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(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION No 643/89**by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(27 October 1989)**(90/C 272/01)*

Subject: Community encouragement for the production of nuclear energy

The report for 1987 produced by the French atomic energy commissariat stressed the need to consider nuclear energy as an essential factor in the relaunching of the idea of European integration, from the point of view of self-sufficiency in energy, technological progress, economic competitiveness and environmental protection. By pursuing this policy France has managed to become a net exporter of electricity to its neighbours.

In view of this, does the Commission not consider that it should encourage balanced development of the nuclear sector throughout the Community, in order to ensure that this sector plays a key role in European integration, and so that the Community may enjoy the fundamental independence it needs in the energy sector, whilst remedying the present imbalances within the Community?

**Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha
on behalf of the Commission**

(15 January 1989)

The Commission is convinced that the clean and safe use of nuclear energy for generating electricity is a factor in the Community's energy self-sufficiency and contributes to the competitiveness of European undertakings without causing atmospheric pollution, as set out in its communication on energy and the environment ⁽¹⁾.

With regard to the radioactive waste and effluents from nuclear energy production, the Commission would point out that these are covered by the health protection provisions of the Euratom Treaty. It would also refer the Honourable Member to its communications on the Illustrative Nuclear Programme for the Community (PINC) ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ COM(89) 369 final.

⁽²⁾ COM(85) 401 final and COM(89) 347 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 752/89**by Mr Gerardo Fernandez Albor (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(23 November 1989)**(90/C 272/02)*

Subject: Publication of works on the history and culture of Europe

The major project which five European publishing-houses intend to carry out, involving the simultaneous publication of 14 works on the history and culture of Europe, has aroused a great deal of interest among pro-Europeans who share the project's aim, in the words of one of its instigators, of adopting many different approaches to cope with a diverse, contradictory Europe whose pluralism of conflict must grow into a pluralism of harmony.

Since the project's instigators have expressed an interest in presenting their project to the Community institutions, does the Commission consider that it would be fitting to give Community backing to this project, which is written by Europeans for Europeans?

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

(18 April 1990)

The Commission welcomes the various plans under way to publish works on the history of European culture in response to the appeal made in the solemn declaration of Stuttgart (19 June 1983) on raising the general level of European consciousness.

The Commission can only encourage European publishers to embark on projects of this kind and is gratified to note the growing collaboration between European publishers prompted by the approach of the internal market in 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 762/89

by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 November 1989)

(90/C 272/03)

Subject: Organization for the Control of Olive Oil Subsidies

The Organization for the Control of Olive Oil Subsidies, which has been set up in Greece and is currently being funded by the Community (initial financing of Drs 1 000 million), has been assigned a very important task, which it has just begun to fulfil. It has not, however, been able to extend its monitoring activities to the bottling of olive oil.

I have been informed by reliable sources that this organization is being hampered and obstructed in its work for various reasons, which are not always clear. As a result, the allocation of olive oil subsidies is not always transparent and is very probably unfair to many small producers. At the same time, it is not clear who benefits from this unfair system of allocation.

What measures does the Commission intend to take:

1. to ensure that this organization is able to operate without delay under normal conditions and expand its operations to all aspects of olive oil production,
2. to help guarantee the genuine operational and organizational independence of this body,
3. to ensure that the organization continues to be financed from Community funds alone for a certain period of time,
4. to ensure that the failure of the Greek authorities to comply with the applicable rules does not penalize Greek producers, who cannot be considered

responsible for the problem being encountered by this organization.

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 March 1990)

1. and 2. The Commission is aware of obstacles imposed recently by the Greek authorities on the proper functioning of the control agency for olive oil. These concerned mainly interference by the authorities in certain administrative procedures of the agency, which finally resulted in a number of delays mainly in the recruitment of additional staff and the supply of goods (data processing material, service cars, etc.). It has to be noted, however, that no interference has been noticed in the main control activities of the agency, which appear to be carried on in accordance with the approved scheme.

The Commission immediately asked the Greek authorities to strictly respect the agency's administrative and operational autonomy, as provided for by Community legislation. Bilateral discussions have also been planned for the near future between the Commission and the Greek authorities to clarify the situation.

The Commission agrees that the scope of the agency's activities should be extended as soon as possible to cover all main areas of EAGGF Guarantee expenditure in the olive oil sector. In this context, the Council has recently adopted Regulation (EEC) No 200/90⁽¹⁾ in order to extend the agencies' competence in producer Member States to carrying out checks on consumption aid and storage operations.

3. The contribution and the period of financing of the agencies' expenditure by the Community Budget in producer Member States up to 31 October 1992 are provided for by Article 1 (5) of Regulation No 2262/84⁽²⁾, as last amended by Regulation No 3888/88⁽³⁾. In accordance with that article, the Commission will submit in due time a proposal for the financing method from the 1992/93 marketing year onwards.

4. The Commission has not been informed of any complaints concerning unfair treatment of small olive oil producers in Greece. It should be noted, moreover, that the problems facing the agency can in no way prejudice the granting of Community aids to the beneficiaries; Member States are always responsible for ensuring that the appropriations available under the EAGGF Guarantee section are used without delay and solely for the purposes laid down. In any case, where a Member State fails to meet its obligations under Community Regulations, the Commission can initiate infringement procedures against it under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 22, 27. 1. 1990.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 208, 3. 8. 1984, p. 11.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 346, 15. 12. 1988, p. 12.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 813/89**by Mr Bryan Cassidy (ED)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(28 November 1989)**(90/C 272/04)**Subject: Drinking water quality standards*

There are differences between the drinking water quality standards under Council Directive 80/778/EEC of 15 July 1980⁽¹⁾ and those in the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines for drinking water quality and those which apply in the United States.

In particular, the USA and WHO have limits for radionuclides; the EEC has no limits.

The USA has limits on asbestos; the EEC has no limits.

The USA and WHO have limits for vinyl chloride; the EEC has no limits.

How does the Commission account for these discrepancies?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 229, 30. 8. 1980, p. 11.

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(15 January 1990)

The protection of the population against the dangers of ionizing radiation is the subject of a Council Directive adopted for the first time in 1959 and subsequently amended several times to take account of the scientific progress in the field⁽¹⁾. This Directive lays down, in particular, admissible limits of intake by ingestion (including through drinking water) for each radionuclide, which have to be respected in relation to any activity involving the risk of exposure to ionizing radiation. These limits apply in normal circumstances.

In the event of a radiological emergency, Council Regulation (Euratom) No 3954/87, amended by Council Regulation (Euratom) No 2218/89⁽²⁾ empowers the Commission to render applicable a set of pre-established maximum permissible levels of radioactive contamination of foodstuffs.

The levels will apply to foodstuffs placed on the market. As drinking water is not *stricto sensu* placed on the market, the Regulation makes plain that the values established for liquid foodstuffs should be applied to drinking water supplies at the discretion of competent authorities in Member States.

The Commission has as yet proposed no limit for asbestos in drinking water because it has considered that available data are insufficient to assess the magnitude of risk associated with ingestion of asbestos.

Although the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has now indicated a limit value, other major health protection organizations (such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Canadian Health and Welfare Authorities) question the validity of this limit.

The WHO will be reassessing asbestos during its current review of its guidelines for drinking water quality and the Commission will certainly give careful consideration to the results of this reassessment.

Concerning vinyl chloride, this is covered by parameter 32 of Annex I of Council Directive 80/778⁽³⁾. This indicates a guide level of 1 µg/l for all organochlorine compounds (other than those used as pesticides) and stipulates that concentrations must be as low as possible. This value was originally proposed by the Commission in 1975 as a maximum admissible concentration (MAC), but was modified to a guide value during Council discussions.

The Commission notes that the US EPA has indicated a maximum limit of 2 µg/l for vinyl chloride, but is not aware of any limit fixed by the WHO.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 246, 17. 9. 1980 and OJ No L 265, 5. 10. 1984.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 371, 30. 1. 1987 and OJ No L 211, 22. 7. 1989.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 229, 30. 8. 1980, p. 11.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 968/89**by Mrs Marie-Claude Vayssade (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(7 December 1989)**(90/C 272/05)*

Subject: Position of the holders of dual nationality with regard to the freedom of movement for students and the equivalence of diplomas

A young man who holds both French and German nationality is faced with the following problem: he has obtained a French baccalaureate from the French section of a Franco-German lycée in the Federal Republic of Germany, where he wishes to pursue his university studies. While his French fellow students are eligible to enter a German university with their French baccalaureate, the student in question is treated as a German national, which means that he is also required to sit a 'nostrification' examination in order to obtain a grading for the *numerus clausus* system. Students with dual nationality who have not studied under the German system are therefore placed at a disadvantage which may mean that they will be denied access to German universities.

What view does the Commission take of this anomalous situation?

What measures does it intend to take in order to ensure that the possession of dual nationality, which is a source of cultural enrichment, does not penalize those concerned?

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

(16 March 1990)

Discrimination on the grounds of nationality is prohibited by the Treaty of Rome. Member States are accordingly required to ensure that all other Community nationals are treated in the same way as their own citizens, failing which the Commission may intervene and request the Member State concerned to comply with Community law.

By contrast, the principle of non-discrimination between nationals is a basis right provided by the constitutions of all the Member States. If it is violated, citizens have the right to take legal action in the national courts.

The Commission agrees with the Honourable Member that such discrimination should not be allowed but it is unable to act, as the Community has no jurisdiction in this matter.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1076/89

**by Mr Christopher Jackson (ED)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(19 December 1989)

(90/C 272/06)

Subject: EEC import ban on seal pup furskins

Will the Commission state what action has been taken to open infringement proceedings against Member States which are refusing to implement the Community-wide ban on the import of seal products into the EEC?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(22 January 1990)

As indicated in the answer to Written Question No 768/89 by the Honourable Member ⁽¹⁾, Eurostat figures on imports into the Community of complete raw furskins (heading 4301.22) and of tanned or dressed furskins (heading 4302.22) of whitecoat pups of harp seals and bluebacked pups of hooded seals show that:

- the Federal Republic of Germany imported 1 135 raw skins of hooded seals from Greenland (exempted from the Directive) and 1 640 skins from Norway in 1986.

Since the request of the Commission for confirmation with the competent German authorities that the import of 1 640 skins from Norway also concerned skins exempted from the Directive went unanswered, the Commission sent a letter of formal notice (pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty) to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The answer by the German authorities to this letter is at present being examined.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 117, 11. 5. 1990, p. 5.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1105/89

**by Mr Pol Marck (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(19 December 1989)

(90/C 272/07)

Subject: Food and drug administration

In the report by its Committee of Inquiry into the Problem of Quality in the Meat Sector, and in other reports, the European Parliament has consistently pressed for the setting up of a European equivalent to the US Food and Drug Administration.

1. Has the Commission already made a start on responding to the resolutions concerned?
2. Does the Commission take the view that, in the light of the single market, such a European agency is vital, with a view, *inter alia*, to ensuring that national assessments do not diverge?

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

(3 July 1990)

On the basis of experience acquired in the field of Community procedures for the coordination of national decisions on the issuing of marketing authorizations in respect of medicinal products, the Commission has embarked on intensive consultations with all interested parties in the pharmaceutical sector on ways of achieving a single system of assessment meeting the highest possible scientific standards. As announced in its programme of work for 1990, it intends to propose a system combining a central licensing procedure for new medicinal products with a decentralized procedure for the mutual recognition of other medicinal products. The future system would also entail the setting-up of a European agency responsible for assessing medicinal products and preparing, in close liaison with the Member States, decisions applicable in the Community.

As far as the food sector is concerned, there is a need for closer cooperation between the Member States in a number of areas, most notably the following:

- scientific assessment of the health implications of the substances and processes used and also of the residues and contaminants,
- official inspections, including veterinary inspections.

The Commission is currently looking into suitable ways and means of ensuring such cooperation.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1295/89

by Mr Juan Gangoiti Llaguno (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 January 1990)

(90/C 272/08)

Subject: Measures for the benefit of the Community textile industry

There have been reports that the Commission may adopt measures for the benefit of the Community textile industry in response to the liberalization of trade resulting from the Uruguay Round.

The Commission has also decided to set up a monitoring body during the transitional period leading up to the dismantling of the Multifibre Agreement, which will decide on safeguard measures, the duration of transitional periods and the detailed procedures for them.

It is quite clear that the entry into force of the Uruguay Round agreements and the dismantling of the Multifibre Agreement will weaken the competitive position of the Community textile industry because of the resulting 'invasion' by large-scale firms from outside the Community.

What measures is the Commission considering introducing in order to promote the competitiveness of the Community textile sector?

What funds will be used to finance these measures?

Is the Commission considering the possibility of relaxing or even suspending the ban on national and/or regional aid to textile firms?

Might it be appropriate to start lifting this ban via the sector of the textile industry involved in industrial applications, e.g. the motor vehicle accessories industry?

Has the Commission drawn up a timetable for the adoption of measures for the benefit of the textile sector and lifting the ban on aid to the sector?

Answer given by Mr Bangemann on behalf of the Commission

(29 June 1990)

The Commission is sending direct to the Honourable Member and the Secretariat-General of Parliament a copy of its two last reports on the situation in the textiles and clothing industry. These contain an overview of the economic and political factors regarding the developments observed in this sector and the action to be taken.

With regard more especially to the Commission's policy on State aid to the textile sector, this was the subject of a communication to the Member States in February 1977. The charges that have taken place in the situation and structures of the markets and industry since then have not been such as to suggest that the terms of the support have been relaxed: on the contrary.

It should furthermore be noted that the discipline in force does not prohibit aids, but makes them subject to a set of conditions which must be complied with in order to ensure an acceptable level of proportionality between the advantages which the aids may provide in certain undertakings and regions and the negative effects they may have in other Member States whose undertakings are in direct competition with the former.

As for the particular sector of man-made fibres, the discipline originally introduced in July 1977 has recently been extended for a further period of two years, expiring on 19 July 1991, and is now covering both clothing and industrial final uses of synthetic fibres. The position of the Commission on this matter was communicated to the Member States in July 1989. No relaxation of the policy is envisaged in the short term, but a re-evaluation of the general conditions of the sector will be carried out by the expiry time of the present discipline in July 1991.

The industrial final use for synthetic man-made fibres has recently been included within the industrial sectors covered by the Commission's restrictive discipline for State aids to this sector; no relaxation of such policy is, at present, envisaged.

No schedule has been laid down for the relaxation of the Commission's present policies concerning the textile sector and man-made fibres.

The creation of a textiles and clothing industry observatory is a solution considered to improve, as requested by the Council, the information currently available from the subsectoral and regional viewpoints. The development and implementation of strategies by firms in response to the challenges of the single market and competition from abroad and the development and implementation of policies to support the changes in the textiles and clothing sector make it necessary today to

have a more detailed analysis of the situation and of changes in the structures and the markets in this sector.

This solution is currently the subject of a feasibility study assigned to a consultant and of contacts with the trade groups and administrations which should be associated with its operation.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 93/90
by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(2 February 1990)
(90/C 272/09)

Subject: Raisins

The Commission is proposing to modify the common organization of the market by replacing present arrangements for the support and management of raisin production with a different system, many details of which remain unclear. It proposes abolishing guaranteed prices for producers and aid towards production (processing), limiting intervention and separating the tasks of storage agencies and processors (which would be a disadvantage for cooperatives). In general, it leaves a number of questions unanswered, making it difficult to put a figure to producers' incomes. It has also been announced that a system of aid to producers based on the area under cultivation is to be introduced. At the same time the Commission is obviously endeavouring to free the Community of any responsibility for the management of this product.

What prompted the Commission to propose such a radical review of the CAP?

Is the Commission testing reactions to changes in policy it intends to extend to other products covered by the CAP by applying them as an experiment to raisins, since Greece is the only Community Member State which produces and exports them and has relatively little influence on public opinion in the Community with regard to agricultural issues?

Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry
on behalf of the Commission
(16 March 1990)

The Commission's proposals to significantly change the market organization for dried grapes are based on the

conclusions of its evaluation of the present system (Commission report on the market organization for dried grapes ⁽¹⁾). The major conclusion of this evaluation is that the present system does not provide producers with the necessary incentives that would involve them to some extent in the marketing of their product. Producers receive the same minimum grower price whether their product is sold in the market or bought at intervention. Under this system the competitiveness of Greek sultanas, measured both in terms of price and of quality relative to the price and quality of the product of other major EEC suppliers, has deteriorated in recent years.

The Commission's proposals aim at initiating the necessary changes that would make the Greek product competitive again in EEC markets. This requires a significant improvement in the quality of Greek sultanas (so that they can compete at the higher quality end of the market), and the introduction of a level of co-responsibility on the part of producers in marketing their product. The latter aspect is in line with recent developments in CAP.

In order to allow producers to adjust to the new system, the Commission has proposed a transitional period of three years. During this period, aid per hectare will be fixed so as to compensate producers for the reduction in the minimum grower price (Proposal for Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 426/86 ⁽²⁾). All other elements of the present system (production aid, minimum import price) will also be retained during the transitional period, while new measures to improve quality will be introduced. The Commission has not proposed to change the multiple role of storage agencies. It has only proposed that, in accordance with the recommendation of Report No 2/89 of the Court of Auditors ⁽³⁾, strict criteria are introduced so that different functions of these agencies be transparent.

At the end of the transitional period, the Commission will re-examine the operation of the new system with a view to retaining the aid per hectare as the key element to the new regime for dried grapes. The Commission will still be responsible for the management of the sector, as intervention for a specific level of stocks at a guaranteed price will be retained. However, producers will also share responsibility for the marketing of their product, with the aid per hectare providing a minimum level of support.

⁽¹⁾ COM(89) final — Vol. I.

⁽²⁾ COM(89) 660 final — Vol. III, p. 169, Article 6a (3).

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 128, 24. 5. 1989, p. 44.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 101/90**by Mr Víctor Manuel Arbeloa Muru (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(8 February 1990)**(90/C 272/10)**Subject: Victims of the drug tobacco in the EEC*

According to a United States newspaper, tobacco is responsible for more than 2,5 million deaths. More Colombians die from the effects of American tobacco than Americans from the effects of Colombian cocaine; more Thais die of American tobacco than Americans of South-East Asian heroin.

Are there reliable statistics in the EEC on annual deaths caused by tobacco, whether or not of US origin? How do the figures compare with those for deaths from cocaine and heroin in the Community?

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

(7 March 1990)

According to epidemiologists, 30 % of all deaths from cancer can be attributed to tobacco use. Tobacco is also responsible for 25 % of deaths from ischaemic cardiac diseases and 75 % of deaths from respiratory diseases such as bronchitis, emphysema and asthma.

On the basis of these figures and the latest data on mortality from the WHO, it can be deduced that about 440 000 people die each year in the European Community from the effects of tobacco.

The Commission does not have any figures for deaths resulting from cocaine or heroine, but figures available in the United States show that the number of deaths caused by tobacco is 200 times higher than the number caused by cocaine.

The Commission is sending tables and a list of sources to both the Honourable Member and Parliament's Secretariat.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 104/90**by Mr Víctor Manuel Arbeloa Muru (S)**

**to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the
European Community meeting in European Political
Cooperation**

*(8 February 1990)**(90/C 272/11)**Subject: Imprisonment of a neurosurgeon in Malawi*

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation take up the case of the only neurosurgeon in

Malawi, Dr George Mtafu, aged 46, who has been held without charge or trial in Blantyre Central Prison since February 1989, after refusing to apologize for expressing disagreement with statements by the President for Life of the Republic criticizing high-ranking civil servants in Northern Malawi?

Answer*(20 September 1990)*

On 20 June 1990, the Representative of the Presidency in Lilongwe carried out a démarche to the Malawian authorities in order to convey the concern of the European Community and its Member States at the human rights situation in that country.

The Presidency called for the release of those in detention and expressed concern about reports of maltreatment and even death of detainees and prisoners, as well as at the failure to hold public enquiries into such events.

The representative of the Presidency in Lilongwe will continue to monitor the situation closely.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 105/90**by Mr Víctor Manuel Arbeloa Muru (S)**

**to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the
European Community meeting in European Political
Cooperation**

*(8 February 1990)**(90/C 272/12)**Subject: Imprisonment of a student leader in Myanmar*

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation take up the case of the 26-year-old engineering student Aung Din, leader of the Burmese National Federation of Student Unions, who was arrested by the authorities on 24 April 1989 under martial law?

Answer*(20 September 1990)*

Although the particular case to which the question refers has not been discussed in European Political Cooperation, the Community and its Member States used a number of different means, including public statements, to convey to Burma's military rulers in the period preceding the elections on 27 May that anti-democratic

policies, including the detention of political leaders, were having a grave impact on relations between them and Burma.

In their recent statements on 6 June and 2 August, the European Community and its Member States welcomed the manner in which the people of Burma exercised their right to vote in the May elections. The Community called on the present rulers of Burma to respect the results of the elections, *inter alia* by immediately releasing political leaders in detention.

The Twelve are continuing to follow closely the development of the situation in Burma.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 203/90

by Mr Ernest Glinne (S)

to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation

(14 February 1990)

(90/C 272/13)

Subject: French embassy in Kabul

While the Western powers are still refusing to re-open their embassies in Kabul, in order not to give indirect support by such a political move to the regime of Mr Najibullah, France has unilaterally decided to send a chargé d'affaires to the Afghan capital.

What is the Ministers' view of the French decision?

Answer

(20 September 1990)

The question asked by Mr Glinne does not fall within the competence of European Political Cooperation.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 242/90

by Mr Vincenzo Mattina (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 February 1990)

(90/C 272/14)

Subject: Civil defence and prevention of forest fires

What measures does the Commission intend to take, particularly in the fields of civil defence, the environment and agriculture to deal with the problem of forest fires which, in addition to damaging the earth's 'green lungs', place so many lives at risk?

What instruments could the Commission use to finance European industrial projects which, having a social or environmental purpose, are unable to finance themselves (for example, the Advanced Aero-Amphibian (AAA) project, involving Italy, Germany, Greece, Yugoslavia and Denmark, which is not of a purely commercial or military nature and is therefore classified as having a social and humanitarian aim)?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(22 May 1990)

Over the last ten years the Community has funded a series of measures designed to reduce the risk of forest fire in southern Europe under Regulation (EEC) No 269/79 establishing a common forestry programme in certain Mediterranean areas of the Community (⁽¹⁾), Regulation (EEC) No 1975/82 on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece (⁽²⁾), the integrated Mediterranean programmes (Regulation (EEC) No 2088/85 (⁽³⁾)), the specific programme for the development of agriculture in Portugal (Regulation (EEC) No 3828/85 (⁽⁴⁾)), the specific common programme for the promotion of agricultural development in certain regions of Spain (Regulation (EEC) No 1118/88 (⁽⁵⁾)) and Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86 on the protection of forests against fire (⁽⁶⁾), as recently amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1614/89 (⁽⁷⁾).

The Commission is aware that fire is a serious problem in the forests of southern Europe, particularly as the major fires in 1989 brought to light certain shortcomings in the fire-protection measures. The standing forestry committee set up by the Council Decision of 29 May 1989 (⁽⁸⁾) decided at its first meeting, therefore, to set up a working party to consider the question of protecting forests against fire as part of the coordination of measures undertaken pursuant to Regulations (EEC) No 3529/86 and (EEC) No 1614/89.

At the beginning of 1990 the Commission therefore embarked on a series of studies in conjunction with the Member States to arrive at Community solutions designed to make the policies for the protection of forests against fire more consistent.

The Commission is aware of the effort of some Member States to develop a new aircraft to fight major menaces to the environment. It is important to introduce technological improvements in this field. Such efforts should benefit from collaboration in Research and Development within the new framework programme, in particular in the field of aeronautics and, combined with the study mentioned above, should enhance the contribution that the Commission can make in this field.

With regard to the AAA project mentioned by the Honourable Member it should be pointed out that

projects of this type, while of interest in view of their environmental aspects and from the point of view of international industrial collaboration, are not at present covered by the Community support frameworks recently adopted by the Commission. Moreover, the size and specific nature of the financial aid earmarked for environment policy are inadequate to provide support for such projects.

- (¹) OJ No L 38, 14. 2. 1979.
- (²) OJ No L 214, 22. 7. 1982.
- (³) OJ No L 197, 27. 7. 1985.
- (⁴) OJ No L 372, 31. 12. 1985.
- (⁵) OJ No L 107, 28. 4. 1988.
- (⁶) OJ No L 326, 21. 11. 1986.
- (⁷) OJ No L 165, 15. 6. 1989.
- (⁸) OJ No L 165, 15. 6. 1989.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 259/90

by Mr Edward McMillan-Scott (ED)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 February 1990)

(90/C 272/15)

Subject: Baggage inspection at Community airports

The US firm, Science Applications International Corporation and the French firm, Sodern, have developed equipment capable of detecting explosives, such as Semtex, in baggage, with a 95% success rate, using neutron radiation to analyse the contents of cases and sealed containers at a rate of ten units per minute.

What steps are the Commission and airports' authorities in the Community taking to bring about early commercialization of equipment capable of detecting explosives and drugs in passengers' baggage and air freight?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1178/90

by Mr Edward McMillan-Scott (ED)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 May 1990)

(90/C 272/16)

Subject: Baggage inspection at Community airports

In the light of continuing threats to passenger safety from the concealment of explosives in airline passengers' baggage and air freight, and the technological achievements of firms such as Science Applications International Corporation in the USA and Sodern in France in developing thermal neutron analysis (TNA) systems to detect explosives such as Semtex, what steps is the Commission taking to promote investment in TNA

equipment at Community airports and at airports in the Lomé Convention States, in the light of the recent destruction of a second UTA airliner in Chad?

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 259/90 and 1178/90 given by Mr Van Miert on behalf of the Commission

(3 July 1990)

The Commission takes the problems of security of air transport very seriously and organized a conference on security and safety for airports and aircraft two years ago.

However, the Community's competence in this field is limited.

It is for national authorities to take the appropriate steps to ensure that checks are carried out on passengers and their luggage.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 280/90

by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)

to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation

(19 February 1990)

(90/C 272/17)

Subject: Further violation of human rights in Burkino Faso

On 25 December 1989 the Government of Burkino Faso announced the failure of another attempted coup d'état. On the same day the national human rights league announced that more than fifty people had been arrested and that others were likely to be arrested subsequently.

Further to the question of 20 November 1989, can the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC investigate the situation in this country and the treatment of detainees? Can they ascertain whether the non-recoverable grant of ECU 1 400 000 earmarked from the European Development Fund on 4 October 1989 is being used for its intended purpose of rural development and film documentation or whether it is simply being used for propaganda purposes? Similarly, can they ascertain whether the amount of ECU 31 500 000 earmarked on 5 June 1989 to combat desertification is being used for this purpose or whether the danger exists that it will be used to consolidate a government which does not appear to respect human rights?

Answer

(20 September 1990)

The Community and its Member States follow closely the human rights situation in Burkina Faso in the context of

their regular review of developments in Sub-Saharan Africa.

At its meeting held in Dublin on 25 and 26 June, the European Council stressed the importance of progress in the observance of human rights and in sound government management in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Commission follows closely the implementation of all cooperation programmes under the Lomé Convention and makes sure that they are implemented in strict conformity with their objective.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 282/90

by Mrs Dorothee Piermont (ARC)

to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation

(19 February 1990)

(90/C 272/18)

Subject: Teaching material defining Germany in terms of its 1937 borders, published in conjunction with the Federal German Government's Press and Information Office

In December 1989 the publishing house 'Zeitbild-Verlag GmbH', Mainzer Strasse 255, D-5300 Bonn 2, in conjunction with the Federal German Government's Press and Information Office, issued a leaflet for distribution to schools. Responsibility for the contents of the leaflet is claimed by the 'Study Group for Topical Education. W. Martin.'

This leaflet refers to the GDR as *Mittelddeutschland* (Central Germany) and states that Germany does not end at the Oder and Neisse but continues to exist within its borders of 31 December 1937, encompassing the old German territories of Eastern Prussia, Pomerania, Eastern Brandenburg and Silesia. For details of the definitive borders, reference is made to a non-existent peace treaty.

1. What view do the Ministers meeting in EPC take of such leaflets being issued, particularly among schoolchildren in the Federal Republic of Germany, following the opening of the Berlin Wall?
2. What view do they take of the fact that the German Government's Press and Information Office is helping to produce such documents?

Answer

(20 September 1990)

The Honourable Member's question does not fall within the competence of European Political Cooperation.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 324/90

by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)

to the Council of the European Communities

(21 February 1990)

(90/C 272/19)

Subject: Embargo on trade in arms with China

Is the Council aware of the fact that the United Kingdom Government has broken the terms of the Madrid European Council Declaration on China in the following ways:

- by issuing permits to GEC Marconi on 14 September 1989 to sell radar equipment for China's fighter planes, and
- by endorsing high level links with China through the visit of three MPs who went to China in late October?

Both of these actions contravene the Declaration which called for an arms trade embargo and a 'suspension of bilateral ministerial and high level contacts.'

Answer (*)

(20 September 1990)

While the specific questions raised by the Honourable Member have not been discussed in the framework of European Political Cooperation, the Honourable Member can rest assured that the Community and its Member States consult closely on the measures taken with regard to China. As the Honourable Member will be aware, the then Foreign Secretary announced the terms of the ban on United Kingdom arms sales to China on 6 June 1989.

(*) This reply has been provided by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, within whose province the question came.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 325/90

by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)

to the Council of the European Communities

(21 February 1990)

(90/C 272/20)

Subject: Independent observers at trials in China

The Madrid Council Declaration on China agreed to raise the issue of human rights in the international fora and to ask for admittance of independent observers to attend the trials and visit the prisons.

Is the Council aware that on 30 November 1989, 11 Tibetan men were arrested for distributing counter-revolutionary propaganda and five received sentences of over 17 years, and did the Council make any formal requests for independent observers to attend these trials?

Answer (1)
(20 September 1990)

The Community and its Member States have requested the Chinese authorities to allow observers to attend trials and visit prisons, as specified in the Madrid Declaration, but the Chinese authorities have turned down this request on the ground that it constituted interference in the internal affairs of China. No separate request was made in the particular instance to which the question refers. They have raised with the Chinese authorities the human rights aspects of the situation in Tibet, and as has been stated to Parliament on previous occasions, have used all suitable opportunities to seek to persuade the Chinese authorities to respond to the Community's concern, and international concern generally, about violations of human rights in China.

(1) This reply has been provided by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, within whose province the question came.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 326/90
by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)
to the Council of the European Communities
(21 February 1990)
(90/C 272/21)

Subject: Martial law in Tibet

Will the Foreign Ministers put pressure on the Chinese Government to lift martial law in Lhasa, Tibet since it is clear that no acceptable political process can function under these circumstances?

Answer (1)
(20 September 1990)

The Honourable Member will have noted the announcement by the Chinese authorities that martial law has been lifted in Tibet.

(1) This reply has been provided by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, within whose province the question came.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 353/90
by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(26 February 1990)
(90/C 272/22)

Subject: Symposium in Paris on the disposal of nuclear waste

Is the Commission prepared to make a statement on the conclusions of the symposium in Paris (8 to 13 October 1989) on the long-term safety aspects of nuclear waste disposal?

Answer given by Mr Pandolfi
on behalf of the Commission
(22 May 1990)

The symposium in Paris (9 to 13 October 1989) was jointly sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), which also acted as the coordinator of the symposium, and the Commission of the European Communities, in collaboration with the French *Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique*. The aim was to enable experts from all over the world to discuss the long-term safety of the final storage facilities of radioactive waste and to review the various storage concepts.

The Commission agrees with the conclusions expressed in the communique of the NEA of 16 October 1989, namely: 'The experts confirmed that progress has been made and that the knowledge now available provides a firm basis for reliable long-term assessments of future disposal sites. Uncertainties in making performance assessments are now well identified and provide guidance for future research. In particular, additional R&D will require field and *in situ* investigations at specific sites in order to collect data and refine the estimation methods.' The Commission will be sending both the Honourable Member and the Secretariat of the Parliament the full text of the conclusions of the Symposium held in Paris from 9 to 13 October 1989.

It would also point out that these conclusions are in agreement with those of the Pagis Information Conference it organized in Madrid on 30 June 1989.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 359/90
by Mr Paul Staes (V)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(26 February 1990)
(90/C 272/23)

Subject: Euratom and South African uranium

It is reported that the Nukem company has supplied TVO-Finland with South African uranium in defiance of the first UN decision on the matter. This should be

investigated by Euratom, particularly since the uranium in question came from stocks held in the European Community. Although the uranium was officially registered as coming from Niger, because of an origin-swap it really originated in South Africa.

Although this has been denied by TVO, the Hesse criminal investigation department in Wiesbaden has documentary evidence (testimony by Dr Horst Keese, Director of Nukem-Luxembourg) that this illegal transaction took place. Dr Keese also maintains that it took place with Euratom's approval.

At 5.30 p.m. on 17 November 1989 a spokesman, Ilkka Mikkola, openly admitted on Finnish radio that TVO had been duped by Nukem. In fact, both the Finnish and Russian governments had been deceived. In addition, Euratom is not empowered to authorize origin swaps.

Is Euratom aware that the TVO claimed to have Euratom approval (certificates) for this transaction?

If so, did it immediately take the matter up with TVO and the Finnish Government? What measures will Euratom take, since it has been established that Nukem has wrongfully claimed to have its approval? Will it institute proceedings?

Why is it that neither the Commission nor Euratom reacted to our statements to the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the Handling of Nuclear Material? The matter has since been proven and valuable time has been lost.

Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha
on behalf of the Commission
(10 May 1990)

The text to which the Honourable Member refers is Decree No 1 of the United Nations Council for Namibia and only concerns uranium of Namibian origin.

The Honourable Member should refer to the Commission statement to the European Parliament on this and other matters in July 1988 ⁽¹⁾ in which the Commission stated that, well before the Transnuklear affair, it had taken steps to prevent origin swaps sometimes erroneously referred to as flag swaps, even though this type of transaction is not contrary to the Euratom Treaty. No transaction of this kind has been referred to the Community authorities since then.

It should also be noted that Euratom does not issue any sort of certificate.

⁽¹⁾ European Parliament debates No 2-367 (July 1988).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 382/90
by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(26 February 1990)
(90/C 272/24)

Subject: Facilitating the retroactive payment of family allowances to migrant workers

The fact that the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs has decided to adopt the new Regulation on social security systems will put an end to the discrimination to which migrant workers used to be subjected if their families continued to live in the Community country of origin.

According to the Regulation, certain migrant workers in Community countries may be paid family allowances backdated to 15 January 1986, the quantities varying according to individual cases. However in some cases, for example that of Spaniards, the allowances may be 50 or 100 times greater than in the country of origin.

In view of the large amounts to be paid to these workers, how does the Commission consider that the relevant information campaign should be carried out so as to ensure that the payment of the back-dated family allowances is made easier for the workers concerned? Does it also consider that those responsible for payment should be asked to make the payments automatically without waiting for the recipients to make their claims?

Answer given by Mrs Papandreou
on behalf of the Commission
(28 March 1990)

The Honourable Member's question concerns the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3427/89 ⁽¹⁾, which entered into force on 15 November 1989.

This Regulation introduces a uniform arrangement for payment of family benefits to workers in cases where the members of the worker's family reside in another Member State, whereby the benefits are paid by the Member State in which the worker is employed in accordance with the legislation of that State. The Regulation applies retrospectively from 15 January 1986.

The Honourable Member wishes to know ⁽¹⁾ how it is proposed to organize the information campaign to help those concerned (mainly Spanish and Portuguese workers) to obtain the benefits, backdated to 15 January 1986, to which they are entitled, and ⁽²⁾ whether these benefits should be paid automatically without those concerned needing to submit claims.

The Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers is currently considering the necessary arrangements for implementing the Regulation, including the points raised by the Honourable Member. First and foremost, it remains to be established whether the 'uniform solution' referred to in Articles 60 and 220 of the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal entered into force with retrospective effect from 15 January 1986 for all employed and self-employed workers, including those of Spanish and Portuguese nationality. This is a purely legal question that needs to be studied in depth.

At this stage it would seem that, for practical reasons, backdated payment of benefits should be made at the request of those concerned.

A working party has been set up in the Administrative Commission to discuss arrangements for applying the Regulation.

Work done so far has already made it possible for the Administrative Commission to adopt a decision determining the date on which the new system will take effect (1 April 1990). This will be published shortly in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. A decision will be taken later on payment of arrears of benefit.

Finally, the French delegation on the Administrative Commission has announced that the French authorities are now looking into a variety of means of informing those concerned of their rights, including posters and information brochures to be sent to those families that can be traced.

In the case of workers who were employed in France for a limited period in 1986, 1987 or 1988, and who have returned to their Member State of origin or gone to another Member State, it would seem that only the States in which they are now resident can provide them with the necessary information on this matter.

(¹) OJ No L 331, 16. 11. 1989.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 397/90

by Mr Alonso Puerta (GUE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 March 1990)

(90/C 272/25)

Subject: Application in the Autonomous Community of Asturias (Spain) of the Directives fixing water quality objectives

In principle the Member States are supposed to ensure the implementation of Community Directives (Article

130r (4) of the EEC Treaty) and the Commission is responsible for ensuring that they are correctly applied. However, a directive cannot be implemented if it has not yet been incorporated into the internal legal systems of the Member States.

1. Can the Commission ascertain whether the following directives are actually being applied in the Autonomous Community of Asturias:
 - Directive 75/440/EEC (¹) concerning the quality required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States,
 - Directive 76/160/EEC (²) concerning the quality of bathing water,
 - Directive 78/659/EEC (³) on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life,
 - Directive 80/68/EEC (⁴) on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances,
 - Directive 80/778/EEC (⁵) relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption?
2. I should be grateful if the Commission could let me have all the information it manages to obtain on this subject.

(¹) OJ No L 194, 25. 7. 1975, p. 26.

(²) OJ No L 31, 5. 2. 1976, p. 1.

(³) OJ No L 222, 14. 8. 1978, p. 1.

(⁴) OJ No L 20, 26. 1. 1980, p. 43.

(⁵) OJ No L 229, 30. 8. 1980, p. 11.

Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 1990)

The Commission has at its disposal the following information on the effective application of the Directives mentioned below by the Autonomous Community of Asturias:

- Directive 75/440/EEC: the Spanish authorities have not so far designated surface water by categories (A1, A2, A3), not put forward any plans for purification,
- Directive 78/659/EEC: the Spanish authorities have not yet designated waters capable of supporting fish life,
- The Commission has received a petition denouncing the activities of a mining company which is polluting the water of the River Vega (Conseil de Ribadesella, Asturias) which is said to have resulted in the death of a large number of fish in October 1989,
- Directive 76/160/EEC: the Spanish authorities have designated water suitable for bathing for the whole of its national territory. With respect to Asturias, and according to the report on the quality of water for bathing for 1988 sent to the Commission by the Spanish authorities, there are 35 seaside bathing zones and 59 sampling points, of which six are not in

conformity with the coliform parameter of Directive 76/160/EEC. Moreover, no information has been supplied on a number of the parameters laid down in the Directive for any of the Asturias bathing zones,

- Directive 80/68/EEC: the Commission has no information on how the Directive is being applied in Asturias,
- Directive 80/778/EEC: no reply from the Spanish authorities has been received in response to two letters requesting information sent by the Commission in 1989.

The Commission will be sending a letter to the Spanish authorities requesting information on the aspects where it is lacking.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 414/90

by Mr Maxime Verhagen (PPE)

to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation

(5 March 1990)

(90/C 272/26)

Subject: Unlawful killings in Liberia

1. Are the Foreign Ministers aware of reports that in Nimba County (north-east Liberia) and in the capital Monrovia hundreds of unarmed citizens have been killed by rebels and government troops?
2. Are the Foreign Ministers also aware that during the invasion of 24 December 1989 government troops burned the villages of Butuo and Karnplay to the ground and killed a large number of the inhabitants?
3. Are the Foreign Ministers prepared to express their concern and call on the Liberian Government to bring an immediate halt to these unlawful killings?
4. What other steps will the Foreign Ministers take in order to put a stop to these alarming developments in Liberia?

Answer

(20 September 1990)

The Community and its Member States are following events in Liberia with deep concern. They have made two démarches to the Liberian government concerning events

in Nimba County and have also made various appeals to both the government and rebel forces deploring the loss of life and calling for an end to the killings. They have condemned the actions against the innocent populations and called on the parties in conflict to safeguard from violence embassies and places of refuge such as churches, hospitals, etc. where defenceless civilians have sought shelter. They have additionally urged all parties involved to seek a solution by peaceful means. In particular the Presidency refers the Honourable Member to the Twelve's statements on Liberia on 25 July and 2 August.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 423/90

by Mr Víctor Manuel Arbeloa Muru (S)

to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation

(5 March 1990)

(90/C 272/27)

Subject: The detention of Protestants and Catholics in China

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation take an early opportunity to interest themselves in the fate of the Catholic bishops Liu Guangdong, of the Yixian diocese, and Habei Li Side, of the Tianjin diocese, neither of whom are members of the official Patriotic Catholic Association and who were detained on 26 November and 8 December 1989, respectively? Would they also take an interest in the fate of the Protestant leaders who were detained in early October 1989 in Henan province and who have possibly still not been released?

Answer

(20 September 1990)

As has been stated to Parliament on many occasions, the Community and its Member States have consistently raised the question of human rights observance in China both directly with the Chinese authorities and in the appropriate international fora. In particular since the Madrid Declaration, EEC-China relations have been adversely affected by China's failure to ensure full respect for human rights. Although not all of the individual cases to which the question refers have been discussed in European Political Cooperation and raised in Beijing, I can inform the Honourable Member that respect for religious freedom and the predicament of Rome-affiliated Catholics are among the specific concerns of the Community and its Member States in the context of human rights in China.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 438/90**by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(5 March 1990)**(90/C 272/28)**Subject: The Atlantic and European Tourism Year*

The Atlantic provides a cultural and geographical link between the Americas and Europe.

What measures does the Commission intend to take, as part of European Tourism Year, to bring Europe to public attention among the various peoples of North and South America?

What specific tasks could be fulfilled by the Atlantic regions as part of a programme for the promotion of Europe on the American continent?

**Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha
on behalf of the Commission**

(28 June 1990)

Measures to promote European tourism in the United States and Canada have been taken for a number of years by the Commission's department responsible for tourism, in cooperation with the European Tourism Commission (which groups the national tourist organizations of 24 European countries), in the form of publicity campaigns in newspapers and magazines. The aim of these campaigns is to make the general public more aware of Europe's tourist attractions. Certain projects presented in the course of European Tourism Year, in particular by Spain and Portugal (in connection with the discoverers of the New World) and by the United Kingdom and France (Channel Tunnel), are also likely to reawaken American tourists' interest in the Atlantic side of Europe.

New measures to promote European tourism are also being undertaken, including in Latin America, as part of European Tourism Year.

In the United States, a publicity campaign is to be carried out in eight quality magazines chosen for their wide national circulation.

In Canada, emphasis will also be placed on wide national coverage for the information campaign in magazines. Readers will be able to obtain on request a brochure entitled 'Travel Planner on Europe' which sets out information on travel agencies in west European countries.

In Latin America, the attraction and increasing accessibility of the United States, to both young people and adults, make it necessary to highlight the values and competitiveness of European countries, of which the public is not sufficiently aware. Since it would prove too costly to target each of the fragmented markets in the

hemisphere, the most effective approach would appear to be to attend the next Congress of COTAL (the Latin American Confederation of Tourism Organizations), to be held in 1990 at Mar del Plata, Argentina. Some 2 500 travel agents from all over Latin America will take part in the event. The President of Cotal has given his official approval for a 'European avenue' with national stands and the European Tourism Year logo to be set up at the exhibition.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 442/90**by Mr Antoni Gutierrez Diaz (GUE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(5 March 1990)**(90/C 272/29)**Subject: Alzheimer's disease*

Alzheimer's disease which results in a general and progressive decline in intellectual faculties caused by the irreversible and continuous loss of brain cells, affects approximately 4,5% of the over-60s and is the disease which most frequently leads to dementia.

In various Community Member States associations have been set up to assist the families of those affected by this disease. These associations make a valuable contribution to caring for the victims of Alzheimer's disease and informing the public about it.

In what way can the Commission promote the activities of these civic organizations?

Is the Community running or participating in any programmes relating to Alzheimer's disease?

Does the Commission intend to initiate measures in this area?

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

(22 May 1990)

On 28 March 1990 the Commission presented a 'Communication on the Elderly' (1), which lays the foundation for an evolving series of actions by the Commission for the benefit of elderly people over the next few years. These will include the organization of studies and conferences and the establishment of a European database on issues of relevance to the elderly.

While it is still too early to say exactly which issues should be addressed by the individual actions, it is nevertheless to be expected that Alzheimer's disease, as a major concern of the elderly, will receive attention within the framework now proposed.

In addition, research on dementia, and in particular on Alzheimer's disease, has been included since 1982 in the Medical and Health Research Programme of the Commission. Coordination of research on this disease is covered through epidemiological and biological research and, indirectly, through the development of relevant technology. The Commission is currently financing four collaborative research projects (concerted actions) related to Alzheimer's disease, and it is foreseen that research on ageing will also be undertaken during the third Framework Programme (1990 - 1994).

(¹) COM(90) 80 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 443/90

by Mrs Raymonde Dury (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 March 1990)

(90/C 272/30)

Subject: Assessment of the value of research into medication

In support of demands for extensions of patents the pharmaceutical industry cites the need for research financing. However, it would appear that not all types of research lead to innovations. In the United States research is classified in accordance with its therapeutic value (no value, limited value, great value).

Does the Commission not consider that a similar classification could be introduced and implemented in Europe?

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

(3 May 1990)

Research, especially in the pharmaceutical field, is a very costly and high-risk activity. Adequate funding is clearly one of the inevitable requirements of any policy to promote and strengthen research.

While it is true that research does not necessarily lead to innovation, the uncertainty of the outcome is inherent in the very nature of the activity. As regards innovation, the advisability of taking the therapeutic value of a new medicinal product into account can only be assessed in the light of the various objectives pursued.

On the question of a new criterion for determining the patentability of a medicinal product, it should be recalled that the generally accepted criteria of patentability are

neutral in this respect and are concerned only with the process of creativity applied to the industry in the broad sense (novelty and invention). This is in fact the only possible approach, since the therapeutic value of a medicinal product cannot be assessed before it has been placed on the market, i.e. a long time after the patent concerned has been filed and applied for.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 450/90

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

(5 March 1990)

(90/C 272/31)

Subject: Increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis in Italy

There are more than 25 000 cases of tuberculosis in Italy every year. The disease mainly affects elderly people and seropositive AIDS victims.

Because of the availability of effective drugs on the market, this illness does not cause major concern.

However, there has been a reversal of the past trend with a gradual increase in the number of cases.

This phenomenon has taken health workers by surprise, as the health reform in Italy involved dismantling the health and epidemiological monitoring network which had contributed so much to the fight against tuberculosis.

Would the Commission of the European Communities provide statistics for tuberculosis cases in the Member States?

Would the Commission of the European Communities say what initiatives it intends to take in this connection?

**Answer given by Miss Papandreou
on behalf of the Commission**

(10 April 1990)

The Commission does not have any statistics on tuberculosis in Member States. The World Health Organization, however, does have figures on the incidence of tuberculosis in the Community for the period 1980 to 1987, and these are being sent direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat.

It is not the Commission's intention to take any action in this area at present.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 472/90**by Mrs Maria Santos (V)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(5 March 1990)**(90/C 272/32)**Subject: Termination of pregnancy*

Given the hardship suffered by women in various situations where they are unable to terminate a pregnancy that entails problems; given that, in certain Member States, the relevant legislation, though adequate, is not applied, as is the case in Portugal, where the minimum conditions to enable people to benefit from this legislation do not exist:

1. Does the Commission intend to take legislative action on the matter?
2. Does the Commission have up-to-date statistics on the application of legislation in Portugal?

**Answer given by Miss Papandreou
on behalf of the Commission**

(21 May 1990)

1. The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by the Commission to oral questions No 49/90 by Mrs Lehideux and No 147/89 by Mrs Vayssade during the plenary session of Parliament in February 1990 ⁽¹⁾.
2. The Commission has no statistics on abortion in Portugal.

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament No 3-374 (February 1990).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 502/90**by Mr Karl von Wogau (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(7 March 1990)**(90/C 272/33)**Subject: Postal charges in the European Community*

Is the Commission aware that the cost of sending a 15 kg parcel from Freiburg to Kehl is DM 11, while to send the same parcel to Strasbourg, which is only one kilometre away but on the other side of the border, costs DM 40?

What is the Commission doing to ensure that the objectives of the common market are respected with regard to parcel postage charges?

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

(16 May 1990)

The sending and delivering of parcels is one of the public services offered by the 12 postal services of the European Community. These services are not monopolies. Postal services are also offered by private operators in some parts of Europe, chiefly in the major cities of the Community.

Postal charges are set freely by each of the 12 postal services, which have sole responsibility for both national and international charges.

The major difference in the charge (DM 40 to France but only DM 11 within Germany) for sending a 15 kg parcel over the Franco-German border (Freiburg to Strasbourg) arises chiefly from the fact that the parcel has to pass between two different administrations. The fact that each administration has sole responsibility over its own territory means that a charge has to be set to cover the distribution costs (final-stage costs) to be borne by the postal service in the country of destination (the French post).

Compared with national deliveries, the cost of sending parcels via international centres makes the cost of sending parcels through the post to other Member States considerably higher.

The abovementioned difference in charges (DM 29/ECU 14,2, i.e. 2,63 times the German national rate) would seem to be clearly in excess of the difference normally arising from the existence of the frontier between Germany and France. At present the German postal service has sole responsibility for fixing these postal charges.

The Commission, aware of the importance of this issue, is planning to publish a Green Paper on the postal service market in the Community before the end of the year. The Green Paper will examine the issues involved and suggest ways of working towards an internal postal service market without frontiers for all the inhabitants of the Community.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 563/90**by Mrs Anita Pollack (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(16 March 1990)**(90/C 272/34)**Subject: Environmental impact of lorries*

What is the impact of one tonne-kilometre of freight carried in lorries with diesel engines of the size normally used in international journeys, on the following:

- primary energy consumption,
- carbon dioxide emissions,

- nitrogen dioxide emissions,
- carbon monoxide emissions,
- polynuclear (polycyclic) aromatic hydrocarbon emissions (PAHs),
- particulate matter,
- accidents,
- land use?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(14 June 1990)

According to Council Decision 85/338/EEC⁽¹⁾ the Commission developed a system for the collection of EEC-wide data about the emissions of air-pollutants. In a summary report of the Corinair working group⁽²⁾, the emissions of CO, NO_x and volatile organic compounds (VOC) from road traffic (based on the year 1985) were estimated and listed for the different Member States and the following vehicle classes:

- vehicles < 3,5 tonnes: gasoline, diesel, LPG;
- vehicles > 3,5 tonnes: gasoline, diesel 3,5 - 16 tonnes, diesel > 360 tonnes.

Specific statistics based on tonne-kilometre freight, transported in international traffic by diesel-trucks of 'normal size' are not available.

The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) is assessing the possibilities to extend the environmental statistics, particularly in the area of traffic.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 176, 6. 7. 1985, p. 14.

⁽²⁾ The Commission is sending a copy of this report directly to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 573/90

**by Mr Alexander Langer (V)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(16 March 1990)

(90/C 272/35)

Subject: Unchecked exports of toxic and harmful waste to Romania

According to detailed press reports, a thriving trade has been going on since at least 1987 whereby many Italian,

West German, Dutch and Swiss firms have been disposing of their toxic and harmful industrial waste by exporting it practically unchecked and more or less legally to Romania, mainly to Black Sea ports (especially Sulina) where it constitutes a serious public danger as there are no adequate treatment or disposal plants. The Romanian firm Kimika Ice, the Swiss-British company Metrode IDT registered in Cardiff and with an office in Viganello (Lugano), the Italian company Sirteco and the Romanian bank Manufactura Nova Ovn Trust seem to be among those involved.

What is the Commission's reaction to this and how does it intend to ensure compliance with the necessary safety and legal criteria to prevent the recurrence or institutionalization in a different guise of this criminal trade which has been possible hitherto thanks to poverty, corruption and a lack of democracy and transparency?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(22 May 1990)

The Commission has no knowledge of the press reports to which the Honourable Member refers, and would be grateful to receive any information in his possession. The Commission will then write to the Member States from which these exports allegedly took place, namely Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands asking them for information.

The Commission would point out to the Honourable Member that it is contrary to Community law to export waste to non-member countries if it is not certain that it will be disposed of without endangering human health or the environment.

Pursuant to Council Directive 84/631/EEC of 6 December 1984 on the supervision and monitoring within the European Community of transfrontier movements of hazardous waste⁽¹⁾, as amended by Directive 86/279/EEC⁽²⁾, the competent authority of the exporting country has to check whether this condition is satisfied (Article 3 (3)). In addition, exports can be authorized only if the non-member country gives its written consent. However, the Directive, which should have entered into force in all Member States on 1 October 1985, was only recently incorporated into national law by most of them.

Under the Basle Convention of 22 March 1989 on the control and disposal of transfrontier movements of

hazardous waste, the control arrangements will be tightened up even further. In this connection, the Commission is proposing to draw up a regulation replacing the abovementioned Directive which could enter into force without involving the Member States.

(¹) OJ No L 326, 13. 12. 1984, p. 31.

(²) OJ No L 181, 4. 7. 1986, p. 13.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 618/90

by Mr Gijs de Vries (LDR)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 March 1990)

(90/C 272/36)

Subject: VAT on used cars

In certain EEC Member States undertakings subject to VAT are entitled to full or partial deduction of VAT on new cars (Twelfth Directive). In most countries private individuals are not entitled to deduct VAT. The proposed amendment to the Sixth VAT Directive poses problems for the automobile industry in cases where cars which are traded in or sold by private individuals are offered for sale by a garage to other private individuals or purchasers subject to VAT. On certain vehicles the VAT deduction would be excessive (deduction on the new car and a further partial deduction on the used car). In the Netherlands, there is the additional problem of how the car should be priced in the showroom.

Is the Commission aware that the proposed amendment of the VAT Directive in the automobile sector could cause major administrative problems and increase the scope for tax fraud?

What measures does the Commission envisage to prevent or limit these unfavourable consequences?

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

(5 July 1990)

In its proposal relating to special arrangements for second-hand goods, works of art, antiques and collector's items (¹), presented to the Council on 11 January 1989, the Commission advocates the introduction of an arrangement whereby VAT is charged on the taxable dealer's margin.

This arrangement makes it possible to determine the true value added by the taxable person and to avoid double taxation. It has been discussed on numerous occasions

with the trade interests concerned, who are generally in favour. A majority of the Member States currently applying a special arrangement to second-hand cars have opted for taxation of the margin.

The Commission agrees with the Honourable Member that care must be taken to see that the introduction of a uniform system of taxation for second-hand goods does not create scope for fraud and does not cause administrative complications. It remains convinced that those concerns can be dealt with effectively in applying the special arrangements proposed.

(¹) OJ No C 76, 28. 3. 1989, p. 10.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 633/90

by Mr Marc Galle (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 March 1990)

(90/C 272/37)

Subject: Ivory trade

In Lausanne in October 1989, 105 countries decided to end the ivory trade. This ban led to a fall in the price of ivory of between 30 and 50 %.

In January 1990, however, the Thatcher government decided to re-establish the ivory trade in the Crown Colony of Hong Kong. How does the Commission view the prospect of Hong Kong's stock of 670 tonnes of ivory being offered for sale on the world market within six months?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(8 May 1990)

The Commission is aware of the reservation entered by the United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong against the transfer of the African elephant from Appendix II to Appendix I of the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The reservation will be in force for a period of six months from 18 January 1990 and will not apply in respect of the United Kingdom or any other of its Dependant Territories. Imports of ivory into Hong Kong will continue to be prohibited and only ivory currently held legally in Hong Kong will be permitted to be re-exported during the period of the reservation.

Hong Kong is not covered by Community legislation and is for all purposes of Cites implementation considered as a third country. Furthermore, under the terms of the Convention, the re-export of ivory, legally acquired

before 18 January 1990, can continue to be traded internationally even in the absence of such a reservation.

The Commission should like to point out, however, that any imports of ivory into the Community from third countries are prohibited under Council Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 384, 31. 12. 1982, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 646/90

by Mr Luigi Moretti (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 March 1990)

(90/C 272/38)

Subject: Registration with the Italian vehicle licensing authorities of vehicles imported from Community Member States

For the purposes of registering a car with the Italian vehicle licensing authorities it is necessary to produce a notarial deed of purchase.

This also applies to vehicles purchased abroad with provisional road licences and plates issued by the customs authorities and imported directly by the purchaser.

Since, in many Community Member States, the sale of an automobile does not require a notarial deed and since the Italian authorities do not accept as a valid substitute purchase documents issued abroad, this requirement causes administrative problems for the purchaser, making it extremely expensive and burdensome to complete the procedure.

Does the Commission consider these requirements by the Italian authorities to be in conformity with provisions concerning the free movement of goods within the Community and, if not, do they intend to make every effort to ensure that these requirements are lifted? What measures do they intend to take to achieve this?

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

(16 May 1990)

As explained by the Commission in its communication on the procedures for the approval and registration of vehicles previously registered in another Member State ⁽¹⁾, it follows from the Judgment of the Court of Justice of 17 June 1987 in Case 154/85 Commission v. Italy ⁽²⁾ that, if the documents drawn up in the Member State of export contain the information needed for the registration of vehicles in the Member State of import, the latter is required to accept those documents if they are

legally valid in the Member State in which they were drawn up.

In particular, Member States cannot require such documents issued in other Member States to be authenticated or to comply with a model determined by the Member State of import.

In March 1989 the Commission received the text of a circular from the Italian Transport Ministry dated 24 February 1989 which, referring to the abovementioned Commission communication, stipulates that documents in support of a registration application do not have to be authenticated.

However, as it received complaints in the course of 1989 about the fact that the Italian authorities are apparently still requiring documents to be produced by applicants for registering vehicles in Italy imported from other Member States drawn up in the latter to be authenticated, the Commission has asked the authorities to explain their actions.

The Commission will inform the Honourable Member of the outcome of its enquiries.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 218, 4. 11. 1988, p. 9.

⁽²⁾ European Court reports [1987] 2717 to 2739.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 658/90

by Mr Artur da Cunha Oliveira (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 March 1990)

(90/C 272/39)

Subject: Oil slick affecting Madeira

On Monday, 15 January an enormous oil slick (20 km long and 2 km wide and approximately 50 cms thick) originating from a spill at sea of thousands of tonnes of crude oil reached the Portuguese Archipelago of the Autonomous Region of Madeira, and notably the island of Porto Santo which has the cleanest beaches in the Community. The maritime flora and fauna have suffered irreparable damage and the water supply of this island is severely jeopardized, given that 80 % is obtained through desalination. Enormous damage has also been done to tourism, the principal source of revenue in the region, and to the economy in general and there is a danger that the very rare colony of sea lions will disappear from the Ilhas Desertas.

Will the Commission say:

- (a) Whether it intends to provide technical and financial assistance to the Portuguese Government and the Autonomous Region of Madeira in view of this disaster?

- (b) What does it intend to do to ensure that other Community islands do not suffer a similar fate, incapable as they are of dealing with oil slicks of this kind?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(1 June 1990)

The Commission was very concerned about the recent oil pollution incident affecting the island of Porto Santo. The EEC task force has been fully involved in the operations for combating the major oil spill in the Madeira archipelago. The permanent, active presence of several task force experts in the islands for more than two months and the efficient coordination from the crisis team in Brussels provided the Portuguese Administration with a high level of technical assistance.

The cost of clean-up operations and other possible claims, will be covered by the polluter in accordance with the international compensation schemes for oil pollution. Representatives of the insurers have followed the operations in close cooperation with the Portuguese authorities and the EEC task force experts on the scene for this purpose.

The Commission will analyse, within the framework of the Advisory Committee for the Control and Reduction of Pollution caused by the Discharge at Sea of Hydrocarbons and other Harmful Substances (ACPH), the technical aspects of the recovery of oil and coast clean-up operations, in order to improve the existing techniques and arrangements for combating this kind of pollution.

The Commission will also support any initiative for the establishment of an operational organization to prevent accidents in the area and to combat pollution in cases where an accident occurs.

In addition there is the possibility, under the Community initiative, Envireg, of financial assistance in eligible areas for the provision of small-scale equipment to minimise the effects of accidental discharges from ships.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 659/90

by Mrs Hiltrud Breyer (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 January 1990)

(90/C 272/40)

Subject: Waste policy implications of the incineration of waste?

1. What is the percentage of water in domestic waste?
2. What quantity of combustion residues remain after the incineration of waste?

3. What is the energy balance for domestic waste incineration plants, when every effort has been made to alter products, and to prevent and recycle waste?

4. What quantities of organic carbon compounds are emitted at present by domestic waste incineration plants?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 660/90

by Mrs Hiltrud Breyer (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 January 1990)

(90/C 272/41)

Subject: Waste policy implications of waste incineration

At present some 450 domestic waste incineration plants are planned in the Community. In the Federal Republic of Germany alone 120 new incineration plants are planned.

1. What is the calorific value of domestic waste after the removal of all potentially useful materials by comparison with unsorted waste?
2. When a medium-sized waste incineration plant (about 150 000 tonnes per year) is built what quantity of waste is generated?
3. What useful materials or harmful substances can be removed from domestic waste by appropriate adjustment of production?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 666/90

by Mrs Hiltrud Breyer (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 January 1990)

(90/C 272/42)

Subject: Waste policy implications of the incineration of waste

1. To what extent can organic carbon compounds be avoided in incineration plants by appropriate measures such as flue gas cleaning and post oxidation?
2. How much more expensive does waste disposal become for citizens if an orderly system of selective dumping is used as opposed to waste incineration?

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 659/90, 660/90 and 666/90 given by Mr Ripa di Meana on behalf of the Commission

(11 June 1990)

As part of the preparations for Directives 89/369 (*) and 89/429 (*) on new and existing plant for the incineration

of household waste, which were adopted by the Council in June 1989, the Commission had a number of technical studies carried out. However, it should be noted that the composition, calorific value and degree of humidity of household waste and the quantity of residues following incineration, the pollutants given off, the energy balance, and, indeed, the cost of incineration vary considerably as a function of the equipment, the origin of the waste (rural or urban), and the various Member States. For any project of this kind decided on by any local organization, an examination of its compatibility with possible selective waste collection must be carried out and the local values of the parameters mentioned above assessed.

(¹) OJ No L 63, 14. 6. 1989, p. 32.

(²) OJ No L 203, 15. 7. 1989, p. 50.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 662/90

by Mrs Hiltrud Breyer (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 March 1990)

(90/C 272/43)

Subject: Nuclear fusion

1. What nuclear fusion research and development programmes exist at European level?
2. What organizational and financial contribution does the Community make to these programmes?
3. How large are the financial contributions made by the Member States?
4. How are the activities divided between the participating countries?

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

(16 May 1990)

1. All research carried out in the European Community in the field of controlled magnetic thermonuclear fusion is integrated into the Community Fusion Programme. Two EFTA countries, Sweden and Switzerland, are fully associated with the programme.

The Commission is responsible for the overall management of the programme.

2 and 3. Total annual spending on fusion research in the Community has been between ECU 400 and 450 million in recent years. About 45% is financed

through the Community budget, the balance being borne by the respective national organizations.

4. The programme is executed principally through contracts of association which bind the specialized fusion laboratories of the Member States into the Community Fusion programme through the JET (Joint European Torus) joint undertaking, through the NET (Next European Torus) agreement, and through the Joint Research Centre. Work is shared between the laboratories in a fully coordinated manner (for this the Consultative Committee for the Fusion Programme assists the Commission in an advisory capacity), which takes account of the relative expertise and resources of the laboratories involved and avoids unnecessary duplication of effort.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 663/90

by Mrs Hiltrud Breyer (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 March 1990)

(90/C 272/44)

Subject: Future fusion reactor

A fusion reactor is to be developed from the JET (Joint European Torus) and NET (Next European Torus) programmes.

1. Does the Commission take the view, like Mr Riesenhuber, the German Research Minister, that a fusion reactor will be operational by 2001?
2. Where does the Commission plan to locate such a fusion reactor?
3. What are the plans for disposing of the medium and high-level radioactive waste from this fusion reactor?
4. What percentage of the Community's primary energy consumption does the Commission think can be covered by energy from nuclear fusion in the year 2001.

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

(16 May 1990)

1. An experimental test reactor, NET at European level and ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) at world level, is currently in the conceptual design phase. If it were decided to start the construction of such a device in the mid 1990s, which is considered possible from a purely technical point of view, it would be operational about eight years later.

2. A construction site has yet to be decided.

3. Technical aspects of the activation likely to arise in the device are already under study as part of the conceptual design activities. A quantitative assessment of wastes cannot be undertaken until the engineering details of the device are available. However, it can already be

stated that, unlike fission, fusion will produce no high-level repository waste. The management of wastes (at medium- and low-level) will be subject to the national regulations of the country in which the device is to be sited.

4. Fusion has the potential to become a major source of electricity in the middle of the next century. In the experimental test reactor, however, the power produced (larger than one GW thermal) will not be converted into electricity as the experimental nature of the device would not justify the additional investment involved in energy conversion plant.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 664/90

by Mrs Hiltrud Breyer (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 March 1990)

(90/C 272/45)

Subject: Funds for the ITER programme

According to press reports the costs for ITER will be in the region of DM 5 billion.

1. At present what level of funding does the Commission think will be required for the ITER programme?
2. What will be the Community's share?
3. Will additional funds be required from the Member States and if so, how much?
4. What are the main findings of the interim report on ITER by the International Atomic Energy Agency which was completed a few months ago?

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

(16 May 1990)

Under an agreement between four parties, the European Community (including Sweden and Switzerland), Japan, the USA and the USSR, the ITER Conceptual Design Activities, which will be completed at the end of this year, take place under the Auspices of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). Community participation in ITER activities is conducted within the framework of successive Fusion Programme Decisions. Whether to continue into the engineering design activities of an ITER and eventually towards construction will depend on technical assessments and will also require further agreements between the parties.

The preliminary estimate of the capital cost for constructing an ITER facility, in January 1989, is US\$ 4 900 million ⁽¹⁾.

The sharing of construction costs would be fixed in the corresponding agreement. The cost of the ongoing Conceptual Design Activities is, however, being shared equally between the four parties.

No decision has been taken on how the contribution of the European Community could be shared between the Community Budget and the Member States.

An important result of the *ITER Conceptual Design Interim Report* (IAEA, Vienna, October 1989) is that the ITER Council has decided that, from a purely technical point of view, the next step should be the engineering design and that it would be highly desirable to avoid any unnecessary hiatus in the technical work after completion of the Conceptual Design Activities at the end of 1990. The results are published in ITER documentation series No 7 *ITER Conceptual Design: Interim Report* and No 9 *ITER Activities Status Report: December 1989* (IAEA, Vienna, 1990). A final report on the ITER conceptual design activities will be issued by the ITER Council at the end of 1990.

⁽¹⁾ ITER Documentation Series No 9 *Iter Activities Status Report: December 1989* (IAEA, VIENNA, 1990).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 677/90

by Mrs Ana Miranda de Lage (S)

to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the
European Community meeting in European Political
Cooperation

(23 March 1990)

(90/C 272/46)

Subject: CSCE conference in Bonn

The next CSCE conference, which will be held in Bonn, will deal with economic cooperation in Europe. This conference is being held at a time when the political and economic reforms being introduced in Central and Eastern Europe are providing a new boost for economic cooperation and opening up encouraging new prospects. The Community has a key role to play in these economic reforms. Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC therefore say precisely what position the Community will adopt at the conference in Bonn?

Answer

(20 September 1990)

The Special Meeting of the European Council in Dublin on 28 April noted, as stated in the Presidency

Conclusions, that the Community had made a major contribution to the success of the Conference and that the Bonn Document, which acknowledges the link between political pluralism and market economies, provides a basic orientation for future economic relations and cooperation in Europe.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 702/90

by Mr James Ford (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 March 1990)

(90/C 272/47)

Subject: Indigenous propagation project

In order to preserve the ecological integrity of poor rural areas, particularly in Turkey, from trade inside the Community in wild-collected flower bulbs sold as cultivated bulbs, will the Commission confirm that it is giving priority to the Fauna & Flora Preservation Society's Indigenous propagation project currently before the Commission?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(4 July 1990)

Trade in wild-collected cyclamen, galanthus and sternbergia specimens is subject to the provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82⁽¹⁾ on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites). Imports of Cyclamen tubers are subject to Community import quotas agreed with the Turkish Government in 1985. Galanthus and sternbergia specimens have been covered by Cites Appendix II since 18 January 1990.

Contacts made by the Turkish Government and exporters with botanists of the United Kingdom, Dutch and German Cites scientific authorities and Dutch importers have led to projects by Turkish exporters aiming at the cultivation of the species concerned. The first quantities of tubers of an exportable size are expected to enter trade in 1991.

The project submitted to the Commission by the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society is currently being examined. Due to the extremely high number of projects proposed for funding under budget line 946, it is as yet

unknown whether or not this interesting project can be funded by the Commission.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 384, 31. 12. 1982, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 703/90

by Mr James Ford (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 March 1990)

(90/C 272/48)

Subject: Universality of use of tinted glass in car windows

The Commission, in its reply to my Written Question No 726/89⁽¹⁾, is content to show an increase in the percentage of cars produced with tinted glass as 5 % of sales in the year 1987 to 1988, and conclude that 'the car industry is still far from extending the use of tinted glass to all of its production ... is not yet fitted ... (as) ... standard ... unless the customer so requests.'

Would the Commission care to re-examine the implications for consumer choice more seriously in the light of Volkswagen's introduction of tinted glass windows fitted as standard from their basic model Polo on this year's new ranges?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 97, 17. 4. 1990, p. 18.

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

(14 May 1990)

The Commission has just sent the Council a proposal for a Directive on glass for use in motor manufacture⁽¹⁾. This draft, which replaces the 1972 version, is currently under discussion in the European Parliament for an opinion.

The latest draft also contains requirements to be met by manufacturers for tinted and non-tinted glass so as to ensure good visibility on the road under all conditions. The choice made by the manufacturers will depend in the end on what the customer demands, and this more and more often means tinted glass. The example of Volkswagen mentioned by the Honourable Member supports this view. However, the customer who wishes not to opt for standard specifications will always be able to have what he specifically wants.

⁽¹⁾ COM(89) 653 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 713/90

**by Mr Yves Verwaerde and Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin
(LDR)**

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 March 1990)

(90/C 272/49)

Subject: Water pollution

The pollution of numerous groundwaters has been the subject of media attention in recent weeks in France. Coming after the Perrier affair, this situation once again raises the problem of water pollution.

Does the Commission intend to introduce new rules, especially concerning fertilizers, to ensure that such situations do not recur?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(24 April 1990)

At the beginning of 1989 the Commission presented a proposal for a Council Directive concerning the protection of fresh, coastal and marine waters against pollution caused by nitrates from diffuse sources ⁽¹⁾. The Council has not yet acted on this proposal.

The Commission would remind the Honourable Members that the proposal provides for the establishment of rules governing the application of chemical fertilizers in certain 'vulnerable' zones.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 54, 3. 3. 1989, p. 4.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 718/90

by Mrs Jessica Larive (LDR)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 March 1990)

(90/C 272/50)

Subject: Admission to the professional body of surgeons in the Netherlands

1. Is the Commission aware of a gentleman's agreement entered into by the Concilium Chirurgicum (the professional body representing Dutch surgeons) to the effect that no doctors or surgeons who have undergone special training in another Member State are admitted to this body? This also applies to Dutch nationals who were forced to qualify elsewhere because of the very limited training facilities which the Netherlands is known to offer (see the article by G. Kootstra and J. N. Keeman *Trends in the Netherlands* from *Der Chirurg, BDC* Volume 28, Supplement 1/1989).

2. Does not the Commission not consider this to be in breach of Directive 75/362/EEC ⁽¹⁾?

3. Do similar rules exist for other professional bodies which have for years been covered by EEC Directives on the recognition of diplomas and access to professions for example, veterinary surgeons, dentists, nurses, midwives and architects?

4. Is the Commission prepared to launch an inquiry into the above agreement of the Concilium Chirurgicum and, possibly, take measures to put an end to this unusual and discriminating policy?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 167, 30. 6. 1975, p. 1 and later amendments.

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

(25 June 1990)

1, 2 and 4. As far as the Commission is aware, surgeons who have qualified in another Member State are allowed to pursue their profession in the Netherlands.

The Commission does not, therefore, feel that Directive 75/362/EEC has been infringed. Information obtained by the Commission would suggest that there is an agreement not within the Concilium Chirurgicum but within the *Nederlandse Vereniging voor Heelkunde* (Dutch Professional Association of Surgeons) aimed at restricting access to the profession in the case of surgeons who qualified in the other Member States. In order to assess the situation in the light of Community law, and in particular Article 52 of the EEC Treaty, the Commission must first obtain information on the nature of the said agreement and on the powers of both the *Nederlandse Vereniging voor Heelkunde* and the Concilium.

3. The Commission is not aware of similar rules being applied by other professional bodies covered by Directives on the mutual recognition of diplomas.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 738/90

by Mrs Mechthild von Alemann (LDR)

to the Council of the European Communities

(27 March 1990)

(90/C 272/51)

Subject: Recognition of foreign qualifications acquired by German nationals, for entry into higher education

How does the Council view the fact that German nationals resident in Germany who have qualified abroad to enter higher education are required to take a verifying examination? Can the legal position in this instance be reconciled with the Directive on the recognition of diplomas?

Answer*(19 September 1990)*

The question concerns recognition of a secondary school-leaving certificate for the purposes of entrance to higher education (Hochschulreife), i.e. for academic purposes. However, Council Directive 89/48/EEC of 21 December 1988 on a general system for the recognition of higher-education diplomas ⁽¹⁾ and the proposal of 26 July 1989 for a Council Directive on a second general system for the recognition of professional education and training ⁽²⁾, which is currently being examined by the Council's subordinate bodies, relate to recognition of a diploma for access to or pursuit of a regulated occupation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 19, 24. 1. 1989, p. 16.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 263, 16. 10. 1989, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 747/90**by Mr James Janssen van Raay (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(27 March 1990)**(90/C 272/52)*

Subject: Financial assistance to enable smaller and weaker Member States to participate fully in the establishment of European standards

Following the Council resolution of 7 May 1985 on a new approach to technical harmonization and standards, the scope of European standardization such as that carried out by CEN and Cenelec has increased enormously.

The members of CEN and Cenelec are required to implement the European standards adopted by the majority. It is therefore in the interests of all member countries to take an active part in the process of drawing up these standards so that maximum account is taken of their national interests. This is a particularly heavy burden for the smaller Community Member States, which have relatively small standardization institutes.

While it is true that the Community provides funds for the drawing-up of the necessary standards these cover administrative costs only. In addition to these, very substantial costs are incurred in establishing national positions and actively participating in technical committees and working parties.

The entire process is currently dominated by the three major industrialized Member States of the Community. Balanced participation of all Member States would be promoted if Community funds were also made available for participation in the process of drawing up the necessary European standards. Such assistance could

consist of specific contributions to the smaller standardization institutes or the reimbursement of experts' travel expenses.

It is also important to note that the CEN uses three official languages, English, French and German. As a result, these three countries can submit their national standards and documents directly for discussion while the other Community Member States are obliged to translate their documents (or have them translated).

The Community is currently providing funds for translation of the standards finally adopted into the 'minority languages'. This arrangement does not, however, apply to working documents and proposals, whereby the other Member States are placed at a further disadvantage.

Does the Commission acknowledge these inequalities?

Is the Commission prepared to provide financial aid to the smaller and weaker Member States to enable them to participate fully in the drawing up of European standards ⁽¹⁾?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 136, 4. 6. 1985, p. 1.

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

(28 June 1990)

Against the background of the White Paper on the Internal Market 1992, a number of technical harmonization directives based on the new approach, as set out in the Council Resolution of 7 May 1985, have either been adopted or are in the process of being adopted. In view of the considerable progress made in the area of Community legislation, the Commission has been prompted, following consultations with the committee responsible for the implementation of Directive 83/189/EEC ⁽¹⁾, to entrust CEN and Cenelec with the task of drawing up a number of European standards. In order to cope with this significantly increased workload, CEN and Cenelec have embarked on a series of measures to improve European standardization structures and procedures, including the adaptation of certain rules of procedure. These rules stipulate the use of three working languages (English, French and German). The use of other languages within CEN and Cenelec, which also include among their members the EFTA standardization bodies, would entail the risk of slowing down, or even paralysing, the functioning of these bodies.

The Commission is fully aware that this imposed restriction of three working languages will mean a relatively heavy translation workload, thus adding to the disadvantages suffered by countries that are geographically remote from CEN/Cenelec headquarters.

In the case of the newly adopted European standards, the Commission is meeting the costs of translation into the non-working languages, in order to facilitate their

transposition and implementation at national level. To this end, it is using the appropriations allocated for the full range of European standardization actions entered in line 7750 of the budget (actions relating to the completion of the internal market). Furthermore, at the meeting held on 14 December 1989 of the enlarged committee responsible for the implementation of Directive 83/189/EEC, the Commission again drew the attention of members to the existence of this form of financial assistance.

On the question of selective aid for certain standards bodies to enable them to participate in European standardization activities, the Commission has already made provision, on an experimental basis, for financial contributions designed to compensate the poorest countries for their geographical remoteness. This applies particularly in the case of Greece, Portugal and Ireland.

(¹) OJ No L 109, 26. 4. 1983, p. 8.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 753/90

by Mr Hemmo Muntingh (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 March 1990)

(90/C 272/53)

Subject: Progress on the action plan for the monk seal drawn up by the States party to the Treaty of Barcelona

An action plan for the monk seal was drawn up in the context of the Treaty of Barcelona. The meeting of States party to the Treaty of Barcelona in Athens at the end of 1989 and contacts which the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan in Athens have shown that this action plan has come to a standstill. In general, the States party to the Treaty have failed to honour their commitments with regard to the action plan, and they appear to take little interest in the protection of the monk seal. Moreover, the coordinating unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan is frustrated by the comparative uncooperativeness of the Community as regards active assistance with the implementation of the action plan and reporting on its own activities.

1. How is the Commission cooperating with the coordinating unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan to implement the action plan for the monk seal?
2. Why has the Commission failed to report to the coordinating unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan on Community activities for the protection of the monk seal?
3. What can the Commission do to ensure that the action plan for the monk seal is implemented?

Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana on behalf of the Commission

(29 June 1990)

1. In September 1989 the Council of Europe organized a meeting to coordinate national and international programmes for the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural resources (IUCN) and the Secretariat of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals. The Commission informed the meeting of the action it had taken.

A copy of the recommendations made by the participants is being sent direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat.

These included a request that the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan coordinate conservation activities in close collaboration with the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the Bonn Convention and that the organizations concerned contact the national authorities direct, as and when necessary, with a view to improving conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal.

2. Within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Commission will continue to represent the Community at meetings on the subject organized by the Coordinating Unit.

3. The Commission recently approved a proposal for a Council Regulation on action by the Community relating to nature conservation (¹). The plan is to give financial support to projects for the conservation of biotopes and habitats of importance to the Community and projects for the preservation of endangered species.

(¹) COM(90) 125 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 776/90

by Mr Hemmo Muntingh (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 March 1990)

(90/C 272/54)

Subject: Coordination of activities to protect the monk seal

Numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations are actively involved in protecting the monk seal. Recent contacts with a number of individuals and organizations playing an active role in protecting the monk seal have revealed that there is little or no coordination of protection activities.

1. Is the Commission prepared to develop or support activities which may result in more effective coordination of efforts to protect the monk seal?
2. In this connection, is the Commission prepared to have genetic studies conducted to establish whether there are genetic differences between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean monk seal?
3. Does the Commission believe that certain colonies can be strengthened by introducing animals which have been caught in other, larger colonies?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(29 June 1990)

1. Yes.
2. The Commission is examining the feasibility of such a study.
3. At present the Commission is not planning to assist in operations of this kind, the feasibility of which has yet to be examined.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 798/90

**by Mr Carlos Carvalhas and Mr Joaquim Miranda da Silva
(CG)**

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 March 1990)

(90/C 272/55)

Subject: Pinaster project

As part of the Eclair Programme — agro-industrial research designed to encourage pre-competitive research — France, Spain, Italy and Portugal (National Forestry Institute, Castelo Branco Higher Agricultural College) submitted to the Communities a project on the pinaster (Mediterranean pine).

Can the Commission say what its reaction is to this project?

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

(1 June 1990)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Members to the Eclair ⁽¹⁾ proposal No 0171 entitled:

'Evaluation, modelization and improvement of wood production from pines of South West Europe (*Pinus*

pinaster, pinus radiata): consequences for the quality of the final products'.

This proposal is more relevant to the subprogramme Forest, of the Raw Materials and Recycling Programme ⁽²⁾, than to Eclair.

It was therefore transferred to Forest and is now being evaluated under this programme. The Commission will inform the Honourable Members of the outcome as soon as possible.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 60, 3. 3. 1989.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 359, 8. 12. 1989.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 818/90

**by Mr Eusebio Cano Pinto and Mrs Ana Miranda de Lage
(S)**

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 April 1990)

(90/C 272/56)

Subject: Events in eastern Europe and their effects on the Community

On 7 March the President of the Commission, Mr Jacques Delors, met the Secretary-General of NATO, Manfred Wörner and the Secretary of the Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU) Mr Van Eekelen. They met to obtain information about the events in Eastern Europe, in particular in the German Democratic Republic, and their repercussions on the Community and on the structure of security in Europe.

Would the Commission be kind enough to say what the outcome of these talks was?

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

(31 May 1990)

The President of the Commission did indeed meet the NATO and WEU Secretaries-General on 7 March. The purpose of the meetings was to exchange views on current events in central and eastern Europe.

These meetings are part of the President's routine procedure for keeping himself informed and do not call for any particular comment.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 875/90**by Mr Peter Crampton (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(9 April 1990)**(90/C 272/57)**Subject: Complete ban on all asbestos within the EEC*

The Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America have declared their intention to impose a complete ban on all asbestos by the mid-1990s.

Will the Commission consider and approve the implementation of a complete ban on the importation, manufacture and use of all asbestos and so achieve the same objective for all Member States of the EEC?

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

(3 July 1990)

The Commission began a number of years ago to draw up proposals for legislation on the subject of asbestos, which have resulted in the adoption of several Directives by the Council. These are:

- Council Directive 83/477/EEC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work ⁽¹⁾
- Council Directive 83/478/EEC relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of asbestos ⁽²⁾
- Council Directive 85/610/EEC relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of asbestos ⁽³⁾
- Council Directive 87/217/EEC of 19 March 1987 on the prevention and reduction of environmental pollution by asbestos ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission will shortly be putting before the Council a proposal for a Directive amending Council Directive 83/477/EEC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work.

The Commission is also preparing a new proposal for a Directive which will seek to restrict or prohibit the marketing and use of a whole series of products containing asbestos.

All these initiatives reflect the Commission's concern to protect human health and safety and the environment from the dangers of asbestos.

A total ban on asbestos along the lines of the intentions announced by the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States is not considered advisable since it would entail the use on a massive scale of a very wide variety of substitute fibres whose long-term effects are unknown. For the moment, the Commission's approach is geared to

the controlled use of asbestos, taking specific initiatives in those areas where there is a perceived need to restrict or ban asbestos.

Nevertheless, the Commission does not rule out the possibility of further extending the scope of these bans in the light of information on the toxicology or safety of substitute products.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 263, 24. 9. 1983.⁽²⁾ OJ No L 263, 24. 9. 1983.⁽³⁾ OJ No L 375, 31. 12. 1985.⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 85, 28. 3. 1987, p. 40.**WRITTEN QUESTION No 889/90****by Mr Ernest Glinne (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(9 April 1990)**(90/C 272/58)**Subject: Dangerous 'tattoo' targeted on children*

'A type of "tattoo" for children is being distributed in the USA under the brand name of "Blue Star", and could easily spread throughout Europe.

It comes as a sheet of white paper covered in little stars about the size of a piece of chewing gum.

Each star is impregnated with LSD (a derivative of lysergic acid and a powerful hallucinant drug), and can be removed and placed in the mouth. It can also be absorbed through the pores of the skin by rubbing the paper to transfer the "tattoo". The "tattoos" come as pictures of Mickey Mouse, Superman or butterflies, and look like postage stamps.

These LSD stamps are in brilliant colours, and are packaged in a red cardboard container with a picture of Mickey Mouse and wrapped in a resealable plastic bag. A pack contains five sheets, 100 stamps in all. This is the latest method of peddling drugs.

A child in possession of these stamps could fall victim to a fatal trip. It is also suspected that some older children are giving tattoos away to younger ones to derive amusement from seeing how they react to the acid.

It is essential for all parents to be alert to the danger of their children coming into contact with these stamps.

Pass this message on to all the people you know with children.'

The above warning has been issued by a Liège based association at rue des Croisiers 24 (staff of the SMAP).

I should like to know the Commission's reactions to this message, having regard to the responsibilities of the

Member States, the need to coordinate their activities, and the role incumbent upon the Commission.

If this is a false alarm or a sick joke what arrangements have since been made to alert the public?

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

(30 May 1990)

The Commission has no information on the availability in Europe of such stamps containing illicit drugs such as LSD.

In the field of drugs, the Commission participates actively in the work of the Comité Européen de la Lutte Anti-Drogue (CELAD), which was created in December 1989 to coordinate the Community's and the Member States' action in the struggle against drugs. This Committee examines all aspects of the drug problem including the question of demand, on which the Commission is drawing up a programme of action at Community level, which will be in line with previous resolutions from the European Parliament and the Health Council. This programme will include information and education for the general public.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 917/90

by Mr George Patterson (ED)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 April 1990)

(90/C 272/59)

Subject: Market for medicinal products

What steps has the Commission taken on proposals to abolish the imbalances in market conditions within the European proprietary medicinal products sector, referred to in Article 9 of Directive 89/105/EEC (⁽¹⁾)? What form will they take?

(⁽¹⁾) OJ No L 40, 11. 2. 1989, p. 8.

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

(28 May 1990)

The Commission has not yet taken any further steps in relation to Directive 89/105/EEC (⁽¹⁾).

Article 9 of Directive 89/105/EEC provides for the Commission to submit to the Council a proposal containing appropriate measures for the abolition of any remaining barriers to, or distortion of, the free movement of proprietary, medicinal products.

The Commission will examine in detail the current situation in the Community regarding the pricing and reimbursement of medicines, within the framework of the Consultative Committee set up in Article 10 of Directive 89/105/EEC. In the light of experience and in consultation with Member States, the Commission will prepare and submit to the Council a proposal not later than 31 December 1991, as foreseen in the Directive.

(⁽¹⁾) OJ No L 40, 11. 1. 1989, p. 8.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 918/90

by Mr George Patterson (ED)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 April 1990)

(90/C 272/60)

Subject: VAT on educational activities

Where a company provides equipment or funds for educational purposes, for example a Chair at a University, and where that Chair bears the funding company's name, according to the sixth VAT Directive and other Community law, are the national governments acting according the Community law by requiring VAT to be paid? What is the exact status of such an educational supply: VAT at the full rate, zero-rated or exempt?

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

(3 July 1990)

Under Article 5 (6) of the sixth VAT Directive (⁽¹⁾), the disposal of goods, free of charge, by a taxable person, is to be treated as supplies made for consideration, and therefore subject to tax, provided that VAT was wholly or partly deductible on the acquisition of the goods. Only gifts of small value and samples are not subject to tax.

The level of the rate of taxation is set by the Member States. It is only in particular circumstances that they may avail themselves of a transitional provision of the sixth Directive permitting zero-rating.

However, the provision of funds as a financing operation does not fall within the scope of VAT, since it could not be considered as consideration for a taxable transaction.

(⁽¹⁾) OJ No L 145, 13. 6. 1977, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 948/90**by Mrs Cristiana Muscardini (NI)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(17 April 1990)**(90/C 272/61)*

Subject: Shortage of paramedical staff in the Italian health services

The shortage of nurses, laboratory technicians, rehabilitation and operation-room staff and paramedical staff in general in Italy is upsetting the necessary balance between medical and paramedical staff on which medical/hospital activities are based.

Could the Commission say whether any European programmes exist or are under consideration for high-level training with a view to upgrading the activities of paramedical staff and giving them professional status?

Can the Commission indicate the present ratio of hospital inmates and those undergoing courses of treatment to paramedical staff employed in the health services in each of the Community Member States?

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

(30 May 1990)

The Ministers of Health, meeting within the Council on 13 November 1989, exchanged views on the conclusions of the seminar organized by the Presidency of the Council on 11 October to consider the growing number of doctors and shortage of nurses and the Community. The Council asked that discussions should be continued in the Committee of Senior Officials on Public Health.

The statistics requested by the Honourable Member are not available to the Commission.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 972/90**by Mr Antoni Gutiérrez Díaz (GUE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(25 April 1990)**(90/C 272/62)*

Subject: Protection of Lake Managua (Nicaragua)

Using Italian technology, the Government of Nicaragua has built a geothermal power station at the foot of a volcano, Mount Momotombo, which is already producing 30 % of the country's energy.

As a result of financing problems, sulphur-rich waste is being dumped in Lake Managua, causing serious damage to flora and fauna.

Could the Commission sponsor a programme to recycle this waste and thereby prevent further deterioration of the water of Lake Managua?

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

(4 July 1990)

The Commission has received no request for financing for the case described by the Honourable Member. If it did, it would appraise the request on the basis of the dossier presented and the resources available.

The Commission would remind the Honourable Member that the ECU 8 million allocated to budget heading 946 for 1990 for all ACP, Mediterranean, Latin American and Asian countries does not in principle make it possible — for obvious reasons of availability of funds — to provide financing for high-investment projects, but rather for preparatory studies, pilot projects or technical assistance.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 985/90**by Mrs Anna Hermans (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(25 April 1990)**(90/C 272/63)*

Subject: The pesticide Atrazine

Atrazine is widely used, at least in Belgium, to kill weeds in fields of maize and also as a general herbicide for car-parks, industrial land and so on.

One of the characteristics of this product is that it is virtually indestructible. It may be washed into the surface water and may even gradually penetrate deeper layers of water. This obviously constitutes a threat to public health in the long term.

Can the Commission say:

1. in which Member States atrazine is used?
2. in which Member States atrazine is found in surface and/or ground water?
3. whether it does not consider that the limit value of 0,1 micrograms per litre is too high?

4. what measures the Member States must adopt to prevent the risk of seepage if the limit value is unacceptably high?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(3 July 1990)

Atrazine is in use throughout the Community. However, in its efforts to determine the extent to which water supplies are polluted by this and other substances, the Commission has been hindered by the fact that Council Directive 80/778/EEC ⁽¹⁾ relating to drinking water does not require Member States to report to the Commission on the quality of their water supplies.

Although the Commission has requested the Member States to report to it on drinking water quality and, in particular, on problems encountered in achieving compliance with the limit value for pesticides, few Member States have replied in any detail. On the basis of the replies received however, certain drinking water supplies in northern Italy, in Luxembourg, France and the UK are said to contain atrazine. In Ireland, since in the majority of water supplies pesticides are presumed not to be present, only limited monitoring for pesticides is said to be carried out. Belgium is said to have begun monitoring for pesticides in 1989, but has since submitted results of any such monitoring to the Commission. Analysis results submitted by Greece have shown that drinking water supplies are not widely monitored for pesticides.

In addition to this information, certain media reports which have come to the Commission have indicated the presence of atrazine in water supplies in the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Commission has no information on the extent, to which water supplies are monitored for pesticides in Denmark, Spain and Portugal, or on the results of any such monitoring in these countries.

The Commission considers that the maximum admissible concentration of 0,1 µg/l for any pesticide in water supplied for human consumption, is a sufficient precautionary limit value for the pesticide atrazine. No other body has in fact set so low a limit value for this particular pesticide. It further considers that Member States should ensure that atrazine and other persistent pesticides which are harmful to human health be used in such a way that drinking water sources are not affected. If necessary, alternative substances should be used and application rates should be reduced.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 229, 30. 8. 1980, p. 11.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 988/90

by Mrs Anna Hermans (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(25 April 1990)

(90/C 272/64)

Subject: Complaint lodged by the Commission with regard to the Flemish Cable Decree

At the beginning of 1989 the Commission informed Belgium in a 'lettre de mise en demeure' that the Flemish cable Decree and the relevant implementing decisions contain a number of points which are in conflict with the Treaty of Rome.

Can the Commission say what the Flemish Government's reaction has been so far?

If it can, can it say on what points the Flemish Government has declared itself willing to adapt its legislation?

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

(28 June 1990)

The Commission has not yet received a reply from the Belgium authorities to the letter of formal notice which it sent them on 8 March concerning the incompatibility with the EEC Treaty of certain aspects of the Flemish Community's Decree of 28 January 1987 on the transmission of radio and television programmes via cable networks and the official approval of private television companies.

In any event, the Commission takes the view that it should not divulge the contents of letters and documents exchanged during the administrative phase of proceedings under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty, the aim of which is precisely to arrive at a settlement with the Member State concerned.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1038/90

by Mr Victor Manuel Arbeloa Muru (S)

to the Council of the European Communities

(11 May 1990)

(90/C 272/65)

Subject: Second Chamber for the European Community

Has the Council given any consideration to the proposal made by various European politicians that a Second Chamber consisting of representatives of national parliaments be established in the near future?

Answer

(19 September 1990)

Under the heading of 'Democratic legitimacy', the European Council Meeting in Dublin on 25 and 26 June

1990, invited the Ministers for Foreign Affairs 'to ensure that the principle of democratic accountability to which all Member States of the Community subscribe should be fully respected at Community level'.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1079/90

by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 May 1990)

(90/C 272/66)

Subject: Tourism Year — funding for Scottish projects

Will the Commission state what percentage of the total United Kingdom's quota of ECU 250 000 for Tourism Year projects has been allocated and will be available to Scotland? Will the Commission also provide the names of each project and amount of funding provided?

**Answer given by Mr Cardoso E Cunha
on behalf of the Commission**

(26 June 1990)

At the meeting of the European Year of Tourism Steering Committee in July 1989 it was unanimously decided to divide the budget of ECU 2 million amongst each of the twelve Member States. In this way a total of ECU 250 000 was made available for United Kingdom national projects. As agreed by the Steering Committee it was the responsibility of each national committee to put forward national projects for cofinancing. The Commission then examined each of the proposals, taking into account the regional distribution of projects, as well as the criteria set down in the Council Decision of December 1988 ⁽¹⁾. As far as the United Kingdom projects were concerned the Commission saw no reason to modify the projects proposed by the national committee and the sum of ECU 18 223 has been allocated to national projects from Scotland, which represents 7% of the total United Kingdom quota.

The projects concerned are as follows:

National projects

EC	Project / organizer	Amount (ecus)
0144	KM 150 International Cycling Festival	5 723
0210	International Festival of Music and Dance Inverness, Scotland	7 500
0214	Paisley International Organ Festival	5 000

It should be noted that a further ECU 10 000 from the pan European project fund will be of immediate importance to Scotland. Other pan European projects may also be applicable to a greater or lesser extent.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 10, 21. 12. 1988.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1089/90

by Mrs Lissy Gröner (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 May 1990)

(90/C 272/67)

Subject: Legal status of women in marriages between different nationalities

Can the Commission say what action it feels needs to be taken within the European Communities with regard to the legal status of women who are married to

- nationals of other Member States
- nationals of third countries,

in particular as regards bigamy, right of residence and custody of children?

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

(28 June 1990)

The Commission does not intend to take any action with regard to the legal status of married women whose husbands are of different nationality.

The Community rules on free movement of persons make no distinction between men and women.

Bigamy and custody of children are matters of national law and lie outside the Community's present field of competence. As regards the problem of 'legal kidnapping', the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 952/90 by Mr Glinne ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 233, 17. 9. 1990, p. 44.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1120/90

by Mrs Anna Hermans (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 May 1990)

(90/C 272/68)

Subject: Article 40 of the Fourth Convention of Lomé

Under Article 40 of the Fourth Convention of Lomé, ACP States may, on request, obtain technical information

and assistance concerning the use and elimination of pesticides and chemical products.

1. What rules will apply in this respect?
2. Has such assistance been provided in the past?

**Answer given by Mr Marin
on behalf of the Commission**
(6 July 1990)

1. The detailed implementing rules for Article 40 are currently being drawn up, but the underlying principle remains the strict application of Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No 1734/88 of 16 June 1988 ⁽¹⁾. At the request of the countries concerned, appropriate means such as information or awareness-raising and/or demonstration campaigns can be carried out depending on the individual case.

2. Many rural development projects financed by the EDF and users of this type of products receive advice from the extension services (using expatriate technical assistants as agricultural extension workers/advisers) to ensure correct use of the products, thereby minimizing risk factors.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 155, 22. 6. 1988, p. 2.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1122/90 -

by Mr Ben Fayot (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 May 1990)

(90/C 272/69)

Subject: Installations of the *Société lorraine de récupération* on the frontier between France, Belgium and Luxembourg

The proposals by the *Société lorraine de récupération* to install facilities for the processing and discharge of industrial waste near Longlaville, almost exactly on the frontier between France and Luxembourg and in the immediate vicinity of the European development pole, are causing considerable concern in both countries, given the inevitable damage these projects would entail to both the environment and to the health of the local population.

Does the Commission not consider that the time has come to take rigorous action to regulate the procedures for the

installation of undertakings involving pollution in frontier areas, and the implementation of such procedures?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(29 June 1990)

According to the Commission's information, the French authorities have issued an operating licence for the installation referred to by the Honourable Member. Under the provisions of Council Directive 75/442/EEC ⁽¹⁾ of 15 July 1975 on waste, a licence is required for this type of installation. Council Directive 85/337/EEC ⁽²⁾ of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment refers to this type of plant and provides, in particular, for public consultations. In the case of this installation, such consultations were held in January and February 1990.

For the rest, and in the absence of specific provisions, installations for the disposal of toxic and dangerous waste may be covered by Directive 82/501/EEC ⁽³⁾ on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities, if the quantities of dangerous substances stored, handled or potentially produced on site exceed the prescribed thresholds. Under this Directive, Member States must require the manufacturer to take all measures necessary for the prevention of serious accidents the consequences of which could extend beyond the confines of the plant, or could even cause transfrontier damage.

The Commission is currently drawing up proposals for directives relating, on the one hand, to the discharge of waste and, on the other, to the incineration of industrial waste. These proposals will seek to ensure a high level of environmental protection, notably by proposing the use of the best technologies available. The proposals, however, do not envisage any specific measures for frontier zones.

In September 1989, on the other hand, the Commission transmitted to Parliament ⁽⁴⁾ a document on a Community strategy for waste management advocating, in particular, minimization of the movement of waste and ensuring uniform distribution of waste disposal plants in the territory of the Community as well as inter-regional cooperation on waste management. In order to make it easier for this last principle to be applied, the Commission is financing a study on the implementation of an inter-regional plan for the disposal of industrial waste involving the province of Luxembourg in Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Saarland and Lorraine. This study is currently being carried out in conjunction with the competent local authorities specified in Directive 75/442/EEC.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 194, 25. 7. 1975, p. 39.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985, p. 40.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 230, 5. 8. 1982.

⁽⁴⁾ SEC(89) 934 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1133/90

by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)

to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the
European Community meeting in European Political
Cooperation

(14 May 1990)

(90/C 272/70)

Subject: CSCE Conference on the human dimension

What preparations are the Foreign Ministers making for the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension which will be held in Copenhagen in June 1990 in order to highlight the injustices that still exist towards Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union?

Will the Foreign Ministers take the opportunity to demand that the following refuseniks be allowed to leave the Soviet Union:

Mr Lazer *Rulyov-Kagan* address:

USSR/RSFSR Gorkovskaya Oblast Stantsiya
Burlopolom P/Ya. U 3—62—4M

Lev (born 1939) and Shellya (born 1941) *Alexandrovsky*,
first refused 1979

Boris *Chernobilsky*

Vladimir *Raiz* first refused May 1973 23 February 1990
refusal reconfirmed Mr Raiz is from Vilnius.

Answer

(20 September 1990)

In the Final Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, held in June, the participating States reaffirm that 'they will respect the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country, consistent with a State's international obligations and CSCE commitments'. Restricting on this right will have the character of very rare exceptions, will be considered necessary only if they respond to a specific public need, pursue a legitimate aim and are proportionate to that aim, and will not be abused or applied in an arbitrary manner.

As the Honourable Member is aware, it has been the practice of the Twelve to avail of suitable opportunities to convey to the Soviet authorities the position of the Twelve on human rights questions, including as necessary specific cases.

The Soviet authorities are fully aware of the concerns of the Twelve on the question of Jewish emigration.

The Honourable Member will be also aware that Mr Alexandrovsky, Mr Chernobilsky and Mr Raiz have already left the Soviet Union.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1152/90

by Mr Eugenio Melandri and Mr Alexander Langer (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 May 1990)

(90/C 272/71)

Subject: Sale of children in Sierra Leone

Haring regard to the recent revelations in the influential English daily newspaper *The Independent* to the effect that hundreds of children in Sierra Leone are literally sold or 'hired' to rich English and Lebanese families and given underpaid work, thus establishing a trading system reminiscent of slavery — which was abolished in Sierra Leone in 1807, what steps does the Commission intend to take *vis-à-vis* the Government of Sierra Leone to induce it to respect the provisions on human rights contained in Lomé IV, in particular in Article 5?

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

(5 July 1990)

The EEC Delegation in Freetown, Sierra Leone, has discussed with representatives of Government the reports in the 16 and 17 April editions of the British newspaper, *The Independent*, concerning the use of children from Sierra Leone for work overseas, notably in Lebanon, under very poor conditions, likened by the article to slavery.

The main points arising from these discussions are:

- (a) The Sierra Leone Government is taking the reports seriously and its Cabinet has set up an ad-hoc Committee to look at the issues raised in more detail. The Committee is chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr A.K. Koroma, and also includes the Minister of Social Welfare and the Inspector General of Police. The Committee has not yet issued any statement, but it was agreed that the Delegation would be informed of its findings and recommendations in due course.
- (b) Among the possible courses of action being considered is the setting up of formal procedures to examine all service contracts for the overseas employment of Sierra Leoneans under 18 years of age, and to ensure that the terms of such contracts comply with certain minimum standards yet to be determined. Such arrangements would be backed up by a more rigorous control procedure for the issue of passports to children under 18.
- (c) Leaders of the Lebanese community in Sierra Leone are expected to assist the Committee is carrying out its work. It should be noted that there are a

considerable number of ethnic Lebanese living in Sierra Leone and holding Sierra Leone nationality. The Lebanese are of course concerned to ensure that they are not dubbed as 'slave traders' and that existing tensions between Africans and Lebanese are not unnecessarily inflamed. The political dimension of this issue should not be overlooked.

In general, while Government spokesmen were fully aware that a number of young Sierra Leoneans do go overseas to work as domestic servants, they felt that the article exaggerated the extent of abuse suffered by such people, by using the terms 'slave contracts' and by implying that all those who went suffered the same miserable fate as the two particular cases reported in detail by the newspaper. They nevertheless agreed that it should be possible to find ways to eliminate, or at least greatly reduce, the risks of such situations recurring.

The Commission, through its Delegation in Sierra Leone, will keep a close watch on developments. In the meantime, the attention of the National Authorizing Officer has been drawn to the provisions of Article 5 of the Lomé IV Convention, and particularly the possibility of assistance being provided under the indicative Programme to help the government prevent such abuses of human rights.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1156/90

by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)

to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation

(14 May 1990)

(90/C 272/72)

Subject: Franco-German diplomatic coöperation

The Franco-German summit of February 1986 decided to set up an exchange of diplomatic officials from the two countries. In accordance with this agreement, the French diplomat Mr Michel Connan spend almost a year at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany while his German counterpart did the same in France. Summing up his experience, Mr Connan said: 'It is good form to say that Europe is not making progress, that it is proving impossible to overcome short-term interests'. He added: 'But the example of Franco-German relations and an experience such as my own show that much has been done' (*Le Monde*, 21 January 1990).

Shortly after, France and Germany tried another joint diplomatic experiment. The French Minister for Foreign

Affairs, Mr Roland Dumas, described it as follows: 'As far as Franco-German cooperation is concerned, it is constantly being strengthened. In fact, I have proposed to Mr Genscher that a joint embassy be set up, on an experimental basis. If this experiment succeeds, we shall repeat it, possibly together with other Community countries'. He added: 'We chose Mongolia because neither the FRG nor France had an embassy there'. The Minister even described how this Franco-German embassy would probably be organized (*Le Figaro*, 24 October 1988).

Both experiments may have major implications for the common foreign policy to which the united Community must aspire. Can the Ministers report on their progress?

Answer

(20 September 1990)

This question concerning relations between two Member States is not dealt with in the framework of the EPC.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1170/90

by Mr Maxime Verhagen (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 May 1990)

(90/C 272/73)

Subject: War in Ethiopia

1. Is the Commission aware of the reports on the intensification of the conflict between the Ethiopian Government and the Eritrean rebels?
2. Is the Commission aware that the port of Massawa can no longer be used as a point of entry for the necessary food supplies and that it has been reported that many tonnes of food (intended to relieve the famine) have been destroyed by bombardment?
3. Can the Commission say how much food has been lost as a result of the bombardment and what impact this will have on the food situation in Ethiopia?
4. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that past and future food supplies delivered by the Community and its Member States reach their destination?
5. Does the Commission foresee any possibilities, apart from the UN plan, of calling in NGOs to assist the Ethiopian people and, if so, what?

6. Can the Commission provide further information about the meeting with NGOs concerning aid to Ethiopia?

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

(26 July 1990)

1. and 2. The Commission follows all events in Ethiopia very closely, including all developments which could lead to the use for humanitarian purposes of the port of Massawa, recently accepted in principle by the Ethiopian Government.

3. No precise information is available on the amount of food aid lost as a result of hostilities in the port of Massawa.

However, various sources indicate that there were some 45 000 tonnes of food aid at Massawa in February 1990 and that the bulk of it was saved; it would appear that the food in question has since been distributed to the people of Eritrea.

4. The Commission has participated in various demarches and statements in the framework of political cooperation aimed at ensuring safe access to all population groups concerned. In line with its usual policy, the Commission channels its humanitarian aid through all available intermediaries and routes, notably the 'Southern Corridor' opened up by the Joint Relief Partnership, a consortium of non-governmental organizations.

5. For a long time the Commission has channelled much of its humanitarian aid to Ethiopia through a large number of non-governmental organizations, the main aim being to reach all population groups concerned. The Commission will continue to follow this policy in order to meet the various needs arising in Ethiopia.

6. The Commission is not aware of a general meeting of NGOs specifically concerning aid to Ethiopia. However, the Honourable Member may be referring to the last General Meeting of European development NGOs, which did indeed adopt a recommendation on Eritrea and Tigray. The resolution calls on:

- the Commission to continue to assist NGOs in their relief work and to increase this support in Ethiopia, and to facilitate humanitarian emergency aid to the people in the areas;
- the Ethiopian Government and liberation movements in Tigray and Eritrea to find a peaceful solution to the conflicts and allow relief supplies safe access to the conflict zones.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1193/90

by Mrs Cristiana Muscardini (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 May 1990)

(90/C 272/74)

Subject: Aid to Eritrean and Somali refugees

What monitoring systems are used to ensure that medicinal and food aid for the people of Eritrea and Somalia is not diverted and used, as has often happened, to purchase war material to help the Menghistu Government to pursue its campaign of genocide against Eritrean and Somali rebels?

Should not official representatives of the Community be sent to check on what really happens to this aid and to report back to the Community?

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

(5 July 1990)

The operations referred to by the Honourable Member are generally implemented through the intermediary of international bodies (World Food Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Red Cross) and various non-governmental organizations, in agreement with the national authorities. The experience and reputation of these institutions constitute a guarantee that funds will be used properly, and there are also regular implementation reports.

Some humanitarian aid is channelled through the Government-run Relief and Rehabilitation Commission: it is covered by specific, detailed agreements, and implementation is monitored on the ground by the Commission's Delegation in Ethiopia and by means of periodic reports.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1215/90

by Mr François-Xavier de Donnea (LDR)

to the Council of the European Communities

(22 May 1990)

(90/C 272/75)

Subject: Enlargement of the European Monetary System

At the informal meeting in Galway, the economic and financial ministers decided to give further consideration to requests by certain European countries to associate their currencies with EMS.

1. Has the Council received any official requests for association with the EMS from European countries that are not members of the Community?
2. What specific provision has the Council made for the examination of such requests? Has a timetable already been established?
3. Does the Council intend to include this issue in the current negotiations between the EEC and EFTA with a view to creating a European Economic Area?

Answer*(19 September 1990)*

At their informal meeting in Galway the Finance Ministers discussed the possibility of certain third countries associating their currency with the EMS. They agreed to continue this discussion. No official request on this subject has been received.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1235/90**by Mr Eugenio Melandri (V)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(22 May 1990)**(90/C 272/76)*

Subject: Trade in conventional weapons set aside as the result of the Vienna agreements

According to recent reports in the American press, the superpowers are preparing to put on the world market those conventional weapons which have become surplus to requirements under the USA/USSR Vienna agreements on conventional weapons.

The USA alone is about to conclude contracts worth over US\$ 30 000 million dollars with Third World countries in particular. These weapons are often given instead of economic aid that has been promised but never actually granted, as in the case of the Philippines.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 14 March 1989 on arms exports.

In the light of the above considerations:

1. does the Commission not consider that such measures run counter to the spirit of detente established by the international disarmament agreements in that they concentrate lethal and sophisticated weapons precisely in those regions of the world where tension is highest and the risk of conflict most extreme, thereby undermining progress towards peace or, what is worse, actually increasing the likelihood of conflict?

2. does the Commission intend to make representations to the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union (in view also of the declarations by Soviet Government spokesmen that the Soviet Union is willing to cooperate in this matter), stressing the further risks to peace that this trade in death entails?

**Answer given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission***(26 July 1990)*

There is no Community policy covering the question of arms control raised by the Honourable Member. Such matters are mainly the Member States' responsibility.

The Commission has, however, taken note of the resolution on European arms exports adopted by Parliament on 14 March 1989.

Acting under the Community's commercial policy powers and in accordance with Articles 223 and 224 of the Treaty, of which the Commission gave its interpretation during the debate in Parliament on 14 March, the Commission is prepared to propose such measures as would be called for if trade to or from the Member States of the kind referred to by the Honourable Member should develop. The adoption of the Regulation of 20 February 1989 concerning the export of certain chemical products demonstrates one of the means of action open to the Community.

However, this type of measure, as shown by UN General Assembly Resolution 43/75 referring to international arms transfers, will be effective only if the Community's industrial and newly industrialized partners take similar action simultaneously.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1241/90**by Mr Gerard Monnier-Besombes (V)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(22 May 1990)**(90/C 272/77)*

Subject: Discriminatory measures and sanctions against conscientious objectors in Europe

On 7 February 1983 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on conscientious objection and in October 1989 the Schmidbauer report (Doc. A 3—0015/89).

Nevertheless, since then the European Parliament has received a large number of petitions reporting instances of

discrimination and sanctions against conscientious objectors in Greece in particular, but also in other Member States such as France or Italy.

In view of this situation, what position does the Commission intend to adopt? In particular, does it intend to take steps to guarantee the status of conscientious objectors and protect them against the measures to which they are subjected?

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

(5 June 1990)

The Commission is aware of the political nature of the problem and of the impact on citizens of the Member States of differences in national legislation relating to the status of conscientious objectors.

However, as it has stated on many occasions, the Commission has no competence in this field and cannot take any steps to guarantee the status of conscientious objectors and protect them against the measures to which they are subjected.

The Commission would remind the Honourable Member of the recommendation to the Member States on conscientious objectors to compulsory military service, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 9 April 1987.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1255/90

by Mr Enrico Falgui, Mr Gianfranco Amendola, Mr Paul Lannoye, Mr Gérard Monnier-Besombes, Mr Virginio Bettini and Mr Didier Anger (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 May 1990)

(90/C 272/78)

Subject: Contributions by the European Community for the study and/or use of pesticides in the Member States

In view of the fact that the European Community is financing from its budget measures by third countries to promote the use of pesticides;

1. Is such financing also granted to Member States of the Community?
2. If so, which Member States receive funds, how much and for what precise purposes?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(3 July 1990)

The Commission does not grant this type of financing to Member States of the Community.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1274/90

by Mr Jesús Cabezón Alonso, Mr Josep Pons Grau and Mrs María Izquierdo Rojo (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 May 1990)

(90/C 272/79)

Subject: Low utilization rate of Item 9651 of the 1988 budget

Why were the appropriations available under Item 9651 of the 1988 budget (Third Financial Protocol with the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries) not fully utilized?

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

(4 July 1990)

The payment appropriations allocated in 1988 to the implementation of the third Financial Protocols concluded with the Southern Mediterranean countries (budget heading 9851) totalled ECU 15 million. Of this amount, ECU 10 800 000, or 72 %, has been disbursed. The first projects financed under the third Financial Protocols got off the ground in the second half of 1988. It was because the start-up stage was slightly slower than expected that all the funds available were not used up before the end of the year.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1278/90

by Mr François-Xavier de Donnea (LDR)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 May 1990)

(90/C 272/80)

Subject: Problems of investment in the United States

The report on trade barriers and unfair trade practices in the United States, published by the Commission on 18 April 1990, provides evidence of the growing fragmentation and heterogeneity of the American market.

What practical measures has the Commission taken to ensure that it is informed of measures decided by

individual States and how does it plan to forward such information to European industrial operators?

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

(17 July 1990)

The Commission, both in Brussels and through the Commission Delegation to Washington and the San Francisco Office, is giving increasing attention to the problem of growing fragmentation of the American market.

Contacts between the Community and the United States, both at bilateral level and in the context of current multilateral talks (GATT, OECD), are being exploited to obtain a more detailed understanding of the problem.

Several studies are to be quickly launched to systematically and accurately identify and record barriers to trade with the Union's individual states.

Frequent contacts are maintained with trade associations represented at European level to establish a two-way flow of information.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1282/90

by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 May 1990)

(90/C 272/81)

Subject: Japanese duty on EEC leather imports

The current 60% duty imposed by Japan on imports of EEC leather, coupled with very small quotas, seriously affects our trade with Japan in this sector.

Will the Commission give an assurance that when these trade agreements are renegotiated for March 1991 EEC negotiators settle for nothing less than a reduction in Japan's basic tariff to no more than 10% and abolition of the quota system?

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

(4 July 1990)

The present Japanese tariff quota system for EEC leather goods does indeed seriously affect our trade with Japan in this sector. The Commission will insist on a significant opening of the market, both in the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations and in bilateral talks with Japan, in order to benefit European industry. The Honourable

Member may rest assured that the Commission will seek a substantial reduction in Japanese tariffs in leather and shoes, as well as the abolition of the quota system itself.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1302/90

by Mr Dieter Rogalla (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(28 May 1990)

(90/C 272/82)

Subject: Customs signs at internal frontiers in the Community

1. Is it true that the Member States agreed, in a decision taken in November 1986, to remove all customs signs at the Community's internal frontiers?
2. Is the Commission aware that customs road signs are still in place at a large number of internal frontiers, e.g. at the Belgian-Dutch frontier crossing on the motorway between Antwerp and Venlo?
3. Can the Commission provide a list of the other crossing points at internal frontiers in the Community where such signs are still in place?
4. Can it say when it expects these signs to be removed?
5. Does it share my view that monitoring the implementation of this decision would be a very suitable task for an urgently needed administrative arm of the Community's custom union and why is the Commission hesitating to provide the common customs union, set up pursuant to Article 9 of the EEC Treaty, with its own Community administration?

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

(18 July 1990)

1. and 2. Yes.

3. and 4. The Commission is continuing to strive for the full implementation of the Resolution of the Council and the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 13 November 1986 on the introduction of appropriate signboards at the Community's external frontiers and internal borders (').

It has recently again asked the competent authorities in the Member States for information on the true situation in this respect and the way in which the Resolution is being implemented.

5. The Commission has engaged the European Institute of Public Administration, which has its seat in Maastricht, to undertake a study on the organization of the customs services of the Community and its Member

States in the context of 1992 and the completion of the internal market. The Institute's report is due to be submitted in the latter half of the year.

(¹) OJ No C 303, 27. 11. 1986, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1341/90
by Mrs Dorothy Piermont (ARC)
to the Council of the European Communities
(11 June 1990)
(90/C 272/83)

Subject: Endorsement of the FRG's non-nuclear status at the Dublin Council meeting of 28 April 1990

Canard Enchaîné of 2 May 1990 indicates that, at the EEC Council in Dublin on 28 April 1990, the West German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, accepted the conditions of the other eleven Member States for their agreement to 'reunification', including the commitment to remain a non-nuclear State.

1. What were the conditions laid down by the other eleven Member States?
2. How were they formulated?
3. In what form did Chancellor Kohl give his agreement (orally, in writing)?
4. Are these agreements which are binding under international law?
5. When and how will they be made known to the international public?

Answer
(19 September 1990)

The Council is not in the habit of commenting on newspaper articles.

The position expressed by the European Council at the special meeting on 28 April 1990 concerning German unification was reflected in the Presidency conclusions which were conveyed to the European Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1374/90
by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)
to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation
(11 June 1990)
(90/C 272/84)

Subject: Encouragement of democratization in Mexico

The successes of the economic policy being followed by the present Mexican administration, leading to a

reduction in inflation and the public deficit and an increase in non-petroleum exports, will be underpinned by the reprivatization of banks, a measure which has just been announced by President Salinas de Gortari.

This encouraging economic development is being accompanied by an agreement with the United States concerning the Mexican foreign debt and by certain signs of democratization, for example recognition by the institutional revolutionary party (PRI) of the opposition victory in the State of Baja California and the recent publication by a section of the PRI leadership of a document calling for more rapid democratization of this party. In addition, the attitude adopted by the authorities during the visit by His Holiness the Pope reflected genuine recognition of the spiritual convictions of the Mexican people.

Do the Ministers consider that appropriate measures by the Community could encourage this development in Mexico and the general tendency in Latin America to make qualitative progress towards coexistence in genuine freedom?

Answer
(20 September 1990)

The policies followed by the present Mexican administration are a matter of close interest to the Community and its Member States, who have consistently sought to encourage democracy, respect for human rights, and economic and social progress in Latin America. In this framework, they have pursued a political dialogue with the Rio Group of democratic Latin American countries of which Mexico is a member. Since 1975, the European Community has had a cooperation agreement with Mexico, and in 1989 Commissioner Matutes officially opened the office of the Commission representative in Mexico City.

The Community and its Member States are determined to ensure that progress towards the strengthening of democratic structures as well as economic and social progress be encouraged in every possible way by the Community, making use of the mechanisms referred to above. It is also our objective that such progress in Mexico and other Latin American countries will lead to closer ties of cooperation with the Latin American region as a whole.

At the occasion of the European tour of President Salinas in January 1990, and in particular during its visit to the Commission, Mexico has formally requested the revision of the cooperation agreement of 1975. The Commission will propose shortly to the Council a mandate to negotiate with the aim of up-dating this agreement and to take into account the present circumstances.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1418/90**by Mr Adrien Zeller (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(13 June 1990)**(90/C 272/85)*

Subject: Jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters between the Member States of the European Community and the EFTA countries

Can the Commission say what progress has been made with the signing and ratification of the Lugano Convention of 16 September 1988?

Will this Convention enter into force in the near future?

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

(25 July 1990)

Unlike the Brussels Convention of 27 September 1968, the Lugano Convention of 16 September 1988 makes provision for the Swiss Federal Council, and not the Community, to act as depositary for the ratification instruments. Furthermore, the Community is not specified in Article 67 as the body to which notification of those instruments and other documents is to be sent. This is why the Commission is not officially notified when countries sign or ratify the Convention.

However, the Commission is able to inform the Honourable Member that, as far as it is aware, the Convention has been ratified only by the Netherlands. There are some indications that it will also be ratified this year by a Member State of EFTA. Pursuant to Article 61, the Convention would then enter into force between those two countries. It is impossible to say when it will enter into force between all the Member States of the Community and of EFTA.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1419/90**by Mr Adrien Zeller (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(13 June 1990)**(90/C 272/86)*

Subject: Jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters between the Member States of the European Community

In Written Questions Nos 1132/83 ⁽¹⁾, 462/84 ⁽²⁾, 895/84 ⁽³⁾, 1092/84 ⁽⁴⁾, 2171/84 ⁽⁵⁾, 328/86 ⁽⁶⁾, 2467/86 ⁽⁷⁾, 1041/87 ⁽⁸⁾, 1445/87 ⁽⁹⁾, and 1082/88 ⁽¹⁰⁾, the Commission of the European Communities has received regular requests for information on the extension

of the Brussels Convention of 27 September 1968 to the six non-founder Member States of the European Community.

Can the Commission update its answers to these questions, in particular:

- with regard to relations between Greece and the United Kingdom, and
- with regard to the San Sebastian Convention of 26 May 1989 on the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Brussels Convention?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 24, 30. 1. 1984, p. 27.⁽²⁾ OJ No C 243, 12. 9. 1984, p. 18.⁽³⁾ OJ No C 71, 18. 3. 1985, p. 10.⁽⁴⁾ OJ No C 71, 18. 3. 1985, p. 10.⁽⁵⁾ OJ No C 189, 29. 7. 1985, p. 41.⁽⁶⁾ OJ No C 306, 1. 12. 1986, p. 27.⁽⁷⁾ OJ No C 157, 15. 6. 1987, p. 42.⁽⁸⁾ OJ No C 42, 15. 2. 1988, p. 55.⁽⁹⁾ OJ No C 86, 4. 4. 1988, p. 62.⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ No C 95, 17. 4. 1989, p. 30.

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

(6 July 1990)

The Convention of 25 October 1982 on the accession of Greece to the Brussels Convention of 27 September 1968 entered into force:

- on 1 April 1989 as regards the Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Greece and the Federal Republic of Germany;
- on 1 October 1989 as regards the United Kingdom.

Accordingly, the 1968 Convention, together with the amendments made by the Convention of 9 October 1978 (accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom) and by the Convention of 25 October 1982 (accession of Greece), now applies as between all Member States with the exception of Spain and Portugal.

The San Sebastian Convention of 26 May 1989 on the accession of Spain and Portugal has been ratified by the Netherlands. Pursuant to Article 32 of the Convention, the latter will enter into force once it has been ratified by two Member States one of which must be Spain or Portugal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1441/90**by Mrs Cristiana Muscardini (NI)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(13 June 1990)**(90/C 272/87)*

Subject: Malfunctioning of the national health services in the Member States

The Italian judiciary has initiated an investigation into the operation of the Local Health Offices and into possible cases of corruption or neglect of official duties on the part of the heads of the management committees of these

Offices. In many Member States there are blatant instances of malfunction in the health service, which mean that public health, one of the most important assets of the State, is not adequately safeguarded.

Can the Commission press for a thorough investigation into the management of the health service and ways in which public health is safeguarded in the various Member States? Can it also call for sanctions against States which do not comply with Community directives and which by their actions have prejudiced the rights of their citizens?

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

(13 July 1990)

The Commission has no jurisdiction to deal with the question asked by the Honourable Member, which is a matter solely for the national authorities concerned.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1482/90

by Mr Friedrich Merz (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 June 1990)

(90/C 272/88)

Subject: Free travel within the European Community for persons accompanying the disabled

Is the Commission seeking to introduce standard free rail travel within the European Community for persons accompanying those whose disability is such as to severely restrict their mobility? Does it have any plans to lay down standard European criteria to determine which categories of disabled are entitled to be accompanied free of charge? Will it introduce a standard disabled person's identity card and provide for compensation payments to be made to the railway undertakings?

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

(22 August 1990)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 791/89 by Mr Topmann⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 145, 14. 6. 1990, p. 4.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1561/90

by Mr Filippos Pierros (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 June 1990)

(90/C 272/89)

Subject: Creation of a European Stock Exchange

The rapid political and economic developments which are taking place in Europe have awakened interest in the idea of investing in European shares, which may prove to be the most attractive investment of the decade. However, the creation of an investment portfolio made up of European shares poses problems because of exchange rates. The major European stock exchanges are therefore aiming to create a single European securities market, with an overall value of around US\$ 3 trillion, with a view to simplifying procedures and promoting Euro-investments.

What is the Commission's position on the creation of a European Stock Exchange?

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

(20 July 1990)

The Commission is in favour of closer cooperation between EEC stock exchanges, as such cooperation will help realize the aim of creating a single securities market for the Community. This is a goal which the Commission is seeking to bring about with various Directives in the securities markets field based on the principle of mutual recognition of home Member State authorizations. The Commission is in close touch with the Federation of European Stock Exchanges as regards the stock exchanges' current proposals to promote cross-border price information systems (the Pipe project) and suggestions for the creation of pan-European retail and wholesale trading markets.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1591/90

by Mr Gérard Deprez (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 July 1990)

(90/C 272/90)

Subject: Financial aid to Wallonia from the structural funds

Can the Commission provide figures on the amount of structural fund aid (European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund and the European

Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund) granted to Wallonia over the last five years?

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

(22 August 1990)

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

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1610/90

by Mrs Maria Izquierdo Rojo, Mr Josep Pons Grau, Mr Jesús Cabezón Alonso, Mr Enrique Sapena Granell, Mr Mateo Sierra Bardají, Mrs Carmen Díez de Rivera Icaza and Mr Francisco Sanz Fernández (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 July 1990)

(90/C 272/91)

Subject: Creation of a Euro-Mediterranean development bank

The European Council in Strasbourg in December 1989 backed the French Government's proposal for the creation of a European reconstruction and development bank for the countries of Eastern Europe.

Subsequently, leading authorities in the Community have put forward the idea of setting up a Euro-Mediterranean development bank with a view to assisting the economic development of third countries in the Mediterranean. This proposal offers a real opportunity for intensifying cooperation with third countries in the Mediterranean, which the European Council itself is in favour of.

In view of this proposal, would the Commission be willing to back a project or action plan for the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean development bank?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1658/90

by Mr Victor Arbeloa Muru (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 July 1990)

(90/C 272/92)

Subject: A Euro-Mediterranean Bank

How does the Commission view the idea put forward by the EP Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries, of setting up a Euro-Mediterranean Bank similar to the Berd?

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 1610/90 and 1658/90

given by Mr Matutes
on behalf of the Commission

(31 July 1990)

The Commission believes that the ideas put forward concerning the possibility of setting up a financial institution specifically for the Mediterranean, along the lines of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for the Eastern European countries, merit further consideration.

In particular, consideration must be given to determining whether the necessary increase in financing for non-member Mediterranean countries requires the establishment of a new institution or whether it can take place in the framework of the existing institutions.

It should be noted that six Mediterranean countries — Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Turkey and Yugoslavia — are founder members of the EBRD. Yugoslavia will be eligible for EBRD loans.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1639/90

by Mr Bryan Cassidy (ED)

to the Council of the European Communities

(4 July 1990)

(90/C 272/93)

Subject: Europe against cancer programme 1990—1994: prevention of tobacco consumption

In *Official Journal of the European Communities* No L 137 of 30 May 1990, four steps are outlined to achieve this objective. In the same issue of the *Official Journal*, a temporary derogation to the Directive on Tar Values permits the consumption of high tar cigarettes until 31 December 2006 in Greece.

Are not these two notices in the same issue of the *Official Journal* contradictory?

Answer

(19 September 1990)

As indicated in the last recital of the Directive to which the Honourable Member refers (Directive 90/239/EEC), the introduction of maximum tar yields will result in particular socio-economic difficulties for the Hellenic Republic; those difficulties, which concern that Member State's tobacco growers, are the basis for the temporary derogation to which the Honourable Member refers.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1645/90

by Mr Joachim Dalsass (PPE)
to the Council of the European Communities
(4 July 1990)
(90/C 272/94)

Subject: Italian Presidential Decree No 223 of 30 May 1989, Article 7 (3) — infringement of Community rules on freedom of movement

Article 7 (3) of the Italian Presidential Decree No 223 of 30 May 1989 contains the following provision:

'Foreigners registered with the registration office are obliged to renew annually the declaration of their usual domicile in the municipality and to enclose their residence permit. The registrar shall in any event make the relevant enquiries, take the necessary measures and inform the Prefect thereof.'

In view of the fact that this provision also applies to citizens of Community countries, and is patently inconsistent with the completion of the single market and the existing provisions governing freedom of movement for persons, can the Council say:

1. whether it knows about Italy's issuing of this provision, which restricts freedom of movement?
2. whether it is not also convinced that this provision contravenes the rules governing the free movement of persons within the Community in so far as it also applies to Community citizens?
3. what steps it intends to take to ensure that freedom of movement for citizens is completely reestablished in Italy?

Answer

(19 September 1990)

The provision to which the Honourable Member refers in his question has not been brought to the Council's attention.

It is, however, for the Commission of the European Communities to ensure that the Treaties and the provisions adopted pursuant thereto are applied, and to propose to the Council any measures that may be necessary.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1660/90

by Mr Victor Arbeloa Muru (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(4 July 1990)
(90/C 272/95)

Subject: Occupation of premises belonging to the Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem

Following the European Parliament's condemnation of the occupation of premises belonging to the orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem of Jewish settlers, and Parliament's recommendations concerning the survival of the Holy City's Christian communities, has the Community received any satisfactory response from the Government of Israel?

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

(30 July 1990)

- The occupation of a building belonging to the Orthodox Patriarchate by a group of Israeli settlers during the Christian Holy Week has been noted with grave concern by the Community.

The Community has made representations to the Israeli Government expressing its concern over this issue. The matter is now being considered by the Israeli courts.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1680/90

by Mrs Guadalupe Ruiz-Gimenez Aguilar (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(4 July 1990)
(90/C 272/96)

Subject: The training of Latin American civil servants

Education and the training of human resources have a fundamental role to play in strengthening democracy and the economic and social development of the Latin American countries.

In many Latin American countries the civil service urgently needs to be changed and restructured to make it efficient and democratic. Unfortunately, in many cases senior civil servants and administrators do not receive adequate training.

Is the Commission aware of this state of affairs and, if so, what measures has it adopted or will it propose in the

sphere of development cooperation to enable these countries to train senior civil servants and administrators?

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

(31 July 1990)

The Commission is quite aware of the difficulties faced by many Latin American countries in modernizing and rationalizing their civil services and of the importance of an efficient civil service for consolidating democracy and for economic progress.

It also shares the Honourable Member's opinion of the importance of training civil servants in order to achieve these objectives.

For this reason the Commission has already carried out a whole series of training operations for Latin American civil servants, including study trips (Europe Visitors' Programme), administrative training periods at the Commission and training at Community institutions and institutions in the Member States. These operations have often been carried out with the assistance of specialized European bodies, such as the European Institute of Public Relations in Maastricht and the Institute for European—Latin American relations. The Commission intends to continue and, where possible, step up its work in this field. Indeed, it believes that cooperation between the Community and the countries of Latin America on civil service matters, including technical assistance and training, should become a key part of their overall cooperation, and it has proposed that this field be expressly referred to in future cooperation agreements between the Community and these countries.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1710/90

by Mrs Dagmar Roth-Behrendt

to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 July 1990)

(90/C 272/97)

Subject: Criteria for the European institutions' selection procedures

1. Can the Commission provide information on the age limits for competitions or participation in selection procedures for posts in the European Community's institutions and how the age limits apply to the various career brackets and categories?

2. Does the Commission have plans in for positive discrimination in selection procedures on behalf of women whose life patterns and experience are different

and who, for family reasons, often have to withdraw from the labour market temporarily, by waiving fixed age limits for a certain number of years to allow for child rearing?

**Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha
on behalf of the Commission**

(31 July 1990)

1. The Commission cannot provide information on the age limits applied by other Community institutions. With respect to the Commission, the situation is as follows:

Career bracket	Experience after obtaining the required qualification	Age limit
A3 (*)	15 years	50 years
A5/A4 (*)	12 years	50 years
B3/B2 (*)	12 years	50 years
C3/C2 (*)	12 years	50 years
A7/A6	2 years	35 years
B5/B4	2 years	35 years
C5/C4	2 years	35 years
A8	—	32 years

(*) Most competitions are for recruitment to the starting career bracket of a category.

For the D3/D2 career bracket, a single open competition was organized requiring five years' work experience and was subject to an age limit of 30 years.

2. Commission notices of competition allow for exceptions to the age limit in the case of men and women who have been out of paid employment for one year or more in order to bring up a young child. They may be granted extensions of one year for each child, up to a maximum of three years.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1713/90

by Mr Rolf Linkohr (S)

to the Council of the European Communities

(5 July 1990)

(90/C 272/98)

Subject: Employment of disabled people in the European institutions

In Recommendation No 86/379/EEC (*), the Council proposed a series of measures to the Member States to help the disabled.

How many disabled people work in the administrative services of the Council?

Does the Council think it is in a position to apply the recommendation to the Member States to its own administration and would it consider it appropriate to set an example in this respect? If not, why not?

What positive measures to help the disabled has the Council incorporated into its staffing policy?

(¹) OJ No L 225, 12. 5. 1986, p. 43.

Answer

(19 September 1990)

The Medical Service of the Council General Secretariat does not compile any statistics on the numbers of disabled staff. When recruiting staff, the General Secretariat takes on disabled people provided that their disability does not prevent them from carrying out the duties for which they are being recruited.

The Council General Secretariat believes it is acting in accordance with the Council Recommendation, taking all applications for a post into consideration without discriminating between disabled and able-bodied applicants. Only where the medical examination revealed a specific incompatibility between a particular activity forming part of a job and a particular disability would the disability be taken into account for the purpose of declaring the applicant unfit for the post.

In the context of its recruitment procedures, the Council General Secretariat has included a provision in its competition rules allowing for exceptions to the age limits for disabled people.

Where candidates make known their disability when applying for a post, special steps are taken at the time of the tests to enable disabled people taking part in a competition to compete on an equal footing with other applicants.

The mobility arrangements in force at the Council General Secretariat make express provision for an official or other servant who has suffered a disability preventing him from continuing to perform his duties to be transferred as a matter of priority to any vacant post, without the transfer being specifically advertised.

Furthermore, an internal working party is currently studying various measures, particularly relating to infrastructure, which should make it easier for disabled people to be integrated into the working life of the Council General Secretariat.

Finally, retirement of an official or another servant on grounds of disability is always regarded as a last resort which is used only where there is clearly little or no likelihood of a person recovering sufficiently to carry out his duties.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1724/90

by Mr Gerardo Fernandez Albor (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 July 1990)

(90/C 272/99)

Subject: Community support for guides for persons seeking employment

The publication by the Basque Government in Spain of a guide for persons seeking employment, geared basically towards young people, has surpassed all expectations and all 15 000 copies have been exhausted.

This demonstrates the need to provide young people seeking employment with a useful means of information to help them find their first job, since they are often unaware of the possibilities open to them while numerous factories and undertakings are looking for suitable young people to work for them.

For this reason, does not the Commission consider that it should promote and sponsor the publication of guides like the one published by the Basque Government with a view to helping young people in their search for their first job?

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

(30 July 1990)

Studies have demonstrated the extent to which guidance and counselling are essential aspects of job-seeking. If it is made available on completion of a training programme or before losing a job, information concerning labour market needs, organizations to assist in job-seeking or vocational training centres can play a vital role.

If it is to be effective, the information disseminated must be well targeted. In this field the appropriate level of action is usually the employment area, sometimes the region, the country or the whole Community.

Community action to promote the occupational integration of young people is usually taken by the European Social Fund, under objective 4. In the context of technical assistance or the promotion of innovative projects, the provision of information, counselling or guidance may receive Community support.

However useful such measures may be, they need to be incorporated in wider-ranging machinery that can offer individual solutions, including advice, information,

guidance, training and placement, to help young people develop real job-seeking strategies.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1727/90
by Mr Ernest Glinne (S)
to the Council of the European Communities
(5 July 1990)
 (90/C 272/100)

Subject: Political-military situation in Ethiopia and the aid programme

Once again, a million Ethiopians are threatened with starvation. The civil war has changed the balance of power against the regime of Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu: more than 85% of the population are now living in areas controlled by the Eritrean and Tigre liberation movements, while the port of Massawa is no longer under government control. Massive Israeli military aid, in the form of equipment and advisers, given 'to prevent the Red Sea becoming an Arab sea' is not succeeding in altering the course of the civil war in favour of Colonel Mengistu, while Soviet arms supplies to the regime (US\$ 800 million in 1989) will cease in 1991.

Moreover, under the Mengistu regime human rights violations have increased sharply: some 40 high-ranking military personnel have been put to death for not giving the dictator their full support, and more than 200 civil and military administrators have been arrested.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. The Eritrean Popular Liberation Front has offered the use of the port of Massawa as an entry and distribution point for aid provided by the international community. The Tigre Liberation Movement has made similar proposals. Why does the European Community persist in keeping the hardpressed Addis Ababa government supplied by air without any guarantee that the aid is channelled to the people?
2. If the proposals of the liberation movements are not taken up, should not the various forms of Community aids be suspended until such time as a representative government is installed in Addis Ababa?
3. Can the Twelve still condone the continuation of the Israeli military aid programme to Colonel Mengistu?

Answer
(19 September 1990)

1. The Community and its Member States are doing everything possible to obtain the cooperation of the

parties concerned and to ensure that humanitarian aid can be provided to the regions threatened by drought and famine. After launching appeals to this end in their statements of 23 January, 20 February and 15 March, the Community and its Member States approached the parties concerned and were in direct contact with Western donor countries.

On 24 April, the representatives of the Community and its Member States, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America issued a joint statement in New York calling upon all parties to the conflict to observe strictly the following principles:

- to suspend hostilities immediately to facilitate relief operations, bearing in mind that the situation of internal conflict is a major obstacle to the humanitarian relief effort;
- to guarantee the safe passage and facilitate distribution of humanitarian relief supplies via land, sea and air through neutral channels such as international organizations, churches or other NGOs;
- to ensure the availability of the relevant ports and airfields and the associated road links for humanitarian relief activities; and
- to refrain from military attack on aircraft, ships and road vehicles delivering humanitarian supplies, thus ensuring the safe passage of food deliveries through all possible channels.

All humanitarian relief efforts by the international community would be undertaken fully respecting the principles adopted by the United Nations to govern such operations.

All donors were called upon to respond generously to all elements of the humanitarian relief programme, including measures necessary to re-establish normal functioning of port and airfield facilities and associated road links.

Recalling that this situation of conflict was a major factor in the serious humanitarian situation in Ethiopia, the countries and country grouping mentioned above solemnly appealed most strongly to all parties to resume their efforts for peace and national reconciliation and, to that end, to resolve outstanding procedural difficulties on the basis of flexibility, and to proceed to substantive negotiations with a view to achieving a lasting political settlement.

At the ministerial meeting (European Political Cooperation) held in Luxembourg on 18 June 1990, the Community and its Member States welcomed the recent announcement by the Ethiopian Government that it was prepared to accept in principle the use of the port of Massawa for the delivery of relief supplies.

They regarded this as an important step in facilitating the international relief effort aimed at averting famine in Northern Ethiopia. They appealed most strongly to all parties to cooperate actively in bringing about the early re-opening of the port and to facilitate the delivery and distribution of humanitarian relief through all available channels.

The Asmara air bridge was established, under the auspices of the United Nations, by an international group of aid donors, including the Community. The goods transported via this air bridge are distributed to the drought and civil war victims in Asmara and the surrounding region by a non-governmental organization, the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP). The United Nations is also responsible for carrying out and monitoring these operations.

2. With regard to suspension of the various forms of Community aid, the Honourable Member will understand, from the above that such a measure can only be to the ultimate detriment of a population which has already suffered much, and would therefore be counter productive.

The Community and its Member States have always regarded its aid (whether in the form of food aid, medical aid or other types of relief) as being primarily *humanitarian* aid designed to help the victims of natural or other similar disasters, wherever they may be and whatever the political regime.

3. The question of the Israeli military aid programme for the authorities in Addis Ababa has not been discussed in the framework of European Political Cooperation.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1729/90

by Mr Ernest Glinne (S)

to the Council of the European Communities

(5 July 1990)

(90/C 272/101)

Subject: UN programme for the environment and protection of the ozone layer

Mr Mustafa K. Tolba, Director of the UN programme for the environment, has proposed that the industrialized countries provide Third World countries with the economic and technical means needed to eliminate chemical waste emissions such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which are destroying the ozone layer. Mr Tolba has also drawn up a wider-ranging proposal aimed at tightening up the definition and implementation of international law in this matter.

Can the Community state its attitude towards these proposals?

Answer

(19 September 1990)

The Community took an active part in the UNEP negotiations for the revision of the Montreal Protocol.

At its meeting on 7 June 1990 the Council fully backed the UNEP Director's initiatives to support the request by developing countries for additional financial and technical resources to assist them in implementing the Protocol.

The second Conference of the Contracting Parties which took place in London from 20 to 29 June 1990 agreed to establish a financial mechanism, based on the following points, to assist the developing countries in implementing the Protocol:

- the mechanism would cover certain additional costs of the developing countries' compliance with the Protocol;
- funding would be through a mixture of multilateral and bilateral channels. As regards the multilateral aspect, the Parties agreed to establish a multilateral fund financed by contributions from the Contracting Parties calculated on the basis of the United Nations' assessment scale;
- the multilateral fund would be implemented by an executive committee acting under the aegis of the Parties and in co-operation with existing institutions, i.e. the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP;
- the transfer of technology to developing countries Parties to the Protocol would be facilitated, *inter alia*, by means of financing under the financial mechanism, where appropriate.

At a special on-the-spot Council meeting in London the Council agreed (subject to completion of the Community's internal procedures) to this decision, which was in accordance with the guidelines it had adopted on 7 June.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1756/90

by Mr Pol Marck (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 July 1990)

(90/C 272/102)

Subject: Agricultural areas under vegetables

Can the Commission give me the figures, broken down by variety and by Member State, for vegetables being grown:

1. under glass;
2. under plastic;
3. in the open?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry
on behalf of the Commission**

(23 August 1990)

The Commission is sending directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of Parliament the information requested.

Is paid maternity leave granted? If so, what level of remuneration is received?

What day-nursery facilities, if any, are provided?

Is any form of assistance in cash or kind provided with government and/or private-sector support?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1839/90

**by Mr Fernand Herman (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(20 July 1990)

(90/C 272/103)

Subject: Family policy

What is the length of maternity leave granted in the various Member States of the European Community?

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

(11 September 1990)

The Commission is sending directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of Parliament the information requested.
