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(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1727/92

by Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARE)

to the Commission

*(1 July 1992)**(94/C 340/01)**Subject:* Fourth Brite-Euram Conference in Seville

Can the Commission explain why English brochures on the Fourth Brite-Euram Conference in Seville were sent to Dutch-speaking European information centres?

Why (according to these brochures) was simultaneous translation provided only in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish? Why were the other official Community languages not used?

Why did the working groups use only English?

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

(30 July 1993)

The brochure on the Brite/EuRam conference in Seville was produced only in English for practical reasons.

In Seville, the large meeting rooms were equipped with no more than four interpreting booths, which made it possible to speak in five languages and to receive interpretation into four. It was impossible to install additional interpreting booths.

The meeting rooms available to the working parties were not equipped for interpreters.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2896/92

by Marc Galle (PSE)

to the Commission

*(23 November 1992)**(94/C 340/02)**Subject:* Abandonment of linguistic equality in new Community bodies

The Community is envisaging the creation of a European Drugs Agency responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of medicines in the Community.

Apparently serious consideration is being given to the abandonment of the system of nine equal languages. This would be an infringement of the principle of linguistic equality embodied in the EC Treaties and a major setback for Dutch, the language of more than 20 million EC citizens.

What view does the Commission take of abandonment of the principle of linguistic equality in newly-created Community bodies?

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

(29 September 1993)

The rules governing the languages to be used in the Community institutions, set out in Regulation No 1 of

15 April 1959 ⁽¹⁾, apply to the Agency set up by Council Regulation No 2309/93 ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 214, 24. 8. 1993.

⁽²⁾ OJ No 17, 6. 10. 1958.

to celebrate 1993 — the European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Generations.

The best projects are given Community funding but no provision has been made for allocation by Member State.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3357/92

by Diego Santos López (ARC)

to the Commission

(25 January 1993)

(94/C 340/03)

Subject: European Year of the Elderly and of Solidarity between Generations

The European Community has declared 1993 the Year of the Elderly and of Solidarity between Generations.

A series of measures have been planned in this context, all of them designed to highlight the problems of the elderly, including the impact of the increasing numbers within this age category on the employment market, social security and social costs in general and to help involve the elderly in the construction of Europe.

The Community is considering coordinated measures with the Member States and the regional and local authorities where appropriate. ECU 6,9 million have been earmarked in the Community budget for this purpose.

Can the Community say what coordinated measures have been launched in Spain?

Which of these measures have been carried out in cooperation with the Andalusian regional or local authorities? What Community funding has been earmarked for such measures in Spain?

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

(28 October 1993)

In accordance with the Council Decision of 24 June 1992, a National Coordination Committee was set up in Spain with 52 members including 25 representatives of central government, the autonomous communities (such as Andalusia) and the municipalities. The final programme of coordinated measures comprised 821 events and since then over 1 000 events have been organized or planned in Spain

WRITTEN QUESTION E-286/93

by Isidoro Sánchez García (ARE)

to the Commission

(24 February 1993)

(94/C 340/04)

Subject: Wind park at Fuerteventura (the Canaries)

The wind park on the Jandia peninsula (Fuerteventura) some 100 hectares in area and situated on the edge of a special conservation area of over 11 928 hectares is a project of general interest receiving Community funding through the Valoren Programme. Once in operation it would guarantee supplies of drinking water to the inhabitants of the island and at a lower cost. However, an unfounded complaint has been made about its location.

Is the Commission aware of the economic and social situation caused by this complaint and, if so, what measures does it intend to take to enable the project to go ahead in line with the technical and environmental requirements at regional, national and European level, as proposed by the Fuerteventura Water Board to the various administrations concerned?

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

(23 July 1993)

The Commission is aware of the economic and social situation of the area to which the Honourable Member refers and of the importance and general significance of the Jandia wind park, co-financed under the Valoren Programme.

The Commission has contacted the competent authorities in order to obtain clarification on this case, notably with regard to Directives 79/409/EEC ⁽¹⁾ on the conservation of wild birds and 85/337/EEC ⁽²⁾ on the environmental impact.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 103, 25. 4. 1979.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-366/93

by **Christine Oddy (PSE)**
to the Commission
(3 March 1993)
(94/C 340/05)

Subject: Merger Regulations and representations by workforce

What steps does the Merger Task Force take to ensure that recognized representatives of the employees are made aware of their right to make representations under Article 18(4) of the Merger Regulation?

In what proportion of merger cases have representatives taken advantage of this right?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert
on behalf of the Commission
(12 July 1993)

The Commission takes no specific steps with respect to the recognized representatives of the employees of companies affected by mergers: these representatives may ask, pursuant to Article 18(4) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 on the control of concentrations ⁽¹⁾, to be heard during the course of in-depth investigation proceedings initiated on the basis of Article 6(1)(c) of the same Regulation. The Commission's obligation to provide information is governed by Article 4(3), which requires it to publish, in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, the main features of concentrations which have been notified and must therefore be scrutinized for their impact on competition.

In two proceedings (out of a total of ten) initiated under Article 6(1)(c), employee representatives have put their views to the Commission, without however asking to be heard during the formal hearing prescribed by Article 18.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 395, 30. 12. 1989.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-166/93

by **Anne André-Léonard (ELDR)**
to the Commission
(17 February 1993)
(94/C 340/06)

Subject: Electronic games and consoles

It is reported that the prolonged use of electronic games and consoles can seriously damage the health of children. The

British Board of Trade has decided to carry out a study of the effect of these games on the health of users.

1. Has the Commission already carried out a study on this matter? If not, does it intend to do so?
2. Are these consoles which are mainly manufactured in Asia and America, in accordance with the Directive on toy safety?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-167/93

by **Raymonde Dury (PSE)**
to the Commission
(17 February 1993)
(94/C 340/07)

Subject: Danger of electronic games consoles

According to a report in 'La Libre Belgique' of 11 January 1993, a number of children in the United Kingdom have suffered from convulsions and had to be taken to hospital after using electronic games consoles. One teenager is reported to have died as a result. However, no warnings are contained in the instructions for use.

Some of the children were suffering from epilepsy while others were simply subject to photosensitivity, which affects 1% of the population.

In recent years the popularity of these games has increased enormously. The combined turnover of the two Japanese manufacturers holding a virtual monopoly accounts for half of the total turnover in the toy sector.

The British Board of Trade has decided to hold an inquiry. In view of the fact that all young Europeans are directly or potentially concerned, will the Commission study the danger of these electronic games consoles and take suitable measures? If measures are taken in one Member State, will the Commission, after due consideration, extend them to the entire Community?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-453/93

by **Marc Galle (PSE)**
to the Commission
(11 March 1993)
(94/C 340/08)

Subject: Video games and deaths of children

In a number of Member States there have been recent cases of children suffering from fatal attacks of epilepsy, which appear to be directly connected with the intensive use of video games.

There is an urgent need to investigate this link. Does the Commission not consider that it should carry out such an investigation in the interests of consumer protection?

Since such tragic events are occurring in many if not all Member States this would appear to be a Community task which also fits in with the principle of subsidiarity.

If a causal link between the deaths and video games is established, what protective measures can the Commission take?

**Joint answer to Written Questions E-166/93, E-167/93
and E-453/93
given by Mrs Scrivener
on behalf of the Commission
(13 July 1993)**

The Commission is very much aware of the issues raised by the Honourable Members with regard to the possible risks associated with the prolonged use of certain video games, which directly concern the health and safety of the children using them.

To date, the Commission has received no applications on the subject from any Member States through the existing legal procedures or instruments. The Commission has, however, requested France and the United Kingdom, both of which are conducting surveys on the problem, for the earliest possible communication of all available information on:

- technical, scientific and other aspects involved in the risks associated with video games;
- the products potentially concerned, specifying whether they are portable and/or can be connected to a monitor or TV set, and the technical specifications (voltage etc.);
- action taken or envisaged by these two Member States.

Existing Community legislation covering video games, applicable variously according to their characteristics (portable/connectable to monitor or TV set, technical specifications), includes the following Directives:

- Directive 73/23/EEC of 26 March 1973 on electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits ⁽¹⁾;
- Directive 88/378/EEC of 16 July 1988 on the safety of toys ⁽²⁾;
- Directive 89/336/EEC of 23 May 1989 on electromagnetic compatibility ⁽³⁾.

Through these Directives, Member States are obliged to take all necessary measures to ensure that video games placed on

their markets or brought into operation comply with specific safety and protective requirements.

The Commission would also like to bring to the Honourable Member's attention Directive 90/270/EEC ⁽⁴⁾, adopted by the Council at the Commission's proposal, concerning minimum safety and health requirements for the use of VDUs at work which, in certain rare cases of persons prone to photosensitivity, can also create conditions prejudicial to health.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 77, 26. 3. 1973.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 187, 16. 7. 1988.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 139, 23. 5. 1989.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 156, 21. 6. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-719/93

**by Yves Verwaerde (PPE)
to the Commission
(14 April 1993)
(94/C 340/09)**

Subject: Funding for associations from the Community budget

On the basis of the list forwarded by the Commission Secretariat concerning subsidies paid to associations for 1991, it emerges that appropriations much higher than average were allocated as follows:

- ECU 250 000 to the Human Rights Foundation (London) under Item 30-30;
- ECU 200 000 to the European Migrants' Forum (London) under Item 30-30;
- ECU 100 000 to the International Press Club (Brussels) against Item 30-90.

Can the Commission give the reasons for these payments?

**Answer given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission
(13 December 1993)**

The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to an identical question No 2648/92 ⁽¹⁾ last year.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 141, 19. 5. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-997/93by **Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)**

to the Commission

(3 May 1993)

(94/C 340/10)

Subject: Social Fund seminars

In Greece there has been a very sharp rise in the number of seminars and other forms of short training course and briefings held largely in the context of Social Fund policy. Can the Commission provide information on the action it has taken to date in this area, together with an evaluation of the results in relation to declared objectives?

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

(5 July 1993)

The substantial increase in the number of short-term vocational training schemes reflects mainly the development of continuing training to improve productivity of employees in the private sector, and combating long-term unemployment. Unlike initial technical education and training, continuing training structures in Greece are outside of the formal education and training system. In recent years, the necessity of developing continuing training action has increased mainly due to accelerating technological progress and the rise in structural unemployment.

The rapid expansion of vocational training both at national and regional level, largely facilitated by ESF financing, reflects, despite its structural weaknesses, a real and urgent need for development of continuing training in Greece.

For the period 1994—1999, the Commission plans in co-operation with the Greek authorities to give priority to developing a more comprehensive approach to continuing training. This approach will include mechanisms for the identification of labour market needs both at regional and sectoral level and the improvement of structures for training including organization and management, infrastructure, equipment, training of trainers, curricula and certification.

In addition, it has been observed in recent years, that more and more firms require new employees to have information technology skills. These skills have been recently introduced experimentally in a limited number of schools of the mainstream education system and will progressively expand with the financial assistance of the Structural Funds. In the mean time, local authorities and NGO's try to fill this gap

and provide short-term basic computer training courses mainly for the young unemployed.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1040/93by **Ursula Braun-Moser (PPE)**

to the Commission

(4 May 1993)

(94/C 340/11)

Subject: Recognition of the German Abitur in Spain

Spanish people living in Germany must take a Spanish examination in addition to the German Abitur, if they are to be recognized in Spain as having completed secondary education.

Can the Commission explain why the German Abitur is not recognized in Spain?

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

(12 April 1994)

Recognition of the qualifications required for continuing with education and training is in principle a matter for the Member States and not for the Community institutions. Where the facts are concerned, the Commission's information is that the German advanced level school-leaving certificate ('Abitur') is recognized in Spain as equivalent to the COU ('Curso de Orientación Universitaria'). In order to gain admission to the faculties, technical schools and higher-education colleges, all applicants, whether or not they are Spanish nationals, must take an entrance examination — the PAU ('Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad'). According to the information received, Spanish nationals holding the Abitur are not required to satisfy any additional requirements.

Regarding the recognition of this type of qualification for the purposes of taking up and pursuing a regulated profession, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to Article 9 of Council Directive 92/51/EEC of 18 June 1992 on a second general system for the recognition of professional education and training to supplement Directive 89/48/EEC⁽¹⁾ (due to take effect on 18 June 1994), which states that:

'where, in the host Member State, the taking up or pursuit of a regulated profession is subject only to possession of evidence of education attesting to general education at primary or secondary school level, the competent authority may not, on the grounds of inadequate qualifications, refuse to authorize a national of a Member State to take up or pursue that profession on the same conditions as those which apply to its own nationals if the applicant possesses formal qualifications of the corresponding level, awarded in another Member State'.

Conversely, where a migrant intends to use his academic title in the context of a non-regulated profession (its use confers a purely economic advantage) and the host Member State imposes an authorization requirement in that regard, the ruling given by the Court of Justice on 31 March 1993 in Case C-19/92 Dieter Kraus v. Land Baden-Württemberg ⁽²⁾ must be borne in mind. That ruling makes it clear that, although a Member State may require Community nationals to comply with such a procedure (provided, of course, that its Regulations impose the same requirement on its own nationals), the procedure must be 'solely intended to verify whether the academic title . . . was duly awarded, that the procedure is easily accessible and is not subject to the payment of excessive administrative charges, that any decision of refusal is open to judicial review, that the person concerned may ascertain the grounds for that decision and that the penalties prescribed for non-observance of the authorization procedure are not disproportionate to the seriousness of the offence.' Although the ruling was given with regard to a postgraduate university degree, it would appear to be readily applicable to other academic titles.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 209, 24. 7. 1992.

⁽²⁾ Not yet published.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1066/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(6 May 1993)

(94/C 340/12)

Subject: Modernization of infrastructures in the Prefecture of Achaia

The Prefecture of Achaia is facing serious problems in modernizing and developing industrial, cottage industry and agricultural infrastructures. It is also facing problems as regards the modernization of Patras harbour and sections of the road and rail network serving not merely Achaia but also the Peloponnese and western Greece in general.

Can the Commission say which programmes the Greek authorities have submitted so far aimed at tackling the above problems?

Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission

(7 December 1993)

Under the Integrated Mediterranean Programme (1986—1992) and the Operational Programme (1989—1993) for western Greece, as a result of the request by the Greek authorities, the Community part-financed a whole series of measures to improve and modernize the

infrastructures of the Nomos of Achaia in the sectors mentioned by the Honourable Member. The Commission is sending the programmes in question to him and to Parliament's Secretariat-General.

The Commission will carefully examine any proposal to improve the situation in the Nomos of Achaia under the new regional development plan recently presented by the Greek authorities.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1126/93

by Gerd Müller (PPE)

to the Commission

(29 April 1993)

(94/C 340/13)

Subject: Uniform application of Directive 88/599/EEC ⁽¹⁾, and Regulations (EEC) No 3820/85 ⁽²⁾ and (EEC) No 3821/85 ⁽³⁾

Administrative practice as regards the monitoring of observance of EC social Regulations, including those on driving and resting times, and the application of penalties, is extremely diverse.

What measures does the Commission envisage taking to eliminate these discrepancies, which distort competition?

How closely does the Commission monitor compliance with national minimum controls?

On how many occasions has the Commission cautioned a Member State for failing adequately to observe the above Directive, or even brought an action before the European Court of Justice?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 325, 29. 11. 1988, p. 55.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 370, 31. 12. 1985, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 370, 31. 12. 1985, p. 8.

Answer given by Mr Matutes
on behalf of the Commission

(17 September 1993)

The Commission is aware that national efforts to ensure compliance with social Regulations in the road transport field are limited and variable. To rectify this, it is making initial plans for the technical updating of Community legislation, which could indirectly lead to its being more uniformly and rigorously implemented in the Member States.

As part of the 'Karolus' action plan for the exchange between Member State administrations of national officials

engaged in the implementation of Community single market legislation, the Commission decided on 22 December last year ⁽¹⁾ to make the issue one of the top priorities for this year's exchanges. This will lead to more uniform and effective control procedures.

As regards national minimum controls, the Commission's information is limited but does reveal differences between the Member States. It has not as yet brought the matter before the Court of Justice.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 8, 14. 1. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1177/93

by **Barry Desmond (PSE)**
to the Commission
(13 May 1993)
(94/C 340/14)

Subject: Tobacco advertising ban

The Economic and Social Committee expressed a view that the tobacco industry should be allowed an interval to prepare measures for voluntary restraints on advertising. Can the Commission confirm the application of this Directive has in fact been postponed until 1 January 1994?

Does the Commission continue to favour a complete ban on tobacco advertising?

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

The Commission has given careful consideration to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of Member States' laws, regulations and administrative provisions on advertising for tobacco products. This proposal, on which the European Parliament has already given its opinion on first reading, is still under examination by the Council.

Having reviewed the situation, particularly as regards the application of the principle of subsidiarity, the Commission intends to maintain its proposal on which it hopes the Council will soon reach a common position.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1220/93

by **Wilfried Telkämper (V)**
to the Commission
(18 May 1993)
(94/C 340/15)

Subject: Indigenous peoples and the EC's human rights policy

Can the Commission provide information about the projects funded out of its budget line for human rights in developing countries (B7-5053) which benefit indigenous peoples directly?

What plans does it have to support indigenous peoples' human rights during and after the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples?

**Answer given by Mr Marín
on behalf of the Commission**
(25 October 1993)

The Commission would inform the Honourable Member that projects of direct benefit to indigenous peoples in the developing countries, particularly in Latin America, have been funded from the resources of budget headings B7-5078, B7-5040 and B7-5041.

No requests for funding relating specifically to budget heading B7-5053 (covering support for operations promoting human rights and democracy in developing countries) have been received.

The Commission attaches a great deal of importance to increasing its awareness of the problems faced by indigenous peoples, by participating in meetings with their representatives and by establishing direct contacts with relevant departments. In this context, the Commission is keen to see that no effort is spared in promoting respect for indigenous peoples' rights, by contributing to specific projects at international, regional, national or local level.

The Commission would therefore consider with interest any request for funding from NGOs involved in helping indigenous communities in the developing countries for projects which promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, language or religion.

With regard to the second part of the question, the Commission would ask the Honourable Member to refer to the answer given by the Commission to his Written Question No 1221/93 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No 332, 28. 11. 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1265/93
by Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop (PSE)
to the Commission
 (19 May 1993)
 (94/C 340/16)

Subject: Educational establishments

Can the Commission give a breakdown of how the ECU 140 000 earmarked for Item A-3268 ('Other educational establishments') in the 1992 budget were spent?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert
on behalf of the Commission
 (3 May 1994)

The purpose of budget item A-3268 is to contribute towards certain costs of primary and secondary schooling for children of Community staff who, for imperative and duly substantiated educational reasons, cannot be admitted to or remain at one of the European Schools, or who cannot attend a European School because of the place of employment of the parent (official or temporary staff member).

A contribution towards educational costs will be made only if the school fees to be paid by the official or temporary staff member after deduction of the ordinary education allowance provided for in the Staff Regulations amount to more than 20 % of the parents' monthly income.

The allowance is paid on presentation of an application at the end of the school year for which reimbursement is requested.

Each application is examined on its merits by a joint inter-institutional committee, which meets once a year.

The contribution is calculated according to the fees to be paid (after deduction of the education allowance), parental income, the number of applications made and the appropriations available in the current year's budget.

In the 1992 financial year 50 applications were made, relating to a total of 58 children between the ages of 8 and 19. Of these 50 applications, 47 were accepted (two of them only partially) and three turned down.

In the case accepted, the average annual school fees still to be paid by the parents (after deduction of the education allowance) were Bfrs 311 674 per child. They ranged from a minimum of Bfrs 80 461 to a maximum of Bfrs 513 004.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1268/93
by Maxime Verhagen (PPE)
to the Commission
 (19 May 1993)
 (94/C 340/17)

Subject: The Commission's contribution to a solution to the Gibraltar question

How does the Commission intend to help find a solution to the disputes between Spain and the United Kingdom on the Gibraltar question, in order to complete the internal market and ensure freedom of movement for persons, goods, services and capital?

Answer given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission
 (26 April 1994)

The Commission is prepared to lend its good offices in areas where the Community has powers.

It is active in some areas, such as the winding up of the Gibraltar Social Insurance Fund, on 1 January 1994, about which it contacted the British and Spanish authorities.

Signature of the draft Convention on controls on persons crossing the external frontiers of the Member States has been blocked by the Gibraltar question since July 1991. The Commission, in its proposal for a Decision establishing the Convention in a form compatible with Title VI of the Treaty on European Union ⁽¹⁾, confined itself to proposing that Article 30 relating to territorial extent, be left blank. As the explanatory memorandum states 'the Commission feels unable to take a position.' A solution can only come from the bilateral negotiations that have been under way since 1991 ⁽²⁾. The Commission takes the view that this is the approach most conducive to enabling the negotiations to proceed undisturbed so that a solution acceptable to both parties can be found as soon as possible.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 11, 15. 1. 1994.

⁽²⁾ COM(93) 684 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1438/93
by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
 (9 June 1993)
 (94/C 340/18)

Subject: The construction of new road links

In view of the unconscionable growth in road and motorway construction, projects increasing the already

unacceptable traffic levels, will the Commission take measures to ensure that, in future, the planning and construction of new road links will be the exception rather than the rule and only take place after strict environmental impact assessments have been carried out?

**Answer given by Mr Matutes
on behalf of the Commission**
(6 April 1994)

The need to ensure sustainable mobility in the Community has triggered the Commission's White Paper 'The Future Development of the Common Transport Policy'. This paper lays down the framework for a balanced multimodal approach to transport and in this context it examines the planning and construction of roads, paying special attention to their integration into the environment and their long-term environmental impact. The Commission is working intensively on these aims with the assistance of working groups, studies, etc.

Needless to say Council Directive 85/337/EEC ⁽¹⁾ on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment ensures that important road projects are subject to the environmental impact assessment and that the public concerned is consulted.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 175, 27. 6. 1985.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1447/93
by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(9 June 1993)
(94/C 340/19)

Subject: Recruitment on the basis of qualifications

In view of the fact that 1993 has been designated European Year of the Elderly and Solidarity between Generations, will the Commission take steps to amend its policy of age-based discrimination with regard to participation in its competitions and, in future, ensure that candidates are recruited on the basis of their qualifications and the requirements of the posts to be filled?

**Answer given by Mr Van Miert
on behalf of the Commission**
(4 February 1994)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to Written Question No 394/92 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 296, 24. 10. 1994, p. 3.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1417/93
by Winifred Ewing (ARE)
to the Commission
(9 June 1993)
(94/C 340/20)

Subject: Dry-cleaning businesses

The ban, under the Montreal Agreement, on the use of certain dry-cleaning solvents after 31 December 1993 will have serious consequences for small dry-cleaning firms as they will be obliged to replace their existing machines with new machines that can function with alternative solvents. These new machines cost about £ 20 000 each and many small firms will have to face closure if they cannot afford this investment.

Can the Commission envisage any possible way in which these firms can be assisted to adapt by either financial or legal means?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1464/93
by Anita Pollack (PSE)
to the Commission
(9 June 1993)
(94/C 340/21)

Subject: Phasing out fluorocarbon 113

What plans does the Commission have to help small dry-cleaning businesses meet the costs of re-equipping their plants with new machinery to cope with replacement solvents?

Is the Commission aware that in the UK alone there are 1 700 dry-cleaning shops currently using CFC 113, the use of which will be phased out this year, and the new

machinery costs between £ 15 000 and £ 20 000, which is a crippling price to small businesses in recession?

**Joint answer to Written Questions
E-1417/93 and E-1464/93
given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi
on behalf of the Commission
(29 September 1993)**

The Commission is aware of the difficulties that some dry-cleaning firms may have in complying with the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 3952/92 with regard to the elimination of CFC 113 by the end of 1994.

The decision to bring forward by a year the implementation of the Montreal Protocol for the most dangerous CFCs was taken by the Council on the basis of alarming scientific evidence concerning the continuing destruction of the ozone layer. For its part, the Parliament asked for CFC 113 to be phased-out by 31 December 1993, a year earlier.

The Community does not give direct grants for compensation to dry-cleaning firms that are required to replace certain equipment in order to comply with Community law. However the rules for Commission authorization of State aid designed to support investment by companies relating to the protection of the environment are more flexible than those applying to other forms of investment aid.

Thus, in accordance with the principles governing environmental aid ⁽¹⁾, investments designed to protect the environment, including the ozone layer, may in certain circumstances be eligible for aid of 15 % regardless of where the firm is located or its size.

Furthermore, pursuant to Community guidelines for State aid to small and medium-sized undertakings ⁽²⁾, larger sums of aid may be considered for SMEs in assisted regions.

It is however for the Member States to decide whether or not to take advantage of these provisions. A new draft Community framework for State aid to the environment is also under discussion in the Commission. It will pay special consideration to investment necessary to achieve compliance with European law.

⁽¹⁾ Communication to the Member States, annexed to letter 80(87) D/3795 of 23 March 1987.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 213, 19. 8. 1992, point 4.2.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1486/93

by Christos Papoutsis (PSE)

to the Commission

(14 June 1993)

(94/C 340/22)

Subject: Small quotas for production of Virginia tobacco

The quota for production of Virginia tobacco has been fixed at a mere 30 000 tonnes this year although average production over the last three years in Greece amounted to 60 000 tonnes. How does the Commission intend to offset the loss of income for small Greek tobacco producers and, indeed, the wider economic and social consequences of this measure?

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

(21 December 1993)

According to the statistics available to the Commission, which are of course of Greek origin, average annual production of Virginia tobacco in Greece was:

- for 1989, 1990 and 1991: 25 000 tonnes
- for 1990, 1991 and 1992: 45 000 tonnes.

When fixing the tobacco quotas the Council decided to take account of the former period rather than the latter one.

This made it possible to exclude 1992, which was considered to be a year of heavy speculation because of the impending reform of the sector.

Production of Virginia tobacco in Greece in 1992 was close to 70 000 tonnes, as against 40 000 tonnes in 1991 and the maximum guaranteed quantity of 17 000 tonnes fixed for 1991.

The Commission therefore considers that fixing the Virginia quota for 1993 at 30 000 tonnes takes account of the historical production data for this variety in Greece.

However, in view of the social and political implications of over-production of Virginia tobacco, the Commission has proposed to the Council special measures for Greece (financial compensation, conversion, redistribution of quotas, etc.). The relevant Regulations have been adopted and these measures are now being implemented.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1537/93**by Isidoro Sánchez García (ARE)****to the Commission***(16 June 1993)**(94/C 340/23)*

Subject: Tourist projects under the Community programme of action

What tourist projects have been submitted by Spain under the Community programme of action in the tourist sector for 1993 onwards, in accordance with the Council Decision of 13 July 1992?

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

(29 September 1993)

To implement the various priority measures contained in the Community action plan to assist tourism (Council Decision 92/421/EEC) ⁽¹⁾, the Commission published a number of invitations to tender and calls for proposals in the Official Journal ⁽²⁾.

The Commission will be preparing a general report on the outcome of these invitations to tender and calls for proposals for the attention, in particular, of the management committee referred to in Article 3(2) of the abovementioned Council Decision.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 231, 13. 8. 1992.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 128, 8. 5. 1993, p. 7.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1661/93**by John Cushnahan (PPE)****to the Commission***(28 June 1993)**(94/C 340/24)*

Subject: 'Cohesion' projects in Ireland

Will the Commission list the projects to be assisted under the cohesion financial instrument in Ireland during 1993 and the amounts of assistance to be allocated to each project?

**Supplementary answer given by Mr Schmidhuber
on behalf of the Commission**

(19 April 1994)

Further to its answer of 26 July 1993 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is sending a table containing the information requested direct to the Honourable Member and the Parliament's General Secretariat.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 280, 18. 10. 1993, p. 66.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1826/93**by Mary Banotti (PPE)****to the Commission***(13 June 1993)**(94/C 340/25)*

Subject: Traditional produce sold at country markets

What is the status of the Food Hygiene Directive regarding traditional produce (eggs, home-made jams, home-made bread and cakes, vegetables and fruit) being sold at country markets throughout the EC?

In Ireland there have been numerous complaints that the Irish authorities are restricting the sale of such products, all in the name of the EC Hygiene Directive.

Is this not a case where the EC should use the subsidiarity principle and refrain from legislating for country markets which have existed for centuries quite adequately without need of EC legislation?

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

(22 October 1993)

The Food Hygiene Directive, which was adopted by the Council on 14 June 1993, concerns the standard of hygiene of foodstuffs throughout all stages of preparation, processing, manufacturing, packaging, storing, transportation, distribution, handling and offering for sale or supply to the consumer. The Directive will enter into force on 14 December 1995. Although it applies to country markets, to meet concerns such as expressed by the Honourable Member, the Directive has a fairly lenient regime for those markets as may be seen from Chapter III of the Annex, which refers to marquees and market stalls and the provision that food premises are inspected at a risk related frequency (Article 8.2.).

In the opinion of the Commission there is no need to restrict the sale of the products mentioned, provided the normal

rules of hygiene laid down by the Directive are followed. However, the Commission is required by Community rules to establish the health conditions applicable to the marketing of eggs (Annex II, Chapter 2, first indent, of Directive 92/118/EEC ⁽¹⁾).

In its proposal the Commission will take account of the conclusions of the report of the Scientific Veterinary Committee when considering the storage conditions for fresh hen eggs intended for human consumption. Requirements for the safeguard of public health will be considered as well as current practices found in the marketing system.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 62, 15. 3. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1677/93

by Paul Staes (V)
to the Commission
(28 June 1993)
(94/C 340/26)

Subject: The European Youth Event (3—6 July 1993)

The European Youth Event is due to be held in Brussels in July 1993.

1. Can the Commission confirm that the budget for this event totals Bfrs 21 899 840?
2. If so, how can it justify such expenditure on an event which will involve 200 young people and last five days?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1705/93

by Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARE)
to the Commission
(28 June 1993)
(94/C 340/27)

Subject: Budget for youth exchange programme

Budget Item B3-1011 provides for appropriations in respect of the YES Programme.

Are there other budget headings providing for similar exchange programmes? What projects are they used to finance?

What is the Commission's justification for its expenditure of ECU 500 000 on a project involving a four-day meeting of 200 young people from the EC?

Who participated in this project, and how was the selection made?

Can the Commission supply a detailed programme of this exchange?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1952/93

by Karel Dillen (NI)
to the Commission
(19 July 1993)
(94/C 340/28)

Subject: Subsidy for the European Youth Event

It appears that the Commission has earmarked Bfrs 21 899 840 for the European Youth Event to be held in Brussels from 3—7 July 1993 — an event which barely 200 people are expected to attend.

Does the Commission not feel that this is an intolerable waste of money, particularly at a time when countless families are suffering hardship from the recession throughout Europe?

Does the Commission not believe that it is high time for a clampdown on this sort of activity, which is of dubious benefit, to say the least, and unacceptably expensive?

Joint answer to Written Questions E-1677/93, E-1705/93 and E-1952/93
given by Mr Ruberti
on behalf of the Commission
(30 September 1993)

The Honourable Members are requested to refer to the Commission's answer to oral question H-624/93 by Mr Marck at question time during the European Parliament's June 1993 part-session ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 3-432 (June 1993).

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1987/93

by Kenneth Stewart (PSE)
to the Commission
(19 July 1993)
(94/C 340/29)

Subject: Merseyside: Objective 1 status

Would the Commission please supply the following information?

1. The anticipated timetable for Parliament giving an opinion, and consequent decision by the Council of Ministers.

2. Details of any amendments to the Commission's draft regulations which have been put forward by the Regional Affairs Committee, for consideration by Parliament.

The Commissioner will appreciate the concern that, provided the Council's approval comes after the summer break, Objective 1 could be a reality for Merseyside in time for 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1988/93

by Kenneth Stewart (PSE)

to the Commission

(19 July 1993)

(94/C 340/30)

Subject: Merseyside: Objective 1 status

Can the Commissioner please supply the following information?

1. Chief area of concern is the timing of the Council of Ministers' actual decision on the Commission's proposals. There is an awareness of the European Parliament's involvement, although I am not fully aware of the procedural details.
2. Is the involvement of the Parliament the conciliation procedure?

Anything resembling a timetable which has been published in the Regional Affairs Committee or elsewhere.

Joint answer to Written Questions

E-1987/93 and E-1988/93

given by Mr Millan

on behalf of the Commission

(24 November 1993)

Given the urgent need to revise the Structural Funds rules in preparation for the new 1994—1999 programming period, the Presidents of Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed at a meeting on 21 April 1993 on a procedure and timetable that would allow the new Regulations to enter into force before 1 August 1993. The Council adopted the six Regulations on 20 July 1993⁽¹⁾.

The Commission is glad to say that the Council included Merseyside on the list of regions with Objective 1 status for the period 1994—1999, as recommended by the Commission in its proposal of 24 January 1993.

(¹) OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2057/93

by Dieter Rogalla (PSE)

to the Commission

(23 July 1993)

(94/C 340/31)

Subject: Abuse of the law by Italian liability insurers

1. Is the Commission aware of the case of Mr Wolf-Rainer Heinemann of 6451 Ronneberg 2 who was involved in an accident with an Italian vehicle on 29 September 1991 in a traffic jam at the Brenner pass in Italy and whose car was a complete write-off as a result of the negligence by the Italian driver?
2. Is the Commission aware that owing to failure to cooperate with the German liability insurers, the legal protection insurers of the person in question have behaved in such a way that the vehicle is still at the scene of the accident one year later because of red tape?
3. Is the Commission prepared to defray the costs incurred by the German national Wolf-Rainer Heinemann as it has been derelict in its duty to ensure that the Italian State and its insurers duly apply European law?
4. How does the Commission intend in future to eliminate this legal uncertainty affecting European citizens?
5. Are there other Member States in which European law on liability and cooperation with citizens involved in accidents have something to be desired, if so, which and what does the Commission intend to do in this connection?

Answer given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi

on behalf of the Commission

(22 March 1994)

1. The Commission was not aware of the incident to which the Honourable Member refers.
2. The Commission was not aware of the problems of cooperation between the insurance undertaking with which the motorist had concluded civil liability motor insurance, and the undertaking with which he had concluded legal protection.
- 3, 4, 5. On the basis of the information on the accident to which the Honourable Member refers, the Commission is of the opinion that what is at stake is the relationship between two private insurance undertakings. The Commission has no indication that a Member State has infringed its obligations under Community law. The present incident is the first of its kind that has been brought to the attention of the Commission.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2260/93

by **Mary Banotti (PPE)**
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 340/32)

Subject: Ireland's record in transposing EC Directives

Which EC Directives now in force have not been transposed into domestic law by the Irish Government?

What rights do Irish citizens have who may be disadvantaged by the non-imposition of EC directives? Is there a complaints procedure or must citizens bring the country concerned, Ireland, to the European Court, which is costly and normally takes approximately 18 months before a case can be heard?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2264/93

by **John McCartin (PPE)**
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 340/33)

Subject: Transposition of Directives into Irish law

Can the Commission provide a full list of all EC Directives, now in force, which have not been transposed into domestic law by the Irish Government, and state what rights to compensation citizens in Ireland have, who are disadvantaged by the failure of the Irish Government to transpose Directives into domestic law?

**Joint answer to Written Questions
E-2260/93 and E-2264/93
given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission
(10 December 1993)**

For a list of Community directives currently in force which have not been transposed into domestic law by the Irish Government, the Honourable Members are referred to the tenth annual report on Commission monitoring of the application of Community law⁽¹⁾, and in particular Annex 4 thereto (Report on the application of Directives).

The Court of Justice has consistently held that national courts which are called upon, within the limits of their jurisdiction, to apply provisions of Community law are under a duty to give full effect to those provisions and to protect the rights which they confer upon individuals⁽²⁾. It

has concluded that proceedings based on non-contractual liability may be brought against a Member State in the national courts by an individual who considers that he or she has been adversely affected by the Member State's failure to transpose a Community Directive, because the Directive would have the effect of conferring rights on individuals, the nature of these rights can be identified on the basis of the provisions of the Directive, and a causal link exists between the Member State's failure to comply with its obligation and the damage suffered by the individuals adversely affected⁽³⁾.

(1) OJ No C 233, 30. 8. 1993.

(2) Case 106/77 Simmenthal [1978] ECR 629.

(3) Case C-213/78 Factortame [1990] ECR I-2433.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2277/93

by **Rolf Linkohr (PSE)**
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 340/34)

Subject: Radioactivity doses in the United Kingdom

Pursuant to Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty, each Member State is required to provide the Commission with information about the disposal of radioactive waste in whatever form.

- Can the Commission confirm statements by BNFL (British Nuclear Fuels Ltd) that the dose of radioactivity to which workers at BNFL were exposed in 1992 was 2.1 mSv, and was thus of the same order of magnitude as exposure to background radioactivity in the United Kingdom (2,2 mSv per annum)?
- Can the Commission confirm that, on average, residents of the United Kingdom are exposed to less than 0,001 mSv per annum?
- Can the Commission provide figures on radioactivity doses for previous years?

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

Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty requires Member States to provide the Commission with information on any plan for the disposal of radioactive waste. This information is received and the Commission's opinion on 'whether the implementation of such a plan is liable to result in the radioactive contamination of the water, soil or airspace of another Member State' is issued in advance of the installation in question coming into operation. This Article does not, therefore, call for the communication of dosimetric data such as that requested by the Honourable Member.

Actual dose measurements (or estimates where the doses are too low to be measured) are in fact carried out by the

Member States' competent authorities, or dosimetry services approved by these authorities, in accordance with the basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation.

According to the BNFL Health and Safety Annual Report 1992, average whole-body exposure of all employees in that year was indeed 2,1 millisievert (mSv) and for the years 1986 to 1991 successively the corresponding values were respectively 4,6, 3,9, 3,5, 2,9, 3,1 and 2,0 mSv. These data result from approved dosimetry services, and the current value does almost coincide with the annual average exposure of 2,2 mSv from natural radioactivity in the United Kingdom, as remarked by the Honourable Member.

The most recent estimate available to the Commission of annual average exposure in that country from radioactive effluents, on the other hand, is only 0,0004 mSv for the year 1991. This represents a progressive reduction from a peak value of 0,002 mSv in the mid-seventies when Sellafield discharges were at their maximum.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2299/93

by Hiltrud Breyer (V)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 340/35)

Subject: Schlacht Konrad's use as an ultimate nuclear storage site in Germany

1. If approval is given for using Schlacht Konrad as national ultimate nuclear storage site, will the Federal Republic of Germany be obliged to store at the site nuclear waste from other Member States?

2. If so, what would be the legal basis for the Community compelling Germany to accept nuclear waste (for example, internal market legislation or the Euratom Treaty)?

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission

(22 November 1993)

The issue raised by the Honourable Member is dealt with in Council Directive 92/3/Euratom of 3 February 1992 on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste between Member States and into and out of the Community ⁽¹⁾ which obliges the Member States to bring into force not later than 1 January 1994 the provisions necessary to comply with it.

In accordance with this Directive the authorities of the Member State of destination are entitled to refuse approval

to a specific shipment of radioactive waste from another Member State. The refusal, which must be justified, has to be delivered not later than two months after receipt by the Member State of destination of the application submitted by the holder of the radioactive waste to the Member State of origin. The two month period may be extended by one month at the request of the authorities of the country of destination.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 35, 12. 2. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2336/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 340/36)

Subject: Establishment of a European Media Council

Many people working in the press and broadcasting believe that an independent European Media Council should be set up as a matter of urgency. Its task would be to monitor the European media, ensure that there was complete transparency regarding links between the companies involved and, where necessary, prohibit mergers or take measures to sever such links.

The Council would also draw up proposals for legislation on the media.

Has the Commission taken (or does it envisage taking) any steps to set up an independent Media Council in Europe and, if so, when?

Answer given by Mr Pinheiro
on behalf of the Commission

(2 December 1993)

In its green paper on 'Pluralism and media concentration in the internal market — an assessment of the need for Community action' ⁽¹⁾, the Commission considers the question of setting up a European Media Council and opts for the establishment of an independent committee to deal with matters relating to media concentration.

The Commission will express its views on the need to propose measures on media concentration, in particular on the question of setting up a committee, when the on-going consultations with the interested parties have been completed and when Parliament has given its opinion on the green paper.

⁽¹⁾ COM(92) 480 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2394/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 340/37)

Subject: Amnesty International proposal for a UN observer in Germany

The intensification of racist attacks in Germany, which in all probability accounted for the death of a German woman and her child on 19 June, has prompted Amnesty International to appeal to the UN to send an observer to that country. What is the Commission's reaction to Amnesty International's initiative?

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

(30 November 1993)

As the Commission has repeatedly emphasized, it shares the concern of Parliament and the Member States at the proliferation of incidents of racist violence and xenophobia.

However, it should be recalled that the responsibility for combating racism and xenophobia lies with the Member States. It would not be right for the Commission to express an opinion on an initiative such as that referred to by the Honourable Member.

While staying within its powers, the Commission contributes actively to the fight against the racist threat, in particular by playing a full role in the work decided on by the Ministers for the Interior and Justice in Kolding in May 1993 and by supporting the activities of non-governmental organizations working to promote tolerance.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2411/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 340/38)

Subject: Fatal industrial accidents in Greece

In 1992 there was a sharp increase in fatal industrial accidents in Greece compared with other (non-fatal) accidents which decreased. This represents an increase of 46 % over 1991, the number of fatalities rising from 79 the

year before last to 116 last year. In view of this, what action can the Commission take to improve this deplorable situation in future?

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

(9 November 1993)

The statistics received from the Greek authorities certainly appear to indicate a sharp increase in the registered number of fatal industrial accidents in 1992, with 117 deaths as against 79 in 1991 and 86 in 1990. In their communication, however, the Greek authorities point out that their statistical system does not include either the self-employed, most significantly agricultural workers, or seamen. The number of fatal industrial accidents must in fact be considerably higher, since the Greek authorities estimate the annual number of fatal accidents amongst seamen to be between 150 and 200, and the statistics for all other Member States indicate clearly that agriculture has one of the highest fatal accident rates.

Despite the existing omissions in the registration systems for industrial accident statistics in several of the Member States including Greece, analysis of the statistical significance of the 1992 figures has been embarked upon at Community level.

The transposition into national law of the Community Directives based on Article 18A of the EC Treaty, their implementation and the various flanking measures envisaged or under way should lead to:

- Improved prevention policies from both national authorities and industry, leading to a reduction in the number and severity of accidents.
- More reliable national statistics.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2426/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 340/39)

Subject: Stable employment and income support for workers in the fishing industry

In the interest of balanced development in the Community and the national exploitation of the Member States' natural resources, what measures will the Commission take to secure stable employment and income support for workers in the fishing industry in Europe, particularly in the Mediterranean region?

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

(21 December 1993)

The Commission is aware of the socio-economic difficulties resulting from the current state of the fishing industry and the problems which can arise during the much needed re-structuring of the sector which must take place in the coming years.

The Commission has already stated repeatedly that it considers the guidelines and measures implemented under the common fisheries policy for achieving a balance between available and accessible resources and fishing effort to be the best way to compensate for the socio-economic disturbances which can arise and to ensure the viability of the sector.

The recent creation of the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance and the inclusion of areas dependent on fisheries under Objectives 1, 2 and 5(b) will make it possible to implement measures with a significant positive impact on employment and incomes in the fisheries sector in those areas.

Moreover, funding can be provided by the European Social fund under the new Objective 4 for measures to help workers, particularly those threatened with unemployment, adjust to industrial change and the development of production systems, in particular by:

- anticipating trends on the labour market and the professional qualifications required;
- vocational training and requalification, guidance and counselling;
- assistance to improve and develop adequate training schemes;

This possibility covers all economic sectors throughout the Community.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2441/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 340/40)

Subject: Exemption from prescribed minimum size of fish caught

Mediterranean fishermen have asked to be allowed to depart from the prescribed minimum size of fish caught by 20%. Does the Commission think this is reasonable?

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

(5 January 1994)

The rules on minimum sizes play an essential role in the conservation of resources by protecting juveniles. Excessive laxity regarding the catching of under-size fish would remove the incentive to fishermen to avoid catching small fish.

The Commission cannot, therefore support a position which would mean that theoretically strict Regulations were adopted, but were without substance in practice.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2549/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 340/41)

Subject: Support for new farming methods

How is the Community supporting the use of new farming methods (hydroponics, organic farming, etc.)?

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

(27 January 1994)

The Community supports the development of new farming methods, such as organic farming, by finance for research into these methods, so long as they fit in with the policy for 'extensification' of production rather than 'intensification' of production.

In some specific cases research on hydroponics is also supported. In these situations hydroponics can open new perspectives for a more environmentally friendly production.

New agricultural production methods are also encouraged through the accompanying measures to the reform of the common agricultural policy decided last year. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2078/92⁽¹⁾ on agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside permits Member States to support environmentally friendly production methods with part financing by the Community.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 215, 30. 7. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2571/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 340/42)

Subject: Measures to curb unemployment

In the light of the unemployment figures published by the Statistical Office of the EC on 7 June 1993 and with a view to taking measures, at the summit meeting next December, on labour rights and established rights, particularly with regard to combating unemployment, will the Commission ensure that it seeks the opinion of the European Parliament on these serious issues in the period leading up to the summit?

Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission
(9 November 1993)

Employment and unemployment is one of the major problems facing the Community today.

At the Copenhagen European Council the Commission was requested to prepare a White Paper on 'Growth, competitiveness and employment'. This White Paper will be discussed by the European Council in Brussels in December.

In addition, the Commission adopted a communication on 26 May on a 'Community wide Framework for Employment' ⁽¹⁾. This set out a series of issues which need to be addressed. The programme of work to be undertaken by the Commission in completing this 'Community employment initiative' involves the preparation of analyses and proposals on each of these issues.

It is the Commission's intention to find ways to ensure that the Parliament is fully associated with the development of these ideas and analyses, as well as with their presentation.

⁽¹⁾ COM(93) 238.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2576/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 340/43)

Subject: Official Community languages

Can the Commission say whether, in the event of an enlargement of the European Community, the official languages of the European Union will be the official languages of the Member States?

Answer given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission
(6 April 1994)

Although this matter has not yet been discussed during the current accession negotiations, the Commission expects that the principles behind the existing rules governing the languages of the institutions of the Community will be maintained.

The Brussels European Council (10 and 11 December 1993) stated that on enlargement Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish would be added to the nine official languages.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2652/93

by Cristiana Muscardini (NI)
to the Commission
(1 September 1993)
(94/C 340/44)

Subject: Disparities between EEC doctors

Directive 86/457/EEC ⁽¹⁾ stipulates that the exercise of the activities of general medical practitioner should be open only to doctors in possession of the diploma attesting to two years' specific training in general medicine, doctors in emergency services, specialists in a general medical practice and ship's doctors.

As failure to comply with the above EEC Directive would lead to discrimination against doctors exercising their activities in general medicine in the State sector and give an unfair advantage to other doctors in the Community, will the Commission state whether it agrees that a further equivalent qualification for access to general medical practice must be added, namely at least six months' experience in a general medical practice or primary care centre?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 267, 19. 9. 1986, p. 26.

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

Directive 86/457/EEC has been reproduced under Title IV of Directive 93/16/EEC ⁽¹⁾ which has consolidated all the Directives (Directives 75/362/EEC ⁽²⁾, 75/363/EEC, Directive 81/1057/EEC ⁽³⁾, 82/76/EEC ⁽⁴⁾, 86/457/EEC ⁽⁵⁾,

89/594/EEC ⁽⁶⁾ and 90/658/EEC ⁽⁷⁾) concerning the right of establishment and coordination of the training of doctors. As from 1 January 1995 all medical practitioners wishing to practise under a social security system must have acquired specific training of at least two years in general medical practice. Article 31 sets out the minimum requirements of that specific training, which include at (1) (c) the requirement of practical instruction at approved hospitals or clinics and in approved general medical practices or other approved centres.

It is for each Member State to specify the acquired rights of doctors it recognizes but it must confer acquired rights on those doctors who have established themselves by virtue of the 1975 Directives ⁽³⁾ on its territory. The acquired rights of a doctor will be evidenced by a certificate issued by the Member State (see Article 36 (4)) and any host Member State is obliged to recognize this certificate for access to general medical practice in its territory (see Article 37 (2)).

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 165, 7. 7. 1993.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 167, 30. 6. 1975.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 385, 31. 12. 1981.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 43, 15. 2. 1882.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 267, 19. 9. 1986.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 341, 23. 11. 1989.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ No L 353, 17. 12. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2659/93

by Ernest Glinne (PSE)

to the Commission

(1 September 1993)

(94/C 340/45)

Subject: Pollution of the Cubatao Valley in Brazil by European industrial firms

On 7 June 1993, a Brazilian judge required the Rhône-Poulenc chemical group to close its factory at Cubatao, on the grounds that the pollution caused by this company and others was responsible for the alarming child mortality rate and various cases of blood poisoning in the valley and river, and that Rhône Poulenc was specifically to blame for vast deposits of chlorinated refuse polluting the groundwater.

What measures are the Community authorities taking or intending to take to make the European firms concerned realize and admit that it is shameful to carry out 'ecological' public relations exercises in Europe and at the same time destroy whole regions abroad?

What compensation will have to be paid and what penalties will be imposed on parent companies?

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas on behalf of the Commission

(22 November 1993)

A number of steps have already been taken to ensure that the bolstering of environmental protection legislation within the Community does not have an adverse impact on the environment in non-member countries, and in particular the developing world. The Community legislation on shipments of waste ⁽¹⁾ and the export of dangerous chemicals ⁽²⁾ is designed in part to achieve this.

However, the question raised by the Honourable Member is a very complex one given that, in principle, the authorities of non-member countries have sole jurisdiction as regards monitoring the conditions under which industries operate on their territory.

The Commission is nonetheless happy to raise this issue as part of the dialogue with Community industry planned under the fifth environmental action programme, and to cooperate with non-member countries on improving their technical monitoring capacity, where appropriate.

The Commission also feels that this issue should be the subject of detailed discussions at international level, for example as part of the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 30, 6. 2. 1993.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 251, 29. 8. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2702/93

by Ben Visser (PSE)

to the Commission

(8 September 1993)

(94/C 340/46)

Subject: Eurocontrol

When it visited Eurocontrol's air traffic control (ATC) centre in Beek, the European Parliament's Transport Committee gained the impression that Eurocontrol has abandoned the idea of combining ATC centres. The underlying idea was that the existing, fragmented situation was too costly and that larger ATC centres could better utilize airspace capacity.

1. Is it true that Eurocontrol's policy is no longer aimed at combining ATC centres and that it wants to continue with the existing centres?

2. If so, why has there been such a substantial change in policy, and what is the Commission's response?
3. Does the Commission still believe that the situation as at is, with so many ATC centres in the EC, is unnecessarily costly and inefficient?
3. If the philosophy of combining ATC centres is abandoned, is it still possible to achieve maximum safety and optimal utilization of air capacities?
5. Can the Commission forward to the European Parliament without delay a communication on the present state of ATC policy and on Eurocontrol's position?

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

(29 March 1994)

1. The integration proposed by between Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands has enabled Eurocontrol to set up a single joint traffic management centre for upper airspace. Eurocontrol is actively endeavouring to extend the area of responsibility but its Member States are very reluctant to delegate operational management of their air traffic to it.

2. Operational integration of air traffic management is no longer the aim of the (revised) Eurocontrol Convention. Eurocontrol's original terms of reference were drastically cut back when the convention was revised in 1981.

The proposal from the Commission for re-organizing Community airspace is still before the Council ⁽¹⁾.

3. The Commission is of the opinion that airspace should be organized in a way based more on available new technology than on frontiers. Optimized division of airspace into sectors is currently under investigation at the Eurocontrol Experimental Centre at Brétigny. The Commission supports this research.

4. When it adopted Directive 93/65/EEC of 19 July 1993 on harmonization of technical specifications ⁽²⁾ the Council took a phased approach. The first phase is confined to equipment harmonization to permit interoperability of existing infrastructures in the Member States. The following phase will be aimed at standardizing and rationalizing infrastructure on the basis of ICAO's CNS/ATM concept, which will be based on available new technologies.

With each stage the Commission attempts to ensure that the approach adopted provides maximum safety and optimizes capacity matching.

5. Pursuant to Title XII of the Treaty on European Union the Commission is now preparing a master plan for air traffic control to be developed in support of air transport. In it the role of Eurocontrol will be made clear.

⁽¹⁾ COM(88) 577 final, 16. 1. 1989.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 187, 29. 7. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2726/93

by Anita Pollack (PSE)

to the Commission

(8 September 1993)

(94/C 340/47)

Subject: Cosmetic testing

Is it the case that the Commission did not submit to the Council Parliament's first amendment (carried overwhelmingly) on the common position of the Council on the Directive demanding cosmetic testing, in spite of Commissioner Scrivener's assurance to the House at second reading that she would support this amendment?

How does the Commission think it can win the confidence of the public in the EC if the democratic wishes of its elected representatives are ignored in this way?

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

(24 November 1993)

The Commission wishes to point out to the Honourable Member of Parliament that, on 20 and 21 April 1993, Parliament completed its second reading of the proposal for a Council Directive amending for the sixth time Directive 76/768/EEC ⁽¹⁾ on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products.

On this occasion Parliament voted two amendments to the text of the common position adopted by the Council on 17 December 1992. The Commission accepted the first amendment which, consequently, was the subject of the re-examined proposal sent by the Commission to the Council ⁽²⁾.

The Council did not retain this amendment during its second reading, despite the Commission's insistence.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 262, 27. 9. 1976.

⁽²⁾ COM(93) 239.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2789/93

by Hugh McMahon (PSE)
to the Commission
(28 September 1993)
(94/C 340/48)

Subject: Utilities Directive 90/531/EEC

Can the Commission advise what is being done to ensure that the Utilities Directive 90/531/EEC ⁽¹⁾ is being properly implemented in the Member States and as UK utilities are actively encouraging suppliers from other EC countries to participate in UK contracts, what steps are being taken to ensure that this practice is adopted by continental utilities?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 297, 29. 10. 1990, p. 1.

**Answer given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi
on behalf of the Commission
(14 April 1994)**

Three Member States are allowed to apply Directive 90/531/EEC later than the remaining nine Member States, which are obliged to apply the Directive at the latest from 1 January 1993. Spain must apply it at the latest as of 1 January 1996, while Greece and Portugal may defer application of the Directive until 1 January 1998.

As regards the nine Member States, the state of implementation is as follows:

The Directive has been implemented in Denmark, France, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands and partially in Belgium. The Belgium implementation is expected to be completed shortly. A reasoned opinion for non-communication of implementing measures has furthermore been addressed to Germany and Italy. After the transmission of the reasoned opinion the Commission received a communication from the German authorities with which texts implementing the Directive were forwarded.

It should be noted that the number of notices published by contracting entities in all these nine Member States shows that the Directive is being applied in practice even in the absence of formal implementation or in the absence of a complete implementation in the national legislation.

The Commission is not aware of any facts which would show a general problem with respect to the possibilities of participation of British firms in award procedures launched by 'continental' contracting entities. If the Honourable Member has such information, he is kindly requested to forward it to the Commission in order that it may take appropriate action.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2836/93

by Giuseppe Mottola (PPE)
to the Commission
(4 October 1993)
(94/C 340/49)

Subject: Imported Tunisian oil of unspecified quality — Adverse consequences for Italian olive growers and consumers, especially in the south

The Italian olive growing sector is the Community's biggest in terms of the number of holdings, the area planted, the contribution to GNP formation, and the work-force employed. In southern Italy the crop is particularly important from the point of view of appropriate land and environment use.

Olive growers are alarmed by unofficial reports that a million quintals of olive oil of unspecified quality are to be imported from Tunisia and other third countries.

As a result of uncontrolled fraud and cases of adulteration, the sector is highly prone to market crises, jeopardizing producers' income and undermining the quality of products supplied to consumers.

The market is currently in a state of stagnation.

1. Can the Commission ascertain whether it is true that a million quintals of olive oil are to be imported from third countries?
2. Can it lay down stringent customs control measures in order to avert unfair competition and forestall a possible colossal fraud whereby olive oil of unspecified quality and origin would enter the Community?
3. Will not the Commission, in addition, set up a permanent monitoring centre with a view to enhancing the reputation of olive oil and providing more effective safeguards for consumers?
4. Does not the Commission also believe that the state-controlled Agricultural Market Intervention Agency (AIMA) should be called upon to act whenever necessary in order to prevent traders from indulging in market speculation?

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

1. The Commission has been informed that certain Community operators bought 100 000 tonnes of olive oil in Tunisia with the intention of using them over a period of time under the inward processing customs procedure. This customs procedure is specifically designed to promote the export of temporarily imported products.

Since these goods are not placed in free circulation in the Community and cannot there move freely on the internal

market but remain under customs control until they are re-exported as processed products, they do not really enter the Community's economic circuits.

2. Part of the Commission's management role is to ensure correct application of Community legislation on inward processing in order to ensure equal treatment of Community operators in all sectors. To that end, detailed Community rules have been drawn up and there is regular cooperation between the representatives of the various Member States, so that the national authorities, particularly the customs authorities, apply strict checking procedures to the product concerned.

3. The purpose of the 1991 Commission Regulation on the characteristics of olive oil is to guarantee the purity and quality of the product marketed. The national authorities are responsible for ensuring that the Regulation is complied with. The Commission has no plans to create a permanent monitoring system at this time.

4. The Commission recently submitted to the Council a proposal to provide for the possibility of taking individual intervention measures before the commencement of normal intervention in the event of serious disturbance of the olive oil market.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2868/93

by Sérgio Ribeiro (GUE)

to the Commission

(4 October 1993)

(94/C 340/50)

Subject: Conditions for achieving the aims and meeting the deadlines set at Maastricht

If I have properly understood the translated versions of one of a number of confused and confusing statements made by political leaders during the summer months, Chancellor Kohl said at the beginning of August that the EMU schedule might be put back if the conditions for its achievement were not met (a fair assumption, by any standards).

As this statement caused an outcry because it was contrary to the sacrosanct principle whereby all the Maastricht decisions must be implemented, whatever the conditions (I don't quite see how . . .), Chancellor Kohl later 'corrected' his statement by saying that 'we (Germans) will make every possible effort to keep to schedule and meet the conditions for achieving the Union'. He apparently added that 'if the

conditions are met sooner, the deadlines will be brought forward', and thus left everyone happy and relieved.

While I realize that there is a political difference between the two statements, I fail to see any substantive or even semantic difference. The first statement said that, if the conditions were not met, implementation would be postponed; and the second that, if the conditions were met, everything would proceed according to schedule or, if they were met earlier than expected, ahead of schedule. Clearly, everything hinges on the conditions.

Will the Commission therefore state whether it feels that the conditions for compliance with the EMU timetable, as set out at Maastricht, are likely to be met?

Answer given by Mr Christophersen
on behalf of the Commission

(12 January 1994)

The move to the third stage of economic and monetary union by the deadlines laid down in the Treaty on European Union depends in particular on three interlinked factors: the speed of the economic recovery, the reduction of government deficits and the convergence of economic and monetary policies. While the timetable for achieving economic and monetary union is ambitious given the current situation, it is still a realistic one. The assessment to be made of the economic positions of the Member States with a view to the move to the third stage will not take place until 1996. Experience shows that, where the necessary political will exists, a country can improve its budgetary situation considerably without negative consequences for growth and employment. The examples of Denmark between 1982 and 1985 and Ireland between 1986 and 1989 demonstrate this.

The new rules and instruments for the second stage help to improve the chances of the conditions for achieving EMU being met:

- the 'broad guidelines' of the economic policies of the Member States and of the Community will constitute the benchmark for monitoring consistency of the policies actually pursued with those guidelines and will thus contribute appreciably to the coordination of such policies;
- the excessive-deficit procedure and the ban on public-sector financing by the central banks and on privileged access by the public sector to financial institutions will establish a framework for restoring sound public finances;
- the convergence programmes, revised or newly drawn up as necessary, will continue to play an important role;

- a medium-term strategy for promoting competitiveness, growth and employment should emerge from the European Council's discussion based on the Commission's White Paper;
- the European Monetary Institute will help to reinforce coordination of Member States' monetary policies.

Finally, it should be remembered that, according to the Treaty on European Union, the decisions concerning the move to the third stage, adopted by the European Council by qualified majority, will be based not on a mechanical application of the convergence criteria but on recommendations which the Council, acting by a qualified majority, will make to the European Council.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2871/93

by **Filippos Pierros (PPE)**

to the Commission

(4 October 1993)

(94/C 340/51)

Subject: Biological purification unit in the region of Myrtia Aigiou in Greece

A biological purification plant for sewage in the town of Aigion which is being financed by the Community's Envireg Programme has been set up in the region of Myrtia Aigiou. Residents of the region allege that the site selected for this plant is a residential area and that the plant poses a direct threat to the quality of life of the inhabitants. What is the Commission's position on this matter?

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

(5 April 1994)

The project to which the Honourable Member refers is being part-financed under the Community Envireg initiative. It is designed to purify the municipal sewage of the 40 000 inhabitants of Egiou.

According to the information at the Commission's disposal, work on the project (which has a budget of Dr 583 153 640) began on 18 December 1992 and should in principle be completed towards the end of June 1994.

In February 1994 approximately Dr 302 million had been spent on the project. About 50% of the civil engineering work and 65% of electrical and mechanical installation work have been completed.

The site of the project was selected following a Decision (FEK/604D 16. 7. 1986) by the Ministry of the

Environment, which was based on the environmental conditions adopted by the Achaia region (Decision E-11892/20.06.1977) and the Ministry of Public Works Decision 3289/20.05.1980.

All these decisions complied with the Greek legislation in force at the time they were adopted. Furthermore, a study defining the details of the environmental conditions (already decided) was recently carried out in compliance with new Greek legislation (KYA 62296/90). The detailed environmental conditions were approved by Decision NS 3/13.01.1993. The project therefore appears to comply with Greek law as now in force.

The Community requirement that an impact study should be carried out for this type of project thus appears to have been met. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the Commission is questioning whether Directive 85/337/EEC has been properly transposed into Greek legislation at every level and across the board.

If the purification unit should cause nuisance or damage in future, it will be the responsibility of the Greek judiciary to determine whether the level of nuisance exceeds that provided for by national legislation, since Community legislation does not cover that area.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2877/93

by **José Valverde López (PPE)**

to the Commission

(4 October 1993)

(94/C 340/52)

Subject: The port of Motril (Granada) as a Community international frontier

The Schengen Group of the EC has designated ports on the Galician Coast, the north east Coast and the Balearic and Canary Islands as ports for tourist cruises and crew changes, while the port of Algeciras is the only designated port on the Andalusian Coast.

A single designated port on the Andalusian Coast is not sufficient to meet the needs of tourism and the economy in Andalusia. Moreover account must be taken of the congestion caused by tourists in Algeciras in the summer when large numbers of citizens of the Maghreb States travel from Europe to North Africa. It would be advantageous if the port of Motril was also to be recognized as an international Community frontier on the Andalusian Coast.

Would the EC Member States in the Schengen Group be able to increase the number of recognized ports if the Spanish Government reconsidered its proposal?

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

(22 April 1994)

The determination of official crossing points at external frontiers is normally a matter for the Member States, as long as they act in accordance with Community law. This principle is confirmed in the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement and in the proposal for a Decision establishing the Convention on the crossing of the external frontiers of the Member States⁽¹⁾, presented by the Commission on 10 December 1993 within the framework of its new responsibilities under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union. The Honourable Member should therefore put his question to the authorities of the Member State concerned.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 11, 15. 1. 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2937/93

by Victor Arbeloa Muru (PSE)

to the Commission

(18 November 1993)

(94/C 340/53)

Subject: Indivisibility of the subsidiarity principle

If the subsidiarity principle is indivisible — even though this is only established at Community level in the Treaty on Union — might one not hope that it will ultimately have a decisive influence in respect of the allocation and exercise of powers at the various levels?

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

(15 March 1994)

The terms of Article 3b, whereby the subsidiarity principle is included in the EC Treaty, imply that the principle applies to the whole of that Treaty. It can be taken that it also inspired the authors of the Union Treaty in drafting Title V (Common foreign and security policy) and Title VI (Cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs), since the matters covered by these provisions, whether they still remain to be defined in the case of Title V or have been clearly defined in the case of Title VI, confine joint action to only those areas in which the Member States have 'important interests in common' (Article J.1 (3)) or 'common interests' (Article K.1).

Application of the subsidiarity principle to relations between Member States and regional and local authorities is

a matter of each country's internal institutional organization. Each Member State is responsible for organizing its own institutional structure.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2956/93

by Felice Contu (PPE) and Andrea Raggio (PSE)

to the Commission

(20 October 1993)

(94/C 340/54)

Subject: Fires in the Mediterranean region

With reference to a previous question on the same subject (Written Question No 501/90⁽¹⁾), and given the Commission's desire to take the necessary action, what specific measures does the Commission intend to take to solve the difficult problem of the fires in the Mediterranean area, including possibly the establishment of a pool of special aeroplanes (such as Canadair planes) at present owned by the various neighbouring states but not used in any coordinated way? It seems unnecessary to point out how a coordinated joint effort would avoid waste and harmful delays in action which is often only of any use if it comes in time.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 266, 22. 10. 1990, p. 32.

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

(8 December 1993)

The Commission's initiatives in the fight against forest fires fall within the scope of the Council's resolution of 8 July 1991⁽¹⁾ concerning the improvement of mutual assistance between Member States in the event of natural and technological disasters.

A feasibility study for the creation of a fleet of aircraft with water tanks is currently underway. However, initial findings of the study reveal technical, commercial and financial difficulties which suggest that centralization at European level is not a suitable option.

Under a training programme, the Commission organizes meetings between senior officials concerned with the fight against forest fires in the Member States. The next meeting, due to be held in France at the beginning of 1994, will deal with the coordination of aerial and land-based resources in combating forest fires.

In addition, as from 1994 the Commission — in collaboration with the Member States — will be setting up

an exchange programme for experts in various fields of civil protection including forest-fire fighting.

(¹) OJ No C 198, 27. 7. 1991.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3007/93

by Jean-Pierre Raffin (V) and Marie Isler Béguin (V)
to the Commission
(29 October 1993)
(94/C 340/55)

Subject: Protection of endangered species in the Community

Despite the fact that the Community has adopted the Berne and Bonn Conventions and Directive 79/409/EEC (¹) on the conservation of wild birds and implemented Acnats and the LIFE-Programme, stocks of certain particularly endangered species in the Community are still declining at an alarming rate.

Both vertebrate animals (various species of whale, the brown bear, the monk seal, the capercaillie, the black grouse) and invertebrate animals (numerous species of lepidoptera) are affected. Species of plants are also at risk.

In some cases the Commission is directly responsible for this situation (by financing the development of agricultural land or farming practices, which destroy the habitats of these species).

What measures does the Commission intend to take to remedy this situation?

(¹) OJ No L 103, 25. 4. 1979, p. 1.

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission

(28 March 1994)

In order to ensure the protection of endangered species in the Community, the Commission will regorously strive for the implementation of Community legislation relevant to this question, in particular Council Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and 92/43/EEC (¹) on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora. In addition, the Commission introduced some time ago mechanisms aimed at ensuring that this legislation is respected when Member States are designing and implementing measures financed by Community funds.

(¹) OJ No L 206, 22. 7. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3046/93

by Yves Verwaerde (PPE)
to the Commission
(29 October 1993)
(94/C 340/56)

Subject: Sub-contracting in the Data-Processing Directorate

Will the Commission state whether its Data-Processing Directorate sub-contracted work in 1992 on a normal or exceptional basis?

If so, what work was sub-contracted and what companies were involved?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert
on behalf of the Commission

(11 January 1994)

The Commission regularly sub-contracts work in the data-processing field. This was the case with the Informatics [sic] Directorate in 1992.

The work sub-contracted involved in particular the installation and maintenance of equipment, training, the development and maintenance of computer programmes and some user support.

Firms are selected following invitations to tender. The results of the last invitation to tender, dating from 8 May 1992, were published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* (¹).

One hundred and six data-processing firms were involved.

(¹) OJ No C 251, 15. 9. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3139/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(19 November 1993)
(94/C 340/57)

Subject: Legality of farmers' pensions in Greece

According to reliable sources, the Ministry of Agriculture and the prefects have been awarding pensions to a large number of farmers newly entitled to early retirement pension by resorting to summary and, in many cases, illegal procedures. In view of the above, does the Commission intend to consider examining the legality of these pensions?

**Answer given by Mr Steichen
on behalf of the Commission**
(15 February 1994)

Consideration of aid applications in Greece under Regulation (EEC) No 1096/88 of 25 April 1988 establishing a Community scheme to encourage the cessation of farming ⁽¹⁾ was concluded on 14 March 1991. The final number of farmers benefiting under this scheme was approximately 43 000. The scheme no longer covers new applications.

The measure to encourage the cessation of farming defined under the operational programme 90.EL.06.012, 'Development and reinforcement of agricultural structures', adopted under Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 ⁽²⁾ has benefited 6 200 farmers since 1 January 1990. It too has ceased to be applicable to new applications.

Under Council Regulation (EEC) No 2079/92 of 30 June 1992 instituting a Community aid scheme for early retirement from farming ⁽³⁾, Greece recently submitted a proposal for an early retirement programme, which is currently being reviewed.

With regard to supervision, the Commission regularly carries out monitoring exercises. These have already led to the re-examination of certain applications.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 110, 29. 4. 1988.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 215, 30. 7. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3146/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(19 November 1993)
(94/C 340/58)

Subject: Financial aid for programmes to improve teachers' health

Teachers at all levels in education suffer from professional diseases, including psychiatric illness, physical injuries, rheumatism and ear, nose and throat diseases. Does the Commission see any scope for providing Community aid for programmes to improve teachers' health?

**Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission**
(14 March 1994)

The Commission is aware that some teachers may be affected by diseases associated with their profession.

However, these diseases are not different from those which may be found in similar employment sectors. Consequently, preventive measures are the same in each case.

Bearing in mind the shortage of resources, the Commission does not intend to provide specific financing.

The Honourable Member's attention is also drawn to the answer given by the Commission to Written Question No 2187/93 ⁽¹⁾ from Mr Fernandez-Albor.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 300, 27. 10. 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3147/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(19 November 1993)
(94/C 340/59)

Subject: ESF aid to people with special needs in Greece.

How many people with special needs in Greece received ESF aid between 1992 and June 1993 within the framework of various programmes and what was the total level of ESF expenditure for this purpose?

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

In 1992 the operational programme for disabled people covered 3 573 individuals, with total expenditure amounting to ECU 18 971 291, of which ECU 14 228 468 was ESF aid.

With regard to 1993, the programme covers 3 302 individuals, with total expenditure amounting to ECU 20 548 467, of which ECU 15 411 350 is ESF aid.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3154/93by **Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)**

to the Commission

(19 November 1993)

(94/C 340/60)

Subject: Community criteria relating to the quality of drinking water

The criticisms expressed by certain health authorities within the Andalusian Autonomous Government concerning the criteria established by the European Community in respect of drinking water quality, which they describe as 'idyllic', appear to have angered the people of Andalusia. The fact that the government in question does not ensure even minimum drinking water quality criteria may explain the huge sales of bottled mineral water, which have increased by a thousand per cent in the current financial year.

Does the Commission consider its drinking water quality criteria to be excessive and, if it does not, what action does it intend to take in cases where these criteria are not met?

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

(1 March 1994)

The Commission would remind the Honourable Member that all Directives must be transposed into national law by the Member States. Spain, by joining the Community on 1 January 1986, therefore agreed to abide by the rules laid down by Directive 80/778/EEC relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption⁽¹⁾.

The Commission would ask the Honourable Member for details of specific cases of failure to comply with the provisions of the Directive, so that it may take the necessary action.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 229, 30. 8. 1980.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3157/93by **Winifred Ewing (ARE)**

to the Commission

(19 November 1993)

(94/C 340/61)

Subject: Status of alternative medicine in the EC

The British Medical Association, which represents the medical profession, has eventually recognized the importance of complementary remedies.

What is the status of complementary medicine (osteopaths, chiropractors, herbalists, homeopaths etc.) in each of the Member States?

Does the Commission intend proposing Regulations in those fields of alternative medicine?

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

(22 December 1993)

The Commission does not have the data requested by the Honourable Member.

In so far as the practice of alternative medicine is a regulated activity in a host Member State, the recognition of the migrant's qualification by that Member State would be governed by the general system for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications as set up by Directives 89/48/EEC⁽¹⁾ and 92/51/EEC⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 19, 24. 1. 1989.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 209, 24. 7. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3185/93by **Niels Kofoed (ELDR)**

to the Commission

(23 November 1993)

(94/C 340/62)

Subject: Fish imports from non-Community countries at dumping prices

What measures does the Commission intend to take to prevent imports of fish from non-Community countries at dumping prices (e.g. salmon from Poland and Norway)?

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

(21 March 1994)

The Community market for Atlantic salmon has experienced, starting in the autumn of 1993, a rapidly decreasing price level, mainly caused by an over-supply. Due to the characteristics of the salmon market — well above 60 % of the Community consumption is of third country origin — the developments in the import prices and quantities are decisive factors.

In order to stabilize the market, the Commission has twice introduced a system of minimum import prices. The first safeguard measure was in force from 20 November 1993 to 31 January 1994, requested by the Irish authorities. This measure did result in a market stabilization, and even a price increase, during the month of December, but from January 1994 the major European wholesale markets again reported deteriorating prices.

As a result of the French request for safeguard measures on a wide spectrum of fish products, presented at the beginning of February, minimum prices were once again introduced for fresh and frozen Atlantic salmon. This recent safeguard measure was in force from 5 February to 15 March 1994. The Commission as requested by the Council decided to prolong this measure from 17 March 1994 to 17 May 1994 ⁽¹⁾.

The level of the minimum import prices corresponds to a certain degree to the actual market prices in the period immediately preceding the introduction of this measure and reflects the Commission's intention to stop a further deterioration of the market prices, and — at the same time — protect the interest of both producers and processors.

Finally, the Commission has introduced reference prices for Atlantic salmon from 1 January 1994. Such reference prices, although in principle only of a monitoring nature, will give an element of market assurance.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 74, 17. 3. 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3187/93

by Paul Staes (V)
to the Commission
(23 November 1993)
(94/C 340/63)

Subject: Commission staff

Can the Commission provide a list, by DG and/or service and by category of post, of family members of Commissioners, members of their cabinets and A1 and A2 officials (wife, children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, etc.) who work for the Commission directly or indirectly (via agencies), whatever the nature of their contract (temporary staff, persons providing services, persons working in an acting capacity, experts, etc.)?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert
on behalf of the Commission
(6 May 1994)

The Commission is unable to supply the Honourable Member with information about its staff broken down in the way requested.

To do so would infringe personal privacy and violate international agreements on data protection.

In any case, the Commission practises neither positive nor negative discrimination with regard to relatives of its staff.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3206/93

by Winifred Ewing (ARE)
to the Commission
(23 November 1993)
(94/C 340/64)

Subject: European Seniors' Pass

What steps are being taken by the Commission to encourage the implementation of the Council recommendation for the introduction of a European Seniors' pass?

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

The Commission is continuing to encourage Member States to implement the European Over-Sixties' Card as set out in the Commission recommendation of 10 May 1989, in particular, through the Advisory Committee on Community Actions for Older People. In order to make progress in this area during 1993, European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Generations, the Commission published information on the types of price concessions available to older people throughout the Community, which it is forwarding direct to the Honourable Member and the Secretariat-General of the Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3208/93

by Winifred Ewing (ARE)
to the Commission
(23 November 1993)
(94/C 340/65)

Subject: Tacis-Programme and women

An EC mission to Moscow found 80 % of the unemployed there to be women. The text of recommendations published after the mission stated that women 'are the first to be made redundant in enterprises, research institutes and administration'. However, there is no special budget allocation in the Tacis budget (as opposed to Phare) for women's training projects.

What action does the Commission propose to take to ensure that funding is made available to assist women to play a full part in the workforce?

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

(6 April 1994)

The Commission is aware that there are serious risks that the employment situation of women relative to men may worsen during the transition process.

Many Tacis projects contribute to mitigating this trend. In particular the 'social protection' projects of 1993, which will work at federal and regional levels, for housing, education and health facilities to be sustained during privatization. In addressing the problems of the unemployed, the Commission addresses the needs of women. In addition the Commission is requiring all consultants to pay attention to the collection of gender disaggregated data, and to focus on women during the initiation and design phase of new projects.

The democracy programme for the CIS countries will make finance available for programmes which support women's role in society.

Finally, the Commission has already funded, through the facility for small projects run by the Delegation of the Commission, a project specifically targeting women. The Women's Training Network, which involve two seminars in Moscow will be held for personnel of the department of Employment within the Ministry of Social protection to discuss the training needs of unemployed women in Russia, review training policy and introduce the experience of WTN and the British Department of Employment in this field.

In the second seminar, potential organizers of women's training centres will be introduced to WTN training methods and training programmes for women will be initiated, which will hopefully lead to women joining the labour market or creating employment for themselves and others.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3230/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(23 November 1993)

(94/C 340/66)

Subject: Adult education in Europe

Adult education is essential in Europe, as elsewhere. Since the Commission is aware of the importance of the role of

vocational training, continuing vocational training, education and continuing education for adults, does it intend to carry out research into the needs of the European public in this regard?

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

(6 May 1994)

Article 127 of the EU Treaty stipulates that 'the Community shall implement a vocational training policy which shall support and supplement the action of the Member States, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States for the content and organization of vocational training'. At present, there is no general research programme analyzing the needs of vocational training and professional qualifications. The vocational training programmes such as Petra, Eurotecnet and Force and the specific action 'Skill Needs Project' have supported specific research in their respective sectors of activity. The Petra Programme has concentrated on the professional qualifications of young people in initial training. The Commission's interim report on this programme along with an external evaluation report has also been forwarded to the European Parliament (1). The Eurotecnet Programme, with the aim of promoting new ideas in vocational training, has developed new training concepts and models as part of a new type of work plan which requires new qualifications. Finally, the Force Programme, as part of its aim to promote continuous vocational training within companies, has developed different aids and practices for this type of training.

On 21 December 1993, the Commission adopted the proposal of the Council Decision to establish an action programme for the implementation of a vocational training policy for the European Community called 'Leonardo da Vinci' (2), which also provides for a significant and integrated action analyzing the requirements of training and professional qualifications.

In addition, there is the 'Green Paper on Community Social Policy, Options for the Union', which deals with training matters, especially from the perspective of adapting initial and continuing vocational training systems to the needs of the labour market. The possibilities of support from the European Social Fund for the improvement of training systems are discussed, especially in the chapter on economic and social cohesion.

Given that the Green Paper is by definition a consultation document, the Commission has launched a wide-ranging debate on all matters which it deals with. It will therefore consider all suggestions relating to it.

The importance of training as an essential measure for preventing unemployment is also stressed in the White Paper on 'Growth, Competitiveness and Employment'.

- (1) COM(93) 704 final.
(2) COM(93) 686 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3255/93

by José Apolinário (PSE)
to the Commission
(23 November 1993)
(94/C 340/67)

Subject: The Novagri Programme (Portugal)

Can the Commission supply detailed information on the amounts already disbursed by the Community in respect of projects under the Novagri Programme?

Answer given by Mr Steichen
on behalf of the Commission
(28 January 1994)

The Commission has transferred ECU 9 457 771 as a reimbursement for 1992 and the advance payment for 1993 for expenditure incurred under the Novagri Programme.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3279/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(23 November 1993)
(94/C 340/68)

Subject: The 'exploitation' of the region of Olympus

Environmental organizations have reported that businessmen are planning to develop Olympus despite the fact that the whole region has been designated by Unesco as a site of exceptional environmental importance. In view of the fact that the Community has included Olympus in the list of EC regions deemed of importance for the protection of bird life and bearing in mind the 'development' of the south-west section of the mountain following the establishment and operation of a ski centre, does the Commission intend to ask the Greek authorities to put an immediate stop to the 'exploitation' of the region of Olympus?

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission

(28 March 1994)

The Greek authorities have classified a large area of Mount Olympus as a special protection area within the meaning of Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (1) by giving it the status of 'national forest', thereby granting it the highest level of protection available under Greek legislation.

The term 'exploitation' used by the Honourable Member is very vague and does not provide the Commission with any information indicating that Community law has been infringed.

As regards the specific reference to the establishment of a ski centre, the Greek authorities have informed the Commission that an environmental impact assessment has concluded that the establishment of a ski centre in the region (and in particular on the Sparmos — Agios Antonios site) would be incompatible with the level of protection from which the area benefits. The project has accordingly been abandoned.

If the Honourable Member is in possession of information indicating that the Greek authorities have reconsidered their position and that a new project has been authorized in the region, the Commission would be obliged if he would forward that information to it.

(1) OJ No L 103, 25. 4. 1979.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3317/93

by John Bird (PSE)
to the Commission
(24 November 1993)
(94/C 340/69)

Subject: Relative high cost of internal European Community air travel

Is the Commission aware that many business and leisure travellers feel that the costs of internal European Community flights are excessively high?

Does the Commission believe that the cost of air travel within the EC acts as a deterrent to the full freedom of movement of persons around the Single Market?

What steps has the Commission taken, or is it planning to take, to encourage airlines to offer cheaper flights to internal European travellers?

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

(28 March 1994)

Since 1 January 1993 when the third air package and in particular Council Regulation (EEC) No 2409/92 on fares and rates for air services ⁽¹⁾ came into force, the airlines have been able to set their fares freely. This freedom, which is accompanied by removal of the regulatory barriers to free market access, is one of the essential requirements for the proper functioning of the open single Community market in civil aviation.

Articles 6 and 7 of the above Regulation allow the Member States and, in some case the Commission, to withdraw basic fares which are excessively high in relation to the long term fully-allocated relevant costs of the air carriers. The Commission is preparing guidelines on the application of this fares safeguard clause. This clause has not yet been implemented either by the Member States or the Commission, which, since 1 January 1993, has also not received any reasoned complaint about any excessive fares on specific routes. In fact, over the past few months the companies have largely been seen to be offering preferential fares. The Commission is convinced that free access to the market will continue to have a positive effect on price levels in the years ahead.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 240, 24. 8. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3329/93

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

(24 November 1993)

(94/C 340/70)

Subject: German compliance with the environmental principles of the Maastricht Treaty

When will Germany comply with the environmental principles set out in the Maastricht Treaty?

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

(3 January 1994)

Germany has just ratified the Treaty on European Union. It has therefore undertaken to observe all sections of the Treaty, including the provisions concerning the environment.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3336/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(24 November 1993)

(94/C 340/71)

Subject: Quality of bottled water in Greece

Some months ago a number of revelations were made about the quality of bottled water being marketed in Greece. It emerged that quality control was not adequate in many cases and therefore put consumers' health at risk. Legal proceedings were also initiated but the outcome is still unknown.

In at least 11 instances, the bottlers have received a certificate of conformity from the European Community. The Community's Official Journal has published a list of 11 natural mineral waters which meet Community standards. These in fact include some which were at the centre of the controversy a few months ago.

Was the Community unaware of this situation when it issued the certificates of conformity and can an investigation be carried out into this entire affair?

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

(24 February 1994)

In accordance with Article 1 of Council Directive 80/777/EEC of 15 July 1980 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters ⁽¹⁾, each Member State informs the Commission of the list of natural mineral waters recognized as such by them for publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

The Commission merely publishes the notifications received from the Member States and does not grant any kind of recognition for any natural mineral water. This is the exclusive competence of the Member States, according to the Directive. There are more than 1 000 natural mineral waters recognized by the Member States. Eleven of these come from Greece, and have been published ⁽²⁾ following the notification of recognition by the Greek authorities.

The Commission has not received any information regarding a threat to public health concerning natural mineral waters recognized by the Greek authorities. It is up to Member States to control natural mineral waters, as it is the case for all foodstuffs.

As regards table waters other than natural mineral waters, they have to comply with the criteria in Council Directive

80/778/EEC of 15 July 1980 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption, and again it is for the national authorities to check that water complies with the legislation.

(¹) OJ No L 229, 30. 8. 1980.

(²) OJ No C 224, 19. 8. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3338/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(24 November 1993)

(94/C 340/72)

Subject: Special measures and programmes for gypsies in Greece

Has Greece implemented any special measures or programmes for gypsies during 1992 and the first half of 1993 and, if so, what are they?

Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission

(26 April 1994)

A number of measures in favour of gypsies are being financed under regional programmes such as those for continental Greece and Central Macedonia. In addition, in the context of the Community initiatives and particularly the Poverty III Programme, the Thessaloniki gypsy project has also been implemented.

In the field of intercultural education, a project aimed at the education of gypsy children and the children of other travellers has been financed. The purpose of the project is to introduce teaching materials designed to ensure better integration of gypsy children into the education system. The project has three main aims: firstly, to provide teaching materials to increase literacy among gypsies; secondly, to train teachers and trainers working with gypsy children; and thirdly, to increase public awareness about the situation of the gypsies. The project is running from 1993 to 1994; evaluation of the three main goals and the materials used will begin in this period.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3346/93

by Karl von Wogau (PPE)

to the Commission

(24 November 1993)

(94/C 340/73)

Subject: Directives 90/434/EEC and 90/435/EEC

Directive 90/434/EEC (¹) on mergers concerning companies of different Member States and Directive 90/435/EEC (²) on the common system of taxation applicable in the case of parent companies and subsidiaries of different Member States were to have been adopted by 1 January 1992.

What steps has the Commission taken to ensure that these measures are fully incorporated into national law in all 12 Member States?

(¹) OJ No L 225, 20. 8. 1990, p. 1.

(²) OJ No L 225, 20. 8. 1990, p. 6.

Answer given by Mrs Scrivener
on behalf of the Commission

(3 March 1994)

According to the Commission's information, Directive 90/435/EEC (parent companies and subsidiaries) has been transposed in all Member States.

Directive 90/434/EEC (mergers) has not so far been transposed into Greek law; the Commission has therefore initiated infringement proceedings against Greece under Article 169 of the EC Treaty.

In the absence of a company law framework allowing cross-border mergers and divisions, Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom have transposed Directive 90/434/EEC only in so far as transfers of assets and exchanges of shares are concerned.

The Commission is currently assessing the compatibility of these national transposition measures with Community legislation, with a view to deciding whether such partial transposition may be deemed satisfactory.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3347/93

by Stephen Hughes (PSE)
to the Commission
(24 November 1993)
(94/C 340/74)

Subject: Braille signs for the blind throughout the EC

There is legislation in the USA which stipulates that all signs in public places must contain the equivalent in Braille. Is there any legislation in the pipeline regarding Braille signs and is this likely to become law in Europe in the near future?

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

The Commission has no plans to propose the introduction of legislation on Braille signage and does not hold information on what legislation may be in the pipeline in individual Member States.

The European Blind Union, which represents the interests of people with visual impairments in the Helios II European Disability Forum, has been asked to seek information about the position in Member States from its national member organizations. The Commission will forward any information received as soon as it is available.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3349/93

by Jean-Claude Pasty (RDE)
to the Commission
(24 November 1993)
(94/C 340/75)

Subject: Reduction in export refunds for poultrymeat

What led the Commission considerably to reduce Community export refunds for poultrymeat with effect from 8 October 1993, the very day when the United States Department of Agriculture announced a very large increase in aid for the export of frozen chickens to Egypt?

Do these two simultaneous decisions betoken early application by the Commission of the 'Blair House' agreement, which the Council has not yet ratified?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3865/93

by Michel Debatisse (PPE)
to the Commission
(17 January 1994)
(94/C 340/76)

Subject: Export refunds for poultrymeat

On 8 October 1993 the Commission decided on an immediate cut of some 20 % depending on destination in refunds for poultrymeat exports. On the same day, the United States announced a supplementary export quota for poultry, subsidized on the basis of US\$ 849 per tonne, which on average is 75 to 95 % higher than the refunds granted by the EEC.

The Commission cited the drop in cereal prices as the reason for its decision, but the fall on the foodstuffs market was only 5 to 6 %.

Can the Commission explain fully why it adopted this emergency measure without consulting the Management Committee?

Does it consider that the European poultry industry has sufficient resources to hold its own against American competition which enjoys subsidies twice as high as the refunds granted to Community exports?

**Joint answer to Written Questions
E-3349/93 and E-3865/93
given by Mr Steichen
on behalf of the Commission**
(28 March 1994)

The reduction in poultrymeat refunds in July and October 1993 was, firstly, the logical consequence of the reform of the CAP, which led to lower forage cereal prices and, therefore, to lower poultry production costs. Secondly, it was in keeping with the favourable development of Community and world markets. In 1993 Community exports of poultrymeat rose by 130 000 compared with the previous year, reaching approximately 650 000 tonnes.

The Commission has always defended the interests of European exporters on their traditional markets against the United States' 'Export Enhancement Programme'. For the greater part of 1993 American subsidized sales were of limited importance, but the larger-scale subsidies announced by the United States at the end of the year put some pressure on markets in the Middle East, and the Commission reacted by increasing the level of refunds on poultrymeat exported to that area, with effect from 20 January 1994.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3366/93

by Christopher Jackson (PPE)

to the Commission

(26 November 1993)

(94/C 340/77)

Subject: Payment of bills

1. Further to the European Parliament's hearing on the time taken to make payments in commercial transactions on 7 and 8 July 1993 has the Commission begun to draw up a Community initiative in this area?

2. Would the Commission consider the proposal that company auditors should have an obligation to report, in the accounts, the average time taken by that company to pay bills?

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

(3 March 1994)

The public hearing on the time taken to make payments, held on 7 and 8 July 1993 and attended by representatives of more than 30 trade federations, showed that the sectors concerned were very much in favour of Community initiatives in this area. The Commission has also received written statements of position from more than 130 organizations following distribution of the working paper on the problem of the time taken to make payments in commercial transactions ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission has not yet adopted a position on the most suitable initiatives to be put forward at Community level.

One option to be assessed in order to determine its appropriateness is a reference in the annual accounts of undertakings to the time taken to make payments.

⁽¹⁾ SEC(92) 2214.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3370/93

by José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission

(26 November 1993)

(94/C 340/78)

Subject: Assessment of the Community Envireg initiative in Spain

Can the Commission give details of the reports on the monitoring and assessment of the application of the Community Envireg initiative in Spain?

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

(13 April 1994)

The Commission informs the Honourable Member that the monitoring committee for the Spanish Envireg Programme has met three times: on 27 March 1992, 17 December 1992 and 30 September 1993.

The programme adopted in May 1990 has a total budget of ECU 235,702 million, of which ECU 144,694 million is provided by the Structural Funds.

The programme is centred on the following:

- reducing pollution in coastal areas
- protecting biotopes
- controlling toxic industrial residues
- developing and managing pollution control systems

As the programme finished at the end of 1994, an assessment has just begun and an initial report will be made in November.

The funds committed as at 31 December 1993 amounted to PTA 24 731,73 million out of a total of PTA 28 752,43 million, a commitment rate of 86,01 %.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3426/93

by Sérgio Ribeiro (GUE)

to the Commission

(2 December 1993)

(94/C 340/79)

Subject: Plans for natural gas in Portugal

Bearing in mind the crucial importance of the plans for natural gas in Portugal and the recently created Transgas company, the unexpectedness of the decision and the lack of transparency throughout the process, the massive investment necessary, the availability of Community funds to render the 'ingenious' (and doubtful) accounting operation viable and ensure that Transgas is not threatened by insolvency midway through the project and the fact that

the plans are not covered by the Cohesion Fund, in what way has the Commission been involved in the project in general and Transgas in particular?

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

(23 March 1994)

The Commission can confirm that under the Community Regen initiative support has been granted for the financing of a project to bring natural gas to Portugal (Setubal-Braga pipeline). The financing granted totals ECU 82,228 million (at 1993 prices) and will come from the European Regional Development Fund.

The Commission considers that this project is of considerable interest to the Community and is important for the future competitiveness of Portuguese industry. Moreover, it will make it possible to substitute a clean source of energy for hydrocarbons and solid fuels and will thus make a significant contribution to improving the state of the environment in Portugal. Finally, the project will also contribute to improving the safety and operational efficiency of the Portuguese and Community power network.

The new regional development plan submitted to the Commission by the Portuguese Government in July 1993 provides for the continuation and completion of the project. An application was made for Community financing for this purpose and this has been provisionally included in the Community Support Framework for 1994—1998.

The Commission is proposing a new Regen initiative in the context of a combined Interreg/Regen initiative. The Commission is proposing that the completion of the project for natural gas distribution in Portugal should be financed under the Regen initiative.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3435/93

by Fernando Suárez González (PPE)

to the Commission

(2 December 1993)

(94/C 340/80)

Subject: Cooperation with Central America

The Commission has allocated ECU 305 000 under budget heading B7-3012, Regional Integration, to a project entitled 'History and society in Central America'.

Can the Commission explain what this project consists of, who is receiving the funds and what is the goal pursued?

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

(6 April 1994)

The Commission considered the 500th-anniversary celebrations of the discovery of America a suitable occasion for providing financing, through the Sociedad Estatal Quinto Centenario (to which the funds were paid), for a project directed at filling the vacuum in the field of Central American geohistory.

The region has suffered from the fact that no major academic or publishing effort has to far gone into producing a complete history of Central America, in Spanish, to describe the region's development from its pre-Colombian origins to the present day.

The Sociedad Estatal entrusted the academic work to the Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences (Flasco); the funds were to cover publication of 5 000 copies of the work.

Some of the copies are being distributed free of charge to embassies, universities, development cooperation institutes and other bodies involved in Central American regional integration. The intention was that proceeds from the sale of the remaining copies would cover the authors' costs and the distribution expenses.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3442/93

by José Lafuente López (PPE)

to the Commission

(2 December 1993)

(94/C 340/81)

Subject: Community regulation of itinerant traders

The recent holding of the third European Market for Itinerant Traders in Zaragoza (Spain) provided a framework for holding the first international seminar on the future of itinerant traders.

The main concern of those working in this sector in all Community countries is the planned national legislation to govern itinerant trading in areas outside cities where no other type of commerce exists.

Can the Commission say what the Community's position is on this matter and what Community legal provisions exist which should serve as a model for national laws to regulate itinerant trade, which accounts for between 13 and 15 % of total retail sales in the Community as a whole?

**Answer given by Mr Vanni d'Archirafi
on behalf of the Commission**
(26 April 1994)

Itinerant trading falls within the scope of Directive 75/369/EEC ⁽¹⁾, which lays down transitional measures to facilitate the effective exercise of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of itinerant activities. These measures include the requirement that, where a Member State regulates the activities concerned, it must automatically recognize certificates of professional experience issued by other Member States.

As indicated by its title, the Directive must be interpreted in line with Articles 52 *et seq.* and 59 *et seq.* of the EC Treaty, which establish the general principles of Community-wide freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services.

In matters unaffected by their obligations under Community law, Member States retain the right to regulate the conditions in which itinerant trading operate on their territory. The exclusion of itinerant trading from city centres would not appear to be incompatible *per se* with Community law.

The Commission appreciates the concern echoed by the Honourable Member. Without encroaching on national prerogatives, the Commission is encouraging the development of itinerant trading, which plays an important role at both economic and social levels: creation of self-employed jobs, economic and social integration of social groups such as young people and ethnic minorities, and contribution to keeping towns and villages alive. The Commission has therefore always supported initiatives by the trade associations concerned, such as the European Markets held in Strasbourg in 1991 and Manchester in 1992, and the seminar held in the context of the Zaragoza Market in 1993, which it funded to the tune of ECU 20 000.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 167, 30. 6. 1975.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3456/93
by Anne André-Léonard (ELDR)
to the Commission
(7 December 1993)
(94/C 340/82)

Subject: Transport of meat for human consumption

What subsidies are granted for the transport of meat for human consumption?

Are preferential rates granted for the transport of living animals or frozen meat?

Has the Commission carried out checks to ensure that the quality of the meat is not affected by the transport of live animals (e.g. presence of cholesterol and adrenalin harmful to the health of consumers)?

**Answer given by Mr Steichen
on behalf of the Commission**
(4 March 1994)

No subsidies are granted under the market regimes within the Community for the transport of meat for human consumption, nor are there preferential rates for livestock or meat.

The Member States are responsible for checks on transport in accordance with Directive 91/628/EEC ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 340, 11. 12. 1991.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3482/93

by Geoffrey Hoon (PSE)
to the Commission
(7 December 1993)
(94/C 340/83)

Subject: Directive on rental right and lending right and on certain rights related to copyright in the field of intellectual property

Does the Commission consider that Directive 92/100/EEC ⁽¹⁾ prevents Member States from providing for or maintaining a system which extends the exhaustion principle to territories outside the European Community?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 346, 27. 11. 1992, p. 61.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3483/93

by Geoffrey Hoon (PSE)
to the Commission
(7 December 1993)
(94/C 340/84)

Subject: Directive on rental right and lending right and on certain rights related to copyright in the field of intellectual property

Does the Commission agree that the express limitation of the exhaustion principle to the Community territory ('Community exhaustion') implies refusal of the concept of universal exhaustion?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3484/93by **Geoffrey Hoon (PSE)**

to the Commission

(7 December 1993)

(94/C 340/85)

Subject: Directive on rental right and lending right and on certain rights related to copyright in the field of intellectual property

Does the distribution right granted by Directive 92/100/EEC include the right to authorize or prohibit the parallel importation of copies of works and other subject matters from outside the European Community?

Joint answer to Written Questions E-3482/93, E-3483/93 and E-3484/93

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

(26 April 1994)

Council Directive 92/100/EEC of 19 November 1992 on rental and lending right and certain rights related to copyright in the field of intellectual property establishes in Article 9 (1) a general rule that is an exclusive distribution right in favour of the four categories of right-holders: performers, phonogram producers, producers of first fixation of film and broadcasting organizations. In addition, Article 9 (2) of this Directive states:

'The distribution right shall not be exhausted within the Community in respect of an object as referred to in paragraph 1, except where the first sale in the Community of that object is made by the right-holder or with his consent'.

Article 9 (2) reflects the established jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Communities with regard to Article 30 *et seq.* of the EC Treaty which states, in general terms, that once a product has been distributed by sale (or otherwise) within the Community with the consent of the right-holder of the intellectual property right, then its import into another Member State may not be prohibited by virtue of that right⁽¹⁾. Otherwise, there would be a risk of artificial partition of the internal market into twelve national markets. This means that a right-holder who has consented to the distribution of copies of this work in the Community by means of sale cannot oppose the re-sale of those copies in any Member State. This principle is known as the 'principle of Community exhaustion' and tries to solve the conflict between any national exclusive right and the principle of the free movement of goods under Community law.

Article 9 (2) of Council Directive 92/100/EEC also regulates the question of international exhaustion. The Commission considers that the wording of Article 9 prevents Member States from applying what is known as 'international exhaustion' and is to be understood as giving the right to the

right-holders to prevent parallel imports from third countries. A Member State may not provide that the first sale in a country outside the Community results in the exhaustion of the distribution right within its territory and consequently within the whole Community. The possibility for a Member State to provide for international exhaustion would have potentially negative effects on the functioning of the internal market and on competition and in particular the right-holder could run the risk of the market being undercut by copies lawfully put on the market outside the Community. Such an effect would run counter to the intentions of the Directive. This is consistent with the provisions relating to exhaustion which are to be found in a number of other Directives in the field of intellectual and industrial property (see Directive 89/104/EEC on trade marks)⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See judgments of 8 June 1971 (78-70, Deutsche Grammophon); 20. 1. 1981 (55 and 57/89, Music Vertrieb).

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 40, 11. 2. 1989.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3494/93by **Llewellyn Smith (PSE)**

to the Commission.

(7 December 1993)

(94/C 340/86)

Subject: Hazardous waste

Further to the response of 14 July 1993 by the Council to Mr Bowe's question H-700/93⁽¹⁾ on the European waste catalogue, how does the Commission plan to meet the requirement of the Waste Framework Directive 91/156/EEC⁽²⁾ and the hazardous waste Directive 91/689/EEC⁽³⁾ to complete the catalogue by December 1993?

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 3-433 (July 1993).

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 78, 26. 3. 1991, p. 32.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 377, 31. 12. 1991, p. 20.

Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission

(14 January 1994)

The list of waste required by Article 1(a) of the Waste Framework Directive 75/442/EEC, as amended by Directive 91/156/EEC, received the favourable opinion of the Committee established pursuant to Article 18, at its meeting held on 12 October 1993. The procedures to enable the Commission to adopt the list should be finalized in the near future.

The list of hazardous waste required by Article 1(4) of Directive 91/689/EEC has proved to be very difficult to establish since the list itself constitutes the definition of hazardous waste. In an attempt to overcome the difficulties experienced the Commission proposed a modification to this Directive ⁽¹⁾. However, the Commission's proposal for the modification of Article 1(4) has not been accepted by either the Council or Parliament. Consequently, the Commission is working to produce a list as originally required. It is anticipated that this list will be presented to the Committee during the first quarter of 1994.

Initially the development of this list of hazardous waste was intended to be an integral part of the general list of wastes required by the Waste Framework Directive. The development of these two lists as one integrated list has been commonly referred to as the European Waste Catalogue (EWC).

The development of the EWC, as originally intended, has proved to be virtually impossible, since the two lists have to satisfy different requirements. The general list of wastes does not constitute the definition of waste and is indicative in character, whereas the list of hazardous waste constitutes the definition of hazardous waste. Furthermore, wastes featuring in the list of hazardous waste have to be adequately described in order to identify one or more of the properties which render a waste hazardous.

However, it remains a long-term objective to produce one integrated list as originally intended. Once the list of hazardous waste has been adopted, the Commission can then commence integrating these two lists.

⁽¹⁾ COM(90) 425 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3498/93

by Ben Visser (PSE)
to the Commission
(7 December 1993)
(94/C 340/87)

Subject: Arrangements for the scrapping of inland waterway vessels

It is generally accepted that current arrangements for the scrapping of inland waterway vessels meet a real need. These arrangements expire on 28 April 1994. However, Council Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89 ⁽¹⁾ specifically states that the Council may extend them for five years on a proposal from the Commission.

The transport sector has repeatedly urged the Commission, both orally and in writing, to submit such a proposal to the Council. However, despite extremely unfavourable market conditions in the inland waterway sector, the Commission has not reacted.

Moreover, a Commission representative has indicated that it is highly doubtful whether the Council will be able to take

a decision before 28 April 1994, given that the procedure, involving consultation of the European Parliament, is extremely lengthy as a result of the Maastricht Treaty.

1. Given the favourable assessment of current arrangements and the general desire to see them renewed, why has the Commission still not submitted a proposal for a five-year extension of the scrapping arrangements for inland waterway vessels?
2. Does not the Commission consider the extension of scrapping arrangements to be all the more necessary in view of current market conditions?
3. If the Commission considers that the necessary procedure, involving consultation of the European Parliament, takes longer as a result of the Maastricht Treaty, is this not all the more reason to submit proposals without delay to ensure that the Council is in a position to take a decision by 28 April 1994 at the latest?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 116, 28. 4. 1989, p. 25.

Answer given by Mr Matutes
on behalf of the Commission
(21 March 1994)

The Commission shares the view of the Honourable Member that the present market conditions in inland navigation call for a prolongation of the structural improvement measures introduced by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89. For this reason the Commission forwarded to the Parliament and the Council on 16 November 1993 a proposal to extend the old-for-new rule under Article 8.5 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89.

The Commission notes that the Parliament has taken the matter up without delay. A first exchange of views in the Transport Commission took place on 24 November 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3504/93

by Arie Oostlander (PPE)
to the Commission
(7 December 1993)
(94/C 340/88)

Subject: Definition of the terms 'university' and 'enterprise/undertaking' in Comett and Tempus

Can the Commission say how the definitions of the terms 'university' and 'enterprise/undertaking' relate to each other in the Council decisions governing the Tempus and Comett programmes?

Is the concept of technological renewal — central to Comett — applicable in the widest sense, for example in the health

and public administration sector as well? If so, would it not be better to make this clear by changing the wording so that certain sectors are not deterred from taking part?

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

(18 January 1994)

The definitions of industry and enterprise given in the Comett II and Tempus II Programmes are equivalent. In Comett II a special mention is only made of small and medium-sized businesses whereas the Tempus II definition mentions explicitly training bodies of organizations and public and local authorities. Since the launching of Comett in 1987 and Tempus in 1990 both definitions have been applied in the same way.

In both Tempus and Comett, the term university is used to denote all types of post-secondary education and training establishments.

Tempus II focuses on the reform and upgrading of universities in the countries of eastern and central Europe and in the Newly Independent States. These establishments can become involved in continuing education in Tempus II projects, whereas in Comett II also establishments which are only providing continuing education may be involved in projects.

Technical innovation, which is a central issue in Comett, is indeed applicable in the broad sense. There are for example quite a number of projects that involve hospitals and are developing innovative activities in the medical field.

It is certainly not the intention to discourage any sector. The terminology which is employed allows the maximum flexibility for the involvement of groups which have a potential interest in Comett. It can be noted for example that the health and safety sector is well represented (it is the 10th biggest sector in the Comett II Programme).

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3508/93

by Thomas Megahy (PSE)

to the Commission

(7 December 1993)

(94/C 340/89)

Subject: Objective 4

Under Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽¹⁾, Member States are required to submit plans in respect of Objectives 3 and 4 within three months of the adoption of the Regulation, i.e. by 3 November 1993, unless otherwise

agreed with the Member State concerned. Can the Commission make a statement identifying any plans not submitted by that date, the reasons for them not being submitted and the measures to be taken as a result?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 20.

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

(17 February 1994)

Under Objective 3 (outside of Objective 1 regions) all Member States submitted their plans by the 3 November except France, Germany and Italy. Under Objective 4 (outside of Objective 1 regions) Belgium and the Netherlands submitted plans by the due date.

The reasons the Member States have given for the delays are the need to consult more widely, the need to have some indication from the Commission on the amounts of money available and the longer time needed to prepare for the new Objective 4. The Commission agreed with the Member States concerned that the deadline for the submission of plans could be extended.

However a key consideration for the Commission is the quality of the plans received and further work was required in some instances.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3514/93

by Panayotis Roumeliotis (PSE)

to the Commission

(13 December 1993)

(94/C 340/90)

Subject: Preservation of manuscripts from Mount Athos

According to experts on the International Council for Mount Athos, a large number of manuscripts from Mount Athos require special conservation and care to protect them from the effects of aging and from atmospheric conditions. They should also be evaluated, classified and published.

To what extent is the Commission prepared to help carry out such a project?

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

(20 January 1994)

Under its programme for the preservation of Europe's cultural heritage, the Commission in response to

Parliament's suggestions, awards a grant each year towards restoration work in the Mount Athos Monasteries.

This grant is awarded to the Mount Athos Heritage Administration Centre (Kedak), created specifically by the Greek authorities within the Macedonian ministry. It is at present reserved for preservation or restoration work on the above monuments, because of the extreme urgency of the situation and the number of repairs necessary on the one hand, and because of the strictly limited Community budget allocation for cultural initiatives on the other.

The Commission further informs the Honourable Member that as a result of the ratification of the Treaty on European Union, a communication on objects and property of cultural and historical value is currently being prepared for presentation to the Council and Parliament.

In the light of this, the Commission could, where appropriate, look at new proposals from the competent Greek authorities on the care and protection of the Mount Athos legacy.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3530/93

by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(13 December 1993)

(94/C 340/91)

Subject: Elimination of organo-phosphorous compounds

Has the Commission called on the Member States to eliminate organo-phosphorous compounds by the year 2005 (international obligation under the Berne Convention).

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

(20 April 1994)

The Commission would remind the Honourable Member that neither the Convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution nor the Additional Agreement to the Agreement, signed in Berne on 29 April 1963, concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against pollution lay down a deadline for the elimination of organo-phosphorous compounds (Decision 77/586/EEC).

Pursuant to Article 7 of Council Directive 76/464/EEC of 4 May 1976 on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community, Member States are required to establish programmes to reduce pollution by organo-phosphorous compounds. The provisions of Article 7 are based on water quality objectives set at national level. Organo-phosphorous compounds are not subject to the provisions of Article 6 of

the Directive regarding limit values and water quality objectives laid down at Community level.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3536/93

by **Alexandros Alavanos (GUE)**

to the Commission

(13 December 1993)

(94/C 340/92)

Subject: Hazards to shipping and fishing fleets caused by sunken vessels

Vessels in the Mediterranean are frequently encountering hazards in the form of an ever-increasing number of sunken vessels in shipping lanes dating from ancient times to the present day. Since 1940 the number of wrecks has risen sharply.

The presence of such man-made obstacles also causes major damage to fishing tackle and, in general, constitutes a hazard to fishing vessels and small and medium-sized craft, which do not use marked out channels, and have only limited hazard-warning facilities available. In addition, major pollution problems are caused by waste from holds as well as peeling paint and bulkheads, which may appear at random in the vicinity of the wreck.

1. Will the Commission examine the extent of the problem and, if appropriate, introduce a Mediterranean register of 'man-made shipping hazards'?
2. Will it investigate the possibilities of financing the removal of sunken vessels, from certain particularly dangerous areas, in particular at entrances to ports, as part of a programme to clear shipping lanes of man-made hazards?

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

(7 March 1994)

The Commission is aware of the special risks caused by all kinds of sea-bed hazards to fishing vessels. The tremendous increase in the use of the sea-bed for industrial activities, for laying pipelines and cables and for dumping waste has increased the risk to fishermen whose fishing gear may become entangled. In the framework of the discussion of the Maritime Industries Forum, which has been launched by the Commission, the need for a closer cooperation between the maritime industries involved in this field has been emphasized.

Furthermore, in the framework of the Maritime Industries Forum, the Commission will examine the possibility of funding a workshop which would evaluate all technical, financial and political questions regarding the establishment of a European sea-bed information service for fishermen.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3537/93

by Alexandros Alavanos (GUE)

to the Commission

(13 December 1993)

(94/C 340/93)

Subject: Blood and blood products contaminated with the AIDS virus

Blood products distributed by the UB Plasma and Biotest companies in Hesse, from 1990 to 1993 in Germany and other countries, including Greece, have been found to be contaminated with the AIDS virus, as confirmed by the Federal Ministry for Health. These findings have caused panic in the countries concerned, particularly among those who underwent transfusion in the critical period and those who have received multiple transfusions.

Council resolution of 22 December 1989 on measures to combat AIDS states that regular screening of all donor blood using suitable test (testing for AIDS virus in blood serum), the development of an information policy for donors with a view to excluding those exhibiting dangerous symptoms and the introduction of comparable and strict quality checks within the Community are essential for the safe use of donor blood and for safe blood donation. Moreover, Article 129 of the Maastricht Treaty states that 'Community action shall be directed towards the prevention of diseases, in particular, the major health scourges' such as AIDS. In the light of these statements:

1. what information can the Commission provide concerning the exact number of dangerous batches which have been distributed?
2. what specific measures will it take under the powers conferred upon it by Article 129 of the Treaty to eliminate such danger completely in future?
3. Does it consider that the methods hitherto used to screen blood donations are sufficient to safeguard public health?

Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission

(6 May 1994)

1. Directive 89/381/EEC⁽¹⁾, which has been in effect since 1 January 1992 for new products and 1 January 1993 for existing products, requires that all medicinal products derived from blood or plasma be manufactured and

authorized under strict criteria established to ensure that their quality, safety and efficacy are assured. The Directive is complemented by requirements for testing (91/507/EEC)⁽²⁾ and good manufacturing practice (91/356/EEC)⁽³⁾.

The Commission has requested Germany to provide it with information regarding the UB Plasma and Biotest situations and is awaiting a response.

2. An early information exchange system on defective medicinal products has been set up under Articles 30—33 of Directive 75/319/EEC⁽⁴⁾ to ensure that all the competent authorities are immediately informed when a problem arises which is likely to result in the withdrawal or major changes to the marketing authorization of a given product. This system was applied in the cases cited by the Honourable Member.

As stated on the occasion of the adoption of the conclusions on self-sufficiency in the Community by the Council on 13 December 1993⁽⁵⁾, the Commission intends to gather information on the legal provisions and current practices in the Member States regarding the collection, control, and treatment of blood as well as the distribution and trade in blood and blood products with the view to proposing, if necessary, common safety criteria.

3. Directive 89/381/EEC on medicinal products derived from human blood or plasma provides that screening tests must be carried out on blood or plasma used as starting material for the manufacture of medicinal products in accordance with the recommendations of the Council and WHO. These screening tests are also recommended for blood to be used in transfusion medicine. As part of the work to be carried out pursuant to the objectives described in (2), the Commission will ascertain the extent of transposition into national law and application of these recommendations.

Safety of blood and blood products is a continuously evolving area as scientific knowledge and technology progress. The Health Council held on 13 December 1993, following the communication of the Commission on blood self-sufficiency⁽⁶⁾ reaffirmed the need to ensure quality and safety of blood collection. Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States, intends to intensify its efforts in order to ensure that all relevant concerns are addressed and comprehensive safety precautions are put in place.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 181, 28. 6. 1989.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 270, 26. 9. 1991.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 193, 17. 7. 1991.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 147, 9. 6. 1975.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No C 15, 18. 1. 1994.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(93) 198 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3548/93

by Des Geraghty (NI)
to the Commission
(13 December 1993)
(94/C 340/94)

Subject: Structural Fund allocation 1993 — Greece

Having regard to the Edinburgh Summit conclusions and the necessity to calculate 1993 Structural Fund allocations separate from other years in the 1989—1993 period, will the Commission specify the amount (in ECU at 1992 prices) allocated to Greece in 1993 in respect of

- Community Support Frameworks
- Community initiatives

and will it also specify the basis on which the calculation is made, (e.g. monies committed, allocated or actually transferred etc. during 1993)?

**Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission**
(21 April 1994)

The amounts of the financial transactions with Greece under the Structural Funds for 1993 are as follows, at current prices:

(million ECU)

	Community support frameworks	Community initiatives
ERDF		
Commitments	935	128
Payments	1 100	124
ESF		
Commitments	477	37
Payments	419	12
EAGGF		
Commitments	383	16
Payments	376	15

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3549/93

by Des Geraghty (NI)
to the Commission
(13 December 1993)
(94/C 340/95)

Subject: Structural Fund allocation 1993 — Spain

Having regard to the Edinburgh Summit conclusions and the necessity to calculate 1993 Structural Fund allocations separate from other years in the 1989—1993 period, will

the Commission specify the amount (in ECU at 1992 prices) allocated to Spain in 1993 in respect of

- Community Support Frameworks
- Community initiatives

and will it also specify the basis on which the calculation is made, (e.g. monies committed, allocated or actually transferred etc. during 1993)?

**Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission**
(21 April 1994)

The amounts of the financial transactions with Spain under the Structural Funds for 1993 are as follows, at current prices:

(million ECU)

	Community support frameworks	Community initiatives
ERDF		
Commitments	1 896	337
Payments	1 100	202
ESF		
Commitments	1 146	98
Payments	602	59
EAGGF		
Commitments	397	10
Payments	405	32

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3572/93

by Víctor Arbeloa Muru (PSE)
to the Commission
(14 December 1993)
(94/C 340/96)

Subject: Funding of public works with broad-based objectives

The 181-km-long Navarra Canal, which is a long-standing aspiration of the people of Navarra and will water lands in Navarra and Aragón, is the most important public works programme, together with the Itoiz Dam, currently being carried out on a long-term basis by the government of Navarra, with vital support from the national government.

What kind of aid, and from what Community source, does the Commission intend to provide for similar public works with broad-based socio-economic objectives in various regions of the Community?

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

(12 April 1994)

The Commission can co-finance projects of the type referred to in the Honourable Member's question, either in the framework of operational programmes or under Article 5 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2083/93 ⁽¹⁾.

Decisions on Community contributions involve close consultations between the Commission, the Member States and the authorities and bodies designated by the latter. They are subject to various conditions, namely that the project:

- falls within an area eligible under priority objectives 1, 2 or 5(b) as defined in Article 1 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2081/93 ⁽¹⁾;
- is deemed a priority in the development strategy established with a view to the achievement of the objectives in question and that it appears as such in the Community Support Framework;
- is compatible with the other Community policies (common agricultural policy, environmental protection, etc.).

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3574/93

by François Musso (RDE)

to the Commission

(14 December 1993)

(94/C 340/97)

Subject: The NOW Programme and Corsica

Can the Commission provide details of the implementation of the NOW Programme in Corsica, including the amount of funding earmarked for and the amount actually allocated to the programme?

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

(25 January 1994)

Encouraging progress is being made on the NOW Programme in Corsica. Three projects have been approved in the following areas:

- Social integration and access to employment — sector: general assistance for individuals, taking account of the daily difficulties encountered by women in training (Finosello Vocational Training College).
- Training leading to qualifications in rural tourism and development of various types of accommodation: children's holiday centres in rural areas (Finosello Vocational Training College).
- Access to employment (Institute for development and training).

The Community co-financing for these projects is ECU 242 543, which is supplemented by national funding.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3587/93

by José Vázquez Fouz (PSE)

to the Commission

(17 November 1993)

(94/C 340/98)

Subject: Control of epidemics

Epidemics must be controlled if livestock is to remain healthy.

The recent outbreaks of African swine fever and classical swine fever have shown that these diseases have not yet been eradicated and that, on the contrary, unless radical measures are adopted without delay the problem may get out of control with serious trade, economic, social and other consequences.

The Commission is presumably aware of the problem. Accordingly, can it say:

- what steps it is taking to control the outbreaks?
- what precautionary measures it is considering for the future?
- what will the cost to Germany, Portugal, Belgium and Spain be?
- what its view is on the closure of Portugal's borders to pig imports?
- whether it is going to refer the Portuguese decision to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg?

— whether it does not believe that such acts are at variance with the Single Market and the free movement of goods?

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

The Commission is fully aware of the recent disease outbreaks to which the question refers.

The control and eradication of animal diseases is the responsibility of the veterinary services of the affected Member State. Minimum standards are laid down by Community legislation (Directives) for almost all of them. Although the Commission's proposal for a Directive for the control of African Swine Fever (ASF) throughout the Community is not yet completed, the Council has already adopted three specific Decisions for the eradication of ASF in Italy, Spain and Portugal.

It is the Commission's responsibility to assess the effectiveness of the measures applied by the Member State, and to require additional measures if necessary, to eradicate the disease and to prevent its spread to other areas of the Community.

During the course of the recent epidemics, the Commission has been in close contact with the veterinary services concerned, and the action taken has been reported and discussed frequently in the Standing Veterinary Committee.

The adoption of the Directive on ASF will complete the necessary Community legislation in this field, but the measures are under continual review, and modifications will be proposed if required.

The Commission is working with the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) in Paris, to develop the methodology of risk analysis and the criteria for regionalization for the future.

At present, it is not possible for the Commission to estimate the cost to the affected countries; these will normally be eligible for Community aid.

Concerning the Portuguese decision to prohibit imports of pigs from all Member States, this action is against the provisions of the Treaty. This is why the Commission has initiated the infringement procedure. The Portuguese measures were lifted on 19 November 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3604/93

by **Jean-Pierre Raffin (V)**
to the Commission
(17 December 1993)
(94/C 340/99)

Subject: Construction of a dam at Petit Saut (Guyana)

France is the only Community country involved in responsibility for protecting and developing tropical rain forests, particularly in the department of Guyana. The department ought to be a priority area for experimentation in implementing the many European declarations on tropical forests and sustainable development. Such is not the case.

In Guyana Electricité de France is constructing a dam which will wipe out 310 km² of tropical forest at Petit Saut on river Sinnamary. In the absence of preliminary forest clearance on a progressive and coordinated basis this operation will seriously affect local biodiversity. It would appear that EDF is planning two other dams which will be just as destructive.

What does the Commission propose to do to ensure that utterances on the need to preserve biodiversity are not undermined by contradictory action?

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission**
(5 April 1994)

The French authorities have informed the Commission that the Petit Saut dam was submitted to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the requirements laid down by Directive 85/337/EEC. According to the information the Commission has been given, the direct and indirect impact of the project on the various factors defined by the Directive were taken into account in the assessment of the dam's impact.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3610/93

by **José Apolinário (PSE)**
to the Commission
(17 December 1993)
(94/C 340/100)

Subject: Safety standards for water amusement parks

At the end of July, public opinion in Portugal was shocked by the terrible deaths of two children in the Aquaparque water amusement park in Lisbon.

Does the Commission agree with consumer associations which say that there is a need for more effective legislation at European level?

What steps has the Commission already taken to protect consumers' rights by regulating the safety standards in such parks?

**Answer given by Mrs Scrivener
on behalf of the Commission**
(9 March 1994)

The Commission is well aware of the problems of safety in water amusement parks and has so far taken action at two levels, namely at the general level and at a level specifically relating to leisure complexes, particularly water amusement parks.

— At the general level, Council Directive 92/59/EEC of 29 June 1992 on general product safety ⁽¹⁾, due to enter into force on 29 June 1994, should help to ensure the safety of equipment used in water amusement parks, since such items are products within the meaning of the Directive.

Additionally, the Commission is currently examining the general problem of the safety of services offered to consumers. The operation of water amusement parks is one such service.

— At a more specific level, the Commission has sponsored a research project to assess the safety of services offered in aquaparks in six Member States, including Portugal. This project has already served as the basis for the publication of information brochures and articles in the specialist press in the Member States.

(1) OJ No L 228, 11. 8. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3626/93

by **Astrid Lulling (PPE)**
to the Commission
(17 December 1993)
(94/C 340/101)

Subject: Taxation of Luxembourg farmers working agricultural land in Belgium

A number of Luxembourg farmers who own or rent agricultural land in Belgium are now being asked to pay tax on their income from that land. The income is being calculated as from the 1992 financial year without taking account of the dependent spouse's or tax-free allowance, which was not previously the case. These tax arrangements are being applied to French, German and Luxembourg

farmers working land in Belgium but not to Dutch farmers in the same situation.

Is the Commission aware of this situation? Does it not think that it constitutes discrimination against German, French and Luxembourg farmers which is incompatible with the internal market?

What measures, if any, will the Commission take to remedy such discrimination?

**Answer given by Mrs Scrivener
on behalf of the Commission**
(14 April 1994)

The Commission is aware of the arrangements in Belgium for the taxation of farmers resident in neighbouring countries who farm land on Belgian territory.

In principle, these farmers are liable to pay non-residents' tax in Belgium on income from the farming of land situated there.

The arrangements in Belgium for the taxation of non-residents were tightened considerably by a Law of 22 December 1989 which took effect in 1991. Non-residents are no longer eligible for certain deductions linked to their personal situation, such as the personal allowance, the married person's allowance or the dependant's allowance, although such deductions are still available to resident taxpayers.

The present tax situation of German, French and Luxembourg residents farming Belgian land, who are not granted married person's allowances or other allowances, is due to this amendment to Belgian tax legislation. Following action by the Commission, the provisions in question were amended by a Law of 28 December 1992 and are now more favourable to employees and pensioners, who, subject to certain conditions, qualify for the same allowances as residents; however, there has been no change in the situation of other classes of taxpayers.

There is, however, an exception to these tax arrangements: by virtue of Article 25(3) of the convention between Belgium and the Netherlands, farmers of Dutch nationality are granted the same deductions and allowances as farmers resident in Belgium. But the waiver does not apply to French, German or Luxembourg farmers.

In the Commission's view, therefore, tax treatment is here affected by considerations relating to nationality. The Commission intends to examine more closely these Belgian tax arrangements, in particular in the light of Article 52 of the Treaty, which lays down as a direct and unconditional rule that nationals establishing themselves in another Member State for the purpose of pursuing activities as self-employed persons, whether or not this is their principal establishment, are to be treated in exactly the same way as nationals of that Member State.

In this same field of taxation of non-residents, the Commission adopted a recommendation on 21 December 1993 with the purpose of encouraging the Member States to remove from their legislation provisions discriminating against non-residents and to adapt that legislation on the basis of common rules.

The proposed scope of the recommendation is wide-ranging, covering employees and pensioners as well as the self-employed and those carrying on an industrial, commercial or agricultural activity. Specific rules are set out to ensure non-discriminatory taxation in the Member State of activity of non-residents who are in a situation comparable to that of residents. A comparable situation is one where the income earned in the Member State of activity represents at least 75 % of the non-resident's total taxable income.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3644/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(17 December 1993)

(94/C 340/102)

Subject: Saving and re-cycling of water in Greece and the Community as a whole

1. Have the Greek authorities taken any measures to save and re-cycle water, for example to the use of treated urban sewage for certain types of agriculture, and, if so, what are they?
2. Can the Community provide funding and support for measures designed to save and re-cycle water?

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

(28 March 1994)

The Commission has no general information on the measures adopted by the Greek authorities to save water and re-cycle urban effluent.

It has already helped support pilot and specific initiatives, e.g. through the Medspa, LIFE and Envireg instruments. Under the Envireg Programme, for instance, installations

are being built which will make it possible to reuse urban waste water taken from the waste treatment plants in Amfissa and Kos for agriculture. The Commission could also help fund this type of operation under the new 1994—1999 Structural Funds programme.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3646/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(17 December 1993)

(94/C 340/103)

Subject: Grazing in forest areas

Will the Commission take steps to end grazing in forest areas or even end subsidies for freely grazing livestock?

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

(5 April 1994)

The Commission's investigations reveal that this type of stock-farming cannot be eligible for the compensatory allowances granted in mountain, hill and other less-favoured farming areas pursuant to Community legislation, and in particular Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91, because it is not linked to a forage area on the recipient holding.

However, under the principle of subsidiarity Member States have the right to restrict the list of animal species eligible for Community and national aid, to define which types of stock-farming are eligible and to ensure that the Community scheme is properly applied.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3651/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(17 December 1993)

(94/C 340/104)

Subject: Import and consumption of tropical timber

Has tropical timber been imported and consumed in Community Member States recently and, if so, in what quantities?

Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan
on behalf of the Commission
(5 May 1994)

Italy	3,8 %
Denmark	3,5 %
Spain	0,7 %
Greece	0,2 %

According to information available to the Commission, the Community amounts for about 20 % of world-wide tropical timber imports ⁽¹⁾. The Community imports of tropical timber can be divided in four different types which are, however, all measured on the basis of roundwood equivalents. The term roundwood equivalent (RE) corresponds to logs necessary to produce higher processed products as lumber, veneers and plywood.

⁽¹⁾ Environmental Strategies Europe, Report submitted to the Commission of the European Communities, Volume 1 September 1992, page 2.

⁽²⁾ Outlined figures refer to statistics published by *Union pour le commerce des bois tropicaux dans la CEE*. Edition 1993.

The appropriate figures for 1992 concerning the whole of the Community are as follows ⁽²⁾

Logs	2 280 000 m ³ RE
Lumber	4 280 000 m ³ RE
Plywood	3 450 000 m ³ RE
Veneers:	390 000 m ³ RE

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3674/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(3 January 1994)

(94/C 340/105)

Subject: Opening of US markets in the shipping and steel sectors

The share of the different importing Member States as a percentage of Community-wide imports in 1992 are outlined below:

Can the Commission say if and when the United States intends to open its markets in the shipping and steel sectors and to cut duties on textile products?

Logs:

France	38,5 %
Italy	19,2 %
Spain	14,9 %
Germany	12,3 %
Greece	7,6 %
Netherlands	5,1 %
Belgium	1,5 %
United Kingdom	8,8 %
Denmark	0,1 %

Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan
on behalf of the Commission

(8 April 1994)

Lumber:

Netherlands	20,5 %
United Kingdom	15,8 %
Italy	15,2 %
France	14,7 %
Germany	13,9 %
Spain	11,3 %
Belgium	6,9 %
Greece	0,9 %
Denmark	0,8 %

As far as shipping is concerned, it has not proved possible to conclude the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations, although there has been agreement on a programme of work — in which the United States has promised to play an active part — with a view to liberalizing further various trade aspects (access to cargos, ancillary services, access to port facilities). These negotiations are due to be concluded in June 1996. Obligations under the GATS, and the MFN clause in particular, have in the meantime been suspended for countries which have not confirmed their undertakings in the sector. This is the situation in particular of the United States, Japan and the Community, which have withdrawn their offers of undertakings in view of the poor results achieved at this stage in the negotiations.

Veneers/Plywood:

United Kingdom	36,6 %
Germany	17,3 %
France	15,2 %
Netherlands	13,2 %
Belgium	9,5 %

Turning to steel, after the 31 March 1992 expiry of the voluntary restraint arrangements, the sector now has no import barriers in breach of the GATT. The US authorities have maintained their anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on certain steel products from some Member States. While not questioning the legitimacy of these trade defence instruments, the Community nevertheless considers that certain aspects of the procedures followed by the US authorities do not comply with the international rules

obtaining and has therefore referred the dispute to a GATT panel. At the end of the Uruguay Round, the United States also undertook to phase out completely their customs duties in the sector by the end of the ten-year transitional period.

Reducing US tariff peaks on imports of textile products from the European Union was a priority objective for the Commission during the Uruguay Round negotiations. The United States has offered to cut customs duties in excess of 15 % by approximately 40 % and to lower all customs duties on textile products exported by European industry by around 30 %. These concessions are particularly important for the linen, silk and wool sectors.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3684/93

by **Günter Topmann (PSE)**

to the Commission

(3 January 1994)

(94/C 340/106)

Subject: Taxes on the carriage of goods by road

According to reports, which have not yet been denied, the Netherlands Government has decided to offset completely the increase in excise duties on diesel fuel scheduled for 1 January 1994. This would mean that, while the increase in excise duty would add equally to the tax burden on all diesel-engined road vehicles, only Dutch undertakings would benefit from the removal of all or most of the additional tax burden, resulting from a corresponding reduction in another tax.

1. Is the Commission able to confirm these plans and the conclusions I have drawn?
2. Does not the Commission see a parallel between these plans and the action of the German Government in 1989, when a cut in motor vehicle tax coincided with the introduction of road-use charges?
3. If so, does it likewise intend to bring an action concerning an infringement of Article 76 of the EC Treaty?
4. With regard to the aforementioned intention of the Netherlands Government, can the Commission confirm that the statement adopted by the Ecofin Council on 25 October 1993 in connection with the Directive on 'taxes on certain vehicles used for the carriage of goods by road . . .' has been rendered ineffective?

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

(5 April 1994)

1. The Dutch Government has informed the Commission of its intentions to raise fuel excise duties and at the same time reduce vehicle taxes. Exact details of these measures have not yet been communicated to the Commission.

However, as similar moves are likely to occur in several other Member States and considering that in practice the biggest part of the fuel quantities used by hauliers are bought in their own country, no particular nationality of Community hauliers seems likely to be more adversely affected than others.

2. Although the Dutch case appears to have similarities, as to its consequences, with the German case of 1989, nevertheless their respective circumstances are different.

3. Directive 92/82/EEC of 19 October 1992 ⁽¹⁾ on the approximation of the rates of excise duties on mineral oils has set minimum levels for fuel excise duties, which means that Member States are free to fix the rates they judge appropriate, as long as they are above the minimum levels.

On the other hand, after the adoption of Directive 93/89/EEC of 25 October 1993 on the application by Member States of taxes on certain vehicles used for the carriage of goods by road and tolls and charges for the use of certain infrastructures ⁽²⁾, Member States can modify the rates of vehicle taxes they apply provided they respect the minimum levels set in the Directive. Member States have to comply with this Directive by 1 January 1995 but they can also do so earlier.

The provisions of at least the latter Directive constitute common rules in the sense of Article 75(1) EC Treaty. This means that Article 76 which regulates the interim time 'until the provisions referred to in Article 75(1) have been laid down' is no longer applicable, with regard to the issues dealt with in the Directive. On the other hand, the German initiative was taken in 1989 when no common rules existed in the area and when therefore Article 76 applied.

4. As mentioned in § 1 above the exact details of the proposed Dutch measure are not yet known. Nevertheless, the Commission has no reason to doubt the effectiveness of the political commitments undertaken by Member States.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 316, 31. 10. 1992.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 279, 12. 11. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3687/93by **Juan Colino Salamanca (PSE)**

to the Commission

(3 January 1994)

(94/C 340/107)

Subject: Aid to farmers in Castilla y Leon

On 16 March 1993 the Commission approved the Spanish aid programme for supplementing the incomes of farmers in Castilla y Leon, and the amount of the Community contribution. According to the regulation, Community assistance is to be granted to farmers whose main occupation is agriculture. However, according to my information, and various reports, the Regional Government of Castilla y Leon has used this finance to create a fund which is then distributed to all beet growers, whether or not farming is their main occupation.

1. Can the Commission confirm this information?
2. Does the Commission consider that the Autonomous Community of Castilla y Leon is legally justified in taking this action?
3. If not, what action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that Community aid which is co-financed by the PARA concerned is granted to the legitimate recipients, which are those whose main occupation is farming?

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

(3 March 1994)

1. No. The Commission has no information at its disposal which would suggest that the Spanish authorities are not applying correctly of the decision referred to by the Honourable Member.
2. If any such arrangements were to be made by the Spanish authorities this would indeed not be legally correct.
3. As referred to above, the Commission has no evidence to this effect but it will contact the Spanish authorities with a view to obtaining the necessary assurances that the programme is being implemented in the form in which it was adopted by the Commission.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3695/93by **Dagmar Roth-Behrendt (PSE)**

to the Commission

(3 January 1994)

(94/C 340/108)

Subject: Implementation of the eco-audit Regulation and follow-up

Can the Commission report on the implementation of the eco-audit Regulation (EEC) No 1836/93⁽¹⁾, and monitoring thereof?

1. Will there be a link between the Community's eco-label scheme and the eco-audit such that eco-labels will be awarded only in respect of products from undertakings which also participate in the eco-audit?
2. What measures will the Commission be taking with regard to small and medium-sized undertakings (SMUs) in order to enable them to participate in the eco-audit or to facilitate their participation?
3. How much funding in total will be available to promote the eco-audit in 1994?
4. What have the results been of call for tenders No 93/C-247/06⁽²⁾? Is the Commission planning further calls for tender of this kind in the near future?
5. Will the Environmental Agency in Copenhagen be taking over any tasks with regard to the eco-audit? If so, which?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 168, 10. 7. 1993, p. 1.⁽²⁾ OJ No C 247, 10. 9. 1993, p. 6.

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

(8 April 1994)

1. No. The two schemes are separate and stand alone.
2. The Commission will be discussing with the Committee established under Article 19 of Regulation (EEC) No 1836/93 possible proposals to the Council. Meanwhile it has in the official Journal invited applications to participate in pilot projects designed to prepare, promote or facilitate participation by companies in the Eco-management and audit scheme. The invitation is primarily aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises.

In addition, the implementation of the scheme is a priority of the LIFE Programme for 1994, under Council Regulation (EEC) No 1973/92⁽¹⁾.

3. Various budget lines could be used to promote Eco-audit in 1994 (LIFE, implementation of environmental

legislation etc.). Therefore it is not possible at this stage to quantify the possible resources.

4. This invitation to tender was divided into two parts. The first closed on 31 October 1993 and elicited 140 proposals. The second, which closed on 31 December 1993, elicited some 200 proposals. The Community is currently evaluating them. At this stage, no further invitation is planned.

5. No activity by the Agency in this area is planned at this stage. However, this could be reconsidered, in the light of needs and experience.

(¹) OJ No L 206, 22. 7. 1992, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3715/93

by Alex Smith (PSE)

to the Commission

(3 January 1994)

(94/C 340/109)

Subject: Science framework programme

What steps have been taken by the Commission to introduce external professional peer review of its science framework programme's effectiveness in meeting its aims and what plans does it have to introduce greater transparency into its programme review procedure?

Answer given by Mr Ruberti
on behalf of the Commission

(30 March 1994)

For several years the specific research and technological development (RDT) programmes of the Community have been systematically evaluated by panels of independent external evaluators. The reports, which assess the effectiveness of the RTD programmes and the realization of the set objectives, are published and distributed widely to enhance the transparency of Community RTD activities. In addition, the Commission intends to develop in the context of Framework Programme IV, special arrangements which will further improve the evaluation process.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3745/93

by Iñigo Mendez de Vigo (PPE)

to the Commission

(3 January 1994)

(94/C 340/110)

Subject: Exports of Moroccan tomatoes to the Union

Over the last few years, producers and exporters of tomatoes from the Canary Islands have been complaining about the lack of Community Regulations governing tomato imports from the Kingdom of Morocco to the Union. The situation is at its worst from November to April, as the reference prices for the Union's produces do not apply during this period.

The 'uncontrolled exportation' of Moroccan tomatoes to the Union has been the subject of frequent complaints to the Community authorities. However, no legal steps have been taken to date. In the past week, Moroccan tomato shipments have been double those of the Canary Islands, totalling over 1 million boxes, with the result that profits in this sector may be seriously hit.

What positive steps does the Commission intend to take to avoid the economic damage facing tomato producers in the Canary Islands?

Answer given by Mr Steichen
on behalf of the Commission

(12 April 1994)

There is a surplus on the Community market for tomatoes almost throughout the year. This situation has worsened during the last two marketing years, as a result of the rise in Community production, which has been very significant during the off-season.

On top of such production come imports from Morocco, mainly during the winter months.

For the moment, the Commission, which is in constant contact with the Moroccan authorities, is finalizing a procedure for monitoring the markets and notifying trade flows in order to bring about balance and to avoid any disturbance on the markets.

The Community offer to GATT provides for the fixing of an entry price for tomatoes for the whole marketing year.

The renewal of the agreement between the Community and Morocco, discussions on which have just commenced, should provide an opportunity for working out measures to ensure market stability.

Longer-term measures for the Community tomato industry could be considered in the framework of the reform of the

common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3746/93

by Luigi Vertemati (PSE)
to the Commission
(3 January 1994)
(94/C 340/111)

Subject: Community measures relating to the restoration of historic buildings

Are there any Community measures to promote the reuse for social and cultural purposes of historic buildings which require restoration?

— If so, is there any coordination between Community and national funding for this type of action?

What criteria does the Community apply in selecting projects, and what requirements have to be met?

— If not, what does the Commission think of the idea of arranging for the Community to finance the restoration of a number of historic buildings to enable them to be used for social or cultural purposes?

**Answer given by Mr Pinheiro
on behalf of the Commission**
(29 April 1994)

Article 128 of the EC Treaty recognizes that cultural policy, including management of the architectural heritage, is a matter for the Member States alone. In line with the subsidiarity principle, the Community's role is limited to encouraging cooperation between the Member States and, if necessary, supporting and supplementing their action.

As part of its contribution, the Community has been running an architectural heritage programme for some years now and has provided funding for a number of outstanding monuments and sites, largely at the instigation and with the support of Parliament.

The main purposes of this programme, organized by the Commission around a different theme each year, is to increase awareness among the general public, the professionals, and national and regional authorities of the importance of protecting and developing Europe's heritage.

Projects are selected on the advice of a panel of twelve independent experts in the light of the importance of the monument and the plans for restoring it. The use to be made of the monument following restoration is another criterion.

The Commission will take the Honourable Member's comments into account in connection with a new communication on the cultural heritage now in course of preparation.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3761/93

by Sir James Scott-Hopkins (PPE)
to the Commission
(12 January 1994)
(94/C 340/112)

Subject: Definition of 'subsidiarity'

Will the Commission define what it means when it uses the word 'subsidiarity' in official documentation?

**Answer given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission**
(13 April 1994)

The Honourable Member is referred to the various documents already transmitted by the Commission to Parliament, and particularly to its communication to the Council and Parliament of 27 October 1992 ⁽¹⁾ on the principle of subsidiarity.

(¹) SEC(92) 1990 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3763/93

by Sir James Scott-Hopkins (PPE)
to the Commission
(12 January 1994)
(94/C 340/113)

Subject: Establishment of a de-regulation unit

When does the Commission intend to establish a de-regulation unit, designed to identify areas where Community law is over-regulatory and to promote legislation to repeal superfluous rules and regulations?

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

(14 April 1994)

The Commission would point out to the Honourable Member that, under its authority, all its departments have a duty to enforce the principle of subsidiarity, with coordination being the responsibility of the Secretariat-General and the Legal Service.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3764/93

by Patrick Cooney (PPE) and John Cushnahan (PPE)

to the Commission

(12 January 1994)

(94/C 340/114)

Subject: Ireland national development plan

The Irish national development plan, recently submitted to the Commission, would result in a reduction in per capita expenditure in the south-east sub-region.

Given that the south-east sub-regional body, in its submission to the Government, had identified a number of transport infrastructure projects (including road and rail) as being of vital importance for the development of the area, will the Commission intervene to ensure that an equitable level of Community funding is allocated to the south-east so that these projects can proceed?

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

(15 April 1994)

Submission of the National Development Plan is the first step in a process which leads to the adoption of a Community Support Framework by the Commission, in agreement with the Irish authorities. The operations to be supported in the period 1994—1999 will be identified in the CSF and resources will be allocated accordingly. The allocation of Community assistance will not be done on a regional basis within Ireland. The level of Community funding in the south-east will be determined by the expenditure undertaken by the public and private sectors in the sub-region to implement measures contained in the CSF. However, as the Honourable Members will be aware, the Plan indicates (p. 150) the estimated out-turn of expenditure by sub-region.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3786/93

by Edward Kellet-Bowman (PPE)

to the Commission

(12 January 1994)

(94/C 340/115)

Subject: Conditions in EC abattoirs

Following recent reports on the lack of humane slaughtering conditions in some Spanish abattoirs, what checks are made by the Commission to ensure that EC standards for abattoirs are enforced in the Member States?

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

(14 April 1994)

The health conditions governing the production and placing on the market of fresh meat are laid down in Council Directive 64/433/EEC ⁽¹⁾, as amended and consolidated by Directive 91/497/EEC ⁽²⁾. Rules on the stunning of animals before slaughter are laid down in Council Directive 74/577/EEC ⁽³⁾, which will be replaced by Directive 93/119/EEC ⁽⁴⁾ on 1 January 1995.

Directives are a legal instrument allowing the Member States to which they are addressed to decide on the form and means of achieving a Directive's goals.

The steps taken by the authorities of the various Member States to comply with Community rules have thus reflected the prevailing organization of administrative powers in each Member State.

By the same token, implementation of the measures has been monitored in accordance with the administrative structures in place in the Member States.

As regards Community inspections, which have been regularly carried out since 1985 in all Member States in establishments already approved for intra-Community trade, their aim is to check that the Member States are ensuring compliance with Community rules and may lead, where necessary, to a request for the withdrawal of approval from an establishment where the Community provisions are not being met.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 121, 29. 7. 1964.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 268, 24. 9. 1991.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 316, 26. 11. 1974.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 340, 31. 12. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3793/93by **Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)**

to the Commission

(12 January 1994)

(94/C 340/116)

Subject: Implications for the Community of 'tax holidays'

Rising unemployment, caused by the decline in economic activity and investment, continues to be the main concern of — among others — the tax authorities, who, as a way of stimulating investment in some countries and regions, have introduced tax exemptions or allowances for certain types of company, a practice which is becoming known in economic circles as a 'tax holiday'.

Since this kind of economic incentive may have repercussions on Community activities and policies, it would be useful to know the implications for the Community of these national measures and whether they are legitimate from the point of view of competition. If such measures are considered on balance to be desirable, does the Commission think they might be extended to all business activity in the Community?

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

(13 April 1994)

Member States use tax incentives of various kinds to encourage investment and economic activity on their territory.

Such measures are a matter for the Member States. However, tax exemptions based on sectoral or regional criteria are treated in the same way as State aid. They must comply with Articles 92 to 94 of the EC Treaty, which authorize specific aid measures under certain conditions, stipulating in particular that they must not affect trading conditions to an extent that is contrary to the common interest.

Without prejudice to the application of Article 101 of the EC Treaty, Community action to harmonize company taxation can be taken only where the relevant national rules have a direct impact on the establishment or operation of the common market. Any measure would have to take the form of a directive adopted unanimously by the Council on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

As far as the Commission's position is concerned, in its recent White Paper on 'Growth, competitiveness, employment' ⁽¹⁾, it ruled out the general introduction of tax incentives for investment, although one of its aims is also to stimulate investment. This is because, firstly, the deterioration in the public finance situation in the Community leaves no room for such action and, secondly,

such measures could further aggravate the distortions that encourage the substitution of capital for labour. The White Paper does, however, suggest a number of targeted tax measures that are favourable to employment. Most Member States are thus urged to alleviate the burden of tax and social-security contributions that weigh too heavily on low-paid jobs, in return for uniform taxation of CO₂ emissions or of investment income. To encourage firms to invest more in scientific research, the White Paper also suggests that Member States develop systems of tax credit for research work.

(¹) COM(93) 700 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3796/93by **Jean-Pierre Raffin (V)**

to the Commission

(12 January 1994)

(94/C 340/117)

Subject: Medical charges

Article 9 of the new 'National Agreement governing relations between doctors and sickness insurance funds' includes a 'Sector with differing fees', depending on whether or not doctors are already established.

At the previous agreement had been set aside by the State Council, the current arrangements are based on three financial schemes: sector 1 doctors, sector 1 doctors and doctors outside the national health service. In sector 2, doctors charge for consultations in accordance with the national health scale. In sector 2, doctors charge for consultations on a basis other than the national health scale and the patient is reimbursed accordingly by the Social Security Fund.

The effect of the new agreement is to maintain the favourable sector 2 arrangements for doctors who have worked in French public hospitals, i.e. without any European equivalent, and who are virtually all French nationals or for doctors who are already established.

Under Article 52 *et seq.* of the EEC Treaty, which deal with the 'Right of Establishment', and, in particular, Article 53, which rules out any new restrictions, can a Member State introduce dual arrangements for the establishment of the professions, including doctors, which favour those already established — the result of which will be to restrict the arrival of Community doctors — and those who, because of the qualifications required, must in practice be French nationals.

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

(14 April 1994)

Any discrimination, whether overt or veiled, which is based on nationality is prohibited under Community law, and in particular Article 52 of the EC Treaty (right of establishment).

Accordingly, if the new agreement in France reserves the most advantageous remuneration for people, who, in practice, must be French, it is contrary to Community law.

The Commission will contact the French authorities with a view to examining the scope of the new agreement.

trade restrictions were maintained for 11 communes in the region of Alentejo. In January the restrictions were reduced to four communes.

Financial contribution from the Community is available for the eradication of African Swine Fever within the context of Article 3 of Council Decision 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field⁽³⁾. The contribution covers expenses incurred in relation to infected and contaminated pig herds. Decision 90/424/EEC does not provide for payments to farmers who may suffer loss of income due to trade restrictions.

(1) OJ No L 258, 16. 10. 1993.

(2) OJ No L 285, 20. 11. 1993.

(3) OJ No L 224, 18. 8. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3801/93

by José Apolinário (PSE)

to the Commission

(12 January 1994)

(94/C 340/118)

Subject: Emergency aid to producers in areas affected by African swine fever

A series outbreaks of African swine fever in the Alentejo region of Portugal has led to a ban on trade in pigs from this area being imposed by the Standing Veterinary Committee.

What specific Community aid have pig producers in these areas received to offset the resultant loss of income?

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

(29 March 1994)

For the purpose of intra-Community trade, Portugal was declared free from African Swine Fever on 1 April 1993. The disease re-appeared in August 1993 in the region of Alentejo. From August to December a total of 10 outbreaks were reported in the region.

The African Swine Fever virus can be transmitted through trade in live pigs, fresh pigmeat and certain pigmeat products, and in order to protect pig populations in other Member States the Commission adopted Decision 93/531/EEC⁽¹⁾ on 15 October. The ban on exports introduced by this Decision was lifted on 19 November when it was possible to regionalize trade in live pigs and pigmeat. By Commission Decision 93/602/EEC⁽²⁾ certain

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3857/93

by James Elles (PPE)

to the Commission

(17 January 1994)

(94/C 340/119)

Subject: EC institutions — Staff policy

1. What criteria are used by the Commission in assessing whether an official should be promoted? What importance, for instance, is given to age in this assessment process?
2. What is the Commission's policy on staff mobility? Is there any guideline established as to a maximum period for any official in a specific job?
3. With regard to the secondment of national civil servants to the Commission, what has been the level of such secondment over the period 1988—1992?
4. What is the ratio of the total number of civil servants working in the EC to the total number working in the 12 EC Member States?

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

(6 April 1994)

1. The Promotion Committees draw up the lists of officials considered most worthy of promotion on the basis of the following criteria:

- merit, as assessed in staff reports,
- in case of equal merit, career status, taking into account seniority in the service, in grade and in the category, and age.

The proposals for promotion made by departments are based on these different items.

2. Mobility is an essential aspect of the Commission's staff policy. The general rule is that it should apply to officials in the lower grades of categories A and B who have been in the same job for over three years and those in the middle grades of these categories who have been in the same job for over five years. This is not a hard and fast rule; other factors, such as age and the interests of the service, are also taken into account.

3. The number of seconded national experts paid from the appropriation in Item A-1520 has been as follows (expressed in man/years):

- 1988: 240
- 1989: 286
- 1990: 400
- 1991: 600
- 1992: 650

It should be noted that up to 1990 some national experts could be paid from mini-budgets.

4. At the beginning of 1994 the total number of officials and temporary staff serving with the Commission and covered by the administrative budget was 13 955. According to the national accounts ESA — aggregates, published by Eurostat, the number of persons working in the public service (central government) in the Member States in 1991 was 12 200 000. The ratio between these two figures is 0,12 %.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3858/93

by James Elles (PPE)

to the Commission

(17 January 1994)

(94/C 340/120)

Subject: Trading standards

Under UK law, the fair application of trading standards is a regional responsibility which applies both to national and EC Regulations. Does the Commission believe this to be an

efficient means of ensuring fast implementation of EC rules on standards?

Are there other EC countries with a similar structure in place to ensure the effective application of European standards?

If not, does the Commission believe that other countries might learn from the UK experience and set up regional standards bodies as a result?

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

(26 April 1994)

The way in which Community legislation is enforced in Member States is a matter for the Member States themselves. The Commission is, however, entitled to insist that market control measures such as those applied by the trading standards officers in the United Kingdom are, where they concern legislation relevant to the functioning of the European single market, applied effectively in all Member States.

In some Member States such control is centralized, in others with a federal structure it is the responsibility of decentralized regional authorities (such as the Länder in Germany). In the United Kingdom it is the responsibility of the local authorities, although these have to report on their activities to the central government.

The Commission does not consider that differences in the organizational structures within the Member States need necessarily affect the efficiency of market control. A centralized system may, for example, provide for widespread regional offices of the central control authority, and so function as well as a regionally-based system. It is, however, noteworthy that the United Kingdom provides a large proportion of the notifications to the Commission which are made under certain procedures for handling urgent cases. This could mean that more problems are encountered in the United Kingdom than elsewhere, or that a larger proportion of those detected are notified. This reflex of notification where appropriate should be developed in a consistent way by whatever means suit each Member State best.

An approach to providing more effective enforcement is set out by the Commission in its communication on the development of administrative cooperation in the implementation and enforcement of Community legislation in the internal market ⁽¹⁾. The Commission will regularly assess the progress of such cooperation in its annual report on the operation of the internal market.

⁽¹⁾ COM(94) 29 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3863/93by **Carlos Perreau de Pinninck Domenech (RDE)**

to the Commission

(17 January 1994)

(94/C 340/121)

Subject: Berlaymont building

Can the Commission say how much the refurbishment of the Berlaymont building will cost and when it will be open for work again?

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

(3 March 1994)

Refurbishment of the Berlaymont is a matter for the owners, Berlaymont SA, in which the Belgian State is the majority shareholder.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3867/93by **Nel van Dijk (V)**

to the Commission

(9 December 1993)

(94/C 340/122)

Subject: Persistent pollution of the Meuse in Wallonia

Is the Commission aware of reports that the water extraction firm Brabantse Biesbosch has been forced for the sixth time this year to halt the extraction of water from the Meuse intended for conversion into drinking water for the use of around 1½ million people in the Netherlands, this time because of considerably increased concentrations of pyridine and di-isopropylether?

In view of the judgment of the Court of Justice of 2 February 1982 (Case No 73/81) in which Belgium was found to have failed to implement Directive 75/440/EEC ⁽¹⁾ concerning the quality required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States, does the Commission agree that it is high time it delivered a reasoned opinion pursuant to Article 171 (2) of the EEC Treaty with a view to bringing proceedings before the Court, setting out the points on which Belgium has failed to comply with the Court's judgment and stating the amount of the fine (calculated either as a lump sum or on a daily basis, e.g. one guilder per day for each Netherlands citizen affected by the failure of its service) which it wishes the Court to impose on Belgium?

Is the Commission prepared to set up as soon as possible, on its own initiative, an international Meuse Commission which would require all Member States and local authorities

in the Meuse Basin to bring about a drastic improvement in the quality of the river's water?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 194, 25. 7. 1975, p. 26.

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

(28 March 1994)

Under the relevant Community legislation, there is no obligation on Member States to inform the Commission of occasions when the abstraction of surface water intended for drinking water has to be suspended. Detailed information on the particular situation described by the Honourable Member has not been sent to the Commission.

In its judgment of 2 February 1982, the Court found that, by not adopting the measures necessary to conform to Directive 75/440/EEC concerning the quality required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water within the time allowed, Belgium had failed to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty.

Following that judgment, Belgium sent the Commission the Royal Decree of 25 September 1984 laying down the general standards defining the quality objectives of fresh surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water. This was the first step towards the proper transposition of the above Directive.

In a second judgment of 11 June 1991, the Court held that, by not communicating the measures adopted for the purpose of implementing the above Directive and Directive 79/869/EEC ⁽¹⁾ concerning the methods of measurement and frequencies of sampling and analysis of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States or adopting the measures required for their implementation in the region of Flanders and Wallonia, Belgium had failed to fulfil its obligations.

The Commission is in the process of reviewing its policy with regard to action under Article 171 on the EEC Treaty, as amended by the Treaty on European Union, in particular as regards the second adverse ruling by the Court of Justice and the penalties to be applied in such a case.

The powers of the institutions under the EEC Treaty in respect of external relations, whether under the legal bases relating to international agreements (Articles 113 and 238) or under internal legal bases, in pursuance of the case-law concerning the AETR Agreement, concern relations with third countries only. On the other hand, relations between the Community and the Member States are not governed by international law but by Community law only. These relations are therefore not covered by international agreements but by the Community treaties and instruments adopted by the institutions.

In Directive 76/464/EEC ⁽²⁾ on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community, the Commission has a coordinating instrument to reduce the pollution of water by certain substances. Article 7 (7) of the Directive provides for comparison of the Member States' programmes. The Commission will ask France, Belgium and the Netherlands for information about their programmes with regard to the Meuse and will compare them.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 271, 29. 10. 1979.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 129, 18. 5. 1976.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3873/93

by Bartho Pronk (PPE)

to the Commission

(24 December 1993)

(94/C 340/123)

Subject: European Economic Area (EEA)

It appears that Swedish companies such as Scania and Ericsson intend to carry out a drastic rationalization of their establishments outside Sweden (for example, in the Netherlands). These are firms which have received support within the EC for product development. However, investments in new products will increasingly be made in Sweden and not in other EEA countries. This will mean a loss of jobs and profits from the Netherlands and other EEA countries.

1. Is the Commission aware of the extent to which the developments outlined above involving the two Swedish companies are being repeated in other countries of the Union and with other companies?
2. Does the Commission believe that the decision to invest more in the home country has anything to do with the entry into force of the Treaty on the European Economic Area?
3. In the Commission's opinion, is this development in the interests of the Union?
4. If not, what appropriate measures is the Commission considering to put an end to such developments which are a serious threat to Community jobs?

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

(20 April 1994)

The Commission has no comments to make on investment decisions by individual companies.

The fact that firms may receive support from within the Community for product developments does not enable the Commission to oblige those firms to keep on investing in the Community.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3876/93

by Carmen Díez de Rivera Icaza (PSE)

to the Commission

(14 December 1993)

(94/C 340/124)

Subject: Non-standard abbreviations

In view of the fact that textual and linguistic clarity cannot be divorced from the concept of transparency, and in order to prevent such absurdities as: 'firstly, the aim of BAT (and IPC) is to prevent emissions to air . . .', which appears in a Commission text ⁽¹⁾ does the Commission not think that the use and proliferation of non-standard abbreviations should be avoided? If so, what action will it take to ensure that this is the case?

⁽¹⁾ COM(93) 423 final — OJ No C 311, 17. 11. 1993, p. 6.

Answer given by Mr Pinheiro
on behalf of the Commission

(28 January 1994)

The Commission agrees with the Honourable Member that the use of unrecognizable abbreviations should be avoided in future. An internal memorandum to this effect will be sent to all Commission staff.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3902/93

by José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission

(24 January 1994)

(94/C 340/125)

Subject: Commission decision on measure to combat African swine fever in Granada (Spain)

The Community's decision to extend the red line to the province of Granada by prohibiting the export of live pigs from Granada to other Member States because of the

existence, confirmed on 19 October 1993, of a single case of African swine fever has caused anger among Granada's pig producers.

Sources close to the sector have said that in Germany 77 centres of classical fever were needed before the EC considered an area affected and it was only when there had been 18 in Portugal that borders were closed to exports. In Granada a single case was sufficient.

Can the Commission say whether these data are correct and whether the EC Regulations have been implemented with the maximum strictness in Granada, while in other cases the Commission has been lax? What is the explanation for this?

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

(29 April 1994)

An outbreak of African swine fever was confirmed on 19 October 1993 in the Province of Granada. It was reported by the Spanish authorities as outbreak number 34 and the first to appear outside the area subjected to trade restrictions established by Commission Decision 89/21/EEC ⁽¹⁾. The initial epidemiological investigation carried out in Granada did not reveal the source of infection and the area was visited in late October to obtain further information on the disease situation. On 8 November, certain protective measures were introduced by Commission Decision 93/575/EEC ⁽²⁾ to prevent the spread of the disease to other Member States since African swine fever virus can be transmitted via trade in live pigs, fresh pigmeat and certain pigmeat products. The measures were lifted on 15 December by Decision 93/600/EEC ⁽³⁾.

Outbreaks of African swine fever were confirmed in Portugal in August 1993. The disease occurred in the region of Alentejo and certain protection measures were established on 15 October by Decision 93/531/EEC ⁽⁴⁾. The measures have been amended by several decisions including 94/122/EC ⁽⁵⁾ of 28 February 1994. A total of 10 outbreaks were reported by Portugal during 1993.

In Germany, classical swine fever occurred in several Länder during the spring of 1993. Certain protective measures were established in June by Decision 93/364/EEC ⁽⁶⁾. As regards disease notification, Spain and Germany report disease outbreaks at the level of province and Kreis respectively. The protective measures introduced in Germany covered 34 Kreise. A number of those, 24, had not recorded outbreaks in domestic pigs but, nevertheless, epidemiological investigations had revealed that protection measures were required. The measures which were introduced when

outbreak number 40 was confirmed, have been amended on several occasions. By Decision 93/539/EEC ⁽⁷⁾, Germany was not able to send live pigs, fresh pigmeat and certain pigmeat products to other Member States.

The Commission can establish protective measures within the framework of Council Directive 90/425/EEC ⁽⁸⁾ when an outbreak of disease constitutes a serious hazard to animals or to human health. When such measures are adopted, they take into account the agent and nature of the disease, epidemiological features and applied control measures. The same criteria are applied each time the safeguard clause is used: to protect animal and human health. The measures established by a Decision reflect the conditions necessary for meeting these criteria.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 9, 12. 1. 1989.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 276, 9. 11. 1993.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 285, 20. 11. 1993.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 258, 16. 10. 1993.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 57, 1. 3. 1994.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 150, 22. 6. 1993.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ No L 262, 21. 10. 1993.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ No L 224, 18. 8. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3953/93

by Ernest Glinne (PSE)

to the Commission

(24 January 1994)

(94/C 340/126)

Subject: Harmonization of legislation on arms sales

Recent legislation in Belgium has considerably restricted the open sale of firearms.

However, although the purchase of a pistolet à grenaille (type of shotgun) is strictly prohibited in Belgium, it can easily be obtained without restrictions in France: is this what was intended by freedom of movement?

There are wide disparities between the different Member States' legal provisions on the purchase of firearms.

What form will the standardization of this legislation, scheduled for 1995, take?

On what principles will the future European consensus in this area be based?

What stage has the preparatory work reached and who has been taking part in it?

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

(12 April 1994)

In Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons ⁽¹⁾ — one of the compensatory measures which needed to be adopted before checks on persons at intra-Community frontiers could be abolished — weapons are classified into four categories, each with its own conditions governing acquisition and possession. Article 3 of the Directive recognizes the right of Member States to adopt national provisions that are more stringent than those provided for in the Directive. Accordingly, a weapon falling within one of the categories specified in the Directive may, in one Member State, be subject to the arrangements applicable to that category under the Directive, whereas in another Member State that has exercised the abovementioned right, it may be subject to more stringent arrangements applicable to a higher category.

In the light of the provisions of the Directive regarding, on the one hand, possession of a firearm in the course of an intra-Community journey and, on the other, the procedures and exchanges of information relating to transfers, differences between the arrangements applicable to firearms are not expected to give rise to any problems in terms of safety and security.

No work is currently under way with a view to amending or supplementing Directive 91/477/EEC.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 256, 13. 9. 1991.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3955/93

by **Filippos Pierros (PPE)**

to the Commission

((24 January 1994)

(94/C 340/127)

Subject: Clarity and accuracy of Greek public accounts

The draft budget for 1994 introduced by the Greek Government shows a financial deficit for 1993 amounting to 12,8 % of GNP. This does not however faithfully reflect the facts, as the interest on the domestic public debt of Dr 400 billion or 2,5 % of GNP has, contrary to the Community's code of practice on the transparency of public accounts, been carried over and entered against the following financial year, 1994. This conveys a completely misleading picture of the Greek economy and will complicate the task of multinational supervision which, as we know, is to begin on 1 January 1994.

What is the Commission's reaction, and will it state how far this practice is a breach of secondary Community legislation (European System of Integrated Economic Accounts and the

Protocol on the excessive deficit procedure as defined in the proposal for a Council implementing Regulation ⁽¹⁾?

⁽¹⁾ COM(93) 371 final.

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

(13 April 1994)

The Government of Greece undertook extensive debt management operations in 1991 and in 1992 in order to deal with state guaranteed and unguaranteed debt which fell due during that period. In addition, it transformed into bonds the accumulated obligatory investment in government bills held by commercial banks. Both these operations resulted in interest being postponed and capitalized. Consequently, during the capitalization period interest is not recorded as paid.

In order to represent the 'true' underlying fiscal position, the Commission in its forecasts has been recording postponed interest in the year to which it was attributable rather than the year it was to be paid. On the other hand, the debt management operations which gave rise to postponement of interest have been important steps towards enhancing the transparency of Greece's public finance accounts. On the basis of cash settlements, the practice of not recording payments which have not been made is defensible. However, to assess Greece's fiscal performance and fiscal adjustment, postponed interest should be included in the measurement of the borrowing requirements.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3962/93

by **Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)**

to the Commission

(24 January 1994)

(94/C 340/128)

Subject: Impact of agricultural imports from third countries

Will the Commission say what impact, in its opinion, agricultural imports from third countries have on European agriculture and on the reform of the common agricultural policy, with particular reference to products for which the European Union is more than self-sufficient, and will it provide the European Parliament with all the relevant statistical information on this question?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-67/94

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(14 February 1994)

(94/C 340/129)

Subject: Review of the agricultural sector following the recent conclusion of trade agreements with third countries

Can the Commission give its assessment of the agricultural sector, following the recent conclusion of trade agreements with third countries, particularly as regards the horticulture, maize and beef and veal sectors?

Joint answer to Written Questions**E-3962/93 and E-67/94**

given by Mr Steichen

on behalf of the Commission

(20 April 1994)

The Community is the world's biggest importer of food and agriculture products and the world's second largest exporter of such products. Overall the Community has a trade deficit in such products. However, the situation varies from sector to sector and the Community is a net exporter of the products most suited to its agricultural situation, e.g. cereals, dairy and meat products.

The reforms of the common agricultural policy adopted in 1992 and progressively implemented over the three years 1993 to 1995, were designed to protect farmers' incomes (by compensatory payments) while improving the competitiveness of European agriculture by basing price support on levels closer to the long-term equilibrium prices excepted to prevail on stabilized world markets, thereby facilitating exports.

The Community, as a major trader and exporter, has recently participated in the successful completion of the Uruguay Round which is designed *inter alia* to bring trade in agricultural products within the ambit of the future WTO. At the same time the Community has subscribed to the associated disciplines on trade agreed between Contracting Parties. The Commission has published its evaluation in which it emphasises that these agreements are compatible with the continuation of the reformed CAP.

The voluminous statistical information referred to by the Honourable Member is published regularly by the Commission, notably in 'The agricultural situation in the Community', an annual report sent to each member of the Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3966/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(19 January 1994)

(94/C 340/130)

Subject: Illegal trade in human organs

In view of the reports from many different sources concerning the existence of an illegal trade in human organs for transplants, medical research and the manufacture of cosmetics, will the Commission say what measures it intends to take to put an immediate end to this disgraceful practice, which runs counter to all standards of civilized behaviour?

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

(22 April 1994)

While responsibility for questions relating to the trade in human organs, in particular illegal practices, rests primarily with the Member States, the Commission is encouraging and fostering cooperation between the Member States on the legislative provisions and practices on organ transplantation.

As the Commission has already pointed out in its reply to Written Question No 1694/93 from Mr Alavanos (¹), a group of experts from the Member States is currently examining this issue and on the basis of their report the Commission will consider the need for appropriate guidelines or recommendations.

(¹) OJ No C 234, 22. 8. 1994, p. 12.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3970/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(19 January 1994)

(94/C 340/131)

Subject: Proposal for a Directive on working time and the protection of young people

The European Trade Union Confederation and the Youth Forum of the European Communities have described as 'disappointing' the agreement reached by the Council of Social Affairs Ministers of the European Union on the proposal for a Directive on working time and the protection of young people, stressing that the provisions suggest a lack of coherence in Community social policy. In the light of this reaction, does the Commission intend to make

improvements to the proposal for a Directive in question?

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3972/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(19 January 1994)

(94/C 340/132)

Subject: Employment of minors

Will the Commission provide official statistics on the employment of minors in the Member States of the European Union?

Joint answer to Written Questions

E-3970/93 and E-3972/93

given by Mr Flynn

on behalf of the Commission

(27 April 1994)

The common position of the Council on the protection of young people at work provides for a set of minimum requirements to protect young people at work. The compromise reached at the Council of 23 November 1993 therefore constitutes a foundation of socially acceptable minimum standards which can be improved by the Member States, as well as by the social partners.

Leaving aside the question of the additional transitional period granted to the United Kingdom for the implementation of a provision concerning the weekly duration of work for children at school, the Commission therefore considers that the common position is a good compromise text which includes many Parliament amendments.

In the second reading, the European Parliament approved the common position, subject to a number of amendments designed to further strengthen the protection of young people at work. The Honourable Member may refer to the minutes of Parliament for 8 March 1994 for details of the Commission position on this matter. In accordance with the commitments it has made to Parliament, the Commission will present the Council with a re-examined proposal for a Directive in the near future.

As far as statistics on the number of young people at work in the Member States are concerned, the Honourable Member should refer to the tables and comments following the explanatory memorandum to the initial Commission proposal ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ COM(91) 543 final — 17 March 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4009/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(26 January 1994)

(94/C 340/133)

Subject: Review of the rules on setting up factories in Attica

Bearing in mind that the present Greek Government has announced that it will carry out a review of the rules on setting up factories in Attica, will the Commission call for the new rules to be environmentally friendly and at the same time do everything possible to assist the relocation of factories outside Attica and the establishment of special industrial zones or parks?

Answer given by Mr Millan

on behalf of the Commission

(6 April 1994)

It is the responsibility of the Greek authorities to review the aid scheme for productive investments (Law 1892) and to notify the Commission. Obviously, the new aid scheme must be compatible with Community legislation, including legislation concerning the environment. It should also be noted that, with regard to Attica, the existing aid scheme already provides for special aids for the protection of the environment, measures to save energy and relocation of industrial units to sites outside the region.

The possibility of creating or improving industrial zones or craft parks should also be studied, but these measures are not covered by the legal framework of the aid scheme.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4019/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)

to the Commission

(26 January 1994)

(94/C 340/134)

Subject: Deserters from the republics of the former Yugoslavia living in Community Member States

It is a fact deserters and individuals who have refused to enrol in the armies of the republics of the former Yugoslavia and have taken refuge in Community Member States are in

serious danger of being deported. Can the Commission make representations to the authorities of the European Union Member States to protect such people?

**Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission**
(13 April 1994)

Since decisions to grant or deny refugee status and to deport third country nationals living illegally in the Community are a matter for the Member States concerned, the Commission regrets that it cannot make representations to them to protect deserters from the republics of what was Yugoslavia.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4029/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(31 January 1994)
(94/C 340/135)

Subject: Delimitation and protection of wetlands covered by the Ramsar Convention

Can the Commission say why Greece has not completed the procedure for the delimitation and protection of Greek wetlands covered by the Ramsar Convention?

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission**
(6 April 1994)

Greece has classified all its Ramsar sites as Special Areas pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC⁽¹⁾ on the conservation of wild birds. The Commission has been informed that for a number of them the delimitation has not yet been finished, but not of the particular reasons for this fact. However, the Commission continues to urge the Greek authorities to complete and communicate this delimitation as soon as possible.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 103, 25. 4. 1979.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4039/93

by Sotiris Kostopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission
(31 January 1994)
(94/C 340/136)

Subject: Opposition of the cosmetics industry to the establishment of ecological criteria

A number of cosmetics companies, and notably the UK-based Body Shop, have protested about the establishment of ecological criteria, claiming that it is impossible to ascertain the consequences of cosmetics either on man or on the environment, before a number of years had elapsed. It is therefore impossible to describe any cosmetic substance as environmentally friendly, at any rate before the product has completed its life cycle. Does the Commission intend to examine the protests lodged by above cosmetics companies in this connection?

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission**
(8 April 1994)

Regulation (EEC) No 880/92⁽¹⁾ lays down the procedures for establishing product groups and ecological criteria for awarding the eco-label.

These procedures require the consultation of all the interest groups, meeting within a forum, on the basis of a proposal addressed to the Commission by a neutral and independent competent body.

The process by which these criteria are established includes a scientific study to ensure that the envisaged criteria are consistent with the objectives of the Regulation, and in particular the promotion of products with a reduced impact on the environment.

To date, no criteria have been established for awarding the eco-label to cosmetic products.

The Commission can assure the Honourable Member that it ensures that all work in this area is carried out in accordance with the principles and procedures of the Regulation.

As for the technical issue raised by the Honourable Member, there is no way of identifying the problem on this basis. The problem, if it is confirmed, will no doubt be dealt with by specialists before any decision is taken.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 99, 11. 4. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4048/93

by José Vázquez Fouz (PSE)
to the Commission
(31 January 1994)
(94/C 340/137)

Subject: Mechanization of fishing ports

One of the major factors in the abnormally high price of fish is the cost of landing both fresh and frozen fish.

As the Commission, within the framework of its structural action, intends to improve fishing ports, could it give priority to action to reduce landing costs?

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission**
(13 April 1994)

Under Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86⁽¹⁾ on Community measures to improve and adapt structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, the Commission has been granting Community financial aid for investments in the provision of facilities at fishing ports.

Since the adoption of this Regulation, the annual amount of Community aid invested in facilities at fishing ports has been steadily increasing in response to the demand from the Member States. For the period 1986—1993 a total of ECU 56,35 million of Community aid has been invested in 231 projects.

As from 1 January 1994 measures concerning port facilities which were eligible under Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 will be considered for grant aid under Council Regulation (EC) No 3699/93⁽²⁾ laying down the criteria and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and the processing and marketing of its products. Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 has been repealed. The priority between measures eligible under Regulation (EC) No 3699/93 will be set out for each Member State in the framework of partnership in the Community programmes for structural assistance for each Member State as laid down in that Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 376, 31. 12. 1986.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 346, 31. 12. 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4049/93

by José Vázquez Fouz (PSE)
to the Commission
(31 January 1994)
(94/C 340/138)

Subject: Future of the Spanish cod fleet

The Spanish cod fleet was a world pioneer in cod fishing, and moreover taking a consistently bold and innovative approach and constantly discovering and exploiting new fishing grounds on a rational basis.

The development of the law of the sea, the new situation in the worldwide fisheries sector and the accession of Spain to the EC have wrought changes resulting in a much smaller workforce and smaller catches.

The Spanish cod fleet, with no structural support whatever, has already achieved a drastic reduction in its workforce.

It would appear that the Commission intends to reduce the workforce still further: what are its reasons and what measures and assistance is it proposing? What are the criteria for allocating possible cod quotas to Norway? To whom will these be allocated and for what reasons?

**Answer given by Mr Paleokrassas
on behalf of the Commission**
(13 April 1994)

Under the 1993—1996 multiannual guidance programmes (MGP), the Spanish cod-fishing fleet is covered by the heading 'trawlers and multipurpose vessels' operating in international waters and the waters of third countries, for which the objective is to reduce fishing effort by 20%. This target was also adopted by the Council in the context of the restructuring of the fishing sector provided for in Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3670/92 establishing a Community system for fisheries and aquaculture⁽¹⁾. The Commission has also set general rules for the allocation of structural funds among the various sectoral plans at national level.

The following distribution of the additional cod quota in Norwegian waters has been proposed by the Commission on the basis of the economic and social cohesion criteria: Greece: 5%, Spain: 45%, Ireland: 5% and Portugal: 45%. The Council will shortly be making a decision on this matter.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 389, 31. 12. 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4055/93

by José Vázquez Fouz (PSE)

to the Commission

(1 February 1994)

(94/C 340/139)

Subject: Fishery cooperation programmes with third countries

Both by means of fishery agreements and by the introduction of a specific chapter on fishery cooperation in Lomé IV, the European Community has set up certain programmes whose progress and results have always been a concern of the European Parliament.

What fisheries sector cooperation programmes are currently underway? When will the Commission submit a report and conclusions to Parliament on this subject so as to allow an objective assessment of the results?

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

(25 April 1994)

Under Title III of the Lomé IV Convention, and also under Title XIV (Regional Cooperation), fisheries is specifically mentioned as an important area of cooperation.

Over the past 10 years, more than 400 projects or studies have been financed by the EDF in ACP States. Projects in execution or in preparation at this moment concern many coastal ACP countries (e.g.) Angola, Mozambique, Senegal, Cameroon, Madagascar, Pacific Islands, and some landlocked countries with inland water resources or possibilities for developing aquaculture. New actions are undertaken when a country or a regional grouping of countries requests the assistance of the EDF for a specific purpose and when an appropriate justification is provided.

The Commission recommends, when approaching a new fisheries development project, that there be careful and comprehensive preparation, involving wide consultation and participation of target groups, that flexible and phased approaches be adopted, that agencies have a long-term commitment, and that national government commitment to and priority for the fisheries sector be achieved.

Experience also suggests that the success of projects will to a large extent depend on the deployment of high quality personnel in field management, backed up by effective communication with an support from staff based in administrative centres and agency headquarters as well as professional exchange between projects and other fisheries related institutions and research centres.

Finally, there is a particular need to ensure that assistance in fisheries development is pursued in ways which do not

conflict with the long-term interests of the developing countries to exploit fully their resources in a rational way.

The Commission would point out that the fisheries agreements with ACP countries are commercial agreements in that the Contracting Parties make mutually balanced concessions under them, i.e. the grant of fishing opportunities by the one side in exchange for payment by the other.

Support for scientific and training programmes accounts for a small part (about 12%) of the total Community contribution paid in exchange for fishing opportunities. Most of this contribution is then incorporated in the general budget of the third country concerned and as a result is not specifically allocated to development goals. For the above reasons in particular, the third countries most often decide themselves which programmes to undertake and send the Commission only short reports on their implementation.

For both these aspects of development cooperation in the fisheries sector, the Commission regularly gives oral reports on its activities to parliamentary committees.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4062/93

by Filippos Pierros (PPE)

to the Commission

(1 February 1994)

(94/C 340/140)

Subject: Draft budget of Greece and the re-organization of its public finances

According to the introductory report of the draft budget submitted by the Greek Government a few days ago, the overall public debt will increase by Dr 6 trillion and the deficit will account for 14,9% of GNP compared with 12,8% previously (the primary surplus achieved in 1993 will therefore be wiped out), while no attempt is being made to curb public spending which will increase by 17,6% (estimated inflation is a mere 10%).

Will the Commission say to what extent it considers that these estimates by the Greek Government are compatible with the need to restructure public finances in Greece and the obligation to respect financial discipline imposed by the Treaty on European Union?

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

(11 April 1994)

According to the 1994 budget document, presented by the Greek Government in November 1993, the budget deficit (net borrowing requirement of central government) is projected to be 12,8% of GDP in 1994, down from 13,9% of GDP recorded in 1993. Total expenditure is expected to rise by 17,6% which is mainly due to an increase in the public investment budget expenditure of 34,2%. Primary expenditure in the ordinary budget is projected to increase

by 9,3 % compared to a 20,3 % increase recorded in 1993. On the other hand, total revenues are expected to rise by 23 %. Overall, a primary surplus of 2,3 % of GDP is expected for 1994, compared to a recorded primary deficit of 0,3 % in 1993 (Table 4.1, p. 79 of Greek Budget Document).

In the Commission's view the budget proposals, provided they are fully implemented and the targets achieved, would represent a significant effort to stabilize the budget deficit following the pronounced deterioration that occurred in 1993. However, given the level of public debt, determined efforts aimed at budget consolidation will be required over a number of years.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4075/93

by **Thomas Megahy (PSE)**
to the Commission
(1 February 1994)
(94/C 340/141)

Subject: Health and safety at work

In the light of the UK Government's announced comprehensive review of health and safety legislation, can the Commission confirm that it will move to prevent any failure to comply with obligations under the Treaty of Rome and specific Directives in the field of health and safety at the workplace?

Answer given by Mr Flynn
on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 1994)

The review of the health and safety legislation being carried out by the UK authorities is a matter for that Member State.

The Commission as guardian of the Treaties is obliged to ensure that national measures are in conformity with Community legislation.

The Commission will continue to monitor the measures taken by the Member States to implement Community legislation and, where necessary, will open infringement procedures pursuant to Article 169 EC Treaty.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4084/93

by **Enrique Sapena Granell (PSE)** and
José Vázquez Fouz (PSE)
to the Commission
(7 February 1994)
(94/C 340/142)

Subject: Linguistic code of conduct in the Community administration

Increasingly, the Commission is publishing documents for public consumption in one Community language only. This is a frequent occurrence in certain Directorates-General and must not be allowed to continue, since it creates a gulf between the Community institutions and the public by implying that knowledge of a particular language is needed to have access to the institutions.

Does the Commission have a code of conduct on linguistic matters?

Does the Commission not think that European integration has always been and will continue to be a multilingual process?

When will a stop be put to the practice of producing publications for public consumption in a single language, with a time lag before the other language versions are published — if they appear at all?

Does the Commission not believe that any Community document designed for public consumption should be produced simultaneously in all the main Community languages?

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

The rules governing the languages of the Community were laid down by Regulation 1/1958, as amended by successive Accession Treaties, on the basis of Article 217 of the EC Treaty.

Publication, each day, of legislation and other texts in the Official Journal in all Community languages shows that these rules are applied.

Publications intended for the general public containing exhaustive documentation on Community activities also appear in all official languages.

For technical reasons or reasons relating to translation, it is not always possible to ensure that all language versions are published simultaneously.

The Commission is aware of the problems this causes and is constantly trying to reduce the time-lag to a minimum.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4086/93

by José Vázquez Fouz (PSE)

to the Commission

(7 February 1994)

(94/C 340/143)

Subject: Privatization of land in the countries of eastern Europe

The fall of the communist regimes in eastern Europe has been a great step forward for freedom and democracy in these countries. The number and scale of the resulting problems are immense. One of the most important is clearly the privatization of land and the transfer of land to private ownership, in particular for the creation of family businesses.

Is the Commission monitoring this matter closely?

Has it assessed the possible favourable and unfavourable consequences for the Community?

As regards the one Member State (Germany) affected by this matter, what criteria are being used and how much know-how and assistance is the Commission providing?

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

(6 May 1994)

The Commission fully supports the view that restoration of private land ownership and development of an active market in private land transactions is essential for the successful reform of agriculture in east and central European countries. For this reason, the Commission has encouraged the governments of the countries concerned to give a high priority to identifying and ameliorating legislative, cadastral and other constraints on the development of private land ownership and the establishment of a functioning market in land transactions. Between 1990 and 1993, the Community's Phare Programme committed over ECU 40 million of technical assistance and equipment to this area of reform — some 10% of the total assistance given to the agricultural sector.

There is a general consensus that economic growth and development in east and central European countries is

essential for the political and economic stability of Europe as a whole. Given the high relative importance of agriculture to the economies of these countries and the ability of the sector to respond more quickly than other sectors in these countries to policies encouraging the emergence of private enterprise, competition and market forces, the Commission considers that land restitution should result in economic and wider benefits for these countries and hence for the Community.

As regard the new Länder, restitution and other land-related reform policies are still being implemented while agriculture generally is making major adjustments in response to changes of wider macro-economic significance, including application of Community health and hygiene legislation and unification generally. Changes have occurred in the balance and organization of agricultural production (e.g. substantial reductions in livestock production and increases in vegetable production) but it is not possible at this stage in the transition to forecast whether the changes observed will continue, stabilize or reverse.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4088/93

by José Vázquez Fouz (PSE)

to the Commission

(7 February 1994)

(94/C 340/144)

Subject: The African market for Community tinned sardines

Southern and sub-Saharan Africa are traditional markets for Community tinned sardines. As a result of the world economic crisis and the accompanying recession, these previously buoyant markets have now declined. Demand remains unchanged but customers are not always able to pay.

Tinned sardines are an excellent, high-quality food with high nutritional value.

Does the Commission plan to take any steps to assist the market in Community tinned sardines?

Are tinned sardines included in the food aid provided by the European Union?

Is it true that some food aid has included non-Community tinned sardines? If so, what are the countries of origin and why have their products been used?

**Answer given by Mr Marín
on behalf of the Commission
(14 April 1994)**

Consumption of tinned sardines — despite their qualities — has been steadily dropping for a number of years. The Commission would suggest that the Honourable Member refers in this connection to a detailed analysis of the market in sardines ⁽¹⁾.

No special action is being taken at Community level at present to encourage the consumption of tinned sardines and none is planned, nor is any decision in this respect likely before the Commission has presented another report on the whole Community sector (fresh and tinned sardines) at the end of the year.

As far as food aid is concerned, several operations were carried out in 1993 in which, at the request of the organizations responsible, tinned sardines were supplied as aid for refugees. Mobilization for such operations normally takes place on the Community market although, with certain types of contract or operation, supplies may be purchased in triangular operations outside the Community. Council Regulation (EEC) No 3972/86 on food aid policy and food aid management sets out the conditions governing this type of operation.

⁽¹⁾ SEC(92) 2221.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4089/93

by José Lafuente López (PPE)

to the Commission

(21 December 1993)

(94/C 340/145)

Subject: Commission action to protect the paper industry in the Union

The recent steep devaluation of the Finnish markka and the Swedish krona have brought about a catastrophic situation in the paper industry of the Union, thanks to the resultant large-scale penetration of the territory of the Twelve by products from those two countries.

The only decision taken so far in this respect has been to set up a monitoring system; this, however, has had no effect whatever on the problem.

What action does the Commission intend to take to protect the paper industry in the Union in the present context of overall crisis?

**Answer given by Mr Van den Broek
on behalf of the Commission
(21 April 1994)**

The Commission is fully aware of the serious crisis in the European paper sector.

At a meeting with the Commission held on 22 September 1993 in Brussels, the Confederation of the European Paper Industries explained that the situation which has developed since 1989 in the paper industry, whereby the selling prices and volumes of many paper grades result in losses for many companies, has many causes, including.

- reduced increase in demand for paper (1—2 % in the 1990s as against 4—6 % in the 1980s) and recession in some European markets in recent years,
- overcapacity (up to 25 % in some grades) because of recent large investments in the sector,
- competition and price-cutting in many subsectors,
- undervaluation of the dollar in which many forest products (including paper) are expressed in international markets.

In this context, the devaluation of the Nordic currencies referred to by the Honourable Member can be viewed as temporarily affecting prices of certain grades of paper, particularly in 'hard' European currency markets.

Also in this context, the monitoring cited is not foreseen as a protective measure for the industry, but as a tool for closely examining the impact of Nordic imports. This monitoring was first extended to the end of January 1994 and later on to the end of April 1994. The interim results do not indicate any conclusive trends overall. There have been some price declines for certain grades of paper following the devaluations which have since risen again. For other grades, trends have been very variable, with both rises and falls of price since the devaluations. They do not however indicate any marked increase in paper market share in the Community by the Nordic countries concerned. In the last months there has been a general, small but sustained rise in both pulp and paper prices.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4093/93by **Giuseppe Mottola (PPE)**

to the Commission

(7 February 1994)

(94/C 340/146)

Subject: Cava dei Tirreni tobacco factory

The tobacco factory in Cava dei Tirreni, Salerno, produces an average of 410 000 kg of excellent cigars each year and is one of the leading State monopolies in terms of productivity and output. It employs over 500 people and generates more than 1 500 jobs upstream and downstream of the manufacturing process.

It has a turnover of approximately Lit 70 billion and purchases its supplies of loose tobacco from producers in Campania and Tuscany.

It is also Cava dei Tirreni's largest employer, with a total wages bill of more than Lit 16 billion.

Demand for the cigars produced in Cava dei Tirreni far outstrips supply not least because of health considerations, since the stringent provisions set out in the Community Regulations and Directives are applied in full during the manufacturing process.

Given the above, does the Commission not feel that it should approach the Italian Government with a view to ensuring that:

1. conversion to a public limited company (S.p.A) is effected by means of a government bill guaranteeing employees the right not only to buy shares but also to retain the status of public sector employees;
2. more money is invested in Cava dei Tirreni to improve production facilities and increase the size of the work force;
3. new technology is introduced to improve productivity and make the company more competitive on Community and world markets, not least with a view to safeguarding supplies of raw tobacco and protecting jobs at all stages of the process (tobacco production, manufacture, storage and marketing of the finished product).

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

(15 April 1994)

The problems referred to do not fall within the scope of the Commission's powers; they do not, therefore, warrant intervention *vis-à-vis* the Italian Government.

As far as the region of Campania is concerned, the European Regional Development Fund has intervened in the past to encourage productive investment.

As regards the immediate future, the Commission is currently working — in partnership with the Italian central and regional authorities — on the programming of measures to be implemented over the period 1994—1999; Campania could, in this context, submit proposals to the Commission for specific measures on behalf of the Cava dei Tirreni area.

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4103/93by **Gerardo Fernández-Albor (PPE)**

to the Commission

(7 February 1994)

(94/C 340/147)

Subject: Community aid for mining conversion in Huelva (Spain)

The parish priest of the seven towns in the Huelva (Spain) coalfield have produced a pastoral letter sharing in the concern that exists in all social classes in this district, which has about 22 000 inhabitants, over the uncertain future for mining, the area's only industry, now that Rio Tinto Minera, which has been working the deposits since the end of the nineteenth century, proposes to close down the mines in 1996.

The pastoral letter calls for solidarity and the overcoming of fatalism and resignation, concluding: 'In this district there is enough human potential to create the wealth needed to rescue us from prostration.'

Can the Commission say what Community remedies the inhabitants of this mining area can hope for to enable them to face the future with the optimistic attitude recommended by the parish priests in their letter?

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

(11 April 1994)

The Commission is aware of the social and economic difficulties besetting the province of Huelva and in

particular the municipalities affected by a move away from mining. At the request of the regional authorities the Commission approved on 24 March 1993 the implementation of an operational programme under the Community support framework (1989—1993) to offset such effects. Total investment in the programme will amount to Pta 11 076 million, of which the Community will provide Pta 4 929 million. The programme will put certain infrastructures supporting economic activity in place, will

implement measures to aid tourism and provide for various types of aid for enterprise creation.

The Commission hopes to have within the next few months new proposals from the Spanish authorities for Structural Fund aid in Andalusia under the new Objective 1 Community support framework (1994—1999). It will examine any new proposal supplementing the current programme that will allow the aid effort to continue.
