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I

(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION E-64/95

by Ursula Schleicher (PPE)

to the Commission

*(30 January 1995)**(95/C 202/01)*

Subject: Harmonization of the prescription requirements and time lags for veterinary drugs in the European Union

Because of the dismantling of the internal borders on 1 January 1993 and differences in national legislation on prescription requirements, individual Member States are no longer able adequately to monitor the different marketing channels for veterinary drugs. This situation is aggravated by the existence of different rules governing time lags in the individual Member States.

This naturally distorts competition and provides many opportunities for abuse, thereby jeopardizing public health and consumer protection.

Does the Commission intend to submit a proposal for harmonizing the prescription requirements and the time lags for veterinary drugs in the European Union?

If so, when will this take place? What preliminary measures have so far been taken in this connection?

Does the Commission agree that swift action is necessary if abuse is to be prevented?

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

(6 March 1995)

Directive 81/851/EEC ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Directive 90/676/EEC ⁽²⁾, introduced rules to harmonize the principal

aspects of the marketing of veterinary medicinal products with a view, in particular, to protecting the health of consumers of products of animal origin.

For example, it imposed obligations to ensure that only qualified and authorized persons may operate as wholesale and retail traders in this sector and that transactions in medicinal products for livestock intended for human consumption are duly recorded.

The Directive also stipulates that certain categories of medicinal products may be supplied on prescription only. These minimum rules ensure broad alignment of the decisions taken at national level on administration of veterinary medicinal products. In January 1993 the Commission started broad consultations in response to certain Member States' fears that completion of the internal market would make it more difficult for the national authorities to demand a prescription for certain categories of products if animal owners could obtain them without a prescription in a neighbouring Member State. However, the Commission decided, on the basis of the outcome of these consultations, that the problem was not great enough to warrant action by the Community at the moment.

To protect consumers, Directive 81/851/EEC requires a withdrawal period to be set between administration of the final dose of the veterinary medicinal product and the sale of the meat or other products derived from the same animal for consumption. This withdrawal period must be indicated on the labelling and package inserts for the veterinary medicinal product in question. Hitherto, it has been left to the national authorities to decide whether to authorize marketing of a given medicinal product and they have sometimes set different withdrawal periods. The new marketing authorization system introduced on 1 January 1995 should gradually lead to closer coordination of the national decisions taken in the decentralized procedure. In the case of the centralized procedure, the Commission Decisions granting marketing authorization are valid

throughout the Community and will indicate the withdrawal period to be observed.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 317, 6. 11. 1981.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 373, 31. 12. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-68/95

by Jannis Sakellariou (PSE)

to the Council

(30 January 1995)

(95/C 202/02)

Subject: Military aid by individual EU Member States to the Sudanese Government

How does the Council view the fact that individual Member States are providing the Sudanese Government with military aid (notably in the form of training for Sudanese police officers and security equipment for the Sudanese Government) in its struggle against the resistance movement, although the European Union imposed an arms embargo on the Sudan on 15 March 1994?

What measures does the Council intend to introduce so as to reestablish a common standpoint of the Member States of the EU in this area of foreign and security policy?

Answer

(26 June 1995)

The experts on Africa considered the case of Sudan at their meeting on 13 February. They deplored the regime's lack of openness and the human rights situation, which remains bad.

The EU supports the move by the 'Friends of the Igadd', which is attempting to restart the peace initiative in Sudan.

In addition, as the Honourable Member points out, the European Union adopted a common position on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union concerning the imposition of an embargo on arms, munitions and military equipment on Sudan. That Decision specifies the equipment covered by the embargo.

The Treaty on European Union states that 'Member States shall support the Union's external and security policy actively and unreservedly in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity. They shall refrain from any action which is contrary to the interests of the Union or likely to impair its effectiveness as a cohesive force in international relations. The Council shall ensure that these principles are complied with.'

Article 2 of the abovementioned Decision provides for Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure that the embargo is applicable from 16 March 1994.

Information is being collected in the Working Party on Conventional Arms Exports, in close liaison with the geographical working parties, on implementation by the Member States of embargoes decided on by the Union.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-82/95

by José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Council

(3 February 1995)

(95/C 202/03)

Subject: Multilateral surveillance of economic policies

In 1992 the Council began six-monthly multilateral surveillance activities with a view to promoting an independent coordination of economic policies within the Community (pursuant to Decision 90/141/EEC ⁽¹⁾). In the light of two years' experience, what assessment can the Council give to the citizens regarding this European Union action designed to 'discipline the Governments'?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 78, 24. 3. 1990, p. 23.

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Council attaches the greatest importance to the fulfilment of the obligations laid down by Article 103 (3) of the Treaty referring to the multilateral surveillance. The purpose of this exercise of monitoring economic developments is to ensure closer coordination of economic policies and sustained convergence of the economic performances of the Member States along with the process towards Economic and Monetary Union.

In this framework, an overall assessment is regularly carried out on the consistency of the economic policies being followed by Member States with the broad guidelines set out by the Council.

Accordingly, the Council reviewed in December 1994 the progress made in the implementation of the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines adopted in December 1993 and July 1994. It took note with satisfaction that in the course of 1994 economic prospects have significantly improved and that progress has been made in implementing the agreed policies.

The outcome of this review was reported by the President of the Council to the European Parliament, in accordance with the provisions of Article 103 (4) of the Treaty.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-99/95by **Manuel Porto (ELDR)**

to the Council

(3 February 1995)

(95/C 202/04)

Subject: Cost of newsprint

In recent months, the cost of printing paper has seen an unexpected and considerable increase of approximately 30%.

In view of its significance with regard to the cost of publications, accounting for 20 to 25 % of the total cost, an irreplaceable medium for the dissemination of information and culture is being penalized, to the importance of which I attempted to draw attention in my report for the European Parliament in April 1994 (A3-282/94). Moreover, the high postal charges in some countries make distribution particularly difficult.

Given that such important interests are at stake in the case of the printed media, which must not be allowed to be placed at a disadvantage with regard to the audio-visual media. I would like to ask the Commission and the Council whether this price increase is not the result of concerted practices contrary to the EC Treaty?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

It is the Commission's responsibility to ensure that Community rules on competition are properly applied and to take any measures necessary.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-144/95by **Ian White (PSE)**

to the Commission

(8 February 1995)

(95/C 202/05)

Subject: Repatriation of corpses within the European Union

It would appear that there is no standard procedure within the European Union for the repatriation of corpses from one Member State to another. This inevitably adds to the distress of the bereaved during a very difficult period.

Are there any proposals being considered by the Commission for:

1. The possibility of a standard procedure to be accepted by all Member States for this purpose;
2. A European death certificate.

Would the Commission be prepared to investigate these possibilities upon the presentation of evidence?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-428/95by **Ian White (PSE)**

to the Commission

(17 February 1995)

(95/C 202/06)

Subject: Intra-Community transfer of mortal remains

What position has been reached in the preparatory work for the draft Directive on intra-Community transfer of mortal remains? Why has no progress seemingly been made since January 1993?

Joint answer to Written Questions**E-144/95 and E-428/95**given by **Mr Monti**

on behalf of the Commission

(21 April 1995)

The international transfer of mortal remains is currently regulated, at the European level, by the International Agreement of Berlin of 1937 (No 4391 League of the Nations Treaty Series), and by the Convention of Strasbourg of 1973 (adopted by the Council of Europe). Not all the Member States are parties to the abovementioned agreements.

The Commission has examined in depth the desirability and feasibility of putting forward proposals for the harmonization of conditions attached to the transfer of mortal remains within the Community. In this examination the Commission was assisted by national experts appointed by Member States and consulted health experts and associations of undertakers.

Although national rules diverge, they all pursue the same aims, in particular the protection of public health. In view of the relatively limited number of cases of transfers of mortal remains between Member States, the Commission is not convinced that detailed harmonization of national rules in such a sensitive area is desirable or necessary. Very few complaints about difficulties in effecting such transfers have been addressed to the Commission in the past.

The Commission therefore considers that legislative harmonization would not be justified from the point of view of subsidiarity and proportionality.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-174/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/07)

Subject: Implementation of the White Paper

How does the Council intend to implement the Commission's White Paper in which it has already expressed interest, with particular reference to training, reduction of employment charges, organization of working hours and removal of the red tape that is strangulating the labour market?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Council will examine any proposal which the Commission submits to it in the areas referred to by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-176/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/08)

Subject: Promotion of local employment initiatives and partnership with local authorities

How does the Council intend to esolve the contradiction between its desire to promote local employment initiatives, as expressed at the Essen summit, and its refusal to communicate directly with local authorities?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Essen European Council recommended *inter alia* increasing 'the employment-intensiveness of growth' by promoting initiatives, particularly at regional and local level, that create jobs which take account of new requirements, e.g. in the environmental and social-services sphere.

In that context, it called upon the Member States to transpose its recommendations in their individual policies into a multiannual programme having regard to the specific features of their economic and social situation.

It is therefore for Member States' Governments to enter into appropriate contacts with their local authorities.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-191/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/09)

Subject: Economic cooperation between the countries of central and eastern Europe

How does the Council intend to encourage the countries of central and eastern Europe to cooperate with one another in economic affairs?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Council is aware of the importance of encouraging the countries of central and eastern Europe to cooperate amongst themselves, especially in the economic field. Such close economic cooperation between the CCEE cannot but contribute to the process of opening up their economies and therefore develop their capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces. This will help the associated countries to take on the obligations of membership of the Union.

In the context of the accession preparation strategy adopted in Essen, the European Council encouraged the associated countries to expand the bilateral free trade relationship they each have with the Union to their relations with one another. In that connection, the efforts made to create a central Europe free trade area are on the right lines.

In order to continue promoting interregional cooperation which will contribute to the achievement of the Stability Pact, the Union will launch a new initiative to encourage trade, involving support for the introduction of modern commercial legislation and the transfer of know-how (promotion of exports, dissemination of standards, technical assistance for the development of the export insurance and guarantee system).

In addition, a programme for regional cooperation and good-neighbourly relations will be prepared in order to encourage multiannual, multilateral cooperation in land and sea frontier regions in fields such as transport, public services, the environment, economic development, human resources and agriculture. The programme will also incorporate the inter-CCEE dimension.

Lastly, a programme will be prepared to eliminate delays at frontiers.

At this stage a total of ECU 610 million (1995—1999) has been committed for assistance through Phare for the above initiative and programmes, ECU 260 million of which are earmarked for 1995.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-192/95

by **Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)**

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/10)

Subject: Dialogue with the countries of eastern Europe

What measures does the Council intend to take, in order to maintain a permanent dialogue with the countries of eastern Europe, with the aim of involving them in the Union's decisions?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The strategy of preparation of the associated countries of central and eastern Europe for accession which was adopted by the Essen European Council is being politically implemented by the creation between the associated States and the institutions of the European Union of 'structured' relations which encourage mutual trust and will provide a framework for addressing topics of common interest.

In this context — and without prejudice to the bilateral dialogue in the association councils — the multilateral dialogue is of prime importance, as the strategy has made it possible to lay down the framework and practical procedures for that dialogue.

Furthermore, the multilateral political dialogue with the associated countries is strengthened and enlarged to all levels within the framework of the common foreign and security policy by thus providing those countries with the opportunity to come into line with certain CFSP measures of the Union and statements, démarches and joint actions.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-195/95

by **Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)**

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/11)

Subject: Euro-Atlantic Conference

The Council is planning to hold a Euro-Mediterranean conference in 1995 bringing together all the countries of the Union and all the countries bordering on the Mediterranean. Is it planning to hold a Euro-Atlantic conference of the same type?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The nature and history of relations between the European Union and the countries bordering on the Mediterranean on the one hand and the United States and Canada on the other hand have been such that the framework for those relations is different.

As regards Euro-Atlantic relations, the European Union signed 'transatlantic' declarations with Canada on 22 November 1990 and with the United States on 23 November 1990.

Those declarations laid the foundations for broadening relations between the parties by extending transatlantic cooperation to the political, economic, scientific and cultural spheres. Furthermore, they establish an institutional framework for consultations, providing for regular meetings at several levels (Heads of State and Government, Ministers, political directors, experts).

The last Summit meetings with Canada and the United States were held in July 1994 in Bonn and Berlin respectively. Very recently, at the end of January 1995, the President of the Council, Mr Alain Juppe, and the Vice-President of the Commission, Sir Leon Brittan, visited Washington in the context of that political dialogue.

Given the proper functioning of that framework for relations and the importance which the parties concerned would attach to a specific dialogue, the Council does not at this stage envisage holding a Euro-Atlantic Conference with Canada and the United States as referred to by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-196/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)
to the Council
(22 February 1995)
(95/C 202/12)

Subject: Accession to the Maastricht Treaty

Parliament would like confirmation from the Council that the future accession of the eastern European countries to the Union will take place on the basis of the renegotiated Treaty of 1996.

Can the Council provide this assurance?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Honourable Member is kindly requested to refer in particular to the following passages of the text of the overall strategy to prepare for the accession of the associated countries of central and eastern Europe adopted by the Essen European Council:

'The European Council meeting of Copenhagen in June 1993 agreed that the associated countries in central and eastern Europe that so desire shall become members of the European Union. Accession will take place as soon as the associated country is able to assume the obligations of membership by satisfying the economic and political conditions required as set out in the conclusions of that meeting. The Union's capacity to absorb new members, while maintaining the momentum of European integration and respecting its internal cohesion and its fundamental principles is also an important consideration in the general interest of both the Union and the candidate countries.

The associated countries have made remarkable progress on the road to political and economic reform. Consistency in this reform course is the key to successful integration into the EU.

The associated countries need to prepare for membership and to strengthen their capacity to assume the responsibilities of a Member State. On the European Union side, the institutional conditions for ensuring the proper functioning of the Union must be created at the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference, which for that reason must take place before accession negotiations begin. In addition, the Council wishes to have at its disposal a detailed analysis carried out by the Commission on the impact of enlargement in the context of the current policies of the Union and their development.'

WRITTEN QUESTION E-204/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)
to the Council
(22 February 1995)
(95/C 202/13)

Subject: European contribution to the eight major trans-European network schemes

The Essen European Council welcomed the major step taken towards establishing trans-European networks reaching beyond the Union. Can the Council give details of the total cost and the European contribution envisaged for each of the eight major schemes adopted for central and eastern Europe?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-205/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)
to the Council
(22 February 1995)
(95/C 202/14)

Subject: Financing of the gas pipeline scheme linking Russia and the European Union

The Essen European Council put forward ten major energy schemes, including a gas pipeline linking Russia and the European Union via Belarus and Poland. How does the Council intend to finance this scheme?

Joint answer

to Written Questions E-204/95 and E-205/95
(22 June 1995)

The gas pipeline scheme to which the Honourable Member refers has been included on the list of priority projects in the energy sector in the context in particular of a comprehensive approach to gas supply in the European Union.

This project is, however, still at the preliminary study stage. In general, the Council is also examining a proposal for a Council Decision laying down a series of measures aimed at creating a more favourable context for the development of trans-European networks in the energy sector⁽¹⁾ which provides for the possibility of Community financial support for feasibility studies on such projects of common interest.

The Council considers that adoption of the project should also promote broad diversification of the nature and sources of funding which would subsequently be necessary for carrying it through.

(¹) OJ No C 72, 10. 3. 1994, p. 15.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-206/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/15)

Subject: Participation of private funding in major infrastructure projects

To ensure that the funding needed for major trans-European transport projects does not jeopardize the convergence criteria laid down in the Maastricht Treaty, the Union is attempting to attract supplementary private funding. What measures will the Council take to attract such private funding?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Council intends to encourage the private financing of the trans-European networks by strengthening the credibility of the launching of the priority projects agreed upon at the European Council in Essen.

The Council accordingly hopes that the Regulation laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid for trans-European networks and the Community guidelines under discussion within the Council and the European Parliament will soon be finalized.

Under the same strategy of mobilizing private capital, the Council welcomes the EIB's decision to facilitate the financing of trans-European networks projects through a special window.

It should also be noted that the European Council in Essen invited Member States and the Commission to take all appropriate initiatives to eliminate obstacles of an administrative and legal nature to the implementation of priority projects.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-209/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/16)

Subject: Research guidelines

What industrial perspectives has the Council adopted to guide the research activities provided for in the new framework programme?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

Article 130f of the EC Treaty lays down the general objectives which the Community's R&D policy has to follow, in particular strengthening the scientific and technological bases of Community industry and promotion of its competitiveness at international level.

The Commission's White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment recognizes that research and technological development (R&D) can contribute to the economic growth of the Community, to strengthening the competitiveness of its industry at international level and to stimulating employment. Prerequisites for the attainment of these objectives are an appropriate level of funding, a number of research projects and an efficient mechanism for disseminating results.

The role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the importance of the transfer of technology and coordination of national efforts must be emphasized.

The above principles and objectives are all embodied in the Fourth Community R&D Framework Programme (1994—1998) and have been incorporated in the specific programmes adopted for the implementation of the Framework Programme. Measures to increase the participation of SMEs, mechanisms for the coordination of national research work (integrated research project consortia) and specific measures for dissemination of the results have been provided for in almost all the specific programmes. A specific programme for the dissemination and optimization of the results of research activities was accordingly approved (Council Decision 94/917/EC) (¹).

The new requirements and subjects identified in the White Paper as strategic for the economic growth of the Community and for the competitiveness of its industry, such as the environment, biotechnology, health and telecommunications have all formed the subject of specific research programmes.

(¹) OJ No L 361, 31. 12. 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-211/95**by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)****to the Council***(22 February 1995)**(95/C 202/17)**Subject:* European supersonic aircraft priorities

Will the Council make supersonic aircraft a priority for European research, in particular by launching a specific programme as the US already has?

Answer*(22 June 1995)*

Aeronautical research is covered in two specific RTD programmes adopted under the Fourth Framework Programme (Decision No 1110/94/CEE of the European Parliament and the Council) ⁽¹⁾, viz:

- (a) the specific programme for research and technological development, including demonstration, in the field of industrial and materials technologies (Council Decision 94/571/EEC) ⁽²⁾;
- (b) the specific programme for research and technological development, including demonstration, in the field of transport (Council Decision 94/914/EC) ⁽³⁾.

It will be recalled that the principles underlying the Fourth Framework RTD Programme advocate that Community research should be pre-competitive, generic and multi-sectoral.

In line with above approach, the programme on industrial and materials technologies lays special emphasis on aeronautics research to reflect the essential advanced technology requirements of that industry and its capability for proving the feasibility of advanced generic technologies, which will then be spun off to other transport or industrial sectors. It is not therefore directed towards the development of a specific type of aircraft.

It is specified that aeronautics research will relate to advanced technologies, notably as regards environmental protection and the reduction of energy consumption. Measures will be geared to improving safety, increasing the capacity and profitability of air transport and facilitating the production, operation, reliability and maintenance of future generations of aircraft.

The purpose of research under the research programme on transport is to define the objectives of European interest with regard to air traffic problems, improve safety and

minimize the impact on the environment. Coordination and assessment of the results of research into generic technologies is also provided for with a view to contributing to the definition of technical and operational solutions tailored to European needs.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 126, 18. 5. 1994, p. 1.⁽²⁾ OJ No L 222, 26. 8. 1994.⁽³⁾ OJ No L 361, 31. 12. 1994.**WRITTEN QUESTION E-215/95****by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)****to the Council***(22 February 1995)**(95/C 202/18)**Subject:* Coordination of the work of the stability pact and that of the WEU on stability

How will the Council ensure the necessary consistency between the stability pact proposed by the French Government and the white paper on security in Europe commissioned from the WEU?

Answer*(26 June 1995)*

1. The Pact on Stability in Europe is an exercise in preventive diplomacy, an initiative launched by France, which became a European Union Joint Action. It is aimed at promoting good-neighbourly relations between the central and east European countries qualified for accession to the European Union, by encouraging the conclusion between them of bilateral agreements, in particular on issues relating to borders and minorities and on regional cooperation.

The Pact, which was adopted at the Final Conference in Paris on 20 and 21 March 1995, lists the agreements which have been concluded and has been entrusted to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which will follow its implementation in accordance with its own procedures.

The European Union also provides support for the implementation of those agreements by funding specific projects which contribute to achieving the Pact's objectives.

The Union considers that, by reason of its objectives and regional approach, the Stability Pact is destined to make a significant and original contribution to Europe's security.

2. The WEU proceedings aimed at preparing a White Paper on security in Europe are a joint study exercise on the new security conditions in Europe. This exercise brings together under WEU auspices the Member States of the European Union, the associated central and east European countries and the European members of the Atlantic Alliance, i.e. 27 countries in all. The European Union will take an active part in this exercise and will contribute to the discussions, which are designed, in particular, to analyze together with all full members, associate members, observers and associate partners the security issues affecting all these countries in the new situation in Europe, with aim of strengthening the security and stability of the whole continent in Europe. This study exercise has just started. From January to June 1995 it is being conducted under the Portuguese Presidency of the WEU (analysis of risks and challenges) and will continue, from July to December 1995, under the joint European Union-WEU Presidency of Spain (responses). It is not possible at this stage to prejudge its conclusions. It goes without saying, however, that the existence of the Stability Pact will feature in the discussion of the factors to be taken into consideration.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-217/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)
to the Council
 (22 February 1995)
 (95/C 202/19)

Subject: Setting-up of an Atlantic anchovy observatory

After accepting a big increase in the French quota for anchovy fishing (17 300 tonnes) is the Council prepared to support the setting-up of an Atlantic observatory to ensure better control of this resource? This initiative could be part of inter-regional cooperation.

Answer
 (22 June 1995)

The problem of the allocation of anchovy was addressed in bilateral arrangements between Spain and France in December 1994 (Cf. press communication 12330/94) ⁽¹⁾.

These two Member States have decided to establish a Franco-Spanish Fisheries Committee. This has been noted by the Council and the Commission.

The Council will furthermore closely follow the development of the anchovy fishery and will carefully

examine any proposal from the Commission with a view to improving the state of that stock.

⁽¹⁾ Press 279 of 22 December 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-221/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)
to the Council
 (22 February 1995)
 (95/C 202/20)

Subject: Summer-time and energy-saving

What are the Council's findings regarding summer-time and what plans does it have regarding time changes for the purposes of energy-saving in Europe?

Answer
 (22 June 1995)

On 30 May 1994 the European Parliament and the Council adopted the seventh Directive 94/21/EC ⁽¹⁾ on summer-time arrangements throughout the Community for 1995, 1996 and 1997.

When it adopted the Directive the Council noted the Commission's undertaking to carry out, in cooperation with representatives of interest groups and Member States' national experts, a thorough study of the economic and non-economic effects of the change from summer-time to winter-time and vice-versa and the adoption of summer-time in general so as to obtain the fullest possible appraisal of how such changes affect energy consumption, public health, working conditions and lifestyles, agriculture, environmental protection, road safety, and the tourist and leisure industries.

The Council also noted the Commission's undertaking to report to the European Parliament and the Council on the matter by 1 January 1996.

Article 4 of the said seventh Directive stipulates that the arrangements to apply from 1998 onwards are to be adopted by 1 January 1997 on a proposal from the Commission to be submitted before 1 January 1996.

The Council will study the future Commission proposal in the light of the report which the Commission is to submit to it and to the European Parliament by 1 January 1996.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 164, 30. 6. 1994, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-223/95by **Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)**

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/21)

Subject: Promoting European tourism in America and Asia

Would the Council be in favour of the European Union carrying out a promotion campaign for its 'Atlantic tourism' in America and Asia?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the fact that the following measure is included in the Community action plan to assist tourism adopted by the Council on 13 July 1992 (Decision 92/421/EEC ⁽¹⁾):

'Promotion in third countries

Community action in this field is directed at making Europe a more attractive destination for tourists from distant countries.

This will be carried out by means of measures confined to pilot projects to promote Europe as a tourist destination on the markets of distant countries, particularly North America and Japan, whose growth is likely to have an impact on tourism within the Community.'

This measure was pinpointed as a priority as from the first year of the action plan, which extends over three years (1993—1995).

The Commission is to submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council, no later than 30 June 1995, evaluating the results of the plan.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 231, 13. 8. 1992, p. 26.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-224/95by **Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)**

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/22)

Subject: European Union's cultural policy

The Maastricht Treaty, which came into force on 1 November 1993, provides that the Community 'shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore'.

What guidelines does the Council wish to promote to ensure that Article 128 of the Maastricht Treaty becomes a reality?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

On 10 November 1994 the Council adopted conclusions concerning European Community action in support of culture ⁽¹⁾ on the basis of a Commission communication relating to Article 128 of the EC Treaty.

As regards future guidelines the Council will, as required under Article 128, act on proposals from the Commission. It is currently examining two proposals submitted by the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council concerning support for artistic and cultural activities having a European dimension and support in the field of books and reading ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 348, 9. 12. 1994.

⁽²⁾ Interinstitutional file No 94/189 (COD).

WRITTEN QUESTION E-225/95by **Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)**

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/23)

Subject: Introduction of Finnish and Swedish as official languages

The introduction of Portuguese and Spanish as official languages led to a 30% increase in transition costs in 1986.

Could the Council ask the Commission to calculate the additional costs arising from the introduction of Finnish and Swedish as official languages?

What proposals will the Council make to solve the problem of the complexity of the translation system arising from the use of 11 official languages?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Council is unable to make a precise estimation of the additional costs arising from the introduction of new official languages. However, it is a rule of Community law,

enshrined in Council Regulation No 1/EEC ⁽¹⁾, as amended, that Regulations and other legal acts of general application shall be published in the Official Journal in all official languages. Therefore, the question of the additional cost of translating texts into Finnish and Swedish is not relevant, as the cost involved is the result of a mandatory legal requirement.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No 385, 6. 10. 1958.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-226/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/24)

Subject: Enlargement and regional policy

Can the Council state the presumed financial consequences of Finland, Sweden and Austria becoming eligible for Structural Fund payments?

What changes will be made to the existing financial distribution in the wake of enlargement?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission have adapted the financial perspective, and in particular heading 2 (structural measures), determining the new financial resources following enlargement of the European Union, in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 24 October 1993.

In point XVII of Annex 1 to the Accession Treaty the Honourable Member will find the indicative commitment appropriations for the new Member States covering, on the one hand, all of Objectives 1 to 5b, on the other hand, those earmarked for Objective 1. The appropriations actually allocated per objective will be determined by applying the Structural Funds rules, as for the 12 Member States.

The indicative commitment appropriations for Objective 6 are mentioned in Annex 2 to Protocol No 6 to the Accession Treaty.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-232/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/25)

Subject: Community developers

On the initiative of Parliament, a multiannual training programme has been introduced for the persons responsible for administering Community projects in the regions.

The relevance of this measure was demonstrated at the colloquy organized by the Commission on 25 November 1994.

Can the Council explain how this programme could be pursued in the context of the new educational programmes (Socrates or Leonardo)?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

As the Socrates programme (approved by the Council on 10 March 1994) and the Leonardo programme ⁽¹⁾ are managed by the Commission, the Honourable Member could ask it for a reply concerning aid for training programmes for persons responsible for administering Community projects in the regions.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 340, 29. 12. 1994, p. 8.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-234/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/26)

Subject: Industrial policy

How does the Council intend to resolve the contradiction between the need to preserve industrial capacity in the Community and the obligation to find room for cheap products from eastern Europe?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Council does not share the Honourable Member's opinion that there is a contradiction between the need to

preserve industrial capacity in the European Union and the obligation to find room for products from eastern Europe.

As the Honourable Member is aware, contractual relations with the European partners in the associated countries are governed by the Europe Association Agreements. These are preferential Agreements for the establishment of a free trade area which have already made it possible to develop trade and establish a climate favourable to the development of mutual economic relations.

The harmonious development of trade, in the context of greater liberalization of world trade following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, has advantages for all parties to those Agreements both in economic terms, notably through increased competitiveness following the opening up of the economy to the outside, and in terms of greater stability throughout Europe.

It was in that spirit that the European Council decided in Essen to boost and improve the process of further preparing the associated States of central and eastern Europe for accession and decided on a comprehensive strategy to prepare for the accession of those countries at a later date.

As regards the Association Agreements, it pointed out in particular that they would be adjusted in the light of enlargement and of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round so as not to disrupt traditional trade patterns and to develop trade further.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-235/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/27)

Subject: Minimum prices for haematite pig iron

The introduction of minimum prices for haematite pig iron has two consequences for chilled cast iron producers:

1. an unjustified increase in purchase prices for raw materials in the Community;
2. the undermining of their position vis-à-vis chilled cast iron producers in the countries of eastern Europe with whom they are in competition on the European market, which will put thousands of jobs at risk.

What measures does the Council intend to take to put an end to this situation?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Council is unable to answer the Honourable Member's questions. It would be more appropriate to put them to the Commission, as it examines the dossiers and is therefore best placed and best equipped to answer this type of question.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-236/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Council

(22 February 1995)

(95/C 202/28)

Subject: Fisheries policy and trade policy

How does the Council intend to reconcile the interests of fishermen in the Union with the imperatives of trade policy, under which cheap imports are allowed in on a massive scale from China, Alaska, Russia, etc.?

Unless a compromise is found, the Union will in any case have to pay the social and cultural price of the long-term disappearance of what is a traditional activity along the entire Atlantic coast.

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The Council always endeavours to strike a balance between the interests of Community producers and to secure supplies for its market.

Thus, the Regulation on the common organization of the market (Revised by Council Regulation (EC) No 3318/94) ⁽¹⁾ lays down mechanisms for lessening the effects of any disturbances of market conditions, including systems such as reference prices and the safeguard clause. Furthermore, a degree of customs protection exists for very cheap imports.

Reference should also be made to the adoption by the Council of Regulation (EC) No 1093/94 ⁽²⁾ setting the terms under which fishing vessels of a third country may land directly and market their catches at Community ports, directed towards ensuring equal treatment and preventing distortions of competition.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 350, 31. 12. 1994, p. 15.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 121, 12. 5. 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-237/95by **Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)**

to the Council

*(22 February 1995)**(95/C 202/29)**Subject:* Industrial policy

As far as industry is concerned, the enlargement of the Community without prior reinforcement of its political and economic decision-making structures entails the risk that European industry could collapse in the face of its main competitors, the US and Japan.

What plans does the Council have to reform the institutions in this context?

Answer*(22 June 1995)*

Any reform of the institutions will be planned in the framework of the Intergovernmental Conference scheduled for 1996. Under Article N of the Treaty on European Union, it is for the government of any Member State or the Commission to submit to the Council proposals for the amendment of the Treaties. If the Council, after consulting the European Parliament and, where appropriate, the Commission, delivers an opinion in favour of calling a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States, the conference shall be convened by the President of the Council for the purpose of determining by common accord the amendments to be made to those Treaties. The Council has not to date received any such proposals concerning industrial policy.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-238/95by **Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)**

to the Council

*(22 February 1995)**(95/C 202/30)**Subject:* Action to relaunch cabotage

Given that the European road network will reach saturation point by the year 2010, can the Council provide information on the outcome of the Commission's studies concerning the relaunching of maritime transport via cabotage?

Answer*(22 June 1995)*

The Council is informed that the Commission is currently preparing, in the light of the study mentioned in the question, a communication to the Council and the European Parliament on short-distance maritime transport. The Honourable Member is kindly requested to ask the Commission for further information on the subject.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-239/95by **Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)**

to the Council

*(22 February 1995)**(95/C 202/31)**Subject:* Regional partnership and the Community's overall development plans

What measures does the Council intend to take to ensure participation by the regions in the activities launched in the context of the Community's overall development plans?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-240/95by **Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)**

to the Council

*(22 February 1995)**(95/C 202/32)**Subject:* Community regional planning policy

What is the Council's position concerning Parliament's proposal for a Community initiative for regional planning at European level (Interam)?

Joint answerto **Written Questions E-239/95 and E-240/95***(22 June 1995)*

The Council has determined the operating rules of the Structural Funds and has entrusted their management to the Commission. It is not for the Council to intervene to steer that management in one direction or another.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-241/95**by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)****to the Council***(22 February 1995)**(95/C 202/33)**Subject:* Forestry policy

What are the Council's intentions concerning the institution of a Community forestry policy? In what ways could it encourage the initiatives which have been launched in the context of inter-regional cooperation?

Answer*(22 June 1995)*

1. The Council attaches the utmost importance to the principles of the protection and development of Europe's forestry, principles underlying resolutions to which the European Community and its Member States are signatory, in particular those adapted at the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Strasbourg in December 1990 and Helsinki in June 1993.

Over the last few years the Council has taken significant measures to ensure Community support for forestry and supplement national policies in this area; thus, the measures decided upon by the Council in the context of the 1992 CAP reform represented a very significant effort in favour of the afforestation of agricultural land and of improving forest areas on farms; in addition, there are the measures implemented under rural and regional development measures which benefit from financial assistance from the Structural Funds and which concern regions whose development is lagging behind (Objective 1) and rural areas (Objective 5b). The Council also recently bolstered the measures to protect forests against air pollution and fires and renewed the European Forestry Information and Communication System (EFICS).

2. The Council recognized the importance of close on-going cooperation on forestry between Member States without excluding inter-regional cooperation which applies the Community measures referred to above; furthermore, by setting up the Standing Forestry Committee the Council established a framework within which the Commission and the Member States can regularly monitor situations and developments in the forestry sector and implement appropriate measures.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-266/95**by Sir Jack Stewart-Clark (PPE)****to the Council***(9 February 1995)**(95/C 202/34)*

Subject: Press release of the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting of 30 November and 1 December 1994

On 21 December 1994 the press release of the above Council was still not available in all nine languages (including English and German) at the Council's Press Office. On the other hand, all language versions of the press releases of the Energy Council of 29 November, the Youth Council of 30 November and the Education Council of 5 December were available.

Will the Council detail when each of the nine language versions of the above press release eventually became available to the public; and what steps it intends to take to speed up availability of press releases of future Council meetings of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers?

Answer*(22 June 1995)*

The delays noted by the Honourable Member in the translation of the 'JHA' press release of 30 November and 1 December 1994 are generally due to the heavy workload of the Translation Service of the General Secretariat of the Council, resulting from the large number of Council meetings towards the end of each Presidency. To ensure that all these meetings can be held, the General Secretariat has to give priority to the documents necessary for Ministers' discussions.

The difference in the time taken to translate the JHA press release into the various languages stems from the fact that the different language divisions have varying workloads (according to the requirements of the delegations and in particular also of the Presidency of the Council).

In view of the limited staff of the Council's Translation Service and of the abovementioned constraints deriving from the Council's work timetable, the General Secretariat cannot guarantee that delays will not occur in future. However, internal measures have been taken to ensure as far as possible that translations of press releases into the various languages are produced at the same time.

**Press release on 'JHA' Council meeting
on 30 November and 1 December 1994**

Date of availability of the various translations

Portuguese	13 December 1994
Greek	16 December 1994
Dutch	19 December 1994
Spanish and German	3 January 1995
Italian and English	5 January 1995
Danish	9 January 1995

WRITTEN QUESTION E-275/95

**by Luigi Florio (FE), Gian Boniperti (FE), Aldo Arroni (FE)
and Riccardo Garosci (FE)**

to the Council

(9 February 1995)

(95/C 202/35)

Subject: Violence against street children in Guatemala

Can the Council say whether it intends to adopt economic sanctions against Guatemala, a country which exports around half its banana production to Europe, in view of the bloody acts of violence systematically perpetrated by the Guatemalan police against the 'street children' and frequently condemned and documented by Amnesty International?

Answer

(22 June 1995)

The European Union has on a number of occasions — most recently at the San José XI ministerial meeting with the Central American countries (Panama, 23 and 24 March 1995) — expressed the importance it attaches to observance of the principles of representative democracy, the rule of law, constitutional order and full respect for human rights.

In that connection, the ministers of the European Union stressed the importance of the multiannual programme to promote human rights in such fields as the acts of the armed forces and of the forces of law and order, which should always be subject to the principles underlying the rule of law and human rights.

In this context, the role of human beings as central to, and the ultimate target of, the process of sustainable development, was at the heart of the debate at the San José XI Ministerial Conference. It was agreed to combat poverty and to give all citizens access to basic services, particularly education, training and health care. These measures will clearly have a positive effect on the problem of street children.

European Union and Central American ministers agreed that these objectives would be achieved principally by implementing national policies to reduce existing disparities and, to that end, there would be increased European Union cooperation to alleviate the social costs of structural adjustment.

Against this background, a multiannual programme to help street children in Guatemala was approved by the Commission in June 1994, following a favourable opinion from the ALA Committee. The financing agreement for that programme was signed in Guatemala City on 6 April by the competent national authority, which will enable the Commission to put it into operation shortly. The programme is designed to provide a systematic boost to training for the staff of public authorities who are in contact with young people on the fringes of society, and in the longer term envisages measures to prevent young people who no longer have contact with their families from sliding into delinquency.

The European Union is also pursuing its efforts to combat this problem in the framework of international organizations, particularly the United Nations. On the European Union's initiative, the UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution on the tragic fate of street children every year since 1992. The matter has also been discussed by the Commission on Human rights, at the European Union's instigation, and a resolution has been adopted on this subject in previous years.

The European Union will continue to monitor this matter closely.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-278/95

by Johanna Maij-Weggen (PPE)

to the Commission

(9 February 1995)

(95/C 202/36)

Subject: Recognized Turkish political refugee forced into hiding

After visiting his parents in Turkey, Ayhan Uzala, a Turkish political refugee living in the Netherlands was picked up, detained and tortured by the Turkish secret police.

He has since been released and has gone into hiding in Turkey. He dare not board a plane bound for the Netherlands for fear of being picked up again at the airport. His Dutch wife and five-year old child have now been waiting two months for his return.

Is the Commission prepared to approach the Turkish Government as a matter of urgency, so that Mr Uzala can return in safety to the Netherlands?

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

(24 May 1995)

Further to its answer of 20 March 1995, the Commission can now confirm to the Honourable Member, following its inquiries in Turkey, that Mr Ayhan Uzala is not staying in Turkey anymore but has safely returned to the Netherlands.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-287/95

by Jan Bertens (ELDR)

to the Council

(9 February 1995)

(95/C 202/37)

Subject: Missing people in Cyprus

1. Does the Council intend to let the 20th anniversary of the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, calling on parties in armed conflicts to respect the Geneva Conventions of 1949 especially with reference to 'the provision of information on those who are missing', pass by without taking any concrete action on the 1619 Greek Cypriots still unaccounted for after disappearing in 1974 after the Turkish invasion?

2. What kind of concrete actions does the Council intend to take to persuade the Turkish Government to fulfil its humanitarian obligations under international law and put an end to the agony and uncertainty of the families and friends of these missing people?

Answer

(26 June 1995)

The problem of the fate of the missing persons is one of the most tragic aspects of the Cyprus question. It is being investigated by the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, set up in 1981 under the aegis of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. This Committee acts on the basis of an agreement between the island's two communities. Its role is to look into the cases of persons reported missing during the inter-Community conflicts and the events of July 1974 and thereafter.

The Committee comprises three members: one for each of the two Cypriot communities and a third recommended by the International Committee of the Red Cross with the agreement of the two parties and appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General.

The European Union hopes that more active cooperation by the two parties concerned will enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate more effectively.

The European Union will continue to monitor the issue closely.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-383/95

by Alexandros Alavanos (GUE/NGL)

to the Commission

(15 February 1995)

(95/C 202/38)

Subject: Public health/tourism problems in the island of Symi

The remote island of Symi in the Dodecanese has an acute public health problem caused by the lack of a sewage system with a biological waste treatment, which has led the inhabitants and local authorities to make protest after protest. Sewage from the cesspits is now threatening the reservoirs and water supply system to the town of Symi. The problem is aggravated during the summer when thousands of tourists stay on the island, and a further 2000 arrive from Rhodes every day. A final study for the sewage system was drawn up in 1989, but the funds to construct it and add a biological purification plant have still not been found. As the absence of this system is a public health hazard and constitutes an obstacle to tourism on the island, will the Commission state:

1. whether it intends to include the project in the regional operational programmes provided there is a proposal from the Greek authorities;
2. if there is a proposal from the Greek authorities; what the earliest possible date for inclusion of this project would be; and
3. what other Community programmes for the protection of the environment or for outlying regions might cover this project?

**Answer given by Mrs Wulf-Mathies
on behalf of the Commission**

(10 April 1995)

As it stated in its answer to Written Question No 393/95 by Mr Papayannakis ⁽¹⁾ on this matter, the Commission is not aware of the project to which the Honourable Member

refers and so it cannot adopt a position on whether the project should be included in the regional operational programme (OP) or on deadlines relating to it.

As regards sources of Community part-finance other than the OP referred to, projects of this type could, subject to the necessary and sufficient conditions and the rules in force for each source, be put forward for part-finance under the Interreg II Initiative or the Cohesion Fund.

(¹) See page 17 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-393/95
by Mihail Papayannakis (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission
(15 February 1995)
(95/C 202/39)

Subject: The island of Symi and the second Community Support Framework

Symi is one of the smaller Aegean islands. It used to be an important commercial and transit centre, but now the mainstay of the island's economy is tourism. For many years the island's infrastructures have been stretched to breaking point and its economy is now seriously jeopardized. The most seriously affected infrastructures are the water supply and the sewage systems which are particularly important for island's relatively developed tourist industry. Curiously enough although the second CSF set aside resources for the water supply system, it failed to provide any aid for the sewage system. However, there would be many technical and economic advantages in carrying out these two projects at the same time, and the notion that all the island's problems can be solved by such half-measures is, to put it mildly, nonsense.

Will the Commission say:

1. Whether it is aware of this problem;
2. Whether it intends to ask the Greek Government to explain why the investment programme for Symi was clearly so poorly planned; and
3. Whether it intend to recommend that the Greek Government should make a more rational usage of the funds earmarked for the island under the second CSF so as to enable a new era in the tourist development of the island to begin?

Answer given by Mrs Wulf-Mathies
on behalf of the Commission
(17 March 1995)

The Commission was unaware of the situation referred to by the Honourable Member and intends to draw the attention of the Greek authorities to it at a forthcoming meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the Multifund Operational Programme for the Southern Aegean.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-433/95
by Sérgio Ribeiro (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission
(22 February 1995)
(95/C 202/40)

Subject: Eligibility for the aid scheme for small-scale investment in the border area under Interreg II

The Chamber of Official Clearing Agents has recently been informed, in reply to a fax which it sent over two months ago, that the Portuguese authorities have, amongst other measures, proposed, in connection with the Interreg II programme, extending the aid scheme for small-scale investment in the border area, the conditions of eligibility for which will be determined when the current negotiations with the Commission regarding the programme have been concluded.

No comments will be made concerning the way in which the Portuguese authorities interpret the concept of participation, but could the Commission say what stage has been reached in the above negotiations and what their likely finishing date and outcome will be?

Answer given by Mrs Wulf-Mathies
on behalf of the Commission
(22 March 1995)

The Portuguese and Spanish authorities' proposal in regard to the Interreg II Community initiative reached the Commission on 3 November 1994 and is at present under discussion between the Commission and the national authorities. Adoption of the decision granting assistance is expected very soon.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-450/95

by Wayne David (PSE)
to the Council
(24 February 1995)
(95/C 202/41)

Subject: Human rights and arms export control procedures

With regard to Amnesty International's paper on 'European Union: Human rights and military, security and police transfers — when will established criteria be implemented?', is the Council aware of the lack of scrutiny in current EU arms export control procedures? Is the Council intending to review the scrutiny procedures taking into consideration Amnesty International's recommendations?

Answer
(26 June 1995)

The European Union is very watchful of arms exports to States in which human rights are breached.

The 1991 European Council meeting in Luxembourg noted with satisfaction that 'work in progress in the organs of European political cooperation has already, by comparing national policies on arms exports, identified a number of common criteria on which these policies are based'.

Those criteria, which were supplemented at the Lisbon European Council in 1992, include 'the respect of human rights in the country of final destination' and 'the internal situation in the country of final destination, as a function of the existence of tensions or internal armed conflicts'.

The new terms of reference of the Working Party on Conventional Arms Exports states that particular attention should be paid to the application of these criteria with a view to reaching a common interpretation on the basis of the common foreign and security policy of the European Union.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-451/95

by Wayne David (PSE)
to the Council
(24 February 1995)
(95/C 202/42)

Subject: Drift nets

Given the European Union's scientific, technical and economic committee's examination of the effects of drift nets on the stocks of various species of fish, will the Council ensure that the conclusions of this study are presented to Parliament at the earliest opportunity?

Answer
(22 June 1995)

The Scientific Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries delivers opinions to the Commission of which it is a consultative body.

It is therefore up to the Commission to decide on the presentation of the conclusions of this opinion to the European Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-475/95

by Susan Waddington (PSE)
to the Commission
(15 February 1995)
(95/C 202/43)

Subject: Incineration of waste-derived product 'Cemfuel'

Is the Commission aware of the waste-derived product 'Cemfuel', that is being used as a fuel for a cement kiln based in Ketton in my constituency, and what is the Commission's view of the burning of 'Cemfuel' in view of Directive 94/67/EC⁽¹⁾ on the incineration of hazardous waste?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 365, 31. 12. 1994, p. 34.

**Answer given by Mrs Bjerregaard
on behalf of the Commission**
(24 March 1995)

Waste is defined in Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC⁽¹⁾ on waste as:

'any substance or object in the categories set out in Annex I which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard'.

On the assumption that 'Cemfuel' is a 'waste', it is necessary to consider the classification of such waste in the context of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste⁽²⁾ and Council Decision 94/904/EC of 22 December 1994 establishing a list of hazardous waste⁽³⁾. In order to correctly classify 'Cemfuel waste' as hazardous, information regarding its origin and composition are necessary.

If 'Cemfuel waste' is classified as hazardous waste, it would be subject to the provision of the recently adopted Directive on the incineration of hazardous waste. However, it should be noted that Member States are required to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive before 31 December 1996.

The Commission is going to ask the United Kingdom to provide possible further information on this issue.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 194, 25. 7. 1975.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 377, 31. 12. 1991.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-483/95

by Giles Chichester (PPE)

to the Commission

(27 February 1995)

(95/C 202/44)

Subject: Implementation and enforcement of common fisheries policy

In its efforts to ensure even-handed enforcement of the common fisheries policy, could the Commission please outline:

1. how many visits it has made to Spain and what irregularities it has discovered.
2. how many visits it has made to France and what irregularities it has discovered.
3. how many visits it has made to the South-West of England and what irregularities it has discovered.

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

(5 April 1995)

In the framework of the control Regulation (Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 of 12 October 1993 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy)⁽¹⁾, Commission officials conducted in 1994, 15 visits to Spain, 11 to France and 12 to the United Kingdom. Of the latter three visits were made to South-West England.

The role of the Commission is to verify the application of control of the common fisheries policy by the national authorities. If the Commission considers that major irregularities have occurred it draws these to the attention of the Member State concerned which is then required to conduct an administrative inquiry.

At the end of 1994, the Commission requested and participated in administrative inquiries which were conducted in France, Spain and the United Kingdom. In each of these Member States the Commission considered that irregularities may have occurred in the registration of catches of certain species subject to quotas.

The final reports of each of these inquiries will shortly be available to the Commission and their conclusions will be included in the general report on enforcement of the common fisheries policy as provided in Article 35 of the new control Regulation. It will be made available to the Parliament for information.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 261, 20. 10. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-509/95

by José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission

(27 February 1995)

(95/C 202/45)

Subject: Competitiveness of agriculture and management of agricultural resources

Under the research and technological development programme in the field of competitiveness of agriculture and management of agricultural resources (1989—1993)⁽¹⁾ more than 80 research contracts were awarded, worth more than ECU 50 million. Where have the results been published? How can interested sectors gain access to the results of this research?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 58, 7. 3. 1990, p. 9.

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

(31 March 1995)

The specific Community research and technological development programme in the field of competitiveness of agriculture and management of agricultural resources (1989—1993), 'Camar', has not yet terminated. The last shared-cost research contracts will expire in 1996. At

present the Commission has only received a small number of the final scientific reports. Therefore, one cannot expect to see all results of the Camar programme published at this stage. However, both the scientific contractors and the Commission have made a continuous effort to disseminate preliminary results from the Camar programme before it ends.

The Commission has in 1993 published a catalogue of the Camar projects, including a review of the progress of each project. This publication enables people to learn about the preliminary results and encourages those interested to contact the research teams, or the Commission, to obtain further details.

The Commission has also published preliminary results of a number of projects, in the form of proceedings of Camar workshops, by which the results were disseminated to and discussed with fellow scientists.

In addition, the contractors are obliged by the terms of their contracts with the Commission to disseminate the results of their work. They have published a large number of articles in specialised scientific journals and in the farming press. They have also engaged in other efforts to disseminate or commercialise their results, such as open days for farmers, presentations at conferences, information leaflets and cooperation with agricultural advisory services.

The Commission plans, in due course, to publish extracts of the results from Camar, both for the programme in general and for groups of projects. Both the general agricultural community and specialist groups of readers will be targeted.

Some examples of publications from Camar are sent to the Honourable Member and the Secretariat-General of the Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-513/95

by **Stephen Hughes (PSE)**

to the Commission

(27 February 1995)

(95/C 202/46)

Subject: Food distribution for the poor

Further to Written Question E-3898/93⁽¹⁾ can the Commission inform Parliament how much of the Union's food surplus was distributed to the poor during 1994? What were the total sums and tonnage for each Member State and which States did not make use of their allocated quota?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 332, 28. 11. 1994, p. 32.

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

(4 April 1995)

Information on the implementation of the 1994 plan for distribution to the most deprived persons in the Community is not yet available.

Article 10 of the Regulation implementing the measure (Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3149/92⁽¹⁾) provides that, 'before the end of March each year, the Member States shall send the Commission a report on the implementation of the plan on their territory during the previous year'.

The Commission will forward the information requested to the Honourable Member as soon as it becomes available.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 313, 30. 10. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-549/95

by **Amedeo Amadeo (NI)**

to the Commission

(1 March 1995)

(95/C 202/47)

Subject: Scanzo muscatel

Scanzo muscatel has been recognized as a wine of designated origin from a sub-region of the 'Valcalepio passito' (raisin wine area).

The vineyards producing this wine, which were planted after 1977, — without any designated origin, do not exceed 100 ha.

As a result of Community rules, Scanzo muscatel, which has a long established tradition, is in danger of disappearing.

Will the Commission take measures to protect the vineyards producing Scanzo muscatel planted after 1976 and, in view of the existing EC derogation allowing the Franiacorta area to expand to 900 ha, can it introduce similar arrangements for an increase to 400 ha in the vineyards producing Scanzo muscatel?

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

(3 April 1995)

Concerning wine-growing areas, Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87⁽¹⁾ prohibits all new planting of vines until 31 August 1996 with certain derogations, particularly in areas intended for the cultivation of mother plantations, while permitting replanting (including of Moscato di Scanzo) without restrictions other than those relating to the variety in question.

These provisions mean that the areas under vines cannot be extended although areas currently used as vineyards may continue to be used for that purpose.

The Commission considers that this situation cannot be altered until the market organization for the sector is reformed. A proposal to this end is currently before the Council and Parliament ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 84, 27. 3. 1987.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 194, 16. 7. 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-556/95

by Alex Smith (PSE)
to the Commission
(1 March 1995)
(95/C 202/48)

Subject: Shipments of nuclear waste

In September 1994 a coalition of four environmental groups (Nuclear Control Institute of Washington DC, World Information Service on Energy, Greenpeace International and Citizens Nuclear Information Centre) forwarded a detailed letter to the President of the Commission on the perceived risks posed by the transportation by sea of high-level nuclear waste from Cap de La Hague in France to Japan. This letter called for an urgent environmental impact assessment to be prepared on the dangers of these shipments.

Four months later (16 January 1995) the office of the President of the Commission replied that the Commission was confident that France would fully respect national and European Union law (particularly EC Directive 92/3/Euratom) ⁽¹⁾ for planned shipments of radioactive waste.

The Nuclear Control Institute then forwarded a further letter to the President of the Commission and the Transport and Energy Commissioners, challenging the assertion that France has fully complied with Directive 92/3/Euratom.

Can the Commission explain:

1. Why the first response (six lines in length) took four months to complete?

2. What response has been made to the second letter?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 35, 12. 2. 1992, p. 24.

**Answer given by Mr Papoutsis
on behalf of the Commission**
(8 June 1995)

The Commission makes every effort to reply to questions as quickly as possible.

Sometimes, however, as in the case referred to by the Honourable Member, it is obliged to hold internal consultations, which inevitably delays the reply procedure.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-569/95

by Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)
to the Commission
(6 March 1995)
(95/C 202/49)

Subject: European cane sugar

Five Council Decisions concerning the guaranteed prices for cane sugar from a long list of supplier countries for different periods between 1989 and 1993 ⁽¹⁾.

Could these agreements, which were concluded by an exchange of letters, have adverse effects on Community cane sugar producers such as those in the region of Motril, Granada (Spain), or will the principle of generalized preferences continue to work in their favour?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 355, 31. 12. 1994.

**Answer given by Mr Fischler
on behalf of the Commission**
(3 April 1995)

The rules for the implementation of Protocol 7 on ACP sugar annexed to the Third ACP-EEC Convention ⁽¹⁾ and of Protocol 8 on ACP sugar annexed to the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention ⁽²⁾ lay down that the agreement on the guaranteed prices for cane sugar for each marketing year is to be concluded in the form of an exchange of letters between the Community and the ACP countries concerned. A similar arrangement is provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on cane sugar ⁽³⁾. The Council Decisions to which the Honourable Member refers formalize the said agreements in accordance with the procedure laid down.

Furthermore, cane sugar produced in the Community and therefore in the region of Motril, Granada (Spain) is covered by the common organization of the market in the sugar sector and directly benefits from the price and marketing guarantees provided for in that organization on the same terms as beet sugar. Moreover, cane sugar in the abovementioned region is produced directly as white sugar, therefore benefiting from a higher intervention price than other Community cane sugar which passes through the brown sugar stage.

The abovementioned agreements, formalized through the respective exchanges of letters, can in no way prejudice the interests of Community cane-sugar producers since the principle of Community preference is guaranteed, being included in the common organization of the market in the sugar sector.

(¹) OJ No L 86, 31. 3. 1986.

(²) OJ No L 299, 17. 8. 1991.

(³) OJ No L 190, 22. 7. 1975.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-590/95

by **Wolfgang Nußbaumer (NI)**

to the Commission

(6 March 1995)

(95/C 202/50)

Subject: Austrian motor vehicle accessories and equipment industry: authorization of back-to-back transactions with Japan

In the 1970s and 1980s business between Austria and Japan was greatly stimulated. This was due partly to large-scale car production in Japan, despite the fact that Austria levied import duty on cars of Japanese origin. However, when Austria's trade-balance deficit with Japan became serious, the Austrian Government agreed with the Japanese Government that the Japanese should be granted tariff concessions for the marketing of cars in Austria to a value equal to that of the equipment and accessories which Austrian firms were permitted to supply to the Japanese motor vehicle industry. This compensation transaction arrangement lapsed when Austria joined the EU. During the negotiations in Brussels, however, Austria received a pledge that Austrian firms would in all essential respects be able to continue with the arrangement in future.

The following questions arise:

1. Can the Commission guarantee that Austria's motor vehicle accessories and equipment suppliers will be able to continue to undertake back-to-back transactions with Japan?
2. For how long and in what quantity will the Austrian motor vehicle accessories and equipment industry be permitted to undertake such back-to-back transactions?
3. Are there plans for phasing out these transactions?

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

(15 May 1995)

Following accession on 1 January 1995, Austria applies integrally the common customs tariff including that for automobile imports. The system of counter purchases of car parts and components referred to by the Honourable Member has ceased to exist from this date. This is because the continuation of the system would have been contrary to the internal market and to international trading rules.

The Commission recognises that, partly as a result of the system, Austrian car parts and component manufacturers have developed strong links with Japanese automobile manufacturers. The Commission has conveyed to the Ministry of trade and industry in Japan (MITI) Austrian concerns that a sudden discontinuation of such links would entail the risk of disruption in the business activities of Austrian car parts and components manufacturers and that this should be avoided as far as possible. MITI confirmed that it will transmit these concerns to the Japanese automobile manufacturers. The Commission has been informed by the Japanese authorities that Japanese automobile manufacturers will continue to purchase Austrian car parts and components in so far as they are competitive both in terms of quality and price.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-601/95

by **María Izquierdo Rojo (PSE)**

to the Commission

(6 March 1995)

(95/C 202/51)

Subject: Putting an end to the 'bonito war' by banning the use of drift nets

What steps does the Commission intend to take to prevent the fisheries dispute from continuing or escalating during the coming months as a result of the failure to ban the use of drift nets as Parliament recommended?

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

(30 March 1995)

The Commission shares the concerns expressed by the Honourable Member with respect to the inherent dangers of conflict at sea during the forthcoming 1995 albacore tuna season. This is one of the reasons why the Commission will insist, with Member States, that the satisfactory level of control attained in the latter half of the 1994 season must be maintained again this year. The Commission seeks firm commitments from the Member States concerned with respect to their control obligations in this particular fishery-

and will play an active coordinating role in this regard. In addition, the Commission will deploy its own resources to monitor the control efforts of Member States so as to ensure that enforcement is proportionate, efficient and non-discriminatory.

With regard to the future use of driftnets in this particular fishery, the Commission will in the next series of Council meetings continue vigorously to pursue the adoption of its proposals to phase out driftnets. In this respect, the Commission has recently organized two additional workshops on the biological as well as socio-economic implications of the use of driftnets. The conclusions of these meetings will be available as soon as the corresponding reports are finalised.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-737/95

by **Doeke Eisma (ELDR)**

to the Commission

(15 March 1995)

(95/C 202/52)

Subject: Implementation of the Directive on the conservation of natural habitats

Which Member States have submitted reports to the Commission, pursuant to Article 23 of the Directive on the conservation of natural habitats, on how they have brought their legislation in line with the obligations in that Directive?

Is the Commission prepared to carry out its own evaluation of these modifications?

What is the Commission going to do about Member States which have not complied with these obligations?

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

(16 May 1995)

The following Member States have communicated national legislation to the Commission pursuant to Article 23 of Directive 92/43/EEC⁽¹⁾: Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom. Some of these Member States have made it clear that further legislation is needed to comply with the Directive. The remaining Member States have indicated that new legislation is in preparation.

The Commission examines national legislation to see whether it gives full effect to the provisions of the Directive.

Where Member States do not communicate any national legislation or where they communicate inadequate national legislation, the Commission initiates the procedure under Article 169 of the EC Treaty. The procedure has been initiated, for failure to communicate national implementing measures, in regard to Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom (the procedures relating to Ireland and the United Kingdom are to be set aside). In addition, it has brought up and will continue to bring up issues of implementation of the Directive in bilateral and multilateral contacts with national authorities.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 206, 22. 7. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-752/95

by **José Barros Moura (PSE)**

to the Commission

(15 March 1995)

(95/C 202/53)

Subject: Disadvantaged agricultural areas — Revinhade Felgueiras

Will the Commission say what level of financial compensation has been fixed in respect of the disadvantaged areas (mountainous or difficult to farm) in the district of Felgueiras, and notably the administrative parishes of Friande, Jugueiros, Pinheiro, Santão, Sendim and Vila Verde? Will the district of Revinhade be considered for compensation or not? If not, why not?

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

(24 April 1995)

The administrative parishes of Friande, Jugueiros, Pinheiro, Santão, Sendim and Vila Verde are covered by Law No 79/91 of 8 March 1991, updated in 1993, establishing the following levels of aid for individual farmers of the said parishes:

- for the first 10 livestock units (1 to 10): ECU 65 per livestock unit
- for the following 10 livestock units (11 to 20): ECU 47,3 per livestock unit
- for the following 10 livestock units (21 to 30): ECU 35,5 per livestock unit
- per hectare of cultivated area in compliance with No 8 of Article 48 of Decree-Law No 81/91 of 19 February: ECU 35,5/ha.

With regard to the administrative parish of Revinhade, since it does not comply with the requirements of Directives

75/268/EEC⁽¹⁾ and 86/467/EEC⁽²⁾ concerning the definition of less-favoured areas, it does not benefit from the arrangements in question.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 128, 19. 5. 1975.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 273, 24. 9. 1986.

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

(12 April 1995)

The Commission shares the view that effective and realistic Community rules on animal welfare are necessary. The general public is very concerned about this sensitive issue and the Commission has decided to give animal welfare a high priority.

Community legislation has been in force since 1974 covering the protection of animals on farms, during transport and at the time of slaughter and the Commission is currently working on proposals which, when adopted, will substantially improve the level of protection.

A proposal from the Commission to modify Directive 91/628/EEC on the protection of animals during transport⁽¹⁾, is before the Council. The proposal contains strict rules on planning long journeys including feeding and watering intervals, resting periods and space allowances. Any person transporting animals for long journeys must draw up a route plan whereby it can be ensured that the animals are rested and that the maximum intervals for feeding and watering are also taken into account. Up to now, the Council has not taken a decision on the proposal.

During the Agricultural Council of January 1995, it was decided to draw up, as soon as possible, the report as foreseen in Article 6 of Council Directive 91/629/EEC⁽²⁾ laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves.

The Commission has requested the scientific veterinary committee to make an interim report particularly on the housing and feeding of calves by June of this year and the final report before the end of the year.

The Commission aims to provide a legislative framework within which the Member States can ensure that animals are kept, transported and slaughtered under satisfactory conditions and which provides farmers and operators with a clear set of rules they can meet.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-757/95

by **Holger Gustafsson (PPE)**

to the Commission

(15 March 1995)

(95/C 202/54)

Subject: Unsatisfactory EU protective measures for the transport and treatment of animals for slaughter

In negotiating membership of the EU Sweden secured special agreements on food and animal protection in applying agricultural policy. Under these agreements, Sweden may retain high national standards, while the EU undertook to review and improve its legislation.

The current situation regarding the transport and treatment of animals for slaughter within the EU is totally unsatisfactory. It is so serious that there is a need for thorough and immediate reform. As a Swede and a Christian Democrat, I shall do my utmost to press for higher animal protection standards throughout the EU. Healthy conditions in stalls and quality fodder are essential in producing healthy animal and quality food. It is equally important that animals are treated with consideration and dignity during transport and slaughter. More stringent standards should be applied to the transport of animals for slaughter by improving legislation, reviewing the EU's conditions for subsidies and by promoting more local slaughterhouses.

The work that the Commission is carrying out in this area is important but must not be of an ad hoc nature. Only a wide-ranging investigation and analysis of the situation of animals for slaughter and livestock producing appropriate proposals for measures based on an ethically acceptable approach can result in a lasting solution.

Does the Commission take the view that animal husbandry in the EU should be based on clearly defined ethical principles acceptable to the general public?

What further measures will the Commission take to improve animal protection within the EU?

⁽¹⁾ COM(93) 330 final — OJ No C 250, 14. 9. 1993.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 340, 11. 12. 1991.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-777/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)
to the Commission
(20 March 1995)
(95/C 202/55)

Subject: Regional planning

What will be the legal status of the plan for land use in the Community which is currently under consideration?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-783/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)
to the Commission
(20 March 1995)
(95/C 202/56)

Subject: Regional partnership arrangements and plan for land use in the Community

What measures will the Commission propose to ensure the involvement of the regions in measures taken under the plan for land use in Europe?

**Joint answer to Written Questions
E-777/95 and E-783/95
given by Mrs Wulf-Mathies
on behalf of the Commission
(7 April 1995)**

The Member States and the Commission began work on the implementation of a European spatial development perspective (ESDP), which is the policy continuation of the Commission's 'Europe 2000+' communication, within the Committee on Spatial Development, pursuant to Article 10 (1) (a) of the ERDF Regulation⁽¹⁾ and in the light of discussions in the informal meeting of ministers responsible for regional policy and planning held in Liège in November 1993.

The legal status of the ESDP will be clarified in future discussions so that, where appropriate, legal form can be given to Community work on regional planning.

As regards the association of the regions with preparation of the ESDP, the Commission has sent the Committee of the Regions all the background documents to the perspective which have been drawn up in the Committee on Spatial Development and discussed at informal meetings of ministers.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-805/95

by Mikko Rönholm (PSE), Saara-Maria Paakkinen (PSE),
Ulpu Iivari (PSE) and Riitta Myller (PSE)
to the Commission
(20 March 1995)
(95/C 202/57)

Subject: Raising the age limit for youth unemployment to 25

Youth unemployment is a burning issue in all European countries, which erodes belief in the future, creates social problems and diminishes the chances of success of our societies.

At present support measures aimed at eliminating youth unemployment are directed at young people under 20. Support measures are necessary and worthwhile in themselves, but an age limit of 20 means that often well educated unemployed young people over 20 fall outside the scope of the support measures. However it is particularly difficult for the unemployed over 20, but under 25 to enter working life because they lack work experience. These young people who have studied are in addition often burdened by large debts from studying. In Finland a remarkable number of 20—25 year olds are students and many towns, beginning with Helsinki, have invested in the employment both of this age group and even of 25—29 year olds. The problem is being exacerbated as a result of growing graduate unemployment. For society, allowing this group to remain idle means wasting large investments in education and future development opportunities.

In view of the above, does the Commission intend to take measures for raising the age limit for youth unemployment to 25, so that 20—25 year olds can also be eligible for EU measures aimed at reducing youth unemployment?

**Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission
(1 June 1995)**

The age threshold for the definition of youth unemployment used by the Commission for the calculation of youth unemployment statistics is already 25 years. The monthly bulletin of unemployment published by Eurostat presents unemployment for all young people under 25 years, and separately for men and women.

The age threshold for access to special labour market programmes and measures in the Member States aimed specifically at young people is decided by each Member State as a function of the objectives of the particular measures and the scale of the problem to be addressed. Most, if not all, Member States have such programmes, which aim to

improve the employment prospects of young people and help them to enter the labour market. In the majority of cases access to such programmes is open up to 25 years, but may also be lower or even higher.

The Commission does agree that the level of youth unemployment — defined as unemployment of those under 25 years — in the Community is extremely serious. In February 1995 it averaged 21,2% for the Member States taken together, although this represents a slight fall from the rate of 22,0% in February 1994. It is estimated that young people are twice as much at risk from unemployment as adults. The spread of youth unemployment among the Member States is also much greater than for overall unemployment, ranging from 6,7% in Luxembourg to 43,7% in Spain.

Many of these unemployed young people have never been employed, and young people comprise a significant proportion of the long-term unemployed. Furthermore, some 5 million young people under 25 years have no recognisable, marketable qualification, and up to 20 of young people are leaving education each year without recognisable, marketable qualifications. In the white paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, the Commission put forward a series of proposals for improving the prospects of young people under 25 to enter the labour market.

These proposals have now been further focused, both in terms of policy objectives and of resources. The recent Community support frameworks or single programming documents of the European social fund under Objective 3 for 1994—1999 include measures aimed particularly at unqualified young people under 20 in order to address the disproportionate risk they face of becoming long-term unemployed or precariously employed adults. A new strand of the 'employment' initiative (Youthstart) is devoted to innovative transnational actions for achieving these objectives.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-809/95

by **Giulio Fantuzzi (PSE)**

to the Commission

(20 March 1995)

(95/C 202/58)

Subject: Compatibility of self-certification rules for milk producers with Community rules

At its sitting of 14 February 1995, the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Republic debated draft Law No 727 of 23 December 1994 laying down the rules for the re-incorporation of milk production into the Community quota.

The Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Resources, Walter Luchetti, declared the Government's opposition to the amendment authorizing the use (until the individual circumstances of milk producers were definitively ascertained) of self-certification of products in accordance with Law No 15 of 4 January 1968, citing constitutional issues stemming from incompatibility with Community rules.

Will the Commission therefore state whether it recognizes, and in what terms, the existence of the problem referred to by the Minister?

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

(21 April 1995)

As soon as the Chamber of Deputies in Italy had adopted Decree-law No 727 to which the Honourable Member refers, the Commission informed the Italian authorities of the serious concern that several elements of the text caused it, including the provisions on self-certification.

When this Decree-law was converted into a full Law by the Italian Parliament on 24 February 1995, the Commission wrote a letter to the Italian authorities stressing the danger of allowing, in all cases of dispute, the self-certification of the marketed quantities. In addition to the fact that such a measure is not provided for in Community law, resorting to it is likely to compromise the objective that allocations for the 1995/96 milk year should be made in strict compliance with the overall quantities guaranteed on 1 April 1995.

It was therefore pointed out to the Italian authorities that the Commission, given the current legal position, would be forced to draw appropriate conclusions if the measures objected to were to be implemented, whether in the context of the clearance of EAGGF accounts or the infringement procedure.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-814/95

by **Josu Imaz San Miguel (PPE)**

to the Commission

(24 March 1995)

(95/C 202/59)

Subject: Documentation on RTD programmes

Documentation for those interested in research and technological development programmes is not currently available in all the Community's official languages. For

example, on 1 February 1995, documentation concerning the 'Technological Research' programme was available in English only, 'Telematics Systems' documentation was available in German and English, 'Materials Technology' documentation in English, French, German and Italian and 'Advanced Communications Technology' in English. The situation is similar for other programmes.

Clearly this causes discrimination to arise between users, particularly small and medium-sized undertakings, where linguistic knowledge may be more limited. This places certain countries at a disadvantage compared with others in terms of access to the above Community funds and programmes.

In view of this, has the Commission considered postponing the deadline for applications regarding these programmes to enable documentation in all the Union's official languages to be made available long enough in advance?

Does not the Commission consider that the unavailability of documents in certain languages affects equal opportunities in terms of access to Community programmes for all individuals and undertakings in the European Union?

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

(6 June 1995)

Although the simultaneous launch of calls for proposals on most of the 20 specific research programmes under the 1994—1998 framework programme created bottlenecks in the timely production of supporting supplementary information in all official languages in some specific cases, it should be noted that the documentation on the specific programmes (Council Decisions, text of calls, work-programmes) is available in the official languages of the Community. Also proposals for projects may be submitted in any official language of the Community.

The Commission is seeking to improve the efficiency of circulation of and access to information. Between 250 000 and 300 000 information packages have been sent by the Commission for the first calls for proposals under the Fourth Framework Programme.

Relevant information on several programmes is already available on telematic support (e.g. Arcade, Cordis). The Commission is also exploring new communication systems (e.g. world-wide web).

WRITTEN QUESTION E-846/95

by Glyn Ford (PSE)

to the Commission

(24 March 1995)

(95/C 202/60)

Subject: Harness racing in Krombeke and Sint-Eloois Winkel (Belgium)

With a view to stopping needless violence against animals, will the Commission consider taking action to stop street races in these Belgian towns, because of the extremely high casualty rate inflicted on the horses, who are destined for the slaughterhouse in any event?

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

(18 April 1995)

The Commission is aware that street races with horses take place in Belgium and that horses may be injured accidentally during these races. As a matter of principle, the Commission deplores all forms of cruelty to animals and has, in its proposals concerning the welfare of animals, consistently sought to provide for the highest possible standards of welfare.

Although the Community has introduced common rules on animal welfare pursuant to agricultural and environmental policy, there are no plans to introduce such rules in the area of street races with horses. The legislative competence in this particular domain therefore remains with Member States.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-851/95

by José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission

(29 March 1995)

(95/C 202/61)

Subject: Support for scientific and technical policy

The activities of the Monitor programme relating to strategic analysis, forecasting and evaluation in matters of research and technology (1989—1992) (Council Decision No 89/414/EEC) ⁽¹⁾ included the FAST sub-programme which, according to information from the Commission, disseminated the full results of work undertaken in the fields of social and economic cohesion, innovations in agro-biotechnology, water resources, etc. What means are available to the Commission for the purpose of informing the general public that the above results are accessible via the

FAST sub-programme? How can copies be obtained? Have lists of the studies carried out been published?

(¹) OJ No L 200, 13. 7. 1989, p. 38.

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

(16 May 1995)

The research results of the Monitor-FAST programme are made available to the public via publications, articles in specialist journals and newspapers and research reports (FAST Occasional Papers). These are provided free of charge on request and have an average circulation of 500 to 5 000.

The publication of results is also announced in the various newsletters produced by DG XII and DG XIII of which several thousand copies are circulated.

DG XII's newsletter is sent to all the research institutes and research centres involved in Community research programmes. The same goes for DG XIII's newsletter, notably in the information and communication technology sectors. DG XIII's newsletter is also distributed to members of the Cordis network (Community Research and Development Information System).

Many of the results are also presented at national, Community or international conferences, colloquia and work seminars.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-854/95

by José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission

(29 March 1995)

(95/C 202/62)

Subject: Avicenne programme

In the context of scientific and technological cooperation with the countries of Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean an exploratory action has been launched in the form of the Avicenne programme. This programme, which is open to the countries of the southern Mediterranean, covers two important fields:

health and the environment (¹). Are any results available from the research work which has been undertaken? What specific projects are being funded?

(¹) OJ No C 173, 9. 7. 1992, p. 15.

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

(26 April 1995)

Since the Avicenne programme has so far only involved three calls for proposals over the last three years, most of the research concerned is not likely to give tangible results yet as it is intended to cover four or five-year periods.

However, the Commission recently published a catalogue of all of the research projects that it is supporting as part of international scientific cooperation with non-member Mediterranean countries. All of the Avicenne projects are included, together with updated summaries of the work. This catalogue is being sent directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat-General of Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-862/95

by Mihail Papayannakis (GUE/NGL)

to the Commission

(29 March 1995)

(95/C 202/63)

Subject: Pollution caused by industrial waste no longer subject to criminal proceedings

Law No 2207 adopted by the Greek Parliament on 25 April 1994 removes pollution caused by industrial — including toxic — waste from the criminal domain. Uncontrolled dumping of waste is now therefore no longer categorized as a criminal offence but merely as a misdemeanour subject to a fine of Dr 20 000. The law has thus become more lenient in a country which produces 6 685 000 tonnes of waste a year, 572 000 tonnes of which is toxic and hazardous.

Given that:

- these changes to the law have resulted in a halt to investigations into the causes of industrial pollution, since the prosecuting authorities do not conduct investigations into misdemeanours, and the discontinuation of all cases already documented;
- public health and the environment is endangered;
- there have been numerous breaches of Directive 78/319/EEC (¹), which aims to protect human health and the environment from toxic and hazardous waste and was transposed into Greek law in 1985 by Ministerial Decision 72751/3054,

will the Commission say whether Greece has complied with its obligation under Directive 78/319/EEC to draw up and forward to the Commission, every three years, a special report on the management of toxic and hazardous waste?

Will it intercede to ensure that the component Greek authorities revoke this scandalous law which is completely contrary to Directive 78/319/EEC and will it call for its immediate and total removal from the Greek statute books?

(¹) OJ No L 84, 31. 3. 1978, p. 43.

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

(12 May 1995)

The Commission has not received situation reports on the disposal of toxic and dangerous waste in Greece, as required by Article 16 (1) of Council Directive 78/319/EEC on toxic and dangerous waste. As far as the categorization of offences under national legislation implementing the provisions of Council Directive 78/319/EEC is concerned, it is a matter for Member States to categorize such offences. Council Directive 78/319/EEC does not make any explicit provision relating to criminality of offences.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-866/95

by Joan Vallvé (ELDR)

to the Commission

(29 March 1995)

(95/C 202/64)

Subject: Inclusion of apricots in the list of Mediterranean products

The processing of apricots into dried form is a traditional activity in Majorca, where a specific industry has grown up for the purpose, and where there is intense competition from Maghreb and Middle Eastern countries.

A few months ago, I tabled a Written Question to the Commission (E-2802/94) (¹) requesting the possibility of transferring (under Regulation (EEC) No 426/86 (²)) Majorca's surplus fresh apricots to apricot-processing enterprises in Majorca. In reply, the Commission reply advised waiting for new proposals to be drawn up which it considered could take account of the situation of Majorcan dried apricots.

In view of Parliament's adoption of the resolution on the development and future of Community policy in the fruit and vegetables sector (A4-15/95), which urges that

preference be given to processing rather than withdrawal or destruction of certain agricultural products not included in Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 (³) and specifically mentions apricots can the Commission say whether it would be possible to include apricots under Regulation (EEC) No 426/86 among the Mediterranean products most affected by competition? Does the Commission think a specific proposal will be adopted for Majorcan dried apricots, given their importance for the region?

(¹) OJ No C 152, 19. 6. 1995, p. 19.

(²) OJ No L 49, 27. 2. 1986, p. 1.

(³) OJ No L 118, 20. 5. 1972, p. 1.

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

(3 May 1995)

In its answer to Written Question No 2802/94 on Majorcan apricots, the Commission stated its reasons for not including this product in the list of those qualifying for production aid (Regulation (EEC) No 426/86).

The Commission does not intend to extend this list to incorporate apricots or any other products.

The Commission is, however, currently drawing up reforms of the fruit and vegetable sector according to the criteria outlined in the answer referred to above. Consequently, the case of Majorcan apricots can be examined when the new provisions are in place.

In view of the above, the Commission is not in a position to add anything to the answer already given to the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-867/95

by María Izquierdo Rojo (PSE)

to the Commission

(29 March 1995)

(95/C 202/65)

Subject: Allocation to Luxembourg under the Pesca programme

When allocating the budgetary provision for the Community Pesca programme among the Member States, the Commission approved a subsidy of ECU 1 million to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

In view of the fact that the object of the Pesca programme is to help those working in the fisheries sector to withstand the structural crisis, and considering that the Grand Duchy does

not have a coast or a fishing fleet, what were the Commission's reasons for taking this decision? What specific use will be made of this subsidy?

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

(28 April 1995)

The Commission has allocated no Community funds to Luxembourg under the Pesca Initiative.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-875/95

by Phillip Whitehead (PSE)

to the Commission

(29 March 1995)

(95/C 202/66)

Subject: Conservation of natural habitats, flora and fauna

What specific action is the Commission taking to ensure that Council Directive 92/43/EEC ⁽¹⁾ of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna is being implemented in Member States of the European Union?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 206, 22. 7. 1992, p. 7.

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

(2 June 1995)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 737/95 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See page 23 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-881/95

by Carmen Fraga Estévez (PPE)

to the Commission

(29 March 1995)

(95/C 202/67)

Subject: Council Agreement of 22 December 1994 concerning the management of fishing effort with regard to specific Community fishing zones and resources

Last December, the Council of fisheries Ministers agreed on certain measures concerning the exchange of specific fishing

rights between Member States, which has been happening relatively frequently.

Surprisingly, however, the agreement allows something which constitutes a complete novelty, namely that the quotas exchanged may be caught in zones other than those laid down by the annual regulation on TACs and quotas, with the agreements stating that these quotas must be caught 'exclusively in waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of France or Portugal, as appropriate'. This means, for example, that in the case of anchovies, 80% of the exchanged quota is to be caught in Zone IX instead of Zone VIII.

Does the Commission believe that the principle of relative stability has been respected in this Council Agreement?

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

(2 May 1995)

The exchanges to which the Honourable Member refers do not affect the allocation of quotas and so, therefore, have no impact on relative stability. The possibility of transferring quotas to other zones, as it has been introduced, is not a novelty as it is allowed in the case of other species. It is intended to ensure better use of the resources available.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-901/95

by Francisca Sauquillo Pérez del Arco (PSE)

to the Commission

(29 March 1995)

(95/C 202/68)

Subject: Equal treatment for women

Since just and equal treatment for all does not mean treating everyone as though they were identical and ignoring their differences, but in treatment which takes account of differences, does the Commission really believe that its commitment to respecting equal treatment for men and women as meaning that it must ignore fundamental differences such as pregnancy, childbirth and breast-feeding?

Does the Commission think that in any one of these situations, a woman can take part in a competition on an equal footing with a man?

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

(15 May 1995)

Article 27 of the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Communities provides that 'officials shall be selected without reference to race, creed or sex.' The principle is applied by analogy in the event of an internal competition.

The Commission is at pains to secure compliance with the principle of equal treatment for all applicants at all its competitions. Consequently it arranges for the tests to be held in a variety of locations within the Community, but always the same tests on the same dates. That is why it is not possible for an applicant to plead health considerations (sickness, pregnancy, confinement or accident) or any other personal considerations, however, justified, to have the date or substance of the tests changed.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-910/95

**by Christian Jacob (RDE)
to the Commission**

(31 March 1995)
(95/C 202/69)

Subject: Community production of asparagus and competition from third countries

Community production of asparagus for processing is being seriously threatened by competition from third countries, in particular China and Peru, which are exporting increasing quantities of frozen and tinned asparagus to the European Union.

The cultivation and processing of asparagus is highly labour-intensive, which makes competition from countries with cheap labour particularly fierce.

In addition, concessions to Peru are being renewed in 1995 for an extra year under the preferential arrangements granted to certain Latin American countries as part of measures to combat the production of cocaine: processed asparagus from these countries is exempt from customs duty.

Can the Commission produce a study showing that the cultivation of asparagus is really replacing that of cocaine?

If not, does the Commission intend to propose that the preferential arrangements for semi-processed and processed asparagus from these countries be halted as of 1 January 1996?

Lastly, what specific proposals does the Commission plan to put forward as part of the reform of the common

organization of the market for fruit and vegetables to support the production of asparagus intended for processing?

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

(28 April 1995)

The main object of the special Andean arrangements is to stimulate the economies of the countries in question through the granting of certain preferences in order to constitute a sound basis free of the influence of drug trafficking. At the same time, by encouraging exports, the system of preferences promotes the development of legal crops at the expense of drugs.

It is not, however, possible to measure the direct correlation between the increase in production of a particular product, for example, asparagus exported to the Community after processing, and a reduction in the area given over to illegal crops. The Commission is kept informed at a more general level of the results of efforts of the Andean authorities to combat drug trafficking and the impact of the preferential arrangements.

The Commission is aware of the severe international competition being faced by producers of asparagus for processing and preserving. In its communication to the Council and Parliament on the 'Development and future of Community policy in the fruit and vegetables sector' ⁽¹⁾, the Commission identified the asparagus sector as one of regional importance and exposed to international competition resulting in specific problems for which the normal tools of the market organization could prove inadequate. If this proves to be the case, the introduction of specific measures for the sector could be considered.

Naturally, the Commission will be able to consider the need for and content of specific measures only after implementation of the reform. Proposals on this subject will be presented shortly.

⁽¹⁾ COM(94) 360.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-912/95

**by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)
to the Commission**

(31 March 1995)
(95/C 202/70)

Subject: Measures to assist the regional press

Does the Commission consider that, in order to protect the place of the written word in our culture, the European Union should take measures to deal with the crisis facing the

press in all the countries of the Union, in particular the regional press, which is a cornerstone of local democracy?

**Answer given by Mr Oreja
on behalf of the Commission**
(12 May 1995)

At the European press meeting held in Luxembourg from 2 to 4 July 1991, press representatives emphasized the essentially national character of the print media (dailies, weeklies and periodicals) and the need to respect local cultures in achieving European integration. The meeting welcomed the positive effects on the print media resulting from the advertising requirements for the broadcast media laid down by Council Directive 89/552/EEC of 3 October 1989 (the 'television without frontiers' Directive) ⁽¹⁾.

Today the completion of the single market raises the question whether the differences in national rules on media pluralism and ownership and the principles of free movement of services and freedom of establishment are compatible. Following Parliament's resolutions on this matter, the Green Paper published by the Commission in December 1992 paved the way for initial consultations with all parties concerned on the advisability of Community action ⁽²⁾. On 5 October 1994 the Commission launched a second round of consultations, no longer on advisability, but on the details of a Community initiative to secure equivalent protection of pluralism from one country to another ⁽³⁾. The importance of this debate is obvious. The Commission is particularly anxious to maintain close contact with Parliament, especially the Members more particularly interested in the matter.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 298, 17. 10. 1989.

⁽²⁾ COM(92) 480 final.

⁽³⁾ COM(94) 353 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-915/95
by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)
to the Commission
(31 March 1995)
(95/C 202/71)

Subject: Atlantic monitoring unit for anchovy

Having accepted a sizeable increase in the French quota for anchovy fishing (17 300 tonnes), is the Commission prepared to support the creation of an Atlantic monitoring

unit to keep a closer watch on this species? Such a measure could be introduced as part of inter-regional cooperation.

**Answer given by Mrs Bonino
on behalf of the Commission**
(5 May 1995)

Notwithstanding the question of the possible creation of an Atlantic Observatory which is presently under consideration, Spain and France jointly stated at the Fisheries Council of December 1994 that they were committed to setting up a 'Franco-Spanish fisheries committee', to examine all topics of a bilateral interest at administrative level, where necessary in collaboration with the trade. They restated their intention to renew and, if possible, improve the 1992 bilateral agreement on anchovies for a multiannual period with effect from 1995, taking account of the concerns of the two Member States, including in particular the level of the annual exchange of quotas, control measures and marketing problems.

At the beginning of March 1995 this committee began its operations and a preliminary agreement has been drawn up on issues related to the anchovy fishery. The committee includes representatives of the regions concerned by the fishery. This will ensure the desired inter-regional cooperation.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-941/95
by Celia Villalobos Talero (PPE)
to the Commission
(31 March 1995)
(95/C 202/72)

Subject: Adapt programme

Can the Commission say what projects have been agreed for Malaga in the context of the Adapt programme? What is the extent of the Community contribution, and what dates have been set for presentation by the Member State of the respective projects for approval by the Commission, and for the Community subsidy for each project to be made available to the Spanish authorities?

**Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission**
(10 May 1995)

The deadline for presenting projects for inclusion in the Adapt programme is 31 July 1995.

The ESF (European Social Fund) contribution to Spain for the Adapt programme amounts to ECU 229 million.

Operational programmes are submitted for the Commission's approval after negotiations have taken place between the latter and the Member States. However, the projects themselves are not presented to the Commission for its approval. Responsibility for approving them rests solely with the Member States.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-974/95

by Sir Jack Stewart-Clark (PPE)

to the Commission

(31 March 1995)

(95/C 202/73)

Subject: Cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs

1. Will the Commission set out the Commission Member, Directorate-General and administrative unit responsible for the following areas of Union activity:

- (a) the free movement of persons under Article 7a of the EC Treaty,
- (b) visa matters under Article 100c of the EC Treaty,
- (c) drug dependence under Article 129 of the EC Treaty,
- (d) each of the nine areas (subdivided as necessary) cited as 'matters of common interest' under Article K.1,
- (e) respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms under Article F.2,
- (f) the fight against racism and xenophobia under the Joint Declaration of 11 June 1986 and subsequent texts?

2. In the light of experience of the Treaty on European Union, does the Commission have plans to change the above structures, for example, by making a single Directorate-General competent for justice and home affairs?

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

(18 May 1995)

1. Responsibility for cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs, as set out in Title VI of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) lies with Mrs Gradin at the level of

the Commission, and with the Secretariat-General, Directorate F, at the level of the Commission services. Other services are closely associated with work under Title VI in so far as it involves Community policies for which they are responsible and involved. However, with regard to the specific areas in the Honourable Member's question, the responsibilities are divided as follows:

- (a) the free movement of people under Article 7A of the EC Treaty comes under the responsibility of Mr Monti and his services (DG XV, Directorate A);
- (b) Mr Monti and DG XV, Directorate A are also responsible for those aspects of visa policy covered by Article 100 C of the EC Treaty;
- (c) drug dependence as covered by Article 129 of the EC Treaty is the responsibility of Mr Flynn and his services in DG V, Directorate F;
- (d) the nine areas listed in Article K.1 of the Treaty on European Union are the responsibility of Mrs Gradin and her services in the Secretariat-General, Directorate F. In so far as Article K.1.5 concerns fighting fraud against the Community budget the Secretariat-General's UCLAF takes the lead, also under the responsibility of Mrs Gradin. Mr Monti and his services in DG XXI are closely associated with work under Article K.1.8; his services in DG XV are closely associated with work under Article K.1.6 and, in so far as it relates to Article 7 A of the EC Treaty, with work under Article K.1.1 to 3;
- (e) respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is primarily the responsibility of Mr Van Den Broek, an agreement with President Santer, and his services in DG 1A, Directorate A. This reflects the importance of the matter in the context of the Union's relations with third countries. The commitment to compliance with the relevant Council of Europe Convention of 1950 also appears in Article K.2 of the Treaty on European Union for which Mrs Gradin has overall responsibility;
- (f) lead responsibility for the fight against racism and xenophobia lies with Mr Flynn and his services in DG V, Directorate D. Mrs Gradin and the Secretariat-General, Directorate F, are closely associated, in particular where aspects falling under title VI of the Treaty on European Union, notably police cooperation, are concerned.

2. The Commission is currently examining whether or not the present structure and the resources committed to it within the Secretariat-General are adequate for the increasing level of activity generated by the new areas of cooperation introduced by Title VI of the Treaty on European Union.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-984/95**by Thomas Megahy (PSE)****to the Commission***(6 April 1995)**(95/C 202/74)*

Subject: Recruitment of staff to the European institutions

In answer to a written question from Christine Oddy (CE-1966/94 ⁽¹⁾), the Commission stated that the 'staff regulations require the institutions to recruit on the basis of merit'. Yet in the same answer it justifies continuing age discrimination on the grounds that 'the removal of age limits . . . would undoubtedly aggravate the imbalance (of gender and national origin).'

Could the Commission explain its philosophical and political basis for justifying one form of discrimination as opposed to another? Could it explain how age discrimination can be reconciled with the requirement 'to recruit on the basis of merit'?

Would it accept that discriminating against older workers in order to reduce sexual imbalances is lazy, absurd and an avoidance of its responsibility both to treat potential applicants fairly and to maximize its own efficiency?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 55, 6. 3. 1995, p. 20.

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

(11 May 1995)

The Commission explained in detail in its reply to the Written Question No 1966/94 by Mrs Oddy the reasons for maintaining age limits in competitions for certain grades of permanent officials. There is no contradiction between this policy and the statutory requirement to recruit on the basis of merit. Recruitment is via open competitions where each candidate is assessed on the basis of his results of the written and oral tests. Only the candidates who perform best at these objective tests are placed on the reserve lists. The Commission does not accept the hypothesis in the Honourable Member's last question.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1004/95**by Christian Jacob (RDE)****to the Commission***(24 March 1995)**(95/C 202/75)*

Subject: Provisions concerning compensatory payments

The protein crop regulation offers the Commission the possibility of using the arrangements for compensatory payments to compensate for falls in market prices (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 Article 15 (2): From the 1994/95 marketing year onwards, the Council may decide, according to the procedure laid down in Article 43 (2) of the Treaty that the arrangements for making the compensatory payments for oil seeds shall also apply to the case of protein crops.) ⁽¹⁾.

Since the market price of protein crops has fallen by 10% since the beginning of the 1994/95 season, there is great concern about the future of these products. Protein crops are the only major arable crops which do not benefit from a producers' income stabilization scheme. The loss of profitability in the case of protein crops could, if no measures are taken, lead to a considerable reduction in the area under such crops from 1995 onwards. Protein crops are essential for maintaining soil quality in land used for major crops; they supply a considerable demand, and help to offset the European Union's severe protein shortfall (the EU is only 35% self-sufficient).

Does the Commission intend to make use of the opportunities in existing Regulations (cf. Article 15 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 cited below) and raise the compensatory payments for protein crops before the 1995 sowing?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 12.

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

(3 May 1995)

The Commission does not intend to table a proposal concerning the level of the compensatory payment for peas, beans and sweet lupins before the start of sowing for the 1995 harvest. Sowing for the 1995 harvest is now well under way throughout the Community.

The marketing year 1995/96 is the final year of the transitional period of the reform and only in this year will the effects of the reform become evident. Since 1993/94 the value of the compensatory payment for cereals has risen as the institutional prices have been reduced. The value of the compensatory payment for peas, beans and sweet lupins has

been unchanged since 1993/94, when it was set at a level intended to allow peas, beans and sweet lupins to compete with cereals at the end of the transitional period.

In 1993/94 and 1994/95, producers of peas, beans and sweet lupins enjoyed a comparative advantage over producers of cereals through the payment of protein crop compensation that was based on a cereals price much lower than the prevailing market price. Under these conditions the area of peas, beans and sweet lupins increased significantly, whilst the area sown with other crops declined.

Latest estimates of the area of land sown with peas, beans and sweet lupins for harvest in 1995 show that Community sowings are at approximately the same level that they were in 1992/93, the year before the reformed regime was put into place. Therefore, there was no basis for the Commission to propose a modification of the support arrangements for 1995/96 before sowing started.

Nevertheless, the Commission is keeping the matter under scrutiny and awaits confirmation of the area sown with these crops in 1995.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1005/95

by Friedrich Wolf (V)

to the Commission

(6 April 1995)

(95/C 202/76)

Subject: Contracts awarded by the Commission information office in Bonn

On the basis of what criteria did the Commission office in Bonn decide to award the contract for caretaking and security services on its premises to the Interschutz company?

Is the Commission aware that the firm which will in future be responsible for the surveillance of its premises is infringing labour law by requiring applicants to fill in a questionnaire which asks female applicants whether they are pregnant and asks all applicants whether they are members of a trade union?

Does the Commission consider that the security firm concerned, which pays its staff a gross hourly wage of DM 11, is capable of providing suitably qualified staff?

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

(16 May 1995)

The Commission has no contract with Interschutz to guard its premises at the Bonn Information Office. An invitation to

tender is being prepared, in full compliance with Directive 92/50/EEC on public service contracts ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 209, 24. 7. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1033/95

by Mair Morgan (PSE)

to the Commission

(7 April 1995)

(95/C 202/77)

Subject: Pension deductions

At the moment, Member States are at liberty to demand deductions for social security from payments made to company pension funds by payees no longer resident in the country requiring such deductions. A British employee having worked for several years in Belgium, would, on returning to work in the United Kingdom, still have deductions taken from a Belgian pension plan for social security, but would not have to make such contributions from his British pension.

As the European Union is encouraging and facilitating the movement of workers within its Member States, does the Commission intend taking steps towards harmonizing the rules on deductions made from pension payments?

Does the Commission intend introducing a Directive that Member States should only be allowed to take deductions for contributions such as social security, if and when the pension payee is resident in the country requiring such deductions?

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

(1 June 1995)

The Commission is aware of the problem raised by the Honourable Member concerning deductions from payments made to pension funds involving workers who exercise their right to freedom of movement.

In this connection, under its medium-term social action programme adopted in April 1995, the Commission expects to put forward in the near future a proposal for a Directive on safeguarding supplementary pension rights, which should, among other things, address this problem.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1048/95

by **Roberta Angelilli (NI)**
to the Commission
(7 April 1995)
(95/C 202/78)

Subject: Peace process in Northern Ireland

In spite of the peace process launched in Northern Ireland, which is being economically supported by the EU, there is still a problem causing social and political difficulty because of the unresolved judicial and criminal question of the so-called political prisoners.

Can the Commission arrange for a working party to be set up to check on:

1. the number of political prisoners and their social composition;
2. prison living conditions;
3. the possibility of superseding the emergency legislation on terrorism and the related increased penalties in respect of current legislation and proposing — where possible — alternative measures of detention, such as house arrest for women with families and partial freedom for men, i.e. the possibility of working outside prison during the day-time;
4. the possibility of comparing data, legal developments and the political situation in Ireland with regard to terrorism and political imprisonment with those in other countries of the European Union that have experienced the same problem (Italy, Spain, Germany, etc.), in cooperation with associations dealing with these questions, in the hope that a standard legal and political solution can be found for the Union's Member States.

**Answer given by Mr Santer
on behalf of the Commission**
(24 May 1995)

It would not be appropriate for the Commission to set up a working party to examine the issues raised by the Honourable Member as they do not fall within Community competence.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1052/95

by **Erika Mann (PSE)**
to the Commission
(28 March 1995)
(95/C 202/79)

Subject: Information concerning the amount of aid received by Lower Saxony in 1994

How much EC funding did Lower Saxony receive in 1994, and in respect of which measures, from:

1. the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF),
 2. the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) — Guidance Section,
 3. the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) — Guarantee Section,
 4. the European Social Fund (ESF),
 5. European Community research programmes,
 6. European Community energy programmes,
 7. European Community environmental programmes,
- and
8. other European Community programmes?

**Answer given by Mr Santer
on behalf of the Commission**
(17 May 1995)

Community finance for Lower Saxony in 1994 was as follows:

	<i>(ECU million)</i>
ERDF	
Objective 2	3,001
Objective 5b	11,667

Interreg I programme for Germany and the Netherlands (EMS-Dollart Euregio). The ERDF contribution to the 1991—1993 operational programme was ECU 12 246 000. In 1994 ECU 3 674 000 was paid.

	<i>(ECU million)</i>
EAGGF Guidance Section ⁽¹⁾	
Horizontal measures	37,6
Rural development	16,0
ESF	
Objective 2	4,03
Objective 3	18,58
Objective 4	1,91
Objective 5b	5,83
Fisheries	
FIFG	1,25
Energy	
Thermie (3 projects)	3,076
SAVE	0,032
Research	
DG XII programmes	15,403
DG XIII programmes	
Total cost of projects:	69,039
Communications technology	
Medical data communications	3,908
Transport data communications	72,485
Education training and youth	
Comett	0,57
Erasmus & Lingua (Action II)	1,49
Force	0,17
Youth for Europe	0,09
Lingua	0,52
Petra	0,23
ECSC loans	
11 projects	1,04

⁽¹⁾ The Land breakdown of Guarantee Section expenditure is not available.

Two Euro-Info-Centres are in operation, and there are seven members of the BC-Net (Business Cooperation Network) and the Business Cooperation Centre.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1062/95

by Peter Crampton (PSE)

to the Commission

(7 April 1995)

(95/C 202/80)

Subject: Fisheries inspection

What is the ratio of each Member State's fishery inspectors to each Member State's registered fishing vessels?

Answer given by Mrs Bonino on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 1995)

Fisheries inspection in the Member States relies upon the technical monitoring by the national authorities of:

— conservation and resource management measures,

— structural measures,

— measures concerning the common organization of the market.

The number of national authorities responsible for inspection in each sector varies from one Member State to the next and the Commission does not possess details of the total number of individuals employed in the different sectors. However, under the terms of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 ⁽¹⁾, which entered into force on 1 January 1994, Member States are required to transmit to the Commission before 1 June each year an annual report on the application of this Regulation over the previous calendar year. These reports will contain an assessment of the technical and human resources used by the Member States and following their receipt the Commission should be in a position to calculate the ratio of inspectors to registered fishing vessels as the Honourable Member has requested.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 261, 20. 10. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1086/95

by Kirsten Jensen (PSE)

to the Commission

(12 April 1995)

(95/C 202/81)

Subject: Cross-border transport of bicycles

In its answer to question No 140 by Mr Rogalla (H-764/92) ⁽¹⁾, the Commission stated that it had commissioned a study by the European Cyclists Federation on the subject of transporting bicycles on trains.

Will it state what the conclusions of that report are and what steps it has taken or has considered taking in response thereto?

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament No 3-423 (October 1992).

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

(2 June 1995)

The Commission funded the study on 'provision for bicycles made by the railways of western Europe' at the request of the European Cyclists Federation. The conclusion of the report was that 'many of the present difficulties have resulted from the lack of a mutually beneficial policy of constructive consultation and investigation'. The Commission believes that the work involved in the preparation of the report was itself the beginning of such a policy.

On the specific question of the carriage of bicycles on trains, as the Commission has previously stated, this is a commercial decision taken by the railway company and it is not within the competence of the Commission to intervene.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1087/95

by **Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler (V)**

to the Commission

(12 April 1995)

(95/C 202/82)

Subject: EC aid to development projects in Paraguay

What major projects (exceeding ECU 500 000), either carried out in the years 1980—1994 or still in progress, particularly in the fields of industrial development, dam-building and infrastructure, has the Commission co-financed in Paraguay?

Does the Commission have any plans to finance and implement such projects in Paraguay in 1995 and 1996?

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

(15 May 1995)

Under Council Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 ⁽¹⁾ and the terms of the budget, the Commission cannot finance large-scale infrastructure projects (new factories, dams, etc.) except in the case of hospitals and post-disaster rebuilding work.

Responsibility for financing such projects lies with the European Investment Bank (EIB) but the Commission does step in with financing for related studies and technical assistance.

In the case of Paraguay, the cooperation agreement was signed in 1992 (after the Stroessner era), hence the absence of any similar Commission-backed project before that time.

Since then, the Commission has participated in, or helped plan, the following projects:

1. Industry:

— Support for industrial development: 1st programme 1992 (finished): ECU 650 000

2nd programme 1994 (under way): ECU 850 000

3rd programme 1995/96 (in the pipeline): approximately ECU 900 000.

2. Dam construction, and development and management of the Pilcomayo river:

— Aid for the Rio Pilcomayo bi-national commission: Dam construction feasibility study — set for this year approximately ECU 650 000

— Aid for the Rio Pilcomayo tri-national commission: Assessment and feasibility study for the management of the Pilcomayo river basin — set for 1995: approximately ECU 600 000.

3. Infrastructure:

— Hidrovía: Series of studies into the Hidrovía ports (Paraná River, Paraguay) set for 1995/96: approximately ECU 6 500 000.

(¹) OJ No L 52, 27. 2. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1092/95

by **Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler (V)**

to the Commission

(12 April 1995)

(95/C 202/83)

Subject: European ban on anti-Semitic writings denying the holocaust

A book is being offered for sale in Germany from Spain ['Freispruch für Hitler? 27 ungehörte Zeugen wider die Gaskammer' (Should Hitler be acquitted? 37 unheard witnesses against the gas chamber) by Gerd Honsik] which, in a cynical and pseudoscholarly style, denies that the holocaust took place. Copies of this shoddy piece of work have in the past been seized in Germany, and a new edition is now being sold to customers in Germany by mail order from an address in Spain.

Some Member States have already introduced measures under the criminal law against revisionist acts. In Article 9 (fc) of its resolution of 15 March 1995 on the Commission's work programme for 1995, Parliament called for 'a Directive to be adopted to combat racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, and revisionist acts and denial of the holocaust'.

What measures does the Commission intend to take in order to secure a ban throughout Europe on the publication and

distribution of anti-Semitic and revisionist writings which deny the holocaust? Will it draft a Directive as called for by Parliament?

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

(1 June 1995)

The Commission shares the Honourable Member's concern about the cross-border transmission of racist and revisionist material.

The Justice and home affairs Council addressed the issue in its final report on the fight against racism and xenophobia. The report proposes that the possibilities of bridging gaps in Member States' laws and international instruments be examined in greater detail with a view to removing obstacles to international judicial cooperation. The Council takes the view that it could be necessary for Member States to re-examine the balance of their criminal law, civil law and administrative arrangements to ensure that the most effective measures are in place to address the various problems which arise.

The report is based in part on the answers from Member States to a questionnaire which was elaborated and distributed under German Presidency. These answers were subsequently summarised in order to pinpoint possible lacunae between Member States' laws.

The Commission has also conducted a comparative study of the relevant national legislation of Member States and plans to bring it up-to-date in the course of 1995.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1116/95

by Wayne David (PSE)

to the Commission

(5 April 1995)

(95/C 202/84)

Subject: Use of Phare funds in Romania

Is the Commission aware of negligent use of Phare funds by consultants in Romania? Can it comment on information about extremely low success rates and a lack of follow-up procedures involved in administering the funds?

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

(12 May 1995)

The Commission is very concerned by the information provided by the Honourable Member about the alleged negligent use of Phare funds by consultants in Romania.

The Commission has no indication of this alleged negligence, and the Romanian authorities, who are the beneficiaries of Phare funds, have not complained about negligence or mismanagement of such funds. Of course, the Commission is interested and would appreciate any additional information which would facilitate further investigations in this matter.

In any case, the Phare programme implementation in Romania shows a normal pace, comparable to other countries. Indeed, as the information provided to the Parliament with figures at 31 December 1994 shows, ECU 541,7 million has been committed in favour of Romania. Out of this amount ECU 273,1 million or 50,4% of commitments has been contracted, and ECU 255,3 million or 47,1% of commitments has been paid. These ratios are very close to the average implementation ratios for the whole Phare programme, i.e. 52,4% for contracts and 50,2% for payments.

As far as follow-up procedures are concerned, the Commission ensures a continuous monitoring of the programmes being implemented by way of:

- six-monthly progress reports and work programmes presented by the Romanian authorities and approved by the Commission;
- regular visits from the Commission's Brussels-based task managers as well as the Commission's financial control service and the European Court of Auditors;
- monthly meetings between the Romanian authorities and the EC delegation in Romania; and
- approval by the Commission, either locally in Bucharest or centrally in Brussels, of all contracts above ECU 1 000 to be concluded by the local authorities.

In addition, the Commission has recently launched an external evaluation of programmes in Romania covering almost all sectors where Phare is involved.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1119/95**by Freddy Blak (PSE)****to the Commission***(12 April 1995)**(95/C 202/85)**Subject: Drug-related deaths*

According to Politiken of 23 March 1995, there was a record number of drug-related deaths in 1994.

What initiatives has the EU taken to control drugs? What initiatives have been taken for research into the causes of these drug-related deaths, and what results has this research produced?

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

(15 June 1995)

The Treaty on European Union provided the Member States and European institutions with a new framework for joint action in the field of drug control and drug dependence. This was the background to the Commission's communication to the Council and the European Parliament on a European Union action plan to combat drugs ⁽¹⁾ and the proposal for a Decision on a first Community action programme to prevent drug addiction (adopted on 21 June 1994 in accordance with the provisions governing action in the field of public health in Article 129 of the Treaty) ⁽²⁾.

It must, nevertheless, be stressed that the Member States are still responsible for drug control. They alone have jurisdiction over legislation in the area. Article 129 does not provide for harmonisation of the laws and regulations of the Member States.

The Commission's preparatory work on the action plan to combat drugs demonstrated that research is a key factor in European efforts to combat drugs and also revealed the relatively weak and compartmentalized nature of European research in this context. For this reason, the Commission, taking account of what has already been done (particularly the Biomed 2 programme), advocates coordination of integrated global research into drugs and drug dependence, including analysis of the causes and effects of drug dependence.

Article 129 of the Treaty also states explicitly that Community action in the field of public health shall promote research into the causes and 'transmission' of drug dependence and that health protection requirements shall form a constituent part of the Community's other policies,

including research. These provisions can be found in the abovementioned proposal for a Decision.

In connection with its priority work on demand for drugs and the reduction of this demand, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction will, moreover, be able to help improve the comparability of national data on drug-related deaths and, if necessary, contribute to the harmonization of data-collection methods and criteria.

⁽¹⁾ COM(94) 234 final.

⁽²⁾ COM(94) 223 final — OJ No C 257, 14. 9. 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1125/95**by Bryan Cassidy (PPE)****to the Commission***(20 April 1995)**(95/C 202/86)**Subject: EU development funding to Central America*

Is EU development funding to Central American countries, such as Guatemala, dependent on the human rights records there? If so, what steps has the Commission taken to make sure that this EU funding is supplied in accordance with human rights principles laid down by the EU?

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

(24 May 1995)

Under the budget heading for 'Democratization and Human Rights' the Commission has since 1991 been funding a series of initiatives in Guatemala carried out by the human rights ombudsman, associations for the defence of indigenous minorities, women and minors and by non-governmental organizations specializing in the promotion and upholding of human rights.

Since 1991 Guatemala has been taking part in a regional Central American programme run by the Inter-American Human Rights Institute, which provides training for members of the armed forces, the police and the judiciary.

The funds allocated for human rights activities over the last two years in Guatemala amounted to:

— 1993 ECU 1 393 000

— 1994 ECU 2 225 000

This year some ECU 2 million is to be committed for schemes in this field, with assistance going to the human rights ombudsman, ministries and NGOs.

The projects are designed to provide targeted support for the promotion, upholding and active defence of human rights by experienced institutions and other civil bodies.

The other projects financed by the Community in Guatemala are aimed almost exclusively at the poorest sections of the population, who are often victims of human rights violations. The aim is to improve their living conditions and access to basic services.

Community development cooperation in Guatemala thus dovetails with a development policy aimed at remedying the deep-rooted causes of the fighting in a bid to contribute to the drive for peace in the country.

The Commission hopes that the priority accorded to encouraging human rights and democracy, which has led in Guatemala to the kind of initiative described above, will make it possible to nip any resurgence of violence in the bud. The Community's considerable efforts to help the poorest in society, who are the first people to suffer breaches of human rights, in conjunction with the work of the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission, should speed up the peace and democratization process and hasten restoration of the rule of law in Guatemala.

The Commission attaches great importance to continuing its current efforts to bolster structures and institutions aimed at protection human rights and leading, once peace and political stability return, to a climate more conducive to closer economic and social ties with Guatemala.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1133/95

by **Doeke Eisma (ELDR)**

to the Commission

(20 April 1995)

(95/C 202/87)

Subject: Commission action in response to the oil disaster in the Komi Republic in October 1994

What initiatives, within and outside the Tacis programme, has the Commission taken in response to the oil disaster that occurred in the Komi Republic in October 1994 and with respect to the European Parliament resolution B4-345/94 (1).

In what way does the Commission intend to provide financial assistance for the clean-up of the affected soil and to contribute to the provision of new technologies for the de-sulphurization of fuel?

(1) OJ No C 341, 5. 12. 1994, p. 167.

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

(23 May 1995)

Following the resolution of 17 November 1994, Tacis would have been favourably inclined towards a request for its technical or related assistance to help address the Komi oil spill crisis. However, since the completion of a fact-finding mission to Komi in which the Commission took part, there has been no formal request from either the Republic of Komi or the Russian Federation for any such assistance.

The Commission has nonetheless remained in regular contact with both the European bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, especially since their joint mission to the area in February 1995. In line with the banks' recommendations, emergency work has started to replace the mid-section of the pipeline as an emergency measure before the spring thaw. A more substantial follow-up project is about to be launched under the title 'Emergency oil spill recovery and mitigation project' which aims to stabilise the oil in the spill area, to minimise the amount of oil released during runoff and prevent ecological damage to the Pechora river basin, to continue the clean-up in an environmentally appropriate way, to replace the critical sections of the Kharyagu pipeline, and to enhance its management and reliability, and to study needs for further pipeline infrastructure development in Komi.

Although Tacis is not normally allowed to finance soil clean-up operations as required in Komi, it is prepared to finance the technical assistance component of such an initiative, for example through its regional environmental facility.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1140/95

by **André Laignel (PSE)**

to the Commission

(5 April 1995)

(95/C 202/88)

Subject: Agriculture: upgrading of the compensatory payment for protein crops

The Regulation on protein crops allows the Commission to adjust provisions relating to the compensatory payment in such a way as to compensate for falling market prices.

There is considerable concern about the future of protein crops, given that the market prices for these crops have fallen by 10 % since the beginning of the 1994/95 marketing year.

Protein crops are the only arable crops which have no system for the stabilization of producers' incomes.

In view of their declining profitability, 1995 could see a major reduction in the surface area under cultivation unless appropriate measures are taken.

Protein crops play a vital role in maintaining the nutrient balance of arable fields.

They meet a high level of demand and help to palliate the European Union's serious protein deficit (the EU provides for a mere 35 % of its protein needs).

Why does the Commission not use the option open to it under Article 15(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 ⁽¹⁾ to propose the upgrading of the compensatory payment for protein crops when farm prices are set this year?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 12.

**Answer given by Mr Fischler
on behalf of the Commission**
(26 April 1995)

The Commission did not propose to modify the level of the compensatory payment for peas, beans and sweet lupins in the 1995/96 price package because it believed that such a proposal would have been inappropriate.

1995/96 is the final year of the transitional period of the reform and only in this year will the effects of the reform become evident. Since 1993/94 the value of the compensatory payment for cereals has risen as the institutional prices have been reduced. The value of the compensatory payment for peas, beans and sweet lupins has been unchanged since 1993/94, when it was set at a level intended to allow peas, beans and sweet lupins to compete with cereals at the end of the transitional period.

In 1993/94 and 1994/95, producers of peas, beans and sweet lupins enjoyed a comparative advantage over

producers of cereals through the payment of compensation based on a cereals's price that was much lower than the prevailing market price. Under these conditions the area of peas, beans and sweet lupins increased significantly, whilst the area sown with other crops declined.

Latest estimates of the area of land sown with peas, beans and sweet lupins for harvest in 1995 show the Community sowings are at the same level that they were in 1992/93, the year before the reformed regime was put into place. Therefore, there was no basis for the Commission to propose a modification of the support arrangements for 1995/96 in the price package.

Nevertheless, the Commission is keeping the matter under scrutiny and await confirmation of the area sown with these crops in 1995.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1141/95

by Michael Tappin (PSE)

to the Commission

(5 April 1995)

(95/C 202/89)

Subject: Imposition of certification schema on ceramic tiles produced in the EU for export to Poland

Given that Poland is a signatory to the EU-Europe agreement, that there has never been cause for concern for consumer safety with regard to ceramic tiles produced within the EU, that the costs of the certification scheme proposed by the Polish Government to apply from 1 May 1995 to all EU ceramic tiles for export to Poland will have to be borne by the individual tile producers, that the export of ceramic tiles to Poland was worth ECU 100 million to EU companies in 1994, that the ceramics industry accounts for 1 % of EU GDP, that the industry is not in a sufficiently healthy state to be able to take such penalties without great risk to levels of employment etc., and that many of the factories involved in producing these tiles are situated in less prosperous areas, what action is the Commission taking to combat what amounts to the implementation of a trade barrier by Poland on the EU?

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1187/95

by **Livio Filippi (PPE)**
to the Commission
(11 April 1995)
(95/C 202/90)

Subject: EU ceramic tile exports to Poland

I understand that on 1 May 1995 the Polish authorities are to introduce arrangements for compulsory certification of ceramic tiles on the basis of the law of 3 April 1993 on research and certification (OJ 55/93 — Poland), which lays down quality standards different from those applicable to similar certifications within the EU.

In as much as these arrangements impose restrictions on EU exports to Poland, are they incompatible with the Association Agreement between Poland and the EU, and in particular Article 1, Title I, thereof, which provides for the harmonious expansion of trade and economic relations between the parties?

Can the Commission indicate what steps will be taken to prevent restrictions on exports of ceramic tiles to Poland?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1197/95
by **José García-Margallo y Marfil (PPE)**
to the Commission
(28 April 1995)
(95/C 202/91)

Subject: EU exports of ceramics to Poland

The association agreement signed between the EU and the Republic of Poland on 16 December 1991 provides for the harmonization of Polish legislation with EU law in the areas where it is necessary for the fulfilment of the EU's objectives, so as to facilitate the future integration of Poland.

On 21 July 1994 the 'Monitor Polski' (No 39) published a legislative text, to come into force on 1 May 1995, under which certificates of approval are to be compulsory for imports of (among other products) ceramic tiles.

The expense required to obtain such certificates will be such as, in practice, to impede free trade in general and penalize the ceramic tile industry, which consists largely of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Without wishing to impugn the technical competence of the Warsaw Glass and Ceramics Institute, one may point out that nowhere else in the world are certificates of approval required for ceramic tile imports.

Does the Commission not consider that this Polish legislation amounts to a failure to comply with the EU-Poland association agreement, insofar as it entails standards different from those instituted by it?

Does the Commission agree that the law of 21 July 1994 implies a distortion of competition?

What is the Commission's view on the prejudice occasioned to small and medium-sized enterprises? Does the Commission consider that the Polish legislation may be in breach of Article 89 of the agreement?

In view of the above, and given the Commission's responsibility under Article 155 of the EC Treaty as guardian of the Treaties, what action does the Commission intend to take?

**Joint answer to Written Questions
P-1141/95, P-1187/95 and E-1197/95**
given by **Mr Van den Broek**
on behalf of the Commission
(15 May 1995)

As soon as the Commission learned of a Polish law to introduce certificate requirements on a whole range of products, made in Poland or abroad, it raised the issue with the Polish authorities. A first formal discussion took place on 23 June 1994 in Warsaw. As a result of that and subsequent meetings, Poland agreed to postpone the entry into force of its new certification legislation until 1 May 1995 and a special working group composed of Community and Polish Government experts was set up to examine the issue and explain Community legislation and practices in this area. In the course of these consultations, the Commission requested deletion from the list of products requiring certification, of a certain number of products, including ceramics for construction. The Commission is following this issue very closely and has made it clear that the introduction of the new certification legislation should not create new trade barriers. In view of its ambition to become a member of the Union, Poland also has every interest in avoiding the introduction of legislation and practices which are not in line with those in the Community.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1143/95by **Antoine-François Bernardini (PSE)**

to the Commission

(7 April 1995)

(95/C 202/92)

Subject: Postal services

In May 1992 the Commission published a Green Paper on the postal sector announcing that framework rules would be laid down. Since then, no legislative proposal has been submitted to Parliament, even though the Council, in its resolution of 7 February 1994⁽¹⁾ outlining the main objectives of Community postal policy, had set the Commission a deadline of 1 July 1994 for the submission of such measures. No text has yet been put forward.

Recently, the British press reported that the Commission intended to reorganize postal services along the same lines as the telecommunications sector.

That is the reason why I am asking the Commission whether it intends to alter the approach adopted by the various Community and national bodies.

Does the Commission not feel that it is dangerous to base organizational proposals on ultra-liberal philosophies which disregard economic, cultural and social realities (I am thinking in particular of the current dispute in my department, the Bouches du Rhône).

Finally, can the Commission give the exact date on which it will submit to the European Parliament and the Council a proposal for a Directive giving a definition of the universal service and the reservable sector, without which a universal service cannot be viable on a long-term basis?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 48, 16. 2. 1994, p. 3.

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

(4 May 1995)

After the Council resolution of 7 February 1994 an extensive consultation was undertaken with all interested parties. Subsequent to this consultation, the Commission began the preparation of specific proposals. However the complexity of the problem requires a thorough assessment of a large range of juridical, competition and economic aspects that did not allow conclusion of the Commission's work in 1994.

For this reason the establishment of a regulatory framework for postal services is contained in the Commission's work programme for 1995⁽¹⁾. This regulatory framework will include proposals for common universal definition, quality of services, technical standardization and the definition of reservable services.

In designing its proposals, the Commission will take note of the global development in the broader communication services sector, which includes the telecommunication sector as well as the postal sector. However, as these services have their own special characteristics, the specific proposals will need to reflect not only some common features (such as obligation from the Treaty, or common customer requirements, for example), but also they will need to be oriented to different needs within each of the sectors.

Because the Commission has not yet formally put forward any proposals, any reporting in the press is purely speculative and should be treated as such.

⁽¹⁾ COM(95) 26 final of 8. 2. 1995.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1145/95by **Raymond Chesa (RDE)**

to the Commission

(7 April 1995)

(95/C 202/93)

Subject: Adjustment of the Regulation on high-protein products in the CAP

Since the beginning of the 1994/95 marketing year, the market price of high-protein products has fallen by 10% and the outlook for these crops is very worrying. High-protein products are the only large-scale crop for which there is no income stabilization system. However, the Regulation on high-protein products offers the Commission the option of adjusting the provisions on the compensatory payment in order to offset falls in the market price.

Given the current situation, such a measure might well be regarded as necessary.

Does the Commission intend to implement, before the 1995 sowing season, the provisions of Article 15(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92⁽¹⁾ which authorizes it to increase the compensatory payment in respect of high-protein products?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 12.

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

(28 April 1995)

The Commission does not intend to table a proposal concerning the level of the compensatory payment for peas, beans and sweet lupins before sowings for the 1995 harvest commence.

1995/96 is the final year of the transitional period of the reform and only in this year will the effects of the reform become evident. Since 1993/94 the value of the compensatory payment for cereals has risen as the institutional prices have been reduced. The value of the compensatory payment for peas, beans and sweet lupins has been unchanged since 1993/94, when it was set at a level intended to allow peas, beans and sweet lupins to compete with cereals at the end of the transitional period.

In 1993/94 and 1994/95, producers of peas, beans and sweet lupins enjoyed a comparative advantage over producers of cereals through the payment of compensation based on a cereals' price that was much lower than the prevailing market price. Under these conditions the area of peas, beans and sweet lupins increased significantly, whilst the area sown with other crops declined.

Latest estimates of the area of land sown with peas, beans and sweet lupins for harvest in 1995 show that Community sowings are at the same level that they were in 1992/93, the year before the reformed regime was put into place. Therefore, there was no basis for the Commission to propose a modification of the support arrangements for 1995/96 in the price package.

Nevertheless, the Commission is keeping the matter under scrutiny and awaits confirmation of the area sown with these crops in 1995.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1150/95

by **Gerhard Botz (PSE)**

to the Commission

(20 April 1995)

(95/C 202/94)

Subject: Fostering of contacts between citizens of the EU and the countries of central and eastern Europe

With the citizens of eastern and western Europe having been separated for almost 50 years, there is a need now to facilitate meetings between them to promote understanding and knowledge of the situation.

1. What measures is the new Commission planning to support such efforts?
2. To what extent are EU funds being used to support such activities?

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

(23 May 1995)

National programmes financed under Phare include a number of measures enabling Community citizens active in the economy or in public life to forge contacts with their opposite numbers from the East, for instance in the fields of regional development, small business promotion and local government reform. Some national programmes also extend eligibility to non-governmental organizations and associations, particularly in the areas of local job-creation, support for the health sector, and environmental measures.

Phare also sponsors a large number of 'horizontal' programmes covering all the central European countries, which foster decentralized cooperation and provide opportunities for the contacts and exchanges essential to the formation of a broader European consciousness.

These include the Tempus and Ace inter-university schemes, the Coopme small business promotion scheme, town twinning arrangements, Interreg, which fosters exchanges between urban and regional local government authorities, and programmes such as Democracy, Lien and the Partnership and Institutional Development schemes.

Such horizontal programmes are constantly being extended and upgraded, and their budgets are increasing. The budget for the Democracy programme was doubled in 1993, from ECU 5 million to ECU 10 million a year, and the ECU 5 million budgeted for Lien in 1994 is also expected to be doubled. The appropriation for the Tempus programme, set at ECU 429 million for the five years just elapsed, now stands at ECU 96 million for 1995 alone.

The growth of these programmes is set to continue in the near future, and the countries with which we have signed Europe Agreements will be participating in Community programmes which are instrumental in strengthening ties and building bridges between the Member States.

Budget heading B7-5020 (commercial and economic cooperation agreements with third countries) can also be used to fund participation by citizens of central and eastern European countries in conferences, seminars and other trade or professional events, while the Community programme of visits jointly managed by Parliament and the Commission organizes and finances visits to the Community and the Member States by citizens of non-member countries.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1161/95**by Christian Jacob (RDE)****to the Commission***(7 April 1995)**(95/C 202/95)**Subject: Agricultural insurance: State aid for insurance*

Article 92(2)(b) of the Treaty on European Union states that 'The following shall be compatible with the common market . . . aid to make good the damage caused by natural disasters or exceptional occurrences'. Various Member States of the European Union have therefore introduced aid for harvest insurance taken out by farmers.

In this context, the subsidies currently granted by Member States vary greatly in size: for example, from 10 % of the cost in some French departments to 60 % in Spain.

What is the European Commission's view on this distortion of competition between Member States' farmers in production sectors such as fruit and vegetables or wine, which are particularly exposed to climatic risks and rely greatly on insurance to protect incomes?

Are not these distortions in breach of the general provisions of the Treaty on European Union on common rules on competition, taxation and the approximation of legislation?

Could this problem be included in the discussions on reforming the relevant common market organizations?

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

(3 May 1995)

The Commission can provide the Honourable Member with the following information.

Consideration of State aids to any sector of agriculture is based on the factors below:

- where the insurance covers only losses which, if there were no insurance, would be eligible for 100 % compensation from the Member States as natural disasters or exceptional occurrences under Article 92(2)(b) of the EC Treaty (loss of production amounting to at least 30 %, or 20 % in less-favoured areas), State aid for the insurance premium may be granted on a permanent basis at a rate of up to 80 % of the premium to be paid by the farmer (50 % where the insurance

covers other risks of loss to the crop or herd where the State would not intervene in the case of a loss);

- aids to insurance premiums other than for natural disasters under Article 92(2)(b) of the EC Treaty (loss of production amounting to at least 30 %, or 20 % in less-favoured areas) are compatible under Article 92(3)(c) provided they last for no more than 10 years and are gradually reduced from a figure of 30 % of the premium.

The Commission does not consider that State aids which comply with these criteria contravene the Treaty.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1171/95**by Undine-Uta Bloch von Blottnitz (V)****to the Commission***(7 April 1995)**(95/C 202/96)**Subject: Failure to provide an EIA for the construction of the A 250 motorway in Germany*

A Commission letter dated 4 July 1994 calls on the Federal Republic of Germany to respond to a reasoned opinion within two months. The subject of the reasoned opinion is the failure to provide an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) for the construction of the A 250 motorway near Lüneburg.

1. Has the Federal Government replied?
2. How does it justify its failure to provide an EIA?
3. Is there any real chance now of stopping the project?
4. Is the Federal Republic threatened with sanctions by the EU?

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

(8 May 1995)

The Commission has addressed a reasoned opinion to Germany for failure to transpose Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment⁽¹⁾. In this reasoned opinion, the Commission also informed the German authorities that from the information at its disposal, the Commission had to assume

that the construction of the A 250 motorway between Winsen East and Lüneburg Ortnissen had been authorized without prior impact assessment according to Directive 85/337/EEC.

By letter of 23 August 1994 the German authorities asked the Commission for an extension of the deadline for reply until 5 November 1994. The Commission has not yet received a reply.

The Commission is, therefore, not in a position to answer the questions 2 and 3 of the Honourable Member. However, the Commission would point out that Directive 85/337/EEC only establishes procedural requirements and does not provide a legal basis for 'stopping' certain projects.

As far as sanctions are concerned, only the Court of Justice of the European Communities may inflict a lump sum or a penalty payment on Member States (Article 171 of the EC Treaty) and then only if a Member State has failed to take the necessary measures to comply with a prior judgment of the Court. In the case raised by the Honourable Member, the Commission therefore could only propose to the Court of Justice appropriate financial sanctions if the Court decided that Germany had failed to fulfil its obligations under Directive 85/337/EEC and if Germany failed to take the necessary measures to comply with such a judgment.

(¹) OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1183/95

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Commission

(27 April 1995)

(95/C 202/97)

Subject: Using new technologies in tele-learning and distance learning

The European Union has promised to speed up the shift towards the information society. What policy does the Commission intend to promote in order to make the new technologies available to this information society, especially as regards distance learning and tele-learning?

Answer given by Mrs Cresson
on behalf of the Commission

(2 June 1995)

In 1991 the Commission, mindful of the need to make the new technologies available to the information society, and considering it advisable to set out broad guidelines for the

development of specific initiatives at Community level, published a report (¹) and a memorandum (²) on open and distance learning in the Community.

In the light of experience gained from the various programmes and initiatives in the field of education and training, such as Erasmus, Comett, Eurotecnet, Force, Lingua, Delta, Euroform, Now and Horizon, having regard in particular to support for innovative multimedia projects, and taking account of discussions held with European experts in the field (³), the Commission has made open and distance learning a key element of the new Socrates and Leonardo programmes, in conjunction with the fourth framework programme for research and technological development (R&D).

In addition, four pilot projects demonstrating the links between education, training, research and telematics were launched in 1994.

One of the objectives of the Leonardo programme (⁴) is to 'foster the development of methods of self-training at the workplace and of open and distance learning and training, in particular to facilitate access to continuing vocational training'. A seminar on opportunities for distance learning within Leonardo was held on 30 May 1995 in Leuven, Belgium, with a satellite link-up to all the Member States.

The Socrates programme (⁵) also affords scope for employing and developing such methods as part of activities relating to university and school education, with specific provision being made for European-level cooperation in the exchange of information and experience vis-à-vis open and distance learning.

Under the fourth research and technological development programme, and in the context of the telematics applications (education and training sector) programme, experimental distance education and training facilities utilising multimedia telematics are to be introduced, mainly for universities, SMEs, vocational training institutes and training services within companies. An initial invitation to tender has just been carried out and a number of experimental projects are to commence shortly.

As a further element of the fourth R&D programme, the specific programme of targeted socio-economic research (⁶) makes provision, under the heading 'Research on education and training', for Community research activities aimed at supporting the efforts made by the Member States to 'improve their education and training systems through research and dissemination of good practice and innovations'.

For its part, the specific programme in the field of training and mobility of researches includes, as an accompanying measure, 'study of the possibility of organizing training through distance learning for the less-favoured regions of the Community, in close consultation with other Community programmes'.

Moreover, at the beginning of 1995, the Commission set up a Task Force for multimedia educational software, which is to carry out an investigation in the field, consult the parties involved and put forward recommendations on measures to be taken at European level to promote development in this sector.

(¹) SEC(91) 897 final.

(²) COM(91) 388 final.

(³) EADTU, Madrid 1993; Poitiers workshop, October 1993; Brussels conference, December 1993; Geneva conference and Hagen workshop, 1994.

(⁴) OJ No L 340, 29. 12. 1994.

(⁵) OJ No L 244, 31. 8. 1994.

(⁶) OJ No L 361, 31. 12. 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1184/95

by Gérard Caudron (PSE)

to the Commission

(27 April 1995)

(95/C 202/98)

Subject: Protein crop Regulation

The protein crop Regulation offers the Commission the possibility of using the arrangements for compensatory payments to offset falls in market prices Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92, Article 15(2): From the 1994/95 marketing year onwards, the Council may decide, according to the procedure laid down in Article 43(2) of the Treaty that the arrangements for making the compensatory payments for oil seeds shall also apply to the case of protein crops (¹).

Since the market price of protein crops has fallen by 10 % the beginning of the 1994/95 marketing year, there is great concern about the future for these products. Protein crops are the only major arable crops which do not benefit from a producers' income stabilization scheme. The loss of profitability in the case of protein crops could, if no measures are taken, lead to a considerable reduction in the area under such crops from 1995 onwards. Protein crops are essential for maintaining soil quality in land used for major crops; they supply a considerable demand, and help to offset the European Union's severe protein shortfall (the EU is only 35 % self-sufficient).

Does the Commission intend to make use of the opportunities in existing Regulations (cf. Article 15(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92, below) and raise the compensatory payments for protein crops before the 1995 sowing?

(¹) OJ No L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 12.

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

(8 May 1995)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No P-1004/95 (¹).

(¹) See page 34 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1204/95

by Lilli Gyldenkilde (GUE/NGL)

to the Commission

(20 April 1995)

(95/C 202/99)

Subject: Thermie II

The EU's energy technology demonstration projects in third countries have been implemented up to now under the Thermie programme. Is there any guarantee of these projects continuing after March 1995 when the contracts with the organizations currently involved expire?

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

(16 May 1995)

The Commission strongly favours the continuation of energy technology dissemination activities in third countries such as have been carried out to date under the first Thermie programme. The continuation of these activities will depend to a large extent on the final decision on Thermie II. Along with a small part of the non-nuclear energy specific programme, the new specific programme of research and technological development (RTD) in the field of cooperation with third countries and international organizations also offers some possibilities, although energy technology demonstration is only one of the many components of this programme.

In anticipation of the outcome of these two issues, some of the organizations concerned, in particular the EC Energy Centers in central and eastern Europe, in collaboration with the Commission, are urgently seeking ways of resolving the current difficulties facing energy technology dissemination in third countries.

The Commission is at present studying ways of resolving this problem in a satisfactory manner.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1206/95

by Lilli Gyldenkilde (GUE/NGL)

to the Commission

(28 April 1995)

(95/C 202/100)

Subject: Thermie II

A number of social advantages, e.g. in terms of jobs, for Member States of the EU have resulted from work carried out in third countries, in particular in central and eastern Europe, pursuant to the Thermie programme. Will the relevant activities in these regions continue to be supported under the new Thermie/Joule arrangements in the Fourth Action Programme?

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

(2 June 1995)

Some activities involving third countries, albeit limited, will be possible under the new Joule-Thermie programme (non nuclear energy RTD specific programme). These should continue to bring mutual benefits to the Community and third countries.

The Joule-Thermie programme as a whole should have a positive impact on employment. By supporting the development and wider use of new and advanced energy technology, particularly among SMEs, it should help to stimulate growth, strengthen European competitiveness and create jobs.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1222/95

by Yvan Blot (NI)

to the Commission

(20 April 1995)

(95/C 202/101)

Subject: Compensatory payments in respect of protein seeds

The protein crop Regulation offers the Commission the possibility of using the arrangements for compensatory payments to compensate for falls in market prices Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92, Article 15(2) states that from the 1994/95 marketing year onwards the Council may decide, according to the procedure laid down in Article 43(2) of the Treaty, that the arrangements for making the compensatory payments for oil seeds shall also apply to the case of protein crops ⁽¹⁾.

Since the market price of protein crops has fallen by 10 % since the beginning of the 1994/95 season, there is great

concern about the future of these products. Protein crops are the only major arable crops which do not benefit from a producers' income stabilization scheme. The loss of profitability in the case of protein crops could, if no measures are taken, lead to a considerable reduction in the area under such crops from 1995 onwards.

Protein crops are essential for maintaining soil quality in land used for major crops; they supply a considerable demand, and help to offset the European Union's severe protein shortfall (the EU is only 35 % self-sufficient).

Does the Commission intend to make use of the opportunities in existing regulations (cf. Article 15(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92, cited below) and raise the compensatory payments for protein crops before the 1995 sowing?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 81, 1. 7. 1992, p. 12.

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

(10 May 1995)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No P-1004/95 by Mr Jacob ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See page 34 of this Official Journal.**WRITTEN QUESTION E-1252/95**

by Jean-Pierre Raffarin (PPE)

to the Commission

(5 May 1995)

(95/C 202/102)

Subject: Adjustment of provisions with regard to the market in high-protein products

The Regulation on high-protein products gives the Commission the option of adjusting the compensation measures, to offset reductions in market prices.

Since the beginning of the 1994/95 marketing year, market prices for high-protein products have fallen by 10 %, and there is considerable concern for the future of these products. High-protein crops alone of all major crops do not have the benefit of a system for stabilizing producers' incomes. Therefore, if high-protein crops become less profitable and no counter-measures are taken, less land may well be used for growing these crops after 1995.

High-protein products are vital for a well-balanced rotation of major crops. There is a great demand for them, and they help to make up for the European Union's protein deficit (only 35 % self-sufficiency).

Does the Commission intend to use its option under the Regulation (cf. Article 15(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 ⁽¹⁾) and increase compensatory payments for high-protein products, before the crops are sown in 1995?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 12.

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

(31 May 1995)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No P-1004/95 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See page 34 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1265/95

by Christine Oddy (PSE)

to the Commission

(5 May 1995)

(95/C 202/103)

Subject: European aid to ensure minimum living conditions for Guatemalan refugees

What steps will the Commission take to evaluate the effectiveness of the ECU 470 000 to provide food aid, basic medical care, drinking water and sanitary assistance for the returning Guatemalan refugees?

What follow-up plans does it have for the four-month project?

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

(8 June 1995)

Reports on the development of the operations are being provided by the delegation in San José and by the Commission's correspondents in Guatemala who are closely following the matter. Their feedback indicates that the project is reaching its objectives.

The Commission would like to inform the Honourable Member that the six-months' project (21 September 1994 to 31 March 1995) will be extended for another six months in order to cover the needs of the refugees till the starting date of another programme. This programme will take over the task of providing medical support and the assistance necessary to integrate the refugees in their country of origin.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1266/95

by Christine Oddy (PSE)

to the Commission

(5 May 1995)

(95/C 202/104)

Subject: Essential products and medical aid to the Jaffna Peninsula, Sri Lanka

Will the Commission give a breakdown of the ECU 365 000 aid administered by the EC humanitarian aid office to assist people in the Jaffna Peninsula?

What steps will the Commission or the EC humanitarian office take to evaluate the effectiveness of this aid?

What plans does the Commission have for follow-up support?

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

(29 May 1995)

The Commission allocated a total of ECU 360 000 humanitarian aid to assist the civilian population affected by the war in Sri Lanka. This aid was implemented by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The following is a breakdown of the aid given:

	(ECU)
Medical equipment and medicines	30 000
Renting small vessels	167 000
Four-wheel-drive vehicles	33 000
Administrative costs	123 200
Other	6 800
Total	360 000

The Commission receives regular interim and final reports from the non governmental organization implementing the aid. These reports detail and evaluate the project during its realisation.

The Commission is prepared to evaluate any new requests for humanitarian aid in this area should the situation require.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1267/95

by Christine Oddy (PSE)
to the Commission
(5 May 1995)
(95/C 202/105)

Subject: Aid to Cuban population affected by cyclone Gordon

Will the Commission give a breakdown of the ECU 365 000 aid implemented by the International Red Cross to assist Cuban people affected by cyclone Gordon?

Does the Commission have any plans to grant additional aid to follow up this three-month project?

What steps has the Commission taken to evaluate the effectiveness of the three-month project and to identify more long-term aid needs?

**Answer given by Mrs Bonino
on behalf of the Commission**
(30 May 1995)

The ECU 350 000 given to the Red Cross (Deutsches Rotes Kreuz) were distributed as follows:

	(ECU)
staff	
Expatriate	7 600
Local	6 000
Logistic goods	
Products	91 878
Equipment	130 436
Direct and administrative costs	11 115
Medical	
Equipment	45 951
Material	20 154
Direct and administrative costs	3 305
Transport	29 060
Reserve	4 496

In view of the acute needs, the Commissions considering a global plan of humanitarian aid for Cuba during the course of this year. On top of the evaluation undertaken on the spot by a team of specialised correspondents, an independent evaluation of the project is being carried out by an external consultant.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1268/95

by Christine Oddy (PSE)
to the Commission
(5 May 1995)
(95/C 202/106)

Subject: Aid to El Salvador

Can the Commission state how effective the two projects for the ECU 340 000 to provide medical aid, waste removal, reduction of water pollution and information campaigns to the town of Tecoluca and secondly to provide temporary shelter for returning refugees from Honduras are proving?

Does the Commission have any plans to provide further aid to El Salvador?

**Answer given by Mrs Bonino
on behalf of the Commission**
(31 May 1995)

The two projects started at the end of December 1994, and neither has been completed. After completion the Commission will be able to provide a report on the impact and effectiveness of the aid. Nevertheless, the Commission is informed through quarterly operational reports and the Delegation's following up of the implementation.

An assessment mission has just returned from the region. The findings are being analyzed and a decision to provide further aid might be taken later in the year.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1276/95

by Christine Oddy (PSE)
to the Commission
(5 May 1995)
(95/C 202/107)

Subject: 1994 annual report of the European Community Humanitarian Office

The Annual Report on Humanitarian Aid gives the principal figures for humanitarian aid allocated through ECHO, by region, by partner, 1990—1994 and EU contacts with UN Agencies.

This does not indicate how ECHO evaluates the effectiveness of its aid, whether the benefits of the aid programmes last beyond the period of the project or

whether there has been a significant improvement in the quality of aid programmes since ECHO has been established. How does the Commission evaluate its aid packages and how does it evaluate the effectiveness of ECHO?

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

(23 May 1995)

The Commission set up at the end of 1993 a small evaluation unit within the European Office for Emergency Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) in order to improve the quality of operations funded and to achieve the best possible results on a cost-benefit basis and has also developed a methodology for the evaluation of humanitarian aid.

The Commission will evaluate each of ECHO's partners at least once in order to get to know their general capacities and operational capabilities. Furthermore, where there is the likelihood of a need for further funding, where problems have arisen or in other specific circumstances, there will be further evaluations. The independent consultants who carry out the evaluations discuss their findings with people operating in the field and with their headquarters. The consultants' final reports are sent to the partner concerned with an invitation to discuss the conclusions. Several meetings have been held and the results have helped to identify points that should be developed and areas where changes should be made.

As regards the wider question of the longer term benefits of Community-funded humanitarian programmes, one should bear in mind the short term nature of the operations. The results of most evaluations so far carried out by ECHO's evaluation unit have been positive, and the Commission intends to ensure that more evaluations covering a wider scope of activities be carried out.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1280/95

by Christine Oddy (PSE)

to the Commission

(5 May 1995)

(95/C 202/108)

Subject: Arms to Indonesia

Is the Commission aware that Hawk aircraft are frequently used in bombing raids in East Timor?

Is the Commission further aware that in June 1993 British Aerospace signed a contract with Indonesia to supply 24 Hawk aircraft?

What steps will the Commission take to oppose the bombing of civilians in East Timor by Indonesia? What steps will the Commission take to ban arms to Indonesia?

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

(31 May 1995)

The Commission is not in possession of information about the supply of military aircraft to Indonesia and their use.

The Commission and the Member States have been following closely the respect for human rights in Indonesia.

The Commission and the Member States have repeatedly brought to the attention of the Government of Indonesia their support for a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the East Timor issue, respecting the principles of the United Nations Charter, and taking into account the need to defend human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as full respect for the legitimate interests and aspirations of the population of East Timor.

For further details the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 1039/95.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1283/95

by Christine Oddy (PSE)

to the Commission

(5 May 1995)

(95/C 202/109)

Subject: Street-children in Honduras

What steps is the Commission taking to assist street-children in Honduras? Is the Commission aware that there are growing levels of repression of street-children in Honduras?

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

(19 May 1995)

The Commission is aware of the problem of street-children in Honduras and is currently providing financial assistance to projects to benefit these children. Under the 1994 budget the Commission approved a project for street-children in Honduras for a total of ECU 600 000.

The main objective of this project is to improve the living conditions of the street-children, offering them a more independent, productive and secure life. Specific objectives are:

- To promote information about the childrens' rights, defend these rights and denounce violations.
- To support programmes to prevent more children becoming destitute and having to live on the streets.
- To support the capacity of the 'Casa Alianza' to help the children already living on the streets and to provide education programmes.

The project is being carried out by three non-governmental organizations 'Casa Alianza', 'Compartir' and 'Coipriden' and began on 7 February 1995.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1320/95
by Marie-Paule Kestelijn-Sierens (ELDR)
to the Commission
(12 May 1995)
(95/C 202/110)

Subject: Erasmus scholarships

German 'Fachakademien' are not included in the list of educational establishments which may receive Erasmus grants, unlike universities and 'Hochschulen'. In Spain Erasmus financing is confined to State institutions.

Does the Commission not feel that this constitutes discrimination against students in the Union, since not only German and Spanish students but all other students wanting to study at these German and Spanish institutions do not qualify for an Erasmus grant?

What initiatives will the Commission consider taking to put an end to this discrimination?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1335/95
by Joaquín Sisó Cruellas (PPE)
to the Commission
(12 May 1995)
(95/C 202/111)

Subject: Eligibility criteria for the award of Erasmus Socrates grants to higher education establishments

The Higher Education Institute of the San Valero Foundation, in Zaragoza (Spain), is a member of the Businet network, whose objective is to promote the European dimension in education. The institute offers university courses validated by officially recognized British

universities. Nonetheless, it is not eligible for Erasmus/Socrates grants, despite those British universities being initially eligible for such grants. This is for two main reasons:

- individual Member States are responsible for deciding the list of establishments within their territory which are to be eligible under the Erasmus/Socrates programmes, and Spain has failed to include the institute concerned in this list;
- the institute is equally unable to benefit from the programmes through the British universities which validate its courses, owing to the nature of the procedure, which in some cases lays down nationality-based requirements.

Given that this situation is having effects contrary to the objectives of the Erasmus/Socrates programmes and the European dimension of education, can the Commission state:

1. what possibilities for action are open to it in the face of what appears, in principle, to be an unjust situation for the staff and students of this institute;
2. should the Commission be in a position to act, what measures it intends to take to resolve situations of this type?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1336/95
by Joaquín Sisó Cruellas (PPE)
to the Commission
(12 May 1995)
(95/C 202/112)

Subject: Eligibility criteria for the award of Erasmus/Socrates grants to higher education establishments

Businet, a network consisting of 72 universities and other higher education establishments in western, central and eastern Europe, has complained at a situation of absence of equal opportunity with respect to eligibility for the Erasmus/Socrates programmes. All the network's German members and most of its Spanish members have been ruled ineligible for these programmes by decisions taken by their education ministries, although the network says it can prove that the courses offered by its members in Germany and Spain are equivalent in all respects to similar courses in France, Belgium and the UK for which Erasmus/Socrates funding is available.

In view of the above, and considering that this situation is having effects contrary to the objectives of the Erasmus/Socrates programmes, does the Commission intend to ascertain the real situation of the Spanish and German members of the Businet network? Should the discrimination complained of be confirmed to exist, what measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that such cases do not recur in the future?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1468/95by **Anne André-Léonard (ELDR)**

to the Commission

(22 May 1995)

(95/C 202/113)

Subject: Grants under the Socrates programme

The procedure for awarding grants under the Socrates programme states that any educational institution applying must be registered as an eligible institution in the Erasmus-Socrates Bureau in Brussels. To be registered in this 'bureau', the names of agencies or institutions eligible for the programme at Member State level must have been communicated in advance by the Member States.

Is the Commission aware that the German Federal Ministry of Education has restricted the allocation of grants to 'Hochschulen' and in Spain it is restricted to State institutions, which consequently excludes private schools in Germany and higher education centres in Spain, despite the fact that they issue diplomas which are recognized by universities in other Member States of the European Union?

What steps does the Commission plan to take to remedy this situation, which contravenes the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of nationality enshrined in Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union, and which negates some of the specific objectives of the Socrates programme (Article 3,III; Article 3,IV)?

**Joint answer to Written Questions
E-1320/95, E-1335/95, E-1336/95 and E-1468/95
given by Mrs Cresson
on behalf of the Commission
(2 June 1995)**

It is for the Member States to decide on the eligibility of higher education establishments to participate in the Erasmus programme; each country applies its own criteria and provides the Commission with the names of the establishments concerned on an annual basis.

The Decision establishing the new Socrates programme ⁽¹⁾ stipulates, in Article 2(1) (Definitions), that:

"for the purposes of this programme, the term 'university' covers all types of higher education institutions which offer qualifications or diplomas at that level, whatever such establishments may be called in the Member States".

Article 2(2) provides that:

"each Member State shall specify the types of universities and other educational institutions covered by this programme".

The Commission has consulted the German and Spanish authorities on the questions raised by the Honourable Member. The said authorities have stated that the criteria used for including higher education establishments in the list of bodies eligible to participate in the Erasmus programme have to do with the quality of the studies and of the teaching staff, the duration of studies and the approved level of qualifications awarded. Whether such establishments have private or public status plays no part in their decision.

Given that Article 126 of the EC Treaty makes it clear that the Member States are responsible for organizing their education systems, the Commission considers that it cannot take any action in this field.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 87, 20. 4. 1995.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1356/95by **José Valverde López (PPE)**

to the Commission

(12 May 1995)

(95/C 202/114)

Subject: Competitiveness of agriculture and management of agricultural resources

More than 80 research contracts, worth more than ECU 50 million, were awarded under the programme for research and technological development in the field of competitiveness of agriculture and management of agricultural resources (1989—1993) ⁽¹⁾.

Where have the results been published? How can interested bodies gain access to the results of these research studies?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 58, 7. 3. 1990, p. 9.

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

(31 May 1995)

The Commission would point out that this question is exactly the same as the Honourable Member's Written Question No 509/95.

The Commission would therefore refer the Honourable Member ⁽¹⁾ to the answer it has already given to that question.

⁽¹⁾ See page 19 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1368/95**by Angela Kokkola (PSE)****to the Commission***(3 May 1995)**(95/C 202/115)*

Subject: The UN Conference in Peking in September 1995

Does the Commission believe that an international conference should be as representative as possible?

If it does, what action has it taken so far to ensure that non-governmental women's organizations (whose role and activities are well known and important — I would mention, purely by way of example, the women's section of Amnesty International and the Immigrants' Forum) are able to participate in the Peking Conference on the same footing as national representatives?

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

(24 May 1995)

The Commission is equally anxious to ensure that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are able to participate, in the best possible conditions, in the work of the Forum and make contact with the delegations present in Beijing, as was the tradition at previous UN conferences in Rio, Vienna, Cairo and Copenhagen. It is aware of the essential role played by NGOs and the importance of their contribution to these events.

During the European regional preparatory conference held in Vienna in October last year, the European Union made it clear to the Secretary-General of the World Women's Conference that it was imperative that NGOs wishing to participate in the Forum be allowed to do so and that they should be allowed to enter China and gain access to the meeting venues without hindrance.

At the last meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York in March this year, which served as a preparatory committee for the Conference, the Union expressed concern about both the participation of certain NGOs and the choice of venue for the Forum.

It lent weight to its concerns by asking the Chinese authorities on 27 April to provide assurances that formal contact would be possible at the Conference between the NGOs and the official delegations.

The Commission is aware of the difficulties faced by NGOs as a result of the Chinese authorities' decision to hold the Forum outside the city of Beijing. It will continue to push for an alternative solution, although the Chinese Government has already stressed that a change of venue at this stage would be too problematic.

With regard to the participation of HIV sufferers at the Conference and the Forum, the Chinese authorities have indicated that specific measures have been taken to guarantee their access but that it is ultimately the Chinese Government which will decide on the forms to be distributed upon entry into the country.

The Commission would finally point out that it has allocated ECU 1,3 million from the Community budget to support the work of a large number of NGOs in connection with the Conference and to help with the cost of their travel to Beijing.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1369/95**by Jürgen Schröder (PPE)****to the Commission***(3 May 1995)**(95/C 202/116)*

Subject: Trans-frontier measures between Germany and the Czech Republic and between Germany and Poland

The 1994 budget includes appropriations of ECU 150 million under Phare for trans-frontier cooperation programmes between EU countries and countries of central and eastern Europe. Can the Commission

1. provide a breakdown of all German-Czech and German-Polish trans-frontier projects, including the funding involved, which were supported under the budget line in question in 1994 or which will be supported in the current year (1995)?
2. indicate whether the budget line in 1994 for German-Czech and German-Polish trans-frontier projects has been fully utilized, or whether applications are still possible for appropriations which have not been committed?

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

(22 May 1995)

Out of the ECU 150 million made available in 1994 for financing actions of a structural nature in border regions of countries of central and eastern Europe sharing a common border with the Community, ECU 55 million has been earmarked for the Polish-German border, and ECU 25 million for the Czech-German border.

The ECU 55 million for the Polish-German border has been allocated as follows:

(in million ECU)

Name	Contribution
Gubinek	16,0
Kolbaskowo	10,0
Olszyna	15,0
Osinow Dolny	1,2
Radomierzyce	0,3
Swiecko	5,5
Total	48,0

Measure 2: Education and training

(in million ECU)

Name	Contribution
Viadrina (European University)	4,0
Programme Management	3,0
Total	7,0

As to the Czech-German border, the ECU 25 million has been broken down as follows:

Measure 1: Transport infrastructure at border crossings

(in million ECU)

Name	Contribution
Cheb (Rail)	8,9
Zelezna (Road)	1,0
Total	9,9

Measure 2: Environmental infrastructure

(in million ECU)

Name	Contribution
Vresova—Nejdek (steam, pipeline)	4,9
Usti n. Ladem (sewer)	2,9
Hradek n. Nisou (sewage plant)	1,2
Rumburk (sewer)	1,9
Steti (oxygen delignification)	4,1
Total	15,0

In both cases, the funds available have been fully committed in the course of 1994.

At the moment, the elaboration of Multi-annual indicative programmes covering the 1995—1999 period is under way, as well as the joint identification of project proposals for

1995. The Commission should be able to take the relevant decisions with respect to the 1995 programme in the course of the summer.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1374/95

by Francisco Lucas Pires (PPE)

to the Commission

(12 May 1995)

(95/C 202/117)

Subject: Environmental impact of the Spanish national water-management scheme

The Spanish national water-management scheme was drawn up without consulting Portugal in spite of the fact that three of the main waterways in the Iberian peninsula — the rivers Douro, Tagus and Guadiana — flow through Portugal for a large part of their course. The scheme is reducing the volume of these rivers in Portugal and in other areas of the peninsula, and this calls into question international law on rivers and Community environmental standards.

1. Has the Commission analysed the environmental impact of the scheme or does it know of any study made on the subject?
2. What does it intend to do to encourage agreement between the States concerned and to prevent the scheme being completed in its current form?

Answer given by Mrs Bjerregaard
on behalf of the Commission

(28 June 1995)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 2277/94 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 152, 19. 6. 1995.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1425/95

by José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission

(22 May 1995)

(95/C 202/118)

Subject: Evaluation of the radiation protection programme

In 1992, the Commission announced, under point 316 of the XXVIth General Report, that panels of independent

experts had begun their work to evaluate several specific programmes, including the radiation protection programme. Can the Commission tell me the results of this evaluation?

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

(9 June 1995)

The Commission would point out that this question is exactly the same as the Honourable Member's Written Question No 848/95.

The Commission would therefore refer the Honourable Member to the answer it has already given to that question ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 196, 31. 7. 1995.

When the Treaty on European Union was signed in 1992, the Member States failed to reach a consensus on whether or not it was appropriate to have a European policy on tourism. This issue could be decided within the framework of the discussions regarding revision of the Treaty and at the Intergovernmental Conference in 1996.

The Commission would like to point out to the Honourable Member that it is not its duty to cite the official positions taken by the Member States, even if it has been able to discern certain attitudes expressed by the Member States' representatives within various bodies.

The Commission's Green Paper on the role of the Community in the field of tourism ⁽¹⁾ will help further the discussions on this issue. The reactions it provokes will allow us to assess any possible developments, particularly as regards the position of the Member State.

⁽¹⁾ COM(95) 97.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1431/95

by Helena Torres Marques (PSE)

to the Commission

(4 May 1995)

(95/C 202/119)

Subject: Tourism as a European Union common policy

In 'Europe' of 29 March 1995, Commissioner Papoutsis appealed to the European Parliament to support the Commission in its effort to promote a common tourism policy in the European Union, adding that this would not be easy,

'because various Member States claim, in the name of the principle of subsidiarity, that tourism is not a European Union matter'.

Can the Commissioner tell me which countries he is referring to?

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

(9 June 1995)

The statement made by the Commissioner at the meeting of the Committee on Transport and Tourism on 23 March 1995 was intended as a reminder to those members who wanted the Community to step up its efforts to promote tourism of the need to take account of the position of the Member States regarding the application of the principle of subsidiarity in this field.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1443/95

by Christine Oddy (PSE)

to the Commission

(22 May 1995)

(95/C 202/120)

Subject: Proposed PA Nam project in Tibet

Is the Commission aware of concerns surrounding the proposed Pa Nam project in Tibet?

Will the Commission undertake a full investigation into local fears over the project?

Is the Commission aware that there has been no involvement of local or international NGOs in the evaluation of this project and an absence of consultation with local Tibetans?

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

(21 June 1995)

The Honourable Member is referred to the Commission's answers to Written Questions Nos 94/95 ⁽¹⁾, 276/95 ⁽²⁾ and 1054/95 ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 139, 5. 6. 1995, p. 58.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 139, 5. 6. 1995, p. 64.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 179, 13. 7. 1995, p. 63.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1694/95

by Yves Verwaerde (PPE)

to the Commission

(15 June 1995)

(95/C 202/121)

Subject: Adjustment in compensatory payments for protein crops

The protein crop Regulation offers the Commission the possibility of using the arrangements for compensatory payments to offset falls in market prices.

Since the market price of protein crops has fallen by 10 % since the beginning of the 1994/95 marketing year, there is great concern about the future of these products.

Protein crops are the only major arable crops which do not benefit from a producer's income stabilization scheme. The loss of profitability in the case of protein crops could, if no measures are taken, lead to a considerable reduction in the area under such crops from 1995 onwards.

Protein crops are essential for maintaining soil quality in land used for major crops. The supply considerable demand and help to offset the European Union's severe protein shortfall (the EU is only 35 % self-sufficient).

Does the Commission intend to make use of the opportunities and existing Regulations (cf. Article 15(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 (Article 15(2): 'From the 1994/95 marketing year onwards, the Council may decide, according to the procedure laid down in Article 43(2) of the Treaty, that the arrangements for making the compensatory payments for oil seeds shall also apply to the case of protein crops')⁽¹⁾, and raise the compensatory payments for protein crops before the 1995 sowing?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 12.

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

(27 June 1995)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No P-1004/95⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See page 34 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1695/95

by Jack Lang (PSE)

to the Commission

(15 June 1995)

(95/C 202/122)

Subject: The protein crop Regulation

The protein crop Regulation offers the Commission the possibility of using the arrangements for compensatory payments to offset falls in market prices.

Since the market price of protein crops has fallen by 10 % since the beginning of the 1994/95 marketing year, there is great concern about the future of these products. Protein crops are the only major arable crops which do not benefit from a producers' income stabilization scheme. The loss of profitability in the case of protein crops could, if no measures are taken, lead to a considerable reduction in the area under such crops from 1995 onwards.

Protein crops are essential for maintaining soil quality in land used for major crops. They supply a considerable demand, and help to offset the European Union's severe protein shortfall (the EU is only 35 % self-sufficient).

Does the Commission intend to make use of the opportunities in existing Regulations (cf. Article 15(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92⁽¹⁾ below) and raise the compensatory payments for protein crops before the 1995 sowing?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 12.

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

(27 June 1995)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No P-1004/95⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See page 34 of this Official Journal.