the progress made on the proposal for the development of high-speed navigation systems?
2. Does the Commission agree that:
 - (a) a truly integrated transport system using high-speed ships would be of benefit to every European citizen and industry;
 - (b) the promotion of high-speed shipping would help to re-invigorate and increase the competitiveness of the European ship-building industry which has all but vanished;
 - (c) the EC should make plans to reanimate the industry in this way, and ensure that valuable future contracts are not all 'lost' to our international competitors?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 317, 3. 12. 1992, p. 25.

Answer given by Mr Matutes
on behalf of the Commission
(14 December 1993)

The development of a 'High-Speed Navigation System' is an important step towards the development of a more efficient transport system that will allow for faster cargo flows. A transport system integrating the different modes would benefit the European citizen and industry. The development of high speed shipping is only one element of this integrated system and will be particularly useful for specific markets. The development of other essential elements, such as the interface with other modes, new terminal techniques, and upgrading the speed and efficiency of existing vessel types (especially for short sea shipping) should also not be neglected.

The promotion of high-speed shipping is one of the factors which could contribute to improve the competitiveness of European ship-building, but the promotion of high-speed shipping alone will not be sufficient to re-invigorate this industry. Within this context, a coherent policy of research, technological development and demonstration can make an important contribution towards the development of the technology, organization and skills under-pinning the industrial requirements for increased competitiveness in the global transport markets.

The Commission proposal concerning the Fourth Framework Programme of Community activities in the field of Research, Technological Development and Demonstration⁽¹⁾ will provide the means for helping to promote the innovation needed to support a competitive strategy in this market sector — most notably within the themes of information and telecommunication technologies, industrial technologies, energy and research for a European transport policy.

In order to better prepare the contents of the specific proposals for the Fourth Framework Programme and related actions, a workshop was organized on 'R&D for Water-borne Transport' and held in Brussels on 18/19 October 1993. One of the themes covered the role that Fast Systems for Shipping/Ports and Inland Waterways could play in the framework of Multimodal Transport Systems and in particular to the 'Trans-European networks'.

Furthermore, the Commission has launched a study on the following subject: 'Research and Development Needs for Fast Water-borne Systems for Passengers and Cargo'.

⁽¹⁾ COM(93) 276 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1963/93
by Ernest Glinne (PSE)
to the Commission
(19 July 1993)
(94/C 296/42)

Subject: Community attitude towards the dictatorship in Haiti

At its recent meeting the ACP/EEC Joint Assembly listed six principles which, for the good of Haiti, should form a basis for negotiation in accordance with the Washington draft treaty drawn up in February by President Aristide and members of parliament.

On the ground, however, the Zinglandos, successors to the Tontons Macoutes, are with impunity stepping up their campaign of violence, as are the regular army (7 000 'tisoldats' in Creole) and a large proportion of the police. Haiti is a hell where the blood never stops flowing; possessing a photo of President Aristide or audibly mentioning the Head of State democratically elected on 16 December 1990, then deposed and forced into exile by the army on 30 September 1991 'justifies' execution, torture, rape and disappearances.

The embargo on imports and exports has trebled the price of commodities and increased the number of Haitians leaving the country (without succeeding more often than not if their destination is Florida, because of US navy interception).

What then is the Commission's reaction to the position of the Joint Assembly, given the need to organize proper democratic elections in Haiti and ensure respect for democratic values?

Is it not essential to use the human rights provisions of Lomé IV to suspend participation by the present regime in Haiti in the Convention and to intervene from now on only through NGOs trying to help the defenceless people?

Answer given by Mr Marín
on behalf of the Commission
(30 November 1993)

Concerning the organization of democratic elections and respect for democratic values, the Commission would point out that the Community and its Member States have on numerous occasions made their position on the Haiti crisis clear. The conclusions of the Joint Assembly meeting referred to by the Honourable Member are in line with the policy pursued by the Commission since the coup:

- there can be no viable solution other than a return to a constitutional order where President Aristide, the symbol of the Haitian people's cause, represents the definitive authority.
- all measures encouraging negotiation and dialogue between the two sides with a view to reaching an agreement must be pursued and supported, including increased pressure, the aim being to establish a government of national unity with a Prime Minister chosen by President Aristide.

As regards the suspension of Haiti's participation in the Lomé Convention, EC foreign ministers confirmed at a Council meeting in December 1991 some months after the coup, the desire of the Community and its Member States to help restore democracy and the rule of law in the country, and invited the Commission to submit for approval a proposal to exclude Haiti from the Convention. In January 1992, the Commission stressed the grave implications of such a measure in terms of cooperation with its ACP partners, both at a legal level (given the extremely complex, cumbersome nature of the procedure involved in applying the principles of reciprocity) and at a political level (this being a serious measure which would create a significant precedent), as well as the less drastic economic implications (limited to the withdrawal of the preferential arrangements). It should also be emphasized that on 19 February 1992, at the Santo Domingo Joint Assembly meeting, President Aristide appealed against Haiti's exclusion from the Convention.

The decision by the Community and its Member States so suspend economic aid to Haiti was taken on 2 October 1991, though humanitarian aid was maintained and a flexible attitude adopted towards other forms of aid having a direct impact on the population. Since then a number of food aid operations, involving either food products or seeds, have been set up in collaboration with European NGOs or international organizations (e.g. FAO). Emergency programmes have also been drawn up in order, in particular, to provide medical supplies and deal with the AIDS problem. Decentralized cooperation projects are currently in progress, as are joint financing projects with different NGOs covering a variety of areas. Since the coup d'état, for example, the following aid has been provided:

- support for human rights and democracy: ECU 715 000
- food aid: ECU 12 510 000
- emergency aid: ECU 2 300 000.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2037/93

by Laura González Álvarez (GUE)

to the Commission

(23 July 1993)

(94/C 296/43)

Subject: Imports of cement into Spain and anti-dumping procedure

The Spanish cement manufacturers' association, Oficemen, submitted a report to the Commission in January 1992 alleging that imports into Spain of certain types of cement from Turkey, Romania and Tunisia had been subject to dumping practices, thereby causing serious harm to the Spanish cement industry.

The Commission considered that there was sufficient evidence to warrant opening an anti-dumping procedure, and it therefore initiated proceedings to investigate the matter.

Given the presumed existence of unfair competition, the plan to instal a cement importing and marketing plant in the port of Gijón (Asturias) could lead to the loss of many jobs in a region hard hit by industrial recession (in the coal, steel and ship-building sectors, etc.).

Can the Commission state what stage has been reached in the anti-dumping procedure initiated on 22 April 1992?

Can it guarantee that cement imported from non-EC countries by undertakings established in Spain is subject to the same quality controls as cement produced in the Community Member States?

Can it state whether Directive 89/106/EEC⁽¹⁾ on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to construction products is being properly applied in Spain?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 40, 11. 2. 1989, p. 12.

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

(21 December 1993)

The Commission is nearing completion of its investigations under the proceeding and plans to consult the Member States very shortly on a proposal for appropriate measures based on its findings.

As there is not yet an EC standard, cement must comply with the standards of the Member State importing it. Approval is granted by national bodies and is a matter for each country itself and not the Commission. The Commission is not

aware of any differences between quality controls on Community cement and that imported from outside.

The construction products Directive, 89/106/EEC, was incorporated into Spanish law by Royal Decree 1630/1992 of 29 December 1992 (see the 'Boletín Oficial del Estado' of 9 February 1993). For the time being and until legal analysis of the incorporated law has finished, the Commission has no evidence that the Directive is being incorrectly implemented in Spain.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2111/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(26 July 1993)

(94/C 296/44)

Subject: Clophen hazard at a hospital in Patras

Large quantities of Clophen are stored in the basement of the Aghios Andreas Hospital in Patras and the risk to hospital workers and patients from probable leaks is real. This toxic substance, which can cause cancer in humans, is used as a coolant in the hospital's two large transformers. Will the Commission ask the Greek authorities to destroy the Clophen in special installations far from inhabited areas?

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

(7 December 1993)

If this Clophen is located inside the said transformers and if these are operational, the Commission cannot intervene as Community law permits the use of PCB up until the time of de-commissioning of electric transformers.

If, however, it is elsewhere — e.g. stored in barrels — then Article 3 of Directive 76/403/EEC ⁽¹⁾ applies, which requires Member States to take specific measures to dispose of used PCB and of PCB contained in equipment/machinery which is no longer in operation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 108, 26. 4. 1976.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2136/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(26 July 1993)

(94/C 296/45)

Subject: Re-nationalization of agricultural policy and incentives for farmers

Will the Commission say whether it is in favour of the gradual re-nationalization of agricultural policy and whether it considers that incentives should be increased to encourage people to give up farming or to abandon a large area of farmland in the Community?

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

(13 October 1993)

The Commission respects the principles of the common agricultural policy, in particular with regard to preserving a common market in the agricultural sector.

In its proposal for measures to reform the common agricultural policy ⁽¹⁾, the Commission stated that it considers it necessary to keep a sufficient number of farmers on the land. This declaration confirmed the choice made in the Green Paper and the communication on the future of rural areas.

⁽¹⁾ COM(91) 100 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2140/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(26 July 1993)

(94/C 296/46)

Subject: Infrastructures for persons with special needs

Given the specialized supervision requirements of persons with special needs — and in particular children —, and given also the very limited infrastructures so far available for the early diagnosis and rehabilitation of such persons, does the Commission intend to propose Community legislation providing for the establishment of the relevant infrastructures?

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

(9 November 1993)

Within its limited legislative competence, the Commission is promoting measures on prevention, early assistance and home care for the disabled, notably under the Helios II Programme, through exchange and information activities.

The priority themes for the Helios II Programme include 'diagnosis and treatment', 'coordinated measures to allow the handicapped to remain in their usual environment' and the establishment of care facilities.

All the measures and initiatives taken in this area are submitted to three advisory bodies for prior consultation, including the European Forum for Disabled People, within which the European NGOs RI-ECA and Mobility International have specific responsibilities in this field.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2217/93

by António Capucho (ELDR) and Jan Bertens (ELDR)

to the Commission

(29 July 1993)

(94/C 296/47)

Subject: Middle-East peace negotiations

In view of the interruption of the Middle-East peace negotiations and bearing in mind the Community's responsibility to organize the negotiations on regional economic cooperation, what steps is the Commission taking to promote the resumption of the Middle-East peace negotiations?

**Answer given by Mr Van den Broek
on behalf of the Commission**

(15 November 1993)

During the interruption of the Middle-East peace negotiations in early 1993 to which the Honourable Members refer, the Commission offered its support for efforts to restart the talks. It encouraged the parties to resolve the difficulties which followed the expulsion by Israel of over 400 Palestinians and to participate actively in the ninth round of bilateral negotiations. The Commission took part in the Troika in its mission to the Middle-East from 30 March to 2 April when this message was put to all parties concerned in the region.

As to the Regional Economic Development Working Group, the Commission used the time available to refine proposals it had made earlier and to prepare new proposals on agricultural cooperation, to be undertaken with Spain and on infrastructure working closely with France as 'shepherd' for this subject, for a road survey and for electricity grid inter-connection.

The Commission participated with the Danish Presidency in a mission to the region to consult regional parties on the Community's proposals and to hear their reactions. This mission proved very useful in preparing for a successful meeting in Rome on 4/5 May 1993 of the Regional Economic Development Working Group.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2220/93

by Winifred Ewing (ARE)

to the Commission

(29 July 1993)

(94/C 296/48)

Subject: Payment of invalidity benefit to women

What is the current EC position when regard to the payment of invalidity benefit to women under the age of 65 and is it true that the UK Government is appealing against a ruling by the Social Affairs Ministers on this?

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

(10 November 1993)

The ruling of the Court of Justice in its judgment of 30 March 1993 in response to the questions of the House of Lords in Case 328/91 was that women who are above the normal retirement age (60) are entitled in their own right to invalidity benefit under the same conditions as men in the United Kingdom, i.e. until they are 65.

Following this judgment, the Commission wrote to the British authorities to remind them of their obligations under Directive 79/7/EEC on equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security, with particular reference to Article 7, § 1a) as interpreted by the Court of Justice in the above judgment.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2257/93

by **Giuseppe Mottola (PPE)**
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 296/49)

Subject: Decision No 5470 adopted by Campania Regional Council on 27 October 1992

In Decision No 5470, adopted on 27 October 1992, Campania Regional Council approved a series of measures in the industrial and craft sectors, to be implemented under the multi-fund operational programme for the economic and social development of two large districts, Pompeii (Naples) and Marcianise (Caserta), and financed in part by a 50 % EEC contribution from the ERDF under Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 ⁽¹⁾.

The measures relate to:

- C.I.A.A.R. — Pompeii — an arts and crafts exhibition and service centre managed by a consortium of professional associations and firms, and
- TARI — Marcianise — goldsmiths' centre — a multipurpose service complex managed by a consortium of 180 firms.

1. Can the Commission give any definite information on the progress of the procedure?
2. Will it be able to furnish the 50 % contribution, bearing in mind that, should the Campania regional authorities or the Italian Government fail to pay the remaining 50 %, the firms will cover the cost themselves, through their associations for the promotion of craft industries?
3. If approval is not granted, can the Commission include the measures among those to be financed under the Structural Fund reform, as part of the 1994—1999 programme, given that they are consistent with the objectives and practical procedures of the Structural Funds?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 185, 15. 7. 1988, p. 9.

Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission
(6 December 1993)

With regard to the Tari-Marcianise project, a dossier was presented by the region under the operational programme Campania. The Commission evaluates currently the conditions of Community co-financing. In this connection,

nothing is opposed having the national counterpart of the contributions of the ERDF supplied, in the absence of regional public financing or of the state, by private investors' contribution.

A similar dossier was not presented for the CIAAR-Pompeii project which still is to the instruction at regional level.

If these projects were not taken into consideration before the end of the current period of programming (before the end of December 1993), they could be examined during the next period, insofar as the competent authorities will submit the request of them.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2258/93

by **Christine Oddy (PSE)**
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 296/50)

Subject: Access to Community documents by Community Ombudsman

Can the Commission confirm recent press reports that the Community Ombudsman to be created under the Treaty of Maastricht will be denied access to Community papers?

What steps will the Commission take to ensure that these documents are made available to the Ombudsman when he or she is appointed?

Answer given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission
(12 February 1994)

At the inter-institutional conference on 25 October 1993 Parliament, the Council and the Commission concluded an agreement on the regulations governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties granting him satisfactory access to Community documents.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2266/93

by **David Bowe (PSE)**
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 296/51)

Subject: Intervention system

Does the Commission allow the buying of bull beef into intervention store?

If this is not common practice throughout the whole of Europe, why does the Commission only allow it in certain countries?

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

(17 December 1993)

Under the Community rules, only bovine carcasses from uncastrated male animals less than two years old (young bulls) or castrated males (steers) are eligible for public intervention.

However, buying-in at regional level has for years been generally limited to only one of these two categories, i.e. the one making up the greater share of male bovine animal production in a region. Withdrawal from the market of some of the production of the major category by means of intervention has a beneficial effect on the beef and veal market as a whole in that region. Moreover, given the reduction in buying-in provided for in the basic Regulation governing this sector (see Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 805/68), the Commission is not in a position to broaden the eligible categories by region ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 148, 28. 6. 1968.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2308/93

by **Karl von Wogau (PPE)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/52)

Subject: Implementation of the banana market Regulation of 13 February 1992

1. To what extent are existing trade flows being altered by the banana market Regulation and how are undertakings that have so far been involved being driven bankrupt or even being excluded from the market owing to this Regulation?
2. To what extent are undertakings that have so far marketed bananas from southern and central America in the European Community particularly affected by this Regulation?
3. To what extent are small and medium-sized undertakings in the European Community particularly affected by this banana market Regulation?

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

(30 November 1993)

The common organization of the banana market allows operators to have access to the tariff quota in proportion to the volume of their past trade. There is, therefore, no question of operators being excluded from the market nor should the existence of enterprises be affected.

The introduction of the common organization of the banana market completes the single market in this sector. This is likely to lead to some changes in trade patterns, for example, national restrictions have been lifted in certain Member States, meaning that traders previously excluded now have access to those markets. Similarly, fruit from particular origins previously sold only in one Member State is now likely to be marketed more widely in the Community. Banana traders are responding to the new challenges and opportunities of trading in the single market. However, as the new arrangements have only been in place since 1 July it is not yet possible to determine the extent of changes to trade patterns.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2312/93

by **Gianfranco Amendola (V)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/53)

Subject: Failure of the Italian Government to implement the 'Seveso' Directive

1. Under Article 7(c) of Directive 82/501/EEC ⁽¹⁾ the appropriate authorities are required to make provision in their national legislation for inspection or other forms of check, depending on the type of operations involved.
2. Ruling No 1392 by the Genoa district magistrate, handed down on 19 April 1993, states that Presidential Decree No 175/88 ⁽²⁾, the means whereby Directive 82/501/EEC is transposed into Italian law, failed to lay down adequate forms of supervision and penalties.
3. The ruling also refers to statement by officials in the Italian Ministry for the Environment to the effect that by the end of 1991, none of the 220 reports received (400 plants are concerned) had been examined in full and that, if the ministry staff complement remained unchanged, it would take another 20 years to deal with the remaining reports, that is to say, an average of 20 investigations would be completed each year.
4. The ruling states in addition that the ministry, which, as the supervisory body, is required to report the abuses it

has ascertained to the proper authority, will not be able to inform the courts of any failure to give notification until the year 2009, in other words 12 years after the limitation period applying to the infringement has expired. Furthermore, while the abovementioned investigations will still be taking place, companies will be required to submit follow-up reports every three years, and it is impossible to say when they will be checked.

In the light of the foregoing points, will the Commission institute infringement proceedings against Italy for failure to implement the whole of Directive 82/501/EEC?

(1) OJ No L 230, 5. 8. 1982, p. 1 (and subsequent amendments).

(2) Gazzetta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana No 127, 1 June 1988.

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission
(14 January 1994)**

The Commission will contact the Italian authorities on the facts presented by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2049/93

**by André Sainjon (ARE)
to the Commission
(23 July 1993)
(94/C 296/54)**

Subject: Re-negotiation of the agreement on European imports of Japanese cars

The re-negotiation of the agreement signed two months ago between European and MITI representatives was based on a 6,5% drop with respect to 1992.

While the Commission estimates that demand will fall by 10—12% over the whole of 1993, the real figures will unfortunately be steeper, given the extent of the recession.

Speaking to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and industrial Policy, Mr Bangemann asserted that further discussion were scheduled for June 1993. However, Mr Noburu Hatekeyama considers these concessions to be 'more than sufficient' and believes that it would be premature to call for the revision of a text which was signed barely two months ago.

Is the Commission determined to act firmly? Is it prepared to declare this agreement null and void and impose tariff quotas on cars imported directly from Japan? Lastly, is it prepared to give due consideration to the problem of transplants?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2205/93

**by Cristiana Muscardini (NI)
to the Commission
(29 July 1993)
(94/C 296/55)**

Subject: Japanese cars exceeding sales quotas in the European market

Does the Commission intend to re-negotiate with the Japanese authorities the agreements reached with them some months ago on the quota for cars produced in Japan and imported on to the European market in view of the fact that the quota has already been exceeded and given the repercussions that this may have on European car firms involved in difficult restructuring programmes requiring time and considerable investment? These programmes would be seriously harmed either by any delay in altering the hastily concluded agreements or by new agreements not based on realistic assumptions.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2236/93

**by Mauro Chiabrando (PPE), Rinaldo Bontempi (PSE) and
Giuseppe Mottola (PPE)
to the Commission
(30 July 1993)
(94/C 296/56)**

Subject: Japanese car imports

Within the past few months the Commission has reached an agreement on Japanese car imports to Europe.

The agreement was based on the prediction that sales in the Community in 1993 would fall by 6% compared with previous years.

However, the Commission apparently gave an undertaking to renegotiate the agreement if the drop in sales exceeded the forecasts.

According to current figures, the drop in 1993 may be as much as 20%, and it therefore appears essential that the Commission should keep its promise and renegotiate the agreement.

At all events, action is called for as a matter of urgency, given that European motor manufacturers are currently in the process of implementing painful restructuring programmes that will require time and investment and could be undermined and placed in jeopardy by a slapdash and unrealistic commercial policy.

Does the Commission share the views set out above and what steps does it intend to take?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2318/93by **Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/57)

Subject: European motor-vehicle industry

The European Association of Motor-Vehicle Manufacturers (Association des Constructeurs européens d'Automobiles — ACEA) forecasts, pessimistically, that sales will fall by 13,5 % during 1993. A number of major manufacturers, such as Ford, estimate that sales will fall by 16 %. These manufacturers also believe that the latest agreement between the Commission and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry will lead to a 13—14 % increase in sales of Japanese vehicles in the Community during 1993.

Is the Commission prepared to take measures to mitigate this painful contradiction?

Can we avoid merely looking on while Japanese robots in Europe assemble components imported from Japan and other 'newly industrialized countries'?

Does the Commission consider that European manufacturers are acting realistically in taking measures like those which have made Mr López Arriortúa famous?

Finally, what measures does the Commission intend to take — and when — to reduce the number of Japanese motor vehicles imported, in order to make timely allowance for the impact of the crisis?

Joint answer to Written Questions E-2049/93, E-2205/93, E-2236/93 and E-2318/93
given by **Mr Bangemann**
on behalf of the Commission

(19 January 1994)

1. The arrangement of 31 July 1991 between the Community and Japan concerning the motor vehicle sector in particular provides that the latter country must regulate its motor vehicle exports to the Community up to 31 December 1999.

To this end, regular meetings between the Commission and the Japanese Industry and Foreign Trade Ministry (MITI) have taken place to evaluate the market development and to avoid any disturbances which might result from Japanese exports.

2. Discussions took place in March and April 1993 in accordance with this agreement. These have led to an immediate, sharp reduction in Japanese exports of cars and light goods vehicles.

Furthermore, in accordance with what was agreed with the Japanese authorities, fresh discussions were held in July and

September 1993 in order to adjust exports in view of the considerable decline in demand forecast in the Community. In total, Japanese car exports should be 980 000 units in 1993 (-18,5 % on 1992), while demand for motor cars will probably be about 11 730 million units (-15,9%).

In view of the high fall in exports since September 1993, the Honourable Members can rest assured that the adjustment was made in good time to provide effective help to reduce the pressure on an exceptionally difficult market.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2356/93by **Gepa Maibaum (PSE)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/58)

Subject: Conservation of the architectural heritage: Mount Athos

In the context of Community pilot projects to conserve the European architectural heritage⁽¹⁾, an application for funding was made in respect of the gardens of the St Simon and St Peter Monasteries on Mount Athos.

However, for years Mount Athos, together with the Acropolis, Chiado and Coimbra, has been receiving support as an outstanding example of the European architectural heritage.

1. What EC funds (broken down by year) have been paid for the restoration of Mount Athos to date?
2. What is the total amount for 1993 (broken down by category of aid)?
3. Why did Mount Athos receive additional funding under the programme of pilot projects, which has a total of only ECU 3 165 million available for 58 selected projects, although it has already received EC funding from other sources?
4. Does the Commission have a progress report on the use of EC funds for the restoration of Mount Athos?

(1) OJ No C 261, 10. 10. 1992, p. 11.

Answer given by Mr Pinheiro
on behalf of the Commission

(6 December 1993)

To date, the Community appropriations granted to Kedak (Greek public body in the Ministry for Macedonia, responsible for conservation work at Mount Athos) total ECU 1,12 million.

This contribution can be broken down as follows:

- ECU 70 000 in 1987;
- ECU 100 000 in 1989;
- ECU 300 000 in 1990;
- ECU 350 000 in 1991;
- ECU 300 000 in 1992.

In 1993 the Commission granted ECU 300 000 from budget heading B3-2000 (to finance high-profile cultural projects).

All these appropriations are solely for conservation work on the buildings of the historic monasteries of Mount Athos; no support is given for the conservation of the historic gardens.

Under its annual programme on pilot projects to conserve the European architectural heritage, the Commission supports pilot projects that are exemplary in terms of both the historical and cultural quality of the monument and the quality of the technical approach to restoration/conservation, selected on the basis of these criteria by a jury of 12 experts of international renown.

In accordance with the theme for the current year relating to the conservation of historic gardens (which involves restoration of both the plant and the architectural features) the project on the Historical gardens of the Simonos Petra Monastery on Mount Athos was unanimously supported by the jury and thus ranked as one of the best-quality projects presented this year.

Since, to date, no other Community aid was granted specifically for the conservation of the historic gardens on Mount Athos, the Commission included the project in question in the final list of 58 pilot projects selected for 1993.

Four independent experts of international renown were designated in 1992 to review the progress made in restoring monuments supported by the Commission in its high-profile projects category, namely:

- the Acropolis and the Parthenon (Greece),
- Mount Athos (Greece),
- Chiado (Lisbon — Portugal),
- Coimbra (European College — Portugal).

The final report was presented to the Committee on Cultural Affairs on 29 September 1993; the Community's contribution appears to have been most valuable in all cases but in particular with regard to Mount Athos.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2382/93

by Ria Oomen-Ruijten (PPE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/59)

Subject: Brown coal mining — environmental impact and cross-frontier effects

What progress have the German authorities made with procedures in connection with the Garzweiler II brown coal mining operation? What stage has been reached in the time-tabling of these procedures?

Has the environmental impact report procedure been completed, and if so what findings have been reached? Will there have to be further investigations? If so, into what?

Is the cross-frontier involvement model for this project applicable only to frontiers with the land of North-Rhine Westphalia or does it extend to all frontier areas of the Federal Republic of Germany?

Can information be provided on the precise effects of brown coal mining in Germany on the quality of ground water at different ground water levels in the Venlo and Roerdal valleys and on drinking water supplies in Netherlands and Belgian Limburg, in particular on what is known as the strategic water reserve?

What arrangements has the Netherlands Government made to guarantee that provisions laid down pursuant to Community rules and Regulations and the ECE Convention will be observed? What arrangements have been made to safeguard the interests of other Member States when decisions are taken in Germany?

What will be the future effects on Netherlands ground water that comes into contact with surface water as a consequence of these open-cast mining operations, both now and after brown coal mining operations have been wound up? Will the German Government take over responsibility from the operators, Rheinbraun AG, when the operations have been wound up?

What options are available to the authorities in other Member States in the final stages of decision-making in Germany or even after it has been concluded, to continue to exert influence or lodge objections if they consider that insufficient account has been taken on the German side of the interests of other Member States?

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission

(29 November 1993)

Under Article 7 of Directive 85/337/EEC a Member State that is aware that a project within its territory is likely to

have significant effects on the environment in another Member State, shall forward the information gathered in an environmental impact assessment procedure to the other Member State at the same time as it makes it available to its own nationals. The same applies where the affected Member State so requires.

This information shall serve as a basis for any consultations necessary in the framework of the bilateral relations between two Member States on a reciprocal and equivalent basis. The content of such bilateral relations and the consultations itself are the competence of the Member States. The Commission is not involved. Neither are Member States required to send the information to the Commission.

Since the other parts of the question concern details of either the bilateral relations between Germany and the Netherlands or the information exchanged between the two Member States, the Commission would like to advise the Honourable Member to contact the appropriate Member States' authorities for any supplementary questions.

programme, the follow up to the Sutherland report on the operation of the single market, employment and the social dialogue, industrial competitiveness and protection of the environment, development cooperation policy up to the year 2000, and the Commission's proposals for farm prices for 1993/94. The opening of the accession negotiations with Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden were also directly accessible to the public through audio-visual means.

On consultation, the Legislative Programme of the Commission for 1993 ⁽¹⁾ highlights forthcoming proposals which it would appear at first sight should be preceded by broad discussions. It also lists subjects on which Green or White Papers, not necessarily leading to legislation, will be prepared in 1993. Several of these papers have already been published.

There has been no change in the Community policy of producing in all nine Community languages all documents which are formally published.

⁽¹⁾ COM(93) 43 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2387/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/60)

Subject: Transparency in debates and decisions

At the Edinburgh Summit in December last year the Heads of State and Governments decided that some Council meetings should be held as 'open debates', that some of these should be televised, that the EC institutions should consult each other more on a range of issues, that such consultation should be widely reported and, finally, that Commission documents should be published in all the Community languages. What has been done so far to implement these decisions?

Answer given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission

(30 November 1993)

The Danish Presidency reported to the Copenhagen European Council in June 1993 on this matter.

During the Danish Presidency several Council debates were televised for outside transmission and for the press and interested members of the general public to follow live. Subjects debated included the Presidency's work

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2401/93

by Edward Kellett-Bowman (PPE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/61)

Subject: The use of weed killers

Does the Commission have any plans to introduce a ban on the use of weed killing sprays prior to flower-seeding time, as is rumoured in some parts of the EC?

Answer given by Mr Steichen
on behalf of the Commission

(12 November 1993).

The Commission has at this time no plans to propose a ban on the use of weed killing sprays in the period prior to the flower-seeding time of plants.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2420/93by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/62)

Subject: Protection of the environment through publicity campaign

In order to heighten public awareness of the need to respect and protect the environment, will the Commission examine the possibility of drafting a Community Directive setting up pilot projects to promote public awareness, especially among young people, of environmental issues?

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

(9 November 1993)

In the context of the Fifth Community Programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development, the Commission is helping promote public information through two types of activity:

1. General measures to provide information and raise awareness in relation to the environment

An invitation to submit proposals (93/C 54/12) ⁽¹⁾ was issued for information and awareness projects involving a variety of players (trade unions, regional and local authorities, environmental protection organizations, consumers' associations, etc.). The Commission is co-financing some hundred projects under budget heading B4-306 which meet a set of criteria established in accordance with the Fifth Programme and set out in the invitation to submit proposals. The projects must *inter alia* 'bring about a lasting change in [. . .] behaviour patterns' as regards the environment, and heighten awareness in those sectors where it is lowest.

2. Environmental education and training

(a) A number of practical measures have been implemented by the Commission to give effect to the resolution of the Council and the Ministers for Education ⁽²⁾:

- a European guide to environmental courses in higher education was published in July 1993;
- an information manual is in preparation on environmental education at Community level (for the use of teachers and students).

(b) The Commission provides the impetus for, coordinates and co-finances projects, under the specific budget heading B4-304, submitted by educational institutions, teachers' associations,

schools, associations, environment centres and agencies, etc. The emphasis is on the development of youth education through improved training for teachers.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 54, 25. 2. 1993.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 177, 6. 7. 1988.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2443/93by **Raymond Chesa (RDE)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/63)

Subject: Convention on protection of the Alps

When and how did the Commission receive its brief to negotiate the provisions of this Convention and authorization to sign it?

Has the Commission already drawn up a proposal for a Council Decision on depositing the instrument of approval of the Convention on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities?

As Article 2 (2) of the Convention requires the contracting parties to take measures in the fields of culture, regional planning, agriculture, forestry, tourism, transport and energy, can the Commission confirm whether it is legally responsible for concluding such a convention and, if so, can it state on which article(s) of the Treaty this competence is based?

What role is the Commission playing in the preparation and drafting of the various protocols laying down the implementing measures for the abovementioned fields and how is it ensuring that the interests of the socio-economic and cultural sectors concerned by those protocols are taken into account?

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

(14 January 1994)

The Commission will soon be presenting to the Council a proposal for a Decision for concluding the Convention on protection of the Alps.

The Community's competence as regards ratifying the Convention is based on Article 130s of the EC Treaty since the essential objective of the Convention, which is a framework convention, is to safeguard and protect the Alpine eco-system.

The Convention and its protocols define obligations in fields where Community competence exists, in particular agriculture, transport and nature conservation.

When meetings of the working parties preparing the text of the protocols are held, representatives of unions, NGOs and various other associations attend as observers.

The protocols are still at the consultation stage in the Member States, with the local population and various socio-economic sectors particularly involved.

The Commission is participating in the drawing up of protocols on the basis of the Council mandate of 14 May 1991.

In this preparation work, the Commission is concerned with harmonizing socio-economic interests and environmental requirements in the sectors in question.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2497/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/64)

Subject: Implementation of measures to assist the fishing fleet

Today more than ever there is a need to implement measures to assist the Member States' fishing fleets, in particular by:

1. compiling an up-to-date register of fishing vessels,
2. issuing professional fishing licences to vessels based solely on the technical characteristics of the vessels,
3. laying down a maximum age for Community fishing vessels,
4. listing specific types of fishing vessels suited to the conditions of various waters,
5. clearly defining authorized fishing gear and the conditions on which it may be used, etc.

What is the Commission's position on this issue?

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas

on behalf of the Commission

(23 November 1993)

1. The Community register of fishing vessels was established by Regulation (EEC) No 163/89 ⁽¹⁾. The register has become progressively more reliable thanks to the efforts of all the Member States, who now regularly transmit data to the Commission using a magnetic medium.

2. The new basic Regulation for the common fisheries policy, Regulation (EEC) No 3760/92 ⁽²⁾, provides that a Community scheme must be established not later than 1 January 1995 laying down rules on the minimum information that must be contained in fishing licences issued and managed by Member States. National licence schemes will be applied by the Member States starting on the date of entry into force of the Community scheme.

3. The Community does not intervene on the matter of age limits for Community fishing vessels. However, through its financing of fleet modernization and renovation measures the Commission gives absolute priority to measures designed to improve working conditions and health and safety.

4. & 5. The Commission feels that professional fishermen are capable of determining for themselves which fishing methods are most appropriate while complying with the rules in force. As part of its structural policy on fisheries, the Commission grants financial support to encourage selective fishing methods, while the dissemination of research results at Community level helps fishermen select the fishing gear best adapted to their purposes.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 20, 25. 1. 1989.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 389, 31. 12. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2536/93

by Gerardo Fernández-Albor (PPE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/65)

Subject: Community cooperation with youth movements against racism and xenophobia

As it seems that publicity campaigns against racism are not particularly effective, an increasingly important role is played by activities intended to raise awareness among the younger generations of the need to combat the racist mentality which, according to various sociological studies, is becoming more apparent throughout the Community, with 9 000 violent incidents linked to racism and xenophobia in the last 15 months.

Such activities for young people are centred on youth groups associated with youth movements against intolerance, which in most cases receive significant funding from their respective governments to enable them to conduct weekly campaigns against racism and xenophobia in the press and on radio and television.

Does the Commission think it should itself help to support these youth movements against intolerance, by using its

economic and logistical resources to help these groups to communicate with each other, exchange ideas, programmes and plans for combating racism, and continue to raise a genuine interest among young people in the fight against these two twentieth-century plagues, racism and xenophobia?

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

Commission resources are available from the budget-line which has as its main object the integration of migrants, but which may also be used for projects proposed by NGO's in combatting racism and xenophobia.

Indeed ECU 500 000 in the 1993 budget are earmarked to combat xenophobia in consultation with the European Trades Union Congress.

Should youth platforms apply for financial support from the Commission to run projects against racism, such applications either separately or jointly would be acceptable for appraisal, though any awards would be dependant on the credits available, other competing requests, and the intrinsic merits of the projects.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2543/93
by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 296/66)

Subject: Development of Methana

Methana lies in the eastern Peloponnese and is renowned, especially in Greece for its hot springs, which were also referred to by the great historians of antiquity. Today, Methana is a beautiful place for relaxation but the lack of infrastructure reduces its chances of attracting tourism. Another obstacle to the rational development of Methana, according to many of its inhabitants, is the town council's decision to lease the local marina to a private company for 50 years.

Could the Commission, in cooperation with the Greek national authorities, make a contribution to the development of Methana?

**Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission**
(1 December 1993)

The Commission is prepared to give full consideration to any application submitted by the Greek authorities for assistance in developing the city of Methana in the context of Structural Funds measures in the region concerned.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2567/93
by Llewellyn Smith (PSE)
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 296/67)

Subject: Appointment of Cassiopée as consultants on eastern European nuclear waste management

The Commission has announced the appointment of the Cassiopée European economic interest grouping, including Andra (France), Covra (Netherlands), DBE (Germany), Enresa (Spain), Ondraf-Niras (Belgium) and Nirex (UK), as consultants under the Phare Programme to study radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Romania.

In the light of the complete failure of Nirex in the UK to provide a technically competent or politically acceptable strategy for nuclear waste management in the UK, will the Commission give the reasons for including Nirex as a competent partner in the Cassiopée contract?

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan
on behalf of the Commission**
(21 December 1993)

The contract to which the Honourable Member refers was concluded following an invitation to tender issued to a number of companies. Only two of the bids the Commission received were considered technically viable; one of those was the bid from the Cassiopée consortium, of which Nirex is a member. The Commission has no power to dictate the composition of consortia submitting bids under a tender procedure.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2606/93by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/68)

Subject: Restoration of the ancient theatre on the island of Thasos?

The ancient theatre on the island of Thasos, which is 23 centuries old, has been neglected and closed down since 1987. The municipality of Thasos wishes to have the theatre restored and to use it for major theatrical performances. Can the Commission authorize funding to help restore this theatre?

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

(30 November 1993)

At present the Commission is not in a position to take measures to restore the ancient theatre on the island of Thasos because the budget allocated to Community cultural initiatives is limited and does not make it possible to launch ad hoc measures outside the annual support programme for pilot projects to conserve the European architectural heritage.

But buildings and ancient theatres of genuine European interest will be conserved under the programme in 1994.

The project in question could be considered for the programme if those responsible submitted it to the Commission in accordance with the procedure announced in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* in October 1993 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 275, 13. 10. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2616/93by **Glyn Ford (PSE)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/69)

Subject: Third World debt and EC development programmes

While I congratulate the Commission on the objectives laid down for the EC Development Cooperation Policy in

Article 130u of the Maastricht Treaty, as well as the recent allocation of ECU 60 million under the Lomé Convention for development programmes, does it not agree that 'Third World' countries will be unable to initiate sustainable growth patterns and combat poverty (two of the Commission's own criteria) until the debt burden, which continues to drain their economies, is lifted?

Further, as these countries have already paid far in excess of the original sum owed (in 1982 the South owed US \$ 825 billion; since then debt repayments have totalled US \$ 1 410 billion), does the Commission not agree that any outstanding 'debt' should be cancelled?

Given the Commission's own commendable intentions in the area of development, what initiatives does it intend to place before the Council of Ministers to increase debt relief for the poorest countries, thereby enabling the attainment of key objectives of EC development policies, in particular sustainable economic growth and the fight against poverty, and subsequently increasing coherence and coordination between bilateral policies and Community policies, as laid down in Article 130u of the Maastricht Treaty?

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

(11 November 1993)

The Commission is conscious of the fact that a substantial debt-overhang can seriously impede growth in debtor countries. Where such a debt-overhang exists, debt and debt-service reduction operations, combined with appropriate policy reforms, should be carried out and indeed have been carried out in many instances. Cross-the-board cancellation of all Third World debt is however not justified.

Debt owed to the Community itself is of very minor proportions and on very soft terms. It has recently been reduced by the cancellation of all outstanding Stabex claims on ACP countries. A more far-reaching Commission initiative, bearing on special loans and risk capital operations, has unfortunately been rejected by the Council.

Debt owed to the Member States does not fall within Community competence and therefore is not subject to decisions by the Council. It should however be recognized that Member States have already in the past implemented substantial debt relief measures in favour of many developing countries, both individually and within the Paris Club framework of official creditors.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2619/93**by John Bird (PSE)****to the Commission***(1 September 1993)**(94/C 296/70)*

Subject: Distortion of the EC waste paper and cardboard re-cycling industry

What action does the Commission intend to take to address the serious distortion and disruption being experienced currently in the European Community's waste paper and cardboard re-cycling industry?

Is the Commission aware that large numbers of voluntary and commercial paper and cardboard re-cycling companies in the United Kingdom are on the verge of collapse due to these distortions and disruptions?

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

(7 February 1994)

1. The Commission has taken a number of actions as a result of the serious disruptions in certain re-cycled product markets in recent months. It has been able to gather accurate data with a view to analyzing the structural and economic reasons for these disruptions. A considerable number of bilateral contacts have been made with the Member States most affected and several working meetings held with all Member States with a view to gauging the extent of the problem, searching out temporary solutions capable of providing short-term relief for the industrial sectors which are worst affected, and attempting to see what direction longer-term solutions would have to take. The Commission regularly informs the Council about the success of these contacts. In addition, the Commission has been considering how to balance fixed targets and adequate re-cycling capacity as part of the political negotiations on the draft Directive on packaging and packaging waste.

The Commission is also examining all the legal implications of this situation.

2. The Commission is aware of the problems faced by certain sections of the re-cycling industry, particularly in the United Kingdom. It will continue to give all its support to the Member States with a view to reaching solutions in accordance with Community law, while at the same time avoiding leaving the way clear for any unilateral action which might further disrupt the market. These solutions relate basically to increasing re-cycling capacity on the national scale, re-examining the current paper and cardboard re-cycling legislation in certain Member States with a view to tempering the effects thereof on other Member States (in particular exceeding the stated targets in

this legislation) and an increase in the use in certain Member States of municipal waste treatment plant to supplement private sector plant.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2669/93**by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)****to the Commission***(3 September 1993)**(94/C 296/71)*

Subject: Protection of tropical forests in Africa

In view of the fact that tropical forests in western and central Africa are being increasingly threatened by the timber industry, much of which is controlled by European multinationals:

1. Will the Commission endeavour to develop a Community system for the monitoring of imports of tropical wood with a view to banning imports of timber which is not naturally renewable?
2. Will the Commission propose legislation to ban or to strictly monitor imports of rare or threatened species of tropical woods?

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

(27 January 1994)

The Commission shares the view that uncontrolled forestry management practices are the antithesis of a healthy and sustainable forestry policy for tropical forests. Accordingly, it sees the objective of ensuring that trade in tropical wood is conducted on the basis of sustainable forestry management by the year 2000 as one of the principal items on the world agenda, actively supported by the Community and its Member States through their participation in the negotiations on a new international agreement on tropical timber.

As far as specific measures are concerned, any future action plan should be drawn up in the light of discussions held at international level, e.g. by the ITTO. Voluntary use of an ecolabel signifying compliance with certain criteria might be one way of encouraging the timber industry to adopt a more wholesome approach to forestry management. Notwithstanding this, the Commission feels that any measure taken in this field should be in line with international trade agreements and obligations and should take account of discussions held within the framework of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

With regard to the geographical area referred to by the Honourable Member, the Commission has pledged

ECU 24 million under the sixth EDF to promote the launch of a regional programme of coordinated action and measures to encourage rational use of forestry resources. The countries involved in the project are Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tomé and Principe and Zaire.

International trade in endangered species of timber is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) which dates back to 1973. The Community espoused the provisions of this Convention in Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82, currently under review. In this context, the Commission has proposed the introduction of stricter controls over trade in endangered timber species ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 26, 3. 2. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2670/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(3 September 1993)
(94/C 296/72)

Subject: Environmental programme in response to health problems resulting from the deterioration of the environment in central and eastern Europe

Does the Commission intend, in cooperation with the countries of central and eastern Europe, to draw up an emergency environmental programme in response to the very serious health problems resulting from the deterioration of the environment in certain areas of these countries and to submit the programme to Parliament and the Council?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2680/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(3 September 1993)
(94/C 296/73)

Subject: Environmental measures in the countries of central and eastern Europe

Will the Commission help the governments of central and eastern Europe, if they so desire, to draft environmental legislation, set up administrative services responsible for the environment and draw up environmental programmes in those countries and, to facilitate this objective, will it take steps to draw up a special Community programme to train civil servants from those countries?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2683/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(3 September 1993)
(94/C 296/74)

Subject: Financial aid to central and east European countries for environmental measures

Will the Commission take steps to increase the amount of Community financial aid for environmental measures in the countries of central and eastern Europe during the next five years to 0,1 % of the Community's GDP without reducing the financial aid to the southern hemisphere for environmental measures?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2684/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(3 September 1993)
(94/C 296/75)

Subject: Environmental code of ethics for investment in central and eastern Europe

Will the Commission propose an environmental code of ethics to govern investment in central and eastern Europe, in line with current Community legislation on the environment, and will it submit this code for consideration by Parliament and the countries concerned (EC, central and eastern Europe)?

Joint answer to Written Questions E-2670/93, E-2680/93, E-2683/93 and E-2684/93
given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission
(23 November 1993)

For the period 1990—1992, the Phare Programme provided ECU 254 million to support environmental improvements through projects in Bulgaria, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Baltic States. This is approximately 11 % of the total Phare budget for 1990—1992.

The support is being provided either in the form of yearly national or regional environmental sector programmes, or through environmental components in the General Technical Assistance Facilities. A large number of individual projects are in the course of implementation.

The activities supported by Phare are directly linked to the implementation of the environmental policy of the respective government with a clear focus on support for development of the environmental management

capabilities, at central, regional and local level, including institutional strengthening, training and policy formulation.

Since the beginning, one of the main priorities of the Phare environment actions has been the development of a strategy focusing on certain areas which require urgent attention, e.g. air pollution and other existing hot-spots having a detrimental effect on human health. This is also one of the objectives of the Regional Environment Programme which recognizes the political and trans-boundary nature of environmental degradation and focuses on some of the major pan-European problems, such as the Danube River Basin, the 'Black Triangle', the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.

A strong political drive for closer environmental integration and more incisive action at pan-European level was expressed by the European Environment Ministers at the Conference held in Lucerne in April 1993. The Conference approved the broad strategy of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP) for central and eastern Europe, as a basis for action by national and local governments, the Commission, international organizations, financial institutions and private investors active in the region. The EAP is based on three main aims:

- integration of environmental considerations into the process of economic reconstruction to ensure sustainable development;
- institutional capacity building, including an efficient legal and administrative framework as well as managing capacity, training and education;
- immediate assistance programmes comprising actions which bring immediate or short-term relief to regions where human health or natural ecosystems are severely jeopardized by environmental hazards, also taking into account trans-boundary environmental problems. In late 1992, the Commission approved a ECU 10 million Programme to support the development of projects resulting from the EAP.

Moreover, the Commission is financing, jointly with the EBRD, a study on the harmonization of environmental standards and legislation in western and eastern Europe. An important part of this study is 'Environmental guidelines for investors'; the aim of the guidelines is to provide an user-friendly guide to environmental Regulations, covering both new investments and on-going operations. It is also intended to extend the guidelines to the States of the former Soviet Union, former Yugoslavia and Albania.

The Commission attaches great importance to cooperation with central and eastern European countries in the field of the environment and is willing to continue its financial support as much as possible in the future. It seems, however,

untimely, in the present economic situation, to propose to the Member States an increase in the amount of Community financial aid for environmental measures in central and eastern European countries during the next five years to 0,1 % of the Community's GDP.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2703/93

by **Ben Visser (PSE)**

to the **Commission**

(8 September 1993)

(94/C 296/76)

Subject: Intolerable conditions on Romania's frontier

Traffic through Romania is faced with serious problems, particularly on the Romanian-Bulgarian frontier in Giurgiu where conditions are intolerable, especially for Turks living in western Europe who are subjected to inhuman treatment. Crossing the border can take up to three days. There is nothing to eat or drink, except at extortionate prices; people are threatened, assaulted and robbed by Romanian criminals. Cars are destroyed while the police turn a blind eye.

To some extent the problems are caused by the customs officials who have been operating a new import system since 1 July 1993 (when Romania introduced VAT) with which they are still unfamiliar. There are also long tailbacks of lorries at the border. Action must be taken without delay.

1. Has the Commission protested in the strongest possible terms to the Romanian authorities?
2. If so, with what response?
3. Is the Commission prepared, if necessary in cooperation with the Member States, to send an inspection team without delay to examine conditions at first hand?
4. Does the EC feel there is any scope for alleviating this horrendous state of affairs by taking action pursuant to the trade and cooperation agreement between the Community and Romania?

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

(13 December 1993)

The Commission has no information about the inhuman treatment to which the Honourable Member refers. Under the Phare Programme, however, steps have been taken to improve border crossings in Romania. Schemes under the regional transport programme include car park infrastructure and waiting areas at borders posts between Romania and Bulgaria and also customs assistance. As part of this programme, aid to restructure the Romanian

customs administration began in December 1991. In 1992, under the regional customs programme, Romania received technical assistance and training in the field of customs legislation and procedures. An expert was sent by the Commission to advise Romania about difficulties at crossing-points on the Romanian-Bulgarian frontier. Under this regional customs programme, proposals have been drawn up to amplify the technical assistance already provided.

A feasibility study on the computerization of the Romanian customs administration has also been conducted, on the basis of which the Romanian Government has given priority to transforming the administration, allocating ECU 10 million of the 1993 Phare budget to this end.

Experts contracted by Phare are already in Romania helping the customers services with the change-over. Clearly it is a slow and costly process since it involves amending existing legislation, restructuring the administration and assisting the Romanian authorities with staff training and computerization.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2707/93

by **Karl von Wogau (PPE)**

to the Commission

(8 September 1993)

(94/C 296/77)

Subject: Support measures for the Ukraine

1. Does the Commission share my view that targeted assistance to promote the urgently needed upturn in the CIS should be supported by the European Community?
2. In a specific example, a Chamber of Crafts from my constituency in south Baden is prepared to take on the further training and/or retraining of 150 craftsmen from the Ukraine in their workshops in south Baden. However, neither the Chamber of Crafts nor the Ukrainian craftsmen can afford to pay the travel and accommodation expenses.
3. Is it true that EC aid and special funds cannot be claimed for this purpose?
4. If so, does the Commission intend to initiate appropriate measures to enable such actions which require minimal financial input but have a significant impact to be supported?

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

(14 December 1993)

Well targeted programmes, actions and projects are an essential element of technical assistance to the CIS. In this

respect an elaborate and detailed process is applied to the identification of such actions.

Technical assistance activities are identified in close consultation with the beneficiary State through a process, first of indicative programming of priorities, and then the preparation of coherent cost effective projects to meet the ends identified in the indicative programmes. Community partners are then identified to carry out the cooperation through a tender procedure, so that the most effective proposal may be retained.

This procedure, which the Commission believes to be the most effective way to target help pertinently and transparently, does not lend itself to the subsidising of the travel cost of craftsmen to a specific Chamber of Crafts in the Community. The Honourable Member is accordingly correct in thinking that there are no special funds to be claimed for the subsidy of travel costs in the way envisaged.

However, the Commission presently envisages a programme (so-called 'Productivity Initiative') through which visits to and training periods in Community firms and institutions could be launched to support enterprises and institutions in Russia on their way to a market economy framework. This will, of course, be done in such a way as to ensure transparency and neutrality in the award of contracts.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2710/93

by **Alexandros Alavanos (GUE)**

to the Commission

(8 September 1993)

(94/C 296/78)

Subject: Fig export subsidies

The Commission is reportedly planning to reduce Community subsidies for exports of Greek figs.

1. Figs are a traditional Greek export whose main competitor on the international market — Turkey — is not a Member State of the Community.
2. Present Community policy hitherto has reduced stocks of this product to a minimum whereas an increase in stocks will entail further Community spending.

Will the Commission, therefore, explain the reasons for its decision to reduce the export subsidy?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2730/93

by Christos Papoutsis (PSE)
to the Commission
(8 September 1993)
(94/C 296/79)

Subject: Premiums for fig production

Figs are a traditional export in some areas of Greece, a source of additional income for thousands of farming families and a factor in restricting unemployment and de-population of the countryside.

In view of this, will the Commission say:

1. whether there is any risk that the Community subsidy for exports of Greek figs will be reduced under the new common agricultural policy or other farming Regulations, and
2. whether, at all events, fig producers and fig packers are guaranteed income support as they are mainly small producers running small businesses and are under threat from international competition because of their higher production and packaging costs?

**Joint answer to Written Questions E-2710/93
and E-2730/93**
given by Mr Steichen
on behalf of the Commission
(20 December 1993)

The Honourable Members are no doubt referring to dried figs. In recent years production and intra-Community trade in dried figs has stabilized. The quantity and unit value of Community exports are moreover clearly increasing. Dried figs do not qualify for export refunds but are covered by a Community scheme of minimum prices to fig producers, storage aid and aid for the production of dried figs.

The latter is based on comparisons with the price of the raw material in producer third countries. For 1993/94 it was reduced from ECU 30 386 to ECU 21 602 per 100 kilos as a result of the increase in these prices. This year exceptionally the reduction takes into account only part of the increase. The minimum price and storage aid for 1993/94 are virtually unchanged at ECU 66 663 per 100 kilos and ECU 0,0302 per day and 100 kilos respectively.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2731/93

by Christos Papoutsis (PSE)
to the Commission
(8 September 1993)
(94/C 296/80)

Subject: Community financial aid

The association concerned with helping drug addicts in the Piraeus area is asking for Community financial aid to carry out urgent work on the building it has been given to make it operational. The aims of the association are:

- to provide help and support for drug addicts in the Piraeus area;
- to help them in any way possible to come off drugs and to re-integrate into society;
- to provide for their essential needs — housing, food, clothing, etc.

According to the technical report by the Piraeus authorities, the work to be carried out will cost an estimated DR 60 million.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. whether current Community rules and the Community budget allow the EC to grant aid to associations with the above aims?
2. If so, what procedures and time-limits must be observed to obtain such aid?

Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission
(3 December 1993)

Although the Commission organizes support measures for the economic and social integration of disadvantaged or marginalized groups, responsibility for financing national projects in this domain rests with the Member States.

The Community has no specific responsibilities in the matter of accommodation and so provision for financing building renovation exists only in very limited cases, i.e. in the context of social assistance for ex-ECSC workers, migrant workers and frontier workers. Beyond those cases, there are no budget appropriations for building renovation within specific Community programmes.

However, the Commission could consider the possibility of providing aid for the integration into working life of persons exposed to exclusion from the labour market under Objective 3 of the new Structural Funds Regulation.

The Commission and the national authorities are at present preparing the negotiations framework with a view to defining the operational Programmes by the end of this year. Once the Programmes have been defined the association in question, after having consulted the Ministry of Labour (ESF department), should submit its proposal either to the Secretariat of the Multi-Fund Operational Programme for Attica or to the Ministry of Public Health.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2772/93

by **John Iversen (V)**
to the Commission
(28 September 1993)
(94/C 296/81)

Subject: Safeguarding the interests of minorities and self-governing areas

What guidelines does the Commission propose to adopt to safeguard the interests of national, ethnic and cultural minorities and self-governing areas in the forthcoming accession negotiations with new Member States, especially where the negotiating partner does not wish to raise these interests?

Answer given by Mr Van den Broek
on behalf of the Commission
(14 January 1994)

Accession to the European Union requires acceptance of the *acquis communautaire* in all fields of Community policy. It is however up to the candidate countries to present specific requests.

The Community has little direct competence on matters evoked by the Honourable Member but the Community is founded on the rule of law and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These principles form the basis both of Community law and the laws of the candidate countries. Furthermore under Article 8 of the Treaty on European Union every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union. Under this article citizens of the Union enjoy the rights conferred by the Treaty and are subject to the duties imposed thereby.

Moreover a Committee of the Regions is to be set up under the provisions of the Treaty on European Union which should better allow for the interests of self-governing areas in the process of European construction.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2832/93

by **Giuseppe Mottola (PPE)**
to the Commission
(4 October 1993)
(94/C 296/82)

Subject: The 'Flegreo' project — the Phlegraean Fields nature reserve and the need to protect and use to best advantage the historical, archaeological, environmental and cultural heritage

In the area of the Phlegraean Fields, which covers the districts of Pozzuoli, Bacoli, Monte di Procida, Quarto and part of the territory of the city of Naples, there are historical, archaeological, natural artistic and cultural attractions of inestimable value, which are unique in the world.

There is still time to halt the inexorable process of deterioration and preserve this exceptional area for the inhabitants and tourists from all over the world. In the area there are four lakes: Averno, Fusaro, Lucrino and Miseno, which are surrounded by archaeological, historical and cultural sites as well as natural countryside and landscapes, where living conditions need to be improved.

The leading newspaper in the South of Italy, 'Il Mattino', has promoted two-day trips featuring archaeological and natural attractions and food, in order to attract the attention of the authorities and the general public.

Does the Commission not consider:

1. that it should prevail upon the Italian State and all the competent regional and local authorities to draw up a specific and comprehensive plan to rehabilitate and develop the area, in the context of the policy to protect, safeguard and put to best use parks, nature reserves, natural resources and the environment in general?
2. that in the context of the policy and objectives of the reform of the Structural Funds for the years 1994—1999 it should grant co-financing of at least 60% for the exploitation and safeguarding of productive resources and the archaeological, environmental, historical, cultural and natural heritage of this area?

Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission
(12 January 1994)

The Commission is aware of the importance of the historical, archaeological and ecological heritage of the Phlegraean Fields area.

As part of the multifund operational programme the Commission has financed at the request of the Campania region — a number of projects to protect and develop the archaeological and artistic heritage and natural resources

and to improve access to them. Examples include the Pozzuoli archaeological park, improvement measures for lake Miseno and rail transport development measures ('circumflegrea' and 'cumana').

The Commission considers that operations to be implemented in Campania in 1994—1999 should focus in particular on tourism (tourist amenities and development of the historical and natural heritage) and protection of the environment. If the Campania region should submit a specific integrated plan for the Phlegraean Fields area, the Commission would assess its expediency and consider financing conditions with a view to the possibility of granting a Community subsidy.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2840/93

by **Alex Smith (PSE)**
to the Commission
(4 October 1993)
(94/C 296/83)

Subject: Possible pollution arising from chemical accidents in Eire

What assessment has been made by the Commission that the three accidents in August 1993 at the chemical plants operated by Hicuson, Aom and Lawter respectively in the Republic of Ireland have resulted in the discharge of toxic chemicals that could result in the pollution of the air or water of other EC Member States, in particular areas on the western coast of the United Kingdom, and what information has been provided by the Irish Government as to whether these plants complied with EC environmental and health and safety Directives?

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission
(9 December 1993)

Chemical plants in the Community have to comply with Directive 82/501/EEC, the so-called Seveso Directive, which is concerned with the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to major accidents involving dangerous substances.

Of the three accidents in August 1993 in Ireland, two did not involve dangerous substances as defined in Directive 82/501/EEC as amended.

The information transmitted to the Commission by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency, indicates that the explosion and fire at Hickson Pharmachem Ltd in Cork harbour, started in a chemical reactor used to recover

iso-propyl alcohol from a process waste stream, and resulted in a fire which essentially destroyed a process building on site and a small adjacent tank farm.

Furthermore the environmental effect tests carried out showed that the impact on the air and water pollution was not serious and that there was little damage potential even within the Cork harbour area, and thus no potential at all for affecting other Member States.

However this accident has been reported to the Commission under the mechanism for reporting major accidents by virtue of the Directive.

Its causes and consequences will be analyzed and the lessons learnt will be published together with those from similar accidents which have occurred within the Community.

Finally it must be stressed that the verification of the compliance of particular plants with the provisions of the Directive is the responsibility of the national authorities.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2863/93

by **Alex Smith (PSE)**
to the Commission
(4 October 1993)
(94/C 296/84)

Subject: Non-payment of tribunal award

In 1991, one of my constituents was awarded compensation unfair dismissal through an industrial tribunal. My constituent's former employer is now resident outside the UK and living elsewhere in the European Community. This employer has failed to pay the compensation award to my constituent who is now entitled to a sum of £ 28 901.

Given the Commission's commitment to the Single Market, what action can be taken at EEC level to redress the situation in favour of my constituent?

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

The problem of an award for compensation made by an industrial tribunal following a case of unfair dismissal can be resolved in principle by the application of the rules of the Brussels Convention 1968 on the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.

Awards made by industrial tribunals are not excluded from the scope of this Convention which permits enforcement of such orders in the other contracting countries. Accordingly

the employee should be able to have the order enforced in the contracting country where the former employer is now resident.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2340/93

by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/85)

Subject: Protection of the natural heritage of the Mediterranean

The natural heritage of the Mediterranean would be protected more effectively if the Community set up a European agency for this purpose.

Does the Commission agree that there is a need for such an agency?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2404/93

by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/86)

Subject: European agency to improve protection of the natural heritage of the Mediterranean

Would it be possible to set up a European agency to improve the protection of the natural heritage of the Mediterranean?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2405/93

by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 296/87)

Subject: Directive on the Mediterranean environment

In view of the exceptional environmental value of the Mediterranean, could the Commission issue a Directive under which technology and know-how would be transferred to the Mediterranean countries, with particular emphasis on aquaculture, cleaning up polluted coastal areas and pollution control?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2914/93

by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(18 October 1993)

(94/C 296/88)

Subject: Establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean service

The transfer of technologies and methods from the countries of northern Europe to the Mediterranean Member States regarding fish farming, the cleaning up of coastal regions and systems for controlling pollution, notably by petroleum products and sewage from coastal towns which flows into the sea, might be easier if a Euro-Mediterranean service were set up. Does the Commission consider that the establishment of such a service is justified and that the Community should undertake an initiative to this end?

Joint answer to Written Questions E-2340/93, E-2404/93, E-2405/93 and E-2914/93
given by **Mr Paleokrassas**
on behalf of the Commission

(20 December 1993)

At a ministerial meeting organized by the Commission between 28 and 30 April 1992 in Cairo, the Environment Ministers of the Mediterranean countries, and the Member of the Commission with responsibility for the environment, adopted a declaration on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on the environment in the Mediterranean region as an extension of the Nicosia Charter of April 1990.

The participants drew up a long-term strategy to be combined with specific measures needed to attain the overall objective of an environment compatible with sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

The plan of action adopted at the Cairo meeting consists of two phases:

- a priority phase, designed to implement those elements of the Nicosia Charter which have not yet been carried out, define national strategies for sustainable development and create inter-sectoral mechanisms for integrating economic and environmental policy within all the Mediterranean countries;
- a longer-term phase designed to ensure the practical integration of economic and environmental policy through preparation and implementation of economic and social flanking measures and the development of cooperation and partnership between all the countries of the Mediterranean.

In order to ensure effective implementation of the programme, a watchdog mechanism has been set up with

the participation of the Commission, the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the UNEP, the World Bank, the EIB and other institutions.

The Commission believes that the administrative and technical structures already set up by the Mediterranean countries by and large cover the sectors referred to by the Honourable Member. Rather than creating new structures, it considers it more appropriate to improve the efficiency of the existing ones.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2941/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(18 October 1993)

(94/C 296/89)

Subject: Disposal of stocks of European wine-making cooperative organizations

European wine-making cooperative organizations have submitted to the Community a proposal for disposing of part of their stocks (some 600 000 tonnes) by special distillation. However, although the proposal was submitted in May, the Community authorities have not yet given any reply. Will the Commission state the Community's position on this question?

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

(7 December 1993)

On the basis of the data available on 31 August 1993, recorded by the producing Member States, the Commission is not in a position to propose special 'ad hoc' distillation to enable the disposal of a part of existing wine stocks.

In fact, the level of the stocks of various wines on 31 August 1993 at Community level was entirely comparable with that of previous wine years.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2959/93

by José Lafuente López (PPE)

to the Commission

(20 October 1993)

(94/C 296/90)

Subject: Commission responsibility for the world's most visited Arab monument located in the Community

The fact that the Alhambra in Granada is the world's most-visited Arab monument will mean that pictures of it will be shown throughout next year more than 2 000 times on 700 US television channels.

Nevertheless, there are those who claim that this monument in Granada, jewel of the period of Arab rule over Spain, needs an ongoing programme of repairs and maintenance if it is to retain its architectural splendour.

Can the Commission say what action it has taken to preserve the world's most-visited Arab monument located in the Community and to what extent it has employed economic and budgetary resources to ensure that the Alhambra in Granada is a model of the care given by the EEC to its most prestigious monuments?

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

(19 January 1994)

The Alhambra in Granada is certainly part of the Community's outstanding cultural heritage, as are several other monuments located throughout the Community.

Each year, the Community organizes a programme of pilot projects for the preservation of our architectural heritage. In 1986 the Commission awarded Spain a grant of ECU 200 000 towards conservation work on the Lions' Patio in the Alhambra.

Furthermore, the Commission is currently preparing a communication on objects and property of cultural and historical value, for the purpose of producing a coherent action plan in this area. Any proposals will be examined in this context. The communication will be based on Article 128 of the EC Treaty in accordance with the appropriate procedures.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2989/93

by Virginio Bettini (V)
to the Commission
(25 October 1993)
(94/C 296/91)

Subject: Arms dealers

The 'TG2 Dossier' programme on the international arms trade, which was broadcast by Italian television (RAI) on 10 August 1993, revealed the existence of a large arms depot in Manchester belonging to American businessman Samuel Cummings' Interarms company.

Will the Commission explain how a major international arms dealer can operate freely in Community Europe?

**Answer given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission**
(24 February 1994)

The Commission is not aware of the circumstances referred to by the Honourable Member.

Whatever the facts may be, the possibility for an American concern to engage in international arms business operating out of a Member State is a matter for the legislation of that State.

Furthermore, while the fight against arms trafficking is a matter for customs, police and judicial cooperation between the Member States, as organized by Title VI of the Treaty on European Union, there is nothing in the question to suggest that the company in question is engaging in illicit business.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3059/93

by François Musso (RDE)
to the Commission
(29 October 1993)
(94/C 296/92)

Subject: Implementation of the Interreg Programme in Corsica

Can the Commission say how the Interreg Programme for the southern Corsica and northern Sardinia has been implemented and what funds have been earmarked for this purpose, compared with the level of commitment and payment appropriations?

**Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission**
(22 December 1993)

1. The progress of the Interreg Programme for southern Corsica and the Sardinian province of Sassari was studied in detail by the Interreg Monitoring Committee at its meeting in Ajaccio on 12 July 1993. As a result, only certain measures concerning southern Corsica were re-programmed because according to the Sardinian authorities all the measures concerning them will be commenced within the time limits laid down.

The last transfers of funds between measures will be examined at a forthcoming meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

2. As a result of the amendments adopted by the Monitoring Committee at its meeting of 12 July 1993, the Community assistance granted under Interreg was specified in Commission Decision C(93) 2492 of 1 October 1993.

The appropriations, in 1993 prices, are as follows:

ERDF:

ECU 17,494 million, with ECU 11,048 million for Italy and ECU 6,446 million for France

EAGGF:

ECU 0,974 million, with ECU 0,487 million for Italy and ECU 0,487 million for France

ESF:

ECU 1,418 million, with ECU 0,810 million for Italy and ECU 0,608 million for France.

The situation at 31 October 1993 as regards commitments and payments was as follows:

(in million ECU)

Funds	Corsica/Sardinia	Commitments	Payments
ERDF	Southern Corsica	6,446 (single instalment for 1993)	3,223 (first instalment for 1993)
	Sassari province	9,800 (1992 instalment)	4,900 (first advance for 1992)
EAGGF	Southern Corsica	0,307	0,153
	Sassari province	0,307	0,153
ESF	Southern Corsica	0,400	0,200
	Sassari province	0,787	0,393

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3119/93by **Gerhard Schmid (PSE)**

to the Commission

(10 November 1993)

(94/C 296/93)

Subject: The Community's Social Fund (ESF)

What specific projects in Bavaria have received funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) since 1990, and how much have they received?

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

(12 January 1994)

On the basis of the Community support frameworks adopted for Germany in respect of Objectives 3 (combating long-term unemployment) and 4 (integration of young people), the Commission has authorized sums totalling ECU 22 707 213 and ECU 10 364 970 for the 1990—1992 period and for 1993 respectively to finance programmes in Bavaria.

These sums break down as follows:

	<i>(in ECU)</i>
A. Objective 3	
Measures to assist	
— disabled people	7 452 382
— long-term unemployed women and men	12 768 155
Total	20 220 537
B. Objective 4	
Measures to assist	
— disabled young people	1 957 306
— young women	899 245
— other disadvantaged young people	7 538 419
Total	10 394 970
C. Measures in accordance with Article 1 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4255/88	
Guidance and advice for the re-integration of the long-term unemployed and technical assistance	2 456 676

As regards the development of rural areas (Objective 5b), the Commission has taken a decision on the contribution of all three Structural Funds to the financing of an operational programme.

The contribution from the European Social Fund (ESF) towards this programme amounts to ECU 31 792 510 for the period 1990—1993.

The bulk of this ESF funding is earmarked for vocational training, although assistance is also given to enable newly

recruited persons to acquire qualifications or practical work experience.

Following the 1988 reform of the Structural Funds, the Commission no longer decides on individual projects; it considers only the programmes put forward by individual Länder. The competent German authorities are solely responsible for deciding on the funding of specific projects.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3150/93by **Paul Howell (PPE)**

to the Commission

(19 November 1993)

(94/C 296/94)

Subject: Cereal and sugar regimes

1. Can the Commission comment on the results to date of the new cereal regime price support system? Will the Commission announce its latest 1993 harvest estimates, country by country, indicating also the amount of land set aside in each country, in actual terms and as a percentage of total cereal areas?
2. Now that the 1 October deadline has passed for submitting proposals for the terms of the next sugar regime, can the Commission comment on which specific reform measures will be included in the new regime? For example, will the Commission change the terms of the quota system? Will the storage premium for the C quota be abolished? Will price supports for sugar beet production in excess of self reliance be withdrawn?
3. Will the Commission be simultaneously renegotiating the status of the Portuguese Accession Agreement with the 1994 sugar regime?

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

(22 February 1994)

1. It is too early to assess accurately the impact of cereal price reductions on the level of consumption in the Community. However according to the trade, consumption may increase by 4-5 million tonnes in the 1993/94 marketing year, which would correspond with the Community's projections for the first year of implementation of the reform.

The Commission's latest estimate of the 1993 Community's cereals harvest is 164,7 million tonnes, divided between Member States as follows:

	<i>(in 000' tonnes)</i>
Belgium and Luxembourg	2,035
Denmark	8,234
Germany	35,717
Greece	4,576
Spain	16,997
France	54,720
Ireland	1,403
Italy	18,475
Netherlands	1,467
Portugal	1,377
United Kingdom	19,709

This reduction in Community cereals production follows the introduction of the Community set-aside policy under the arable support system. According to provisional data communicated by Member States, the total amount of rotational set-aside in 1993 in the Community is 4,659 million hectares, divided between Member States and expressed as a percentage of their total cereals area as follows:

	'000 hectares	% of total cereal area
Belgium	19	5
Denmark	205	15
Germany	1,063	15
Greece	17	1
Spain	909	17
France	1,581	17
Ireland	24	10
Italy	207	6
Luxembourg	2	6
Netherlands	8	2
Portugal	70	10
United Kingdom	556	20

The varying percentages of set-aside are explained by the different agricultural structures in Member States. In particular some Member States have a higher proportion of small producers who are exempt from set-aside. The percentage of set-aside as a proportion of the cereals area gives a misleading impression compared with its calculation as a proportion of the arable area. Certain Member States have for example a higher proportion of cereals according to their traditional production trends.

In addition to rotational set-aside, 1,5 million hectares have been withdrawn from production under the five year set-aside scheme under Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91.

2 & 3. As the Honourable Member is by now already aware, the Commission adopted a proposal to the Council on 29 September 1993 ⁽¹⁾ providing for the retention of the existing production arrangements, raw sugar supply arrangements and aids in the Community's sugar sector for the 1994/95 marketing year, including the relevant measures concerning Portugal.

In these circumstances the Commission intends presenting new proposals to the Council on the arrangements to apply after the 1994/95 marketing year ending on 30 June 1995 in good time to allow a decision to be taken by the Council before 1 January 1995 as envisaged in the proposed revised text of Article 23 of the Council Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 concerned.

⁽¹⁾ COM(93) 442 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3178/93

by Marc Galle (PSE)

to the Commission

(19 November 1993)

(94/C 296/95)

Subject: Panel of judges for the European literature prize

According to the press, a panel of judges has been appointed to decide who should receive the European literature prize.

1. Who is appointing it, and according to what criteria?
2. Would it not be desirable and useful to hold a discussion with the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media before taking such a decision?
3. Is membership of the EP incompatible with membership of a panel carrying out an assignment on behalf of the EC?

Answer given by Mr Pinheiro
on behalf of the Commission

(3 January 1994)

The Aristeion Prize (European Literary Prize and European Translation Prize) was established following the resolution on books and reading adopted by the Council (Culture) on 18 May 1989.

An announcement was made in the Official Journal ⁽¹⁾, and these prizes are described in the Commission communication on 'New Prospects for Community Culture Action' presented to the Council and the Parliament on 22 April 1992.

For each prize, an independent jury of nine experts is selected by the Commission on a proposal from the Member States. At the beginning of each year, the Member States are asked by the Commission to nominate two professionals from the world of books: the first for the literary prize (writer, literary critic, etc.) and the other for the translation prize (a translator, for instance).

Apart from being a professional, the criteria are availability and a perfect knowledge of at least three Community languages. Jury members must travel to meetings three times a year (two of them last two days) and must also read about 36 books or book reports.

The Commission sees no incompatibility between membership of the jury and membership of the European Parliament, provided the person in question is professionally qualified to judge the quality of the literary works submitted and is nominated by the relevant authorities.

(1) OJ No C 35, 15. 2. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3182/93

by Jessica Larive (ELDR)
to the Commission
(23 November 1993)
(94/C 296/96)

Subject: European ban on imports of birds caught in the wild

Is the Commission aware that:

- each year, between one and three million birds caught in the wild are imported into the European Community, although enough are bred in Europe to meet demand?
- recent research has shown that in the case of certain species of bird, three out of every four that are caught die before delivery to pet shops in Europe?
- 105 airlines have voluntarily agreed to ban transportation of tropical birds?
- there is however no legal remedy against evasion of this ban and that such evasion has even resulted in displacement of transport to bulk cargoes (full charter) *inter alia* via eastern Europe?
- the European Parliament has on several occasions called for European legislation (resolution A3-212/91 ⁽¹⁾) on the trade in exotic birds)?
- in spite of this, the Commission still has not proposed legislation?

When will the Commission finally put forward a proposal for European legislation to ban imports into the EC of birds caught in the wild? If this situation persists for long, I fear that Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 ⁽²⁾ on trade in endangered species will enter into force automatically because trade in birds caught in the wild threatens many species with extinction.

(1) OJ No C 267, 14. 10. 1991, p. 226.

(2) OJ No L 384, 31. 12. 1982, p. 1.

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas on behalf of the Commission

(14 January 1994)

The Commission is fully aware of Community imports of live wild birds as this trade is for the majority of the species involved regulated under Council Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of Wild Fauna and Flora. As indicated in its response to resolution A3-212/91 and its replies to Written Questions 783/93 by Mrs Pollack ⁽¹⁾, 1601/91 by Mrs Muscardini ⁽²⁾, 1988/91 by Mr Ford ⁽³⁾, and 2021/91 by Mr Brok ⁽³⁾, the Commission is of the opinion that a blanket ban on trade in wild birds is not necessary and that all aspects of wildlife trade are adequately addressed in its proposal for a Regulation laying down provisions with regard to possession of and trade in specimens of species of wild fauna and flora ⁽⁴⁾.

(1) OJ No C 281, 28. 10. 1991.

(2) OJ No C 55, 2. 3. 1992.

(3) OJ No C 162, 29. 6. 1992.

(4) OJ No C 26, 3. 2. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3223/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(23 November 1993)
(94/C 296/97)

Subject: Trade strategy with the countries of central and eastern Europe

Can the Commission state whether — and, if so, when — a consistent trade strategy is to be jointly drawn up with the countries of central and eastern Europe, taking account of the reform of the common agricultural policy and the new rules on the trade in agricultural products?

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan
on behalf of the Commission**
(2 February 1994)

Help for progressive alignment of domestic policies with those of the Community and development of reciprocal trade are integral parts of the Europe Agreements or other trade and cooperation agreements in force between individual countries of east and central Europe and the Community. Phare technical and other assistance is being provided to countries with important agricultural interests to help develop agricultural reform, development and trading policies taking account of the objectives of these Agreements.

In view of the wide range of possible changes presently facing Community and other European countries' agricultural production and trading regimes, the Commission has initiated a study by high-level independent experts of trade and related issues bearing on agricultural sectors in the Community and east and central European countries.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3286/93

by Gérard Deprez (PPE)
to the Commission
(23 November 1993)
(94/C 296/98)

Subject: The fight against AIDS — the programme scheduled under Lomé 4

The Commission recently pointed out that the Community had contributed to the fight against AIDS in around 80 countries.

Can the Commission:

1. name the countries in question?
2. specify the selection criteria for the projects in receipt of funding?
3. state whether it considers that many valuable projects have had to be abandoned because of a lack of suitable funding?
4. give a percentage breakdown of the share of the total aid allocated directly to hospitals, information programmes (and the names of the places involved), direct assistance to sufferers and programmes specifically aimed at promoting access to and use of condoms?

Does the Commission consider that the programme provided for under Lomé 4, which has been allocated ECU 50 million, is adequate, bearing in mind past experience and the objectives pursued?

**Answer given by Mr Marín
on behalf of the Commission**
(22 December 1993)

1. The Commission has contributed to the fight against AIDS in 64 (i.e. almost all) ACP countries and in 16 non-ACP countries (in Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean). Apart from national activities, the Commission's programme also provides support for activities benefiting all developing countries (education, operational research, seminars, etc.), as well as activities aimed at regions encompassing several countries.

2. Since the Commission is aware that the resources allocated worldwide to deal with the AIDS problem are inadequate, it uses a number of criteria for selecting priority activities, the main ones being as follows:

— The activities must be in keeping with the policy and strategies laid down in the Community AIDS programme recently put to the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly, which the Commission will communicate to the Council and Parliament in the near future. AIDS policy for developing countries should follow six main principles: suitability of operations for the environment presenting a risk; sensitivity to and, more importantly, adaptation to the differences between the sexes; education of society and respect for human dignity; capacity to enable communities to take responsibility for themselves; integration of operations into a broader framework; and the suitability of these operations.

— The strategic priorities are prevention of the disease, support for health systems to enable them to cope with the epidemic, awareness of the epidemic's social and economic impact and scientific training.

— Criteria geared more to implementation are: consistency of a particular operation with national policies and the operations of other parties concerned, socio-cultural acceptability of the operation, its cost-effectiveness and viability.

3. The Commission receives very few finalized projects simply requiring support and funding. To date, no more than 10% of activities financed by the Commission have concerned projects submitted in this form. This means that in most cases technical assistance is needed to turn a request for support and funding into an acceptable project. The Commission can therefore safely say that no valid project submitted according to the aforementioned criteria has ever been rejected solely on the basis of a lack of financial resources. On the other hand, the support needed to develop valid projects is sometimes delayed as a result of insufficient human resources or expertise or problems concerning a country's ability to absorb aid.

The human and financial resources available worldwide for combating AIDS in developing countries are clearly inadequate to implement the minimum activities needed to limit the spread of the epidemic and cope with its impact. Yet any financial boost must be accompanied by more effective prevention and increased human resources.

4. Most projects supported by the Commission combine a number of operations, such as support for health systems, information, education, provision of condoms, care for people suffering from sexually transmissible disease, etc. Overall, it is clear that the majority of aid (approximately 70 %) has gone towards preventing the spread of AIDS. The rest has been spent on strengthening health systems (including hospitals and transfusion centres), as well as on scientific training in order to improve operations on the ground. More recently, support has been given to activities aimed at coping with the disease's socio-economic impact (orphans, etc. . .).

5. Under Lomé IV, the Commission has pledged a minimum of ECU 50 million for combating AIDS in the ACP countries. At the moment 20 % of this sum has been committed for activities specific to individual countries. The Commission also receives around ECU 10 million a year from the budget for the fight against AIDS in all developing countries, part of which also benefits ACP countries.

At the moment, the Commission believes the allocated resources to be in line with management capacity in Europe and the developing countries. As regards the requirements, please refer back to the answer to question 3.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3318/93

by Jean-Pierre Raffin (V)
to the Commission
(24 November 1993)
(94/C 296/99)

Subject: Poaching of turtle doves in south-western France

Commissioner Paleokrassas appears to have read Written Question No 1189/93 too quickly and in his joint answer of 30 September 1993 to Written Questions Nos 1189/93 and 1692/93 ⁽¹⁾ has failed to answer the question properly.

In December 1992, Commissioner Van Miert stated that the matter had been raised with the French authorities in May 1992 and the Commission would decide in the light of the answers given.

1. Did the French authorities reply to the questions raised in May 1992?
2. What were their replies?
3. When will the Commission take a decision?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 25, 28. 1. 1994, p. 22.

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

(14 January 1994)

As the Commission explained in its Tenth Report on the monitoring of the application of Community Law — 1992 ⁽¹⁾, it does give a certain amount of publicity to the sending of reasoned opinions and to the referral of matters to the Court of Justice. The serving of notice is not made public unless it relates to the non-enforcement of a judgment of the Court of Justice or the non-communication of national measures to incorporate Directives.

The Commission considers that in keeping the first exchange of views constituting the serving of notice provided for under Article 169 of the EC Treaty confidential, it succeeds in persuading the Member States to respect Community law at the pre-dispute stage in a greater number of cases than it would otherwise.

The questions on accurate data and figures put by the Commission have not been answered. The Commission will be looking at what the appropriate follow-up should be with respect to the infringement procedure.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 233, 30. 8. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3319/93

by Carlos Pimenta (ELDR)
to the Commission
(24 November 1993)
(94/C 296/100)

Subject: Contracts with third country nationals

The Commission is recruiting an increasing number of non-official staff under temporary contract.

A growing number of them are third-country nationals.

How many third-country nationals has the Commission recruited per Directorate-General under temporary contract? Can the Commission also explain for each Directorate-General why it has specifically recruited third-country nationals.

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

(24 February 1994)

At present, the Commission employs two temporary and three auxiliary members of staff with the nationality of a non-member country. These staff were recruited in accordance with the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants.

Furthermore, in the private contracts which the Commission concludes for the purposes of securing specific services, some contractors may have the nationality of a non-member country. On average, such contracts account for only 1,5% to 2% of all contracts concluded by the Commission.

Will the Commission investigate whether the Directorate-General of the Government of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia is in fact observing the Directive in question in its treatment of the Oikos case?

(¹) OJ No L 186, 30. 6. 1989, p. 27.

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

(24 February 1994)

The Commission is always willing to investigate any allegation of the infringement of Community law. However, in order to conduct such an investigation, the Commission must receive detailed information about the facts of the complaint and the behaviour of the authorities of the Member States concerned which is alleged to constitute an infringement.

The Commission would therefore invite the Honourable Member to ask the company concerned to contact the Commission directly in order to forward the necessary information.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3467/93

by **Diego Santos López (ARC)**

to the Commission

(7 December 1993)

(94/C 296/101)

Subject: Infringement of Directive 89/398/EEC by the Directorate-General for Consumers of the Government of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia

The firm Oikos Pharmaceuticals SA, of Fuengirola (Andalusia) markets, distributes and imports special dietary products in Spain, particularly evening primrose or primula oil and mercialga spirulina, which have alimentary properties necessary to persons suffering from metabolic deficiencies. These products are freely available in the Community, and in Spain they were entered in the General Foods Health Register in Jaén. With the change of headquarters from Jaén to Fuengirola, the Directorate-General for Consumers of the Government of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia is preventing the marketing of these products by refusing to re-enter them in the Register.

I believe that the Andalusian administration is infringing the provisions of Directive 89/398/EEC (¹) and specifically Article 10 thereof, forbidding the Member States to prevent the sale of these products when they meet the provisions of the Directive and, where appropriate, Article 11 thereof.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3509/93

by **François Froment-Meurice (PPE)**

to the Commission

(7 December 1993)

(94/C 296/102)

Subject: Community legislation

Can the Commission provide a broad sector-by-sector breakdown of the areas in which legislation is adopted each year?

Could this breakdown include percentage indications?

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

(26 January 1994)

The Commission would ask the Honourable Member to consult the Celex database, which can provide the required information.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3541/93**by Christine Oddy (PSE)****to the Commission***(13 December 1993)**(94/C 296/103)**Subject: Firework safety in the EC*

Is the Commission aware that 942 people were injured by fireworks in Britain in the four-week period surrounding Bonfire Night in 1992 and that 34 % were children under the age of 13?

Will the Commission guarantee that the very high standards of safety in the UK will not be undermined by imported fireworks?

Will the Commission bring forward a draft Directive in consultation with the manufacturers, fire brigades and trading standards authorities to ensure a high standard of safety is maintained?

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

(28 January 1994)

The Commission is aware that injuries were caused to both adults and children in the UK during the period referred to the Honourable Member. The Commission would recall that its action in the field of pyrotechnical articles is guided by the need to guarantee the freedom of circulation of these articles within the single market, and the need to ensure a high level of consumer protection.

A group of experts from the Member States met on 20 September and generally supported the need for a Community initiative in this field. There were wide divergences as to the scope and contents of such an initiative. Only if there is a certain consensus as to the scope and contents of a future Directive will the Commission present a proposal.

If such a proposal is adopted it would contain the harmonized requirements that fireworks have to satisfy in order to be placed on the market. Any such requirements would of course guarantee the 'high level of protection' referred to in Article 100 A.3 EC Treaty. Fireworks imported from third countries would also have to comply with the same regulatory measures in order to be placed on the market.

The Commission will ensure that, in the preparation of any Community measure on this issue, the appropriate consultations are made.

In the absence of a specific Community measure, these products fall within the scope of Directive 92/59/EEC on

general product safety ⁽¹⁾ which will enter into force on 29 June 1994.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 228, 11. 8. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3491/93**by Alex Smith (PSE)****to the Commission***(7 December 1993)**(94/C 296/104)**Subject: Discrimination on basis of age in Commission appointments*

I understand from a constituent who recently enquired about a vacancy within the Commission for surveillance staff, that an age limit of 35 years is imposed on Commission appointments.

Why does the Commission discriminate against applicants on the basis of age?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3542/93**by Christine Oddy (PSE)****to the Commission***(13 December 1993)**(94/C 296/105)**Subject: Age discrimination in the European Community*

As a result of continued pressure from MEPs and other bodies will the Commission undertake to remove upper age-limits in all its recruitment?

**Joint answer to Written Questions E-3491/93
and E-3542/93**

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

(21 February 1994)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to the answer to Written Question No 394/92 by Mr Seligman ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See page 3 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3589/93**by Fernand Herman (PPE)****to the Commission***(23 November 1993)**(94/C 296/106)**Subject: Biological fuels*

How far in general has the market in biological fuels developed in the USA (quantities, market share, percentage of grain harvest involved)? Has the increase in production of alcohol fuel led to difficulties for the USA in the GATT?

Does the Commission share the view of the Federal German Environmental Agency that biodiesel is harmful to the environment because of the oxides of nitrogen? In terms of relative value, how does the use of biological fuels for 5 % of supplies in Europe compare with oil stocks in the European Union? Does not the cultivation of energy crops on set-aside land provide a strong incentive towards more intensive methods, i.e. the ever-increasing use of production methods designed to produce higher yields? What lessons can be drawn from a comparison between the energy balances of oil and biological fuels?

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

(22 December 1993)

Ethanol in the United States is produced from corn. About 5 % of the total production is used for this purpose. In 1990, ethanol represented 0,8 % of the total gasoline sales in the United States. The 3,4 million m³ of fuel ethanol produced in the United States in 1990 reduced oil imports by more than 40 million barrels of crude oil. There are more than 50 ethanol production facilities operating in 22 different States, representing a private sector investment of more than US\$ 2,5 billion. The United States fuel ethanol industry has a current operational capacity of over 4,5 million m³ per year. According to the National Advisory Panel on Ethanol Cost-Effectiveness, each billion gallons (3,8 million m³) of ethanol production increases employment by more than 4 400 farm jobs and 3 700 industrial jobs. The combination of reduced oil imports and increased co-product exports, resulting from ethanol production, reduced the United States trade deficit in 1991 by more than US\$ 6 billion.

The Commission is not aware of any specific instances in GATT where the United States has raised possible difficulties with regard to the production of fuel alcohol.

A meeting organized by the Commission on 27 September 1993 to assess biodiesel impacts on economy, energy and

the environment concluded that 'the ecological balance needs more development but the global impact can be considered to be of low level'. A delegate of the German environmental agency (Umwelt Bundesamt) was present and referred to the N₂O problem as being of 'marginal' importance, which may be considered as a change of opinion, on this matter, of that agency.

A review of existing work on the energy environmental and economic balance sheets will take place within the context of the International Biofuels Conference supported by the Commission at Tours, France, on 9, 10 and 11 May 1994.

The total oil demand of the Community in 2005 is estimated at 617 million tonnes oil equivalent. If oil reserves in 2005 are at the same level as today (that is three months demand) then a share of 5 % biofuels in road transport fuel demand (that is 22 million tonnes oil equivalent), will represent in energy equivalent terms around 7 % of the reserves.

One of the main guidelines followed by the Council in deciding the reform of the common agricultural policy was full and on-going compensation for the reduction in prices of agricultural products through compensatory amounts or premiums not related to the quantities produced. This principle of compensation which is not linked to the level of production equally applies to produce grown on set aside land for purposes other than human or animal consumption.

A summary of the results of several analyses made in the framework of studies on bio-fuels conducted in several Member States reveals that the energy balance is positive (output/input global energy ratio) in all cases with or without considering the energy content of the co-products. Several methodologies can be used to calculate the energy balance. These different methodologies produce inevitably substantially different results. The range for biodiesel is 1,56 to 6,3. For bio-ethanol this range is 1,7 to 3,4. The energy balances improve if 'sustainable' agricultural methods (less inputs) are considered and will also improve with technological development and industrial experience. When comparing biofuel with fossil fuel energy balances and disregarding the CO₂ balances and other externalities, the balance is certainly favourable to fossil fuels from a 'strict energy' point of view. However, it should not be forgotten that a diminishing finite resource is compared with a renewable (sustainable) one.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3758/93by **Dimitrios Nianias (RDE)**

to the Commission

*(30 November 1993)**(94/C 296/107)*

Subject: Clothing products agreement between the EC and Turkey

On 18 June 1993 the Commission initialled an agreement for clothing products with Turkey to cover a period of two years from 1 January 1993 until 31 December 1994.

Given the agreed need for greater transparency in the workings of Community Institutions, will the Commission make a copy of this agreement available to Parliament?

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

(3 January 1994)

The Commission has negotiated a 2-years extension of the arrangement concerning imports of clothing products from Turkey to the Community, with the Association of Turkish Exporters on a mandate from the Council and in strict coordination with the Article 113 textile Committee.

The arrangement, which covers the years 1993 and 1994 was initialled by the Commission and the Association on 18 June 1993 in Istanbul and was approved by the Council on 8 November 1993.

Neither the clothing arrangement in question, nor the twin arrangement for textile products which covers the years 1992 and 1993, have been made public, nor any of their predecessors. The latter were circulated only among the Community authorities because of their particular nature. They are informal arrangements agreed by the Commission with the Association of Turkish Exporters who undertake not to exceed certain levels of exports to the Community for some sensitive products. The government of Turkey, because of the preferential bilateral trade relations with the Community under the Association Agreement, has always refused to negotiate formal quantitative restrictions.

The Turkish Government guarantees the administration and implementation of the arrangements even if it considers them to be contrary to the provisions of the Association Agreement between Turkey and the Community. Turkey has always expressed its strong preference for a restricted circulation of the text of the documents.

However, in the context of the objective of improving transparency of all the activities of the Community's

institutions, the Commission agrees that the text of the arrangement could be made available to Members of Parliament, if requested.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3767/93by **Christine Crawley (PSE)**

to the Commission

*(12 January 1994)**(94/C 296/108)*

Subject: Timeshare

In the light of the draft Directive on timeshare is the Commission aware of the malpractice occurring in some holiday resorts?

Does it intend to amend or review the present legislation on timeshare to take this into consideration or will it commission research into this matter?

Will the Canary Islands be included in this legislation or will they be declared 'off-shore' islands and therefore be exempt?

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

(24 February 1994)

In its meeting held on 19 November 1993, the Council reached a political agreement on the proposal for a Directive on the protection of purchasers in contracts relating to the purchase of a right to use property on a timeshare basis. A common position is therefore expected in early 1994. The Commission does not consider it necessary to go beyond the text adopted by the Council.

The Commission is glad to inform the Honourable Member that the future Directive on timesharing will apply in the Canary Islands as in the rest of the Community.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3849/93by **Carlos Perreau de Pinninck Domenech (RDE)**

to the Commission

*(9 December 1993)**(94/C 296/109)*

Subject: The AL-Invest Programme

Can the Commission give details of the progress of the AL-Invest Programme, and state in particular whether the

association or associations which will make up its future secretariat have already been designated?

If so, can the Commission state the names of the associations and give details of when they are scheduled to take up their duties and the arrangements relating thereto?

**Answer given by Mr Marín
on behalf of the Commission**
(14 January 1994)

The AL-Invest Framework Programme for industrial cooperation and investment promotion, agreed by the Commission on 26 April 1993, has raised great expectations among both Latin American and European operators. Already a number of projects and operations have been carried out in relation to sub-contracting and to expanding the TIPS Programme (Technological Information Promotion System) for South-South exchanges.

With regard to the appointment of the secretariat, it was decided following an open invitation to tender to set up a secretariat with the active participation of the main existing support networks for industrial cooperation with Latin America: the chambers of commerce and the employers' federations.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3899/93

by Bryan Cassidy (PPE)
to the Commission
(24 January 1994)
(94/C 296/110)

Subject: Amendments

Referring to Written Question No 1253/92 ⁽¹⁾ from Lord O'Hagan MEP and the answer, could the Commission supply up-to-date information concerning the percentage of those amendments passed by Parliament which it has accepted?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 274, 22. 10. 1992, p. 61.

**Answer given by Mr Pinheiro
on behalf of the Commission**
(25 February 1994)

The information, updated to 30 December 1993, concerning the percentage of the amendments of the Parliament accepted by the Commission on its proposals subject to the cooperation procedure, is as follows:

	First reading	Second reading
Amendments tabled	4 572	1 074
Amendments accepted	2 499 (54,65%)	475 (44,22%)