

IV

(Informacje)

INFORMACJE INSTYTUCJI, ORGANÓW I JEDNOSTEK ORGANIZACYJNYCH
UNII EUROPEJSKIEJ

PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI

PYTANIA PISEMNE Z ODPOWIEDZIĄ

Pytania pisemne skierowane przez posłów do Parlamentu Europejskiego i odpowiedzi
na te pytania udzielone przez instytucję Unii Europejskiej

(2013/C 117 E/01)

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(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002759/12

προς την Επιτροπή
Konstantinos Poupakis (PPE)
(9 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Ευαισθητοποίηση της ευρωπαϊκής κοινής γνώμης ως προς την αναγκαιότητα στήριξης των κρατών μελών που αντιμετωπίζουν οξύτατα προβλήματα δανεισμού

Χωρίς αμφιβολία, η συμμετοχή κρατών-μελών της ΕΕ στον μηχανισμό χρηματοδοτικής στήριξης των χωρών, που αντιμετωπίζουν έντονο πρόβλημα δανεισμού από τις «αγορές», αποτέλεσε παράγοντα δοκιμασίας της ευρωπαϊκής συνοχής και αλληλεγγύης τόσο σε επίπεδο ηγετών όσο και σε επίπεδο λαών. Σε κάποιες περιπτώσεις αναπτύχθηκαν λαϊκισμοί και καταστροφικές ρητορικές — ακόμη και εντός Εθνικών Κοινοβουλίων — οι οποίες, σε συνδυασμό με τις πολιτικές δημοσιονομικής εξυγίανσης που εφαρμόζονται στο σύνολο της ΕΕ, πυροδότησαν αντιδράσεις για το γεγονός της οικονομικής βοήθειας οι οποίες εκφράστηκαν ακραία με απαξιωτικά ή ακόμη και ρατσιστικά σχόλια σε βάρος των κρατών ή των λαών που εντάχθηκαν στον μεικτό μηχανισμό στήριξης, όπως η Ελλάδα. Αφετηρία του συγκεκριμένου σκεπτικισμού υπήρξε η προβολή της λανθασμένης αντίληψης ότι τα χρήματα των ευρωπαίων φορολογουμένων αντλούνται — χωρίς κανένα όφελος — για τη χρηματοδότηση δημόσιων δαπανών των χωρών που εντάσσονται σε προγράμματα διάσωσης.

Με δεδομένο αφενός ότι αυτές οι συμπεριφορές τροφοδοτούν αντιευρωπαϊκές αντιλήψεις και αφετέρου ότι η ενίσχυση της ευρωπαϊκής ταυτότητας και η δημιουργία μιας συνεκτικής ευρωπαϊκής κοινωνίας και κοινότητας συγκαταλέγονται μεταξύ των θεμελιωδών στόχων της ΕΕ, ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

Ως μέλος της «τρίκα» διαθέτει στοιχεία για ενδεχόμενα κέρδη που έχουν ή πρόκειται να έχουν τα κράτη μέλη από τις διαφορές μεταξύ του ύψους των επιτοκίων που αντλούν κεφάλαια από την πρωτογενή αγορά και των επιτοκίων με τα οποία συμμετέχουν — αντιστοίχα — στον μεικτό μηχανισμό χρηματοδοτικής στήριξης; Αν ναι, προτίθεται να τα δημοσιοποιήσει με σκοπό την άμβλυνση των αντιδράσεων;

Επεξεργάζεται ή πρόκειται να επεξεργαστεί ένα ευρωπαϊκό σχέδιο δράσης ενημέρωσης και ευαισθητοποίησης της ευρωπαϊκής κοινής γνώμης μέσα από την τεκμηριωμένη προβολή της αναγκαιότητας στήριξης των κρατών-μελών που αντιμετωπίζουν οξύτατα προβλήματα δανεισμού, καθώς και των προσδοκώμενων ωφελειών από την εν λόγω απόφαση για την ευρωπαϊκή οικονομία και κοινωνία συνολικά;

Απάντηση του κ. Rehn εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(30 Απριλίου 2012)

Η υποστήριξη της ευρωζώνης προς την Ελλάδα σε ό,τι αφορά τη σταθερότητα δυνάμει του πρώτου προγράμματος παρασχέθηκε μέσω από κοινού χορήγησης διμερών δανείων από τα κράτη μέλη της ευρωζώνης δυνάμει της δανειακής διευκόλυνσης της Ελλάδας. Το συνολικό ποσό για κάθε δανειστή προσδιορίστηκε βάσει της κλίμακας συνεισφοράς της Ευρωπαϊκής Κεντρικής Τράπεζας (ΕΚΤ). Το επιτόκιο προσέγγιζε αυτό του Διεθνούς Νομισματικού Ταμείου και έτσι τα κράτη μέλη της ευρωζώνης ήταν σε θέση να καλύψουν τα οικεία κόστη άντλησης πόρων.

Τα κράτη μέλη της ευρωζώνης, για να βελτιώσουν τη βιωσιμότητα του χρέους, τροποποίησαν τους όρους της δανειακής διευκόλυνσης της Ελλάδας, παρατείνοντας τη διάρκεια των δανείων και μειώνοντας σημαντικά το περιθώριο μεταξύ κόστους άντλησης πόρων και κόστους δανεισμού. Σήμερα, τα κράτη μέλη της ευρωζώνης καλύπτουν τα κόστη άντλησης πόρων χωρίς σημαντικά κέρδη/ζημιές από τα δάνειά τους προς την Ελλάδα. Σημειώνεται ότι τα κράτη μέλη της ευρωζώνης δεσμεύτηκαν να μεταβιβάσουν στήριξη μέσω επιχορηγήσεων στην Ελλάδα, ισοδύναμη προς τα έσοδα από συμμετοχές της ΕΚΤ σε ελληνικά κρατικά ομόλογα. Δεν θα διενεργηθεί περαιτέρω εκταμίευση δυνάμει της δανειακής διευκόλυνσης της Ελλάδας μετά την έναρξη εφαρμογής του δεύτερου προγράμματος. Η μελλοντική συνδρομή θα προσφέρεται μέσω του Ευρωπαϊκού Ταμείου Χρηματοοικονομικής Σταθερότητας (ΕΤΧΣ), το οποίο δανείζεται από τις αγορές και χορηγεί δάνεια σε πραγματικό κόστος στην Ελλάδα. Τα κράτη μέλη της ευρωζώνης εγγυώνται τα δάνεια που χορηγεί το ΕΤΧΣ.

Οι όροι δανεισμού του ΕΤΧΣ δημοσιεύονται στην ιστοσελίδα του:

<http://www.efsf.europa.eu/about/operations/index.htm>

Η χρηματοπιστωτική στήριξη στην Ελλάδα και σε άλλες χώρες είναι αποτέλεσμα της αλληλεγγύης και στήριξης από μέρους των πιστωτριών χωρών και δεν αποτελεί μέσο πλουτισμού. Τα κράτη μέλη πιστωτές έχουν αναλάβει κινδύνους για τους φορολογούμενους πολίτες τους χωρίς αντάλλαγμα.

Τακτικές εκδόσεις σχετικά με το πρόγραμμα εφαρμογής διατίθενται στην ιστοσελίδα της ΓΔ ECFIN:
http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/index_en.htm

Δεν προβλέπεται πρόγραμμα δράσης για ευαισθητοποίηση της κοινής γνώμης.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002759/12
to the Commission**

Konstantinos Poupakis (PPE)

(9 March 2012)

Subject: Raising the European public's awareness of the need to support Member States with serious borrowing problems

Without doubt, the participation of EU Member States in the financial support mechanism for countries having intense difficulty in borrowing on the markets has tested European cohesion and solidarity at both leadership and grassroots level. In some cases, rabble-rousing and scaremongering rhetoric has been heard — even within the European Parliament — which, combined with the fiscal reform policies being applied throughout the EU, has sparked extreme reactions to financial aid, with scornful or even racist comments about states or nations in the joint support mechanism, such as Greece. This scepticism has been based on the promotion of the erroneous impression that European taxpayers' money is being used — to no benefit — to finance public spending in countries in rescue programmes.

Given that, on the one hand, this conduct is feeding EU-scepticism and that, on the other, the strengthening of European identity and the creation of a cohesive European society and culture is one of the fundamental objectives of the EU, will the Commission answer the following:

Does it have data, as a member of the troika, on possible gains which the Member States have made or may make from the difference in the interest rates for primary market funding and participation in the joint financial support mechanism respectively and, if so, does it intend to publish this information in order to counter criticism?

Is it preparing or does it intend to prepare a European action plan to inform and raise awareness among the European public, by substantiating the need for support for Member States with serious borrowing problems and the anticipated benefits of the said decision for the European economy and society as a whole?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

The euro area stability support to Greece under the first programme was provided via pooled bilateral loans from Euro Area Member States (EAMS) under the Greek loan facility (GLF). The total amount to be lent by each lender was defined according to the European Central Bank (ECB) contribution key. The interest rate was similar to the one charged by the International Monetary Fund, making it possible for EAMS to cover their individual funding costs.

To improve debt sustainability and, Euro Area Member States (MS) have amended the terms of the GLF extending the life of the loans and significantly reducing the margin between funding and lending costs. On average EAMS now cover their funding costs without material gains/losses on their lending to Greece. It should be noted, that EAMS committed to transfer grants support to Greece equivalent to the income from ECB holdings of Greek Government bonds. No further disbursement under the GLF will be made once the second programme is in place. Future assistance will be provided via the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) which borrows in the markets and lends at real costs to Greece. The borrowing of EFSF is guaranteed by EAMS.

The lending terms of the EFSF are published on its website: <http://www.efsf.europa.eu/about/operations/index.htm>

Financial support to Greece and other countries reflects the solidarity and support of creditor countries and does not represent a means to generate profits. Creditor MS have taken over risks for their taxpayers without remuneration.

Regular reports on programme implementation are available on the website of DG ECFIN (http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/index_en.htm).

An action plan to raise awareness is not envisaged.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002761/12
to the Commission**

Derek Vaughan (S&D)

(12 March 2012)

Subject: Competitive and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) in Wales

Can the Commission provide a breakdown of the figures detailing how much money has been allocated to Welsh organisations participating in CIP projects since 2007?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission

(26 April 2012)

The monitoring of the implementation of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) is made by country. Therefore, no detailed data is available for Wales. From a manual extraction of data, the indicative figures on projects supported by the three CIP sub-programmes in Wales since 2007 are the following (probably underestimated):

- under Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP): approximately EUR 0.5 million,
- under Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP): approximately EUR 0.9 million,
- under IEE (Intelligent Energy Europe Programme): approximately EUR 1 million.

Under the CIP, two financial instruments are available:

- the SME Guarantee Facility (SMEG) which facilitates access to lending to SMEs, and
- the High Growth and Innovative SME Facility (GIF) which supports venture capital financing of innovative SMEs with high growth potential at their seed, start-up and expansion stages.

Up until now, EUR 49.5 million has been committed to UK venture capital funds under GIF. In line with market practice, the financing is provided to the UK intermediaries with no geographic restrictions regarding allocations to Wales or other parts of the UK. As the supported venture capital funds are still in their investment period and are still building up the portfolios of financed SMEs, it is currently impossible to determine what proportion of this amount will be allocated to Welsh SMEs.

Please consult the EIP beneficiaries' reports 2007-2010 available on CIP Internet page for more details on EIP beneficiaries: http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/implementation-reports/index_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002762/12
to the Commission
Derek Vaughan (S&D)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: The second pillar of the CAP in Wales

Can the Commission provide a breakdown of the figures detailing how much funding Wales has received under the second pillar of the CAP since 2007?

Answer given by Mr Ciolos on behalf of the Commission
(17 April 2012)

Since 2007, the Welsh Government has received EUR 1 36 958 616 ⁽¹⁾ from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The breakdown of the EAFRD payments (in EUR) per year and per axis is presented in the annexed table ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Please note that the figures for 2011 and total from 2007 to 2011 do not take into account the EAFRD payment for the last quarter 2011 as it is currently being processed.

⁽²⁾ The annex is sent directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of Parliament.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002763/12
to the Commission
Derek Vaughan (S&D)
(12 March 2012)**

Subject: CAP Pillar 1 funding for Wales

Can the Commission provide a breakdown of the figures detailing how much CAP Pillar 1 funding Wales has received since 2007?

**Answer given by Mr Ciólos on behalf of the Commission
(23 April 2012)**

The Commission informs the Honourable Member that:

The amounts paid to beneficiaries by the Wales paying agency from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) for the measures Interventions in Agricultural Markets, and Direct aids (Pillar 1) are shown in the annexed table.

It should be noted that the sums include relatively small amounts the Wales paying agency pays to UK beneficiaries outside Wales. In the same way, beneficiaries in Wales receive relatively small amounts of EAGF funds via other UK paying agencies.

More details on the breakdown of expenditure may be available from the Welsh Government and the UK coordination body for the UK paying agencies responsible for the shared management of the Agricultural Funds in the UK.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/?lang=en>
<http://cobody.defra.gov.uk/cobody/cobodyhome.nsf>

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002764/12
to the Commission
Derek Vaughan (S&D)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in Wales

Can the Commission provide a breakdown of the figures detailing how much ERDF funding Wales has received since 2007?

Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission
(2 April 2012)

The European Regional Development Fund allocation for the Welsh programmes for the 2007-2013 period, is EUR 1 250 378 189 for West Wales and the Valleys and EUR 72 451 721 for East Wales.

By 15 March 2012, the Commission has made payments (including prefinancing) of EUR 469 322 645 for West Wales and the Valleys and EUR 30 758 944 for East Wales.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002765/12
to the Commission
Derek Vaughan (S&D)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: European Social Fund (ESF) in Wales

Can the Commission provide a breakdown of the figures detailing how much ESF funding Wales has received since 2007?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(26 April 2012)

The Honourable Member has below the detailed information on ESF amounts paid from 2007 to date to West Wales and the Valleys (Convergence), and East Wales (Competitiveness and Employment) programmes.

West Wales and the Valleys ESF Convergence programme

Year / ESF amount (EUR)

2007: 16 671 709.20

2008: 25 007 563.80

2009: 72 493 626.97

2010: 74 202 102.93

2011: 149 944 911.35

2012: 40 348 624.82

Total ESF paid: 378 668 539.07 EUR

Total ESF allocation: 833 585 460.00 EUR

East Wales ESF Regional Competitiveness and Employment programme

Year / ESF amount (EUR)

2007: 1 271 949.04

2008: 1 907 923.56

2009: 7 514 140.38

2011: 19 377 790.02

2012: 2 134 745.37

Total ESF paid: 32 206 548.37 EUR

Total ESF allocation: 63 597 452.00 EUR

This leads to a cumulative ESF amount paid to Wales from 2007 to date of EUR 410 875 087.44, which represents 45.80% of the total ESF allocation for Wales in the 2007-2013 period.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002766/12
to the Commission
Derek Vaughan (S&D)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: Territorial Cooperation Funding in Wales

Can the Commission provide a breakdown of the figures detailing how much Territorial Cooperation Funding Wales has received since 2007?

Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission
(10 April 2012)

In the 2007-2013 period, Wales is participating in seven territorial cooperation programmes. Nonetheless, the funding available under a cooperation programme is not divided between the participating countries. In the attached table ⁽¹⁾, the Honourable Member will find the financial execution of the programmes in which Wales participates.

⁽¹⁾ The annex is sent directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of Parliament.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002767/12
to the Commission
Derek Vaughan (S&D)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) funding for Wales

Can the Commission provide a breakdown of the figures detailing how much money Welsh organisations participating in FP7 projects have received since 2007?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(26 April 2012)

Since 2007, in the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7, 2007-2013), there have been 264 participations from Wales in 250 signed grants agreements.

The European Union contribution to the Welsh grant holders equals EUR 84 169 983. This amount refers to commitments for future payments rather than actual payments.

The complete list of beneficiaries is attached.

(Dansk udgave)

Forespørgsel til skriftlig besvarelse E-002768/12
til Kommissionen
Morten Løkkegaard (ALDE) og Marietje Schaake (ALDE)
(12. marts 2012)

Om: Onlinedistribution af audiovisuelle værker

Af Kommissionens grønbog om onlinedistribution af audiovisuelle værker (KOM(2011)0427) fremgår det, at der i øjeblikket ikke findes nogen retsakt, der specifikt er målrettet clearing af ophavsrettigheder og relaterede rettigheder for grænseoverskridende online audiovisuelle medietjenester.

Agter Kommissionen at lade det være op til indehaverne af ophavsrettigheder at udstede licenser til kreativt medieindhold, alt efter hvad de finder passende?

Eller planlægger Kommissionen at udarbejde en licensmodel for audiovisuelle værker i sit forslag til retsakt om kollektiv forvaltning?

Kan Kommissionen endvidere give noget fingerpeg om, hvornår den vil forelægge sit forslag til retsakt om kollektiv forvaltning?

Svar afgivet på Kommissionens vegne af Michel Barnier
(3. maj 2012)

Kommissionens grønbog ⁽¹⁾ satte en omfattende dialog med interessenterne i gang, delvist for at bestemme, om der udover forslaget til retsakt om kollektiv rettighedsforvaltning er behov for foranstaltninger til fremme af grænseoverskridende audiovisuelle onlinetjenester. Grønbogen identificerer en række mulige politiske tilgange. Kommissionen er i gang med at analysere de mere end 200 svar og aflægger til sommer rapport om resultaterne af denne konsultation.

Et forslag til et direktiv om kollektiv rettighedsforvaltning er en del af Kommissionens arbejdsprogram for 2012 og forventes at foreligge i løbet af sommeren. Med forbehold for resultatet af de nødvendige forberedelser og den interne beslutningsproces forventes forslaget at indeholde generelle regler for styring og gennemsigtighed med henblik på at skabe ensartede spilleregler for alle opkrævningsselskaber og beskytte rettighedshavernes interesser. Det vil også indeholde specifikke bestemmelser, der gør det muligt for ophavsmændenes opkrævningsselskaber at tildele multiterritoriale licenser til onlinemusikrettigheder og muliggør samlingen af disse opkrævningsselskabers repertoire. Jævnfør ovenstående forbehold er det også hensigten, at forslaget skal dække licenstildelingen for onlinere rettigheder til musikværker i audiovisuelle værker, når sådanne rettigheder administreres kollektivt. Som behandlet i grønbogen er rettighedsclearing for onlineudnyttelse af audiovisuelle værker i øvrigt meget afhængig af direkte licensering af brugerne, hvilket oftest varetages af den audiovisuelle producent. De specifikke ophavsretlige problemer, der er forbundet med de af opkrævningsselskaberne tildelte territoriale licenser, vil derfor ikke være gældende i samme omfang som i musiksektoren.

⁽¹⁾ Grønbog om onlinedistribution af audiovisuelle værker (KOM(2011)0427).

(Nederlandse versie)

**Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-002768/12
aan de Commissie**

Morten Løkkegaard (ALDE) en Marietje Schaake (ALDE)

(12 maart 2012)

Betreft: Onlinedistributie van audiovisuele werken

In het Groenboek van de Commissie betreffende de onlinedistributie van audiovisuele werken (COM(2011)0427) wordt gesteld dat er momenteel geen rechtsinstrument is dat specifiek betrekking heeft op de vereffening van auteursrechten en naburige rechten voor grensoverschrijdende audiovisuele onlinemediadiensten.

Zal de Commissie het aan de houders van auteursrechten overlaten om naar eigen goeddunken vergunningen te verlenen voor creatieve media-inhoud?

Of is de Commissie van plan een vergunningenmodel voor audiovisuele werken te presenteren in haar wetgevingsvoorstel inzake het collectieve rechtenbeheer?

Kan de Commissie tot slot aangeven wanneer zij haar voorstel inzake het collectieve rechtenbeheer zal indienen?

Antwoord van de heer Barnier namens de Commissie

(3 mei 2012)

Met het groenboek van de Commissie ⁽¹⁾ is een uitgebreide dialoog met de stakeholders gestart deels om na te gaan of naast het wetgevingsvoorstel inzake het collectieve rechtenbeheer maatregelen nodig zijn om de beschikbaarheid van grensoverschrijdende audiovisuele online diensten te bevorderen. In het groenboek is een aantal mogelijke beleidsbenaderingen aangegeven. De Commissie analyseert momenteel de meer dan 200 antwoorden en zal tegen de zomer over het resultaat van de raadpleging rapporteren.

Het werkprogramma voor 2012 van de Commissie omvat een voorstel voor een richtlijn inzake het collectieve rechtenbeheer, dat gedurende de zomer zou moeten worden ingediend. Behoudens het resultaat van de passende voorbereidende activiteiten en interne besluitvormingsprocessen is het de bedoeling dat het voorstel, teneinde voor gelijke spelregels voor alle auteursrechtenorganisaties te zorgen en de belangen van de houders van de rechten te beschermen, algemene regels over governance en transparantie bevat en, teneinde de verlening van multiterritoriale vergunningen voor online muziekrechten door auteursrechtenorganisaties en de samenvoeging van het repertoire van die organisaties te vergemakkelijken, specifieke regels bevat. Onder hetzelfde voorbehoud is het ook de bedoeling dat het voorstel van toepassing is op het verlenen van vergunningen voor online rechten voor muziekwerken die in audiovisuele werken zijn opgenomen wanneer die rechten collectief worden beheerd. Zoals in het groenboek besproken, steunt de vereffening van rechten voor de online exploitatie van audiovisuele werken overigens grotendeels op het rechtstreeks verlenen, gewoonlijk door de audiovisuele producent, van vergunningen aan gebruikers. Vandaar dat de specifieke auteursrechtelijke problemen in verband met de territorialiteit van door auteursrechtenorganisaties verleende vergunningen in die sector niet in dezelfde mate lijken voor te komen als in de muzieksector.

⁽¹⁾ Groenboek betreffende de onlinedistributie van audiovisuele werken (COM(2011)0427).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002768/12
to the Commission
Morten Løkkegaard (ALDE) and Marietje Schaake (ALDE)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: Online distribution of audiovisual works

In the Commission's Green Paper on the online distribution of audiovisual works (COM(2011) 0427) it is stated that there is currently no legal instrument specifically addressing the clearing of copyright and related rights for cross-border online audiovisual media services.

Will the Commission leave it to copyright holders to license creative media content as they see fit?

Or is the Commission planning to come up with a licensing model for audiovisual works in its legislative proposal on collective management?

Lastly, can the Commission give an indication as to when it will present its legislative proposal on collective management?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(3 May 2012)

The Commission's Green Paper ⁽¹⁾ launched an extensive dialogue with stakeholders, in part to ascertain whether measures, beyond the legislative proposal on collective rights management, are needed to promote the availability of cross-border online audiovisual services. The Green Paper identified a range of possible policy approaches. The Commission is analysing the more than 200 replies and will report by summer on the outcome of the consultation.

A proposal for a directive on Collective Rights Management is included in the Commission's Work Programme for 2012 and should be tabled during the summer. Subject to the outcome of the appropriate preparatory activities and internal decision-making processes, it is foreseen that the proposal will contain general rules on governance and transparency in order to provide a level playing field for all collecting societies and to protect right holders' interests; and specific provisions to facilitate the granting of multi-territorial licences for online music rights by authors' collecting societies and the aggregation of those collecting societies' repertoire. Subject to the same provisos, it is also intended that the proposal will cover the licensing of online rights for musical works contained in audiovisual works when such rights are collectively managed. As discussed in the Green Paper, rights clearance for the online exploitation of audiovisual works otherwise relies largely on direct licensing of users, normally by the audiovisual producer. Hence, the specific copyright problems associated with the territoriality of licences granted by authors' collecting societies would appear not to arise in this sector to the same extent as in the music sector.

⁽¹⁾ Green Paper on the online distribution of audiovisual works (COM(2011) 0427).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002769/12
to the Commission
George Lyon (ALDE)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: Meetings with the Scottish Government

Can the Commission specify on how many occasions it has met with Scottish Government ministers since Thursday, 3 May 2007 to discuss Scotland's relationship with the EU if it were ever to separate from the UK?

Answer given by Mr Barroso on behalf of the Commission
(17 April 2012)

The Commission consolidates information on visits at the level of leaders of the devolved administrations, but not on the ministerial level.

The First Minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond, met several Commissioners to discuss various issues related to the Commission's work on 12 July 2007 and on 2 December 2009.

(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-002770/12
à la Commission**

Agnès Le Brun (PPE) et George Lyon (ALDE)

(12 mars 2012)

Objet: Mise en œuvre de la directive 2008/120/CE relative à la protection des porcs — suite donnée aux questions écrites E 001227/2012 et E 011961/2011

Comme suite aux réponses de la Commission aux questions écrites E 001227/2012, déposée par Agnès Le Brun, et E 011961/2011, déposée précédemment par George Lyon, nous souhaiterions poser les questions suivantes:

1. La Commission a-t-elle reçu des informations actualisées de la part des États membres sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre de la directive 2008/120/CE établissant les normes minimales relatives à la protection des porcs — ce qui expliquerait pourquoi les deux réponses susmentionnées de la Commission diffèrent quant au nombre d'États membres devant en principe se conformer à la directive avant l'échéance du 1^{er} janvier 2013?
2. La Commission peut-elle préciser quels États membres autres que le Royaume-Uni, la Suède, le Luxembourg, le Danemark, l'Allemagne, l'Irlande et la Lituanie prévoient de satisfaire aux exigences de la directive avant le 1^{er} janvier 2013?
3. La Commission a-t-elle reçu des informations en réponse à sa demande réitérée faisant suite à une première demande faite en juillet 2011, en particulier de la part des États membres qui n'avaient pas fourni d'informations dans un premier temps (la France, Malte, la Finlande et le Portugal)? Le cas échéant, ces États comptent-ils se conformer à la directive avant le délai fixé?

Réponse donnée par M. Dalli au nom de la Commission

(25 avril 2012)

Après avoir envoyé une première demande aux États membres en juillet 2011 pour obtenir des informations sur le logement en groupe des truies, la Commission s'est une nouvelle fois adressée à eux en janvier 2012. Elle appelle également le Comité permanent de la chaîne alimentaire et de la santé animale à lui fournir des informations actualisées pour pouvoir suivre l'évolution de la situation sur une base mensuelle. Ces démarches en cours expliquent pourquoi les réponses de la Commission aux questions écrites E-001227/2012 et E-011961/2011 ⁽¹⁾ diffèrent quant au nombre d'États membres qui devraient pouvoir se conformer pour le 1^{er} janvier 2013 à la prescription sur le logement en groupe des truies établie dans la directive 2008/120/CE relative à la protection des porcs ⁽²⁾.

À ce jour, douze États membres estiment qu'ils satisferont pleinement aux exigences de la directive pour le délai précité; il s'agit de la Bulgarie, de la République tchèque, du Danemark, de l'Allemagne, de l'Estonie, de l'Irlande, de la Lituanie, du Luxembourg, de la Hongrie, de la Slovaquie, de la Suède et du Royaume-Uni.

La Commission a reçu des informations de la part de la France, de Malte, du Portugal et de la Finlande. La France et le Portugal ont fourni des estimations sur la situation actuelle mais pas encore sur ce qu'il en sera en décembre 2012. La Finlande estime qu'environ 93 % des exploitations porcines respecteront la prescription concernant le logement en groupe des truies pour le 31 décembre 2012. Malte considère, quant à elle, qu'environ 76 % des exploitations porcines s'y conformeront pour cette date; elle compte en outre fermer les exploitations non conformes le 1^{er} janvier 2013 au plus tard.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/home.jsp?language=fr>.

⁽²⁾ JO L 47 du 18.2.2009, p. 5.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002770/12
to the Commission
Agnès Le Brun (PPE) and George Lyon (ALDE)
(12 March 2012)**

Subject: Implementation of Directive 2008/120/EC on the protection of pigs — follow-up to Written Questions E-001227/2012 and E-011961/2011

Further to the Commission's answers to Agnès Le Brun's Written Question E-001227/2012 and George Lyon's previous Written Question E-011961/2011, we would like to ask the follow-up questions set out below:

1. Has the Commission received updated information from the Member States on the state of play with regard to the implementation of Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs ⁽¹⁾ which would explain the difference between the two aforementioned Commission answers as to the number of Member States expected to comply with the directive by the deadline of 1 January 2013?
2. Can the Commission inform us which Member States other than the United Kingdom, Sweden, Luxembourg, Denmark, Germany, Ireland and Lithuania will comply by 1 January 2013?
3. Has the Commission received information in response to the renewed request that followed the original one made in July 2011, in particular from those Member States which originally did not provide information (France, Malta, Finland and Portugal), and, if so, do these Member States expect to comply with the directive by the deadline?

**Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(25 April 2012)**

Following the initial request for data on group housing of sows sent to the Member States in July 2011, the Commission sent a second request in January 2012. The Commission is also asking for updates of the data at the Standing Committee for Food Chain and Animal Health in order to monitor the evolution of the situation on a monthly basis. This explains the difference in the number of Member States expected to comply by 1 January 2013 with the requirement of group housing of sows of Directive 2008/120/EC on the protection of pigs ⁽²⁾ between the Commission's answers to Written Questions E-001227/2012 and E-011961/2011 ⁽³⁾.

At this date, 12 Member States estimate that they will fully comply by 1 January 2013: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Sweden, Slovakia and the UK.

The Commission received information from France, Finland, Malta and Portugal. France and Portugal provided estimates on the current situation but not yet for the future situation in December 2012. Finland estimates that around 93 % of pig holdings will comply with group housing of sows by 31 December 2012. Malta estimates that around 76 % of pig holdings will comply by 31 December 2012 and intends to close down non-compliant holdings by 1 January 2013.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 47, 18.2.2009, p. 5.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 47, 18.2.2009, p. 5.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/home.jsp?language=en>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002772/12
to the Commission**

Catherine Stihler (S&D)

(12 March 2012)

Subject: Digital Agenda

In the Digital Agenda for Europe the Commission stated that it would ensure that public-sector websites (and websites providing basic services to citizens) were fully accessible by 2015, and make a proposal to this effect by the end of 2011. This proposal has been delayed.

Could the Commission provide an update on its plans? How did the Commission, as part of its impact assessment, seek the views of the private sector, and in particular of small, medium-sized and large web developers, on the impact of the current fragmentation in this market?

Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission

(17 April 2012)

The proposal for an EU intervention on web accessibility is progressing. The Impact Assessment Board gave its opinion in February 2012. Currently the proposal is being prepared in cooperation with different Commission services. This proposal should be proposed for adoption to the college by the second quarter of 2012.

This initiative is the result of extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders such as service industries and their associations, Member States' representatives, members of the public, and organisations representing people with special needs. The views on the market fragmentation of the private sector and in particular of small, medium-sized and large web developers have been sought in a variety of ways. Examples are the Post-i2010 public consultation, a consultation workshop on web accessibility in 2008, a public consultation on web accessibility in preparation for the communication 'Towards an accessible information society'; and the 2009 public consultation 'Economic assessment for improving e-accessibility services and products' ⁽¹⁾. During 2011, several direct consultations and meetings have been held with major industry representatives.

⁽¹⁾ SMART 2009/00-72; see <http://www.eaccessibility-impacts.eu/>.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002773/12

alla Commissione

Oreste Rossi (EFD)

(12 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Identificare le fonti impiegate per produrre elettricità importata

Da circa 10 anni l'ente governativo italiano GSE (Gestore Servizi Energetici) richiede e controlla particolari certificati che attestano l'origine delle fonti (rinnovabili) utilizzate all'estero per produrre l'elettricità importata dall'Italia. Si tratta di certificati di origine che nessun altro Stato membro richiede al momento di importare energia elettrica. L'Italia, invece, fa pagare ai consumatori fino a 2.50 euro per MWh per dimostrare all'Europa che si sta impegnando attivamente a favore dell'ambiente. Considerata la grande quantità di energia che importa ogni anno, circa 40-50 TWh, l'Italia dovrebbe essere il paese europeo più verde. Eppure, nel 2010, il governo italiano ha chiesto alla Commissione europea di conteggiare solo 12 TWh di elettricità importata da fonti rinnovabili, mai però certificati alla stessa Commissione. Ciò significa che i certificati d'origine, pagati a caro prezzo dai consumatori italiani, non sembrano aver dimostrato nessuna importazione rinnovabile e quindi non servono a ridurre le emissioni e a migliorare l'ambiente. L'ex sottosegretario Saglia ha ammesso che ciò che viene contabilizzato come energia verde in realtà non lo è.

Dal momento che, entro il 2020, l'Unione europea intende ridurre del 20 % le sue emissioni di gas a effetto serra, gli Stati membri dovranno adottare le misure necessarie per raggiungere questo obiettivo.

In Italia il 17 % dei consumi elettrici dovranno derivare da fonti rinnovabili. Per tale motivo, in tutti i paesi europei esistono finanziamenti più o meno vantaggiosi per promuovere l'utilizzo di energia pulita. Il governo italiano, attraverso i certificati verdi, incentiva i cittadini a scegliere l'eolico o il fotovoltaico e, nello stesso tempo, compra elettricità da altri paesi, facendo credere che sia pulita. Il mercato dei contributi alle fonti rinnovabili, quali i certificati verdi, hanno avuto uno sviluppo considerevole negli ultimi decenni, tanto che i cittadini italiani arrivano a sborsare ogni anno attraverso la bolletta elettrica la considerevole cifra di circa 6 miliardi di euro per tali politiche ambientali.

Tenuto conto che si sono diffuse, in questo contesto, pratiche apparentemente virtuose, ma concretamente poco rispettose dell'ambiente e delle tasche dei cittadini, tanto da essere deferite alla magistratura, che danneggiano i consumatori che alla fine devono sostenerne i costi, può la Commissione far sapere se è al corrente del caso italiano e quali misure intende adottare affinché la salvaguardia dell'ambiente non diventi occasione per i governi o per le imprese per rincarare i prezzi dell'energia?

Risposta data da Günther Oettinger a nome della Commissione

(30 maggio 2012)

La Commissione è a conoscenza dei regimi italiani di sostegno alle energie rinnovabili ⁽¹⁾ e ne sta controllando attentamente la riforma nel quadro dell'attuazione della direttiva sulle energie rinnovabili ⁽²⁾.

La Commissione ricorda che la direttiva sulle energie rinnovabili ha migliorato il regime della «garanzia di origine» per garantire che sia una prova attendibile dell'energia da fonti rinnovabili, principalmente nell'ambito dell'obbligo di specificare il mix energetico di cui alla direttiva 2003/54/CE. Di conseguenza, le «garanzie di origine» sono diverse dai meccanismi di cooperazione istituiti nell'ambito della direttiva sulle energie rinnovabili, che disciplinano l'eventuale negoziazione di energie rinnovabili tra Stati membri e con paesi terzi.

⁽¹⁾ Cfr. la prima relazione intermedia dell'Italia disponibile all'indirizzo:
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/template_progress_report_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ Direttiva 2009/28/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 23 aprile 2009, sulla promozione dell'uso dell'energia da fonti rinnovabili, recante modifica e successiva abrogazione delle direttive 2001/77/CE e 2003/30/CE, GU L 140 del 5.6.2009.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002773/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: Identifying the sources of imported electricity production

For nearly 10 years the Italian Government agency GSE (Energy Services Operator) has demanded and audited special certificates confirming the origin of the (renewable) sources used abroad to produce the electricity imported into Italy. These certificates of origin are not currently required by any other Member State for electricity importation. Italy, however, is making consumers pay up to EUR 2.50 per MWh to show Europe that it is actively working for the environment. Given the large amount of energy it imports each year, about 40 to 50 TWh, Italy should be the greenest country in Europe. Yet in 2010, the Italian Government asked the Commission to count only 12 TWh of imported electricity as being from renewable sources, without having provided any certification for the Commission. This means that the certificates of origin, paid for dearly by the Italian consumer, do not seem to have proven that imports were from renewable sources and therefore do not serve to reduce emissions and improve the environment. Former Secretary of State, Stefano Saglia, has admitted that what was accounted for as green energy was, in reality, nothing of the kind.

Since the EU intends to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 % by 2020, Member States ought to adopt the necessary measures for achieving this target.

In Italy 17 % of electricity consumption will have to come from renewable sources. For this reason, there are funds available that are more or less advantageous to promote the use of clean energy in all European countries. Through the green certificates scheme, the Italian Government is encouraging citizens to choose wind or photovoltaic power, whilst at the same time buying electricity from other countries and leading people to believe it is clean energy. The market for contributions to renewable sources, such as green certificates, has developed considerably in recent decades, so much so that Italian citizens are forking out the considerable sum of around EUR 6 billion for these environmental policies via their electricity bills.

Therefore, considering that seemingly virtuous practices that are actually of little benefit for the environment and for the pockets of Italian citizens — so much so as to be referred to the courts — are widespread and harmful for consumers, who ultimately have to bear the costs, can the Commission say whether it is aware of the Italian situation and what steps will be taken to ensure that protecting the environment does not become an opportunity for governments or companies to hike up energy prices?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(30 May 2012)

The Commission is aware of Italian support schemes for renewable energy ⁽¹⁾ and it is monitoring closely their reform in the context of the implementation the Renewable Energy Directive ⁽²⁾.

The Commission would like to recall that the Renewable Energy Directive has improved the regime on 'guarantee of origin', to ensure that they are a reliable proof of renewable energy, chiefly in the context of the energy mix disclosure requirement laid down by Directive 2003/54/EC. Accordingly, 'guarantees of origin' are different from the cooperation mechanisms established under the Renewable Energy Directive, which regulate the possible trading of renewable energy amongst Member States and with third countries.

⁽¹⁾ See Italy's First Progress Report available at: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/template_progress_report_en.htm

⁽²⁾ Directive 2009/28/EC of the Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC, OJ L 140, 5.6.2009.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002775/12

alla Commissione

Oreste Rossi (EFD)

(12 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Batterie e acqua salata nuova tecnica per produrre energia rinnovabile

Quando un fiume si versa in mare e l'acqua dolce si mescola con acqua salata vengono liberate enormi quantità di energia. Ciò non è evidente e non è intuitivo, ma basti pensare che per ottenere acqua dolce dall'acqua salata serve energia, per contro quando l'acqua dolce viene salata si libera energia. Teoricamente ci sono diversi modi per convertire in energia utile l'energia dissipata quando l'acqua dolce si miscela all'acqua di mare. Una nuova tecnica è stata messa a punto combinando due tecnologie esistenti, basate rispettivamente sull'uso dei batteri nella degradazione delle acque di scarico e sullo sfruttamento della differenza tra l'acqua salata e quella dolce, due metodi che, insieme, sarebbero in grado di generare energia pulita. La nuova tecnologia si chiama Cella microbica a elettrodialisi inversa (Mrc) e con essa i ricercatori sono riusciti a produrre 5,6 Watt di energia per metro quadrato grazie alla combinazione delle celle a combustibile microbico (Mfc) e l'elettrodialisi inversa (Red). L'uso combinato riduce il numero di membrane richieste implementando l'energia pulita e risparmiando in termini di materiale impiegato.

Tutto ciò premesso, può la Commissione far sapere quali linee intende seguire al fine di implementare i programmi di ricerca finalizzati alle fonti alternative di energia nel rispetto degli obiettivi della strategia Europa 2020?

Risposta data da Máire Geoghegan-Quinn a nome della Commissione

(30 aprile 2012)

La Commissione europea contribuisce agli obiettivi della strategia Europa 2020, dell'iniziativa faro «L'Unione dell'innovazione», delle politiche UE in materia di energia e clima e di altre politiche dell'Unione europea attraverso i programmi di lavoro del Settimo programma quadro di ricerca e sviluppo tecnologico (7° PQ, 2007-2013). Nel settore dell'energia, il 7° PQ mira ad adeguare l'attuale sistema energetico rendendolo più sostenibile, meno dipendente da combustibili importati e fondato su una gamma diversificata di fonti di energia, in particolare fonti rinnovabili, vettori energetici e fonti non inquinanti, oltre che a migliorare l'efficienza energetica razionalizzando l'uso e lo stoccaggio dell'energia.

Inoltre, grande attenzione viene prestata a promuovere nuove idee e incoraggiare innovazioni radicali, pubblicando inviti a presentare proposte relativi alle tecnologie future ed emergenti (Future and Emerging Technologies — FET). Attualmente sono in corso progetti dedicati a tecnologie basate sui gradienti di salinità (REAPOWER ⁽¹⁾ e CAPMIX ⁽²⁾) e su concetti quali le celle a combustibile microbico (PLANTPOWER ⁽³⁾).

Nel campo della ricerca e dell'innovazione, in particolare in materia di energia, la sfida consiste nell'individuare tempestivamente nuovi filoni, che abbiano un elevato potenziale innovativo e che possano diventare le tecnologie energetiche del futuro. Per il futuro, la Commissione ha presentato proposte di finanziamento a favore della ricerca e dell'innovazione per il periodo 2014-2020 nel programma quadro Orizzonte 2020, all'interno del quale una delle sfide sociali è rappresentata dal tema «Energia sicura, pulita ed efficiente».

⁽¹⁾ www.reapower.eu.

⁽²⁾ www.capmix.eu.

⁽³⁾ www.plantpower.eu.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002775/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(12 March 2012)**

Subject: New bacteria and saltwater technique for renewable energy production

When a river flows into the sea and the fresh water mixes with saltwater, huge amounts of energy are released. This is neither obvious nor intuitive, but if we just think that energy is required to obtain fresh water from saltwater, by contrast energy is released when fresh water is salinated. There are, in theory, a number of different ways to convert into useful energy the energy dissipated when fresh water mixes with seawater. A new technique has been developed by combining two existing technologies, one using bacteria in the degradation of waste water and the other exploiting the difference between saltwater and fresh water, two methods which, when combined, would be able to generate clean energy. The new technology is called a microbial reverse-electrodialysis cell (MRC) and researchers were able to produce 5.6 watts of energy per square metre using this technique through combining microbial fuel cells (MFC) and reverse electrodialysis (RED). This combined technique reduces the number of membranes required, resulting in clean energy production and a saving in materials used.

In light of this, can the Commission say what action it will take in order to implement research programmes on alternative energy sources in accordance with the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy?

**Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(30 April 2012)**

The European Commission contributes via the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7, 2007-2013) work programmes to the objectives of Europe 2020, the Innovation Union Flagship, the EU's energy and climate policies as well as other European Union policies. It focuses on adapting the current energy system into a more sustainable one, less dependent on imported fuels and based on a diverse mix of energy sources, in particular renewables, energy carriers and non-polluting sources. Enhancing energy efficiency by rationalising use and storage of energy is also an integral element.

There is also a determined focus on fostering new ideas, encouraging radical breakthroughs, through the publication of calls for proposals dealing with Future and Emerging Technologies (FET). Projects are currently running devoted to technologies based on salinity gradients (REAPOWER ⁽¹⁾ and CAPMIX ⁽²⁾) and concepts like microbial fuel cells (PLANTPOWER ⁽³⁾).

The challenge in the field of research and innovation, particularly in the energy context, is the timely identification of new directions that have a high potential for significant breakthroughs and may become tomorrow's robust energy technologies. For the future, the Commission has presented its proposals for research and innovation funding for the period 2014-2020 in the framework Programme — Horizon 2020, in which 'Secure, clean and efficient energy' is one of the societal challenges.

⁽¹⁾ www.reapower.eu.

⁽²⁾ www.capmix.eu.

⁽³⁾ www.plantpower.eu.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002776/12

alla Commissione

Oreste Rossi (EFD)

(12 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Il motore ad ammoniaca

Un team di ricercatori dell'Università di Pisa, in collaborazione con altri atenei, imprese ed enti locali, ha messo a punto un innovativo motore ecocompatibile. Il motore non utilizza e non rilascia nell'atmosfera sostanze nocive come ossido di carbonio, anidride carbonica, idrocarburi incombusti, particolato o composti di zolfo. Per funzionare, esso impiega solo ammoniaca liquida, arricchita al 5 % circa di idrogeno.

L'idrogeno necessario è ricavato dalla decomposizione termica dell'ammoniaca stessa grazie a un catalizzatore appositamente creato.

Il motore è pulito e «verde» al cento per cento. Il processo di combustione, infatti, rilascia solo vapore acqueo e ossido di azoto. Una marmitta comune può abbattere l'ossido di azoto prodotto.

Anche lo stoccaggio dell'ammoniaca non presenta problemi ed è ecosostenibile.

Il prototipo del motore pulito è già stato testato ed è in funzione su un veicolo della nettezza urbana nel comune di Pontedera. Altre realtà locali del circondario di Pisa hanno già richiesto veicoli con il motore ad ammoniaca.

Dato che l'Europa è attenta all'ambiente e che le riduzioni di gas a effetto serra devono essere ridotte del 20 % entro il 2020, può dire la Commissione se intende adottare il motore ad ammoniaca come esempio di tecnologia non inquinante e incoraggiare altri paesi a intraprendere azioni volte al miglioramento dell'ambiente?

Risposta data da Siim Kallas a nome della Commissione

(26 aprile 2012)

La Commissione prende nota delle osservazioni che sottolineano i vantaggi di un motore alimentato a ammoniaca arricchita di idrogeno ricavato dalla trasformazione della stessa ammoniaca. La Commissione ha sostenuto uno studio sull'uso dell'ammoniaca come possibile combustibile per celle a combustibile. Sebbene rappresenti una soluzione interessante come carburante pulito, l'ammoniaca potrebbe comportare complicazioni, in termini di tossicità e manipolazione, che dovranno essere valutate, assieme ai meriti del ciclo «dal pozzo alla ruota» che le sono attribuiti.

Nell'elaborazione della politica in materia di combustibili alternativi, la Commissione adotta un'impostazione neutrale sul piano tecnologico, fissando traguardi ambiziosi per la riduzione di gas ad effetto serra e di emissioni inquinanti, e permettendo così al mercato di proporre soluzioni sicure, competitive e che rispettino i limiti di emissioni prescritti. Le norme Euro sulle emissioni inquinanti, sempre più rigorose, e le disposizioni in materia di emissioni di CO₂ delle autovetture ⁽¹⁾ e dei veicoli commerciali leggeri ⁽²⁾ sono un esempio dei limiti di emissione stabiliti.

Per sostenere la commercializzazione delle soluzioni proposte, la Commissione ha adottato una direttiva ⁽³⁾ sugli appalti pubblici nel settore dei veicoli e dei carburanti puliti, in base alla quale le autorità pubbliche devono tenere conto, nelle loro decisioni d'acquisto, dei costi totali connessi al loro intero arco di vita in termini di consumo energetico e emissioni di CO₂ e agenti inquinanti.

Inoltre, nell'ambito del programma quadro di ricerca e sviluppo tecnologico, la Commissione finanzia lo sviluppo di tecnologie di propulsione innovative ed efficienti. In questo ambito rientrano anche l'iniziativa europea per le auto verdi ⁽⁴⁾ e l'impresa comune «Celle a combustibile e idrogeno» ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:140:0001:0015:IT:PDF>.

⁽²⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:145:0001:0018:IT:PDF>.

⁽³⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/vehicles/directive/directive_en.htm

⁽⁴⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial_technologies/green-cars_en.html

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.fch-ju.eu/>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002776/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(12 March 2012)**

Subject: The ammonia engine

Working with other universities, businesses and local bodies, a team of researchers at Pisa University has devised an innovative environmentally friendly engine. The engine does not use or release harmful substances into the atmosphere, such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, unburnt hydrocarbons, particulates or sulphur compounds. It works simply by using liquid ammonia enriched with around 5 % hydrogen.

The hydrogen required is obtained from the thermal decomposition of the ammonia itself thanks to a specifically created catalytic converter.

The engine is 100 % clean and 'green'. The combustion process releases nothing but steam and nitrogen oxide. A standard exhaust pipe can suppress the nitrogen oxide produced.

The storage of the ammonia is also straightforward and environmentally sustainable.

The prototype of the clean engine has already been tested and is in operation on a city waste collection vehicle in the local authority of Pontedera. Other local authorities around Pisa have already asked for ammonia-powered vehicles.

Given that Europe is mindful of the environment and that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 20 % by 2020, can the Commission say whether it intends to adopt the ammonia-powered engine as an example of non-polluting technology and to encourage other countries to undertake initiatives aimed at improving the environment?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(26 April 2012)**

The Commission notes the claims made for an engine fuelled by ammonia plus hydrogen, produced by reforming ammonia. The Commission supported a study relating to the use of ammonia as a possible fuel for fuel cells. Whilst ammonia has attractions as a clean fuel, it might also introduce complications regarding toxicity and handling that need to be assessed, as well as its well-to-wheel merits.

In developing its policy for alternative fuels, the Commission adopts a technology neutral approach by setting ambitious targets for reduction in greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions, thus allowing the market to come forward with safe, competitive, solutions capable of meeting prescribed emissions thresholds. These include increasingly stringent EURO pollutant emission standards and regulations for average CO₂ emissions from passenger cars ⁽¹⁾ and light commercial vehicles ⁽²⁾.

To support market introduction, the Commission introduced a directive ⁽³⁾ on public procurement of clean vehicles and fuels which requires public authorities to consider whole lifetime costs in respect of energy consumption, CO₂ and pollutant emissions in their purchase decisions.

The Commission also funds development of clean, efficient propulsion technologies through its RTD Framework Programme. This includes the Green Cars ⁽⁴⁾ Initiative and the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:140:0001:0015:EN:PDF>.

⁽²⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:145:0001:0018:EN:PDF>.

⁽³⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/vehicles/directive/directive_en.htm

⁽⁴⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial_technologies/green-cars_en.html

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.fch-ju.eu/>.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002777/12

alla Commissione

Oreste Rossi (EFD)

(12 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Tumori: meno vittime in Europa

Il cancro miete sempre meno vittime in Europa: tra il 2007 e il 2012 la mortalità maschile si è ridotta del 10 %, quella femminile del 7 %. A causa del crescente invecchiamento delle popolazioni resta alto il numero di decessi atteso per il 2012, stimato a circa 717 398 maschi e 565 703 femmine.

Secondo una ricerca apparsa sugli *Annals of Oncology*, nel 2012 il tasso di mortalità scenderà a 139 per 100 000 maschi e a 85 per 100 000 femmine. Lo studio ha preso in considerazione globalmente i 27 paesi dell'Unione e, singolarmente, Francia, Germania, Italia, Polonia, Spagna, Gran Bretagna, sia per tutti i tumori nel complesso, sia articolando per cancro dello stomaco, dell'intestino, del pancreas, dei polmoni, della prostata, del seno, dell'utero, e leucemie.

L'European Code Against Cancer si era posto l'obiettivo di ridurre del 15 % i decessi per tumore entro il 2015: i dati di questo studio dimostrano che è possibile riuscire nell'intento anche prima. Dal 2003 al 2012, infatti, la mortalità maschile si è ridotta del 18 % e la mortalità femminile del 13 % grazie alla lotta al tabagismo, alla prevenzione e alle nuove terapie indotte dalla ricerca medico-scientifica.

Alla luce di quanto sopra esposto, può dire la Commissione europea se intende implementare i programmi destinati alla ricerca al fine di raggiungere risultati significativi in campo medico-scientifico, con l'obiettivo di proteggere i cittadini europei in materia di tutela della salute?

Risposta data da Máire Geoghegan-Quinn a nome della Commissione

(30 aprile 2012)

La Commissione è a conoscenza della significativa riduzione della mortalità dovuta a taluni tipi di cancro registrata in Europa, come evidenziato dall'onorevole parlamentare ⁽¹⁾. Tuttavia, con un aumento dell'incidenza dei tumori stimato a 3,2 milioni per il 2012 e tassi di mortalità stabili o in aumento per altri tipi di tumori, è necessario continuare a prodigarsi per raggiungere l'obiettivo del 15 %.

In tale prospettiva la Commissione, con i circa 900 milioni di euro attualmente stanziati a favore della ricerca sul cancro, ha reso questo settore una priorità costante per tutto il Settimo programma quadro di ricerca e sviluppo tecnologico (PQ7, 2007-2013) ⁽²⁾. Gli sforzi si concentrano in particolare sulla ricerca traslazionale in oncologia, finalizzata a un'applicazione pratica delle conoscenze scientifiche di base per garantire una diagnostica più efficiente e un approccio preventivo e terapeutico più accurato e sicuro.

Sono inoltre stati stanziati 91 milioni di euro per la ricerca sul cancro promossa dalle industrie farmaceutiche al fine di mettere a punto strumenti migliori per diagnosticare e curare i tumori nell'ambito dei progetti PREDECT, ONCOTRACK e QUIC-CONCEPT ⁽³⁾, che rientrano nell'iniziativa in materia di medicinali innovativi (IMI) ⁽⁴⁾. Obiettivo dell'IMI, un partenariato pubblico-privato tra l'Unione europea e la Federazione europea delle industrie e delle associazioni farmaceutiche (EFPIA), è accelerare lo sviluppo di nuovi trattamenti migliorando la previsione della sicurezza e dell'efficacia.

La pubblicazione, nel luglio 2012, di inviti a presentare proposte nell'ambito del Settimo programma quadro offrirà ulteriori opportunità per la ricerca sul cancro.

⁽¹⁾ Malvezzi et al. (2012) *Annals Oncology* doi:10.1093/annonc/mds024.

⁽²⁾ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home_en.html

⁽³⁾ <http://www.imi.europa.eu/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/2nd%20Call%20Fact%20Sheets%20v2.pdf>

⁽⁴⁾ http://imi.europa.eu/index_en.html

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002777/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: Tumours: fewer victims in Europe

Cancer is killing fewer victims in Europe: between 2007 and 2012 the male mortality rate dropped by 10 % and female by 7 %. Due to the increasingly ageing population, the number of deaths expected for 2012 remains high, with estimated figures of 717 398 males and 565 703 females.

According to research published in the *Annals of Oncology*, in 2012 the mortality rate is expected to fall to 139 per 100 000 for males and 85 per 100 000 for females. The study took the 27 EU countries into account as a whole and France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and Great Britain individually, both for all types of cancer in general and cancer of the stomach, intestine, pancreas, lung, prostate, breast, uterus, and leukaemia more specifically.

The European Code Against Cancer had set a target of reducing cancer-related deaths by 15 % by 2015: the data contained in this study indicate that it will be possible to achieve this goal even before then. From 2003 to 2012, in fact, male mortality fell by 18 % and female mortality by 13 % thanks to the fight against smoking, prevention and new treatments resulting from medical and scientific research.

In view of the above, can the Commission state whether it intends to implement research programmes in order to achieve significant results in the field of medical science and to safeguard the health of European citizens?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(30 April 2012)

The Commission is aware of a significant reduction of cancer mortality in Europe for certain cancers, as pointed out by the Honourable Member ⁽¹⁾. However, with an increase of cancer incidence to an estimated 3.2 million for 2012 and stable or increasing mortality rates for other cancers, efforts must be continued to reach the 15 % target.

In view of this, the Commission has made of cancer research a constant priority throughout the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7, 2007-2013) ⁽²⁾, with some EUR 900 million currently devoted to support this area. Research efforts address in particular translational cancer research aimed at bringing basic knowledge through to ensure better diagnosis and more accurate and safer prevention and therapeutic approaches.

In addition, EUR 91 million have been devoted to industry-driven cancer research tackling the development of better tools for diagnosing and treating cancer through the PREDECT, ONCOTRACK and QUIC-CONCEPT ⁽³⁾ projects within the frame of the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) ⁽⁴⁾. A public-private partnership between the European Union and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), IMI is aiming to accelerate the development of new treatments by better prediction of safety and efficacy.

Further opportunities for research on cancer will arise in calls for proposals under FP7 to be published in July 2012.

⁽¹⁾ Malvezzi et al. (2012) *Annals Oncology* doi:10.1093/annonc/mds024.

⁽²⁾ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home_en.html

⁽³⁾ <http://www.imi.europa.eu/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/2nd%20Call%20Fact%20Sheets%20v2.pdf>

⁽⁴⁾ http://imi.europa.eu/index_en.html

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002778/12

alla Commissione

Oreste Rossi (EFD)

(12 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Cerotto nanotecnologico

Una partnership tecnologica formata da università e imprese innovative ha messo a punto un particolare cerotto, in grado di curare piaghe da decubito e ferite sulle quali, ad oggi, non si poteva intervenire.

L'idea è nata sei anni fa, dopo aver svolto dei test sulle possibilità di utilizzo del processo dell'elettrofilatura. Successivamente, un'azienda ha deciso di introdurre la tecnica anche nel campo medico. Sono così iniziate le sperimentazioni di un nano-cerotto per curare le ferite. Si è creata una macchina specifica in grado di lavorare filamenti molto piccoli, della dimensione di un milionesimo di metro.

Dopo diversi tentativi, i ricercatori sono riusciti a realizzare l'innovativo cerotto, che apporta notevoli miglioramenti ai pazienti affetti da piaghe o altre patologie.

I test hanno dimostrato, inoltre, che le piaghe dei pazienti passano in poco tempo dal cianotico al rosa. A un malato di diabete, che aveva seri problemi dermatologici, nell'arco di due mesi e mezzo sono iniziati a ricrescere i tessuti gravemente danneggiati.

Dato che i cerotti nanotecnologici potrebbero alleviare le pene di molte persone, può dire la Commissione se è al corrente dell'innovazione in oggetto e se intende adottare misure particolari per la ricerca e l'eventuale promozione dei cerotti nanotecnologici sul territorio dell'Unione europea?

Risposta data da Máire Geoghegan-Quinn a nome della Commissione

(30 aprile 2012)

La Commissione non è a conoscenza del partenariato menzionato dall'onorevole parlamentare ma è certamente consapevole delle difficoltà della cura delle piaghe e delle ferite, nonché del potenziale ruolo delle nanotecnologie nella rigenerazione della pelle e di altri tessuti umani.

Il Settimo programma quadro di ricerca e sviluppo tecnologico (7° PQ, 2007-2013) prevede finanziamenti significativi a favore della ricerca nel campo della medicina rigenerativa e nel campo dei biomateriali destinati alle applicazioni mediche. Nell'ambito del 7° PQ, ad esempio, l'area tematica ⁽¹⁾ «Nanoscienze, nanotecnologie, materiali e nuove tecnologie di produzione» sostiene proprio tali progetti di ricerca. La Commissione lavora attivamente affinché le nuove tecnologie si concretizzino in metodi diagnostici e terapie applicabili nella pratica clinica.

Oltre ad erogare finanziamenti per la ricerca e lo sviluppo di terapie e prodotti medici basati sulle nanotecnologie, la Commissione promuove, attraverso varie iniziative, l'innovazione e l'applicazione pratica delle nuove tecnologie, affinché esse diventino terapie cliniche.

⁽¹⁾ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/nanotechnology_en.html.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002778/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: Nanotechnology patch

A technological partnership formed between universities and technology innovation companies has resulted in the development of a special patch that can cure bed sores and wounds for which no treatment was possible until now.

The idea took shape six years ago, following feasibility tests on electrospinning. A company later decided to introduce the technique into the medical field as well. This led to the experimentation of nano-patches for curing wounds. A specific machine was created that was able to produce very fine fibres measuring a billionth of a metre in size.

After several attempts, the researchers managed to produce the innovative patch, which has achieved significant results in treating patients with wounds or other similar health issues.

Tests have also shown that wounds take only a short time to go from blue to red. In the case of a diabetes patient suffering from serious dermatological problems, severely damaged tissue began to grow back over a period of two and a half months.

Given that nanotechnology patches could alleviate the suffering of many people, can the Commission state whether it is aware of the innovation in question and whether it intends to adopt specific measures concerning research into — and the possible promotion of — nanotechnology patches throughout the EU?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(30 April 2012)

The Commission is not aware of the particular partnership mentioned by the Honourable Member but it is certainly aware of the challenges to be faced in the field of wound healing and of the potential role of nanotechnology in the regeneration of skin and other human tissue.

Significant funding is available in the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7, 2007-2013) to support research in regenerative medicine and for developing improved biomaterials for medical applications; for instance FP7 programmes ⁽¹⁾ Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies (NMP) and Health are supporting such research projects. The Commission actively stimulates the translation of new technologies into diagnostic methods and therapies that can be used by the doctors in the clinic.

The Commission provides funding for research and development of nanotechnology based medical products and therapies. Through various actions it also stimulates innovation and the effective translation of new therapies into clinical therapies in general.

⁽¹⁾ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/nanotechnology_en.html

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002781/12
a la Comisión**

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

(12 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Control de presupuestos

En enero del año 2012 la Comisión Europea amenazó al Reino de Bélgica con imponerle una grave penalización económica si no modificaba el presupuesto para dicho año por valor de 2 000 millones de euros, esto es, el Reino de Bélgica se excedía en su presupuesto en un 0,5 % de lo inicialmente previsto. Otro ejemplo de la autoridad de la CE, en este caso en otro Estado miembro, Hungría, aún no siendo miembro de la zona euro, tuvo que negociar con la CE pues se había excedido en un 0,25 % del objetivo para el 2013 y peligraban unos fondos de la UE.

Según el Reglamento (UE) n° 1173/2011 aprobado el día 16 de noviembre de 2011 sobre la entrada en vigor del control de los presupuestos de los Estados de la zona euro y, en especial, su considerando 8, en que se subraya la importancia de las misiones para garantizar que los objetivos de la presente regulación sean propiamente aplicados y el considerando 17, en lo que se refiere a la manipulación de las estadísticas.

A la luz de los hechos anteriores mencionados y del Reglamento (UE) n° 1173/2011,

1. ¿Ha recibido y debatido la Comisión información oficial del Gobierno del Reino de España sobre los objetivos de déficit para 2012 que, en vez del 4,4 % acordado por la UE, ascenderán al 5,8 %?
2. En lo que se refiere al diálogo permanente con los Estados miembros con el fin de garantizar los objetivos de la presente regulación, ¿enviará la Comisión un grupo de funcionarios para garantizar que dicho reglamento, rubricado por todos los Estados miembros, incluido el Reino de España, sea respetado y aplicado?

Respuesta del Sr. Rehn en nombre de la Comisión

(22 de mayo de 2012)

El Gobierno español fijó el objetivo de déficit de 2012 en el 4,4 % del PIB, en el programa de estabilidad de 2011, como parte de la trayectoria de ajuste presupuestario destinado a corregir el déficit excesivo de aquí al año 2013, de conformidad con la recomendación del PDE dirigida a España. Tras la importante desviación presupuestaria registrada en 2011, con un déficit de las administraciones públicas del 8,5 % del PIB, frente al objetivo inicial del 6 %, y la revisión a la baja de las perspectivas macroeconómicas para 2012, el Gobierno español anunció, el 2 de marzo de 2012, un objetivo de déficit revisado del 5,8 % del PIB para el año 2012.

La revisión del objetivo presupuestario de 2012 para España se debatió el pasado 12 de marzo en el Eurogrupo, el cual acogió favorablemente el compromiso del Gobierno español de atenerse al plazo fijado para la corrección del déficit excesivo, a saber, 2013. A fin de garantizar la corrección del déficit excesivo dentro del plazo previsto, se aprobó un profundo ajuste adicional del orden del 0,5 % del PIB.

La Comisión confirma que, en marzo de 2012, se envió a Madrid una misión de la Dirección General de Asuntos Económicos y Financieros. Se trata de una de las misiones periódicas destinadas a debatir la situación macroeconómica y presupuestaria a nivel técnico.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002781/12
to the Commission**

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

(12 March 2012)

Subject: Budget control

In January 2012, the Commission warned the Kingdom of Belgium that severe financial penalties would be imposed if it did not amend its budget for that year by EUR 2 000 million, as Belgium's budget was 0.5 % higher than initially planned. As another example of the Commission's authority, in this case in another Member State, Hungary, although not a member of the euro area, had to negotiate with the Commission because it had exceeded the target for 2013 by 0.25 %, jeopardising its access to certain EU funds.

In light of the above and of Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011, approved on 16 November 2011, on the effective enforcement of budgetary surveillance in the euro area and, in particular, its Recital 8, which emphasises the importance of missions to ensure that the objectives of this regulation are properly applied, and its Recital 17, regarding the manipulation of statistics:

1. Has the Commission received and discussed official information from the Spanish Government on the deficit targets for 2012, which, instead of the 4.4 % agreed by the EU, will rise to 5.8 %?
2. With regard to the ongoing dialogue with Member States to secure the objectives of this regulation, will the Commission send a group of officials to ensure that this regulation, signed by all Member States, including the Kingdom of Spain, is respected and implemented?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission

(22 May 2012)

The 2012 deficit target of 4.4 % of GDP was set by the Spanish Government in the 2011 Stability Programme as part of the budgetary adjustment path to correct the excessive deficit by 2013, as required by the EDP recommendation addressed to Spain. Following the major budget deviation in 2011, with the general government deficit expected to have reach 8.5 % of GDP compared with an initial 6 % target, and the downward revision in the macroeconomic outlook for 2012, the Spanish Government announced on 2 March 2012 a revised deficit target of 5.8 % of GDP for 2012.

The revision of the 2012 budgetary target for Spain was discussed in the Eurogroup on 12 March 2012. The Eurogroup welcomed the commitment of the Spanish Government to meet the 2013 deadline for the correction of the excessive deficit. To ensure the timely correction of the excessive deficit an additional frontloaded effort of the order of 0.5 % of GDP was agreed.

The Commission can confirm that a mission by the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs to Madrid was organised in March 2012. This was a regular mission to discuss the macroeconomic and budgetary situation at technical level.

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002782/12
a la Comisión**

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

(12 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Déficit previsto para 2012

El Gobierno español, en la Cumbre del Consejo del 1 de marzo de 2012, dijo que no iba a cumplir con los objetivos acordados por la UE para el año 2012 y que, en vez del previsto del 4,4 % de déficit, sería aumentado al 5,8 %. En un artículo en la prensa ⁽¹⁾, se puntualiza que el Sr. Van Rompuy dijo «si el Gobierno español quiere que esto sea discutido, el primer interlocutor es la Comisión Europea» sobre el debate de si el Gobierno español debería cambiar los objetivos de déficit.

A la luz de las informaciones oficiales de que el Gobierno español va a incumplir el objetivo de déficit previsto para este año, puede la Comisión informar si,

1. ¿Ha sido la Comisión debidamente informada y, por lo tanto, ha debatido con el Gobierno español el cambio del objetivo de déficit?
2. ¿Está la Comisión satisfecha de los debates y, por lo tanto, de acuerdo con los mismos?
3. ¿Puede la Comisión informar si éste es el procedimiento que la Comisión espera de los Estados miembros de la Comisión y, más en concreto, de los miembros de la zona euro?

Respuesta del Sr. Rehn en nombre de la Comisión

(11 de mayo de 2012)

La importante desviación presupuestaria registrada en 2011, con un déficit público general que se preveía alcanzaría el 8,5 %, frente al objetivo inicial del 6 %, así como la revisión a la baja de las previsiones macroeconómicas para 2012, llevaron al Gobierno español a anunciar, el 2 de marzo de 2012, la revisión de su objetivo de déficit para 2012, fijándolo en el 5,8 % del PIB. La Comisión había recibido previamente alguna advertencia previa respecto de esta modificación, así como algunas indicaciones generales sobre cómo se preveía llevarla a cabo.

En su reunión de 12 de marzo de 2012, el Eurogrupo acogió favorablemente el compromiso del Gobierno español de respetar el plazo para la corrección del déficit excesivo, fijado para 2013. Además, apoyó la resolución de las autoridades españolas de adoptar, lo antes posible, el presupuesto para 2012, realizando un esfuerzo sustancial en materia de saneamiento, sustentado en medidas muy concretas para garantizar una corrección del déficit creíble y sostenible en todos los niveles de la Administración. La corrección del déficit excesivo en el plazo previsto debía garantizarse mediante una corrección inicial de aproximadamente el 0,5 % del PIB, adicional a la anunciada por las autoridades españolas. El Gobierno español se declaró dispuesto a considerar esa corrección adicional en el proceso presupuestario ulterior. La Comisión se muestra satisfecha con este resultado.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/066ced5c-62f8-11e1-b837-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1oXlkKqXG>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002782/12
to the Commission**

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

(12 March 2012)

Subject: Planned deficit for 2012

At the Council Summit on 1 March 2012, the Spanish Government stated that it would not meet the targets agreed by the EU for 2012, and that its deficit would be 5.8 %, rather than the projected 4.4 %. According to a press report ⁽¹⁾, in the debate on whether the Spanish Government should change the deficit targets, Mr Van Rompuy said that '[i]f the Spanish Government wants it to be discussed, the first interlocutor is the European Commission'.

Given the official statements that the Spanish Government will fail to meet its deficit targets for this year, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Has the Commission been adequately informed about and, subsequently, discussed with the Spanish Government, the change to the deficit target?
2. Is the Commission satisfied with the discussions and, therefore, with the outcome?
3. Can the Commission say whether it considers this to be appropriate behaviour for Member States and, more specifically, members of the euro area?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission

(11 May 2012)

Following the major budget deviation in 2011, with the general government deficit expected to have reached 8.5 % of GDP compared with an initial 6 % target, and the downward revision in the macroeconomic outlook for 2012, the Spanish Government announced on 2 March 2012 a revised deficit target of 5.8 % of GDP for 2012. The Commission received some prior warning of the change in the target with some broad guidelines of the intended change.

The Eurogroup, at its meeting on 12 March 2012, welcomed the commitment of the Spanish Government to meet the 2013 deadline for the correction of the excessive deficit. It also supported the Spanish authorities' resolve to adopt the 2012 budget as soon as possible, containing a substantial consolidation effort, which is backed-up with well-specified measures ensuring that this correction is credible and sustainable at all levels of government. The timely correction of the excessive deficit should be ensured by an additional frontloaded effort of the order of 0.5 % of GDP, beyond what has already been announced by the Spanish authorities. The Spanish Government expressed its readiness to consider this in the further budgetary process. The Commission is satisfied with this outcome.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/066ced5c-62f8-11e1-b837-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1oXlkKqXG>.

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002783/12
a la Comisión**

Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D)

(12 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Adecuada aplicación del Acuerdo agrícola UE-Marruecos

El pasado 16 de febrero el Parlamento Europeo ratificó el Acuerdo UE-Marruecos sobre medidas recíprocas de liberalización del comercio de productos agrícolas y productos de la pesca.

Desde el comienzo del trámite parlamentario, y a todo lo largo de la negociación, hemos manifestado a la Comisión nuestra preocupación por el mal funcionamiento del Reglamento del Sistema de Precios de Entrada y la necesidad de modificar el mismo para garantizar una adecuada aplicación del Acuerdo y el pago de los derechos de aduana específicos.

En este sentido, la Comisión ha anunciado modificaciones al mencionado reglamento en el marco de la próxima reforma de la PAC. Teniendo en cuenta que esta reforma entrará en vigor, en el mejor de los casos, en enero de 2014, ¿cómo prevé la Comisión hasta dicha fecha controlar el precio de entrada contemplado en el Acuerdo y la correcta aplicación de los contingentes previstos en el mismo?

¿Piensa la Comisión incrementar sus inspecciones para verificar que los productos hortofrutícolas importados en base a dicho Acuerdo cuentan con un sistema de trazabilidad fiable y cumplen con las exigencias fitosanitarias que se imponen a las producciones europeas?

Respuesta del Sr. Ciolos en nombre de la Comisión

(30 de abril de 2012)

En la propuesta de Reglamento del Parlamento Europeo y del Consejo por el que se crea la organización común de mercados de los productos agrícolas (Reglamento de la OCM única) ⁽¹⁾, se ha planteado un alineamiento de las modalidades actuales del sistema de precios de entrada con el Código Aduanero.

A corto plazo, el Reglamento de Ejecución (UE) n° 543/2011 de la Comisión, por el que se establecen disposiciones para el sector de las frutas y hortalizas ⁽²⁾, puede adaptarse para mejorar el funcionamiento del sistema actual, limitando las posibilidades de eludir la normativa.

Sin embargo, ha de recordarse que la aplicación correcta de los precios de entrada y la exacción de los derechos de importación en el marco del mecanismo de precios de entrada se sitúan en el ámbito de competencias de las autoridades aduaneras de los Estados miembros.

En cuanto a las exigencias fitosanitarias para las plantas importadas, debe observarse que se inspecciona su cumplimiento en el caso del 100 % de los envíos a su entrada en la UE. No obstante, para productos como la madera, las hortalizas y las frutas reguladas, el porcentaje de inspección puede reducirse atendiendo a una serie de criterios, tales como el riesgo fitosanitario del producto y la serie cronológica de las interceptaciones realizadas. Estos aspectos deben evaluarse por producto y se revisan anualmente.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2011) 626 final.

⁽²⁾ DO L 157 de 7.6.2011.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002783/12
to the Commission**

Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D)

(12 March 2012)

Subject: Proper implementation of the EU-Morocco Agricultural Agreement

On 16 February 2012, Parliament ratified the EU-Morocco Agreement concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products and fishery products.

Ever since the beginning of the parliamentary process, and throughout the negotiations, the Commission has been informed of our concern about defects in the operation of the entry-price system rules and the need to amend these to ensure the Agreement is properly implemented and the specific customs duties paid.

The Commission has announced that changes will be made to the aforementioned rules through the forthcoming CAP reform. Given that, at best, this reform will not come into force until January 2014, how does the Commission intend to control the entry price referred to in the Agreement before that date and also to check that the quotas provided for therein are correctly applied?

Does the Commission intend to increase the number of inspections to verify that horticultural products imported under the Agreement have a reliable tracking system and meet the plant health requirements imposed on EU produce?

Answer given by Mr Ciolos on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

In the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Common Organisation of the Markets in agricultural products, Single CMO Regulation ⁽¹⁾, an alignment of the current modalities of the entry price system with the Custom Code has been proposed.

In the short term Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) N° 543/2011 ⁽²⁾, establishing detailed rules for the fruit and vegetables sector may be adapted to improve the functioning of the current system, by limiting possible circumvention of the rules.

Nevertheless, it has to be reminded that the correct application of the entry prices and the levying of import duties linked to the entry price mechanism fall under the responsibility of the Customs authorities of the Member States.

As concerns the phytosanitary import requirements for plants, it needs to be noted that all consignments are principally verified at 100 % for compliance at EU entrance. However, for products like regulated fruit, vegetables and wood, the inspection percentage can be reduced, based on a number of criteria, including phytosanitary risk of the product and historic data on interceptions from the past. These need to be assessed per product and are reviewed on an annual basis.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2011) 626 final.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 157, 7.6.2011.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-002784/12

à la Commission

Rachida Dati (PPE)

(12 mars 2012)

Objet: Inégalités salariales entre les femmes et les hommes dans l'UE en 2012

La Commission européenne a révélé, le samedi 2 mars, les nouveaux chiffres de l'écart salarial moyen entre les femmes et les hommes à l'échelle européenne. Cet écart, il est aujourd'hui de 16,4 %, contre 17 % il y a 2 ans. On ne peut donc pas raisonnablement parler de progrès; il s'agit plutôt d'une stagnation.

En 2010, la Commission a pourtant lancé une stratégie pour l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes pour la période 2010-2015 avec des actions clés dans différents domaines censés lutter contre les discriminations auxquelles les femmes font face encore aujourd'hui.

Force est de constater que deux ans après et en ce qui concerne l'égalité de rémunérations, la stratégie 2010-2015 semble déjà vouée à l'échec. Les statistiques sont sans appel: sans attendre 2015, ne pensez-vous pas qu'il est temps de revoir notre stratégie?

Une des raisons de l'absence de résultats concrets tient sans doute à la rareté de mesures contraignantes à l'échelle européenne ou, lorsqu'elles existent, à leur mauvaise application. L'autorégulation est toujours souhaitable, mais elle montre aujourd'hui très clairement ses limites.

Le 5 mars dernier, la vice-présidente de la Commission, Viviane Reding, a fait des déclarations courageuses et a lancé une consultation en vue d'une éventuelle proposition législative contraignant les entreprises à des quotas de femmes au sein des conseils d'administration, comme c'est le cas en France et dans d'autres pays d'Europe.

Ce volontarisme ne doit pas se limiter aux conseils d'administration. L'Europe doit montrer, qu'au-delà de la représentativité, elle est capable d'agir pour le quotidien de toutes les Européennes.

Et la réalité pour de nombreuses femmes, c'est cet écart salarial scandaleux qui ne décroît pas, alors même que le principe d'égalité de rémunération est inscrit dans le traité depuis l'origine et que de nombreuses directives ont été adoptées depuis.

Dans ce contexte, quels sont les moyens dont dispose l'Union européenne aujourd'hui — ou dont elle pourrait se doter prochainement — pour s'assurer qu'au-delà de la bonne transposition de la directive concernée dans les États membres, les dispositifs nationaux sont effectivement respectés par les employeurs?

Réponse donnée par Mme Reding au nom de la Commission

(26 avril 2012)

La Stratégie pour l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes 2010-2015 incarne l'engagement de la Commission européenne en faveur de l'égalité des sexes. Elle vise également à encourager le déploiement de politiques nationales dans ce domaine.

Le principe de l'égalité des rémunérations entre travailleurs masculins et travailleurs féminins est inscrit dans la législation de l'Union européenne, à l'article 157 du traité sur le fonctionnement de l'Union européenne et dans la directive 2006/54/CE, ainsi que dans le droit national des États membres. La législation de l'UE fait obligation aux États membres de permettre aux victimes de faire valoir plus facilement leurs droits devant la justice au moyen de règles spécifiques en matière de charge de la preuve et prescrit également des sanctions efficaces et dissuasives. La persistance d'un écart salarial entre hommes et femmes dans l'Union européenne, qui s'explique en partie par une discrimination salariale, montre néanmoins que l'application effective des règles existantes demeure un défi permanent. La Commission, en tant que gardienne des traités, veille constamment à la bonne application pratique, au niveau national, du cadre juridique existant en matière d'égalité des rémunérations, notamment de la directive 2006/54/CE. Un rapport sur la mise en œuvre de la directive est envisagé en 2013.

Les employeurs sont la clé du changement en matière d'écart salarial entre hommes et femmes. Il est essentiel de mener des actions de sensibilisation pour les informer de l'existence de ces inégalités. En 2009, la Commission a lancé une campagne de sensibilisation à l'échelle de l'Union européenne. Le 2 mars 2012, elle a organisé la deuxième Journée européenne de l'égalité salariale. Le site Internet de cette campagne ⁽¹⁾ fournit des informations aux entreprises sur les moyens d'incorporer l'égalité salariale au sein de leurs structures. La Commission a par ailleurs lancé en 2011 une initiative visant à favoriser au sein des entreprises la sensibilisation aux écarts de rémunérations entre hommes et femmes. Cette initiative repose sur des formations et des échanges de bonnes pratiques destinés aux entreprises et portant sur l'intérêt économique de l'égalité hommes-femmes.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/gender-pay-gap/index_fr.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002784/12
to the Commission
Rachida Dati (PPE)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: Unequal pay for men and women in the EU in 2012

On 2 March 2012, the Commission released new figures on the average pay difference between men and women across Europe. The disparity stands at 16.4 % today as against 17 % two years ago. This cannot really be described as progress; stagnation would be a better word.

Yet in 2010 the Commission launched its strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015), with key actions in various fields to fight the discrimination women still face today.

Two years later it has to be said that, as far as equal pay is concerned, the 2010-2015 strategy already seems doomed to failure. The statistics speak for themselves. Does the Commission not think that, rather than waiting until 2015, our strategy should be reviewed now?

One reason for the lack of tangible results is undoubtedly the paucity of binding measures at EU level, or where such measures do exist, their poor implementation. Self-regulation is still desirable, but its limits have now become very clear.

On 5 March 2012, the Vice-President of the Commission, Viviane Reding, made a courageous speech and launched a consultation on the possible introduction of a legislative proposal that would make quotas for women on management boards mandatory for businesses, as is the case in France and other European countries.

Voluntarism should not be confined to management boards. Europe must show that it is capable of doing more than just representing women in the EU, it can also act in regard to their everyday lives.

For many women, reality lies in this scandalous disparity in pay which carries on unabated, even though the principle of equal pay was enshrined in the Treaty when it was first drawn up and several Directives have been adopted since.

In this context, what measures does the European Union currently have at its disposal — or might it bring in shortly — to ensure that, in addition to the directive concerned being properly implemented in the Member States, national measures are actually respected by employers?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(26 April 2012)

The strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015 represents the Commission's commitment to gender equality. It also aims at stimulating the development of policies at national level in this area.

The principle of equal pay is enshrined in the EU legislation, in Article 157 TFEU and in Directive 2006/54/EC, as well as in the national laws of the Member States. EC law obliges Member States to make it easier for victims to enforce their rights in courts through specific rules on the burden of proof and also prescribes effective and dissuasive sanctions. However, the persisting gender pay gap in the EU — which is partly explained by pay discrimination — shows that it remains a constant challenge to apply and enforce the existing rules effectively. The Commission, in its role as guardian of the Treaties, is constantly monitoring whether the existing legal framework on equal pay is being correctly applied in practice at national level, including Directive 2006/54/EC. A report on the implementation of the directive is envisaged for 2013.

Employers are the key to tackle the gender pay gap. Awareness-raising activities are essential to inform them about its existence. The Commission launched in 2009 an EU-wide awareness-raising campaign on the gender pay gap. On 2 March 2012 the Commission held the second European Equal Pay Day. The campaign website ⁽¹⁾ provides companies with information on how to integrate pay equality in their organisations. In addition, the Commission launched in 2011 an initiative to help raise awareness in companies about the gender pay gap. It will do so through training activities and exchanges of good practices for companies on the 'business case' for gender equality.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/gender-pay-gap/index_en.htm

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-002785/12
aan de Commissie
Lucas Hartong (NI)
(12 maart 2012)

Betreft: Extra beveiligingskosten EEAS

De buitenlandse dienst van Catherine Ashton (EEAS) gaat 15 miljoen euro spenderen aan private beveiligingsdiensten om diplomaten overzee „volledig” te laten beschermen ⁽¹⁾. Het betreft beveiliging in plaatsen als Beiroet, Benghazi, Islamabad, Jeruzalem, Kabul, Port-au-Prince, Riyad, Sanaa en Tripoli. Daar bovenop wordt nog eens 35 miljoen euro uitgegeven aan het inhuren van dagelijkse „standaard” beveiligingsfunctionarissen voor de overige 136 buitenlandse delegaties. In dat kader de volgende vragen:

1. Is de Commissie met de PVV van mening dat hieruit opnieuw blijkt hoe duur de EEAS is en dat de bijkomende kosten alsnog stijgen?
2. Uit welke begrotingslijn gaan deze extra kosten betaald worden, gezien het feit dat de begroting voor 2012 inzake de EEAS al vast ligt? Komt er een wijziging op de bestaande begroting?
3. Kan de Commissie aangeven of de reden van „volledige” bescherming in de genoemde plaatsen te maken heeft met het islamitisch karakter van die landen (met uitzondering van Haïti en Israël)?
4. Uit informatie blijkt dat de EEAS niet van plan is om de normale verplichte aanbestedingsprocedure te volgen, maar dat zij gebruik gaat maken van een „shortlist” waarop o.a. de volgende bedrijven staan: Argus and Page Group, Geos, GardaWorld en G4S. Met name die laatste roept grote vraagtekens op, omdat onlangs meermaals de beveiliging van het Europees Parlement faalde, terwijl het beveiligd werd door G4S. Bovendien bleek onlangs een beveiligingsbedrijf werkzaam voor G4S die tegelijkertijd gerecruteerd was voor terrorisme ⁽²⁾. Welke eisen hanteert de Commissie bij deze selectie, waarom wordt niet de standaard aanbestedingsprocedure gevolgd en waarom staat met name G4S op de shortlist, ondanks de recente problemen met dit bedrijf?

Antwoord van hoge vertegenwoordiger/vicevoorzitter Ashton namens de Commissie
(30 mei 2012)

De begroting van de Europese Dienst voor extern optreden wordt vastgelegd door de begrotingsautoriteit in het kader van de jaarlijkse begrotingsprocedure. Voor de begroting voor 2012 is reeds een vergelijkbaar bedrag als voorgaande jaren gereserveerd voor beveiligingsdiensten voor EU-delegaties. Er zijn geen voornemens om de begroting op dit punt te wijzigen. De uitgaven voor de beveiliging van het personeel van de Europese Dienst voor extern optreden vallen onder begrotingsonderdeel „EEAS B2012 3003 C1 — A6006”.

De Europese Dienst voor extern optreden bepaalt het beveiligingsniveau dat nodig is om het eigen personeel in derde landen te beschermen op basis van een risicobeoordeling waarbij rekening wordt gehouden met een aantal relevante factoren.

In 2011 heeft de Europese Dienst voor extern optreden een kaderovereenkomst voor beveiligingsdiensten in EU-delegaties opgesteld, in volledige overeenstemming met de aanbestedingsregels van het Financieel Reglement. Deze overeenkomst is ondertekend door vijf bedrijven die onderling zullen concurreren voor het verlenen van beveiligingsdiensten aan delegaties met specifieke behoeften. Uit de aanbestedingsprocedure is gebleken dat de bedrijven voldoen aan de technische eisen voor de betrokken activiteiten.

⁽¹⁾ <http://euobserver.com/18/115541>.

⁽²⁾ http://www.pvv-europa.nl/images/stories/1-3-2012_brief_aan_Schulz.pdf

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002785/12
to the Commission
Lucas Hartong (NI)
(12 March 2012)**

Subject: Additional security costs — European External Action Service

Baroness Ashton's European External Action Service (EEAS), is going to spend EUR 15 million on private security services in order to 'fully' protect diplomats overseas ⁽¹⁾. This concerns security in such places as Beirut, Benghazi, Islamabad, Jerusalem, Kabul, Port-au-Prince, Riyadh, Sana'a and Tripoli. Another EUR 35 million will be spent on hiring day-to-day 'standard' security staff for the other 136 external delegations.

1. Does the Commission agree with the Dutch Party for Freedom (PVV) that this shows once again how expensive the EEAS is and that additional costs are rising continuously?
2. Which budget line is going to cover these additional costs, given that the 2012 budget allocation for the EEAS has already been set? Is the existing budget going to be amended?
3. Can the Commission say whether the reason for 'full' protection in the places referred to is that the countries concerned (except Haiti and Israel) are Islamic?
4. According to information received, the EEAS does not intend to follow the normal mandatory tendering procedure, but, rather, is going to use a shortlist which includes the following companies among others: Argus and Page Group, Geos, GardaWorld and G4S. There are serious doubts surrounding the last-named company, in particular, because there have been a number of security failures recently at the European Parliament, whose security is handled by G4S. Furthermore, it has emerged recently that G4S employed a security guard who had been recruited for terrorist purposes ⁽²⁾. What are the Commission's requirements in this selection process, why is the standard tendering procedure not being followed, and why is G4S, in particular, on the shortlist despite the recent problems with that firm?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(30 May 2012)**

The European External Action Service (EEAS) budget is agreed by the budget authority as part of the annual budget procedure. The budget for 2012 already includes provision for security services in Delegations on a level comparable with previous years. There are no plans for an amended budget for this purpose. The relevant expenditure concerning EEAS staff protection is covered by line 'EEAS B2012 3003 C1 — A6006'.

The EEAS determines the security regime required to protect its staff in third countries on the basis of a risk assessment taking account of a variety of relevant factors.

In 2011, the EEAS established a framework contract for security services in Delegations, in full compliance with the tendering rules in the Financial Regulation. This contract has been signed with five companies which will compete among them for security contracts of Delegations with specific needs. The tender procedure confirmed the capacity of the companies to meet the technical requirements for these activities.

⁽¹⁾ <http://euobserver.com/18/115541>.

⁽²⁾ http://www.pvv-europa.nl/images/stories/1-3-2012_brief_aan_Schulz.pdf

(České znění)

Otázka k písemnému zodpovězení P-002787/12

Komisi

Jan Březina (PPE)

(12. března 2012)

Předmět: Zákonnost státní podpory poskytované soukromým nemocnicím

Tato otázka se týká výkladu rozhodnutí Komise ze dne 20. prosince 2011 o použití čl. 106 odst. 2 Smlouvy o fungování Evropské unie na státní podporu ve formě vyrovnávací platby za závazek veřejné služby poskytované určitým podnikům pověřeným poskytováním služeb obecného hospodářského zájmu ⁽¹⁾.

Lze toto rozhodnutí vykládat tak, že je možné poskytovat soukromým nemocnicím státní podporu ve formě vyrovnávacích plateb za závazek veřejné služby?

Odpověď Joaquína Almunii jménem Komise

(2. dubna 2012)

V souladu s článkem 345 Smlouvy o fungování EU, který v právu EU zakotvuje zásadu neutrality ve vztahu k veřejnému a soukromému vlastnictví, nerozlišují pravidla pro poskytování státní podpory, jež jsou uplatňována na služby obecného hospodářského zájmu, mezi podniky v soukromém, resp. veřejném vlastnictví, neboť obě kategorie podniků podléhají téže úpravě. Podle rozhodnutí Komise ze dne 20. prosince 2011 o použití čl. 106 odst. 2 Smlouvy o fungování Evropské unie na státní podporu ve formě vyrovnávací platby za závazek veřejné služby udělené určitým podnikům pověřeným poskytováním služeb obecného hospodářského zájmu proto lze soukromé nemocnici poskytnout státní podporu za poskytování služeb obecného hospodářského zájmu, pokud tato podpora splňuje veškeré požadavky, jež toto rozhodnutí stanoví. V takovém případě se na podporu nevztahuje povinnost jejího předchozího oznámení Komisi.

⁽¹⁾ Úř. věst. L 7, 11.1.2012, s. 3.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-002787/12
to the Commission
Jan Březina (PPE)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: Legality of state aid granted to private hospitals

This question concerns the interpretation of the Commission decision of 20 December 2011 on the application of Article 106(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to state aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest ⁽¹⁾.

Can this decision be interpreted as allowing state aid in the form of public service compensation to be granted to a private hospital?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(2 April 2012)

In line with Article 345 TFEU, which enshrines the principle of neutrality between public and private ownership in EC law, State aid rules concerning Services of General Economic Interest do not distinguish between privately owned and publicly owned undertakings and both are subject to the same rules. Therefore under Commission decision of 20 December 2011 on the application of Article 106(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to state aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest, state aid to a private hospital for the provision of services of general economic interest can be granted if it fulfills all the requirements set out in that Decision. In that case, the aid is exempted from prior notification to the Commission.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 7, 11.1.2012, p. 3.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002788/12
to the Commission**

Jim Higgins (PPE)

(12 March 2012)

Subject: Enforcement officers for tachograph legislation

Could the Commission say whether, under the transport legal basis, it would be possible to insist on a minimum number of enforcement officers, on a per capita basis, to ensure that the EU tachograph regulations and other HGV legislation are enforced properly? Would this encroach upon the subsidiarity principle or the JHA legal basis under the Treaties?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission

(19 April 2012)

The Union can adopt measures to implement the common transport policy on the basis of Title VI of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), and in particular Article 91 provided that they comply with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality of Article 5 of the TFEU.

The Union has already on this basis adopted legislation on the enforcement of social rules in commercial road transport. For instance, Directive 2006/22/EC ⁽¹⁾ provides that 3 % of days worked by professional drivers must be checked and sets requirements on the equipments of enforcement officers.

The Commission's proposal to amend Regulation (EEC) 3821/85 ⁽²⁾ on the tachograph also includes measures on the training of enforcement officers and is currently examined by the legislator.

As to possible additional measures on enforcement, it can be noted that the efficiency of an enforcement system is dependent not only on the number of staff, but also on the optimal organisation and repartition of the resources.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2006/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on minimum conditions for the implementation of Council Regulations (EEC) No 3820/85 and (EEC) No 3821/85 concerning social legislation relating to road transport activities and repealing Council Directive 88/599/EEC (Text with EEA relevance) — Declarations, OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 35-44.

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 of 20 December 1985 on recording equipment in road transport, OJ L 370, 31.12.1985, p. 8-21.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002789/12
to the Commission
Jim Higgins (PPE)
(12 March 2012)

Subject: Europe-wide risk rating database for transport undertakings

What is the Commission's view on setting up a Europe-wide risk rating database for transport undertakings, similar to that which is in operation in the UK, so that transport undertakings compliant with legislation are stopped less, and those who continually offend on the Union's roads are targeted more closely with the transport police force's very limited resources?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(17 April 2012)

The Commission fully supports targeted checks based on risk-rating because they contribute to a more effective enforcement policy and to avoid unnecessary administrative costs for road transport undertakings and enforcers.

The legislator has already foreseen the creation of a risk rating system and database in Directive 2006/22/EC ⁽¹⁾ on minimum conditions for the implementation of social rules in road transport and rules on tachograph, and more recently, in Regulation 1071/2009 ⁽²⁾ on the rules of access to the occupation of road transport operator. The latter requires the management by Member States of national electronic registers of road transport undertakings and their interconnection, starting from 31 December 2012. Such a system would contribute to a better exchange of information between Member States on the fulfilment by road transport undertakings of the requirements laid down in the regulation, including on good repute. The system will be also open to the use of control officers when conducting roadside checks.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2006/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on minimum conditions for the implementation of Council Regulations (EEC) No 3820/85 and (EEC) No 3821/85 concerning social legislation relating to road transport activities and repealing Council Directive 88/599/EEC (Text with EEA relevance) — Declarations, OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 35-44.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator and repealing Council Directive 96/26/EC (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 300, 14.11.2009, p. 51-71.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002790/12
to the Commission**

Jim Higgins (PPE)

(12 March 2012)

Subject: HGV drivers

Can the Commission outline how much funding it provides on an annual basis to the TISPOL organisation?

Will the Commission consider increasing its financial support in the context of the need for increased and improved training for police officers, including establishing best practice, with particular reference to HGV drivers and the enforcement of road safety and social legislation?

Does the Commission accept that at present there is a lack of harmonised standards for enforcement of European legislation with regard to HGV drivers, and that this in turn is having an impact on the internal market?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission

(25 April 2012)

The Commission's objective is to further harmonise the enforcement of the European legislation on road safety and social rules with regard to HGV drivers.

For this purpose, the Commission has funded several TISPOL projects in the past. This support has been provided on a project by project basis, following a call for proposals, not in the form of annual contributions. At the moment the Commission has no ongoing projects with TISPOL.

The Commission is co-financing the TRACE project (EUR 300 514) which brings together the European controller organisations (British enforcement authority, Euro Contrôle Route and CORTE) and aims to establish a common curriculum for the initial and continuous training of control and police officers on the social rules. TISPOL is closely involved in this project as a member of the advisory board, even if it does not receive any funds through this project.

The Commission is currently assessing the conditions of competition in the internal market for road freight transport as requested by the legislator in Regulation 1072/2009 ⁽¹⁾ on access to the market. Appropriate follow-up may be necessary to ensure a more harmonised enforcement of European legislation with regard to HGV drivers. The Commission intends to adopt the report on this analysis and transmit it to the European Parliament at the latest before the summer 2013.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 on common rules for access to the international road haulage market (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 300, 14.11.2009, p. 72-87.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002796/12

an die Kommission

Andreas Mölzer (NI)

(13. März 2012)

Betrifft: Illegaler Seehandel

Eine Studie des Stockholmer Friedensforschungsinstituts Sipri brachte vor kurzem zutage, dass mehr als 60 % aller Schiffe, die in Sanktionsverstöße oder in illegalen Handel mit Drogen, Waffen und Gütern zur Herstellung von Massenvernichtungswaffen und Raketen verwickelt sind, im Besitz von Unternehmen mit Sitz in Nato-, EU- oder anderen OECD-Staaten sind. Dabei haben Reedereien mit Sitz in Deutschland am häufigsten gegen die Seehandelsbestimmungen verstoßen, gefolgt von griechischen und US-amerikanischen Reedereien.

Die Studie zeigte, dass Güter in versiegelten Schiffscontainern versteckt werden, die vorgeblich legitime Waren enthalten. Schiffseigentümer und Kapitäne wissen oftmals gar nicht, was sie mit sich führen. Die Studie kommt zu dem Schluss, dass durch die Menge an täglich verschifften Frachtgütern nur ein kleiner Teil der Fracht inspiziert wird und Schiffseigentümer und Zollbeamte darauf vertrauen müssen, dass die versiegelten Container auch tatsächlich das enthalten, was sie laut Dokumenten beinhalten.

1. Sind der Kommission die Ergebnisse dieser Studie bekannt?
2. Falls ja, welche Konsequenzen werden auf EU-Ebene daraus gezogen, dass zwei EU-Staaten die Liste des illegalen Seehandels anführen?
3. Inwieweit wird auf EU-Ebene an verstärkten Kontrollen und besserer Abstimmung von Polizei, Zoll und Hafenbehörden gearbeitet?
4. In welchem Maße versucht die EU, diesbezüglich die internationale Zusammenarbeit zu verbessern?

Antwort von Herrn Šemeta im Namen der Kommission

(7. Mai 2012)

1. Die Studie, auf die sich der Herr Abgeordnete bezieht, ist der Kommission bekannt.
2. Sechs der sieben größten Schiffseignerländer — darunter Griechenland und Deutschland — sind OECD-Staaten. Im Allgemeinen ist der Eigner eines Schiffes nicht mit dem Betreiber des Schiffes identisch oder hat seinen Sitz in einem anderen Land als dem, unter dessen Flagge das Schiff fährt. Es ist daher irreführend, auf Grundlage der einen, von dem Herrn Abgeordneten genannten Eigentümerstatistik Rückschlüsse auf den illegalen Handel zu ziehen.
3. Die Politik der Europäischen Union (EU) sieht vor, die internationalen Lieferketten auf der Grundlage eines Risikomanagements zu kontrollieren. Damit soll gewährleistet werden, dass die Zollkontrollen der Warenbewegungen in der ganzen EU gleichermaßen den gemeinsamen Risiken gerecht werden. Die Wirtschaftsbeteiligten sind verpflichtet, auf elektronischem Weg Vorabinformationen zu allen in das Zollgebiet der EU eingeführten oder ausgeführten Waren zu übermitteln. Für diese Vorabinformationen gelten in allen Mitgliedstaaten die gemeinsamen Risikokriterien für die Sicherheitsrisikoanalyse. Das Ziel der 2010 von der Kommission angenommenen EU-Strategie der inneren Sicherheit (KOM(2010)673 endgültig) ist es, auf EU-Ebene die Ermittlung von Risiken und deren Analyse sowie die Zusammenarbeit der Behörden auf nationaler und europäischer Ebene zu verbessern. Darauf wird in einer Mitteilung der Kommission, die im zweiten Halbjahr 2012 veröffentlicht werden soll, näher eingegangen.
4. Verschiedene, derzeit laufende gemeinsame Initiativen mit Drittländern zur Zusammenarbeit im Zollwesen sollen die internationale Zusammenarbeit und die Sicherheit der Lieferketten stärken. Außerdem ist bei der Umsetzung des EU-Politikzyklus zur Bekämpfung der organisierten und schweren internationalen Kriminalität 2011-2013 die Zusammenarbeit der zuständigen Dienststellen der Mitgliedsländer, der EU-Organe und -Agenturen sowie der beteiligten Drittländer und Organisationen vorgesehen. Der Rat hat acht Kernprioritäten angenommen, die auch die in der Sipri-Studie genannten Gefahren berücksichtigen ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Tagung des Rates „Justiz und Inneres“ vom 9. und 10. Juni 2011:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/122514.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002796/12
to the Commission
Andreas Mölzer (NI)
(13 March 2012)

Subject: Illegal maritime trade

A study by the Stockholm-based Sipri institute for peace studies recently revealed that more than 60 % of all ships involved in breaching sanctions or illegal trading in drugs, weapons and materials for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction and rockets are owned by companies located in NATO, EU or other OECD Member States. Shipping companies with registered offices in Germany were the most common offenders against maritime trade regulations, followed by Greek and US shipping companies.

The study shows that goods are hidden in sealed shipping containers which purportedly contain legitimate goods. Ship owners and senior officers are often unaware of what they are carrying on board. The study comes to the conclusion that, due to the volume of freight shipped on a daily basis, only a small amount of cargo is inspected and that ship owners and customs officers have to trust that the sealed containers really do contain what the documents say they do.

1. Is the Commission aware of the findings of this study?
2. If so, what conclusions are to be drawn at EU level from the fact that two EU Member States head the list for illegal maritime trade?
3. To what extent are efforts being made at EU level to ensure more stringent controls and better coordination between the police, customs officials and port authorities?
4. To what extent is the EU trying to improve international cooperation in this regard?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission
(7 May 2012)

1. The Commission is aware of the study referred to by the Honourable Member.
2. Six out of the seven largest ship owner nations — including Greece and Germany — are OECD states. However, the owner of a ship is usually different from the operator of the ship, or the flag under which the ship sails. It is misleading to draw conclusions on illegal trading based on the one statistic of ownership quoted by the Honourable Member.
3. European Union (EU) policy is that control of the international supply chain must be exercised on the basis of risk management. The objective is to ensure customs controls on the movement of goods respond to common risks in an equivalent manner throughout the EU. Economic operators are obliged to provide advanced electronic information for all goods entering or exiting the customs territory of the EU. The advance information is subjected to common risk criteria for security and safety risk analysis by all Member States. The aim of the EU Internal Security Strategy in Action (COM(2010) 673 final) adopted in 2010 by the Commission is to improve EU level capabilities for risk analysis and targeting and improving interagency cooperation at national and European level. This will be further reflected in a Commission communication to be issued in the second half of 2012.
4. Several joint customs cooperation initiatives with third countries are ongoing to strengthen the international cooperation and supply chain security. The implementation of the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime 2011-2013 foresees cooperation between the relevant services of the Member States, EU institutions and agencies and relevant third countries and organisations. The Council has adopted 8 core priorities addressing also the threats referred to in the Sipri study ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ JHA Council, 9 and 10 June 2011: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/122514.pdf

(Deutsche Fassung)

**Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002797/12
an die Kommission (Vizepräsidentin / Hohe Vertreterin)**

Andreas Mölzer (NI)

(13. März 2012)

Betrifft: VP/HR — griechischer Rückzug aus Atalanta-Mission

Griechenland will nun Medienberichten zufolge ⁽¹⁾ aus Kostengründen seine Fregatte aus der Mission Atalanta, die seit dem Jahr 2008 Piraten am Horn von Afrika und vor der Küste Somalias abschrecken soll, abziehen. Das Sparpotenzial wird mit 7,5 Mio. EUR angegeben.

1. Welche Mitgliedstaaten beteiligen sich mit welchen Anteilen an der Mission Atalanta?
2. Welche Auswirkungen werden seitens der Kommission durch den Rückzug der griechischen Fregatte erwartet?
3. Haben auch andere Mitgliedstaaten, die von der Schuldenkrise stark betroffen sind, hinsichtlich der Mission Atalanta Sparmaßnahmen verkündet?

Antwort von Frau Catherine Ashton — Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin im Namen der Kommission

(25. Mai 2012)

An der EU-NAVFOR-Operation Atalanta sind bzw. waren 23 Mitgliedstaaten beteiligt (Belgien, Bulgarien, Tschechische Republik, Deutschland, Estland, Griechenland, Spanien, Frankreich, Italien, Zypern, Lettland, Litauen, Luxemburg, Ungarn, Malta, Niederlande, Polen, Portugal, Rumänien, Slowenien, Finnland, Schweden und Vereinigtes Königreich), die Personal und Ausrüstung für Einsätze auf See oder das operative Hauptquartier (OHQ) in Northwood bereitgestellt haben.

Auch fünf Drittstaaten sind oder waren an der Operation beteiligt (Kroatien, Montenegro, Norwegen, Serbien und Ukraine).

Mit der HS HYDRA wurde zu einem kritischen Zeitpunkt eine große Lücke in den Streitkräften geschlossen, wohingegen ihr vorzeitiger Rückzug nur begrenzte Auswirkungen hatte, da in der Zwischenzeit begrüßenswerterweise andere Mitgliedstaaten einen Beitrag zu den Streitkräften leisteten. Die griechische Beteiligung an der Operation Atalanta ist aber nach wie vor sehr bedeutend.

Bisher haben keine anderen Mitgliedstaaten im Zusammenhang mit der Mission Atalanta Sparmaßnahmen angekündigt.

⁽¹⁾ www.eu-info.de/dpa-europaticker/206913.html

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002797/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Andreas Mölzer (NI)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Greece's withdrawal from the Atalanta Mission

According to reports in the media ⁽¹⁾ Greece intends, for cost reasons, to withdraw its frigate from the Atalanta Mission, which has been acting as a deterrent to pirates around the Horn of Africa and off the coast of Somalia since 2008. The potential savings are said to be EUR 7.5 million.

1. Which Member States are involved in the Atalanta Mission, and what is their respective share?
2. What impact does the Commission expect from the withdrawal of the Greek frigate?
3. Have other Member States that have been severely affected by the debt crisis announced any cost-cutting measures in relation to the Atalanta Mission?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(25 May 2012)

Twenty three member states are or have been involved in EUNAVFOR Operation ATALANTA (Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom) with various means and manpower at sea or in the Operational Headquarter (OHQ) in Northwood.

In addition five non-EU countries are or have been involved in the Operation (Croatia, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Ukraine).

HS HYDRA filled a serious gap in force flow at a critical period, whereas the impact of its withdrawal earlier than expected, has been limited by a welcome contribution to the force provided, in the meantime, by other Member States. However, the Greek participation in Operation Atalanta remains of a great importance.

So far, no other member states have announced cost-cutting measures in relation to the Atalanta Mission.

⁽¹⁾ www.eu-info.de/dpa-europaticker/206913.html

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002798/12
an die Kommission
Andreas Mölzer (NI)
(13. März 2012)

Betrifft: WHO-Studie zur Vogelgrippe

Einer US-amerikanischen Studie zufolge ist das Vogelgrippevirus H5N1 weniger tödlich als bisher angenommen. Zugleich könnten sich mehr Menschen als von der Weltgesundheitsorganisation (WHO) registriert damit infiziert haben, lassen die Forscher der renommierten „Mount Sinai School of Medicine“ in New York wissen. Sie konnten in einer Studie beweisen, dass Menschen, in deren Blut das Vogelgrippevirus nachgewiesen werden konnte, keinerlei Symptome zeigen und die Krankheit auch nicht zwangsläufig ausbrechen muss. So bekritteln die Amerikaner, dass die WHO weniger schwere Fälle von Vogelgrippe nicht beachtet habe.

1. Ist der Kommission dieses Forschungsergebnis bekannt?
2. Gibt es Stellen in der EU, die von der WHO herausgebrachte Studien nochmals prüfen lassen?
3. Wie viele Menschen erkrankten tatsächlich EU-weit an der Vogelgrippe?
4. Ist vonseiten der EU eine sich an die Mitgliedstaaten richtende umfangreiche Aufklärung zur Vogelgrippe und zu ihren tatsächlichen Gefahren geplant?

Antwort von Herrn Dalli im Namen der Kommission
(30. April 2012)

Der Kommission ist der in der Zeitschrift „Science“ veröffentlichte Artikel von Wang et al. ⁽¹⁾ bekannt. Das Europäische Zentrum für die Prävention und die Kontrolle von Krankheiten (ECDC) hat den Artikel geprüft und seine Schlussfolgerungen in einer an Science übermittelten fachlichen Reaktion ⁽²⁾ infrage gestellt.

Die von der Weltgesundheitsorganisation (WHO) veröffentlichten Studien werden auf EU-Ebene vor allem von den zuständigen unabhängigen EU-Agenturen, wie etwa dem ECDC, geprüft, das unabhängige wissenschaftliche Stellungnahmen und Sachverständigengutachten erstellt sowie die EU und die Mitgliedstaaten im Zusammenhang mit übertragbaren Krankheiten fachlich unterstützt.

Die Aviäre Influenza wird in der EU gemäß den einschlägigen EU-Vorschriften ⁽³⁾ überwacht. Seit März 2012 wurden in der EU keine bestätigten Fälle einer A(H5N1)-Infektion beim Menschen gemeldet.

Die EU hält die Bürger über die Lage hinsichtlich der Aviären Influenza und der damit zusammenhängenden Risiken ⁽⁴⁾ auf dem Laufenden. Das ECDC veröffentlicht regelmäßig Bewertungen ⁽⁵⁾ des Risikos, das die Aviäre Influenza für die menschliche Gesundheit birgt, und gibt Ratschläge in damit zusammenhängenden Fragen ⁽⁶⁾. Für Beschäftigte in der Geflügelbranche und Menschen, die möglicherweise mit Vögeln in Kontakt kommen, wurden besondere Informationen herausgegeben. Nach den EU-Vorschriften ⁽⁷⁾ müssen die Mitgliedstaaten über Notfallpläne verfügen, um auf größere Ausbrüche der Krankheit bei Geflügel und in Gefangenschaft gehaltenen Vögeln reagieren zu können. Diese Notfallpläne müssen Maßnahmen zur Sensibilisierung und Information von Tierärzten, Landwirten, sonstigen in diesem Sektor Tätigen und der Öffentlichkeit umfassen. Die Kommission organisiert im Zusammenhang mit der Tiergesundheitsstrategie ⁽⁸⁾ Informationsveranstaltungen für Schulkinder, Studenten und Reisende.

⁽¹⁾ Wang TT, Parides MK, Palese P. Seroevidence for H5N1 Influenza Infections in Humans: Meta-Analysis. Science 2012, 23. Februar 2012.

⁽²⁾ Van Kerkhove M, Riley S, Lipsitch M, Guan Y, Monto AS, Webster RG, Zambon M, Nicoll A, Peiris JSM, Ferguson NM Little evidence for „missing millions“ of H5N1 infections: a warning about the over-interpretation of H5N1 seroprevalence studies (technical response submitted to Science).

⁽³⁾ Entscheidung Nr. 2119/98/EG des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 24. September 1998 über die Schaffung eines Netzes für die epidemiologische Überwachung und die Kontrolle übertragbarer Krankheiten in der Gemeinschaft, ABl. L 268 vom 3.10.1998.

⁽⁴⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/avian/ai_factsheet_2006_en.pdf

⁽⁵⁾ ECDC Risk Assessment on A(H5N1) September 2011 — A(H5N1) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Egypt — Implications for human health in Europe: http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/110915_TER_Rapid_risk_assessment_AH5N1_Egypt.pdf.

⁽⁶⁾ ECDC-Website zur Aviären Influenza: http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/avian_influenza/Pages/index.aspx

⁽⁷⁾ Richtlinie 2005/94/EG des Rates vom 20. Dezember 2005 mit Gemeinschaftsmaßnahmen zur Bekämpfung der Aviären Influenza und zur Aufhebung der Richtlinie 92/40/EWG (ABl. L 10 vom 14.1.2006, S. 16).

⁽⁸⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/index_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002798/12
to the Commission
Andreas Mölzer (NI)
(13 March 2012)

Subject: WHO study on avian influenza

According to a US study avian influenza virus H5N1 is less fatal than was previously assumed. At the same time, more people may have been infected than were recorded by the World Health Organisation (WHO), according to researchers at the renowned Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. In a study they were able to establish that people in whose blood avian influenza was found did not display any symptoms and that the illness would not necessarily occur. The Americans were therefore critical of the fact that the WHO had overlooked less serious cases of avian influenza.

1. Is the Commission aware of these research findings?
2. Are there any bodies in the EU that re-check the studies published by the WHO?
3. How many people actually fell victim to avian influenza throughout the EU?
4. Are the EU and the Member States planning an extensive information campaign on avian influenza and its actual risks?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(30 April 2012)

The Commission is aware of the article by Wang et al published in the journal Science ⁽¹⁾. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) reviewed it and challenged its conclusions in a technical response submitted to Science ⁽²⁾.

Studies published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) are reviewed at European Union (EU) level notably by the competent independent EU Agencies such as the ECDC which provides independent scientific opinions, expert advice and technical support on communicable diseases to the EU and the Member States.

In accordance with EU legislation ⁽³⁾, avian influenza is under EU wide surveillance. As of March 2012, no confirmed human cases of A(H5N1) have been reported within the EU.

The EU keeps citizens informed about the avian influenza situation and the related risks ⁽⁴⁾. The ECDC issues regular assessments ⁽⁵⁾ of the risk of avian flu to human health and provides advice on related matters ⁽⁶⁾. Specific information has been provided for poultry industry workers and anyone likely to come into contact with birds. EU legislation ⁽⁷⁾ requires that Member States have in place contingency plans to respond to major outbreaks of the disease in poultry and captive birds. These must include provisions for awareness raising and informing veterinarians, farmers, other stakeholders in the sector and the general public. In the framework of the Animal Health Strategy ⁽⁸⁾ the Commission organises information events about influenza for school children, students and travellers.

⁽¹⁾ Wang TT, Parides MK, Palese P. Seroevidence for H5N1 Influenza Infections in Humans: Meta-Analysis. Science 2012 February 23, 2012.

⁽²⁾ Van Kerkhove M, Riley S, Lipsitch M, Guan Y, Monto AS, Webster RG, Zambon M, Nicoll A, Peiris JSM, Ferguson NM Little evidence for 'missing millions' of H5N1 infections: a warning about the over-interpretation of H5N1 seroprevalence studies (technical response submitted to Science).

⁽³⁾ Decision No 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 1998 setting up a network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases in the Community, OJ L 268, 3.10.1998.

⁽⁴⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/avian/ai_factsheet_2006_en.pdf

⁽⁵⁾ ECDC Risk Assessment on A(H5N1) September 2011 — A(H5N1) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Egypt — Implications for human health in Europe: http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/110915_TER_Rapid_risk_assessment_AH5N1_Egypt.pdf/

⁽⁶⁾ ECDC Website on Avian Influenza: http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/avian_influenza/Pages/index.aspx.

⁽⁷⁾ Council Directive 2005/94/EC of 20 December 2005 on Community measures for the control of avian influenza and repealing Directive 92/40/EEC. OJ L 10, 14.1.2006, p. 16.

⁽⁸⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/index_en.htm

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002799/12

an die Kommission

Andreas Mölzer (NI)

(13. März 2012)

Betrifft: Antibiotika in Geflügel

Vor kurzem wurde bekannt, dass in beinahe jedem zweiten österreichischen Supermarkt-Huhn Rückstände von Antibiotika gefunden wurden. Diese multiresistenten Erreger können beim Menschen zu lebensgefährlichen Infektionen führen. In der Masthaltung dürfen Antibiotika eingesetzt werden, auch in Biobetrieben ist der Einsatz nicht verboten.

1. Liegen der Kommission Studien über die Gefährlichkeit von Antibiotika in Fleisch vor?
2. Wenn ja, was besagen diese genau?
3. Ist vonseiten der EU ein Verbot von Fleisch, das Antibiotikarückstände aufweist, geplant?
4. Wenn ja, wann und in welcher Form kann mit einem Verbot gerechnet werden?
5. Wenn nein, warum nicht, da die Gefahr durchaus bekannt zu sein scheint?
6. Gibt es EU-weit bereits konkrete Regeln für den Einsatz von Antibiotika in Tiermastbetrieben?

Antwort von Herrn Dalli im Namen der Kommission

(30. April 2012)

Zur Lebensmittelerzeugung gehaltenen Tieren dürfen nur Antibiotika verabreicht werden, für die ein Rückstandshöchstgehalt (RHG) festgelegt ist. Ein solcher RHG stützt sich auf ein Gutachten der Europäischen Arzneimittel-Agentur⁽¹⁾ und behandelt u. a. die Sicherheit der Rückstände sowie das Risiko toxikologischer, pharmakologischer und mikrobiologischer Wirkungen beim Menschen. Gutachten werden zu allen Lebensmitteln tierischen Ursprungs erstellt. Dabei wird die voraussichtliche Verwendung des Stoffs berücksichtigt. Antibiotika, für die kein Grenzwert ermittelt werden kann, dürfen nicht bei zur Lebensmittelerzeugung gehaltenen Tieren eingesetzt werden.

Eine europaweite Rückstandsüberwachung bei Lebensmitteln tierischen Ursprungs⁽²⁾ hat ergeben, dass nur bei 299 der 129 698 zum Nachweis von Antibiotika entnommenen Proben der RHG überschritten wurde. Darunter waren 16 698 Geflügelproben, von denen 0,11 % den RHG überschritten (Stand: 2010). Lebensmittel, die den RHG überschreiten, dürfen nicht in Verkehr gebracht werden.

Da Antibiotika eine wichtige Kategorie therapeutischer Wirkstoffe bilden, würde sich ein Verbot von Lebensmitteln mit Antibiotikarückständen negativ auf Gesundheit und Wohlergehen der Tiere auswirken und die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der europäischen Fleischerzeuger würde beeinträchtigt. Seit 1. Januar 2006 dürfen andere Antibiotika als Kokzidiostatika und Histomonostatika nicht mehr systematisch als Futtermittelzusatzstoffe verwendet werden⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Verordnung (EG) Nr. 470/2009 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates über die Schaffung eines Gemeinschaftsverfahrens für die Festsetzung von Höchstmengen für Rückstände pharmakologisch wirksamer Stoffe in Lebensmitteln tierischen Ursprungs, zur Aufhebung der Verordnung (EWG) Nr. 2377/90 des Rates und zur Änderung der Richtlinie 2001/82/EG des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates und der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 726/2004 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates (ABl. L 152 vom 16.6.2009, S. 11).

⁽²⁾ Richtlinie 96/23/EG des Rates über Kontrollmaßnahmen hinsichtlich bestimmter Stoffe und ihrer Rückstände in lebenden Tieren und tierischen Erzeugnissen (ABl. L 125 vom 23.5.1996, S. 10).

⁽³⁾ Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1831/2003 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates über Zusatzstoffe zur Verwendung in der Tierernährung.

Die Kommission teilt die Bedenken angesichts der großen Mengen an Antibiotika, die in Human- und Tiermedizin eingesetzt werden, sowie der damit einhergehenden Gefahr, dass sich eine Resistenz gegen Antibiotika ausbildet, die zur Behandlung von Tier und Mensch benötigt werden. Mit dem auf 5 Jahre angelegten Aktionsplan ⁽⁴⁾ hat die Kommission ihre Maßnahmen zur Bekämpfung der Antibiotikaresistenz intensiviert. Für nähere Angaben hierzu verweist sie den Herrn Abgeordneten auf die Antworten zu den schriftlichen Anfragen E-001117/2012 und E-000251/2012 ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽⁴⁾ Mitteilung der Kommission an das Europäische Parlament und den Rat, Aktionsplan zur Abwehr der steigenden Gefahr der Antibiotikaresistenz KOM(2011)748.

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/home.jsp>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002799/12
to the Commission
Andreas Mölzer (NI)
(13 March 2012)**

Subject: Antibiotics in poultry

It has recently become known that traces of antibiotics have been found in every second chicken sold in supermarkets in Austria. These multiresistant agents can lead to life-threatening infections in humans. The use of antibiotics in livestock/poultry farming is permitted, even among organic producers.

1. Does the Commission have studies available on the dangers of antibiotics in meat?
2. If so, what exactly do these say?
3. Does the EU plan to impose a ban on meat containing residual traces of antibiotics?
4. If so, when and in what form can a ban be expected?
5. If not, why not, as it would seem that the dangers are well known?
6. Do specific regulations already exist throughout the EU for the use of antibiotics among meat producers?

**Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(30 April 2012)**

Only antibiotics for which a maximum residue limit (MRL) has been established can be administered to food-producing animals. The MRL is based on an opinion of the European Medicines Agency ⁽¹⁾ covering, amongst others, the safety of the residues and the risk of toxicological, pharmacological or microbiological effects in human beings. These opinions cover all food commodities of animal origin, taking into account the expected use of the substance. Antibiotics for which no safe limit can be identified can not be used in food producing animals.

European Union wide monitoring of residues in food of animal origin ⁽²⁾ demonstrated only 299 non-compliant samples on 129 698 samples taken for the presence of antibiotics. These included 16 698 poultry samples, of which 0.11 % contained residues above the MRL (2010 results). Food containing residues above the MRL can not be placed on the market.

Since antibiotics are an important group of therapeutic substances, a ban on foodstuffs containing residues of antibiotics would have a negative impact on animal health, animal welfare and the competitive position of European meat producers. The systematic use of antibiotics, other than coccidiostats or histomonostats, as feed additives has been banned since 1 January 2006 ⁽³⁾.

The Commission shares the concern about the high amounts of antibiotics used in human and veterinary medicine and the potential consequences on the development of resistance to antibiotics needed to treat humans and animals. It has recently strengthened its efforts to fight antimicrobial resistance with the launch of a five-year action plan ⁽⁴⁾ on which the Honourable Member will find additional information in the Commission's answers to Written Questions E-001117/2012 and E-000251/2012 ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 470/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down Community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin, repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 and amending Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 152, 16.6.2009, p. 11).

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 96/23/EC on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products (OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 10).

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on additives for use in animal nutrition.

⁽⁴⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance (COM(2011)748).

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/home.jsp>

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002801/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)
(13 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Θεσμικές αλλαγές στην Ελληνική Στατιστική Αρχή

Σύμφωνα με έγγραφο που παρουσιάστηκε στην ειδική εξεταστική επιτροπή του Ελληνικού Κοινοβουλίου, η οποία ερευνά τις καταγγελίες σχετικά με τεχνητή διόγκωση του δημόσιου ελλείμματος του 2009, ο Πρόεδρος της Ελληνικής Στατιστικής Αρχής (ΕΛΣΤΑΤ), με επιστολή που απηύθυνε στις 16 Οκτωβρίου 2010 προς τον επικεφαλής της Τρόικα στην Ελλάδα, κ. Τόμσεν, ζητούσε την παρέμβαση του τελευταίου για την τροποποίηση του ιδρυτικού νόμου της ΕΛΣΤΑΤ, κατά τρόπον ώστε να ενισχυθούν σημαντικά οι αρμοδιότητες και οι εξουσίες του Προέδρου, σε βάρος των υπόλοιπων μελών του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου. Η αλλαγή της νομοθεσίας επήλθε, πράγματι, λίγους μήνες αργότερα, με το νόμο 3899/2010 (ΦΕΚ 17.12.10). Ταυτόχρονα, έγινε γνωστό ότι η ανωτέρω εξεταστική επιτροπή της Ελληνικής Βουλής είχε αποστείλει επιστολές κλήτευσης προς τον Ευρωπαίο Επίτροπο Χοακίν Αλμούνια και τον Διευθυντή της Eurostat, κ. Ραντερμάχερ.

Δεδομένης της απάντησης (E-1771/10) της Επιτροπής στην ερώτησή μου (E-1771/10) της 10.3.2010 σχετικά με το ενδεχόμενο κλήτευσης Επιτρόπων ή άλλων ευρωπαίων αξιωματούχων, σε περίπτωση δημιουργίας εξεταστικής επιτροπής στην Ελληνική Βουλή, σύμφωνα με την οποία «τα μέλη της Επιτροπής ... αν κληθούν να καταθέσουν ... είναι ελεύθερα να το πράξουν κατά τη διακριτική τους ευχέρεια» και ότι οι υπάλληλοι της Επιτροπής πρέπει να έχουν λάβει πρώτα άδεια από την αρμόδια υπηρεσία της Επιτροπής, ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Η Eurostat ή άλλες υπηρεσίες της Επιτροπής έχουν λάβει αντίστοιχη επιστολή προς αυτή του κ. Τόμσεν από τον Πρόεδρο της ΕΛΣΤΑΤ; Υπήρξαν πιέσεις προς ή μέσω του εκπροσώπου της Eurostat στην ΕΛΣΤΑΤ («High Level Expert») για αλλαγή του ιδρυτικού νόμου της ΕΛΣΤΑΤ προς την κατεύθυνση που ζητούσε ο Πρόεδρος της; Ήταν σε γνώση της η ψήφιση του νόμου 3899/2010 που έδωσε τελικά υπερεξουσίες στον Πρόεδρο της ΕΛΣΤΑΤ;
2. Με ποιο τρόπο προτίθεται η Επιτροπή να συμβάλει στη διαλεύκανση της υπόθεσης που εξετάζει το Ελληνικό Κοινοβούλιο; Θα προσέλθουν ως μάρτυρες τα πρόσωπα τα οποία έχουν κληθεί; Δεδομένου ότι η έρευνα αφορά και το χρονικό διάστημα κατά το οποίο Επίτροπος Οικονομικών Υποθέσεων ήταν ο κ. Ρέν, εφόσον η λήψη της απόφασης για την ένταξη 17 ΔΕΚΟ στη Γενική Κυβέρνηση έγινε επί της θητείας του, εξετάζει άραγε το ενδεχόμενο να παραστεί στην εξεταστική επιτροπή της ελληνικής Βουλής;

Απάντηση του κ. Šemeta εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(11 Μαΐου 2012)

1. Από τις αρχές του 2010 εφαρμόζεται κοινό συνολικό σχέδιο στατιστικής δράσης για την Ελλάδα, με σκοπό την παροχή της αναγκαίας βοήθειας στην ΕΛΣΤΑΤ, προκειμένου να αποκατασταθεί η εμπιστοσύνη στις ελληνικές στατιστικές. Το εν λόγω σχέδιο δράσης καταρτίστηκε ως απάντηση στην πρόσκληση που απηύθυνε το Συμβούλιο Ecofin τον Ιανουάριο του 2010 και, στο πλαίσιο του, υποβάλλονται τακτικές σχετικές εκθέσεις. Η υλοποίησή του απαιτεί στενή συνεργασία, διαφάνεια και δημοσιοποίηση στοιχείων μεταξύ της ΕΛΣΤΑΤ και της Επιτροπής (Eurostat). Η εφαρμογή του Ελληνικού Στατιστικού Νόμου είναι μία από τις ενέργειες που προβλέπει το σχέδιο και, ως τέτοια, έχει εξεταστεί από τη συντονιστική επιτροπή, η οποία συντονίζει το σύνολο των ενεργειών. Σ' αυτό το πλαίσιο, η Επιτροπή (Eurostat) έχει, μεταξύ άλλων, ενημερωθεί για την τροποποίηση του Ελληνικού Στατιστικού Νόμου το 2010 όσον αφορά την εκχώρηση εκτελεστικών και μη εκτελεστικών εξουσιών εντός της ΕΛΣΤΑΤ, κάτι που είναι σύμφωνο με τον Κώδικα Ορθής Πρακτικής του Ευρωπαϊκού Στατιστικού Συστήματος και τον κανονισμό (ΕΚ) αριθ. 223/2009 σχετικά με τις ευρωπαϊκές στατιστικές. Ωστόσο, η Επιτροπή (Eurostat) δεν έχει λάβει επιστολή ανάλογη με εκείνη που αναφέρεται από το αξιότιμο Μέλος και με την οποία να ζητείται σημαντική αύξηση της εντολής και των εξουσιών του προέδρου της ΕΛΣΤΑΤ.

Ο εμπειρογνώμονας υψηλού επιπέδου που διορίστηκε από την Επιτροπή παρέχει ανεξάρτητες συμβουλές στην ΕΛΣΤΑΤ και λειτουργεί ως αρμόδιος επικοινωνίας για την Επιτροπή (Eurostat).

2. Σε ό,τι αφορά την Επιτροπή, η επιτροπή του Ελληνικού Κοινοβουλίου απέστειλε ερωτήματα μόνο στον Αντιπρόεδρο της Επιτροπής που είναι αρμόδιος για θέματα ανταγωνισμού και στον Γενικό Διευθυντή της Eurostat. Ο Αντιπρόεδρος της Επιτροπής που είναι αρμόδιος για οικονομικά και νομισματικά θέματα δεν προσεκλήθη από την εν λόγω επιτροπή. Οι απαντήσεις, οι οποίες δημοσιοποιήθηκαν, περιγράφουν λεπτομερώς τα μέτρα που ελήφθησαν και αναφέρουν επίσης βασικές πληροφορίες ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Οι πληροφορίες αυτές βρίσκονται στις εξής ηλεκτρονικές διευθύνσεις:
http://ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/GR_LETTER_26_03_2012/EN/GR_LETTER_26_03_2012-EN.PDF και
http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/almunia/headlines/hellenic_questionnaire_replies_en.pdf

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002801/12
to the Commission**

Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Institutional changes at the Hellenic Statistical Authority

According to a document submitted to the Hellenic Parliament's special committee of enquiry investigating complaints of artificial inflation of the public deficit in 2009, the president of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) wrote to Mr Thomsen, head of the Troika in Greece, on 16 October 2010, asking him to intervene to amend the law founding ELSTAT to significantly increase the remit and powers of the president, at the expense of the other members of the governing board. The legislation was indeed amended a few months later under Law No 3899/2010 (Government Gazette dated 17 December 2010). At the same time, it transpired that the above Hellenic Parliament committee of enquiry had issued a summons to European Commissioner Joaquín Almunia and the Director-General of Eurostat, Mr Radermacher.

In its answer to my question (E-1771/10) dated 10 March 2010 about the possibility of Commissioners or other EU officials being summoned if a committee of enquiry was set up by the Hellenic Parliament, the Commission stated that 'Members of the Commission ... [i]f they are invited to give written or oral evidence [...] are [...] free to do so at their discretion', and that Commission officials must first obtain permission from the competent Commission service. In view of this, will the Commission say:

1. Have Eurostat or other Commission services received a letter similar to that sent to Mr Thomsen by the president of Elstat? Was pressure exerted on or via the High Level Expert representing Eurostat at Elstat to change the law founding Elstat along the lines proposed by its president? Was it aware of the passage of Law No 3899/2010, which has ultimately vested excessive powers in the president of Elstat?
2. How does it intend to help clarify the matter being examined by the Hellenic Parliament? Will the persons summoned come forward as witnesses? Given that the investigation also relates to the period during which Mr Rehn was Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, is he considering appearing before the Hellenic Parliament committee of enquiry, given that the decision to integrate 17 public utilities into general government was taken during his term of office?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission

(11 May 2012)

1. A Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan has been in place since early 2010 with the aim of providing the necessary assistance to ELSTAT to restore confidence in Greek statistics. It was established in response to an invitation by the Ecofin Council of January 2010 and is subject to regular reporting. Its implementation requires close cooperation, transparency and sharing of information between ELSTAT and the Commission (Eurostat). The implementation of the Hellenic Statistical Law is one action included in the plan and has, as such, been discussed by the Steering Committee which coordinates all the actions. In this context, the Commission (Eurostat) has, *inter alia*, been informed of an amendment to the Hellenic Statistical law in 2010 concerning the allocation of executive and non-executive powers within ELSTAT, which is in line with the European statistics Code of Practice and Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics. However, the Commission (Eurostat) has not received a letter similar to that referred by the Honourable Member asking to significantly increase the remit and powers of ELSTAT's President.

The High Level Expert appointed by the Commission provides independent advice to ELSTAT and acts as a contact point for the Commission (Eurostat).

2. The Committee of the Hellenic Parliament sent questions only to the Vice-President of the Commission responsible for Competition and to the Director General of Eurostat, as far as the Commission is concerned. The Vice-President of the Commission responsible for Economic and Monetary Affairs has not been invited by this Committee. The replies, which have been made public, describe in detail the actions undertaken and refer also to background information ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ They can be found here: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/GR_LETTER_26_03_2012/EN/GR_LETTER_26_03_2012-EN.PDF and http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/almunia/headlines/hellenic_questionnaire_replies_en.pdf

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002802/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)
(13 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Νέος ΧΑΔΑ στις όχθες του Βουραϊκού ποταμού

Στην περιοχή του Διακοπτού, στις όχθες του Βουραϊκού ποταμού, λειτουργούσε παράνομη χωματερή (ΧΑΔΑ), η αποκατάσταση της οποίας χρηματοδοτήθηκε από το Ταμείο Συνοχής. Όπως καταγγέλλουν περιβαλλοντικές οργανώσεις και δημοτικές παρατάξεις, «πλησίον της εισόδου περίφραξης του εν λόγω ΧΑΔΑ και σε όλη την ανατολική όχθη του Βουραϊκού ποταμού γίνεται εκ νέου εναπόθεση απορριμμάτων».

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

Πρώτον: είναι εν γνώσει των ανωτέρω καταγγελιών; Ποιες παρεμβάσεις σχεδιάζει προς τις αρμόδιες ελληνικές αρχές, ώστε να πάψουν να δημιουργούνται χώροι ανεξέλεγκτης διάθεσης απορριμμάτων (ΧΑΔΑ); Έχουν αναληφθεί δεσμεύσεις για την αποτροπή της δημιουργίας νέων παράνομων χωματερών; Η υφιστάμενη εθνική νομοθεσία είναι αρκούντως αποτρεπτική;

Δεύτερον: Έχει ολοκληρωθεί το έργο αποκατάστασης του χώρου; Έχει παραληφθεί από τις τοπικές αρχές; Αν όχι σε ποιο στάδιο βρίσκεται;

Απάντηση του κ. Ροτοčnik εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(2 Μαΐου 2012)

Το γενικό πρόβλημα των παράνομων χωματερών στην Ελλάδα έχει ήδη αποτελέσει αντικείμενο προσφυγής στο Δικαστήριο εκ μέρους της Επιτροπής (υπόθεση 2001/2273 και ως εκ τούτου η Ελλάδα υποχρεούται να εφαρμόσει την απόφαση C-502/03 του Δικαστηρίου). Στο πλαίσιο αυτό η Επιτροπή παρακολουθεί επισταμένα την κατάσταση και λαμβάνει όλα τα απαραίτητα μέτρα ώστε, μόλις εντοπίζεται μια νέα παράνομη χωματερή, γίνονται οι απαραίτητες ενέργειες με στόχο να κλείσει η χωματερή και να γίνει αποκατάσταση του χώρου.

Όσον αφορά την χωματερή στον Βουραϊκό ποταμό. Οι ελληνικές αρχές ενημέρωσαν την Επιτροπή ότι ο χώρος της παράνομης χωματερής στην ανατολική όχθη του ποταμού έχει αποκατασταθεί εδώ και πολύ καιρό. Παρόλα αυτά όμως, άγνωστοι εναπόθεσαν πρόσφατα απορρίμματα κοντά στην εν λόγω χωματερή. Η διαχειριστική αρχή της Δυτικής Ελλάδας επιθεώρησε την περιοχή και ζήτησε από τις δημοτικές αρχές να καθαρίσουν τον χώρο.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002802/12
to the Commission**

Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: New uncontrolled waste disposal site on the river Vouraikos

An illegal uncontrolled landfill site used to operate in the Diakopto region, on the banks of the river Vouraikos, and its rehabilitation has been funded by the Cohesion Fund. Environmental organisations and political groups allege that 'waste is once more being dumped near the entrance to the enclosure of the uncontrolled waste disposal site, and along the entire east bank of the river Vouraikos'.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

Firstly: is it aware of the above accusations? How does it intend to intervene with the competent Greek authorities in order to stop uncontrolled waste disposal sites being set up? Have commitments been given to prevent the creation of new illegal waste disposal sites? Is the existing national legislation an adequate deterrent?

Secondly: has the rehabilitation of the site been completed? Has it been approved by the local authorities? If not, what stage is it at?

Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

As for the general problem of illegal landfilling in Greece — the issue is already subject to legal action from the Commission (case 2001/2273, for which Greece has to implement Court ruling C-502/03). Within this framework, the Commission is closely monitoring the situation, and is taking all measures so that whenever a new illegal landfill is identified, the necessary steps are implemented, and i.e. the landfill is closed and rehabilitated.

Regarding the landfill in Vouraikos river, the Greek authorities informed the Commission that the illegal landfill in the east bank of the river was rehabilitated a long time ago. However, waste has been disposed of recently in the vicinity of the landfill by unknown individuals. The managing authority of Western Greece has inspected the site and asked the municipality services to clean the area.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002803/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Konstantinos Roupakis (PPE)
(13 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Ο ρόλος της ΕΕ στην τόνωση της ανταγωνιστικότητας της Ελλάδας

Σύμφωνα με τους στόχους της πολιτικής των Μνημονίων, η άκρατη λιτότητα και μια σειρά δομικών μεταρρυθμίσεων που εφαρμόζονται τα δύο τελευταία χρόνια στην Ελλάδα έχουν ως ζητούμενο τη δημοσιονομική σταθερότητα, τον περιορισμό των ελλειμμάτων, την επιστροφή στην ανάπτυξη και την τόνωση της ανταγωνιστικότητας της χώρας.

Παρόλα αυτά η χώρα, αντί να εμφανίζει σημεία ανάκαμψης, εξακολουθεί να βυθίζεται στην ύφεση, με το επίπεδο ζωής των ελλήνων να υποβαθμίζεται συνεχώς, την ανεργία να αυξάνεται και το μισθολογικό κόστος να μειώνεται εν ονόματι της ανταγωνιστικότητας.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Σύμφωνα με το πρόγραμμα της Τρόικα, έναντι ποίων επιθυμεί η ΕΕ να καταστήσει την Ελλάδα ανταγωνιστική μειώνοντας το μισθολογικό κόστος; έναντι των εταίρων της, έναντι των γειτόνων της στην περιοχή της Βαλκανικής ή έναντι των κύριων εμπορικών εταίρων της ΕΕ;
2. Σύμφωνα με τα στοιχεία της Επιτροπής σε ποιούς τομείς της οικονομίας κατέχει η Ελλάδα ανταγωνιστική θέση σε σχέση με τα υπόλοιπα κράτη μέλη;
3. Πώς μπορεί να οδηγηθεί η Ελλάδα σε τροχιά ανάπτυξης και τόνωσης της ανταγωνιστικότητάς της, χωρίς να προκληθεί περαιτέρω ύφεση και εκπτώσεις στο Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινωνικό Μοντέλο;

Απάντηση του κ. Rehn εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(14 Μαΐου 2012)

1. Η ελληνική οικονομία μπορεί να αναπτυχθεί και να δημιουργηθούν θέσεις εργασίας σε βιώσιμη βάση μόνο αν βελτιωθεί σημαντικά η ανταγωνιστικότητά της. Σε κάθε κλάδο της οικονομίας πρέπει να αναδειχθούν τα πλεονεκτήματα της ανταγωνιστικότητας και να βελτιωθεί η ανταγωνιστική θέση των ελληνικών εταιρειών σε σχέση με τους υφιστάμενους ή δυνητικούς ανταγωνιστές ανεξαρτήτως της τοποθεσίας τους.
2. Η ανταγωνιστικότητα είναι μια πολυδιάστατη έννοια που περιλαμβάνει παραμέτρους όπως η ελκυστικότητα για την παραγωγή επενδύσεων, οι εξαγωγές και η δημιουργία πλούτου. Ως εκ τούτου, δεν μπορεί να περιοριστεί σε μία και μόνο παράμετρο. Δείκτης της συνολικής ανταγωνιστικότητας ενός συγκεκριμένου τομέα θα μπορούσε να είναι το εμπορικό του ισοζύγιο. Η Ελλάδα παρουσιάζει πλεονάσματα στον τομέα των υπηρεσιών, λόγω της καλής απόδοσης τομέων όπως ο τουρισμός και οι θαλάσσιες μεταφορές. Συνεπώς, μπορεί να θεωρηθεί ότι η Ελλάδα διαθέτει πλεονέκτημα στους εν λόγω τομείς. Αντιθέτως, έχουν καταγράψει χρόνια ελλείμματα στο εμπορικό ισοζύγιο, γεγονός που υποδεικνύει αδυναμία στην μεταποιητική βιομηχανία.
3. Για την υπέρβαση των μεγάλων προβλημάτων που αντιμετωπίζει η ελληνική οικονομία απαιτείται ευρύ φάσμα συνεπών μεταρρυθμίσεων, ώστε να λυθούν μακροχρόνια προβλήματα. Η βελτίωση του επιχειρηματικού περιβάλλοντος, η ενθάρρυνση του ανταγωνισμού, η μείωση του μη μισθολογικού εργασιακού κόστους και η διευκόλυνση της προσαρμογής στην αγορά εργασίας θα δημιουργήσουν τις συνθήκες για επενδύσεις στην Ελλάδα και συνεπώς, για οικονομική ανάπτυξη, θέσεις εργασίας και κοινωνική ευημερία. Η ανάκτηση της ανταγωνιστικότητας θα επιτρέψει την αποκατάσταση της αειφόρου ανάπτυξης και τη δημιουργία μέσων για πολιτικές αναδιανομής. Μεσοπρόθεσμα, δεν θα υπάρξει σημαντική αλληλεξάρτηση μεταξύ της ανταγωνιστικότητας, της απασχόλησης και των διατηρήσιμων πολιτικών κοινωνικής πρόνοιας. Ωστόσο, βραχυπρόθεσμα, μπορεί να υπάρξουν ορισμένες δαπάνες και απώλεια θέσεων εργασίας. Θα είναι μάλιστα μεγαλύτερες σε περίπτωση που δυσκαμψίες στις αγορές προϊόντος και εργασίας, ως σημαντικά εμπόδια στην ευελιξία των τιμών και των μισθών, αποτρέψουν την ταχεία προσαρμογή στη νέα ισορροπία.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002803/12
to the Commission**

Konstantinos Poupakis (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: The EU's role in boosting Greece's competitiveness

According to the Memoranda's policy objectives, the relentless austerity and the series of structural reforms implemented in Greece over the last two years aim to achieve financial stability, limit deficits, restore growth and boost the country's competitiveness.

Despite all this, Greece, instead of showing signs of recovery, has continued its plunge into recession, with the standard of living for Greeks steadily declining, unemployment rising and wage costs being reduced in the name of competitiveness.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. According to the Troika programme, in relation to which other countries does the EU intend to make Greece competitive by reducing wage costs? Its partners, its neighbours in the Balkans or the EU's main trading partners?
2. According to its data, in which sectors of the economy is Greece competitive vis-à-vis the other the Member States?
3. How can Greece be led onto a trajectory of growth and enhanced competitiveness without this resulting in further recession and cuts to the European Social Model?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission

(14 May 2012)

1. Greece can only grow and create jobs on a sustainable basis if its competitiveness improves significantly. Competitiveness gains should be sought on every part of the economy and improvements in the competitiveness position of Greek firms should be sought vis-à-vis current or potential competitors irrespective of their location.
 2. Competitiveness is a multi-dimensional concept that takes into account factors like the attractiveness to invest and the ability to export and create wealth and cannot be collapsed into a single measure. An indicator of overall competitiveness of a given sector could be the external trade balance of that sector. Greece records surpluses in the service sector, thanks to the performance of sectors such as tourism and shipping. Thus, it can be said that Greece has an advantage in those sectors. On the reverse, chronic deficits have been recorded in the goods balance, which points to weakness in manufacturing.
 3. Overcoming the big challenges the Greek economy is facing requires a broad range of consistent reforms to tackle various deep-seated problems. Improving the business environment, fostering competition, reducing non-wage labour costs and facilitating adjustment in the labour market, will create the conditions for investment in Greece and thereby for economic growth, jobs and wellbeing. Re-gaining competitiveness will allow a return to sustainable growth and generate the means for re-distribution policies. In the medium term, there is no fundamental trade-off between competitiveness, employment and sustainable welfare policies. Yet in the short term there may be some costs and job losses. These are larger when product and labour markets rigidities, notably hindrances to price and wage flexibility, prevent a swift adjustment to the new equilibrium.
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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002804/12
to the Commission**

Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Assistance which qualifies as aid is going to some of the richest countries in the world

The European Union likes proudly to trumpet the fact that it is the largest donor of aid in the world, yet how can it feel proud of itself when assistance that qualifies as aid is going to some of the richest countries in the world? I have long been concerned about aid going to countries such as Russia, Turkey, Argentina and Malaysia, which ought no longer to require international development assistance. Nevertheless, I was absolutely horrified to learn that the EU is providing pre-accession assistance to Iceland and that this qualifies as development assistance.

Can the Commission answer the following questions?

1. Why is the Commission providing funding to a country which has a per capita GDP of USD 38 079, higher than my home Member State of the United Kingdom and higher even than Germany?
2. Why do these funds qualify as overseas development assistance when, clearly, it is benefitting a country which is a donor rather than a recipient of ODA?
3. Will the Commission consider altering the way it calculates its figures on overseas development assistance to include only aid provided to the least developed countries (LDCs)?
4. Will the Commission cease referring to the EU as the largest donor of international aid in all speeches, websites and publications until it can be proven that the EU is the largest donor of assistance to the LDCs?
5. Will the Commission consider suspending all assistance to Iceland until the country has repaid the EUR 2.75 billion it owes to the United Kingdom following British taxpayer-funded compensation paid to savers stung by Iceland's poorly-regulated and precarious banking sector?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

The EU provides focused financial assistance under the Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA) to Iceland as a candidate country for EU membership. This assistance is meant to help Iceland prepare for membership and in particular to adapt its institutions to European requirements. As a developed country Iceland is entitled only to assistance under Component I of IPA which covers Transition assistance and Institution Building only. Unlike other candidate countries, Iceland is not benefiting from the remaining components of IPA focusing on cross-border cooperation or Regional, Human Resource and Rural development. The total amount of EU financial contribution to Iceland for the period 2011-2013 is EUR 30 million.

Not all of the financial assistance provided under the Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA) qualifies as 'Official Development Assistance' (ODA). The ODA definition has been agreed by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to measure aid. Only aid provided to the countries in the 'DAC List of ODA Recipients' is qualified as ODA. Iceland is not on that list and the EUR 30 million quoted above are not counted as ODA.

The EU will continue to report its assistance in line with the internationally recognised OECD DAC definition of Official Development Assistance.

The EU and its Member States together remain the biggest global donor, accounting for more than half of global Official Development Assistance, as reported to the OECD DAC.

The targeted assistance to Iceland under IPA is unrelated to the issue related to the United Kingdom raised by the Honourable Member.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002805/12
to the Commission**

Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: EU Environmental Noise Directive

Excessive noise from rail routes can generate noise pollution which can be detrimental to the health of citizens. The EU Environmental Noise Directive (Directive 2002/49/EC) requires Member States to ensure that action plans are drawn up to manage noise issues and effects for major railways which have more than 60 000 passengers per year.

To minimise disruption of the wider rail network, large quantities of freight traffic is at night when less passenger services operate. Some specific rail lines (including ones within my constituency) carry rail freight rather than any passenger services, and the noise pollution generated from these services is of concern to citizens living adjacent to the rail lines.

Is the Commission considering reassessing Article 8 of the Environmental Noise Directive, so that more rail lines, such as those that carry solely freight, are required to have action plans put in place?

Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission

(3 May 2012)

As required by Article 11 of Directive 2002/49/EC ⁽¹⁾ on environmental noise, the Commission has prepared a report on implementation of the directive ⁽²⁾ which sets out the main problems experienced and highlights key issues that could be addressed in the context of the review of the directive.

On the basis of this report, the Commission held in September 2011 a meeting with Member States and stakeholders to study options to improve the effectiveness of legislation on noise.

No specific issue has been raised to date on freight-only (or predominantly freight) rail lines. However, the Commission will shortly launch an online consultation on the issues to be considered in the review, and the honourable member is invited to reiterate his observations in that context.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 189, 18.7.2002.
⁽²⁾ COM(2011) 321 final.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002807/12
to the Commission**

Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Animal welfare strategy and the CAP

In January 2012 the Commission published its communication on the EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015 ('the strategy'). The EU is also considering its approach to the common agricultural policy (CAP) post-2013.

1. How does the Commission foresee the strategy being incorporated into the CAP post-2013?
2. What steps does the Commission envisage, if any, to ensure that animal welfare provisions are (a) in place and (b) actually enforced?
3. To what extent does the Commission consider that payments should be dependent upon high standards of animal welfare?

Answer given by Mr Ciolos on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

1 and 3. To respond to the expectations of society on a sustainable agriculture protecting environment and animal welfare, a number of EU rules on animal welfare were included in the cross compliance scheme adopted in the 2003 CAP reform. In the framework of the current CAP reform, the Commission has proposed to maintain these animal welfare requirements in the scope of cross-compliance (as listed in Annex II of the draft proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the CAP ⁽¹⁾). This means that when farmers fail to meet those standards, the CAP payments which they can claim may be reduced or in the most severe cases even completely withdrawn for the year concerned, depending on the seriousness of non-compliance. On the other hand, Member States can adopt measures financed by EU funds under rural development programmes aiming to improve animal welfare beyond the compulsory EU and national rules.

2. Enforcement of existing legislation is the main priority of the EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015 ⁽²⁾. This includes the development of implementing plans and the development of specific guidelines on the animal welfare legislation. Infringement procedures can also be launched in case of lack of appropriate enforcement by Member States.

The Commission is also considering the feasibility of introducing a simplified legal framework for animal welfare, and in particular the use of science-based indicators.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2011) 628 final/2.

⁽²⁾ COM(2012) 6 final/2.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002808/12
to the Commission**

Struan Stevenson (ECR)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Definition of EU waters

The fish processing sector in the UK is currently facing further devastation following the contradictory statements on what constitutes EU waters. At present, Norwegian vessels fishing in EU waters and landing mackerel in the UK are claiming 20 % in import duty. More than 50 % of the UK pelagic quota was landed in Norway in 2011, where no duty was imposed. According to the UK Customs Authority (HMRC), fish caught in EU or UK waters do not attract import duty when landed in the UK.

Could the Commission clarify the legal definition of EU waters?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission

(7 May 2012)

The customs territory of the European Union includes the territory of the Member States and their territorial waters. However, some parts of the territory of the Member States and their related waters are excluded from the customs territory of the EU (Article 3 of the Customs Code ⁽¹⁾ — CC).

The extension of the territorial waters is defined by international conventions and the legislation of the Member States, in general 12 nautical miles. The exclusive economic zone is not part of territorial waters.

Fishery products caught in the territorial waters of a Member State are considered as wholly obtained in the customs territory of the EU. The same applies to fishery products caught outside those waters by vessels registered or recorded in a Member State and flying the flag of that Member State (Article 23 CC).

Such products have the customs status of Union goods, when producing a T2M document (Articles 325-336 of the CC Implementing Provisions ⁽²⁾). They benefit from free movement of goods within the EU in accordance with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

On the other hand, fishery products caught outside the territorial waters of a Member State by vessels which are not registered or recorded in and do not fly the flag of a Member State do not have the customs status of Union goods. On import into the EU they are subject to the applicable duty based on the Customs Tariff (Article 20(1) CC), which includes preferential tariff measures contained in agreements concluded by the EU with certain countries.

For mackerel harvested by Norwegian vessels outside the territorial waters of a Member State and imported into the EU, the duty rate depends on when and in what state it is imported.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 (OJ L 302, 19.10.1992, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 of 2 July 1993 (OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002809/12
to the Commission
Fiona Hall (ALDE)
(13 March 2012)

Subject: New UK feed-in tariff

In the near future the UK Government is expected to submit its Contract for Difference (CfD) Feed-in Tariff to the Commission for state aid approval. In order for the UK to achieve its national renewable energy target under the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive ⁽¹⁾ it is crucial that the state aid process should not cause any delays. While the guidelines on state aid for environmental protection explicitly allow aid for energy saving, aid for renewable energy sources, aid for cogeneration and aid for district heating, the Community Framework and these guidelines do not appear to provide a legal basis for the Commission to approve a Feed-in Tariff CfD for nuclear energy.

— What legal basis is available to the Commission to approve state aid to nuclear energy in the form of a Feed-in Tariff (CfD) as currently being considered by the UK Government?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(25 April 2012)

The United Kingdom has not formally notified to the Commission any measure revolving around the use of feed-in tariffs in support of nuclear energy generation.

It would be premature and inappropriate to comment on the approach which the Commission might take were any such measures to be formally notified, as the assessment would strictly depend on how those measures might be structured. In particular, the analysis would need to take account of whether or not the measures involve state aid, and, if yes, whether or not the aid is compliant with state aid rules. The Commission cannot at this stage speculate on the form or substance of measures which the United Kingdom authorities might consider in the absence of an official notification.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2009/28/EC, OJ L 140, 5.6.2009, p. 16.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002810/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Fiona Hall (ALDE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Joseph Kony

Can the High Representative confirm what progress has been made since 2009 with the measures explained in the response to Written Question E-4228/2009?

How is the High Representative supporting the International Criminal Court in its efforts to capture Joseph Kony and prevent the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) from destroying the lives of thousands across central Africa?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(23 July 2012)

The EU has been closely involved with international efforts to resolve in the LRA issue.

Following the failure of the Juba talks, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continued its attacks but a counter offensive by the Ugandan army in 2008 forced them into the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR). Although they were further weakened, Kony was not apprehended. In response to this, in 2010, interested parties of the international community formed the International Working Group on the LRA, co-chaired by the EU and the US. The IWG objective was to review the strategy against the LRA. One of its main findings was that a military approach alone was not enough. A multi-faceted approach was needed which included a coordinated civilian protection programme, early warning networks, defection and reintegration programmes and humanitarian assistance (across all LRA affected areas).

Over 2011 and 2012, the AU, the UN, International and Local NGOs, Uganda, DRC, CAR and South Sudan, with the support from donors such as the US, the EU and some EU Member States, have been steadily piecing together this multi-faceted approach.

The EU (with EUR 1,6 million) has been assisting the African Union with a specific Regional Coordination Initiative to bring together the anti-LRA strategies of the four front line states. The EU has also been at the forefront of the humanitarian assistance, providing EUR 12 million last year and EUR 9 million this year for populations affected by the LRA.

Even though the number of active combatants in the LRA is probably no more than 250, they are still able to terrorize local communities, killing and kidnapping innocent people. An estimated 300 000 people have been displaced by their activities.

The EU remains committed to the fight against the LRA until Kony and his two indicted commanders are brought to justice under the auspices of the International Criminal Court.

(Leagan Gaeilge)

Ceist i gcomhair freagra scríofa E-002811/12
chuig an gCoimisiún
Liam Aylward (ALDE)
(13 Márta 2012)

Ábhar: Athbhreithniú ar chreat dlíthiúil na Tréidliachta — clár ama

Mar fhreagra ar an gCeist E-006867/2011 maidir leis an athbhreithniú ar chreat dlíthiúil na Tréidliachta dúirt an Coimisiún go raibh sé i gceist an t-athbhreithniú a chur ar bun roimh dheireadh na bliana 2012. An bhféadfadh an Coimisiún measúnú atá suas chun dáta a thabhairt ar an gclár ama sin? An mbeidh tús curtha leis an athbhreithniú sa dara leath den bhliain 2012, faoi mar a gheall an Coimisiún?

D'fhéadfadh moill ar bith ar an athbhreithniú pleananna maidir le reachtaíocht nua a thabhairt isteach laistigh den tréimhse sin údarais reatha na Parlaiminte a chur i mbaol.

Tá ualach riaracháin thar cuimse ar earnáil na n-earraí tréidliachta (VMP as Béarla) agus níl sé de chumas ag an gcóras atá i bhfeidhm faoi láthair an nuáil a spreagadh. Ní mór, mar sin, go rachfaí i mbun an athbhreithnithe seo gan mhoill.

Dúirt an Coimisiún chomh maith go raibh sé i gceist aige cruinniú leis na páirtithe leasmhara a eagrú roimh dheireadh na bliana 2011. An bhféadfadh an Coimisiún sonraí ar bith a thabhairt maidir leis an méid a tharla agus leis na cinntí ar socraíodh orthu ag an gcruinniú sin?

Freagra ón gCoimisinéir Dallí thar ceann an Choimisiúin
(30 Aibreán 2012)

Táthar ag tuar anois go mbeidh an t-athbhreithniú ar an reachtaíocht um chógaisíocht tréidliachta agus an reachtaíocht um beatha íocleasaithe curtha i gcrích sa dara ráithe de 2013 mar chuid de phacáiste ina gcuimseofar an t-athbhreithniú ar an mbeatha íocleasaithe. Léiríonn an t-amlíne líon na gceisteanna agus na roghanna beartais agus na n-impleachtaí féideartha a ghabhann leo atá le háireamh san athbhreithniú, i gcomhréir leis na tuairimí arna gcur chun cinn ag na scairshealbhóirí le linn an chomhairliúcháin phoiblí. Is gá impleachtaí na roghanna seo a mheasúnú go hiomlán.

Bhí cruinniú geallsealbhóirí ann an 23 Meán Fómhair 2011 i dtaca leis an athbhreithniú ar chreat dlíthiúil an leigheasra tréidliachta. Tá tuarascáil achomair den chruinniú seo foilsithe ar shuíomh gréasáin Ard-Stiúrthóireacht na Sláinte agus na dTomhaltóirí ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/health/veterinary-use/rev_frame_index_en.htm

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002811/12
to the Commission**

Liam Aylward (ALDE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Timetable for the review of the legal framework for veterinary medicine

In response to Question E-006867/2011 on the review of the legal framework for veterinary medicinal products (VMP), the Commission said that the review is foreseen before the end of 2012. Could the Commission give an up-to-date assessment on that timetable? Will the review have started by the second half of 2012, as the Commission promised?

Any delay to the review could jeopardise plans relating to the enactment of legislation within Parliament's current term of office.

There is an extremely high administrative burden on the VMP sector and it is not within the capacity of the system currently in place to encourage innovation. Therefore, this review must commence without delay.

The Commission also said that it intended to organise a meeting with stakeholders before the end of 2011. Could the Commission give any details as to what happened and what decisions were made at that meeting?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

The review of the veterinary pharmaceutical legislation and the medicated feed legislation is now foreseen to be completed in the second quarter of 2013 in a package including also the review of the medicated feed legislation. The timeline reflects the number and potential implications of the issues and policy options to be considered in the review, in line with the views expressed by stakeholders during the public consultation. The impacts of these options will have to be thoroughly assessed.

On 23 September 2011 a stakeholders meeting took place on the review of the legal framework for veterinary medicines. A summary report of this meeting is published on the website of DG Health and Consumers ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/health/veterinary-use/rev_frame_index_en.htm

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002812/12

alla Commissione

Guido Milana (S&D)

(13 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Pescaturismo

Vista l'attenzione della Commissione alla diversificazione dell'attività di pesca e a un approccio multifunzionale rivolto al rafforzamento dell'occupazione nel settore, può essa riferire quali possono essere gli strumenti di finanziamento per questo tipo di attività, come a esempio il pescaturismo?

Risposta data da Maria Damanaki a nome della Commissione

(26 aprile 2012)

Per il periodo di programmazione 2007-2013, il Fondo europeo per la pesca ⁽¹⁾ prevede finanziamenti a favore della diversificazione delle attività alieutiche nell'ambito dell'asse 4, che promuove lo sviluppo sostenibile delle zone di pesca. In questo contesto possono essere concessi finanziamenti per:

- ristrutturare e riorientare le attività economiche, in particolare promuovendo l'ecoturismo, senza determinare però un aumento dello sforzo di pesca (articolo 44, paragrafo 1, lettera a)), del FEP);
- diversificare le attività mediante la promozione della pluriattività dei pescatori, creando posti di lavoro aggiuntivi all'esterno del settore della pesca (articolo 44, paragrafo 1, lettera c)), del FEP);
- le infrastrutture per la piccola pesca e il turismo (articolo 44, paragrafo 1, lettera e)), del FEP).

Per il nuovo periodo di programmazione 2014-2020, nella sua proposta relativa al Fondo europeo per gli affari marittimi e la pesca (FEAMP) ⁽²⁾, la Commissione ha previsto misure analoghe a favore della diversificazione e della creazione di posti di lavoro nelle zone di pesca, che interessano anche le attività turistiche, nel capitolo sullo sviluppo sostenibile delle zone di pesca.

Inoltre la proposta relativa al FEAMP prevede finanziamenti anche per gli operatori dediti alla pesca costiera artigianale che desiderano sviluppare la loro attività al di fuori dal settore della pesca, per il riadattamento delle navi che praticano la piccola pesca costiera e sotto forma di avviamento di imprese. Le attività esterne al settore della pesca includono ovviamente tra le attività possibili anche il turismo.

⁽¹⁾ Regolamento (CE) n. 1198/2006 del Consiglio.

⁽²⁾ COM(2011)804 definitivo.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002812/12
to the Commission
Guido Milana (S&D)
(13 March 2012)

Subject: Fishing tourism

Given the Commission's recent focus on diversification in fishing and a multi-functional approach aimed at strengthening employment in the sector, can it state what financing instruments there may be for activities of this kind, such as fishing tourism for example?

Answer given by Ms Damanaki on behalf of the Commission
(26 April 2012)

Under the European Fisheries Fund ⁽¹⁾, for the programming period 2007-2013, diversification activities in fisheries communities are supported under the Axis 4 which promotes the sustainable development of fisheries areas. In this framework, support is available for:

- restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided that these activities do not result in an increase in fishing effort (Article 44 (1)(a) of the EFF);
- diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of additional jobs outside the fisheries sector (Article 44(1)(c) of the EFF);
- infrastructures related to small fisheries and tourism (Article 44(1)(e) of the EFF).

For the new programming period 2014-2020, in its proposal for a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) ⁽²⁾, the Commission has foreseen similar measures in the Chapter on Sustainable development of fisheries areas supporting diversification and job creation in fisheries areas which covers also tourism activities.

In addition the draft EMFF also foresees support for small scale fishermen who want to develop business outside the fishing sector for the retrofitting of small scale coastal fishing vessels and in the form of a business start-up. Activities outside the fishing sector cover of course among other possible activities also tourism.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation 1198/2006.

⁽²⁾ COM(2011) 804 final.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002813/12

alla Commissione

Niccolò Rinaldi (ALDE)

(13 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Etichettatura del «gelato artigianale»

Il gelato artigianale è uno dei prodotti di massa più apprezzati e costituisce, in modo uniforme sul territorio europeo, un elemento importante della dieta degli europei, in particolare dei più giovani.

La denominazione «gelato artigianale» è utilizzata in quasi tutti gli Stati membri europei e rappresenta un indizio di qualità del prodotto. Tuttavia a tale denominazione non corrispondono alcune norme europee che ne stabiliscono i criteri d'uso, permettendo pratiche assai diverse da uno Stato membro ad e anche un abuso del termine artigianale, per altro protetto e disciplinato in alcuni ordinamenti nazionali come quello della Germania.

Nell'ottica del mercato interno e della protezione dei consumatori e al fine di pervenire a una reale trasparenza del prodotto, ritiene la Commissione necessario procedere a una normativa europea che disciplini modalità di produzione e tipologia degli ingredienti necessari per poter fregiare un gelato con la qualifica di «artigianale»?

In assenza di tale disciplina, tanto a livello europeo quanto a livello nazionale, reputa essa che il consumatore sia tratto in inganno sulla reale qualità del prodotto e che gli autentici artigiani gelatai siano esposti a una concorrenza sleale, da cui non possono difendersi?

Risposta data da John Dalli a nome della Commissione

(30 aprile 2012)

Nelle consultazioni che hanno preceduto l'adozione del regolamento (UE) n. 1169/2011 ⁽¹⁾ non è stato raggiunto un consenso sul modo migliore di trattare le definizioni volontarie come «puro», «artigianale» e «autentico». Dato che tali termini sono legati alla cultura e ai costumi nazionali, è stato concordato che occorre valutarli localmente, sulla base della giurisprudenza nazionale o di orientamenti decisi a livello locale. Il regolamento che sarà applicato dal 13 dicembre 2014 migliora però i requisiti generali applicabili alle informazioni volontarie sugli alimenti, stabilendo in particolare che esse non devono trarre in inganno, essere ambigue o confondere i consumatori e che, se del caso, devono basarsi su dati scientifici. La norma conferisce inoltre alla Commissione il potere di regolamentare le definizioni volontarie quando hanno basi divergenti che possono trarre in inganno o confondere i consumatori.

Se dovesse risultare necessario armonizzare l'utilizzo di determinate definizioni volontarie, il regolamento dà la possibilità di farlo. Per il momento la Commissione non dispone tuttavia di prove del fatto che la mancanza di un'armonizzazione della definizione «artigianale» a livello dell'Unione europea sia causa di una distorsione significativa del funzionamento del mercato interno e di confusione tra i consumatori.

⁽¹⁾ Regolamento (UE) n. 1169/2011 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 25 ottobre 2011, relativo alla fornitura di informazioni sugli alimenti ai consumatori, che modifica i regolamenti (CE) n. 1924/2006 e (CE) n. 1925/2006 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio e abroga la direttiva 87/250/CEE della Commissione, la direttiva 90/496/CEE del Consiglio, la direttiva 1999/10/CE della Commissione, la direttiva 2000/13/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, le direttive 2002/67/CE e 2008/5/CE della Commissione e il regolamento (CE) n. 608/2004 della Commissione, GU L 304 del 22.11.2011, pag.18.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002813/12
to the Commission**

Niccolò Rinaldi (ALDE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Labelling of home-made ice cream

Home-made ice cream is one of the best loved mass products available today throughout Europe and forms an important part of the European diet, especially for younger Europeans.

The designation 'home-made ice cream' is used by almost all the Member States and has become synonymous with product quality. However, because its use is not subject to criteria laid down under European rules, practices can vary greatly from one Member State to another, and the term 'home-made', is open to abuse, although it is protected and regulated by law in some countries, for example Germany.

From an internal market and consumer protection perspective, and in order to achieve genuine product transparency, does the Commission consider it necessary to implement European regulations on the production methods and types of ingredients enabling ice cream to be described as 'home-made'?

Given that there is no such legislation, either at European or national level, does it believe that consumers are being misled about the true quality of the product and that the makers of genuinely home-made ice cream are being exposed to unfair competition that they cannot withstand?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

During the consultations that preceded the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011⁽¹⁾, there was no consensus on the best way forward to deal with the case of voluntary terms such as 'pure', 'home made' and 'authentic'. Given that those terms are linked to national culture and practices, it has been agreed that they should be assessed locally, through national case law or guidance set at national level. The regulation, which will apply from 13 December 2014, enhances however the general requirements applicable to voluntary food information. In particular, it provides that it shall not be misleading, ambiguous or confusing for the consumer and, where appropriate, shall be based on relevant scientific data. In addition, the legislation empowers the Commission to regulate voluntary terms, when they are provided on divergent basis which might mislead or confuse the consumer.

Should there be evidence that there is a need to harmonise the use of certain voluntary terms, the regulation provides the means to do so. However, at this stage, the Commission has no evidence that the lack of harmonisation at European Union level of the term 'home made' causes any significant distortion in the functioning of the internal market and confusion among consumers.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004, OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 18.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002814/12

alla Commissione
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(13 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Devastante impatto ambientale del progetto di costruzione della diga Monte Nieddu — Is Canargius in violazione delle direttive sulla tutela ambientale

Il Consorzio di bonifica per la Sardegna meridionale lo scorso 30.12.2011 ha indetto una gara d'appalto per l'affidamento dei lavori di realizzazione della diga di Monte Nieddu, della traversa di Is Canargius e delle opere connesse di importo pari a circa 56 milioni di euro ⁽¹⁾. Questo grande progetto prevede in sintesi la costruzione di una gigantesca diga sul Rio di Monte Nieddu (nei comuni di Sarroch, Pula e Villa S. Pietro in Provincia di Cagliari), con una capacità potenziale di invaso di 35,4 milioni di metri cubi di acqua e di una traversa sul Rio Is Canargius, destinata successivamente a diventare una diga con un invaso di circa 8 milioni di metri cubi di acqua potenziali. I due invasi dovrebbero inoltre essere collegati da una galleria di valico lunga circa 1 km. Questo progetto dall'impatto ambientale devastante, visto che dovrebbe realizzarsi nella zona SIC «Foresta di Monte Arcosu» (codice ITB041105) tutelata ai sensi della direttiva 92/43/CEE, non è altro che la ripresa dei lavori interrotti anni addietro per dichiarate carenze progettuali e attuative. Nello specifico questi lavori, nonostante gli ingenti importi pubblici stanziati, sono stati iniziati il 21.1.1999 e poi sospesi nel febbraio 2002, risultando attuati per meno del 20 %.

Come denunciato dalle associazioni ecologiste Amici della terra, Lega per l'abolizione della caccia e Gruppo d'intervento giuridico, il progetto per la costruzione di questa diga non prevede le necessarie reti di adduzione né la procedura di valutazione di incidenza (direttiva 92/43/CEE) né la procedura di V.I.A. (direttive 85/337/CEE, 97/11/CE) né la procedura di V.A.S. (direttiva 2001/42/CE). Queste valutazioni non sono state estese neanche alle necessarie opere complementari (reti di adduzione, viabilità, ecc.) e il progetto non contempla alcuna misura volta al risparmio idrico e al riutilizzo delle acque depurate.

Quali concrete iniziative intende intraprendere la Commissione nei confronti delle competenti autorità locali che hanno autorizzato questo progetto in palese violazione delle direttive 92/43/CEE, 2011/92/UE (già 85/337/CEE e 97/11/CE) e 2001/42/CE?

Considerato che la Sardegna possiede già 32 bacini di medie/grandi dimensioni con capacità massima di 2 miliardi e 280 milioni di metri cubi di acqua ⁽²⁾ (quasi un sesto della risorsa invasabile del territorio nazionale) e più di 350 milioni di metri cubi annui di reflui civili, depurati ma non utilizzati, ritiene la Commissione in linea con le proprie raccomandazioni in materia di risparmio idrico, che una corretta gestione del sistema idrico sardo esistente renderebbe inutile tale progetto devastante per l'ambiente e per le finanze pubbliche?

Risposta data da Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione

(10 maggio 2012)

La Commissione è a conoscenza del progetto cui l'onorevole parlamentare fa riferimento e sta attualmente valutando una denuncia in merito, che riguarda tra l'altro l'applicazione delle direttive 2011/92/CE ⁽³⁾, 92/43/CEE ⁽⁴⁾ e 2001/42/CE ⁽⁵⁾ al progetto in questione.

Per quanto concerne l'uso delle risorse idriche in Sardegna, nel 2007 ⁽⁶⁾ la Commissione ha pubblicato una comunicazione sul problema della carenza idrica e della siccità nella quale propone una gerarchizzazione delle scelte idriche che favorisca il risparmio d'acqua piuttosto che l'utilizzo di nuove sorgenti. Tuttavia, è opportuno tenere presente che la legislazione dell'UE non prevede alcun obbligo giuridico di applicazione di tale gerarchizzazione. D'altro canto, la direttiva 2000/60/CE (la direttiva quadro in materia di acque) ⁽⁷⁾ impone comunque agli Stati membri di raggiungere un buono stato di tutti i corpi idrici entro il 2015 e di applicare nel frattempo il principio di non deterioramento (articolo 4). Pertanto, qualsiasi progetto che possa incidere negativamente sullo stato di un corpo idrico è soggetto alle disposizioni ed eccezioni di cui all'articolo 4 della direttiva quadro in materia di acque.

La Commissione deciderà, sulla base dei risultati dalla valutazione in corso, le prossime misure da prendere in quest'ambito.

⁽¹⁾ Base di gara pari a euro 55.916.104,01 + 685.476,50 (oneri di sicurezza) + I.V.A. e criterio di aggiudicazione al prezzo più basso.

⁽²⁾ Registro Italiano Dighe — Ufficio periferico di Cagliari 2011.

⁽³⁾ GU L 26 del 28.1.2012.

⁽⁴⁾ GU L 206 del 22.7.1992.

⁽⁵⁾ GU L 197 del 21.7.2001.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2007)414 def. del 18.7.2007.

⁽⁷⁾ GU L 327 del 22.12.2000.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002814/12
to the Commission
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
 (13 March 2012)

Subject: Devastating environmental impact of the proposed construction of the Monte Nieddu-Is Canargius dam in violation of environmental protection directives

The consortium for the development of southern Sardinia issued a tender for the construction of the Monte Nieddu dam and the Is Canargius crossing and related works amounting to approximately EUR 56 million on 30 December 2011 ⁽¹⁾. This major project essentially involves the construction of a giant dam on the Monte Nieddu river (in the municipalities of Sarroch, Pula and Villa S. Pietro in the province of Cagliari) to produce a reservoir with a potential capacity of 35.4 million m³ of water and a crossing over the Is Canargius river, which is later to become a dam with a potential storage capacity of about 8 million m³. The two dams are also to be connected by a tunnel about 1 kilometre long. This project will have a devastating impact on the environment, as the construction will take place on the 'Foresta di Monte Arcosu' site of Community importance (code ITB041105) that is protected pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC. It is, in effect, nothing more than the resumption of the work interrupted years ago due to shortcomings in design and implementation. More specifically, and despite the huge public funds earmarked for it, the work in question began on 21 January 1999 and was suspended in February 2002, when it was less than 20 % complete.

As already reported by environmental associations (Friends of the Earth, Lega per l'abolizione della caccia (League for the abolition of hunting), and Gruppo d'intervento giuridico (legal action group)), this dam construction project does not provide for the necessary water supply networks or for assessment of the implications (Directive 92/43/EEC), the EIA procedure (Directives 85/337/EEC and 97/11/EC) or the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure (Directive 2001/42/EC). The assessments have not even been extended to the necessary ancillary works (water supply networks, roads, etc.) and the project does not include any water-saving measures or reuse of treated water.

What specific steps will the Commission take against the local authorities that have authorised the project in clear violation of Directives 92/43/EEC and 2011/92/EU (formerly Directives 85/337/EEC and 97/11/EC) and Directive 2001/42/EC?

Given that Sardinia already has 32 medium/large reservoirs with a combined capacity of 2.280 billion m³ of water ⁽²⁾ (almost one sixth of Italy's total resources) and more than 350 million m³ of municipal wastewater per year, which is cleaned but not used, does the Commission not feel that if the existing Sardinian water system were managed correctly, in line with Commission recommendations on water saving, this project, which will have a devastating impact on the environment and public finances, would be redundant?

Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission
 (10 May 2012)

The Commission is aware of the project referred to by the Honourable Member and is currently assessing a complaint on the matter, which relates, *inter alia*, to the application of Directives 2011/92/EC ⁽³⁾, 92/43/EEC ⁽⁴⁾ and 2001/42/EC ⁽⁵⁾ to this project.

As regards the use of Sardinia's water resources, the Commission issued a communication in 2007 ⁽⁶⁾ on water scarcity and droughts which proposes a water hierarchy favouring water saving rather than using new sources. However, it should be noted that there is no legal requirement in EC law to apply this hierarchy. On the other hand, however, Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive) ⁽⁷⁾ requires Member States to achieve good environmental status of all water bodies by year 2015 and in the meantime, to apply the non-deterioration principle (Article 4). Therefore, any project which is likely to have an adverse impact on the status of a water body is subject to the provisions and exceptions laid down in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive.

Based on the outcome of the ongoing assessment, the Commission will decide on its further steps in relation to this matter.

⁽¹⁾ The tender is worth EUR 55 916 104.01 + EUR 685 476.50 (security fees) + VAT, and the award criterion is the lowest price.

⁽²⁾ Italian Dams Registry — local Cagliari office 2011.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 26, 28.1.2012.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 197, 21.7.2001.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2007) 0414 final, 18.7.2007.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 327, 22.12.2000.

(Wersja polska)

**Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej E-002815/12
do Komisji**

Filip Kaczmarek (PPE)

(13 marca 2012 r.)

Przedmiot: Trudna sytuacja w obozach dla uchodźców w Ugandzie

Duży napływ ludności ze wschodniej części Demokratycznej Republiki Konga do Ugandy spowodował, że obozy dla uchodźców nie są w stanie pomieścić wszystkich przybywających tam w poszukiwaniu schronienia. Według danych UNHCR, od stycznia 2012 r. granicę z Ugandą przekroczyło co najmniej 2 tys. uchodźców z DRK. Najczęściej podawaną przez Kongijczyków przyczyną ucieczki z ojczyzny są prześladowania, które nasiliły się w wyniku ostatnich wyborów.

Uchodźcy przyjmowani na granicy Konga i Ugandy lokowani są w ośrodku tranzytowym w Nyakabandzie, około 15 km od granicy, a następnie trafiają do obozów Nakivale lub Oruchinga, w południowo-zachodniej Ugandzie. W pierwszym z nich przebywa obecnie 30,1 tys. Kongijczyków, a w drugim – 2,7 tys.

W związku z tym zwracam się z zapytaniem:

1. Czy Komisja zamierza podjąć działania, aby pomóc uchodźcom kongijskim w Ugandzie?
2. Czy Komisja ma zamiar zareagować na liczne przypadki gwałtów i prześladowań w DRK?

Odpowiedź udzielona przez komisarz Kristalinę Georgijewą w imieniu Komisji

(27 kwietnia 2012 r.)

Komisja uważnie monitoruje sytuację humanitarną po obu stronach granicy kongijsko-ugandyjskiej. W odpowiedzi na napływ uchodźców władze Ugandy, wraz z Czerwonym Krzyżem i agencją ONZ ds. uchodźców (UNHCR) podejmują odpowiednie działania. W ciągu ostatnich 6 miesięcy wzrosła liczba osób przekraczających granicę, chociaż problem ten sięga roku 2006.

Komisja realizuje już działania na rzecz kongijskich uchodźców w ramach regionalnej pomocy humanitarnej, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem Burundi i Tanzanii. Komisja jest przygotowana na podjęcie działań w odpowiedzi na każdy dramatyczny wzrost liczby uchodźców napływających do Ugandy.

W ostatnich latach Komisja nasiliła swoje działania humanitarne w obszarze ochrony, aby lepiej sprostać potrzebom ofiar konfliktu w DRK: w 2011 r. na działania związane z ochroną przeznaczono około 9 mln EUR, co najmniej porównywalna kwota zostanie przeznaczona na ten cel w 2012 r.

Jeśli chodzi o konkretną pomoc dla ofiar przemocy seksualnej, Komisja przyjęła całościowe podejście, które obejmuje doraźną pomoc medyczną, wsparcie psychospołeczne, prawne i ekonomiczne. Dnia 20 marca 2012 r. Malteser, jedna z organizacji pozarządowych finansowana z budżetu na pomoc humanitarną UE, przedstawiła w Parlamencie swoją działalność i wyjaśniła zarówno znaczenie jej prac, jak i wyzwania związane z jej realizacją.

Z punktu widzenia rozwoju Komisja patrzy na ten problem z innej, choć komplementarnej w stosunku do działań humanitarnych, perspektywy: w uzupełnieniu obecnie realizowanych programów wsparcia UE dla sektora cywilnego wymiaru sprawiedliwości w ramach unijnego Instrumentu na rzecz Stabilności finansowany będzie pakiet na rzecz reformy sektora bezpieczeństwa i stabilizacji.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002815/12
to the Commission**

Filip Kaczmarek (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Difficult situation in refugee camps in Uganda

A large influx of people into Uganda from the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has resulted in refugee camps being unable to accommodate all incoming people looking for help. According to the UNHCR, since January 2012 at least 2 000 refugees from the DRC have crossed the border into Uganda. The most frequent reason given by the Congolese for fleeing their country is persecution, which has intensified since the last elections.

Refugees accepted at the border between the DRC and Uganda are placed in a transit centre in Nyakabanda, about 15 km from the border, and are then sent to camps in Nakivale or Oruchinga. The former is currently home to 30 100 refugees from the DRC, while the latter holds 2 700.

1. Does the Commission intend to take action to help refugees from the DRC in Uganda?
2. Does the Commission intend to take action in response to the numerous cases of rape and persecution in the DRC?

Answer given by Ms Georgieva on behalf of the Commission

(27 April 2012)

The Commission is closely monitoring the humanitarian situation on both sides of the DRC-Uganda border. On the Ugandan side, the authorities, together with the Ugandan Red Cross and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), are providing an appropriate response to the influx of refugees. The number of people crossing the border has increased in the past 6 months although the problem dates back to 2006.

The Commission is already implementing a regional humanitarian response in favour of Congolese refugees, focusing on Burundi and Tanzania. The Commission is ready to respond to any dramatic increase in the flow of refugees into Uganda.

In recent years, the Commission has increased its humanitarian response in the area of protection to better meet the needs of conflict victims in DRC: in 2011 around EUR 9 million was allocated for protection-related operations and at least a similar level of engagement is foreseen in 2012.

Regarding specific support to the victims of sexual violence, the Commission has a comprehensive approach that includes emergency medical care, psychosocial and legal assistance, and economic support. On 20 March 2012, Malteser, one of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) funded from the EU's humanitarian aid budget, presented its activities in Parliament and explained both the impact of its work and the challenges in providing such a response.

From a development perspective, the Commission has been addressing this problem from different but complementary angles to the humanitarian instruments: a package for security sector reform and stabilisation will be financed by the EU's Instrument For Stability, complementing ongoing EU civilian justice sector support programmes.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-002816/12

adresată Comisiei

Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)

(13 martie 2012)

Subiect: Posibila suspendare a negocierilor cu Elveția în domeniul agriculturii

Parlamentul elvețian a cerut săptămâna trecută guvernului să suspende negocierile cu UE în domeniul agriculturii, lansate în 2008, susținând că deschiderea pieței agricole va avea un impact dezastruos asupra fermierilor elvețieni, expuși deja competiției globale. Comisia este rugată să exprime un punct de vedere oficial referitor la această problemă.

Răspuns dat de dl Ciolos în numele Comisiei

(23 aprilie 2012)

Comisia este la curent cu decizia adoptată de camera superioară a Parlamentului elvețian (Conseil des Etats). Cu toate acestea, Comisia nu a primit încă din partea guvernului elvețian (Conseil Fédéral) — responsabil de negocierile cu Comisia — o comunicare oficială în ceea ce privește intențiile sale în urma deciziei respective. Comisia așteaptă o comunicare oficială pentru a putea formula o poziție.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002816/12
to the Commission**

Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Possible suspension of agricultural negotiations with Switzerland

The Swiss Parliament last week requested its government to suspend the agricultural negotiations launched in 2008 with the EU, claiming that the opening-up of the agricultural market will have a disastrous effect on Swiss farmers, who are already exposed to global competition. Could the Commission give its official view on this issue?

Answer given by Mr Ciolos on behalf of the Commission

(23 April 2012)

The Commission is aware of the decision taken by the Upper Chamber (Conseil des Etats) of the Swiss Parliament. However, the Commission has not yet received any official communication from the Swiss Government (Conseil Fédéral), which is responsible for the negotiations with the Commission, as regards how it intends to proceed following this decision. The Commission awaits this communication before determining its response.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-002817/12
adresată Comisiei
Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(13 martie 2012)

Subiect: Aportul tolerabil de aluminiu în produsele alimentare

În cadrul unui studiu, experți ai Universității Keele (Marea Britanie) au testat 16 mari mărci de lapte pentru bebeluși. Rezultatele, publicate în 2010, arată urme de metal care depășesc nivelurile permise legal în apă. Potrivit studiului, în unele cazuri, acestea erau de peste 40 de ori mai mari decât cele din laptele matern. Comisia este rugată să precizeze dacă are cunoștință de rezultatele acestui studiu și dacă are intenția de a reanaliza reglementările în vigoare în ceea ce privește aportul tolerabil de aluminiu în produsele alimentare.

Răspuns dat de dl Dalli în numele Comisiei
(30 aprilie 2012)

Comisia are cunoștință de faptul că, în laptele pentru sugari, se poate găsi aluminiu sub formă de contaminant provenit din anumite substanțe utilizate în aceste produse în conformitate cu cerințele referitoare la compoziție prevăzute în Directiva 2006/141/CE ⁽¹⁾. Substanțele respective sunt, în principal, surse de calciu sau de fosfor. Aceste substanțe pot fi utilizate, de asemenea, ca aditivi alimentari în alimentele destinate sugarilor și copiilor de vârstă mică în conformitate cu Directiva 95/2/CE ⁽²⁾ și Regulamentul (CE) nr. 1129/2011 ⁽³⁾. Ele trebuie să respecte anumite criterii (specificații) de puritate stabilite în legislația Uniunii Europene privind aditivii alimentari.

Comisia a adoptat recent noi măsuri, în cadrul noului Regulament de punere în aplicare (UE) nr. 234/2012 ⁽⁴⁾, referitoare la specificațiile privind aditivii alimentari. Atunci când în alimentele pentru sugari și copii de vârstă mică trebuie să se utilizeze substanțe precum fosfații de calciu și citrații de calciu, sunt prevăzute limite maxime foarte stricte pentru aluminiu. Dacă se consideră necesară adoptarea unor măsuri suplimentare privind alte substanțe utilizate în aceste produse, în viitor ar putea fi stabilite noi limite maxime pentru aluminiu.

⁽¹⁾ JO L 401, 30.12.2006.

⁽²⁾ JO L 61, 18.3.1995.

⁽³⁾ JO L 295, 12.11.2011.

⁽⁴⁾ JO L 78, 17.3.2012.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002817/12
to the Commission**

Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Tolerable aluminium content in food products

In a study, experts from Keele University (United Kingdom) tested 16 major brands of baby milk. The results published in 2010 show traces of metal above the legally permitted levels in water. According to the study, in some cases these levels were 40 times higher than those in breast milk. Can the Commission say whether it is aware of the results of this study and whether it intends to review the regulations in force on the tolerable aluminium content of food products?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

The Commission is aware that aluminium may occur in baby milk as a contaminant coming from certain substances used in those products according to the compositional requirements laid down in Directive 2006/141/EC ⁽¹⁾. The substances concerned are mainly calcium or phosphorus sources. These substances may be used also as food additives for foods for infants and young children Directive 95/2/EC ⁽²⁾ and Regulation (EC) No 1129/2011 ⁽³⁾. They have to comply with specific purity criteria (specifications) listed in European Union legislation on food additives.

The Commission has recently adopted new measures in the framework of a new implementing Regulation (EU) No 234/2012 ⁽⁴⁾ on specifications of food additives. Very strict maximum limits for aluminium are foreseen when substances like calcium phosphates and calcium citrates are to be used in foods for infants and young children. If additional measures concerning other substances used in these products are considered as necessary, new maximum limits for aluminium may also be adopted in the future.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 401, 30.12.2006.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 61, 18.3.1995.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 295, 12.11.2011.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 78, 17.3.2012.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-002818/12
adresată Comisiei
Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(13 martie 2012)

Subiect: Stadiul redactării unei noi propuneri de regulament privind transparența cheltuielilor FEOGA și FEADR

În luna noiembrie 2010, am solicitat Comisiei, prin intermediul unei întrebări scrise, o poziție cu privire la hotărârea Curții Europene de Justiție în cauzele C-92/09 și C-93/09, prin care dispozițiile Regulamentului (CE) nr. 1290/2005 și ale Regulamentului (CE) nr. 259/2008 au fost declarate parțial nevalide, respectiv complet nevalide. Comisia a fost rugată să precizeze ce măsuri are în vedere pentru a asigura în continuare publicarea informațiilor cu privire la beneficiarii FEOGA și FEADR, ținând cont de imperativul transparenței cheltuielilor în acest domeniu.

Comisia a răspuns că „va trece rapid la redactarea unei noi propuneri de regulament al Consiliului și al Parlamentului (modificare a Regulamentului (CE) nr. 1290/2005), care va ține cont de obiecțiile formulate de Curte.”

În prezent, în România, opinia publică este preocupată de posibilitatea ca un fost prim-ministru să fi beneficiat de plăți directe pentru o activitate agricolă fictivă, dar nu există informații publice disponibile, ca urmare a hotărârii Curții menționate mai sus.

Comisia este rugată să precizeze care este stadiul redactării unei noi propuneri de regulament în materie, conform propriei declarații din anul 2010.

Răspuns dat de dl Ciolos în numele Comisiei
(3 mai 2012)

După cum știe distinsul membru, în urma hotărârii Curții de Justiție în cauzele C-92/09 și C-93/09, din motive de claritate și certitudine juridică, Comisia a modificat regulamentul de punere în aplicare în vigoare, și anume Regulamentul (CE) nr. 259/2008 ⁽¹⁾, cu scopul de a restrânge domeniul său de aplicare la persoanele juridice. Acest lucru s-a realizat prin Regulamentul de punere în aplicare (UE) nr. 410/2011 ⁽²⁾. Datele referitoare la persoanele juridice — societăți — sunt așadar disponibile în continuare în bazele de date ale statelor membre. Portalul UE care oferă acces la bazele de date ale statelor membre din UE este disponibil la următoarea adresă: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/funding/index_ro.htm.

Comisia are în pregătire o nouă propunere care ține seama de obiecțiile formulate în hotărârea Curții, mai precis în ceea ce privește protecția datelor, dar respectă în același timp și cerințele legate de transparență. Noua propunere se află încă în dezbateri în sânul Comisiei și urmează să fie trimisă spre adoptare Consiliului și Parlamentului înainte de vacanța parlamentară.

⁽¹⁾ Regulamentul (CE) nr. 259/2008 al Comisiei din 18 martie 2008 de stabilire a normelor de aplicare a Regulamentului (CE) nr. 1290/2005 al Consiliului în ceea ce privește publicarea informațiilor referitoare la beneficiarii fondurilor provenite din Fondul European de Garantare Agricolă (FEGA) și din Fondul European Agricol pentru Dezvoltare Rurală (FEADR) (JO L 76 din 19.3.2008, p.28).

⁽²⁾ JO L 108 din 28.4.2011, p. 24.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002818/12
to the Commission**

Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Progress on drafting a new proposal for a regulation on the transparency of EAGGF and EAFRD expenditure

In November 2010 I asked the Commission, through a written question, to take a position on the decision of the European Court of Justice in Cases C-92/09 and C-93/09, through which the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 and Regulation (EC) No 259/2008 were declared partially invalid and completely invalid, respectively. The Commission was requested to specify what measures it intended to take to ensure the continued publication of information on the beneficiaries of EAGGF and EAFRD aid taking into account the need for transparency of expenditure in this domain.

The Commission responded that it 'will swiftly embark on the drafting of a new proposal for a Council and Parliament Regulation (amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005), which will take account of the objections raised by the Court'.

Public opinion in Romania is currently preoccupied by the possibility that a former Prime Minister could have benefited from direct payments for a fictitious agricultural activity, but there is no public information available, following the abovementioned decision of the Court.

Can the Commission say what stage has been reached in drafting a new proposal for a regulation on this matter, in accordance with its own statement of 2010?

Answer given by Mr Ciolos on behalf of the Commission

(3 May 2012)

As the Honourable Member knows, after the judgment of the Court of Justice in Cases C-92/09 and C-93/09, the Commission has, for the sake of clarity and legal security, modified the existing implementing Regulation (EC) No 259/2008 ⁽¹⁾ in order to restrict its scope to legal persons only: this has been achieved through Implementing Regulation (EU) No 410/2011 ⁽²⁾. Data of legal persons-companies are therefore still available in the EU Member States' databases. The EU portal which gives access to the EU Member States' database can be accessed via the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/funding/index_en.htm

The Commission is currently preparing a new proposal taking account of the objections made in the Court's judgment, in particular the data protection concerns, while complying with the transparency objective. The new proposal is still in discussion within the Commission with the aim of submitting it before the summer break for adoption by the Council and Parliament.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) N° 259/2008 of 18 March 2008 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation No 1290/2005 as regards the publication of information on the beneficiaries of funds deriving from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 28).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 108, 28.4.2011, p. 24.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-002819/12
adresată Comisiei
Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(13 martie 2012)

Subiect: Siguranța alimentară — creșterea numărului de îmbolnăviri cu campylobacteria

Conform unui raport recent publicat de Agenția Europeană pentru Siguranța Alimentară (AES), numărul cazurilor de campylobacterioză este în creștere în Uniunea Europeană. Astfel, numărul cazurilor de îmbolnăvire cu campylobacteria a crescut cu 7%, ajungând la 212064 în 2010; acesta a fost al cincilea an consecutiv în care s-a înregistrat o înmulțire a infecțiilor produse de această bacterie. Comisia este rugată să precizeze ce măsuri are în vedere pentru identificarea cauzelor și pentru stoparea acestei răspândiri alarmante.

Răspuns dat de dl Dalli în numele Comisiei
(30 aprilie 2012)

Comisia cunoaște numărul mare de cazuri de campylobacterioză la om în Uniunea Europeană. Datorită unui studiu de referință dedicat din 2008, prevalența generală la populațiile de pui de carne din statele membre este bine cunoscută.

În aprilie 2011, Autoritatea Europeană pentru Siguranța Alimentară (EFSA) a adoptat un aviz privind evaluarea riscului microbiologic pentru *Campylobacter* în carnea de pui ⁽¹⁾. Prin urmare, Comisia a lansat o analiză cost-beneficiu asupra măsurilor de control pentru *Campylobacter* în diferite etape din lanțul alimentar. Aceasta va fi disponibilă în a doua jumătate a anului 2012 și va completa avizul EFSA cu cifre/date economice asupra celor mai importante opțiuni de control.

Pe baza rezultatelor acestei analize cost-beneficiu și a avizului EFSA, se va lansa o discuție privind cele mai adecvate măsuri de gestionare a riscului în strânsă cooperare cu statele membre și cu părțile interesate.

⁽¹⁾ EFSA Journal 2011;9(4):2105 (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2105.htm>).

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002819/12
to the Commission**

Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Food safety — the growth in the number of *Campylobacter* infections

According to a recently published report from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the number of *Campylobacter* infection cases is growing in the European Union. The number of cases of *Campylobacter* infection grew by 7 %, reaching 212 064 in 2010, the fifth consecutive year in which a growth in the number of infections caused by this bacterium was registered. What measures are being envisaged by the Commission to identify the causes and to stop the alarming spread of this infection?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

The Commission is aware of the high number of cases of human campylobacteriosis in the European Union. Thanks to a dedicated baseline survey in 2008, the overall prevalence in broiler populations in the Member States is well known.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted an opinion on microbiological risk assessment of *Campylobacter* in broiler meat in April 2011 ⁽¹⁾. As a follow-up, the Commission launched a cost-benefit analysis of the control measures for *Campylobacter* on different stages of the food chain. This will be available in the second half of 2012 and will complement the EFSA opinion with economic figures/data on the most important control options.

Based on the outcome of this cost-benefit analysis and EFSA's opinion, a discussion will be launched on the most appropriate risk management measures in close cooperation with Member States and stakeholders.

⁽¹⁾ EFSA Journal 2011;9(4):2105 (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2105.htm>).

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-002820/12
adresată Comisiei
Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(13 martie 2012)

Subiect: Directiva 2008/120/CE a Consiliului din 18 decembrie 2008

Ca urmare a punerii în aplicare a reglementărilor privind bunăstarea găinilor ouătoare (Directiva 1999/74/CE a Consiliului), piața românească a înregistrat un deficit de 30 de milioane de ouă în lunile ianuarie și februarie 2012, comparativ cu perioada similară a anului trecut. Acest deficit reprezintă circa 12 % din necesar. De asemenea, prețul ouălor a crescut cu 12,7 procente, determinând scumpiri de-a lungul lanțului de procesare. Până la 1 ianuarie 2013, producătorii europeni trebuie să pună în aplicare obligația de a transforma grajdurile individuale pentru scoafe în adăposturi de grup, prevăzută de Directiva 2008/120/CE a Consiliului din 18 decembrie 2008 privind protecția porcilor. Având în vedere:

- creșterea anticipată a costurilor de producție;
- experiența dezechilibrului pe piață ca urmare a punerii în aplicare a Directivei 1999/74/CE a Consiliului;
- situația financiară dificilă a producătorilor în contextul economic general,

Comisia este rugată să precizeze dacă ar putea avea în vedere extinderea termenului prevăzut pentru a transforma grajdurile individuale pentru scoafe în adăposturi de grup.

Răspuns dat de dl Dalli în numele Comisiei
(30 aprilie 2012)

Comisia nu intenționează să propună extinderea termenului legal prevăzut pentru punerea în aplicare a dispozițiilor privind adăposturile de grup pentru scoafe. Directiva privind protecția porcilor ⁽¹⁾ a prevăzut o perioadă de tranziție suficient de lungă pentru a le permite producătorilor să se adapteze. Extinderea termenului legal ar da naștere unei situații de concurență neloială față de producătorii care au realizat investițiile necesare cu scopul de a se conforma dispozițiilor referitoare la adăposturile de grup pentru scoafe până la 1 ianuarie 2013.

⁽¹⁾ JO L 47, 18.2.2009, p. 5.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002820/12
to the Commission**

Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008

Following the implementation of the rules governing the welfare of laying hens (Council Directive 1999/74/EC), the Romanian market recorded a 30 million drop in the number of eggs produced in January and February 2012 over the same period in 2011. That figure amounts to around 12 % of Romania's needs. At the same time, the price of eggs rose by 12.7 %, triggering price increases throughout the processing chain. By 1 January 2013, European producers have to fulfil the requirement of converting individual sow pens into loose-house systems, as stipulated in Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs. In view of:

- the anticipated growth in production costs;
- the market imbalance experienced following the implementation of Council Directive 1999/74/EC;
- and the difficult financial situation of farmers in the current economic climate;

Can the Commission state whether it might consider prolonging the deadline for converting individual sow pens into loose-house systems?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

The Commission does not intend to propose postponing the legal deadline to implement group housing of sows. The directive on the protection of pigs ⁽¹⁾ provided a long enough transitional period for producers to adapt. Postponing the legal deadline would create a situation of unfair competition for those producers who have made the necessary investments to comply with group housing of sows by 1 January 2013.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 47, 18.2.2009, p.5.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002821/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)
(13 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Κατασκευή μεταλλείου στην περιοχή Κοκκινάρι του Νομού Φωκίδας

Έντονη ανησυχία και διαμαρτυρίες σε κατοίκους και φορείς της περιοχής του Νομού Φωκίδας έχει προκαλέσει η σχεδιαζόμενη κατασκευή μεταλλείου στην περιοχή Κοκκινάρι του Νομού Φωκίδας. Όπως καταγγέλλουν, η κατασκευή και λειτουργία του εν λόγω μεταλλείου θα επιφέρει καταστροφικά αποτελέσματα τόσο στο ευρύτερο οικοσύστημα της περιοχής, το οποίο γειτνιάζει με περιοχή Natura 2000, όσο και στην ποιότητα ζωής των κατοίκων. Με δεδομένες τις ανησυχίες και αντιδράσεις φορέων και κατοίκων της τοπικής κοινωνίας, ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Μπορεί να βεβαιώσει η Επιτροπή ότι στο πλαίσιο της Μελέτης Περιβαλλοντικών Επιπτώσεων με βάση την οδηγία 85/337 έχουν ληφθεί υπόψη οι πιθανές επιπτώσεις των προπαρασκευαστικών και κύριων εργασιών εξόρυξης στην ποιότητα και ποσότητα του νερού, όπως ορίζει η οδηγία 2000/60;
2. Έχει τηρηθεί η οδηγία 2006/21/EK για τα εξορυκτικά απόβλητα, σύμφωνα με την οποία απαιτείται ξεχωριστή αδειοδότηση για τη διαχείριση των αποβλήτων;
3. Τι μέτρα προτίθεται να πάρει ώστε να τηρηθεί η κοινοτική νομοθεσία και να προστατευτεί το περιβάλλον από την σχεδιαζόμενη κατασκευή του εν λόγω μεταλλείου;

Απάντηση του κ. Ροτοζνίκ εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(7 Μαΐου 2012)

Το έργο, που ξεκίνησε το 2005, υποβλήθηκε σε μελέτη περιβαλλοντικών επιπτώσεων (ΜΠΕ) σύμφωνα με τις απαιτήσεις της οδηγίας 2011/92/ΕΕ⁽¹⁾. Κατά τη διάρκεια της διαδικασίας ΜΠΕ πραγματοποιήθηκαν εκτεταμένες διαβουλεύσεις: όλες οι αρμόδιες αρχές (συμπεριλαμβανομένων των περιβαλλοντικών), οι οργανισμοί τοπικής αυτοδιοίκησης και το ενδιαφερόμενο κοινό είχαν την ευκαιρία να εκφράσουν τις παρατηρήσεις και τη γνώμη τους. Η ΜΠΕ ολοκληρώθηκε με την έκδοση της Κοινής Υπουργικής Απόφασης 129843/2087/28.7.2011, στην οποία ελήφθησαν υπόψη οι παρατηρήσεις που διατυπώθηκαν. Η οδηγία θεσπίζει κυρίως διαδικαστικές απαιτήσεις και δεν περιλαμβάνει απαιτήσεις σχετικά με τον ποιοτικό έλεγχο της μελέτης περιβαλλοντικών επιπτώσεων. Συνεπώς, ο έλεγχος του περιεχομένου της μελέτης περιβαλλοντικών επιπτώσεων εμπίπτει στην ευθύνη των αρμόδιων εθνικών αρχών. Βάσει των ανωτέρω, η Επιτροπή αδυνατεί να διαπιστώσει παράβαση της οδηγίας 2011/92/ΕΕ.

Όσον αφορά τις ενδεχόμενες επιπτώσεις στα επιφανειακά και υπόγεια ύδατα, ο φορέας υλοποίησης του έργου και οι περιβαλλοντικές αρχές θα έπρεπε να έχουν λάβει πλήρως υπόψη τις διατάξεις της οδηγίας-πλαισίου για τα ύδατα⁽²⁾. Η υποχρέωση αυτή περιλαμβάνει τη συμμόρφωση με το άρθρο 4 παράγραφος 7 όσον αφορά πιθανές τροποποιήσεις της κατάστασης των υδάτων. Εναπόκειται στις εθνικές αρμόδιες αρχές να διασφαλίσουν ότι τηρούνται οι διατάξεις της οδηγίας. Βάσει των διαθέσιμων πληροφοριών, η Επιτροπή δεν διαπίστωσε παράβαση της οδηγίας-πλαισίου για τα ύδατα.

Η οδηγία 2006/21/EK⁽³⁾ σχετικά με τη διαχείριση των αποβλήτων της εξορυκτικής βιομηχανίας, επιβάλλει την αδειοδότηση του φορέα εκμετάλλευσης πριν την έναρξη των εργασιών (άρθρο 7 παράγραφος 1). Ωστόσο, δεν είναι υποχρεωτική ξεχωριστή αδειοδότηση καθώς η οδηγία (το ίδιο άρθρο) επιτρέπει τον συνδυασμό αδειών που καλύπτουν διαφορετικές νομοθετικές πράξεις.

⁽¹⁾ ΕΕ L 26 της 28.1.2012.

⁽²⁾ Οδηγία 2000/60/EK, ΕΕ L 327 της 22.12.2000.

⁽³⁾ ΕΕ L 102 της 11.4.2006.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002821/12
to the Commission**

Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Construction of a mine in the Kokkinari area of the prefecture of Fokida

Plans to build a mine in the Kokkinari area of the prefecture of Fokida have seriously alarmed local inhabitants and organisations, leading to protests. They complain that the construction and operation of such a mine would have disastrous consequences both for the ecosystem of the area as a whole, which adjoins a Natura 2000 area, and for the quality of life of local inhabitants. Given the concern of local inhabitants and organisations and their reaction to these plans, will the Commission say:

1. Can it give assurances that, within the framework of the Environmental Impact Study provided for in Directive 85/337, account has been taken of the possible effects of preparatory work and major mining operations on the quality and quantity of water, as laid down in Directive 2000/60?
2. Have the provisions of Directive 2006/21/EC on mining waste laying down that a separate authorisation is required for waste management been respected?
3. What steps does it intend to take to ensure that Community law is respected and that the environment is protected from plans to build this mine?

Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission

(7 May 2012)

The project, which was initiated in 2005, was subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA), in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2011/92/EU ⁽¹⁾. During the EIA process, an extensive consultation was carried out; all relevant authorities (including the environmental ones), local authorities and the public concerned had the opportunity to express their comments and opinions. The EIA was concluded by the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Decision 129843/2087/28.7.2011, which took into account the comments expressed. The directive lays down essentially procedural requirements and does not include any requirements on quality control of the environmental impact study; hence, the verification of the substance of the environmental impact study falls within the responsibility of the competent national authorities. On the basis of the above, the Commission can not identify a breach of Directive 2011/92/EU.

As regards the potential impacts on surface and groundwater, the promoter of the project and the environmental authorities should have fully considered the provisions of the Water Framework Directive ⁽²⁾. This includes compliance with Article 4.7 as regards any modifications of the water status. It is for the national competent authorities to ensure that the provisions of the directive are respected. On the basis of the information available, the Commission has not identified a breach of the Water Framework Directive.

Directive 2006/21/EC ⁽³⁾ on the management of extractive waste includes the obligation for the operator to get a permit before the start of the operations (Article 7§1). But there is no obligation to establish a separate permit, the directive (same Article) allows combined permits covering different legislations.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 28.1.2012.

⁽²⁾ Directive 2000/60/EC, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 102, 11.4.2006.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002822/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)
(13 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Ρατσιστική αντιμετώπιση σε ελληνίδα από την αεροπορική εταιρία Aer Lingus

Σύμφωνα με καταγγελία ελληνίδας υπηκόου, υποχρεώθηκε από υπεργολάβο των αερογραμμών Aer Lingus να υποβληθεί σε τεστ γλωσσομάθειας στο check in του αεροδρομίου της Βαρκελώνης, συμπληρώνοντας ένα ακατανόητο και παράνομο ερωτηματολόγιο στα Αγγλικά και τα Ελληνικά, προκειμένου να την αφήσουν να επιστρέψει στην Ιρλανδία. Η ελληνίδα βρισκόταν στη Βαρκελώνη, οικογενειακώς μαζί με τον σύζυγο της και το παιδί τους. Το τεστ Αγγλικών και Ελληνικών της Aer Lingus ζητούσε ονοματεπώνυμο, ημερομηνία και τόπο γέννησης, δήλωση προορισμού και χρηματικών ποσών, αναγνώριση αριθμών, δοκιμασίες γνώσης, ανάγνωση, καθώς και σκίτσα. Η επιβάτης υπέβαλε καταγγελία τόσο στον υπεργολάβο όσο και στις αερογραμμές, καθώς επίσης έχει διαβιβάσει το περιστατικό στην Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Δεδομένου ότι η πρακτική που εφαρμόστηκε από την αεροπορική εταιρία αποτελεί ρατσιστική διάκριση και παραβιάζει κατάφωρα την Ευρωπαϊκή Συνθήκη, την Συνθήκη Σένγκεν και την Σύμβαση για τα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα, ποια είναι τα μέτρα που σκοπεύει να λάβει η Επιτροπή εναντίον της συγκεκριμένης εταιρίας;
2. Ελέγχει η Επιτροπή κατά πόσον η συγκεκριμένη πρακτική αποτελεί πάγια πολιτική της εν λόγω εταιρίας καθώς αυτό ισχυρίστηκε προκειμένου να πείσει την επιβάτη να υποβληθεί στα σχετικά τεστ;
3. Έχει περιέλθει στην αντίληψη της εκτεταμένη χρήση παρόμοιων πρακτικών από αεροπορικές εταιρίες στην Ευρώπη;

Απάντηση της κας Reding εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(2 Μαΐου 2012)

Το άρθρο 21 παράγραφος 1 της Συνθήκης για τη λειτουργία της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης (ΕΕ) ορίζει ότι κάθε πολίτης της Ένωσης έχει το δικαίωμα να κυκλοφορεί και να διαμένει ελεύθερα στο έδαφος των κρατών μελών, υπό τους περιορισμούς και τις προϋποθέσεις που προβλέπονται στις Συνθήκες και στις διατάξεις που θεσπίζονται για την εφαρμογή τους. Οι εν λόγω περιορισμοί και προϋποθέσεις περιέχονται στην οδηγία 2004/38/ΕΚ ⁽¹⁾.

Η Επιτροπή δεν γνωρίζει τα καταγγελλόμενα γεγονότα και τις περιστάσεις της συγκεκριμένης περίπτωσης, που περιγράφει το Αξιότιμο Μέλος.

Σε γενικές γραμμές, το άρθρο 4 παράγραφος 1 και το άρθρο 5 παράγραφος 1 της οδηγίας προβλέπουν ότι, με την επιφύλαξη των διατάξεων επί των ταξιδιωτικών εγγράφων που ισχύουν για τους εθνικούς συνοριακούς ελέγχους, όλοι οι πολίτες της ΕΕ οι οποίοι φέρουν ισχύον δελτίο ταυτότητας έχουν το δικαίωμα να εγκαταλείπουν το έδαφος κράτους μέλους προκειμένου να μεταβούν σε άλλο κράτος μέλος.

Τα κράτη μέλη δεν πρέπει να απαιτούν από πολίτες της ΕΕ να υποβληθούν σε τεστ γλωσσομάθειας για να περάσουν τα σύνορα και, κατ' αρχήν, δεν πρέπει σε καμία περίπτωση να επιβληθεί κανένας τέτοιος όρος για αυτό το σκοπό από τους μεταφορείς.

Ωστόσο, η Επιτροπή δεν γνωρίζει τα συγκεκριμένα γεγονότα της περίπτωσης ούτε κάποια άλλη περίπτωση κατά την οποία επιβλήθηκαν τέτοιες υποχρεώσεις σε πολίτες της ΕΕ. Σύμφωνα με πληροφορίες που έχει στη διάθεση της η Επιτροπή, ούτε η ισπανική ούτε η ιρλανδική νομοθεσία δεν απαιτούν να γίνει τεστ γλωσσομάθειας για πολίτες της ΕΕ που ταξιδεύουν. Ομοίως, οι γενικοί όροι μεταφοράς της Aer Lingus δεν προβλέπουν κανέναν τέτοιο έλεγχο.

⁽¹⁾ Οδηγία 2004/38/ΕΚ του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου, της 29ης Απριλίου 2004, σχετικά με το δικαίωμα των πολιτών της Ένωσης και των μελών των οικογενειών τους να κυκλοφορούν και να διαμένουν ελεύθερα στην επικράτεια των κρατών μελών, ΕΕ L 158 της 30.04.2004, σ. 77.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002822/12
to the Commission**

Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Racist treatment of a Greek woman by Aer Lingus

A Greek citizen has alleged that she was forced by a sub-contractor of the Aer Lingus airline to undergo a language test when checking in at Barcelona airport; she had to complete an incomprehensible and illegal questionnaire in English and Greek in order to be allowed to return to Ireland. The Greek woman in question was in Barcelona with her husband and their child. The Aer Lingus English and Greek test requested her name and surname, date and place of birth, statement of destination and funds and also involved number recognition, general knowledge reading tests as well as sketches. The passenger submitted a complaint to the sub-contractor and to the airline, as well as reporting the incident to the Commission.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Given that the treatment by the airline amounts to racial discrimination and flagrantly violates the Treaty on European Union, the Schengen Agreement and the European Convention on Human Rights, what measures does it intend to take against the company in question?
2. Is it verifying to what extent this practice is standard policy of the company in question since this was asserted in order to oblige the passenger to undergo the tests in question?
3. Does it know whether similar practices are widely used by airlines in Europe?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

Article 21(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (EU) stipulates that every citizen of the Union shall have the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States, subject to the limitations and conditions laid down in the Treaties and by the measures adopted to give them effect. The respective limitations and conditions are to be found in Directive 2004/38/EC ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission is not aware of the alleged facts and circumstances of the individual case as described in the question by the Honourable Member.

In general terms, Articles 4(1) and 5(1) of the directive provide that all EU citizens with a valid identity card or passport have the right to leave a Member State and enter another Member State without prejudice to the provisions on travel documents applicable to national border controls.

Member States may not require EU citizens to undergo a language test to be able to cross the border and as a matter of principle no such conditions could be imposed by carriers for this purpose.

However, the Commission is not aware of the specific facts of the case and of any instances where such requirements would be imposed on EU citizens. According to the information available to the Commission, neither Spanish nor Irish laws require language checks to be made on travelling EU citizens. Similarly, no such checks are foreseen in Aer Lingus' General Conditions of Carriage.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States, OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 77.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002823/12
to the Commission
Stephen Hughes (S&D)
(13 March 2012)

Subject: EU Directive 2003/59/EC

EU Directive 2003/59/EC requires bus and lorry drivers to take 35 hours of training every five years. This training is made up of modules, most of which can be chosen by the driver/haulier. There is a module which raises awareness of vulnerable road users.

In light of calls by EU citizens to make cycling safer throughout the European Union, could the module which raises awareness of vulnerable road users, such as cyclists, be made compulsory?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(24 April 2012)

The Commission draws to the Honourable Member's attention the annex ⁽¹⁾ to the directive that lists the items to be covered by the periodic training of professional drivers. The subjects are aimed to provide for a regular update of knowledge which is essential for the work of the drivers, with specific emphasis — among others — on road safety.

One of the items which is envisaged during the periodic training concerns the risks of the road which in principle indeed can include the vulnerable road users.

While the Commission has the possibility to adapt the list of modules to scientific and technical progress through the comitology procedure, the legislator has not empowered the Commission to render specific subjects compulsory.

⁽¹⁾ Annex A, Section 1, Directive 2003/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2003 on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers, OJ L 226, 10.9.2003, p. 4-17.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002824/12
alla Commissione
Debora Serracchiani (S&D)
(13 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Distruzione delle tombe di soldati italiani e inglesi in Libia

Numerose fonti giornalistiche e diplomatiche riferiscono di gravi episodi di profanazione nei cimiteri non islamici presenti sul territorio libico. I responsabili sarebbero salafiti, seguaci di un'interpretazione oltranzista dell'Islam, già protagonisti di numerosi episodi di questo tipo anche in Egitto e Tunisia.

In particolare, fra il 24 e il 26 febbraio, nel cimitero di Bengasi sono state profanate le tombe dei soldati italiani e britannici caduti nella Seconda guerra mondiale.

Questo attacco, che si è svolto in pieno giorno ed era all'apparenza molto ben organizzato, è stato documentato con riprese video, nelle quali si vedono uomini dal volto coperto che si accaniscono contro simboli cristiani ed ebraici.

Alla responsabilità degli stessi gruppi salafiti si fa risalire la distruzione di diversi santuari dell'Islam storico locale, principalmente appartenenti a confraternite sufi, venerati soprattutto nella fascia nordafricana.

Dal momento che è stata calpestata la libertà religiosa di un Paese, uno dei fondamenti della società democratica riconosciuta dalla Carta dei diritti fondamentali dell'Unione europea (art. 10), le cui disposizioni, in virtù dell'articolo 51, si applicano agli Stati membri esclusivamente nell'attuazione del diritto dell'Unione può la Commissione indicare quali azioni intende adottare per evitare che la libertà di religione continui ad essere compromessa?

Ritiene essa che nella politica di vicinato il rispetto della libertà di religione sia un fattore di interesse prioritario per l'Ue, anche sotto l'aspetto del contenimento delle frange fondamentaliste?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(23 maggio 2012)

L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente è a conoscenza degli attacchi alle tombe militari a Bengasi e constata con favore che il governo transitorio ha affermato rapidamente e pubblicamente la propria determinazione ad assicurare i colpevoli alla giustizia.

Le condizioni di sicurezza in Libia rimangono precarie, anche se stanno migliorando. L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente resta dell'avviso che la grande maggioranza della popolazione libica abbia ancora come obiettivo una transizione democratica e il successo delle elezioni in giugno, e non di lasciarsi guidare da considerazioni faziose.

L'UE sostiene il processo di transizione verso una Libia democratica in cui si rispettino i diritti umani e le libertà fondamentali, compresa la libertà religiosa.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002824/12
to the Commission**

Debora Serracchiani (S&D)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Destruction of Italian and British soldiers' graves in Libya

Numerous media and diplomatic sources have reported serious episodes of profanation in non-Islamic cemeteries in Libya. The people responsible are apparently Salafites, followers of an extremist interpretation of Islam, who have already perpetrated numerous acts of this kind in Egypt and Tunisia.

In particular, between 24 and 26 February, the graves of Italian and British soldiers who died in the Second World War were desecrated at the cemetery in Bengasi.

This attack, which took place in daytime and was reported to be very well-organised, was captured on video, showing men with covered faces attacking Christian and Jewish symbols.

These same Salafite groups are responsible for the destruction of various local historical Islamic shrines belonging mainly to the Sufi communities and venerated particularly in North Africa.

Given that there has been a infringement of the religious freedom of a country, one of the foundations of democratic society as recognised by the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights (Article 10), the provisions of which, by virtue of Article 51, apply to Member States solely in the implementation of EC law, can the Commission state what action it intends to take to prevent religious freedom from continuing to be undermined?

Does the Commission not agree that, in its neighbourhood policy, respect for religious freedom should be a priority for the EU, also with a view to containing extremist fringes?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(23 May 2012)

The High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) is aware of the attacks on war graves in Benghazi. The HR/VP is pleased to see that the transitional administration rapidly and publicly stated their determination to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The security situation in Libya remains fragile although it is improving. The HR/VP assessment remains that the vast majority of the Libyan people remain focused on democratic transition and successful June elections rather than sectarian considerations.

The EU supports the transition process towards a democratic Libya where human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, including religious freedom.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-002825/12
adresată Comisiei
Sebastian Valentin Bodu (PPE)
(13 martie 2012)

Subiect: Încălcarea de către Olanda a articolului 18 alineatul (1) din TFUE

Conform art.18 TFUE, „în domeniul de aplicare a tratatelor și fără a aduce atingere dispozițiilor speciale pe care le prevede, se interzice orice discriminare exercitată pe motiv de cetățenie sau naționalitate”.

Partidul Libertății din Olanda (PVV) a deschis un web site în care invita cetățenii olandezi să se plângă „dacă și-au pierdut locul de muncă în fața unui polonez, român sau bulgar” sau dacă „au fost deranjați în vreun fel de un polonez, român sau bulgar”. Acest site reprezintă în fapt o platformă de instigare la discriminare și chiar la ură bazată pe cetățenie, fapt ce reprezintă o încălcare evidentă a articolului mai sus menționat.

Având în vedere că PVV este un partid aflat la guvernare prin faptul că acordă sprijin parlamentar actualului guvern, în schimbul promovării, la nivel de guvern, a politicilor PVV,

Având în vedere că actualul premier liberal nu a întreprins nici o acțiune în vederea opririi sau măcar descurajării, pe cale administrativă ori pe cale judiciară, a site-ului respectiv,

Având în vedere că premierul olandez a declinat inclusiv invitația Parlamentului European, refuzând să ofere explicații cu privire la site-ul respectiv,

Concluzia logică este aceea că actualul premier și guvernul Olandei susțin implicit funcționarea site-ului respectiv iar susținerea tacită a unei politici discriminatorii echivalează cu promovarea acesteia.

În aceste condiții,

Consideră Comisia că ne aflăm în situația în care Guvernul Regatului Olandei încalcă articolul 18 alineatul (1) din TFEU? Care sunt măsurile concrete pe care Comisia le consideră pertinente în acest caz?

Răspuns dat de dna Reding în numele Comisiei
(14 mai 2012)

În ceea ce privește site-ul internet gestionat de partidul olandez PVV, Comisia dorește să aducă în atenția distinsului membru declarația făcută în cadrul dezbaterii din ședința plenară din 13 martie 2012 ⁽¹⁾. Comisia sprijină pe deplin rezoluția comună adoptată de Parlamentul European la 15 martie 2012 ⁽²⁾.

Cu privire la întrebarea specifică adresată de distinsul membru, precizăm că acest site internet nu este o inițiativă a autorităților olandeze și nu poate fi atribuit acestora din punct de vedere juridic. Prin urmare, funcționarea site-ului nu poate fi considerată drept o măsură luată de autoritățile naționale, care conduce la discriminare exercitată pe motiv de cetățenie, astfel cum se interzice prin articolul 18 alineatul (1) din TFUE.

Comisia reafirmă faptul că este inacceptabil ca cetățenii UE să devină ținta unor atitudini xenofobe și intolerante pentru simplul motiv că și-au exercitat libertatea fundamentală de a circula dintr-un stat membru în altul. Cetățenii celor 27 de state membre ale UE au dreptul de a circula, lucra și studia oriunde doresc și ar trebui să se simtă acasă indiferent unde se hotărăsc să circule.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=CRE&reference=20120313&secondRef=ITEM-012&language=RO>.

⁽²⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2012-0087+0+DOC+XML+V0//RO&language=RO>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002825/12
to the Commission**

Sebastian Valentin Bodu (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: The Netherlands' violation of Article 18, paragraph 1 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

Article 18 TFEU states that: 'Within the scope of application of the Treaties, and without prejudice to any special provisions contained therein, any discrimination on grounds of nationality shall be prohibited'.

The Dutch Freedom Party (PVV) has opened a website inviting Dutch citizens to complain 'if they have lost their job because of a Pole, Romanian or Bulgarian', or 'if they have been disturbed in any way by a Pole, Romanian or Bulgarian'. This site is in fact a platform for incitement to discrimination and even hatred based on citizenship, a fact that is an evident breach of the above Article.

The PVV is effectively a governing party given its parliamentary support for the current government in return for government promotion of PVV policies.

Furthermore, the current liberal Prime Minister has not taken any action to stop or even discourage this site, administratively or judicially.

The Dutch Prime Minister has also declined the invitation from the European Parliament and refused to give any explanations regarding this site.

The logical conclusion is that the current Prime Minister and the Dutch Government implicitly support the operation of this site, tacit support for discriminatory policy being equivalent to the promotion thereof.

In view of this:

Does the Commission consider that the Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands is infringing Article 18(1) TFEU? What specific measures does the Commission consider appropriate in this case?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission

(14 May 2012)

As regards the website operated by the Dutch PVV party, the Commission refers the Honourable Member to the statement made in the plenary debate on 13 March 2012 ⁽¹⁾. The Commission fully supports the joint resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 15 March 2012 ⁽²⁾.

With regard to the specific question of the Honourable Member, the said website is not an initiative of the Dutch authorities and cannot be legally attributed to them. Its operation can therefore not be considered as a measure taken by the national authorities resulting in discrimination on grounds of nationality, as prohibited by Article 18(1) TFEU.

The Commission reiterates that it is unacceptable that EU citizens become a target for xenophobic and intolerant attitudes because they have exercised their fundamental freedom to move from one Member State to another. The citizens of the 27 EU Member States have the right to move, work and study wherever they like and they should feel at home no matter where they decide to move.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=CRE&reference=20120313&secondRef=ITEM-012&language=EN>.

⁽²⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2012-0087+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita P-002826/12
a la Comisión
Eva Ortiz Vilella (PPE)
(13 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Control de la plaga del picudo rojo

La franja litoral mediterránea y las islas Canarias sufren anualmente pérdidas millonarias tras los ataques de plagas tan agresivas como el picudo rojo (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*) que arrasa palmerales en viveros, y parques públicos en ciudades como Calpe u Orihuela así como palmerales Patrimonio de la Humanidad por la Unesco como es el caso del palmeral del Huerto del Cura en Elche (Alicante).

El picudo rojo, originario de Asia, se ha extendido fuera de su área de distribución natural a numerosos países, de África y Europa, debido al transporte antrópico.

Existe una creciente preocupación por parte de las autoridades regionales y locales de la Comunidad Valenciana ante los avances de esta plaga y los daños causados por la misma. Los investigadores tratan de buscar una solución que sea de máxima eficacia y a la vez respetuosa con el medio ambiente y en la Comunidad Valenciana se están llevando a cabo grandes esfuerzos para la erradicación de esta plaga.

Abogamos sin duda porque cualquier decisión priorice la lucha biológica frente al uso de productos fitosanitarios en concordancia con las medidas adoptadas por el Parlamento y el Consejo de uso sostenible de pesticidas y considerando que a partir de 2014, será obligatorio producir siguiendo los principios generales de la gestión integrada de plagas, lo que supondrá un cambio en la forma de producir de la agricultura europea, introduciendo, de una forma más rigurosa, el concepto de sostenibilidad ambiental y seguridad sanitaria.

— ¿Piensa la Comisión establecer una partida presupuestaria que contemple la financiación de estudios de erradicación de plagas de agresividad demostrada así como los estudios de daños?

— ¿Existe alguna partida presupuestaria de la Unión Europea para la financiación o cofinanciación de los productos indicados para el control y la lucha contra las plagas? En caso afirmativo, ¿puede explicar la Comisión cómo se pueden solicitar estas ayudas?

Respuesta del Sr. Dalli en nombre de la Comisión
(19 de abril de 2012)

De acuerdo con la legislación fitosanitaria de la UE (Directiva 2000/29/CE del Consejo), no hay presupuesto asignado a estudios sobre la erradicación de organismos agresivos nocivos para los vegetales o sobre los daños causados por dichos organismos. Sin embargo, es posible consultar información referente a estas cuestiones en una evaluación ⁽¹⁾ del régimen fitosanitario de la UE que finalizó en 2010, así como en un estudio económico adicional que estará disponible en 2012.

La Comisión proporciona cofinanciación para la investigación sobre fitosanidad, sobre protección de especies vegetales, y sobre especies foráneas invasoras a través de los campos temáticos «Alimentos, agricultura y pesca, y biotecnología» y «Medio ambiente (incluido el cambio climático)» del Séptimo Programa Marco de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico (2007-2013). Para el caso particular del picudo rojo, se inició un proyecto específico el 1 de enero de 2012 (PALM PROTECT. Estrategias para la erradicación y contención de las plagas invasoras de *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* Olivier y *Paysandisia archon* Burmeister), que dedica 3 millones de euros al desarrollo de tecnologías para la detección precoz y el seguimiento de la plaga y de métodos para su erradicación, control y contención.

La propuesta de la Comisión para Horizonte 2020, el Programa Marco de Investigación e Innovación (2014-2020), incluye posibilidades de investigación sobre la erradicación y el control de plagas agresivas así como investigaciones que contribuyan a garantizar que los ecosistemas siguen proporcionando los recursos, bienes y servicios esenciales para el bienestar y la prosperidad económica.

Por último, en lo que se refiere a la segunda pregunta, la Comisión no dispone de presupuesto para financiar los costes de productos fitosanitarios utilizados en campañas de erradicación.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/strategy/index_en.htm

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-002826/12
to the Commission**

Eva Ortiz Vilella (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Red palm weevil control

Millions of euros are lost every year on the Mediterranean coast and the Canary Islands as a result of attacks by aggressive pests such as the red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*), which devastates palm groves in nurseries and public parks in cities such as Calpe and Orihuela, as well as Unesco World Heritage palm groves, including the palm grove in Huerto del Cura in Elche (Alicante).

The red palm weevil, originally from Asia, has been carried by humans outside its natural distribution area, spreading to numerous countries in Africa and Europe.

There is growing concern among the local and regional authorities of the Community of Valencia at the spread of this pest and the damage it causes. Researchers are trying to find a solution that is as efficacious as possible and, at the same time, environment-friendly, and major efforts are being made within the Community of Valencia to eradicate this pest.

We wholeheartedly endorse any decisions to give biological control priority over the use of plant protection products, in accordance with the measures adopted by Parliament and the Council on the sustainable use of pesticides and in view of the fact that after 2014 it will be compulsory for production methods to comply with the general principles for integrated pest management, which will require European farmers to change their production methods, applying the concept of environmental sustainability and health security more stringently.

— Does the Commission intend to create a budget heading under which funding could be provided for studies on the eradication of aggressive pests, as well as damage studies?

— Is there a heading in the EU budget under which financing or co-financing may be provided for appropriate pest control products? If so, can the Commission explain how to apply for such assistance?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(19 April 2012)

Under EU plant health legislation (Council Directive 2000/29/EC), there is no budget allocated for studies on the eradication or on the damage caused by aggressive plant harmful organisms. Nevertheless, information on those issues can be found in an evaluation⁽¹⁾ of the EU plant health regime which was finalised in 2010, as well as in a supplementary economic study to be available in 2012.

The Commission co-funds research on plant health, plant protection and invasive alien species, through the 'Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology' and the 'Environment (including climate change)' themes of the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2007-2013). For the particular case of the red palm weevil, a dedicated project started on 1 January 2012 (PALMPROTECT: Strategies for the eradication and containment of the invasive pests *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* Olivier and *Paysandisia archon* Burmeister), devoting 3 million euros to the development of technologies for the early detection and monitoring of this pest and of methods for eradication, control and containment..

The Commission's proposal for Horizon 2020 — the framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) includes possibilities for research on the eradication and control of aggressive pests as well as research that contributes to ensuring that ecosystems continue to provide the resources, goods and services that are essential for well-being and economic prosperity.

Furthermore, referring to the second question, the Commission has no budget to provide for costs of plant protection products in eradication campaigns.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/strategy/index_en.htm

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002827/12
a la Comisión (Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante)**

Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

(13 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: VP/HR — Más de 25 palestinos asesinados tras cuatro días de bombardeos y violentos ataques de Israel en la Franja de Gaza

El Ejército de Israel inició el pasado viernes 12 de marzo una serie de ataques y bombardeos sobre el territorio de la Franja de Gaza como represalia al lanzamiento de dos cohetes que no causaron víctimas ni daños de consideración. Desde ese momento, los bombardeos y ataques del ejército de Israel han sido continuos, siendo más de 26 las incursiones de las fuerzas aéreas israelíes en Gaza que se han saldado, hasta ahora, con más de 25 palestinos muertos, entre ellos varios niños y mujeres, y más de 80 heridos.

Según apuntan varias agencias de noticias internacionales, el último muerto por estos ataques ha sido un adolescente palestino de apenas 12 años y otro menor ha resultado gravemente herido cuando se dirigía a su escuela al este del campo de refugiados de Yabalía.

Estos ataques israelíes han provocado la mayor espiral de violencia en Gaza desde el pasado mes de octubre, cuando Israel realizó una operación similar en la que fueron también decenas los civiles asesinados, y el lanzamiento de cohetes desde la Franja a poblaciones del sur de Israel se ha recrudecido, produciendo hasta ahora cuatro heridos israelíes, uno de ellos de carácter grave.

El primer Ministro de Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, ha justificado estos ataques y bombardeos como «medidas para seguir venciendo las amenazas terroristas» sin tener en cuenta las críticas a la desproporción de la respuesta dada, el recrudecimiento de la violencia y las dramáticas consecuencias de su ataque, que lamentablemente se cuentan por decenas de civiles muertos o heridos.

Ante la dramática situación y el pánico desatado, de nuevo, entre la población de la Franja y en el marco establecido por el Acuerdo de Asociación que la UE mantiene vigente con este país;

— ¿Piensa la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante dirigirse formalmente al Gobierno de Israel para solicitar el fin inmediato de los bombardeos y la ofensiva en el territorio palestino de la Franja de Gaza? ¿Exigirá la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante una investigación de los asesinatos de civiles cometidos por el Ejército israelí así como la depuración de responsabilidades?

— Ante esta nueva y sanguinaria muestra del escaso respeto que el actual gobierno de Israel tiene por los derechos humanos, los principios básicos de la democracia, y del Derecho Internacional ¿Exigirá la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante la congelación del Acuerdo de Asociación UE-Israel por incumplimiento de la cláusula segunda del mismo?

Respuesta de la Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta Sra. Ashton en nombre de la Comisión

(11 de mayo de 2012)

En relación con los sucesos mencionados por Su Señoría, el 10 de marzo de 2012, la Alta Representante/Vicepresidenta realizó la siguiente declaración:

«La UE está siguiendo con preocupación la reciente escalada de violencia en Gaza y en el sur de Israel. Lamento profundamente la pérdida de vidas entre la población civil. Es fundamental frenar esta escalada y exhorto a todas las partes al restablecimiento de la calma.»

El Acuerdo de Asociación UE-Israel constituye un marco inestimable para los debates que se celebran con Israel sobre asuntos políticos y cuestiones internacionales, así como en lo relativo a los derechos humanos. El compromiso es la forma más eficaz para transmitir a las autoridades israelíes las enormes inquietudes de la UE sobre cuestiones como las que menciona Su Señoría.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002827/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — More than 25 Palestinians killed following four days of bombing and violent attacks by Israel on the Gaza Strip

On 12 March 2012, the Israeli Army began a series of attacks and bombings on the Gaza Strip in retaliation for the launching of two rockets that caused neither casualties nor serious damage. Since then, the Israeli Army has continued its bombings and attacks, with more than 26 air strikes on Gaza by the Israeli Air Force that have left more than 25 Palestinians, including children and women, dead to date and over 80 injured.

According to many international news agencies, the last person killed in these attacks was a Palestinian boy, barely 12 years old, while a younger boy was seriously injured on his way to his school to the east of the Jabalia refugee camp.

These Israeli attacks have set off the biggest spiral of violence seen in Gaza since October 2011, when Israel carried out a similar operation which also resulted in the deaths of dozens of civilians. The launching of rockets from the Gaza Strip at populations in southern Israel has also intensified, injuring four Israelis so far, one of whom is in a serious condition.

The Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, has justified these attacks and bombings as measures needed if 'terrorist threats' are to continue to be overcome. He has taken no account of criticisms of the response for being disproportionate, nor of the intensification of violence and the dramatic consequences of Israel's attack, to be reckoned unfortunately in terms of dozens of civilians killed or injured.

Given the dramatic situation and the panic sparked once again among the population in the Gaza Strip, and with the Association Agreement the EU maintains in force with this country in mind:

- Does the Vice-President/High Representative plan to make representations to the Israeli Government requesting an immediate end to the bombings and the offensive in the Palestinian territory of the Gaza Strip? Will the Vice-President/High Representative demand an investigation into the killing of civilians by the Israeli Army, as well as identification of the parties responsible?
- Given this new and bloody display of the low level of respect that the current Israeli Government has for human rights, the basic principles of democracy and international law, will the Vice-President/High Representative demand that the EU-Israel Association Agreement be suspended on the grounds of the breach of its second clause?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(11 May 2012)

In relation to the events referred to by the Honourable Member, on 10 March 2012, the High Representative/Vice-President issued the following statement:

'The EU is following with concern the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and in the south of Israel. I very much deplore the loss of civilian life. It is essential to avoid further escalation and I urge all sides to re-establish calm.'

The EU-Israel Association agreement provides an invaluable framework for ongoing discussions with Israel on political and international issues as well as on human rights. Engagement is the most effective way to convey to the Israeli authorities the strength of the EU's concern on matters such as the ones mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002828/12
a la Comisión (Vicepresidenta / Alta Representante)**

Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

(13 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: VP/HR — «Trato cruel, inhumano y degradante» del ejército estadounidense al soldado Manning según conclusiones del Relator especial de la ONU contra la tortura

Tras catorce meses de investigación, el relator especial de las Naciones Unidas contra la tortura, Juan Méndez, ha denunciado el trato «cruel e inhumano» al que el ejército de los Estados Unidos está sometiendo al soldado Bradley Manning, quien recientemente ha sido nominado al premio Nobel de la Paz.

Manning, acusado de ser el responsable de la filtración de los cables diplomáticos y militares publicados por Wikileaks, estuvo interno más de un año en solitario en una celda de una base militar, habiéndosele negado unas mínimas condiciones de vida exigibles a un Estado de derecho durante este periodo.

Por ello, el Relator especial de la ONU ha denunciado que el soldado ha sufrido maltrato durante este tiempo y exige que se garanticen una serie de derechos básicos hasta que se celebre su juicio. El relator concluye que «imponer condiciones de detención gravemente punitivas a alguien que todavía no ha sido declarado culpable de ningún delito es una violación de su derecho a la integridad física y psicológica, así como de su presunción de inocencia».

Todo indica a que se está cometiendo un sufrimiento a Manning cercano a la tortura y, tal y como especifica el relator especial en su informe, Estados Unidos podría estar violando flagrantemente el artículo 16 de la Convención especial contra la tortura.

— ¿Se ha dirigido la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante al Gobierno de los EE.UU. para mostrar formalmente la preocupación y el rechazo de la Unión Europea al trato «cruel, inhumano y degradante» al que está siendo sometido este ciudadano?

— ¿Piensa la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante solicitar al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos el fin inmediato del maltrato físico y psicológico?

— ¿Considera la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante, al igual que así lo hacen millones de ciudadanos y ciudadanas europeas, que, de haber sido el soldado Manning quien hubiese filtrado la documentación a Wikileaks, esta acción habría supuesto un avance para la democracia, la transparencia, el fin de prácticas violentas injustificadas en el contexto de las guerras que los EE.UU. y la OTAN mantienen abiertas en el mundo?

Respuesta de la Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta Sra. Ashton en nombre de la Comisión

(21 de mayo de 2012)

El caso de Bradley Manning, que actualmente está detenido en un centro penitenciario en una base militar estadounidense en Virginia, mientras se le investiga por estar acusado de haber filtrado documentos durante su destino en Iraq, ha recibido toda la atención que merece.

La Delegación de la UE en Washington está siguiendo atentamente este caso y ha presentado un informe al respecto. El Presidente Obama declaró públicamente, en una ocasión, que el Pentágono le había asegurado que el trato que se había dado a Bradley Manning era apropiado y cumplía con las normas básicas establecidas.

Naturalmente, las instituciones de la UE están estudiando las acusaciones a las que se hace referencia en la pregunta y han tomado nota del último informe del Relator Especial de las Naciones Unidas sobre tortura y otros tratos crueles, inhumanos o degradantes al Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas en su decimonoveno período ordinario de sesiones. A la luz de las posibles violaciones de derechos señaladas en él, la UE pedirá aclaraciones a las autoridades de EE.UU., en consultas bilaterales y procedimientos de seguimiento multilaterales, sobre las medidas que piensan tomar al respecto.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002828/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Bradley Manning subjected to ‘cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment’ by the United States Army, according to conclusions of the UN Special Rapporteur on torture

After 14 months of investigations, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, Juan Méndez, has condemned the ‘cruel and inhuman’ treatment inflicted upon the soldier Bradley Manning by the United States Army. Mr Manning was recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Manning, accused of being responsible for leaking the diplomatic and military cables published by WikiLeaks, spent more than one year in solitary confinement in a cell on a military base, being denied the minimal living conditions to be expected from a constitutional democracy during this period.

The UN Special Rapporteur has condemned the soldier’s mistreatment during this time and is demanding that he be guaranteed a series of basic rights until his trial is held. The Special Rapporteur concludes that ‘imposing seriously punitive conditions of detention on someone who has not been found guilty of any crime is a violation of his right to physical and psychological integrity, as well of as his presumption of innocence’.

All indications are that the suffering imposed on Manning comes close to torture and, as detailed by the Special Rapporteur in his report, the United States could be flagrantly in violation of Article 16 of the special UN Convention Against Torture.

— Has the Vice-President/High Representative contacted the United States Government to formally express the European Union’s concern and rejection of the ‘cruel, inhuman and degrading’ treatment to which this citizen is being subjected?

— Will the Vice-President/High Representative ask the United States Government to bring to an immediate end the physical and psychological abuse?

— Does the Vice-President/High Representative consider, along with millions of EU citizens, that if it was Manning who leaked the documents to WikiLeaks, this in fact constituted a step forward for democracy, transparency and an end to unjustified violent practices in the context of the wars in which the United States and NATO are engaged in around the world?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(21 May 2012)

The case of Bradley Manning, who is currently being held in detention facilities at a US military base in Virginia during the investigation of charges involving documents he is accused of having leaked while posted in Iraq, has received the serious attention it deserves.

The EU Delegation in Washington is following this case closely and has reported back. President Obama had, on a previous occasion, stated publicly that the Pentagon assured him that the treatment of Bradley Manning had been appropriate and met basic standards.

The EU institutions are naturally appraised of the allegations referred to in the question. They have taken note of the recent report of the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to the UN Human Rights Council at its 19th regular session. In the light of the potential violations of rights highlighted there, the EU will seek clarification from the US authorities on the occasion of bilateral consultations and multilateral monitoring procedures, on what measures they intend to take.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002829/12
an die Kommission
Sabine Wils (GUE/NGL)
(13. März 2012)

Betrifft: PFOS und PFOA — Gift in Alltagsprodukten

Die umweltpersistenten chemischen Stoffe Perfluoroctansulfonat (PFOS) und Perfluoroctansäure (PFOA) sind zunehmend in der Umwelt zu finden. PFOS und PFOA sind von Menschen hergestellte perfluorierte Chemikalien und gelangen durch industrielle Verfahren zunehmend in die Lebensmittelkette. PFOS und PFOA reichern sich in Gehirn, Leber und Hoden an und werden praktisch nicht abgebaut. Bei 90 % der Menschen sind solche Giftstoffe im Blut nachweisbar.

Die Europäische Behörde für Lebensmittelsicherheit (EFSA) hatte 2008 eingeräumt, dass es erhebliche Datenlücken zu Fragen wie der Rolle unterschiedlicher Nahrungsmittel für die menschliche Exposition gebe und dass weitere Forschungsarbeiten sowie Datenerhebungen erforderlich seien. Gleichzeitig kam die EFSA zu dem Schluss, dass aufgrund der verfügbaren Daten für die Allgemeinbevölkerung in Europa durch die Aufnahme dieser Chemikalien kaum negative Auswirkungen auf die Gesundheit zu befürchten seien.

— Wie rechtfertigt die Kommission, dass lediglich PFOS eingeschränkt verwendet werden darf, PFOA jedoch ohne Einschränkungen, obwohl dieser Stoff ähnliche gravierende, gesundheits- und erbgutschädigende Eigenschaften aufweist wie PFOS, und liegen der EFSA neue Erkenntnisse oder Studien vor?

— Wurde die Richtlinie 2006/122/EG zur Änderung der Richtlinie 76/769/EWG für Beschränkungen des Inverkehrbringens und der Verwendung gewisser gefährlicher Stoffe und Zubereitungen (Perfluoroctansulfonate) in allen Mitgliedstaaten umgesetzt? In welchen Staaten geschah dies nicht und mit welcher Begründung?

— Wie geht die Kommission mit dem Problem um, dass Produzenten Verbote giftiger Stoffe systematisch umgehen, indem sie die Zusammensetzung der verbotenen Stoffe leicht ändern und so Stoffe erhalten, die verwendet werden dürfen, aber meist fast genauso giftig sind?

Antwort von Herrn Tajani im Namen der Kommission
(2. Mai 2012)

Mit der Richtlinie 2006/122/EG ⁽¹⁾ wurden das Inverkehrbringen und die Verwendung von Perfluoroctansulfonat (PFOS) beschränkt, ferner wurde die Kommission darin beauftragt, die Risikobewertungstätigkeiten bei Perfluoroctansäure (PFOA) und die Verfügbarkeit weniger bedenklicher Alternativen im Hinblick auf Maßnahmen zur Begrenzung bekannter Risiken zu überprüfen.

Vor diesem Hintergrund wurden im Rahmen einer Studie der Kommission Informationen zur Bewertung möglicher Beschränkungen des Inverkehrbringens und der Verwendung von PFOA erhoben ⁽²⁾. Die Kommission gelangte gemeinsam mit den Mitgliedstaaten zu dem Schluss ⁽³⁾, dass weitere Gespräche zu Regulierungsmaßnahmen im Rahmen der REACH-Verordnung ⁽⁴⁾ erforderlich sind.

Deutschland und Norwegen erstellen derzeit im Rahmen der REACH-Verordnung eine Analyse der am besten geeigneten Risikomanagementmaßnahmen für PFOA und ihre Salze, wie zum Beispiel deren etwaige Einbeziehung in die Liste der für die Aufnahme in Anhang XIV infrage kommenden Stoffe ⁽⁵⁾ oder die Anwendung des Beschränkungsverfahrens ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Zur dreißigsten Änderung der Richtlinie 76/769/EWG des Rates.

⁽²⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/files/docs_studies/final_report_pfoa_pfos_en.pdf

⁽³⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/files/reach/docs/events/pfoa-main-conclusions_en.pdf

⁽⁴⁾ Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1907/2006 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 18. Dezember 2006 zur Registrierung, Bewertung, Zulassung und Beschränkung chemischer Stoffe (REACH), zur Schaffung einer Europäischen Agentur für chemische Stoffe, zur Änderung der Richtlinie 1999/45/EG und zur Aufhebung der Verordnung (EWG) Nr. 793/93 des Rates, der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1488/94 der Kommission, der Richtlinie 76/769/EWG des Rates sowie der Richtlinien 91/155/EWG, 93/67/EWG, 93/105/EG und 2000/21/EG der Kommission (ABl. L 396 vom 30.12.2006, S. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ Artikel 59 der REACH-Verordnung.

⁽⁶⁾ Artikel 69 Absatz 4 der REACH-Verordnung.

Darüber hinaus stimmten RAC ⁽⁷⁾ und ECHA ⁽⁸⁾ im Dezember 2011 der Einstufung von PFOA als fortpflanzungsgefährdend der Kategorie 1B zu. Die Kommission wird die Stellungnahme prüfen und gegebenenfalls eine Aufnahme der Einstufung in den Anhang VI der CLP-Verordnung ⁽⁹⁾ vorschlagen.

Seit dem Jahr 2009, in dem die Beschränkung für PFOS in den Anhang XVII der REACH-Verordnung übernommen wurde, die unmittelbar in den Mitgliedstaaten gültig ist, waren keine Umsetzungsmaßnahmen erforderlich. Seit 2010 gelten Beschränkungen für PFOS auf Grundlage der POP-Verordnung ⁽¹⁰⁾. Daher ist PFOS nicht mehr im Anhang XVII der REACH-Verordnung aufgeführt.

Beschränkungen nach Titel VIII der REACH-Verordnung gründen sich auf ein unannehmbares Risiko für die menschliche Gesundheit und die Umwelt, unter dem nicht nur die Gefährlichkeit, sondern auch die Exposition gegenüber Chemikalien zu verstehen ist. Nicht jede potenzielle Zusammensetzungsänderung würde an sich schon ausreichen, das Vorliegen eines unannehmbaren Risikos nachzuweisen.

⁽⁷⁾ Ausschuss für Risikobeurteilung.

⁽⁸⁾ Europäische Chemikalienagentur.

⁽⁹⁾ Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1272/2008 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 16. Dezember 2008 über die Einstufung, Kennzeichnung und Verpackung von Stoffen und Gemischen, zur Änderung und Aufhebung der Richtlinien 67/548/EWG und 1999/45/EG und zur Änderung der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1907/2006 (ABl. L 353 vom 31.12.2008, S. 1).

⁽¹⁰⁾ Verordnung (EG) Nr. 850/2004 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 29. April 2004 über persistente organische Schadstoffe und zur Änderung der Richtlinie 79/117/EWG (ABl. L 158 vom 30.4.2004, S. 7).

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002829/12
to the Commission**

Sabine Wils (GUE/NGL)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: PFOS and PFOA — Toxic substances in everyday products

The environmentally-persistent chemicals perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are increasingly found in the environment. PFOS and PFOA are manufactured perfluorinated chemicals and are increasingly entering the food chain through industrial processes. PFOS and PFOA accumulate in the brain, liver and testes and are not metabolised to any appreciable extent. Traces of such toxic substances can be found in the blood of 90 % of the population.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) admitted in 2008 that there were significant gaps in the data on questions such as the role of different foodstuffs in human exposure and that further research and data collection were necessary. At the same time, EFSA concluded that, based on the available data for the general population in Europe, very few negative effects on health were to be expected from ingesting these chemicals.

— How does the Commission justify the fact that restrictions on use only apply to PFOS, while no restrictions apply to PFOA, despite the fact that this substance has similar properties to PFOS that cause serious damage to health and genetic material? Are any new findings or studies available to the EFSA?

— Has Directive 2006/122/EC amending Council Directive 76/769/EEC relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (perfluorooctane sulfonates) been transposed in all Member States? In which Member States has this not happened and for what reasons?

— How does the Commission deal with the problem of producers systematically avoiding bans on toxic substances by simply changing the composition of the prohibited substances slightly, resulting in substances that are permitted to be used but are mostly just as toxic?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

Directive 2006/122/EC ⁽¹⁾ introduced restrictions on the marketing and use of PFOS and stated that the Commission should monitor the risk assessment activities on PFOA and the availability of safer alternative substances in order to propose measures to reduce identified risks.

In this context, a Commission study collected information to assess possible restrictions on the marketing and use of PFOA ⁽²⁾. The Commission with Member States concluded ⁽³⁾ that there was a need for further discussions on regulatory measures under REACH ⁽⁴⁾.

Germany and Norway are currently preparing an analysis of the most appropriate risk management options on PFOA and its salts under REACH, including their possible inclusion in the candidate list ⁽⁵⁾, or the use of the restriction procedure ⁽⁶⁾.

In addition, the classification of PFOA as i.a. toxic to reproduction Category cB was agreed by the RAC ⁽⁷⁾ of the ECHA ⁽⁸⁾ in December 2011. The Commission will evaluate the opinion and, if appropriate, will propose to include the classification into Annex VI of the CLP ⁽⁹⁾ Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ Amending for the 30th time the Council Directive 76/769/EEC.

⁽²⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/files/docs_studies/final_report_pfoa_pfes_en.pdf

⁽³⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/files/reach/docs/events/pfoa-main-conclusions_en.pdf

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ Article 59 of REACH.

⁽⁶⁾ Article 69.4 of REACH.

⁽⁷⁾ Risk Assessment Committee.

⁽⁸⁾ European Chemicals Agency.

⁽⁹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (OJ L 353, 31.12.2008, p. 1).

Since 2009, when the restriction concerning PFOS was taken over in Annex XVII of REACH, which is directly applicable in Member States, no transposition measures have been necessary. From 2010 PFOS is restricted under the POP Regulation ⁽¹⁰⁾ and, as a consequence, is no longer listed in Annex XVII of REACH.

Restrictions under Title VIII of REACH are based on an unacceptable risk to the human health and the environment, which encompasses not only hazard but also exposure to chemicals. Any potential change of composition as such would not be a trigger to demonstrate an unacceptable risk.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Regulation (EC) 850/2004 No 850/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on persistent organic pollutants and amending Directive 79/117/EEC (OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 7).

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002831/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Phil Bennion (ALDE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Tipai Mukh Dam

Tipai Mukh Dam is a proposed embankment dam on the River Barak in Manipur State, India. The purpose of the dam is flood control and hydroelectric power generation. However, both local Manipuri people in India and Bangladeshis will face disruption to their lives from the construction of this dam. India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers and India has already built 50 barrages/dams, directly or indirectly causing a loss of 100 billion takas per year to Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries, and impacting on the lives of 50 million Bangladeshis.

Against that background, can the Vice-President/High Representative answer the following questions:

- What plans does the Vice-President/High Representative have to ask for an impact assessment which will include the impact of the Tipai Mukh Dam on risks from seismic activity, salinity levels, fisheries, navigation, water quality, public health and, especially, food security and economic development in Bangladesh, and direct displacement of people and loss of farmland and forest in India?
- Has there been any ongoing informal/formal dialogue between the EU and India or between the EU, India and Bangladesh on the Tipai Mukh Dam? If not, when will this issue be put on the agenda?
- What plans does the Vice-President/High Representative have to address the issue of the Tipai Mukh Dam at international level, within international organisations such as the United Nations, and by diplomatic means such as demarches or public statements?
- What concrete measures are being planned to prevent the anticipated serious consequences of the Tipai Mukh Dam in Bangladesh? What assurance can the Vice-President/High Representative give us that lessons have been learnt from the impact of the Farraka Barrage on Bangladesh (desertification of the area, health problems, decline in fishery stocks) and as a source of tension in the Indian-Bangladeshi relationship?
- What plans does the Vice-President/High Representative have to initiate a joint working group on water between the different parties involved, as part of a long-term strategy to help resolve this constant issue related to dams between India and Bangladesh?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(11 May 2012)

The HR/VP is aware of the debate over the construction of the Tipaimukh dam and is following developments closely through the EU Delegations in Delhi and Dhaka. Water management is a fundamental issue for South Asian countries, and an important element of India-Bangladesh relations.

It may be recalled that in the Joint Communiqué of 7 September 2011 issued on the occasion of Indian Prime Minister Singh's visit to Bangladesh, it was reiterated that India would not take steps on the Tipaimukh Dam that would adversely impact its neighbour. So far, we have not been asked to intervene. Any EU involvement in the discussions between India and Bangladesh on this matter can only be useful if it counts with the agreement of both sides.

The EU nevertheless encourages regional cooperation on such issues among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, and intends to support such cooperation on, *inter alia*, water resource management through a substantial contribution to the activities of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

Furthermore, EU cooperation with Bangladesh pays special attention to the protection of the environment and disaster preparedness. Through the Global Climate Change Alliance, Bangladesh receives the largest individual country package, with EUR 8.5 million for assisting the implementation of its national climate change strategy and action plan. In 2011, the EU approved an additional EUR 20 million contribution to the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund, which will address, *inter alia*, water management issues. Water-related environmental problems are also addressed by other EU instruments, including humanitarian assistance for disaster preparedness.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta P-002833/12
alla Commissione**

Lorenzo Fontana (EFD)

(13 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Decentralizzazione delle procedure di preselezione da parte dell'EPSO e relativi costi

L'EPSO è stato creato nel 2003 con la finalità di fornire il servizio di selezione del personale delle istituzioni comunitarie.

Secondo quanto riportato nel proprio sito internet, Prometric, agenzia statunitense che si occupa della fornitura di test e servizi di valutazione, avrebbe sottoscritto nel settembre 2009 un contratto quadriennale di partnership esclusiva con EPSO. In base a tale accordo, Prometric si sarebbe fatta carico della modernizzazione delle preesistenti procedure di selezione del personale.

Ciò premesso, può la Commissione far sapere:

1. se l'esternalizzazione delle procedure di preselezione del personale sia contemplata dalla normativa di riferimento;
2. quale sia la natura giuridica di Prometric;
3. quanti siano stati i test effettuati per annualità dal momento della sottoscrizione del contratto con Prometric;
4. quale sia il costo della procedura di preselezione per candidato, quali siano i costi sostenuti per annualità o per procedura specifica, quale sia la linea di bilancio utilizzata e quale sia l'ammontare totale dell'impegno finanziario per l'intera procedura affidata a Prometric;
5. se vi sia una programmazione effettiva tra l'indizione dei concorsi annuali e il contingente di funzionari necessari in ogni Istituzione europea;
6. se si attenda l'esaurimento degli elenchi di riserva dei candidati vincitori di concorsi europei prima di bandire nuovi concorsi?

Risposta data da Maroš Šefčovič a nome della Commissione

(18 aprile 2012)

Le procedure di preselezione gestite da EPSO non sono state esternalizzate a Prometric. Il contenuto e le regole organizzative applicabili vengono definite e decise esclusivamente dai rispettivi enti responsabili all'interno dell'UE (istituzioni, commissioni giudicatrici e EPSO).

Prometric Ltd è una società privata il cui ruolo è limitato alla fornitura logistica dei test alla rete mondiale dei centri d'esame e al servizio di hosting della banca dati EPSO. Prometric non svolge nessun ruolo nel processo di modernizzazione delle procedure di selezione. Il contratto-quadro attualmente in vigore tra la società e EPSO è stato firmato nel luglio 2009 presso la sede europea di Prometric nel Regno Unito in seguito ad una procedura aperta di appalto in piena osservanza delle norme applicabili dell'UE.

Dal momento della sottoscrizione del contratto-quadro sono stati effettuati circa 150 000 test, di cui circa 56 000 nel 2010 e circa 72 000 nel 2011. Il costo individuale varia a seconda della lunghezza e della natura del test e del numero totale dei candidati per la selezione in questione. Il costo individuale per candidato per i test effettuati dal 2009 ad oggi varia tra i 62 EUR e gli 80 EUR. Per tutti gli oneri relativi viene utilizzata la linea operativa per i processi di selezione interistituzionali (BGUE-B2012-26.012000.020101 EPSO). L'ammontare totale dell'impegno finanziario sostenuto fino ad oggi nell'ambito del contratto-quadro con la società è pari a circa 11 100 000 EUR.

La nuova procedura di selezione ha introdotto una migliore programmazione e un reclutamento più rapido e mirato e stabilisce concorsi a cadenza annuale per i profili più richiesti. Il numero effettivo di candidati vincitori è ora maggiormente in linea con le capacità finanziarie delle istituzioni e permette quindi un utilizzo migliore degli elenchi di riserva esistenti.

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-002833/12
to the Commission**

Lorenzo Fontana (EFD)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Decentralisation of pre-selection procedures by EPSO and related costs

The European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) was created in 2003 with the aim of providing staff recruitment services for EU institutions.

According to the information on its website, Prometric, a US agency which provides tests and assessment services, signed a four-year exclusive partnership contract with EPSO in September 2009. On the basis of that agreement, Prometric apparently took it upon itself to modernise the pre-existing staff recruitment procedures.

In view of this, can the Commission state:

1. whether the outsourcing of staff pre-selection procedures is covered by the relevant legislation;
2. what the legal status of Prometric is;
3. how many tests have been carried out per annum since the signing of the contract with Prometric;
4. what is the cost of the pre-selection procedure per candidate, what costs are incurred per annum or per specific procedure, what budget line is used and what is the total amount of the financial commitment for the whole procedure entrusted to Prometric;
5. whether there is effective planning as regards the organisation of annual competitions and the number of officials needed in each European institution?
6. whether the reserve lists for candidates who have passed European competitions are exhausted before new competitions are announced?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission

(18 April 2012)

The pre-selection procedures managed by EPSO have not been outsourced to Prometric. The content as well as the applicable organisational rules are defined and decided exclusively by the respective responsible entities within the EU (institutions, selection boards and EPSO).

Prometric Ltd is a private company; their role is limited to the logistical delivery of the tests across their worldwide network of test centres as well as to the hosting of EPSO's item bank. Prometric has had no role in the modernisation of selection procedures. The framework contract currently in force with EPSO was signed in July 2009 with their European Headquarters in the United Kingdom after an open procurement process in full compliance with EU applicable rules.

Since the entry into force of the framework contract, approximately 150 000 tests have been delivered. In 2010, approximately 56 000 tests have been delivered and in 2011, approximately 72 000. The individual cost varies according to the length and nature of the test and to the overall number of candidates for the selection procedure at stake. The individual cost per candidate tested between 2009 and today varies between EUR 62 and EUR 80. All related commitments are made on the operational line for interinstitutional selection processes (BGUE-B2012-26.012000.020101 EPSO). Total financial commitments made until today under the current framework contract amount to approximately EUR 11 100 000.

The new selection procedure introduced improved planning and faster and more targeted recruitment; it establishes annual competitions for the most common job profiles. The actual number of selected laureates is much better aligned to the budgetary possibilities of the institutions, thus resulting in a better exploitation rate of the existing reserve lists.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002834/12
to the Commission
David Martin (S&D)
(13 March 2012)

Subject: 'Animal crush' videos

Is the Commission aware of the existence of 'animal crush' videos which are posted on the Internet and depict extreme cruelty towards animals, including torture, for the sexual gratification of the viewer? In these videos animals have been seen to be burned alive, cut with pruning shears, nailed to the floor, skinned alive, beaten, stabbed and/or have their limbs broken.

StopCrush.org is an organisation which campaigns to promote awareness of these videos and influence legislators to ban them.

Progress has already been made in the US with a view to banning these videos when President Obama ratified the Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act of 2010. In February Greece passed a bill which prohibited the production of audiovisual material which shows acts of violence towards animals for profit or sexual gratification. Following these acts in the US and Greece, does the Commission:

1. know of any existing legislation which prohibits the production of audiovisual material depicting cruelty to animals for the purpose of sexual gratification and how it is enforced?
2. consider that legislation is required to outlaw the production and distribution of these videos, which contravenes Article 13 of the TFEU on animal welfare?

Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission
(15 May 2012)

There are no harmonised rules at EU level banning the production of audiovisual content featuring cruelty towards animals such as the ones described by the honourable Member. In this respect, it has to be underlined that Article 13 TFEU does not confer to the EU a general competence to legislate on that matter but only require from the EU and the Member State to pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals when formulating and implementing certain Union's policies.

However, if such videos are shown in the frame of an audiovisual media service, this falls under the regulatory framework of the audiovisual media services directive (Directive 2010/13/EU). Such content might indeed possibly be considered as harmful for minors and hence should normally not be seen or heard by them. It may also fall under stricter national rules adopted by Member States at national level.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002836/12

alla Commissione

Oreste Rossi (EFD)

(13 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Rifiuti di apparecchiature elettriche ed elettroniche (RAEE) inviati dall'UE in Africa

Secondo lo studio delle Nazioni Unite «Dove sono i RAEE in Africa?», nel 2009 l'Unione europea ha spedito ben 220 000 tonnellate di prodotti elettronici ed elettrici in Africa occidentale. I RAEE di seconda mano sono regolarmente esportati dall'Europa nei paesi africani. In particolare Benin, Costa d'Avorio, Ghana, Liberia e Nigeria assorbono decine di migliaia di tonnellate di scarti elettronici ed elettrici come cellulari, computer, elettrodomestici, televisori. Purtroppo non tutti i prodotti esportati dall'Unione sono funzionanti. Il 30 % dei RAEE esportati in Ghana nel 2009 non funzionava. L'80 % dei container carichi di RAEE che arrivano in Ghana proviene proprio dall'Europa; gli articoli che non vengono utilizzati finiscono nelle discariche del paese africano alimentando il problema della gestione dei rifiuti e provocando gravi danni ambientali.

I prodotti inquinanti e non funzionanti dovrebbero essere smaltiti in Europa e non inviati in Africa, dove gli standard ambientali sono molto più bassi rispetto a quelli europei. Un controllo efficace alle dogane consentirebbe l'individuazione degli articoli riutilizzabili e di quelli che invece non possono essere esportati come «merce di seconda mano».

Alla luce delle considerazioni sopraesposte chiedo alla Commissione se intende:

- migliorare il sistema doganale europeo per evitare esportazioni di rifiuti altamente inquinanti in Africa;
- adottare misure concrete per limitare l'impatto ambientale delle esportazioni di RAEE provenienti dall'Europa che danneggiano il territorio dei paesi in via di sviluppo;
- prevedere programmi ad hoc che aiutino le amministrazioni locali a gestire i rifiuti elettronici al fine di ridurre l'inquinamento del territorio e tutelare la salute dei cittadini.

Risposta data da Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione

(7 maggio 2012)

I controlli alle frontiere europee sulle esportazioni di rifiuti di apparecchiature elettriche ed elettroniche (RAEE) saranno rafforzati dalle relative clausole contenute nell'articolo 23 e nell'allegato VI della nuova direttiva RAEE ⁽¹⁾, la cui adozione da parte del Consiglio è prevista a breve.

Inoltre, la Commissione continuerà a mantenere stretti contatti con gli esperti degli Stati membri per discutere e migliorare l'attuazione delle politiche in questo settore.

Il miglioramento della gestione ambientale delle RAEE in Africa costituisce l'obiettivo del programma «E-waste Africa», cofinanziato dalla Commissione europea e coordinato, in seno alle Nazioni Unite, dal segretariato della Convenzione di Basilea. La relazione «Dove sono i RAEE in Africa?» (Where are WEEE in Africa?), cui l'onorevole parlamentare fa riferimento, rappresenta proprio un risultato di tale programma.

⁽¹⁾ Cfr.: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2012-0009+0+DOC+XML+V0//IT>.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002836/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(13 March 2012)

Subject: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) sent to Africa by the EU

According to the 'Where are WEEE in Africa?' study conducted by the United Nations, in 2009 the European Union sent as many as 220 000 tonnes of electronic and electrical products to western Africa. Second-hand WEEE is regularly exported by Europe to African countries. In particular, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria receive tens of thousands of tonnes of electronic and electrical cast-offs including mobile phones, computers, white goods and TVs. Unfortunately, not all of the products exported by the European Union work. In 2009, 30 % of the WEEE exports to Ghana did not work. 80 % of containers transporting WEEE arriving in Ghana come from Europe and any items that are not used end up in rubbish dumps in the country, thus worsening the problem of waste management and causing serious environmental damage.

Polluting and non-functioning products should be disposed of in Europe and not sent to Africa, where environmental standards are much lower than in Europe. Effective control at customs would allow the identification of reusable items and those which, conversely, cannot be exported as 'second hand goods'.

In view of the above, can the Commission state whether it will:

- improve the European customs system to avoid exports of highly polluting waste to Africa;
- adopt concrete measures to limit the environmental impact of WEEE exports from Europe which damage the land of developing countries;
- arrange ad hoc programmes to help local administrations manage such waste in order to reduce pollution of the local area and protect public health?

Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission
(7 May 2012)

European border controls regarding the export of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) are set to be improved by the respective clauses in Article 23 and Annex VI of the new WEEE Directive⁽¹⁾, which should be adopted by Council very soon.

In addition, the Commission will continue to maintain close contact with Member States experts to discuss and improve policy implementation in this area.

Enhancing the environmental governance of WEEE in Africa is the aim of the programme 'E-waste Africa', co-financed by the European Commission and coordinated by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention within the United Nations. The report 'Where are WEEE in Africa?' referred to by the Honourable Member, is a product of this programme.

⁽¹⁾ See <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2012-0009+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002837/12
an die Kommission
Cornelia Ernst (GUE/NGL)
(13. März 2012)

Betrifft: Verdeckte Ermittler bei Europol-Operation gegen Netzaktivisten

In einer gemeinsamen Operation haben Polizeien mehrerer Länder Ende Februar mehrere Verdächtige in Europa und Lateinamerika festgenommen, die für „Distributed-Denial-of-Service“-Angriffe auf Webseiten verantwortlich sein sollen. An der Aktion waren die Polizeiorganisation Interpol und die EU-Polizeiagentur Europol maßgeblich beteiligt. Bei Interpol firmiert die Razzia als „Operation Unmask“ (Pressemitteilung Interpol 28.2.2012). Polizeien aus Argentinien, Chile, Kolumbien und Spanien waren an der Operation beteiligt. Die Federführung in Lateinamerika hatte die „Latin American Working Group of Experts on Information Technology Crime“ von Interpol. Gleichzeitig meldete auch Europol mit „Operation Thunder“ einen gelungenen Schlag gegen „eine Gruppe von Hackern“, die mehrerer „Distributed-Denial-of-Service“-Angriffe verdächtigt werden (Pressemitteilung Europol 28.2.2012). Laut Europol wurde seit Juni 2011 durch die „Spanish National Police Cyber Crime Unit“ (BIT) ermittelt. Neben vier Verhaftungen in Spanien wurde die Beschlagnahme von Servern in der Tschechischen Republik und in Bulgarien berichtet, wo auch Vorratsdaten beschafft wurden. Unter der Überschrift „Anonymous hackers claim they were infiltrated“ meldete Associated Press am 1.3.2012, dass die Verdächtigen nicht durch die technische Versiertheit von Europol oder Interpol lokalisiert wurden. Stattdessen seien laut Aussagen von Netzaktivisten im Internet operierende verdeckte Ermittler zum Einsatz gekommen.

Welches Personal welcher Abteilungen war mit welchen Datenbanken und technischen Hilfsmitteln (auch Software für Analyse und Forensik) seitens Europol an der genannten Operation beteiligt?

Auf welche Art und Weise wurde die Zusammenarbeit mit Interpol begonnen und organisiert?

Auf welche Art und Weise wurden von Europol im Rahmen der Operation Personen- und Sachdaten prozessiert und wo werden diese (auch in Analysedateien) weiterhin gespeichert?

Wie wurden die festgenommen Verdächtigen nach Kenntnis der Kommission ermittelt?

Trifft es zu, dass bei der Operation verdeckte Ermittler eingesetzt wurden, und, falls ja, inwiefern hat sich Europol hieran beteiligt oder erhielt hierzu Berichte?

Antwort von Frau Malmström im Namen der Kommission
(11. April 2012)

Die Europäische Kommission verweist die Frau Abgeordnete auf die diesbezügliche öffentliche Information auf der Europol-Website: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/press/hacktivists-arrested-spain-1357>

Weitere öffentlich verfügbare Informationen stehen der Europäischen Kommission dazu nicht zur Verfügung.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002837/12
to the Commission**

Cornelia Ernst (GUE/NGL)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Undercover investigators in a Europol operation against Internet activists

At the end of February, in a joint operation, police forces in several countries arrested a number of individuals in Europe and Latin America suspected of being responsible for Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks on websites. Interpol and the EC law enforcement agency, Europol, played a leading role in the operation. The Interpol code name for the operation was 'Operation Unmask' (Interpol media release of 28 February 2012). Police forces in Argentina, Chile, Columbia and Spain were involved. Responsibility for the Latin American side of the operation lay with Interpol's Latin American Working Group of Experts on Information Technology Crime. At the same time, Europol also reported that 'Operation Thunder' had made a successful strike against a 'group of hackers' suspected of several DDoS attacks (Europol press release of 28 February 2012). According to Europol, investigations by the Spanish National Police Cyber Crime Unit had been under way since June 2011. It was reported that, in addition to four arrests in Spain, servers had been confiscated in the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, where data had also been seized. Under the headline 'Anonymous hackers claim they were infiltrated', the Associated Press reported on 1 March 2012 that the suspects had not been pinpointed through the technical expertise of Europol or Interpol. Instead, according to Internet activists, undercover investigators had been deployed to operate on the Internet.

What personnel from which departments were deployed by Europol in this operation, and which databases and technical aids (including analytical and forensic software) were used?

How was cooperation with Interpol begun and how was it organised?

How was personal data and other information processed by Europol during the operation, and where is this data (including in analysis files) being stored?

How, to the Commission's knowledge, were the arrested suspects identified?

Is it the case that undercover investigators were used in the operation and, if so, to what extent was Europol involved or provided with reports in this connection?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission

(11 April 2012)

The European Commission would like to refer the Honourable Member to the following public information by Europol about the case in question: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/press/hacktivists-arrested-spain-1357>

The European Commission has no other publicly available information on the matter.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung P-002838/12

an die Kommission

Hermann Winkler (PPE)

(13. März 2012)

Betrifft: Vorschlag der Kommission KOM(2011)0615, Rahmen-Verordnung Kohäsionspolitik, Artikel 82, 84; Berechnung Übergangsregionen mit neuen Eurostat-Zahlen

Die Definition der vorgeschlagenen „Übergangsregion“ in Artikel 82 Absatz 2 Buchstabe b der Rahmen-Verordnung KOM(2011)0615 lautet „Übergangsregionen, deren BIP pro Kopf ZWISCHEN 75 und 90 % des durchschnittlichen BIP der EU-27 beträgt“. Stärker entwickelte Regionen liegen gemäß Artikel 82 Absatz 2 Buchstabe c ÜBER 90 %.

1. In welche der o. g. Kategorien ordnet die Kommission den Wert 90,0 % ein?

Hintergrund der Frage sind die heute veröffentlichten Zahlen von Eurostat „Regionales BIP pro Kopf in der EU 2007-2009“. Für die NUTS-2-Region Leipzig in Deutschland wurde der Wert 90,0 % ermittelt.

Zwar spricht der Vorschlag der Kommission davon, dass die EU-Daten für den Zeitraum 2006 bis 2008 entscheidende Berechnungsgrundlage sind. Allerdings hat Kommissionsmitglied Hahn bereits mehrfach betont, dass die neuesten Zahlen genommen werden, die zum Zeitpunkt der Entscheidung über den Mehrjährigen Finanzrahmen 2014-2020 durch den Rat vorliegen werden. Allerdings ist es wichtig für die Regionen, so bald wie möglich Rechtssicherheit zu erlangen und zu erfahren, welche Berechnungsgrundlage die Kommission anwendet.

Geht man davon aus, dass diese heute veröffentlichten Zahlen die neuesten sind, dann ist die Interpretation des Wertes 90,0 % entscheidend für die Frage, ob die Phasing-out-Region Leipzig unter die Kategorie „Übergangsregionen“ fällt oder nicht.

2. Geht die Kommission derzeit davon aus, dass die heute veröffentlichten Zahlen die Zahlen sein werden, auf deren Basis die Entscheidung getroffen wird?

3. Verstehe ich den Vorschlag der Kommission richtig, dass das sogenannte Sicherheitsnetz, also die Frage, ob gemäß Artikel 84 Absatz 2 der Rahmen-Verordnung die Regionen mindestens zwei Drittel der ihnen für 2007-2013 zugewiesenen Mittel erhalten, UNABHÄNGIG von der Frage existiert, ob die Region unter die Kategorie „Übergangsregionen“ fällt?

Antwort von Herrn Hahn im Namen der Kommission

(18. April 2012)

1. Die von Eurostat angegebenen Werte für das regionale BIP wurden auf eine Dezimalstelle gerundet. Das BIP pro Kopf für die Region Leipzig (Durchschnitt 2007-2008-2009) liegt bei 90,02 % des EU-Durchschnitts. Aufgrund dieses Werts würde Leipzig als stärker entwickelte Region eingestuft.

2. Die Kommission wird eine technische Aktualisierung des mehrjährigen Finanzrahmens vornehmen und sich dabei auf die neuesten verfügbaren Zahlen für die Regionen stützen. Für das regionale BIP wird der Durchschnitt für 2007-2008-2009 herangezogen.

3. Der Vorschlag der Kommission sieht vor, dass das Sicherheitsnetz für frühere Konvergenzregionen sowohl für Übergangsregionen als auch für stärker entwickelte Regionen anwendbar ist.

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-002838/12
to the Commission**

Hermann Winkler (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Commission proposal COM(2011) 0615 for a Framework Cohesion Policy Regulation, Articles 82 and 84; calculation for transition regions based on new Eurostat figures

The definition of the proposed 'transition regions' in Article 82(2)(b) of the framework Regulation COM(2011) 0615 reads: 'transition regions, whose GDP per capita is BETWEEN 75 % and 90 % of the average GDP of the EU-27'. According to Article 82(2)(c), more developed regions have a GDP per capita ABOVE 90 %.

1. To which of the above categories does the Commission assign regions with a GDP per capita of 90.0 %?

My question comes in the wake of the Eurostat figures published recently on regional GDP per capita in the EU 2007-2009. The value for the NUTS 2 region of Leipzig in Germany was put at 90.0 %.

The Commission proposal states that EU figures for 2006 to 2008 have been used as the basis for calculation. However, Commissioner Hahn has already emphasised on several occasions that the latest figures would be used. These will be available when the Council adopts a decision on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. However, it is important to give the regions legal security as quickly as possible. We need to know what basis for calculation is being used by the Commission.

If we assume that the figures published today are the latest figures, then the interpretation of the 90.0 % value is crucial to the question of whether or not Leipzig, a phasing-out region, qualifies as a 'transition region'.

2. Does the Commission assume that the figures published today will be the figures used as a basis for decision-making?

3. Am I right in understanding the Commission proposal to mean that the safety net, by which I mean the question of whether or not the regions receive at least two-thirds of the resources allocated to them for 2007-2013 under Article 84(2) of the framework Regulation, exists INDEPENDENTLY of whether or not the region qualifies as a 'transition region'?

Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission

(18 April 2012)

1. The regional GDP figures published by Eurostat were rounded to 1 decimal point. The GDP/head value for the region of Leipzig (average 2007-2008-2009) is 90.02 % of the EU average. Hence, based on this figure, Leipzig would qualify as a more developed region.

2. The Commission will produce a technical update of the multiannual financial framework, based on the latest available regional figures. For regional GDP, this means that the average of 2007-2008-2009 will be taken into account.

3. The Commission proposal foresees that the safety net for former Convergence regions applies to both transition regions and more developed regions.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002839/12
to the Commission**

Jim Higgins (PPE)

(13 March 2012)

Subject: Fisheries and aquaculture

Could the Commission outline what percentage of European Union fish originates from aquaculture?

What percentage of fish from aquaculture can be classified as organic?

Does the Commission have targets to increase the percentage of organic-fish farms under the new common fisheries policy?

Answer given by Ms Damanaki on behalf of the Commission

(24 April 2012)

The most recently available official statistics (2009) indicate that aquaculture accounts for around a quarter of European Union production of fish, molluscs and crustaceans; the rest comes from capture fisheries.

The exact proportion of fish from aquaculture which is certified organic is not known. There are reports that the sector is expanding following the new EU Regulation on organic aquaculture animal (fish, molluscs and crustaceans) and seaweed production entered into force in mid-2010. EU production of organic aquaculture products amounted to 50 000 tonnes in 2008. There were 123 certified organic fish farms in Europe in 2008. Eurostat recently prepared a revised questionnaire concerning organic aquaculture and the Commission is hopeful that Member States will supply fuller information, including the number of production units, the species farmed and the tonnage from 2012 onwards.

The proposed reform of the common fisheries policy intends to promote aquaculture in line with the Europe 2020 objectives: sustainability, food security, growth and employment. This includes fostering organic production in the EU. The draft new financial instrument in support to policy for the period 2014-2020 ('European Maritime and Fisheries Fund') covers specific measures to promote organic aquaculture which would allow Member States to increase the number of farms operating under the EU organic rules.

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002840/12
a la Comisión**

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

(14 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Generación de déficit

En su respuesta a la pregunta E-012684/2011, y en lo que se refiere al semestre europeo, la Comisión Europea siempre ha instado a los Estados miembros a que garanticen que las partes interesadas, incluidas las regiones, participen adecuadamente en la formulación de los programas nacionales de reforma. Prosigue la Comisión, en dicha respuesta, señalando que los acuerdos nacionales de carácter jurídico y político deben garantizar una participación adecuada de todas las partes interesadas. Los datos oficiales del Gobierno de España explicitan un 8,51 % de déficit para el ejercicio 2011 en vez del previsto 6 %. Esto significa que el Gobierno del Reino de España incurrió en un déficit de más 91 000 millones de euros. Según se deduce de la información oficial del Reino de España, el 60 % del total del déficit fue generado por el Gobierno central, que a la sazón tiene el monopolio en la recaudación de los impuestos. La manera de distribuir los ingresos hacia los entes locales y regionales depende, así, de la discreción de la Administración central ⁽¹⁾ y, por lo tanto, puede hacer aumentar de manera contable el déficit de regiones y centrifugar el déficit del Estado hacia las regiones ⁽²⁾.

Según se desprende de los datos oficiales, el Gobierno central es responsable del 21 % del total gastado, mientras las comunidades autónomas son responsables del 35 % total ⁽³⁾. Así, no obstante, el Gobierno del Reino impuso a las comunidades autónomas un déficit del 1,3 % del PIB y se autoimpuso un techo de déficit del 4,8 % del 6 % acordado por la UE y el Reino de España. Esto es, el Gobierno central de España es responsable del 80 % del déficit generado el año pasado.

A la luz de lo anterior y teniendo en cuenta el Reglamento (UE) n° 1173/2011, aprobado el 16 de noviembre de 2011, y especialmente su punto 8 y el semestre europeo,

1. ¿Puede indicar la Comisión si, a la vista de los números presentados por el Gobierno de España, son los Gobiernos regionales los responsables principales del incremento del déficit total?
2. ¿Puede indicar la Comisión si está al corriente de estos datos de gasto por parte del Gobierno central como principal responsable del déficit del Reino de España?
3. ¿Puede indicar la Comisión qué entiende por participación adecuada en la formulación de los programas nacionales de reforma?

Respuesta del Sr. Rehn en nombre de la Comisión

(15 de mayo de 2012)

La Comisión está al corriente de estos datos. El rebasamiento de la ejecución presupuestaria de 2011 supuso el 2,5 % del PIB. De acuerdo con las cifras presentadas por las autoridades españolas, se estima que en torno a dos tercios de la desviación prevista (el 1,6 % del PIB, aproximadamente) corresponden a las Comunidades Autónomas, mientras que las desviaciones correspondientes a la Administración central (0,3 puntos porcentuales) y a la Seguridad Social (0,5 puntos porcentuales) fueron más limitadas. El déficit presupuestario de 2011 del 8,5 % del PIB fue validado por Eurostat el 23 de abril de 2012.

El Programa Nacional de Reforma no está vinculado a la situación de la hacienda pública que se aborda en la pregunta de Su Señoría. Los resultados y perspectivas de la hacienda pública se analizan en el Programa de Estabilidad.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20111212/54240987535/gobierno-del-psoe-se-comprometio-por-escrito-el-pago-de-los-759-millones.html>

⁽²⁾ <http://www.lavanguardia.com/opinion/editorial/20120217/54255679070/las-infraestructuras-pendientes.html>

⁽³⁾ <http://www.igae.pap.minhap.gob.es/sitios/igae/es-ES/InformesCuentas/Informes/Documents/Inf-A2/avanceaapp2010.pdf>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002840/12
to the Commission**

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Deficit generation

In its response to Question E-012684/2011, with regard to the European semester, the European Commission has always urged Member States to ensure that all stakeholders, including regional stakeholders, are appropriately involved in formulating national reform programmes. The Commission goes on to note in this response that national legal and political arrangements must ensure appropriate participation by all stakeholders. Official data from the Spanish Government reveal a deficit of 8.51 % for the 2011 financial year instead of the predicted 6 %. This means that the Spanish Government incurred a deficit of over EUR 91 000 million. As is apparent from the official information from the Kingdom of Spain, 60 % of the total deficit was generated by the central Government which, at that time, had a monopoly over tax collection. The method of distributing income to the local and regional authorities thus depends on the discretion of the central Government ⁽¹⁾ and, therefore, may cause a considerable increase in regional deficit and force State deficit into the regions ⁽²⁾.

According to official data, the central Government is responsible for 21 % of the total expenditure, whereas the autonomous regions are responsible for 35 % ⁽³⁾. However, the Spanish Government imposed a deficit of 1.3 % of GDP on the autonomous regions, while it imposed a deficit ceiling of 4.8 % on itself from the 6 % agreed by the EU and Spain. Therefore, the central Government of Spain is responsible for 80 % of the deficit generated last year.

In view of the above and taking into account Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011, adopted on 16 November 2011, and in particular Article 8 and the European Semester,

1. Can the Commission indicate if, in view of the figures presented by the Spanish Government, the regional Governments are primarily responsible for the increase in the total deficit?
2. Can the Commission indicate whether it is aware of these expenditure figures by the central Government, as the body primarily responsible for Spain's deficit?
3. Can the Commission indicate what is meant by appropriate involvement in formulating national reform programmes?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission

(15 May 2012)

The Commission is aware of this data. The overrun in the budget execution of 2011 amounted to 2.5 % of GDP. According to the figures presented by the Spanish authorities, about two thirds of the expected deviation (about 1.6 % of GDP) is expected to have occurred at the level of the Autonomous Communities (CCAA), while slippages at central government (0.3 pp.) and social security (0.5 pp.) levels were more limited. The 2011 budget deficit of 8.5 % of GDP has been validated by Eurostat on 23 April 2012.

The National Reform Programme is not linked to the public finance situation discussed in the question of the Honourable Member. Public finance outcomes and outlook are analysed in the Stability Programme.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20111121/54240987535/gobierno-del-psoe-se-comprometio-por-escrito-el-pago-de-los-759-millones.html>

⁽²⁾ <http://www.lavanguardia.com/opinion/editorial/20120217/54255679070/las-infraestructuras-pendientes.html>

⁽³⁾ <http://www.igae.pap.minhap.gob.es/sitios/igae/es-ES/InformesCuentas/Informes/Documents/Inf-A2/avanceaapp2010.pdf>

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002841/12
a la Comisión**

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

(14 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Desconexión aeropuerto de Barcelona-el Prat

Según el informe Top Global Cities, el aeropuerto de Barcelona-el Prat ofrece vuelos directos a 16 de las 30 ciudades más importantes del mundo; de estos vuelos, sólo 11 son a ciudades no europeas. En una pregunta anterior a la Comisión, E-0103/10, apunté algunas consecuencias de los acuerdos de carácter restrictivo del Reino de España con terceros países, los cuales prohíben explícitamente operar vuelos con destino o partida en el aeropuerto del Prat a 23 Estados. Según el informe de European Cities Monitor ⁽¹⁾, Barcelona se encuentra en el top 5 como mejor ciudad para hacer negocios o por su conocimiento a nivel mundial.

A la vista de la nueva Directiva 2009/12/EC, en especial sus artículos 3, 6, 7 y 11.

1. ¿Cree la Comisión que dicha desconexión de Barcelona de las grandes capitales del mundo resta competitividad a la economía europea y, en particular, a la catalana?
2. ¿Está la Comisión satisfecha de la aplicación de la Directiva 2009/12/EC por parte de las Autoridades españolas del Reino de España?

Respuesta del Sr. Kallas en nombre de la Comisión

(4 de mayo de 2012)

1. Una interconectabilidad y una infraestructura de transporte adecuadas, que comuniquen a la UE con el resto del mundo, son importantes factores que contribuyen a la competitividad de la economía europea. Dentro de la UE, el mercado interior de la aviación se ha liberalizado totalmente, habiéndose suprimido todas las restricciones en materia de vuelos. Ello ha generado importantes beneficios económicos para la economía, la industria y los ciudadanos de la UE.

Las relaciones aéreas internacionales entre los Estados miembros de la UE y los países no pertenecientes a la misma se han basado principalmente en acuerdos de servicios aéreos bilaterales negociados entre los distintos Estados. Estos acuerdos bilaterales a menudo contienen disposiciones restrictivas referentes al número de compañías aéreas que pueden prestar servicios aéreos o al número de puntos (ciudades) que pueden ser origen o destino de los mismos, o limitan la capacidad o las frecuencias.

La Comisión considera que unos mercados de la aviación abiertos pueden fomentar el crecimiento de la economía europea y, por esta razón, está persiguiendo activamente la apertura de los mercados de la aviación a nivel mundial.

En los últimos años, la UE ha negociado acuerdos de aviación entre ella misma y todos sus Estados miembros y una serie de países vecinos y otros importantes socios. Estos acuerdos están encaminados a suprimir las tradicionales restricciones relativas a la capacidad, al número de compañías que pueden volar y a los aeropuertos a los que estas pueden volar. Estos acuerdos también están empezando contribuir de manera significativa a la economía de la UE.

2. En cuanto a la Directiva relativa a las tasas aeroportuarias, la Comisión está analizando actualmente las medidas de transposición que le ha notificado España y, de forma general, los 27 Estados miembros.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europeancitiesmonitor.eu/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/ECM-2010-Full-Version.pdf>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002841/12
to the Commission**

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Lack of connections for Barcelona-El Prat Airport

According to the 'Top Global Cities' report, Barcelona-El Prat Airport offers direct flights to 16 of the world's 30 most important cities. Of these flights, only 11 are to cities outside Europe. A previous question to the Commission, E-0103/10, pointed out some of the consequences of the restrictive agreements the Kingdom of Spain has with non-EU countries, which expressly prohibit 23 countries from operating flights to or from El Prat airport. According to the report by European Cities Monitor ⁽¹⁾, Barcelona is one of the top five best cities for business and is also one of the best-known throughout the world.

In view of Directive No 2009/12/EC, and in particular Articles 3, 6, 7 and 11 thereof:

1. Does the Commission believe that Barcelona's lack of connections to the world's great capitals lessens the competitiveness of the EU economy, and of the Catalan economy in particular?
2. Is the Commission satisfied with the implementation of Directive No 2009/12/EC by the Spanish authorities?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission

(4 May 2012)

1. Interconnectivity and good transport infrastructure linking the EU to the rest of the world are important factors contributing to the competitiveness of the European economy. Within the EU, the internal aviation market has been fully liberalised and all restrictions on flights have been removed. This has generated major economic benefits for the EU economy, industry and citizens.

International aviation relations between EU Member States and non-EU countries have mainly been based on bilateral air services agreements negotiated between individual States. These bilateral agreements often contain restrictive provisions as to the number of airlines that can operate services or the number of points (cities) that can be served, or limit capacity or frequencies.

The Commission is of the opinion that open aviation markets can promote growth in the European economy and for this reason is actively seeking the opening of aviation markets worldwide.

In recent years, the EU has been negotiating aviation agreements between the EU and all its Member States and a range of neighbouring countries as well as other key partners. These agreements seek to remove traditional restrictions on capacity; the number of airlines that may fly and to which airports they can fly. These agreements are also starting to make a significant positive contribution to the EU economy.

2. Regarding the airport charges Directive, the Commission is currently analysing the transposition measures notified to the Commission by Spain and, indeed, all 27 Member States.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europeancitiesmonitor.eu/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/ECM-2010-Full-Version.pdf>

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002844/12
to the Commission
Marian Harkin (ALDE)
(14 March 2012)

Subject: Purchase orders

In the context of misleading directory practices and other unfair practices, would the Commission consider a proposal stipulating that an order form, a purchase order or an invitation to treat should not be contained within any other company communication, and thereby amend or propose legislation that would create a requirement for a purchase order to be a separate piece of documentation?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(30 April 2012)

The Commission has decided to address the problem of misleading directory companies in the context of a communication, scheduled to be published in the summer of 2012. It will focus on the problems which European businesses and professionals often face when confronted with misleading practices and present concrete proposals to address them, both at national and cross-border level.

In this context, the Commission is looking into all possible options to ensure that business are not trapped by misleading offers. The separation of commercial communication and contractual offers is one of the paths that will be considered.

However, the Commission believes that any initiative would need to focus on the proper enforcement of the existing rules prohibiting misleading advertising and, if this proves to be necessary, present also additional rules that would protect businesses without restricting the contractual freedom in business-to-business relations.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-002848/12

aan de Commissie

Barry Madlener (NI)

(14 maart 2012)

Betreft: Open brief Weidmann

1. Is de Commissie op de hoogte van de open brief die de Duitse Bundespresident Weidmann op 13 maart heeft ingezonden aan o.m. de Frankfurter Allgemeine? Zo ja, wat vindt de Commissie van die brief?
2. Klopt het dat elke Nederlander — via de Europese Centrale Bank — inmiddels een vordering heeft van ruim EUR 10 000 op de Zuid-Europese periferie?
3. Hoe zal, naar het oordeel van de Commissie, deze schuld zich in de (nabije) toekomst ontwikkelen?
4. Deelt de Commissie de mening van Weidmann dat de ECB een volkomen verkeerd signaal afgeeft aan de bankensector en de eurolanden? Zo nee, waarom niet? Zo ja, welke maatregelen gaat de Commissie nemen om dat verkeerde signaal te verbeteren?
5. Deelt de Commissie de mening van Weidmann dat individuele banken en individuele lidstaten zelf verantwoordelijk zijn voor het oplossen van hun schulden en dat het niet de taak van de ECB is om hun problemen op te lossen? Zo nee, waarom niet? Zo ja, wat gaat de Commissie hieraan doen?

Antwoord van de heer Rehn namens de Commissie

(24 mei 2012)

De Commissie eerbiedigt ten volle de onafhankelijkheid van de ECB bij het voeren van het monetaire beleid in de eurozone. De Commissie heeft niet de gewoonte commentaar te leveren op verklaringen van leden van de Raad van bestuur van de ECB. Zij handelen immers in alle onafhankelijkheid, zoals in het Verdrag is bepaald.

Een aantal lidstaten heeft belangrijke maatregelen genomen met het oog op de consolidatie van de begroting en het doorvoeren van structurele hervormingen. De inspanningen om de aangekondigde maatregelen ten uitvoer te leggen en om nieuwe maatregelen te nemen indien zulks noodzakelijk blijkt, moeten worden voortgezet. Zowel de actie die recentelijk op het gebied van het budgettaire en macro-economische toezicht op EU-niveau is ondernomen ⁽¹⁾, als het nieuwe EU-toezichtkader voor de bankensector en de financiële markten zou tevens mede het ontstaan van macro-economische onevenwichtigheden in de lidstaten moeten voorkomen en de macrofinanciële stabiliteit in de EU moeten bevorderen.

⁽¹⁾ Bijvoorbeeld het Europees semester en de procedure bij macro-economische onevenwichtigheden.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002848/12
to the Commission
Barry Madlener (NI)
(14 March 2012)**

Subject: Open letter from Jens Weidmann

1. Is the Commission aware of the open letter that Deutsche Bundesbank President Jens Weidmann sent on 13 March 2012 to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, among others? If so, what is the Commission's view of this letter?
2. Is it true that each Dutch citizen — through the European Central Bank (ECB) — is now owed over EUR 10 000 by southern Europe?
3. How, in the Commission's opinion, will this debt develop in the (near) future?
4. Does the Commission share Jens Weidmann's opinion that the ECB is sending a completely wrong signal to the banking sector and the euro area countries? If not, why not? If so, what measures will the Commission take to correct that wrong signal?
5. Does the Commission share Jens Weidmann's opinion that individual banks and individual Member States themselves are responsible for resolving their debts and that it is not the ECB's task to solve their problems? If not, why not? If so, what action will the Commission take?

**Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(24 May 2012)**

The Commission fully respects ECB's independence in conducting monetary policy in the euro area. It is not the Commission's policy to comment on statements by members of the ECB's Governing Council, who act in full independence as provided for by the Treaty.

A number of MS have put in place important fiscal consolidation and structural reform measures. Efforts should continue to implement the announced measures and to adopt further measures when necessary. Recent measures implemented at EU level in the context of fiscal and macroeconomic surveillance ⁽¹⁾ and the new EU banking and financial market supervisory framework should also contribute to prevent the accumulation of macroeconomic imbalances in MS and reinforce macro-financial stability in the EU.

⁽¹⁾ e.g. the European Semester and the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure.

(българска версия)

Въпрос с искане за писмен отговор E-002851/12

до Комисията

Mariya Nedelcheva (PPE)

(14 март 2012 г.)

Относно: Понятието „свързани лица“ според европейското законодателство в контекста на ОСП

Във връзка с Общата селскостопанска политика и новите законодателни предложения за следващия програмен период (2014-2020 г.) българските земеделски производители нямат информация относно тълкуването на понятието „свързани лица“ съгласно европейското законодателство.

Много от тях се притесняват, че ще бъдат санкционирани или няма да им бъдат отпуснати субсидии, в случай че се окаже, че според европейското законодателство те попадат под графата „свързани лица“.

Кои лица се третира и ще се третира като „свързани“ в рамките на ОСП и кои са европейските регламенти, които разясняват конкретното понятие?

Отговор, даден от г-н Чолош от името на Комисията

(30 април 2012 г.)

Комисията би желала да уведоми уважаемия член на Парламента, че понятието „свързани лица“ не е част от ОСП след 2013 г.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002851/12
to the Commission**

Mariya Nedelcheva (PPE)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: 'Connected parties' concept in European law in the context of the common agricultural policy (CAP)

With regard to the CAP and new legislative proposals for the forthcoming programming period (2014-2020), Bulgarian farmers have no information regarding the interpretation of the 'connected parties' concept under European law.

Many of them are worried that they will be penalised or will not be granted subsidies if it transpires that, under European law, they come under the 'connected parties' heading.

Can the Commission state which parties are, and will be, treated as 'connected' under the CAP and which European regulations set out that concept in practical terms?

Answer given by Mr Ciolos on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

The Commission would like to inform the Honourable Member that the concept of 'connected parties' is not part of the CAP post 2013.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002852/12
to the Commission**

Diane Dodds (NI)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Motor vehicle insurance companies

What mechanisms does the Commission have in place to ensure that motor vehicle insurance companies cannot specifically word insurance policies so that, after a motor vehicle accident, vulnerable customers are steered towards one business over another, or towards a business that yields a benefit for the insurance company or results in a financial penalty for the customer?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

The Commission understands the Honourable Member's question as referring to practices of motor insurers which encourage the insurance policyholder to use specific car repairers which are part of a network that is 'agreed' by the insurer, in exchange for certain advantages, such as: direct payment between the insurance company and the car repairer or other supplementary services (e.g. replacement vehicle). However, the general practice appears to be that the policyholder still has the right to choose another car repairer, which is not on the list of the 'agreed' repairers, if he so prefers. Therefore, his freedom of choice is not affected by this practice.

Both the Commission and national competition authorities enforce EU competition rules which prohibit agreements between undertakings and concerted practices, which may affect trade between Member States and which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction, or distortion of competition within the single market (Article 101 TFEU). Moreover, the fact that one or several undertaking(s) is/are abusing its/their dominant position within the single market or in a substantial part of it is prohibited, insofar as it may affect trade between Member States (Article 102 TFEU).

A competition issue under Article 101 TFEU could arise if a significant proportion of the relevant market were covered by parallel networks of similar vertical contracts between insurance companies and car repairers, which could have a foreclosing effect on the market. A competition issue under Article 102 TFEU could arise if an insurance company in a dominant position unduly limited the freedom of insured persons to choose their car repairer. On the basis of the information the Commission currently has, there are no indications of such breaches of Articles 101 or 102 TFEU.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002854/12
an die Kommission
Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)
(14. März 2012)

Betrifft: EU-Rahmen für die nationalen Strategien zur Eingliederung der Roma bis 2020

1. Im EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Eingliederung der Roma werden die Mitgliedstaaten aufgefordert, die Mittel aus den Strukturfonds und dem Europäischen Landwirtschaftsfonds besser zur Integration von Roma zu nutzen. Was hat die Kommission vor, um die Nationalstaaten bei der Nutzung der Mittel aus dem europäischen Strukturfonds 2012-2020 für Roma zu unterstützen?
2. Wie wird die Kommission die Länder hinsichtlich dem „Monitoring“ und der Evaluierung der Implementierung der nationalen Strategien zur Eingliederung der Roma unterstützen? Welche Vorschläge macht die Kommission den Ländern hinsichtlich der Erhebungen zur sozialen und wirtschaftlichen Situation der Roma?
3. Die Kommission wird jährlich über die seitens der Mitgliedstaaten erzielten Fortschritte Bericht erstatten. In welcher Form wird das genau passieren? Wann ist mit dem ersten Bericht seitens der Kommission zu rechnen? Wird die Kommission die Berichte veröffentlichen?

Antwort von Frau Reding im Namen der Kommission
(14. Mai 2012)

Die Implementierung der nationalen Strategien zur Eingliederung der Roma hängt von der Mittelzuteilung ab. Die Verwendung von Unionsmitteln, darunter von Strukturfonds-Mitteln, kann besonders auf lokaler Ebene sehr sinnvoll sein.

Der Legislativvorschlag für die Unionsfonds, den die Kommission im letzten Jahr beschlossen hat und der zur Zeit mit dem Rat und dem EP verhandelt wird, erfasst den Zeitraum 2014-2020 ⁽¹⁾. Er enthält gemeinsame Ziele und die Investitionsprioritäten für jeden Fonds, legt Mindestquoten für ESF-Zuweisungen für die Förderung der sozialen Integration und Bekämpfung der Armut fest, vereinfacht die Vorschriften für den Zugang zu den Mitteln und führt Ex-ante-Konditionalitäten für die einzelnen Themenbereiche ein — so wird die Auszahlung von Mitteln für marginalisierte Gemeinschaften, darunter die Roma, davon abhängig gemacht wird, ob es eine wirkliche nationale Strategie zur Eingliederung der Roma gibt. Auch werden das Monitoring und die Bewertung der Inanspruchnahme der Strukturfonds im genannten Zeitraum verbessert.

2010 führte die Grundrechte-Agentur in 11 EU-Mitgliedstaaten ⁽²⁾ eine umfassende Pilot-Erhebung in Roma-Haushalten durch, die zeitgleich mit einer Erhebung des UN-Entwicklungsprogramms (UNDP) und der Weltbank stattfand. 2012 und 2013 wird die Agentur eine entsprechende Erhebung auch für die anderen Mitgliedstaaten vornehmen. In weiteren Erhebungen wird 2020 der Fortschritt bei der Umsetzung des EU-Rahmens bewertet. Die Kommission hat die Agentur zudem darum ersucht, gemeinsam mit den Mitgliedstaaten Monitoringmethoden zu entwickeln, um eine vergleichende Analyse der Lage der Roma in ganz Europa anstellen zu können.

Die Kommission wird ihren Bericht zur Bewertung der nationalen Strategien zur Eingliederung der Roma im Frühjahr 2012 annehmen und ihn dann dem Europäischen Parlament und dem Rat vorlegen. Sie wird bis 2020 jährlich über den Fortschritt bei der Umsetzung des EU-Rahmens für die nationalen Strategien zur Eingliederung der Roma berichten. Eine Fortschrittsbewertung wird auch im Rahmen der Strategie Europa 2020 erfolgen.

⁽¹⁾ Vorschlag für eine Verordnung des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates mit gemeinsamen Bestimmungen über den Europäischen Fonds für regionale Entwicklung (EFRE), den Europäischen Sozialfonds (ESF), den Kohäsionsfonds (KF), den Europäischen Landwirtschaftsfonds für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums und den Europäischen Meeres- und Fischereifonds, für die der Gemeinsame Strategische Rahmen für den EFRE, den ESF und den KF gilt.

⁽²⁾ Bulgarien, Tschechische Republik, Frankreich, Griechenland, Italien, Ungarn, Polen, Portugal, Rumänien, Slowenien, Spanien.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002854/12
to the Commission**

Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020

1. The EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies calls on the Member States to make better use of the resources available from the Structural Funds and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development in integrating the Roma. What plans does the Commission have to support the Member States in the use of the resources from the European Structural Funds 2012-2020 for the Roma?
2. How will the Commission support the Member States in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national strategies for integrating the Roma? What proposals is the Commission making to the Member States in relation to surveys on the social and economic situation of the Roma?
3. The Commission is to provide annual reports on the progress made by the Member States. What precise form will they take? When can we expect the first report from the Commission? Will the Commission publish the reports?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission

(14 May 2012)

Implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies will depend on an effective allocation of resources; Community funds, including structural funds, can contribute particularly at local level.

The proposed cohesion funds' regulatory package adopted by the Commission last year and currently under negotiation with the Council and the EP covers the period 2014-2020 ⁽¹⁾. It identifies common objectives and investment priorities by fund, sets a minimum allocation of the ESF for social inclusion and combating poverty, simplifies rules for access to funds, introduces *ex-ante* thematic conditions — that the use of funds for marginalised communities, including Roma, is linked to a real National Roma Integration Strategy. It also reinforces monitoring and evaluation of the structural funds implementation in the same period.

In 2010 the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) launched a major pilot household survey of Roma in 11 EU Member States ⁽²⁾ working in parallel with the United Nations Development Program and the World Bank. In 2012 and 2013 the FRA will expand its research to cover the remaining Member States. Additional surveys will be carried out until 2020 to measure progress of the EU Framework. The Commission also requested the FRA work with Member States to develop monitoring methods to provide a comparative analysis of the situation of Roma across Europe.

The Commission will adopt its report on the assessment of National Roma Integration Strategies in spring 2012 to then be presented to the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission will report annually in this way on progress in the implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integrations Strategies up to 2020. Progress will also be reviewed in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy.

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund covered by the Common Strategic Framework for the ERDF, ESF and CF.

⁽²⁾ Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta P-002855/12

alla Commissione

Mario Borghezio (EFD)

(14 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Violazioni della privacy da parte del governo italiano

Nella sua relazione svolta ieri al Senato italiano, il prof. Francesco Pizzetti, presidente dell'Autorità Garante per la privacy, ha denunciato a chiare lettere che, in Italia, «è in atto, a ogni livello dell'amministrazione, e specialmente in ambito locale, una spinta al controllo e all'acquisizione di informazione digitale, a una concezione potenzialmente illimitata dell'open data e all'invocazione della trasparenza declinata come diritto di ogni cittadino di conoscere tutto, (il che) può condurre a fenomeni di controllo sociale di dimensioni spaventose».

1. Il presidente Pizzetti ritiene che le nuove norme licenziate dal governo italiano sulla trasparenza amministrativa nei controlli fiscali rappresentino «strappi forti allo Stato di diritto». Egli ha inoltre sottolineato che «finora, noi potevamo assicurare alle imprese e alle persone giuridiche un alto livello di protezione. Oggi questo non è più possibile» a causa della scelta di ridurre l'applicabilità del codice per la privacy contenuta nel decreto «Sviluppo» e nel decreto «Salva Italia».

2. Come valuta la Commissione la situazione che emerge dal puntuale e severo giudizio formulato dallo stesso presidente della competente Autorità italiana su tutta una serie di violazioni della privacy lesive dei diritti di cittadini e imprese e financo dello Stato di diritto patrocinato dal governo italiano?

Risposta data da Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione

(25 aprile 2012)

La Commissione è a conoscenza della recente riforma della normativa italiana in materia di protezione dei dati. Tale normativa esclude le persone giuridiche dal concetto di «interessato», riservandolo alla persona fisica cui si riferiscono i dati personali.

Ciò è in linea con la normativa dell'Unione ⁽¹⁾ in materia di protezione dei dati, che considera dati personali qualsiasi informazione concernente una persona fisica identificata o identificabile. Spetta pertanto esclusivamente agli Stati membri determinare se la normativa nazionale che recepisce la direttiva 95/46/CE sulla protezione dei dati estenda la tutela anche agli interessi delle persone giuridiche.

La direttiva 95/46/CE si applica alle persone giuridiche nel loro ruolo di responsabili o incaricati del trattamento dei dati. Il Garante per la protezione dei dati personali (Autorità italiana per la protezione dei dati) rimane competente ad assicurare il rispetto della normativa sulla protezione dei dati nei confronti di qualsiasi persona giuridica che violi la normativa italiana, che recepisce la direttiva 95/46/CE. Inoltre le disposizioni della direttiva si applicano anche alle persone giuridiche e alle autorità pubbliche quando trattano dati personali che sono stati comunicati loro da un'altra persona giuridica.

⁽¹⁾ Articolo 8 della Carta dei diritti fondamentali dell'Unione europea; articolo 16 del TFEU; direttiva 95/46/CE, GU L 281 del 23.11.1995, pag. 31.

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-002855/12
to the Commission**

Mario Borghezio (EFD)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Violations of privacy by the Italian Government

In his report yesterday to the Italian Senate, Professor Francesco Pizzetti, chair of the Italian Data Protection Authority, very clearly stated that in Italy, at every level of the administration, and especially in local administration, there was currently a drive to control and acquire digital information, towards a potentially unlimited concept of open data and towards the idea of transparency as the right of every citizen to know everything, which could lead to social control of truly frightening proportions.

1. Professor Pizzetti believes that the new laws approved by the Italian Government on administrative transparency in relation to tax inspections are severely detrimental to the rule of law. He also pointed out that, up to now, companies and corporations had been afforded a high level of protection but that today this was no longer possible due to the decision to reduce the applicability of the privacy code in the so-called 'Growth' and 'Save Italy' decrees.

2. What is the Commission's view of the situation as described in the precise and harsh judgment delivered by the chair of this Italian authority, concerning a whole range of privacy violations which are supported by the Italian Government and yet which infringe the rights of citizens and businesses, and even the rule of law?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission

(25 April 2012)

The Commission is aware of the recent reform of the Italian Data Protection Law, which excludes legal persons from the concept of data subject. Only natural persons will be considered data subjects by the Italian law.

This is in line with EU data protection law ⁽¹⁾, which considers personal data any information related to an identified or identifiable natural person. Whether the national laws implementing the data protection Directive 95/46/EC also protect the interests of legal persons is therefore a matter left entirely to Member States.

Legal persons are subject to Directive 95/46/EC in respect to their processing operations in their capacity of controllers or processors. The Italian Garante (Data Protection Authority) remains competent to enforce compliance with the data protection law against any legal person failing to respect Italian data protection law, implementing Directive 95/46/EC. Moreover a legal person and public authority which process personal data that have been disclosed to them by another legal person must also respect the provisions of the directive.

⁽¹⁾ Article 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Article 16 TFEU, Directive 95/46/EC, OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 3.

(българска версия)

Въпрос с искане за писмен отговор E-002856/12

до Комисията
Слави Бинев (NI)
(14 март 2012 г.)

Относно: Опасна ситуация в България

Уважаема Комисия, в България пълният контрол над медиите и неупражняването на свободата на словото осигуряват удобен чадър на управляващите. Критиките отвсякъде към управлението биват филтрирани, непубликувани. Пресен пример за това е следната случка. След като настоях от трибуната на Европейския парламент за арестуването на министър-председателя на България и на неговите съучастници, мое гостуване в национална телевизия беше отменено в последния момент. Много пресметнато се отмества центърът на общественото внимание върху други, по-маловажни теми, например проблема с пчелите, хайвера на херингата и др. По този начин не се дава възможност на избирателите ми, а и на другите български граждани, да се запознаят с моята дейност. Липсата на информация за европейските институции и трескавото подменяне на сериозните теми с по-лековати прави българите скептични в тяхното отношение към европейските институции. Хората биват заблуждавани и неинформирани за ставащото около тях.

В подкрепа на своите твърдения трябва да спомена и фактът, че моята молба до медийната комисия в Народното събрание на България за изказване относно свободата на словото вече повече от година остава без всякакъв отговор (вх. № КК/ 140-01-1/ 28.01.2011 г.).

Ситуация, еквивалентна на тази в Унгария, Гърция, арабските държави, е много вероятен сценарий и за България, само че събитията оттам може да се съчетаят в една-единствена страна.

— Искам да попитам уважаемата Комисия дали ще предприеме разследване на нарушаването на свободата на словото и правото на информираност на гражданите на Република България — право и свобода, защитени от Хартата на основните права на Европейския съюз?

Отговор, даден от г-жа Рединг от името на Комисията

(10 май 2012 г.)

Свободата на изразяване на мнение представлява един от основните фундаменти, на които се крепят нашите демократични общества, и е закрепена в член 11, параграф 1 от Хартата на основните права на Европейския съюз и в член 10 от Европейската конвенция за защита на правата на човека и основните свободи.

Комисията е поела изцяло ангажмента да гарантира и допринася за спазването на основните права, включително свободата на изразяване на мнение. Тя обаче може да прави това само в рамките на своята компетентност. Съгласно член 51, параграф 1 от Хартата на основните права разпоредбите ѝ се отнасят за държавите членки единствено когато последните прилагат правото на Съюза. Когато не прилагат правото на Съюза, спазването на поетите задължения във връзка с основните права, произтичащи от международни споразумения и от вътрешното законодателство на държавите членки, трябва да се гарантира от самите държави членки.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002856/12
to the Commission**

Slavi Binev (NI)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Dangerous situation in Bulgaria

The complete control of the media in Bulgaria and their inability to exercise freedom of speech conveniently shields those governing the country. Criticisms of the government from all sides are regularly filtered and go unpublished. To give one recent illustration of this: after I had called, from the floor of this House, for the arrest of the Prime Minister of Bulgaria and his accomplices, an appearance I had been due to make on national television was cancelled at the last minute. Public attention is being shifted in a very calculated manner towards other, relatively trivial issues such as the problems of bees, or herring roe, for example. In this way, Bulgarians, including the people who elected me, are being denied the opportunity of knowing about what I do. The absence of information about the EU institutions and the frenetic displacement of serious issues by 'softer' subjects have made Bulgarians sceptical about their relationship with the European institutions. The people are being deluded and kept in the dark about what is happening around them.

The points I am making are underscored by the fact that the Bulgarian Parliament's Media Committee has failed, in over a year, to make any response whatever to my request for a statement on the subject of freedom of speech (lodged on 28 January 2011, reference number KK/ 140-01-1).

A scenario similar to those in Hungary, Greece and the Arab countries is a more than likely prospect, with the difference that, in the case of Bulgaria, the things we have witnessed in all those countries may be combined.

— Will the Commission undertake to investigate the violation of the Bulgarian people's freedom of speech and their right to information — a freedom and a right protected under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission

(10 May 2012)

Freedom of expression constitutes one of the essential foundations of our democratic societies, enshrined in Article 11(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Commission is fully committed to ensuring and promoting the respect of fundamental rights, including freedom of expression. However, it can only do so within the scope of its competences. According to Article 51(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the provisions of the Charter are addressed to the Member States only when they are implementing Union law. When they are not implementing Union law, it is for Member States to ensure that their obligations regarding fundamental rights — as resulting from international agreements and from their internal legislation — are respected.

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002857/12
a la Comisión**

Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)

(14 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Necesaria integración de la supervisión bancaria

Las medidas adoptadas por el Banco Central Europeo, en especial, las subastas de cantidades millonarias para facilitar liquidez al sistema financiero y al mercado no parece que estén dando los frutos deseados porque, como se deduce de las propias estadísticas que facilita esa institución, muchos recursos se utilizan para comprar deuda pública de los Estados miembros o vuelven en forma de depósitos al propio Banco central europeo.

Las causas de estas actuaciones derivan, según opinan muchos especialistas, por un lado, de los cambiantes criterios que está dictando la Autoridad bancaria europea sobre la solvencia de las entidades financieras y un ejemplo de ello es que en pocos meses se han establecido cuatro criterios distintos. Por otro, de la falta de un único supervisor sobre las entidades financieras. Por ello, me interesa saber:

1. ¿Está estudiando la Comisión alguna medida para evitar esos vaivenes de actuación de la Autoridad bancaria europea?
2. ¿Cuenta la Comisión con algún proyecto para promover la integración de la supervisión financiera y crediticia en el Banco Central Europeo?

Respuesta del Sr. Barnier en nombre de la Comisión

(7 de mayo de 2012)

Las operaciones de refinanciación a largo plazo del Banco Central Europeo han sido un éxito por cuanto han contribuido a estabilizar los mercados de financiación bancaria y han evitado una contracción del crédito. Es demasiado pronto para sacar conclusiones concretas sobre cómo se ha utilizado la liquidez inyectada en el sistema financiero. Sin embargo, puede suponerse que una parte de la financiación se ha empleado en la concesión de préstamos a hogares y empresas.

La Comisión tiene plena confianza en la forma en que la Autoridad Bancaria Europea (ABE) realiza su cometido. La ABE realiza periódicamente las denominadas pruebas de resistencia del sector bancario europeo. Los parámetros utilizados en estas pruebas se vuelven a determinar para cada nuevo ejercicio. La Comisión participará en la preparación de las próximas pruebas de resistencia, previstas para 2013.

Aparte de estas pruebas, y con objetivos diferentes, el Consejo Europeo de 26 de octubre de 2011 encargó a la ABE la supervisión de un ejercicio de recapitalización temporal de los bancos europeos, que deberá llevar a un ratio de capital básico de clase 1 del 9 % para junio de 2011. Con este fin, la ABE emitió en diciembre de 2011 una recomendación dirigida a los supervisores nacionales. La ABE está siguiendo de cerca este ejercicio, a fin de garantizar particularmente que el aumento de capital no dé lugar a un desapalancamiento perjudicial.

En cuanto al futuro de la supervisión financiera en Europa, la Comisión realizará en 2013 una evaluación fundamental del Sistema Europeo de Supervisores Financieros, con inclusión de la ABE, la Autoridad Europea de Seguros y Pensiones de Jubilación, la Autoridad Europea de Valores y Mercados y la Junta Europea de Riesgo Sistémico, establecidas desde el 1 de enero de 2011. A la luz de esta evaluación podrán proponerse modificaciones del sistema actual.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002857/12
to the Commission**

Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Necessary integration of banking supervision

The measures taken by the European Central Bank, in particular auctioning millions to provide liquidity to the financial system and to the market, do not seem to be having the desired results because, as is clear from that institution's own statistics, many resources are used to buy the public debt of the Member States, or are returned to the European Central Bank itself in the form of deposits.

In the opinion of many experts, the causes of these actions derive in part from the changing criteria issued by the European Banking Authority on the solvency of financial institutions (one example being that four different criteria have been established within a few months). They derive also from the lack of a single supervisor of financial institutions. In light of this, I would like to know:

1. Is the Commission considering any measures to prevent such fluctuations in the action taken by the European Banking Authority?
2. Does the Commission have any plans to promote the integration of financial and credit supervision in the European Central Bank?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission

(7 May 2012)

The LTRO by the European Central Bank has been a success in terms of stabilising bank financing markets and avoiding an abrupt credit crunch. It is too early to draw concrete conclusions on the use made of the liquidity injected. However, it can be assumed that some of the funding has been used as lending to households and businesses.

The Commission has full confidence in the way EBA carries out the tasks entrusted to it. The EBA regularly carries out so-called stress tests of the European banking sector. The parameters for these tests are re-determined for each new exercise. The Commission will be involved in the preparation of the next stress test, currently scheduled for 2013.

Separately from these tests, and with different objectives, the European Council of 26 October 2011 entrusted the EBA with overseeing a temporary recapitalisation exercise of European banks, leading to a core tier 1 capital ratio of 9 % by June 2012. To this end, EBA issued in December 2011 a recommendation to national supervisors. EBA is following closely this exercise, notably ensuring that capital increase does not result in detrimental deleveraging.

As regards the future of financial supervision in Europe, the Commission will carry out in 2013 a fundamental evaluation of the European System of Financial Supervisors, including EBA, EIOPA, ESMA, and the European Systemic Risk Board, in place since 1 January 2011. Following this review, modifications to the current system may be proposed, as appropriate.

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002858/12
a la Comisión**

Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)

(14 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Exigencia abusiva de la entrega de tarjetas de pago

La Comisión Europea se ha ocupado en varias ocasiones de establecer unos criterios para facilitar el uso de las tarjetas como medio de pago. Conozco sus Recomendaciones (números 87/598/CEE, de 8 de diciembre; 88/590/CEE de 17 de noviembre y 97/489/CE de 30 de julio) en las que se catalogan los deberes de los emisores de tarjetas de pago así como los derechos y deberes de los usuarios de servicios bancarios. Del mismo modo, la Directiva de servicios de pago 2007/64/CE de 13 de noviembre precisa obligaciones de los usuarios así como su responsabilidad en caso de operaciones no autorizadas.

A mi juicio, esas Recomendaciones, así como las previsiones de la Directiva, resultan insuficientes para proteger a los ciudadanos ante algunas prácticas que se han generalizado en las relaciones comerciales y que pueden calificarse de abusivas. Por ejemplo, con el argumento de garantizar el pago de hipotéticos gastos se exige el depósito de una tarjeta de crédito. Tal es el caso de los hoteles y ello a pesar de que en las citadas Recomendaciones de la Comisión, así como en los contratos bancarios relativos a las tarjetas de pago, se impone a los titulares de las mismas, obligaciones concretas de custodia y se ha llegado a calificar por los Tribunales de justicia como «negligencia» el hecho de facilitar los datos sin haber realizado ninguna adquisición.

Por ello pregunto a la Comisión:

- ¿No considera necesario promover una nueva Recomendación o analizar la modificación de la Directiva para evitar la desprotección de consumidores y usuarios ante la exigencia abusiva de entregar tarjetas de pago en algunos establecimientos comerciales o de servicios?

Respuesta del Sr. Barnier en nombre de la Comisión

(16 de mayo de 2012)

Los usuarios de tarjetas de pago tienen la obligación de utilizar sus tarjetas conforme a las condiciones que regulen su emisión y utilización. En concreto, deben tomar todas las medidas razonables a fin de proteger los elementos de seguridad personalizados de que vayan provistas ⁽¹⁾. En caso de que un proveedor de servicios, como, por ejemplo, un hotel con motivo de una reserva, solicite al usuario de una tarjeta de pago que se la entregue o que le comunique sus datos para facilitar el pago de unos hipotéticos gastos, ello aún puede estar cubierto por las condiciones que regulen la emisión y utilización de la tarjeta. De acuerdo con esas condiciones, el titular de una tarjeta de crédito está obligado en general a no dejar que nadie más utilice su tarjeta ni su código de identificación (PIN), y no debe revelar el número de la tarjeta a nadie, salvo al efectuar una operación. Por lo tanto, cuando el titular de una tarjeta de pago entrega esta en una tienda o en un establecimiento para efectuar una operación o garantizar que esta se realice posteriormente, ello debe figurar aún entre los derechos y obligaciones del titular de la tarjeta.

En caso de que se realice una operación de pago no autorizada tras entregar una tarjeta como se ha señalado anteriormente, el ordenante deberá hacer frente a las pérdidas sufridas si se considera que ha incumplido sus obligaciones de modo deliberado o por negligencia grave ⁽²⁾.

Actualmente se está realizando una evaluación de impacto de la Directiva «PSD» y, en función de las conclusiones a las que se llegue, se decidirá si es necesario actualizar el marco aplicable o publicar una recomendación.

⁽¹⁾ Artículo 56 de la Directiva 2007/64/CE del Parlamento Europeo y del Consejo, de 13 de noviembre de 2007, sobre servicios de pago en el mercado interior, por la que se modifican las Directivas 97/7/CE, 2002/65/CE, 2005/60/CE y 2006/48/CE y por la que se deroga la Directiva 97/5/CE («PSD»).

⁽²⁾ Véase artículo 61, apartado 2.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002858/12
to the Commission**

Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Abusive requirement to hand over payment cards

On several occasions, the Commission has laid down criteria to facilitate the use of cards as a means of payment. I am aware of its recommendations (87/598/EEC of 8 December 1987, 88/590/EEC of 17 November 1988 and 97/489/EC of 30 July 1997) which set out both the obligations of payment card issuers and the rights and obligations of banking service users. Similarly, the Payment Services Directive, Directive 2007/64/EC of 13 November 2007, specifies users' obligations and their liability in the event of unauthorised transactions.

In my view, these recommendations, and the provisions of the directive, are insufficient to protect citizens from certain practices which have become widespread in commercial dealings and which can be termed abuse. Supposedly to enable hypothetical expenses to be paid, for example, a customer may be required to leave a credit card with a trader. This happens in hotels, despite the fact that in the aforementioned Commission recommendations, as well as in bank contracts relating to payment cards, specific duties of care are imposed on holders, and the act of supplying details without making any purchase has even been described by courts as 'negligence'.

— Does the Commission not think that it should make a new recommendation or consider amending the directive so as to ensure that consumers and users are not left vulnerable in the face of this abusive requirement to hand over payment cards in certain shops and service establishments?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission

(16 May 2012)

Payment card users have a duty to use their payment cards in accordance with the terms governing the issue and use of cards. They have to take all reasonable steps to keep their personalised security features safe ⁽¹⁾. Should a payment card user be requested by a provider of services, e.g. a hotel in the context of booking, to hand over his payment card and/or payment card details to enable hypothetical expenses to be paid, this may still be covered by the terms governing the issue and use of cards. According to the terms and conditions, credit card holders are generally obliged to not let any one else use the card or the cardholders' PIN and must equally not disclose the card number to anyone, except when carrying out a transaction. Hence, when cardholders handover a payment card in shops or service establishments for a transaction or to guarantee a later transaction, this should still be within the cardholder's rights and obligations.

In case of any unauthorised payment transaction following such a handover, the payer would have to bear any losses suffered if he is considered to have failed to fulfill his obligations with intent or gross negligence ⁽²⁾.

An impact assessment of the PSD is currently ongoing and based on its conclusions, the need for updating the applicable framework or issuing a recommendation will be decided.

⁽¹⁾ Article 56 of Directive 2007/64/EC of the European parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2007 on payment services in the internal market amending Directives 97/7/EC, 2002/65/EC, 2005/60/EC and 2006/48/EC and repealing Directive 97/5/EC ('PSD').

⁽²⁾ Cf. Articles 61(2).

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002860/12
προς την Επιτροπή (Αντιπρόεδρος/Υπατη Εκπρόσωπος)
Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)
(14 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: VP/HR — Τοποθέτηση ναρκών στη Συρία

Σύμφωνα με δημοσιεύματα, το Συριακό Παρατηρητήριο Ανθρωπίνων Δικαιωμάτων καταγγέλλει ότι οι συριακές δυνάμεις τοποθετούν νάρκες κοντά στα σύνορα με το Λίβανο και την Τουρκία, σε διαδρομές που χρησιμοποιούν οι πρόσφυγες για να εγκαταλείψουν τη χώρα. Χαρακτηριστικό παράδειγμα είναι η περιγραφή ενός 15χρονου που, στην προσπάθεια του να περάσει τα σύνορα με το Λίβανο, έχασε το πόδι και τον φίλο του από νάρκη. Τα επίσημα στοιχεία του ΟΗΕ αναφέρουν ότι «περισσότεροι από 8 000 άνθρωποι έχουν χάσει τη ζωή τους στη χώρα, από την έναρξη των αντικυβερνητικών διαδηλώσεων, πριν από περίπου έναν χρόνο».

Ενώ η εμπόλεμη κατάσταση στη Συρία συνεχίζεται με αμείωτο ρυθμό και με ανθρώπινες απώλειες, η διεθνής κοινότητα παραμένει διχασμένη ως προς τον τρόπο αντιμετώπισης της κρίσεως. Ο Γενικός Γραμματέας του ΟΗΕ κάλεσε τη διεθνή κοινότητα «να μιλήσει με μια φωνή» για το θέμα της Συρίας.

Δεδομένης της κατάστασης, ερωτάται η Αντιπρόεδρος της Επιτροπής/Υπατη Αρμοστής της Ένωσης για τις Εξωτερικές Υποθέσεις:

1. Παρακολουθώντας την κατάσταση στη Συρία, είναι ενήμερη για τις καταγγελίες του Συριακού Παρατηρητηρίου Ανθρωπίνων Δικαιωμάτων; Με ποιο τρόπο σκοπεύει να αντιδράσει για να αποτρέψει τις απώλειες μεταξύ των αμάχων;
2. Θεωρεί ότι μπορεί να υπάρξει μια άμεση διεθνής και κοινά αποδεκτή λύση σ' αυτήν την κρίση; Πως σκοπεύει η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση να επηρεάσει θετικά τις εξελίξεις ώστε να κατευθύνει την διεθνή κοινότητα προς αυτή την κατεύθυνση;

Απάντηση της Υπατης Εκπροσώπου/Αντιπροέδρου Ashton εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(25 Μαΐου 2012)

Η ΕΕ συστηματικά καταδικάζει τις βίαιες επιθέσεις και τις εκτεταμένες παραβιάσεις των ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων που έχει υποστεί από το συριακό καθεστώς ο πληθυσμός της χώρας. Στα συμπεράσματα του Συμβουλίου Εξωτερικών Υποθέσεων, της 23ης Μαρτίου 2012, η ΕΕ εξέφρασε τη μεγάλη της ανησυχία σχετικά με τη ναρκοθέτηση των συριακών συνόρων με νάρκες κατά προσωπικού προκειμένου να εμποδιστεί η φυγή του συριακού πληθυσμού.

Η ΕΕ στηρίζει πλήρως τον ειδικό απεσταλμένο των ΗΕ και του Αραβικού Συνδέσμου, κ. Kofi Annan, και τις προσπάθειες του να βάλει τέλος στη βία και να βοηθήσει την αρχή μιας ειρηνικής μετάβασης. Βλέπει με ικανοποίηση τις αποφάσεις 2042 και 2043 του Συμβουλίου Ασφαλείας των Ηνωμένων Εθνών οι οποίες στηρίζουν απόλυτα το σχέδιο έξι σημείων του κ. Annan, το οποίο προβλέπει, μεταξύ άλλων, απόσυρση των στρατευμάτων, κατάπαυση του πυρός με διεθνείς παρατηρητές και πλήρη ανθρωπιστική πρόσβαση. Ενθαρρύνει όλα τα μέλη του Συμβουλίου Ασφαλείας των Ηνωμένων Εθνών να συνεχίσουν να εργάζονται προς αυτή την κατεύθυνση και ζητά από το συριακό καθεστώς να τηρήσει επιτέλους τις υποσχέσεις του και να συμμορφωθεί με τα έξι σημεία χωρίς καθυστέρηση.

Εν τω μεταξύ, η ΕΕ συμμετέχει ενεργά στην ομάδα Φίλοι του συριακού λαού, η οποία συνεδρίασε για δεύτερη φορά την 1η Απριλίου 2012 στην Κωνσταντινούπολη για την προώθηση διεθνούς συναίνεσης σχετικά με την πολιτική διευθέτηση της κρίσης.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002860/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)
(14 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Laying of mines in Syria

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has reportedly complained that Syrian forces are laying mines near the borders with Lebanon and Turkey on routes used by refugees fleeing the country. A typical example is the story of a 15-year-old who lost a foot to a mine while trying to cross the border into Lebanon; a friend of his was killed in the same incident. According to official UN data, over 8 000 people have been killed in the country since the start of the anti-government demonstrations approximately one year ago.

While the conflict in Syria is raging unabated and claiming many lives, the international community is still divided as to how to address the crisis. The UN Secretary-General has urged the international community to 'speak with one voice' on the Syrian issue.

Given this situation, can the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs say:

1. As she observes the situation in Syria, is she aware of the complaints made by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights? How does she intend to react in order to prevent civilian casualties?
2. Does she believe there can be an immediate and mutually acceptable international solution to this crisis? How does the European Union intend to influence developments positively in order to move the international community in this direction?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(25 May 2012)

The EU has consistently condemned the brutal attacks and widespread human rights violations inflicted by the Syrian regime on its population. In its Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 23 March 2012 it expressed its great concern over the laying of anti-personnel mines along the Syrian border to prevent Syrians from fleeing.

The EU fully supports the UN-Arab League Special Envoy, Mr Kofi Annan, and his efforts to end the violence and facilitate the commencement of peaceful transition. It welcomes the UN Security Council's resolutions 2042 and 2043 fully backing Mr Annan's six point plan, which provides among others for a withdrawal of troops, an internationally observed ceasefire, and full humanitarian access. It encourages all UNSC members to continue working in this direction and calls on the Syrian regime to finally live up to its promises and comply with the six points without delay.

Meanwhile, the EU is actively involved in the Friends of the Syrian People Group, which met for the second time on 1 April 2012 in Istanbul to foster international consensus on a political settlement to the crisis.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002861/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)
(14 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Πλημμελής φύλαξη μουσείων και αρχαιολογικών χώρων στην Ελλάδα

Στις 9.1.2012, στο κτίριο της Εθνικής Πινακοθήκης στην Αθήνα, άγνωστοι δράστες εισήλθαν στον εσωτερικό χώρο της έκθεσης από τον οποίο αφαίρεσαν σημαντικούς πίνακες. Στις 17.2.2012 στο Μουσείο Ιστορίας των Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων, στην Αρχαία Ολυμπία, δύο ληστές αφαίρεσαν περισσότερα από 60 εκθέματα από τις προθήκες.

Και στις δύο περιπτώσεις οι δράστες φαίνεται πως γνώριζαν πως υπήρχε πλημμελής φύλαξη των χώρων λόγω της μείωσης του προσωπικού και της αδυναμίας πρόσληψης νέων υπαλλήλων, εξαιτίας των δεσμεύσεων που έχουν επιβληθεί από το Μνημόνιο. Σύμφωνα και με την Πανελλήνια Ένωση Υπαλλήλων Φυλάξεως Αρχαιοτήτων, «τους επόμενους μήνες αναμένεται και περαιτέρω μείωση του προσωπικού φύλαξης, καθώς οι αρχαιοφύλακες δεν εξαιρέθηκαν από το μέτρο της εφεδρείας και δεν αναμένονται προσλήψεις συμβασιούχων».

Με δεδομένη τη σημασία της πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς καθ' εαυτής, αλλά και της οικονομικής σημασίας της ανάδειξής της ως τουριστικού πόλου έλξης,

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή: Τι μέτρα θα λάβει ώστε να αποτραπούν οι περικοπές προσωπικού σε τόσο νευραλγικούς τομείς αλλά και για να προσληφθούν νέοι εργαζόμενοι για τη φύλαξη μουσείων και αρχαιολογικών χώρων; Θεωρεί ότι μπορεί να διαθέσει πόρους από το ΕΣΠΑ ή άλλα χρηματοδοτικά ταμεία για την πρόσληψη φυλάκων σε αρχαιολογικούς χώρους;

Απάντηση του κ. Andor εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(30 Απριλίου 2012)

1. Το μνημόνιο συμφωνίας που έχουν συνάψει η Ελλάδα και η Επιτροπή (εξ ονόματος των κρατών μελών της ευρωζώνης) προβλέπει μείωση του προσωπικού στον ελληνικό δημόσιο τομέα. Ωστόσο, το εν λόγω μνημόνιο δεν καθορίζει ορίζοντες περικοπές στα διάφορα υπουργεία αλλά ούτε και σε οργανισμούς όπως τα μουσεία. Αποτελεί αποκλειστική αρμοδιότητα του κράτους μέλους να καθορίσει τη δομή και την κατανομή του προσωπικού ανά τομέα καθηκόντων και υπουργείο.
2. Η πρόσληψη και η χρηματοδότηση φυλάκων για αρχαιολογικούς χώρους δεν είναι επιλέξιμη προς συγχρηματοδότηση ενέργεια στο πλαίσιο του κανονιστικού πλαισίου που διέπει τα διαρθρωτικά ταμεία.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002861/12
to the Commission**

Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Poor security in museums and archaeological sites in Greece

On 9 January 2012, unknown persons entered the exhibition space of the National Gallery in Athens and stole important paintings. On 17 February 2012, two thieves stole over 60 exhibits from the showcases in the Olympic Games Museum in Ancient Olympia.

In both cases, the perpetrators appear to have known about the poor security of the establishments due to the reduction in staff and the impossibility of recruiting new officials resulting from the commitments imposed by the Memorandum. According to the Panhellenic Union of Antiquities Security Guards, 'the coming months will probably see a further reduction in security staff, since museum security staff have not been exempt from the standby arrangements and it is not expected that contract staff will be recruited'.

Given the importance of cultural heritage per se, and the economic importance of highlighting this heritage as a major tourist attraction, will the Commission say:

What measures will it take to prevent cuts in staff in such crucial sectors and to ensure that new employees are recruited to guard museums and archaeological sites? Does it believe that it can make available resources from the NRSF or other funds in order to recruit guards for archaeological sites?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

1. The memorandum of understanding agreed between Greece and the Commission (on behalf of the euro-area Member States) plans a reduction in the number of staff in the Greek Government. However, the said memorandum does not establish horizontal cuts in staff in the different government departments, nor on any specific entity like museums. It is the exclusive responsibility of the Member State to identify how staff is and will be distributed among tasks and departments.
 2. Recruitment and financing guards for archaeological sites is not an eligible action for co-financing under the regulatory framework governing the Structural Funds.
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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002862/12
to the Commission**

Linda McAvan (S&D)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Tourism accommodation safety

At a meeting held on 31 January 2012 at the European Parliament, a representative of DG SANCO outlined the Commission's planned work in the area of tourism accommodation safety, as part of their work in relation to consumer protection for services.

1. The Commission announced they would be launching a flash Euro-barometer survey on the safety of consumer services, including questions in relation to tourism accommodation safety. Could the Commission provide more details on this? Will the Commission be seeking the input of stakeholders and relevant experts in formulating the survey questions?
2. The Commission also spoke of revising Council Recommendation 86/666/EEC on fire safety in existing hotels. Could the Commission outline its immediate plans for the revision of this recommendation?
3. Furthermore, the Commission announced that a stakeholder workshop would be organised, to take place in June 2012. Could the Commission also provide more details in relation to this?
4. Finally, the Commission announced that it intends to release a green paper in 2012 on the safety of consumer services. Could the Commission provide further details regarding this paper?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

The Commission plans a number of initiatives in the area of safety of consumer services in 2012:

1. A Eurobarometer survey on the safety of consumer services will be launched in May 2012, targeting 27 European countries and 25 000 citizens. Focusing on certain sectors such as tourist accommodation, outdoor and indoor leisure activities, swimming pools, etc., it will explore the experiences of consumers from a domestic and a European perspective: safety levels, accidents, causes and consequences and redress. The design of the survey is based on the knowledge base available to the Commission, built with previous input from different stakeholders.
 2. Options for a revision of Council Recommendation 86/666/EEC on fire safety in existing hotels are being analysed. One of the options could be the replacement of the technical annex of the recommendations with a set of guidelines developed by the hotel industry, the so-called MBS Methodology which aims at ensuring that the buildings and systems can best contribute to enhancing consumers' safety.
 3. Prior to the revision, a stakeholder workshop led by experts on fire safety issues will take place on 11 June 2012, to discuss the suitability of this method and to gather any further input from multiple stakeholders on its expected impact.
 4. A Green Paper on the safety of certain consumer services is planned for 2012. The aim is to evaluate the needs and possibilities to initiate measures at Community level that can contribute to a higher protection of consumers. Results from the actions mentioned above will help shape the contents of this Green Paper.
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(Wersja polska)

**Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej E-002863/12
do Komisji (Wiceprzewodniczącej / Wysokiej Przedstawiciel)**

Marek Henryk Migalski (ECR)

(14 marca 2012 r.)

Przedmiot: Wiceprzewodnicząca/Wysoka Przedstawiciel – Warunki przetrzymywania Dzmityja Bandarenki porównane z torturami

14 marca 2012 r. białoruskie media opublikowały opinię ukraińskiego lekarza na temat stanu zdrowia Dzmityja Bandarenki. Na podstawie dokumentacji medycznej więźnia lekarz stwierdził, że warunki przetrzymywania Bandarenki w kolonii karnej należy nazwać torturami. Jego zdaniem, Bandarenka powinien przechodzić rehabilitację pod opieką neurologa oraz powinno się mu zapewnić gimnastykę leczniczą i masaże. Absolutnie nie może on podnosić ciężarów ani się schylać. Takie warunki nie mogą być oczywiście spełnione w kolonii karnej.

Przypominam, że podczas pobytu w więzieniu Dzmityj Bandarenka przeszedł skomplikowaną operację kręgosłupa. Nadal skarży się on na bóle pleców i ogólny stan zdrowia, ponadto możliwe, że będzie wymagał dodatkowej operacji.

— W związku z tym zwracam się z zapytaniem, czy Wiceprzewodnicząca/Wysoka Przedstawiciel posiada informacje na temat aktualnego stanu zdrowia Bandarenki i warunkach jego przetrzymywania i czy ma zamiar podjąć interwencję w sprawie tego opozycjonisty?

**Odpowiedź udzielona przez Wysoką Przedstawiciel/Wiceprzewodniczącą Catherine Ashton w imieniu
Komisji**

(4 czerwca 2012 r.)

UE jest świadoma doniesień o niepokojącym stanie zdrowia i o złym traktowaniu Dzmityja Bandarenki.

UE kilkakrotnie wyraziła swoje zaniepokojenie tą kwestią w kontaktach z władzami Białorusi, zarówno za pośrednictwem kanałów dyplomatycznych, w lokalnym oświadczeniu, jak i podczas wizyty w Mińsku dyrektora ESDZ Gunnara Wieganda w lutym 2012 r. Ponadto Rada wyraziła w swoich konkluzjach z dnia 23 marca 2012 r. głębokie zaniepokojenie doniesieniami o torturach i niehumanitarnych warunkach przetrzymywania więźniów politycznych, m.in. byłych kandydatów na prezydenta Andrieja Sannikaua i Mikołaja Statkiewicza oraz działaczy: Dzmityja Bandarenki, Dzmityja Daszkiewicza i Mikołaja Autuchowicza.

W dniu 15 kwietnia Wysoka Przedstawiciel Catherine Ashton wydała oświadczenie, w którym wyraziła zadowolenie z faktu uwolnienia byłego kandydata na prezydenta Andrieja Sannikaua i koordynatora jego kampanii prezydenckiej Dzmityja Bandarenki, oraz wezwała władze Białorusi do bezwarunkowego zwolnienia wszystkich pozostałych więźniów politycznych oraz do zniesienia wszelkich ograniczeń ich praw obywatelskich i politycznych.

UE będzie w dalszym ciągu uważnie śledzić rozwój sytuacji, zarówno w kwestii miejsca pobytu, jak i traktowania więźniów politycznych, i w razie potrzeby wykorzysta wszelkie dostępne środki, aby przedstawić władzom białoruskim swoje zastrzeżenia.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002863/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Marek Henryk Migalski (ECR)
(14 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Conditions under which Dzmitry Bandarenka is being held are tantamount to torture

On 14 March 2012 the Belarusian media published an opinion delivered by a Ukrainian doctor on Dzmitry Bandarenka's state of health. Having studied the prisoner's medical records, the doctor concluded that the conditions under which Mr Bandarenka is being held in a penal colony are tantamount to torture. In his opinion, Mr Bandarenka is in need of a rehabilitation course under the supervision of a neurologist, exercise therapy and massages. Under no circumstances should he be lifting weights or bending down. These requirements quite clearly cannot be met in a penal colony.

During his time in prison, Mr Bandarenka has undergone a complicated spine operation. He still complains about back pain and his general state of health, and he may well require further surgery.

— Given the above, does the VP/HR have any information on Mr Bandarenka's current state of health and the conditions under which he is being held, and does it intend to intervene on behalf of this Belarusian opposition figure?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(4 June 2012)

The EU is aware of reports of the worrying health situation and of the reported mistreatment of Mr Dzmitry Bandarenka.

The EU has raised their concerns with the Belarusian authorities on several occasions, through diplomatic channels and in a local statement as well as during EEAS director Gunnar Wiegand's visit to Minsk in February 2012. In addition, the Council in its conclusions of 23 March 2012 expressed deep concern about reports of torture and inhumane prison conditions of political prisoners, such as of former presidential candidates Andrei Sannikaw and Mikalay Statkevich and activists Dzmitry Bandarenka, Dzmitry Dashkevich and Mikalay Awtukhovich.

On 15 April, High Representatives Ashton in a statement welcomed that former Presidential candidate Andrei Sannikaw as well as his main campaign aide Dzmitry Bandarenka had been released, and called on the authorities of Belarus to release unconditionally now also all other remaining political prisoners and to remove all restrictions on the enjoyment of their civil and political rights.

The EU will continue to follow developments as regards the whereabouts and the treatment of political prisoners closely and use all instruments at their disposal to bring their concerns to the attention of the Belarusian authorities, as necessary.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002865/12
to the Commission**

Paul Murphy (GUE/NGL)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Appeal by Intel against its record fine

On 13 May 2009, a EUR 1.06 billion fine was imposed on Intel by European Commissioner Neelie Kroes for anti-competitive practices. Intel lodged an appeal against this decision with the General Court on 22 July 2009 (Intel v Commission, case T-286/09).

Unfortunately today, almost three years after the appeal, no decision has yet been taken in this case. Could the Commission inform me:

1. whether Intel has already paid this fine, or whether payment of the fine has been postponed until the appeal has been answered?
2. whether a period of two years and eight months waiting period is within the normal timeframe for dealing with an appeal of this kind and, if not, what the specific reasons are for this long waiting period?
3. what the current state of play is regarding the appeal (e.g. whether the Commission is trying to obtain a settlement rather than trying to win the appeal)?
4. when it expects a final verdict to be reached?

Answer given by Mr Barroso on behalf of the Commission

(27 April 2012)

The Commission should firstly point out that, in accordance with the requirements of Article 7 of Regulation 1/2003, the decision imposing the fine on Intel that is the subject of the Honourable Member's question was adopted by the Commission as a College, not simply by the then Member of the Commission responsible for Competition.

1. Intel made provisional payment of the fine on 13 August 2009, within the three month deadline for payment set by the decision. Although the decision is under challenge before the General Court, at present the European Union has the use of the funds represented by the fine.
 2. As regards the timetable for the resolution of the proceedings before the General Court, this is first and foremost a matter for the General Court, which has complete autonomy over the organisation of its workload. The Commission would point out however that although a hearing has yet to take place, the progress of the case does not appear to be unduly slow in the light of the typical duration of proceedings before the General Court and the nature of the case. Competition cases before the General Court typically take around four years and the Intel case is not a simple case as it involves a considerable volume of documents (over 5 000 pages) and raises many issues. The Commission, therefore, does not consider that the fact that the case is still pending reflects any undue delay on the part of the General Court.
 3. The main written pleadings in the case have been submitted to the General Court and the Commission is awaiting news of a hearing date. The Commission is defending the decision in full and is not seeking and would not seek to obtain any settlement short of the withdrawal of the application challenging the decision.
 4. In view of the answers given above, it is not possible to predict with any accuracy when a judgment might be given.
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(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-002866/12

à la Commission

Marc Tarabella (S&D)

(14 mars 2012)

Objet: Nombre d'agriculteurs dans le monde

Je viens de prendre connaissance du rapport de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économique (OCDE) intitulé «*Agricultural Policies for Poverty Reduction*».

Ce rapport, présenté le 2 mars à l'occasion d'un séminaire tenu à la Chatham House de Londres, propose d'agir sur trois fronts pour accroître les revenus ruraux et réduire la pauvreté, à savoir: améliorer la productivité et la compétitivité au sein du secteur agricole; aider les ménages à diversifier leurs sources de revenus; et faciliter la transition de la main-d'œuvre agricole vers des emplois non agricoles mieux rémunérés.

elon l'étude de l'OCDE, les décideurs politiques doivent accepter que la multiplication des opportunités conduira de nombreux petits exploitants à quitter le secteur agricole. Le rapport invite les gouvernements à faciliter cet ajustement au lieu de le freiner. Pour cela, il leur faudra renforcer les opportunités offertes aux agriculteurs aptes à développer une activité commerciale dans le secteur agricole.

Autrement dit, il y aurait trop d'agriculteurs dans le monde. «Il conviendrait donc que les travailleurs de la terre deviennent des travailleurs de la ville». Or, au vu de la misère humaine qui règne dans les bidonvilles des pays en développement, on voit mal l'opportunité d'une telle vision politique, si ce n'est d'accroître encore la pauvreté des familles déjà en sursis. De plus, les prévisions de la FAO, qui annonce neuf milliards d'individus à l'aube de 2050, soulignent l'importance que vont jouer toutes les agricultures pour répondre à la demande toujours croissante de nourriture.

A contrario, le modèle qu'il nous faut défendre est une agriculture familiale dans laquelle les États doivent investir pour permettre aux ruraux de développer une activité nourricière. Chaque politique doit être considérée et définie dans l'optique de garantir la sécurité et la souveraineté alimentaires: des agriculteurs nombreux pour nourrir le monde!

— La Commission a-t-elle l'intention de réagir aux propos irresponsables de l'OCDE?

— La Commission partage-t-elle cette optique de l'aide aux pays en développement?

— Est-ce ce modèle qui va également être défendu en Europe alors même que nous faisons face à l'érosion, la plus dramatique jamais connue, du nombre de nos exploitations agricoles, sans perspective de reprise à moyen ou à long terme?

Réponse donnée par M. Piebalgs au nom de la Commission

(23 avril 2012)

Conformément aux méthodes de travail de l'OCDE, les membres sont invités à formuler des observations sur les projets d'études et de rapports majeurs. La mission de l'OCDE est d'offrir aux gouvernements un forum où ils peuvent conjuguer leurs efforts, partager leurs expériences et chercher des solutions à des problèmes communs et, au travers de ses rapports, elle «recommande des politiques dont le but est d'améliorer la vie de l'homme de la rue». Les rapports de l'OCDE sont non-contraignants et de nature consultative. Bien qu'elle ne soit pas membre de l'OCDE, la Commission participe pleinement à ces discussions et est parfaitement au courant des résultats du rapport.

L'Union européenne est convaincue que l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition sont des domaines clés dans lesquels elle peut améliorer le soutien à une croissance inclusive et durable dans les pays en développement. La Commission est consciente des défis auxquels se trouve confronté le secteur de l'agriculture et invite l'Honorable Parlementaire à se référer aux réponses E-010919/2011 donnée par M. Mitchell et E-011009/2010 donnée par M. Ferreira ⁽¹⁾, par exemple, concernant les politiques de soutien en matière d'investissements et de politiques agricoles et de sécurité alimentaire pour les pays partenaires de l'UE.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=FR>.

La Commission est consciente du fait que le nombre d'agriculteurs diminue au sein de l'UE et que, faute d'autres alternatives, ils tournent le dos à la filière agricole. C'est pourquoi, dans ses propositions sur la PAC à l'horizon 2020, la Commission a fait du développement territorial équilibré des zones rurales une priorité. Les objectifs de la Commission sont, entre autres: le soutien de l'emploi, le maintien du tissu social dans les zones rurales, l'amélioration de l'économie rurale et le développement des marchés locaux. De plus, le système des paiements directs au titre de la PAC contribue à maintenir le secteur agricole à flot, assurant, par là même, la viabilité à long terme des exploitations agricoles. De surcroît, le soutien spécifique proposé pour les jeunes agriculteurs pourrait les encourager lors de leur première installation et accompagner l'ajustement structurel de leur exploitation, après l'installation.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002866/12
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(14 March 2012)**

Subject: The number of farmers in the world

I have just read the *Agricultural Policies for Poverty Reduction* report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

This report, presented on 2 March 2012 at the seminar held at London's Chatham House, proposes to act on three fronts to increase rural income and alleviate poverty, namely: to improve productivity and competitiveness within the agricultural sector; to help households diversify their sources of income; and to facilitate the transition from agricultural labour towards better paid non-agricultural jobs.

According to the OECD's study, political decision-makers must accept that multiplying opportunities will encourage many smallholders to leave the agricultural sector. The report invites governments to facilitate this instead of curbing it.

For this to occur, the opportunities for farmers who are likely to develop a business within the agricultural sector must be enhanced.

In other words, there are too many farmers in the world. 'It would be better if those who work on the land worked in the town.' However, given the human misery that reigns in the slums of developing countries, the benefits of such a political vision, which would simply increase the poverty of families already living on borrowed time, are far from clear. Moreover, the Food and Agriculture Organisation's prediction that there will be nine billion people in early 2050 emphasises the important role that all forms of agriculture will play in meeting the ever-growing demand for food.

Conversely, we must defend the family farming model in which states must invest to enable countryside dwellers to produce food. Each policy must be considered and defined with a view to ensuring food safety and sovereignty: many farmers to feed the world.

— Does the Commission intend to react to the OECD's irresponsible remarks?

— Does the Commission share this view of aid in developing countries?

— Will this model also be defended in Europe even while we face the greatest ever decline in the number of farms without any prospect of recovery in the medium to long term?

**Answer given by Mr Piebalgs on behalf of the Commission
(23 April 2012)**

According to the working methods of the OECD, members are invited to comment on drafts of major reports and studies. The OECD's mission is to 'provide a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems' and, through its reports, 'recommends policies designed to make the lives of people better'. The reports are of a non-binding, advisory nature. The Commission, as non-member but full participant in the OECD, takes part in these discussions and is aware of the outcomes of the report.

The EU believes that agriculture, food security and nutrition are core areas where the EU can improve support for inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries. It is conscious of the challenges facing agriculture and would like to refer the Honourable Member to replies regarding EU policies supporting partner countries' investments and policies in agriculture and food security such as E-010919/2011 by Mr Mitchell and E-011009/2010 by Mr Ferreira ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=EN>.

The Commission is aware of the decreasing number of farmers in the EU and situations where farmers, having no alternatives, abandon the farming sector. That is why it has prioritised the achievement of balanced territorial development of rural areas in its proposals for The CAP towards 2020. Its objectives include, among others: support employment and maintain the social fabric of rural areas, improve the rural economy and develop local markets. Moreover, the provision of direct payments under the CAP contributes to keeping farming in place, thus ensuring the long term viability of farms. Furthermore, proposed specific support for young farmers could help encourage their initial establishment and accompany structural adjustment of their holdings after set-up.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002867/12
alla Commissione**

Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)

(14 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Ricerche nel settore del wi-fi

Un gruppo di ricercatori italiani dell'Università di Padova, insieme a colleghi svedesi dell'Angstrom Laboratory, potrebbe aver risolto il problema della congestione radio. Tutto sta nella vorticità delle onde elettromagnetiche, cioè contorcendo le onde radio in una forma che ricorda quella dei fusilli (un tipo di pasta). L'esperimento — pubblicato sul *New Journal of Physics* — apre la possibilità di trasmissioni e ricezioni di un numero infinito di canali.

Questa scoperta è molto interessante, perché nell'era digitale le bande di frequenze radio disponibili per trasmettere informazioni diventano sempre minori. La soluzione è manipolare le onde in modo che contengano più di un canale di informazione.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, può la Commissione far sapere se:

1. è a conoscenza dello studio scientifico condotto da ricercatori italiani dell'Università di Padova insieme a colleghi svedesi dell'Angstrom Laboratory?
2. considerando la possibilità di ottenere infinite bande di frequenza, intende finanziare uno studio che approfondisca la ricerca iniziata a Padova?

Risposta data da Neelie Kroes a nome della Commissione

(4 maggio 2012)

La Commissione è a conoscenza dell'articolo ⁽¹⁾ pubblicato nel *New Journal of Physics*. I risultati degli esperimenti eseguiti dall'Università di Padova in collaborazione con i colleghi dell'Angstrom Laboratory sembrano in effetti offrire nuovi strumenti per ottenere una maggiore efficienza nelle comunicazioni radio e nella tecnologia radar. Ciò va ben oltre il sistema WiFi, che è solo una specifica tecnologia di accesso ai servizi a banda larga nei punti cosiddetti «hotspot».

Dal punto di vista della politica da adottare la Commissione sta attivamente incoraggiando un utilizzo più efficiente dello spettro. Il nuovo «Programma relativo alla politica in materia di spettro radio» ha recentemente stabilito un inventario dello spettro ⁽²⁾ il quale, insieme all'esame degli usi esistenti dello spettro radio e all'individuazione delle bande di frequenza che potrebbero essere riassegnate o utilizzate più efficacemente, si prefigge anche di individuare le tendenze tecnologiche e altri strumenti atti a consentire un uso più efficace dello spettro. Nel contesto dell'inventario, la Commissione sta mettendo a punto uno studio preparatorio ⁽³⁾ sulla domanda di spettro radio, in cui saranno analizzate le tendenze tecnologiche, le esigenze e la domanda degli utilizzatori, onde valutare le tendenze che incideranno sull'utilizzo efficiente dello spettro nei prossimi 5-10 anni.

A sostegno dei nostri obiettivi in materia di politica delle frequenze, anche i programmi di ricerca della Commissione favoriscono attivamente la ricerca nel campo delle tecnologie dello spettro radio e della radiotrasmissione efficiente in termini di larghezza di banda. Nel mese di luglio 2012 i servizi della Commissione renderanno noto il prossimo programma di lavoro che sarà aperto alla ricerca e a dimostrazioni nel settore in questione ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ *New Journal of Physics* 14(2012)033001: codifica di più canali sulla stessa frequenza mediante la vorticità delle onde radio; primo test sperimentale.

⁽²⁾ Cfr. l'articolo 9 della decisione 243/2012/UE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 14 marzo 2012, che istituisce un programma pluriennale relativo alla politica in materia di spettro radio, GU L81 del 21.3.2012.

⁽³⁾ Avviso di pre-informazione di SMART 2012/005 disponibile su: <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:410631-2011:TEXT:EN:HTML>

⁽⁴⁾ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/future-networks/projects_en.html per ulteriori informazioni

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002867/12
to the Commission**

Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Research in the Wi-Fi sector

A group of Italian researchers from the University of Padua in collaboration with their Swedish colleagues from the Ångström Laboratory may have found an answer to the problem of radio-band congestion. The research focused on the vorticity of electromagnetic waves, i.e. twisting the radio waves into a spiral shape similar to that of *fusilli* pasta. The experiment, which was published in the *New Journal of Physics*, has opened the way for transmitting and receiving through an infinite number of channels.

This discovery is extremely interesting, as in this digital age, the number of radio frequency bands that are available for transmitting information is gradually decreasing. The solution is to manipulate radio waves so that they are able to accommodate more than one channel of information.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is the Commission aware of the scientific study carried out by Italian researchers from the University of Padua in collaboration with their Swedish colleagues from the Ångström Laboratory?
2. Given the possibility of achieving infinite frequency bands, will the Commission finance a study that could build on the research begun in Padua?

Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission

(4 May 2012)

The Commission is aware of the article ⁽¹⁾ in the *New Journal of Physics*. The results of the experiments undertaken by the University of Padua in cooperation with the Ångström Laboratory do appear to provide new tools for achieving greater efficiency in radio communications and radar technology. This goes far beyond WiFi, which is only one specific technology deployed for access to broadband services in so-called hotspots.

From a policy point of view the Commission actively encourages more efficient use of spectrum. The new Radio Spectrum Policy Program has recently established a spectrum inventory ⁽²⁾ which, as well as examining the existing uses of spectrum and identifying frequency bands that could be reallocated or used more efficiently, also has the objective of identifying technology trends and other means to use spectrum more efficiently. In the context of the inventory, the Commission is planning a preparatory study ⁽³⁾ on spectrum demand, which will look into technology trends, user needs and demand, with the aim of assessing the trends that will affect efficient use of spectrum within the next 5 to 10 years.

In support of our spectrum policy objectives, the Commission research programs also actively support research in spectrum and bandwidth-efficient radio transmission technologies. The next work program is to be released by the Commission services in July 2012 and will be open to research and demonstrations in this domain ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ *New Journal of Physics* 14(2012)033001: Encoding many channels on the same frequency through radio vorticity: first experimental test.

⁽²⁾ See Article 9 of Decision 243/2012/EU of the European Parliament and Council of 14 March 2012 establishing a multiannual Radio Spectrum Policy Programme, OJ L 81 21.3.2012.

⁽³⁾ Pre-information notice of SMART 2012/005 is available on: <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:410631-2011:TEXT:EN:HTML>.

⁽⁴⁾ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/future-networks/projects_en.html for further information.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002869/12
alla Commissione**

Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)

(14 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Sequestrata discarica abusiva a Trani

Un'area adibita a discarica abusiva è stata sottoposta a sequestro preventivo emesso dall'Ufficio gip del Tribunale di Trani su richiesta della procura. Il provvedimento è stato eseguito dai Carabinieri, dal personale del Corpo Forestale dello Stato e della Sezione di Polizia Giudiziaria in seno alla Procura della Repubblica presso il Tribunale di Trani.

L'area si trova in località Carrara delle Monache, nel territorio di Trani al confine con il comune di Bisceglie. Nel corso degli accertamenti, avviati a seguito di segnalazioni provenienti da alcuni cittadini tranesi, sono state riscontrate responsabilità penali a carico del titolare di una ditta di lavorazioni della pietra e del marmo. Secondo quanto accertato, avrebbe smaltito senza autorizzazione rifiuti speciali, consistenti in scarti di lavorazione, nella lama Paterno, adiacente alla ditta, tanto da realizzare un vero e proprio terrapieno, che ha modificato la morfologia e le componenti naturalistiche del territorio dell'area di pertinenza della lama, censita nel Piano Urbanistico Territoriale Tematico della Regione Puglia, oltre che ostruire il normale deflusso delle acque pluviali. In base alla direttiva 75/442/CEE relativa ai rifiuti e nel caso specifico sopradescritto, può la Commissione far sapere:

1. perché la discarica in questione non è stata chiusa secondo la direttiva entro il 31 dicembre 2008 e quali misure la Commissione intende adottare nel caso in cui le autorità competenti dovessero ancora tardare nel rispettare la normativa europea?
2. se l'Italia ha comunicato alla Commissione un elenco — ripartito per regioni — delle discariche riabilitate?

Risposta data da Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione

(27 aprile 2012)

La Commissione non era a conoscenza del sequestro della discarica abusiva effettuato a Trani dai Carabinieri, dal Corpo Forestale dello Stato e dalla Polizia Giudiziaria.

La direttiva 1999/31/CE relativa alle discariche di rifiuti ⁽¹⁾ e la direttiva 2008/98/CE relativa ai rifiuti (direttiva quadro sui rifiuti) ⁽²⁾ stabiliscono le disposizioni atte a garantire che i rifiuti vengano smaltiti senza mettere a rischio la salute umana e l'ambiente. Tali disposizioni vietano l'abbandono incontrollato dei rifiuti.

L'applicazione di tale legislazione è, in primo luogo, di competenza e di dovere degli Stati membri. In tal senso la Commissione accoglie con favore l'intervento delle autorità italiane inteso a porre fine allo scarico abusivo di rifiuti presso il sito menzionato dall'onorevole parlamentare.

La Commissione non dispone di statistiche relative al numero di indagini svolte dalle autorità nazionali sulle discariche abusive. Qualora, sulla base delle informazioni ricevute dagli Stati membri, dalle ONG o dai cittadini, la Commissione accerti un'attuazione inadeguata dell'*acquis* unionale in materia di rifiuti da parte degli Stati membri, può adottare le misure necessarie nei confronti di tali Stati membri. La Commissione ha avviato quattro procedimenti di infrazione contro Stati membri che hanno tollerato l'esistenza di numerose discariche abusive, e sono in corso dieci procedimenti relativi a singole discariche e sette procedimenti relativi a discariche non rispondenti ai requisiti della direttiva relativa alle discariche.

⁽¹⁾ GUL 182 del 16.7.1999.

⁽²⁾ GUL 312 del 22.11.2008.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002869/12
to the Commission**

Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)

(14 March 2012)

Subject: Illegal landfill seized in Trani

An area used as an illegal landfill has been subjected to preventive seizure by the Office of the Preliminary Investigating Magistrate of the Court of Trani, at the request of the Public Prosecutor. The order was carried out by the military police (*carabinieri*), the National Forest Rangers, and the Criminal Investigation Department attached to the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Court of Trani.

The area concerned is in Carrara delle Monache, within the municipality of Trani, bordering the municipality of Bisceglie. In the course of investigations undertaken following a number of reports from local people in Trani, the owner of a stone and marble working company was found to be criminally liable. According to the findings, the company allegedly disposed of hazardous processing waste in the Paterno swamp, adjacent to the stone-yard, without authorisation. There was so much that it has created an out-and-out embankment, which has changed the shape and the natural composition of the swampland (as recorded in the Apulia regional Land Use Plan), and obstructed the normal flow of rainwater.

Having regard to Directive 75/442/EEC on waste and to the specific case described above:

1. Why was the landfill in question not closed down by 31 December 2008 as required by the directive? What measures will the Commission take should the authorities continue to delay compliance with European legislation?
2. Has Italy sent the Commission a list — broken down by regions — of restored landfill sites?

Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission

(27 April 2012)

The Commission was not aware of the action of the Italian Police and State Forestry Department in Trani concerning the seizure of an unauthorised landfill.

Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste ⁽¹⁾ and Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (Waste Framework Directive) ⁽²⁾ lay down the provisions that ensure that waste is disposed of without endangering human health and the environment. These provisions prohibit uncontrolled dumping of waste.

The enforcement of this legislation is, in the first instance, the competence and duty of the Member States. In that regard, the Commission welcomes the action taken by the Italian authorities to stop the illegal dumping at the site mentioned by the Honourable Member.

The Commission does not have at its disposal statistics on the number of investigations carried out by national authorities on illegal landfills. Where the Commission, on the basis of information received from Member States, NGOs or the general public, identifies inadequate implementation of EU waste *acquis* by Member States, it can take the necessary measures against these Member States. The Commission is currently carrying out four infringement procedures against Member States for tolerating the existence of a large number of illegal landfills; ten procedures concerning individual landfills; and, seven procedures concerning landfills not adapted to the requirements of the Landfill Directive.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 182, 16.7.1999.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 312, 22.11.2008.

(Deutsche Fassung)

**Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung P-002870/12
an die Kommission (Vizepräsidentin/Hohe Vertreterin)
Franziska Katharina Brantner (Verts/ALE)
(15. März 2012)**

Betrifft: VP/HR — Maßnahmen der Republik Zypern in Bezug auf den Konflikt in Syrien

Im Beschluss 2011/273/GASP des Rates ⁽¹⁾ vom 9. Mai 2011 heißt es in Artikel 1 Absatz 1, dass „der Verkauf, die Lieferung, die Weitergabe oder die Ausfuhr von Rüstungsgütern aller Art“ nach Syrien „vom Hoheitsgebiet der Mitgliedstaaten aus untersagt ist, unabhängig davon, ob diese Güter ihren Ursprung im Hoheitsgebiet der Mitgliedstaaten haben oder nicht“. In Absatz 2 Buchstabe a heißt es weiter, dass es untersagt ist, unmittelbar oder mittelbar sonstige Dienste im Zusammenhang mit den Gütern oder der „Bereitstellung, Herstellung, Instandhaltung und Verwendung“ von Gütern, die für die interne Repression in Syrien eingesetzt werden könnten, zu erbringen. Schließlich heißt es in Absatz 2 Buchstabe c, dass es verboten ist, „wissentlich und vorsätzlich an Aktivitäten teilzunehmen, mit denen die Umgehung der unter den Buchstaben a oder b genannten Verbote bezweckt oder bewirkt wird“. Am 10. Januar 2012 gestatteten die zyprischen Behörden im zyprischen Hafen Limassol das Andocken und Betanken des russischen Schiffes MS Chariot, das eine Ladung des russischen Rüstungsunternehmens Rosoboronexport mit sich führte. Das Schiff setzte seine Fahrt nach Tartous in Syrien fort, um dort vier Container mit 59 422 Tonnen Munition für AK-47 und Raketenwerfer für die syrischen Behörden zu löschen. Trotz des ursprünglichen eindeutigen Nachweises, dass das Schiff mit einer „gefährlichen Ladung“ (so der zyprische Finanzminister Kikis Kazamais) nach Syrien unterwegs war, wurde es von den zyprischen Behörden weder beschlagnahmt noch vollständig inspiziert. Stattdessen akzeptierten sie die mündlichen Versicherungen des russischen Unternehmens, das Schiff werde seinen angegebenen Bestimmungsort ändern und die Türkei ansteuern. Dies aber war nachweislich nicht der Fall.

1. Inwieweit ist die Hohe Vertreterin der Auffassung, dass es sich bei diesem Vorfall um einen Verstoß gegen die Sanktionen des Rates gemäß Artikel 1 Absatz 2 Buchstabe c des Beschlusses 2011/273/GASP oder um deren wissentliche Umgehung handelt? Warum ist dies nach Ansicht der Hohen Vertreterin gegebenenfalls nicht der Fall? Welche Maßnahmen wird die Hohe Vertreterin ergreifen, um den Vorfall lückenlos zu prüfen und die zyprischen Behörden zur Rechenschaft zu ziehen?
2. Wie gedenkt die Hohe Vertreterin, in Zusammenarbeit mit den zuständigen Stellen des Mitgliedstaates dafür Sorge zu tragen, dass künftige Verstöße gegen die Sanktionen durch Zypern oder einen anderen Mitgliedstaat unterbunden werden? Wie wird sie die Kontrolle und Überwachung der Umsetzung der Sanktionen durch die Mitgliedstaaten optimieren?
3. Wie gedenkt die Hohe Vertreterin vor dem Hintergrund der Zwangsverbringung von 32 syrischen Kurden von Zypern nach Syrien im September 2011 und nach der Verschleppung weiterer 23 Menschen am 11. Juni 2011 (von denen mindestens 17 nach ihrer Rückkehr nach Syrien nachweislich festgenommen und inhaftiert wurden) sowie vor dem Hintergrund der anhaltenden Inhaftierung mehrerer Syrer in Lakatamia nach den Vorfällen in der syrischen Botschaft in Nikosia im Januar 2012 sicherzustellen, dass Zypern sich zu dem Grundsatz der Nichtabschiebung bekennt, dass es künftig zu keinen weiteren Abschiebungen nach Syrien kommen wird, da in Syrien weder die Menschenrechte noch gerechte Gerichtsverfahren gewährleistet sind, und dass den Inhaftierten auf Zypern gerechte und transparente Verfahren gewährt werden?

**Antwort von Frau Catherine Ashton — Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin im Namen der Kommission
(7. Mai 2012)**

1. Was das Betanken des Schiffes MS Chariot betrifft, hat die Kommission die verfügbaren Fakten untersucht und geprüft, ob die einschlägigen Bestimmungen des Beschlusses 2011/782/GASP des Rates ⁽²⁾ und der Verordnung (EU) Nr. 36/2012 des Rates ⁽³⁾ eingehalten wurden. Aufgrund dieser Überprüfung ist die Kommission der Auffassung, dass keine eindeutigen Anhaltspunkte dafür vorliegen, dass Zypern gegen seine Verpflichtungen nach geltendem EU-Recht verstoßen hätte. Die Kommission hat dieses Thema auch direkt mit Zypern erörtert. Zypern hat die Kommission über die Maßnahmen unterrichtet, die es für künftige ähnliche Situationen getroffen hat.
2. Die Umsetzung der von der EU verhängten Sanktionen obliegt in erster Linie den zuständigen Behörden der EU-Mitgliedstaaten. Die Kommission unterstützt und überwacht weiterhin die einheitliche, kohärente und wirksame Umsetzung der vom Rat beschlossenen restriktiven Maßnahmen durch die Mitgliedstaaten in Ausübung ihrer jeweiligen Zuständigkeiten nach dem Vertrag.

⁽¹⁾ ABl. L 121 vom 10.5.2011, S. 11.

⁽²⁾ ABl. L 319 vom 2.12.2011.

⁽³⁾ ABl. L 16 vom 19.1.2012.

3. Die Rückführung und Abschiebung illegal aufhältiger Drittstaatsangehöriger in einen Mitgliedstaat müssen entsprechend der Richtlinie 2008/115/EG ⁽⁴⁾ erfolgen, die besondere Schutzvorkehrungen enthält, einschließlich der uneingeschränkten Einhaltung des Grundsatzes der Nichtzurückweisung. Ein Staat darf eine Person demnach nicht in ein Land rückführen, in dem ihr die Todesstrafe, Folter oder grausame, unmenschliche oder erniedrigende Behandlung oder Strafe droht oder in dem, im Fall von Asylsuchenden und Flüchtlingen, ihr Leben oder ihre Freiheit aus Gründen der Rasse, der Religion, der Nationalität, der Zugehörigkeit zu einer bestimmten sozialen Gruppe oder der politischen Überzeugung gefährdet wäre. Der Kommission liegen keine Hinweise vor, dass Zypern gegen diese Verpflichtung verstößt. Sie wird die Lage genau beobachten und von ihren im Vertrag verankerten Befugnissen Gebrauch machen.

⁽⁴⁾ ABl. L 348 vom 24.12.2008.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-002870/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Franziska Katharina Brantner (Verts/ALE)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Actions of the Republic of Cyprus in relation to the conflict in Syria

Article 1(1) of Council Decision 2011/273/CFSP ⁽¹⁾ of 9 May 2011 states that 'the sale, supply, transfer or export of arms and related materiel of all types' to Syria 'from the territories of Member States' shall be prohibited, 'whether originating or not in their territories'. Paragraph 2(a) of that Article states that it shall be prohibited to 'provide, directly or indirectly' any services related to equipment — or the 'provision, manufacture, maintenance and use' thereof — which might be used for internal repression in Syria. Paragraph 2(c) states that it is prohibited to 'participate, knowingly and intentionally, in activities, the object or effect of which is to circumvent the prohibitions referred to in points (a) or (b)'. On 10 January 2012 Cypriot authorities allowed the Russian ship MS Chariot, carrying a cargo from Russian state arms company Rosoboronexport, to dock and refuel in the Cypriot port of Limassol. The ship continued to Tartous, Syria, to deliver four containers packed with 59 422 tonnes of ammunition for AK-47s and rocket launchers to the Syrian authorities. Despite initial clear evidence that the shipment was destined for Syria with a 'dangerous cargo' (Kikis Kazamais, Cypriot Finance Minister), the Cypriot authorities neither seized it nor fully inspected it. Instead they merely accepted verbal assurances from the Russian company that the ship would change its stated destination to Turkey. This was demonstrably not the case.

1. Does the High Representative consider this incident to be in breach of, or a knowing circumvention of (Paragraph 2(c) of Decision 2011/273/CFSP), the Council's sanctions? If not, why not? What action will the High Representative take to assess the incident fully and hold the Cypriot authorities to account?
2. How will the High Representative ensure, in cooperation with relevant Member State authorities, that further breaches of sanctions by Cyprus or any other Member State are prevented? How will she improve the monitoring and oversight of Member State implementation of sanctions?
3. With regard to the forceful deportation of 32 Syrian Kurds from Cyprus to Syria in September 2011, in addition to the 23 deported on 11 June 2011 (at least 17 of whom were reportedly arrested and detained on return to Syria), and to the continued detention of several Syrians in Lakatamia following the incidents at the Syrian Embassy in Nicosia in January 2012, how will the High Representative ensure that Cyprus adheres to the principle of non-refoulement and that no future deportations to Syria occur while human rights and a fair trial cannot be guaranteed in Syria, and that fair and transparent proceedings are accorded to the detainees in Cyprus?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(7 May 2012)

1. Regarding the matter of the refuelling of the MS Chariot ship, the Commission has examined the available facts and have assessed them in relation to the relevant provisions of Council Decision 2011/782/CFSP ⁽²⁾ and Council Regulation 36/2012 ⁽³⁾. On the basis of this assessment, the Commission considers that there are no definitive grounds to conclude that Cyprus has breached its obligations under the applicable EU legal instruments. The Commission has also raised the issue directly with Cyprus. Cyprus informed the Commission about the measures taken in view of handling similar situations in the future.
2. The implementation of sanctions measures adopted by the EU is the responsibility of competent authorities of the EU Member States. In the exercise of their respective responsibilities under the Treaty, the Commission will continue to support and monitor the uniform, consistent and effective implementation by Member States of restrictive measures decided by the Council.
3. The return and removal of illegally staying third-country nationals in a member state must be conducted in line with Directive 2008/115/EC ⁽⁴⁾, which contains specific safeguards, including the absolute respect of the principle of non-refoulement. Thus, a state must not return a person to a country where he/she might be at risk of being subjected to the death penalty, torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, or, as regards asylum-seekers and refugees, where their life or freedom may be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. The Commission does not have indications that Cyprus violates this obligation. It will monitor the situation and make use of the powers conferred to it under the Treaty.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 121, 10.5.2011, p. 11.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 319, 2.12.2011.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 16, 19.1.2012.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 348, 24.12.2008.

(българска версия)

Въпрос с искане за писмен отговор E-002873/12

до Комисията

Антония Първанова (ALDE)

(15 март 2012 г.)

Относно: Приложение на Конвенцията за прилагане на Шенгенското споразумение в българското законодателство

Благодаря за отговора, даден от г-жа Малмстрьом от името на Комисията (02.03.2012 г.), на въпроса с искане за писмен отговор E-000808/2012 относно приложението на Конвенцията за прилагане на Шенгенското споразумение в българското законодателство. Уважавам изложените аргументи, но в отговора е обяснено защо авиопревозвачите са отговорни за гарантиране на това, че гражданите, които те превозват, притежават необходимите и валидни пътни документи в следните случаи:

1. когато става въпрос за граждани на трети държави, които те превозват от трети държави в Шенгенското пространство, и
2. когато става въпрос за граждани на Съюза и членове на техните семейства, които те превозват от Шенгенското пространство за България.

Въпросът с искане за писмен отговор E-000808/2012, който първоначално зададох на Комисията, касаше казуси с граждани на трети държави, които имат необходимите документи за свободно пребиваване в Шенгенското пространство, но нямат необходимите входни документи за България. В повечето от тези регистрирани случаи, граничните власти на изходната точка в държавата — членка на Шенген, са разрешили на пътниците да напуснат Шенгенското пространство и да пътуват към държава, която е член на ЕС, но е извън Шенген (като България), въпреки че нямат необходимите входни документи за тази държава. На българските авиокомпании се налагат административни глоби за това, че са превозили същите тези пътници без входни документи за България, които граничната полиция на изходната точка не е спряла.

Тъй като от отговора, даден от г-жа Малмстрьом, не става ясно на какво основание българските авиопревозвачи се считат за съотговорни с граничните власти на изходната точка в гореспоменатия случай, може ли Комисията да интерпретира само случая, когато граждани на трети страни са вече влезли в държава — членка на Шенген, имат необходимите документи за свободно движение в Шенгенското пространство, но нямат необходимите входни документи за България и въпреки това са допуснати от граничните власти да напуснат Шенгенското пространство и да пътуват за държава — членка на ЕС, но извън Шенген (в случая България)?

— Счита ли Комисията подобна практика за приемлива и на кои международни нормативни актове би могла да се основе тя?

Отговор, даден от г-жа Малмстрьом от името на Комисията

(7 май 2012 г.)

Както се посочва в отговора на Комисията на писмен въпрос E-000808/2012 ⁽¹⁾, проверките извършвани от граничната охрана и проверките, извършвани от превозвачите, имат различен обхват и различни цели.

Съгласно член 7, параграф 3, буква б от Кодекса на шенгенските граници проверките, извършвани от граничната охрана при излизане, имат за цел да проверят, че лицата разполагат с валидни документи за пътуване, за да преминат външната граница и да напуснат Шенгенското пространство.

Обратно, проверките, извършвани от превозвачите по смисъла на техните отговорности, имат за цел да проверят, че пътниците разполагат с необходимите документи за пътуване, за да влязат в страната по местоназначение.

В този смисъл трябва да се отбележи, че разликата между условията за излизане от Шенгенското пространство и условието за влизане в България се дължи също на факта, че България все още не е член на Шенгенското пространство. Например, разрешение за пребиваване, издадено на гражданин на трета страна, живеещ в Шенгенското пространство, е еквивалентно на виза за Шенгенското пространство, и упълномощава това лице да напуска Шенгенското пространство, но не е еквивалентно на визата, която се изисква, за да влезе в България.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/home.jsp>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002873/12
to the Commission**

Antonyia Parvanova (ALDE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Application under Bulgarian law of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement

Thank you for the answer given by Mrs Malmström on behalf of the Commission (2 March 2012) to the question with a request for a written answer E-000808/2012 on the application under Bulgarian law of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement. While I acknowledge the arguments set out in that answer, it sets out to explain why it is that airlines are responsible for guaranteeing that passengers whom they are carrying have the necessary valid travel documents in the following cases:

1. third-country nationals, whom they are bringing from third countries into the Schengen area, and
2. EU citizens and their family members, whom they are carrying from the Schengen area to Bulgaria.

Question E-000808/2012, which I initially submitted to the Commission, concerned cases of third-country nationals who have the documents needed to reside freely in the Schengen area, but do not have the documents required for entry into Bulgaria. In most of the cases on record, the border authorities at the point of departure within a Schengen Member State have allowed travellers to leave the Schengen area and to travel to a country which is a member of the EU but outside Schengen (such as Bulgaria), despite the fact that they do not have the documents needed to enter Bulgaria. Fines have been imposed on Bulgarian airlines for transporting these travellers who do not have the entry documents for Bulgaria and who have not been stopped by the border police at the point of departure.

Since the response given by Mrs Malmström does not make it clear on what grounds Bulgarian airlines are considered to be jointly responsible with the border authorities at the point of departure in such cases, can the Commission simply provide an interpretation of those cases where third-country nationals have already entered a Schengen Member State and have the documents needed to move freely in the Schengen area, but do not possess the documents needed for entry into Bulgaria, and yet are allowed by the border authorities to leave the Schengen area and travel to a country which is a member of the EU but outside Schengen (in this case Bulgaria)?

— Does the Commission consider that practice to be acceptable? Which international regulatory acts would provide a basis for this?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission

(7 May 2012)

As referred to in the reply of the Commission to Written Question E-000808/2012 ⁽¹⁾, checks carried out by border guards and checks carried out by carriers have different scope and different objectives.

According to Article 7§3(b) of the Schengen Borders Code checks carried out by border guards at exit aim to verify that persons are in possession of valid travel documents for crossing the external border and leave the Schengen area.

Conversely, checks carried out by carriers in the context of carrier's liability aim to verify that passengers have the necessary travel documents to enter the country of destination.

In this context, it should be noted that differences between the exit conditions from the Schengen area and the entry condition into Bulgaria are also due to the fact that Bulgaria is not yet member of the Schengen area. For instance, a residence permit issued to a third-country national living in the Schengen area is equivalent to a visa valid for the Schengen area and entitles this person to leave the Schengen area, but it is not equivalent to a visa which is required for entry into Bulgaria.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/home.jsp>

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002874/12
an die Kommission
Angelika Werthmann (NI)
(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: Gewalt gegen Kinder

Entsprechend einer repräsentativen Umfrage des Forsa-Instituts in Deutschland schlägt fast die Hälfte der Eltern ihre Kinder. Dort ist seit über zehn Jahren der Schutz von Kindern gesetzlich verankert: „Kinder haben ein Recht auf eine gewaltfreie Erziehung“. In Schweden besteht eine ähnliche gesetzliche Regelung.

1. Ist der Kommission die Problematik der Gewalt gegen Kinder bewusst? Verfügt die Kommission über vergleichende Studien, Untersuchungen etc., welche dieses Problem auf gesamteuropäischer Ebene behandeln?
2. Ist der Schutz gegen Gewalt in den einzelnen Mitgliedstaaten geregelt? Wie sehen diese Regelungen im Einzelnen aus? Wenn nein, welche Länder haben eine gesetzliche Regelung, welche Länder keine?
3. Welche Maßnahmen hat die Kommission zu diesem Thema bereits ergriffen und wo sieht sie weiteren Handlungsbedarf?

Antwort von Frau Reding im Namen der Kommission
(26. April 2012)

Die Kommission teilt die Besorgnis der Frau Abgeordneten in Bezug auf Gewalt gegen Kinder. Sie wird die Maßnahmen der Mitgliedstaaten zur Bekämpfung von Gewalt gegen Kinder auch weiterhin finanziell unterstützen und den diesbezüglichen Austausch bewährter Verfahren fördern.

2010 hat die Kommission eine vergleichende Studie ⁽¹⁾ durchgeführt, die einen Überblick über die Rechtsvorschriften zum Thema Gewalt gegen Kinder in allen EU-Mitgliedstaaten bietet. Zudem enthält die Studie eine eingehende Beschreibung der Rechtsvorschriften und bewährten Verfahren der Mitgliedstaaten im Kampf gegen Gewalt gegen Kinder.

In Bezug auf frühere Aktivitäten der Kommission zur Bekämpfung der Gewalt gegen Kinder verweist die Kommission die Frau Abgeordnete auf ihre Antworten auf die schriftlichen Anfragen E-011196/2010, E-3222/2011 und E-005052/2011 ⁽²⁾.

Im Rahmen des Programms „Daphne“ hat die Kommission seit dessen Einführung 1997 eine Reihe von Projekten finanziert, die die Verhütung von Gewalt und Missbrauch von Kindern und Frauen in der Europäischen Union ⁽³⁾ und die Ermittlung bewährter Verfahren in diesem Bereich zum Ziel hatten.

Im Mai 2011 legte die Kommission einen Vorschlag zur Stärkung der Rechte von Opfern in Strafverfahren vor. Besonderes Augenmerk lag hierbei auf Kindern, da diese besonders gefährdet sind ⁽⁴⁾. Im November 2011 wurde die Richtlinie 2011/93/EU ⁽⁵⁾ zur Bekämpfung des sexuellen Missbrauchs und der sexuellen Ausbeutung von Kindern sowie der Kinderpornografie erlassen. Diese Richtlinie bedeutet hinsichtlich der Verfolgung von Straftätern, des Schutzes der Opfer von Kindesmissbrauch und der Verhütung von Straftaten eine erhebliche Verbesserung der EU-Rechtsvorschriften.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/daphne3/daphne_feasibility_study_2010_en.pdf

⁽²⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/JP-WEB/application/home.do?language=DE>

⁽³⁾ Siehe Website „Daphne-Toolkit“: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/daphnetoolkit/html/booklets/dpt_booklets_en.html

⁽⁴⁾ Vorschlag für eine Richtlinie des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates über Mindeststandards für die Rechte und den Schutz von Opfern von Straftaten sowie für die Opferhilfe (KOM(2011)275 endgültig vom 18.5.2011).

⁽⁵⁾ ABl. L 335 vom 17.12.2011, S. 1.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002874/12
to the Commission**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Violence against children

According to a representative survey carried out by the Forsa Institute in Germany, almost half of parents smack their children. In Germany, legislation on the protection of children has been in place for more than 10 years: 'Children have the right to a violence-free upbringing.' Similar laws are also in place in Sweden.

1. Is the Commission aware of the problem of violence against children? Does the Commission have access to comparative studies, investigations, etc. which address this problem on a pan-European level?
2. Is protection against violence regulated in the individual Member States? What are the details of these regulations? If not, which countries have legislation and which do not?
3. What steps has the Commission already taken concerning this topic and where does it see a need for further action?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission

(26 April 2012)

The Commission is concerned about the issue of violence against children. It will continue to support the efforts of the Member States to fight violence against children through funding and exchange of best practices.

In 2010 the Commission carried out a comparative study ⁽¹⁾ mapping relevant legislation on violence against children in all EU Member States. The study also contains detailed description of the Member States' legislation and best practices to combat violence against children.

As regards previous Commission activities on combating violence against children, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its replies to Written Questions E-011196/2010, E-3222/2011 and E-005052/2011 ⁽²⁾.

The Commission has funded a number of projects under the 'Daphne Programme' since its creation in 1997, aiming at the prevention of violence and abuse of children and women in the European Union ⁽³⁾ and in identifying best practices in this field.

In May 2011, the Commission presented a proposal to strengthen the rights of victims in criminal proceedings. Because of their vulnerability, it gave particular attention to children ⁽⁴⁾.

In November 2011, the EU adopted Directive 2011/93/EU ⁽⁵⁾ on combating sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. The text represents a considerable improvement in EU legislation reinforcing the prosecution of offenders, protection of child victims and prevention of the crime.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/daphne3/daphne_feasibility_study_2010_en.pdf

⁽²⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/home.jsp>

⁽³⁾ See the Daphne Toolkit website: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/daphnetoolkit/html/booklets/dpt_booklets_en.html

⁽⁴⁾ Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, COM(2011) 275 final, 18.5.2011.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 335/1, 17.12.2011.

(Deutsche Fassung)

**Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002875/12
an die Kommission (Vizepräsidentin/Hohe Vertreterin)**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: VP/HR — neues Strafverfahrensrecht in China

In China wurde gerade ein neues Strafverfahrensrecht gebilligt, das unter anderem vorsieht, dass Regimekritiker künftig sechs Monate lang an einem unbekannten Ort festgehalten werden können. Dieses Recht gewährt Sicherheitsorganen weitreichende Vollmachten für Festnahmen und Hausarrest.

1. Wie bewertet die Hohe Vertreterin dieses neue Recht?
2. Ist sie der Ansicht, dass die dort zum Ausdruck gebrachte Rechtsauffassung, Auslegung und Anwendung mit europäischen Grundwerten und Grundrechten vereinbar ist?
3. Wenn nein, was gedenkt die Vertreterin zu unternehmen?

Antwort von Frau Catherine Ashton — Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin im Namen der Kommission

(23. Mai 2012)

Die EU hat die Änderungen des chinesischen Strafverfahrensrechts, die vom Nationalen Volkskongress am 14. März 2012 angenommen wurden, zur Kenntnis genommen. Einige Aspekte dieser Änderungen, die neue Garantien bieten wie den Zugang zu einem Rechtsanwalt und den Ausschluss von durch Folter erlangten Beweisen, würden, falls sie umgesetzt werden, den Schutz der Rechte von gewöhnlichen Tatverdächtigen verbessern. Die EU ist jedoch nach wie vor besorgt über die Bestimmungen, die den Strafverfolgungsbehörden die Befugnis übertragen, Personen, die der Gefährdung der Staatssicherheit und terroristischer Straftaten beschuldigt werden, bis zu sechs Monate ohne Kontakt zur Außenwelt an einem unbekannten Ort festzuhalten. Da eine lange Haft ohne Kontakt zur Außenwelt einen Verstoß gegen den Internationalen Pakt über bürgerliche und politische Rechte darstellt, wird die EU China weiterhin mit diesem Thema konfrontieren, so auch im Rahmen des Menschenrechtsdialogs.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002875/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Angelika Werthmann (NI)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — New criminal procedure law in China

A new law on criminal procedure has just been passed in China, that, among other things, allows critics of the regime to be detained in future at an unknown location for six months. This law gives security authorities far-reaching powers of detention and house arrest.

1. What view does the Vice-President/High Representative take of this new law?
2. Does it consider that the legal opinion, interpretation and application reflected therein are compatible with European fundamental values and rights?
3. If not, what action does it intend to take?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(23 May 2012)

The EU has taken note of the amendments to the Chinese Criminal Procedure law adopted by the National People's Congress on 14 March 2012. Some aspects of these amendments, which provide new guarantees in terms of access to a lawyer and the exclusion of evidence gathered through torture, would, if implemented, improve the protection of rights for ordinary criminal suspects. On the other hand, the EU remains concerned by provisions which grant law enforcement agencies the power to detain individuals accused of state security or terrorism offences incommunicado at undisclosed locations for up to six months. As prolonged incommunicado detention constitutes a violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the EU will continue to engage China on this issue, including in the framework of the human rights dialogue.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002876/12
an die Kommission
Angelika Werthmann (NI)
(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: Kinderlebensmittel und Gesundheit

Gemäß aktueller Studie der deutschen Verbraucherschutzorganisation Foodwatch sind viele Kinderlebensmittel zu süß und zu fett. Von 1 500 untersuchten „Kindernahrungsmitteln“ seien fast 75 % „süße und fettige Snacks“. Die Werbung verführe Kinder, solche Produkte zu konsumieren. Laut der Studie essen Kinder nur die Hälfte der empfohlenen Menge an Obst und Gemüse. Aber sie nehmen mehr als das Doppelte der Menge an Süßwaren, Snacks und Softdrinks zu sich, die sie höchstens konsumieren sollten, mit dem Ergebnis, dass der Anteil übergewichtiger Kinder im Vergleich zu den 1980er und 1990er Jahren um 50 Prozent gestiegen ist. 15 Prozent der Kinder sind zu dick, 6 Prozent fettleibig. Es ist davon auszugehen, dass auch in den übrigen Mitgliedstaaten eine ähnliche Problematik besteht.

1. Ist sich die Kommission — insbesondere vor dem Hintergrund der auch in Europa zunehmenden Übergewichtigkeit — dieser Problematik bewusst?
2. Welche Maßnahmen hat die Kommission bisher ergriffen, um Kinder vor beeinflussender Werbung zu schützen?
3. Welche Maßnahmen hat die Kommission bisher unternommen, um Eltern und Kinder über die Bedeutung einer ausgewogenen Ernährung aufzuklären?
4. Sieht die Kommission angesichts der offensichtlichen Zunahme der Problematik weiteren Regelungsbedarf?

Antwort von Herrn Dalli im Namen der Kommission
(2. Mai 2012)

1. Die Kommission kennt die gesundheitlichen Probleme, die mit Übergewicht und Adipositas insbesondere bei Kindern zusammenhängen; im Jahr 2007 hat sie die „Strategie für Europa: Ernährung, Übergewicht und Adipositas“ angenommen. In der Strategie werden Maßnahmen zur Bekämpfung von Übergewicht und Adipositas festgelegt, die die Kommission in Zusammenarbeit mit den Mitgliedstaaten und einschlägigen Akteuren durchführt.
2. Die Initiative „EU Pledge“, eine Selbstverpflichtung einiger führender Lebensmittel- und Getränkeunternehmen, ist ein Beispiel für den Schutz von Kindern vor Werbung. Die Mitgliedsunternehmen des EU Pledge haben EU-weit die Werbung für Lebensmittel und Getränke bei Kindern unter 12 Jahren eingeschränkt. Darüber hinaus werden in Artikel 4 Absatz 7 der Richtlinie 2010/13/EU ⁽¹⁾ über audiovisuelle Mediendienste Regelungen zur Selbstregulierung gefordert, die bei der Lebensmittelwerbung bei Kindern besonders hilfreich sein können.
3. Im Fortschrittsbericht vom Dezember 2010 werden ausführlich die Maßnahmen beschrieben, die zur Bekämpfung von Übergewicht und Adipositas getroffen wurden. Ein Beispiel hierfür ist das 2009 aufgelegte EU-Schulobstprogramm, mit dem Obst und Gemüse an die Zielgruppe Schulkinder verteilt werden; außerdem sollen die Mitgliedstaaten Strategien sowie Bildungs- und Sensibilisierungsmaßnahmen entwickeln, um Kindern zu vermitteln, wie wichtig eine gesunde Ernährung ist.
4. Die Kommission führt derzeit eine Evaluierung der Strategie für Ernährung, Übergewicht und Adipositas durch, die den Bedarf an weiteren Maßnahmen ermitteln soll. Der entsprechende Bericht dürfte im ersten Quartal 2013 vorliegen.

Beim Thema Übergewicht und Adipositas und den damit zusammenhängenden gesundheitlichen Auswirkungen arbeitet die Kommission eng mit der Hochrangigen Gruppe für Ernährung und körperliche Bewegung zusammen, z. B. bei der Neuformulierung von Lebensmitteln.

⁽¹⁾ Richtlinie 2010/13/EU des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 10. März 2010 zur Koordinierung bestimmter Rechts- und Verwaltungsvorschriften der Mitgliedstaaten über die Bereitstellung audiovisueller Mediendienste (Richtlinie über audiovisuelle Mediendienste), ABl. L 95 vom 15.4.2010.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002876/12
to the Commission**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Children's food products and health

According to the latest survey by German consumer protection organisation Foodwatch, many children's food products are too sweet and too high in fat. Out of 1 500 'children's foodstuffs' examined, almost 75 % were 'sweet and fatty snacks'. Advertising tempts children to consume products like these. According to the survey, children only eat half of the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables. However, they consume more than twice the maximum recommended amount of sweets, snacks and soft drinks, with the result that the number of overweight children has risen by 50 % since the 1980s and 1990s. Fifteen per cent of children are overweight, whilst 6 % are obese. It can be assumed that similar problems exist in the other Member States.

1. Is the Commission aware of this issue, especially in view of the growing problem of obesity in Europe?
2. What steps has the Commission taken so far to protect children from persuasive advertising?
3. What steps has the Commission taken so far to educate parents and children about the importance of a well-balanced diet?
4. In view of the obvious worsening of the problem, does the Commission see a need for further regulation?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

1. The Commission is aware of the health problems associated with overweight and obesity particularly amongst children, and adopted in 2007 'A Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related health issues'. The strategy defines actions that the Commission is taking in cooperation with the Member States and relevant stakeholders with a view to addressing overweight and obesity.
2. The 'EU Pledge', a commitment by a group of leading food and beverages companies, is an example of action to protect children against advertising. The Pledge has restricted food and beverage advertising to children under 12 across the EU. Furthermore, Article 4(7) of the Audiovisual Media Service Directive 2010/13/EU ⁽¹⁾ calls for a self-regulatory approach which can be of particular relevance in the field of food advertising to children.
3. The Implementation Progress Report of December 2010 sets out in detail the actions taken to address overweight and obesity. One example is the EU Fruit School Scheme launched in 2009. Besides providing fruit and vegetables to a target group of school children, the scheme requires participating Member States to set up strategies including educational and awareness-raising measures to teach children the importance of healthy eating.
4. The Commission is currently evaluating its Strategy on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related health issues which will enable the Commission to identify the need for possible further action. The report should be available in the first quarter of 2013.

In order to further address the issue of overweight and obesity and their health effects, the Commission works closely together with the Member States in the High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity on issues such as food reformulation.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive), OJ L 95, 15.4.2010.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002879/12
an die Kommission
Angelika Werthmann (NI)
(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: Folgemaßnahmen nach Fukushima

Ein Jahr nach dem Atomunfall im japanischen Fukushima steht das Thema Kernenergie wiederum im Fokus der Öffentlichkeit. Die Auswirkungen der Tsunamikatastrophe in Japan sind noch offensichtlich und in der radioaktiv verstrahlten Zone steigt die Zahl der Krebsfälle, weitere Krankheiten nehmen zu.

Ein Ausstieg aus der Kernenergie kann nur erfolgreich sein, wenn die erneuerbaren Energiequellen in viel stärkerem Maße als bisher unterstützt werden.

In Österreich wurden im Jahr 2011 31 neue Anlagen mit einer Leistung von 73 Megawatt errichtet. Anfang 2012 stehen dort mittlerweile 656 Windkraftanlagen mit einer Leistung von 1 084 MW in Betrieb. Gemäß dem Europäischen Windenergie-Verband bestand im Ausbaurekordjahr 2011 bereits 71,3 Prozent der neuen Erzeugungskapazität innerhalb der EU aus erneuerbaren Energien.

1. Welche Programme und Aktivitäten hat die Kommission entwickelt, um die Mitgliedstaaten verstärkt für die Nutzung erneuerbarer Energiequellen zu sensibilisieren und zu ermuntern?
2. Inwieweit fördert die Kommission den Austausch von „Best-Practice“-Beispielen zwischen den Mitgliedstaaten, so dass beispielsweise andere Länder von den Erfahrungen in Österreich profitieren können?
3. Welche künftige Strategie verfolgt die Kommission im Bereich der Windenergie? Mit welchen Zielen und Mitteln gedenkt sie, dies im kommenden MFF zu realisieren?

Antwort von Herrn Oettinger im Namen der Kommission
(27. April 2012)

Nach der Richtlinie über erneuerbare Energie (2009/28/EG) ⁽¹⁾ ist jeder Mitgliedstaat dazu verpflichtet, Maßnahmen zu ergreifen, um bis 2020 die verbindlichen Zielvorgaben für erneuerbare Energien auf einzelstaatlicher Ebene zu erreichen. Neben dieser rechtlichen Verpflichtung stehen verschiedene Finanzinstrumente der EU zur Verfügung, um erneuerbare Energien zu fördern (EU-Struktur- und Kohäsionsfonds, Europäischer Landwirtschaftsfonds für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums sowie das Siebte Rahmenprogramm). Projektbeispiele aus der gesamten EU, die wertvolle Informationen zu Erfahrungen mit Projekten auf dem Gebiet der erneuerbaren Energie liefern können, sind auf der Webseite der Kommission ⁽²⁾ abrufbar.

Es liegt in der Verantwortung der Mitgliedstaaten, zu entscheiden, welche Formen erneuerbarer Energie sie nutzen, um ihre Zielvorgaben zu erreichen, und auch wie und wo sie erneuerbare Energien fördern möchten. Die entsprechenden Maßnahmen müssen gemäß oben erwähnter Richtlinie ausführlich in den „nationalen Aktionsplänen für erneuerbare Energie“ ⁽³⁾ beschrieben werden. Die Kommission bietet den Mitgliedstaaten Gelegenheit zum Austausch über bewährte Praktiken, zum Beispiel im Rahmen des „Forums für konzertierte Aktion“.

Die Kommission beobachtet sorgfältig den Fortschritt der Mitgliedstaaten bei der Erreichung ihrer für 2020 gesetzten Zielvorgaben für erneuerbare Energien. Dennoch verfolgt die Kommission keine speziell auf eine Technologie konzentrierte Strategie, sondern einen technologieneutralen Ansatz, da es hinsichtlich des Potenzials der verschiedenen Erneuerbare-Energien-Technologien deutliche Unterschiede zwischen den einzelnen Mitgliedstaaten gibt.

⁽¹⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:140:0016:01:DE:HTML>.

⁽²⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/stories/search.cfm?LAN=DE&pay=ALL®ion=ALL&the=68&type=ALL&per=2.

⁽³⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/action_plan_en.htm

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002879/12
to the Commission**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Measures after Fukushima

One year on from the nuclear accident in Fukushima in Japan, the issue of nuclear energy is once again a focus of public attention. The impact of the tsunami disaster in Japan is still obvious and, in the radioactively contaminated area, the number of cancer cases and the incidence of other diseases are increasing.

The abandonment of nuclear energy cannot succeed unless renewable energy sources are given far greater support than has been the case to date.

In Austria 31 new plants were built in 2011, providing a total output of 73 megawatts. At the beginning of 2012, the country had 656 wind energy turbines in operation with an output of 1 084 MW. According to the European Wind Energy Association, in 2011, a record year for expansion, as much as 71.3 % of new generating capacity within the EU consisted of renewable energies.

1. What programmes and activities has the Commission been developing to raise awareness among the Member States and encourage them to use renewable energy sources?
2. To what extent is the Commission encouraging the Member States to exchange instances of 'best practice', so that, for example, other countries can benefit from the experience gained in Austria?
3. What future strategy is the Commission pursuing in the area of wind energy? What targets have been set and what resources earmarked for that purpose in the forthcoming multiannual financial framework (MFF)?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission

(27 April 2012)

The Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) ⁽¹⁾ requires that each Member State takes measures to reach binding national renewable energy targets by 2020. Apart from this legal obligation there are various EU financial instruments available to support renewable energy (EU Structural and Cohesion Funds, Rural Development Fund, Seventh Framework Programme). Project examples from across the EU which may give useful information on project experiences in the field of sustainable energy are available on the Commission website ⁽²⁾.

The Member States are responsible for determining what kind of renewable energy to use to meet their targets and for decisions on where and how to promote renewables. These measures must be described in detail in the National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAP) ⁽³⁾ required by the above Directive. The Commission is facilitating the exchange of best practice among Member States, e.g. in the Concerted Action Forum.

The Commission is closely monitoring the progress of Member States towards their 2020 renewable energy targets. However, as the potential of different renewables technologies varies significantly between Member States, the Commission does not pursue technology specific strategies but applies a technology-neutral approach.

⁽¹⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:140:0016:01:EN:HTML>.

⁽²⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/stories/search.cfm?LAN=EN&pay=ALL®ion=ALL&the=68&type=ALL&per=2.

⁽³⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/action_plan_en.htm

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002880/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)
(15 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Επικινδυνότητα πυρηνικών αντιδραστήρων

Σύμφωνα με δημοσιεύματα, υπάρχει μεγάλος αριθμός πυρηνικών αντιδραστήρων ανά τον κόσμο (435) οι οποίοι, σε μεγάλο ποσοστό (80 %), λειτουργούν εδώ και περισσότερο από 20 χρόνια. Σε έκθεση της Διεθνούς Υπηρεσίας Ατομικής Ενέργειας (ΙΑΕΑ) εκτιμάται ότι αυτοί οι αντιδραστήρες αποτελούν κίνδυνο για την ασφάλεια του κόσμου. Χαρακτηριστικό στοιχείο της έκθεσης είναι ότι, έως τα τέλη του 2011, το 5 % των πυρηνικών αντιδραστήρων σε όλον τον κόσμο λειτουργούσαν για περισσότερα από 40 χρόνια και το 32 % περισσότερα από 30 χρόνια. Επισημαίνεται η ανάγκη «να συμμορφώνονται οι παλαιότεροι αντιδραστήρες με τις απαιτήσεις των νεότερων και μελλοντικών αντιδραστήρων για να συνεχίσουν να εκπληρώνουν τις ενεργειακές ανάγκες των κρατών με οικονομικό και αποτελεσματικό τρόπο»

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

- Μπορεί να μας δώσει η Επιτροπή στοιχεία για την ύπαρξη και των αριθμό παλαιού τύπου πυρηνικών αντιδραστήρων, όπως αναφέρει η ΔΥΑΕ (ΙΑΕΑ), σε κοντινή απόσταση από την Ευρώπη, αν όχι και εντός των συνόρων της;
- Γνωρίζει η Επιτροπή εάν αυτοί οι αντιδραστήρες δημιουργούν σοβαρές παρενέργειες στο περιβάλλον και στον άνθρωπο σε σύγκριση με τους νέου τύπου αντιδραστήρες;
- Με ποια μετρά σκοπεύει να εξαλείψει των κίνδυνο ενός νέου Τσερνομπίλ/Φουκοσίμα στην περιοχή μας;

Απάντηση του κ. Oettinger εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(10 Μαΐου 2012)

1. Σύμφωνα με τα διαθέσιμα στοιχεία, στις γειτονικές προς την ΕΕ χώρες λειτουργούν 54 πυρηνικοί αντιδραστήρες ισχύος: 33 στη Ρωσική Ομοσπονδία, 15 στην Ουκρανία, 1 στην Αρμενία και 5 στην Ελβετία.

Ο αριθμός των πυρηνικών σταθμών ηλεκτροπαραγωγής που λειτουργούν σήμερα στην ΕΕ ανέρχεται στους 134, με μέσο όρο ηλικίας κοντά στα 30 έτη.

2. Σύμφωνα με την οδηγία 96/29/Ευρατόμ⁽¹⁾ του Συμβουλίου, τα κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ διασφαλίζουν ότι οι απορρίψεις ραδιενεργών λυμάτων από τους πυρηνικούς αντιδραστήρες στην ΕΕ είναι σύμφωνες με τις αρχές της ακτινοπροστασίας (αρχές της αιτιολόγησης, βελτιστοποίησης και περιορισμού δόσεων). Σύμφωνα με πληροφορίες που ελήφθησαν από τα κράτη μέλη βάσει του άρθρου 36 της Συνθήκης Ευρατόμ, η Επιτροπή δεν διαθέτει στοιχεία που να αποδεικνύουν ότι δεν πληρούνται οι απαιτήσεις αυτές.

Οι προαναφερθείσες τρίτες χώρες, ως συμβαλλόμενα μέρη της σύμβασης για την πυρηνική ασφάλεια, θα πρέπει να τηρούν όλα τα σχετικά διεθνή πρότυπα. Η Ουκρανία, η Αρμενία και η Ελβετία είναι επίσης μέρη της σύμβασης Espoo⁽²⁾, η οποία απαιτεί αξιολόγηση των περιβαλλοντικών επιπτώσεων της κατασκευής ενός πυρηνικού σταθμού.

3. Η Επιτροπή συνέστησε ότι στη μελλοντική κατασκευή αντιδραστήρων στην ΕΕ πρέπει να εφαρμόζονται σχέδια, τα επίπεδα ασφαλείας των οποίων είναι ισοδύναμα των αντιδραστήρων τρίτης γενιάς ή επακόλουθων βελτιώσεων⁽³⁾.

Η ΕΕ συνεργάστηκε με τη Ρωσική Ομοσπονδία, την Ουκρανία και την Αρμενία για τη βελτίωση της πυρηνικής ασφαλείας των αντίστοιχων πυρηνικών σταθμών στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος για την πυρηνική ασφάλεια TACIS και του μηχανισμού συνεργασίας στον τομέα της πυρηνικής ασφαλείας. Η συνεργασία με την Ουκρανία και την Αρμενία ευρίσκεται σε εξέλιξη.

Η Επιτροπή παραπέμπει επίσης το Αξιότιμο Μέλος του Κοινοβουλίου στις απαντήσεις της στις γραπτές ερωτήσεις E-007057/2011, E-012252/2011 και E-000284/2012⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ ΕΕ L 159.

⁽²⁾ Σύμβαση για την αξιολόγηση των περιβαλλοντικών επιπτώσεων επί του διασυνοριακού περιβάλλοντος. Η εν λόγω σύμβαση εγκρίθηκε το 1991 και τέθηκε σε ισχύ στις 10 Σεπτεμβρίου 1997. Η Ρωσική Ομοσπονδία έχει υπογράψει τη σύμβαση ESPOO αλλά δεν αποτελεί ακόμη μέρος.

⁽³⁾ Ανακοίνωση της Επιτροπής προς το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο, το Συμβούλιο και την Ευρωπαϊκή Οικονομική και Κοινωνική Επιτροπή της 13.11.2008, «Επικαιροποίηση του ενδεικτικού πυρηνικού προγράμματος, στο πλαίσιο της δεύτερης ανασκόπησης της ενεργειακής στρατηγικής», COM(2008)776 τελικό: βλ. http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2008/doc/2008_11_ser2/nuclear_illustrative_programme_pinc_updt_communication.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002880/12
to the Commission**

Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Danger from nuclear reactors

According to reports, of the large number of nuclear reactors throughout the world (435), a large percentage (80 %) has been in operation for over 20 years. According to a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), these reactors constitute a danger to world safety. According to the report, 5 % of nuclear reactors throughout the world had been in operation for over 40 years and 32 % had been in operation for over 30 years by the end of 2011. It notes that 'older nuclear reactors should meet enhanced safety objectives, closer to that of recent or future reactor designs' and should continue to 'meet Member States' energy requirements in an economical and efficient manner'.

In view of this:

- Can the Commission say if and how many old-type nuclear reactors such as those described by the IAEA are located close to Europe or within its borders?
- Does the Commission know whether these reactors have serious effects on the environment and mankind, compared with new-type reactors?
- What measures does the Commission intend to take to eliminate the risk of a new Chernobyl/Fukushima in our region?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission

(10 May 2012)

1. According to available information, there are 54 nuclear power reactors in operation in EU's neighbourhood: 33 in the Russian Federation, 15 in Ukraine, 1 in Armenia and 5 in Switzerland.

Currently the number of nuclear power plants in operation in the EU is 134, with an average age close to 30 years.

2. Pursuant to Council Directive 96/29/Euratom ⁽¹⁾, EU Member States ensure that the discharges of radioactive effluents from EU nuclear reactors comply with the principles of radiation protection (principles of justification, optimization and dose limitation). According to the information received from Member States under Article 36 of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission has no evidence that these requirements are not fulfilled.

The abovementioned third countries, as Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, should comply with all relevant international standards. Ukraine, Armenia and Switzerland are also parties to the Espoo Convention ⁽²⁾, which requires assessment of the environmental impact of the construction of a nuclear power plant.

3. The Commission has recommended that future build of reactors in the EU should apply designs whose safety levels are equivalent to Generation III reactors or subsequent improvements ⁽³⁾.

The EU has cooperated with the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Armenia to improve nuclear safety of the respective nuclear power plants under the Tacis Nuclear Safety Programme and the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. Cooperation with Ukraine and Armenia is still ongoing.

The Commission would also like to refer the Honourable Member to its replies to Written Questions E-007057/2011, E-012252/2011 and E-000284/2012 ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 159.

⁽²⁾ Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary Context. This Convention was adopted in 1991 and entered into force on 10 September 1997. The Russian Federation is a signatory of the Espoo Convention, but not a party yet.

⁽³⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee of 13.11.2008, 'Update of the Nuclear Illustrative Programme in the context of the Second Strategic Energy Review', COM(2008) 776 final; see at: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2008/doc/2008_11_ser2/nuclear_illustrative_programme_pinc_updt_communication.pdf

⁽⁴⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/>.

(Wersja polska)

**Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej E-002881/12
do Komisji**

Filip Kaczmarek (PPE)

(15 marca 2012 r.)

Przedmiot: Protesty przeciwko reżimowi w Syrii

W marcu 2011 r. pod wpływem ruchu Arabskiej Wiosny wybuchły protesty przeciw rządowi prezydenta Baszara al-Assada. Brutalne stłumienie protestów przez rządowe siły zbrojne doprowadziło do międzynarodowej izolacji Syrii. Zgodnie z szacunkami ONZ w ubiegłym roku życie straciło ponad 7 500 osób.

Jeden z aktywistów walczących w mieście Homs powiedział dziennikarzom, że przed śmiercią kobiety są gwałcone, niektórym z nich podcina się gardła, innym zadaje rany klute. Dzieci są bite w głowę tępym narzędziem i okaleczane. Fakty te są alarmujące. Większość z nich pozostaje dla nas jednak nieznaną, jako że rząd Syrii ograniczył dostęp mediów, co utrudnia ocenę sprzecznych doniesień na temat masowych mordów. Organizacje humanitarne mają również trudności z dotarciem do najciężej rannych osób.

Mimo sankcji nałożonych na Syrię przez UE i inne państwa oraz wysiłków podjętych przez specjalnego wysłannika ONZ do Syrii Kofiego Annana, krwawy konflikt nadal trwa. Kofi Annan zaproponował zawieszenie broni, uwolnienie więźniów oraz zezwolenie organizacjom, takim jak Czerwony Krzyż, na niesienie pomocy najbardziej potrzebującym. Jego dwudniowa wizyta i rozmowy z prezydentem Syrii nie przyniosły jednak żadnych pozytywnych rezultatów. Prezydent al-Assad twierdzi, że „nie można podjąć dialogu ani działań politycznych, jeżeli uzbrojone gangi terrorystyczne (jak rząd nazywa opozycję) działają w terenie, szerząc chaos i doprowadzając do destabilizacji kraju”. Kilka godzin po zakończeniu dwudniowej wizyty wysłannika pokojowego Kofiego Annana w zamachu zorganizowanym przez bojówki prorządowe zginęło 47 osób.

W świetle powyższych informacji:

- Czy Komisja czyni wszystko, co w jej mocy, aby zażegnać konflikt w Syrii oraz pomóc ofiarom?
- Czy Komisja zna sposób na pokojowe zakończenie rozlewu krwi w Syrii?

**Odpowiedź udzielona przez Wysoką Przedstawiciel i Wiceprzewodniczącą Komisji Catherine Ashton
w imieniu Komisji
(24 maja 2012 r.)**

UE niezmiennie potępia brutalne ataki i powszechne łamanie praw człowieka, których dopuszcza się reżim syryjski wobec ludności. UE wezwała prezydenta Assada do natychmiastowego zaprzestania stosowania przemocy, wycofania wojsk z obleganych miast oraz zapewnienia swobodnego dostępu organizacjom humanitarnym do wszystkich obszarów w Syrii.

Aby zwiększyć presję na reżim syryjski, od maja 2011 r. UE przedłużała czternaście razy okres obowiązywania środków ograniczających. Zakaz importu ropy naftowej z Syrii na terytorium UE doprowadził do znacznego obniżenia dochodu przeznaczanego przez reżim na finansowanie swojej przerażającej kampanii. Ponadto UE zachęca międzynarodową społeczność do nałożenia sankcji i z zadowoleniem przyjmuje decyzję Ligi Państw Arabskich w tej kwestii.

Mając na uwadze polityczne rozwiązanie konfliktu, Unia Europejska w pełni popiera wysłannika Organizacji Narodów Zjednoczonych i Ligi Państw Arabskich, Kofiego Annana, oraz jego sześciopunktowy plan, który przewiduje między innymi wycofanie wojsk, zawieszenie broni nadzorowane przez siły międzynarodowe oraz rozpoczęcie dialogu politycznego. Unia Europejska przyjmuje z zadowoleniem oświadczenie przewodniczącego Rady Bezpieczeństwa ONZ, równocześnie wyrażając pełne poparcie dla Kofiego Annana oraz jego planu, oraz wzywa reżim syryjski do spełnienia w końcu swoich obietnic oraz bezzwłocznego zastosowania się do tez zawartych w sześciu punktach.

Jednocześnie UE w pełni popiera międzynarodowe wysiłki zmierzające do zapewnienia skoordynowanych, szybkich i skutecznych działań humanitarnych jako odpowiedzi na kryzys. W tym kontekście przyjmuje z zadowoleniem niedawną wizytę Valerie Amos – podsekretarz generalnej ONZ ds. humanitarnych – w Syrii, jak również wyniki forum pomocy humanitarnej na rzecz Syrii, które odbyło się 8 marca w Genewie. W świetle rosnących potrzeb UE i państwa członkowskie zwiększyły swoje wsparcie finansowe dla organizacji humanitarnych i będą nadal udzielać niezbędnej pomocy.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002881/12
to the Commission**

Filip Kaczmarek (PPE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Anti-regime protests in Syria

The Arab Spring-inspired anti-regime protests in Syria against the government of President Bashar al-Assad erupted in March 2011. Fierce quashing of the protests by government forces has led to the international isolation of Syria. According to UN estimates more than 7 500 people have died over the past year.

One of the activists fighting in Homs told reporters that women are raped before being killed, some have their throats slit, and others bear stab wounds. Children are being hit on their heads with blunt instruments and mutilated. These facts are alarming. We do not know about most of them as the Syrian Government has restricted media access, making it hard to assess conflicting reports of mass killing. Humanitarian organisations have also had difficulty gaining access to the most severely wounded.

Despite the sanctions imposed on Syria by the EU and other countries and the efforts of the UN's special envoy to Syria, Kofi Annan, the bloody conflict continues. Annan has proposed a ceasefire, the release of detainees and that agencies such as the Red Cross be allowed access to deliver much-needed aid. His two-day visit for talks with the Syrian President did not bring any positive results. President al-Assad asserted that 'political dialogue or action cannot take place or succeed if there are terrorist armed gangs [as the Government calls the opposition] on the ground that are working on spreading chaos and target the stability of the homeland'. Hours after UN-Arab peace envoy Kofi Annan ended his two-day mission, 47 people were killed in an attack by pro-government militias.

In light of the above:

- Is the Commission doing all it can to defuse the conflict in Syria and help the victims?
- Does the Commission see any way of peacefully ending the bloodshed in Syria?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(24 May 2012)

The EU has consistently condemned the brutal attacks and widespread human rights violations inflicted by the Syrian regime on its population. It has called on President Assad to immediately stop the violence, withdraw his troops from besieged towns and cities, and grant unimpeded humanitarian access to all areas of Syria.

To increase pressure on the Syrian regime, the EU has extended its restrictive measures 14 times since May 2011. The ban on the import of oil from Syria into the EU has led to a significant reduction of revenue accruing to the regime for the financing of its appalling campaign. Moreover, the EU encourages the international community to also impose sanctions and welcomes the decision of the Arab League in this respect.

In view of a political solution to the crisis, the EU fully supports the UN-Arab League Envoy, Mr Kofi Annan, and his six point plan, providing among others for a withdrawal of troops, an internationally observed ceasefire, and the commencement of political dialogue. It welcomes the UN Security Council's Presidential Statement also expressing full backing of Mr Annan and his plan and calls on the Syrian regime to finally live up to its promises and comply with the six points without delay.

Meanwhile, the EU fully supports international efforts to ensure a coordinated, rapid and effective humanitarian response to the crisis. In this respect, it welcomed the recent visit of Valerie Amos — UN USG for Humanitarian Affairs — to Syria as well as the outcomes of the Syria Humanitarian Forum held on 8 March in Geneva. In the light of growing needs, the EU and Member States have increased their financial support to humanitarian organisations and will continue to mobilise the necessary assistance.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002882/12
to the Commission
Catherine Stihler (S&D)
(15 March 2012)**

Subject: Ease of access when changing car light bulbs

Is the Commission aware of the difficulty some consumers experience when attempting to change their car light bulbs, specifically headlight bulbs, which can in some cases involve removal of the front bumper?

Can the Commission inform me whether this is an issue it will be taking up in the future?

**Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(30 April 2012)**

The Commission is aware of the difficulties drivers might be faced with when changing the headlamp bulbs of certain motor vehicles. As a consequence, the Commission, with the support of Member States, insisted on an amendment to the European type-approval legislation relating to the installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on motor vehicles ⁽¹⁾ to improve the situation.

It has therefore been required since 2006 that new types of vehicles fitted with replaceable light sources have to be designed in a way that they can be inserted in and removed from the holder of its device without tools. This provision is meant to ensure that it is no longer necessary to loosen a front bumper or execute other technical operations before a broken headlamp bulb can be changed.

This requirement was even further clarified in 2008 ⁽²⁾ to ensure that the driver can replace the light source without the need for complex procedures or the assistance of a trained mechanic. In addition the vehicle handbook shall provide a detailed description of the procedure for replacement.

⁽¹⁾ Council Directive 76/756/EEC of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on motor vehicles and their trailers. This directive refers to the requirements of Regulation No 48 of the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE). The new requirement concerning bulb fitting was introduced by Supplement 7 to the 02 series of amendments of UNECE Regulation No. 48 (E/ECE/324/Rev.1/Add.47/Rev.2/Amend.5).

⁽²⁾ Corrigendum 1 to Revision 4 of UNECE Regulation No 48 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2008/85).

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002883/12
a la Comisión**

Malcolm Harbour (ECR) y Pilar del Castillo Vera (PPE)

(15 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Independencia de las autoridades reguladoras nacionales

El ORECE ha emitido un comunicado de prensa referido a un decreto a debate en el Parlamento italiano con el que se impondrían normas en materia de separación de servicios en el sector de las telecomunicaciones. En él expresa su preocupación acerca de la importancia de salvaguardar la independencia de las autoridades reguladoras nacionales en el ámbito del sector de las comunicaciones electrónicas, tal y como está previsto en las Directivas europeas. El ORECE ha recordado que «la imposición de regulación económica, incluida la obligación de acceso [...] es competencia exclusiva de las autoridades reguladoras nacionales. Esto ha quedado claro desde que se adoptó el marco europeo modificado en noviembre de 2009, de acuerdo con el cual las autoridades reguladoras nacionales deben operar de forma independiente a cualquier otro órgano en lo que respecta a la realización de su trabajo regulador».

Asimismo, el ORECE ha instado a la Comisión a que se pronuncie en contra de lo que se puede considerar una tendencia preocupante, y confía en que la Comisión seguirá de cerca el desarrollo de los acontecimientos en Italia e incoará rápidamente procedimientos de infracción si el decreto se convalida.

1. ¿Está de acuerdo la Comisión con el ORECE en que se debe salvaguardar la independencia de las autoridades reguladoras nacionales, tal y como está previsto en las Directivas de la UE?
2. ¿Qué piensa hacer la Comisión para garantizar que se respeten las normativas europeas y no se ponga en riesgo la independencia de las autoridades reguladoras nacionales?

Respuesta de la Sra. Kroes en nombre de la Comisión

(26 de abril de 2012)

La existencia de unas autoridades de regulación independientes constituye la piedra angular de un mercado liberalizado, tal como se ha reconocido ampliamente en el marco regulador de los servicios de comunicaciones electrónicas adoptado en 2009, mediante el que se ha procedido al refuerzo de las salvaguardias institucionales generales para garantizar la independencia de las autoridades nacionales de reglamentación a fin de lograr una aplicación coherente y efectiva de la legislación así como la previsibilidad de las decisiones adoptadas en virtud de la misma. Por otro lado, el marco regulador establece asimismo competencias específicas y atribuciones que deben conferirse a autoridades nacionales de reglamentación independientes.

La Comisión ha adquirido el firme compromiso de garantizar el respeto, por parte de los Estados miembros, de las salvaguardias institucionales generales, así como de las relacionadas con las competencias específicas de las autoridades nacionales de reglamentación previstas en el marco regulador de la UE.

En cuanto al proyecto italiano de modificación de los servicios auxiliares al suministro de acceso fijo, la Comisión está procediendo a su estudio y ha enviado un escrito administrativo a las autoridades italianas solicitando ciertas aclaraciones al respecto. La Comisión seguirá observando el proceso legislativo en Italia a fin de asegurarse de que ningún acto legislativo nacional que se adopte en este ámbito se formule de tal modo que prevalezca sobre los poderes discrecionales conferidos a la autoridad de reglamentación.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002883/12
to the Commission
Malcolm Harbour (ECR) and Pilar del Castillo Vera (PPE)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: Independence of national regulators

With reference to a draft decree under discussion in the Italian Parliament that would impose rules regarding unbundling of services in the telecoms sector, BEREC has issued a press release expressing serious concern about the importance of safeguarding the independence of national regulators in the field of the electronic communications sector, as provided for by European Directives. BEREC recalls that 'the imposition of economic regulation, including access obligation... is the exclusive province of the national regulator. This has been clear since the adoption of the revised European Framework in November 2009, pursuant to which national regulators must operate independently from any other body in relation to the performance of their regulatory tasks'.

Moreover, BEREC has called upon the Commission to speak out against what can only be described as a worrying trend, and trusts that the Commission will closely monitor developments in Italy and promptly launch infringement proceedings if the decree becomes law.

1. Does the Commission agree with BEREC that the independence of national regulators, as defined in the EU Directives, should be safeguarded?
2. What does the Commission intend to do to guarantee that the European rules are respected and that the independence of national regulatory authorities is not put at risk?

Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission
(26 April 2012)

An independent regulator is a keystone in a liberalised market and the 2009 Regulatory Framework for electronic communications fully recognises it, by strengthening the general institutional safeguards for independence of national regulators in order to ensure an effective and consistent application of the regulatory framework and the predictability of its decisions. In addition to that, the Regulatory Framework also defines specific competences and powers that should be conferred to independent National Regulatory Authorities.

The Commission is fully committed to ensure that the general institutional safeguards as well as those concerning specific competences of the National Regulatory Authorities provided for in the EU Regulatory Framework are respected by Member States.

With regard to the Italian draft amendment on ancillary services to the provision of wholesale fixed access, the Commission is examining it and it has sent an administrative letter to the Italian authorities requesting certain clarifications. The Commission will continue to monitor the legislative process in Italy in order to ensure that any national legislation adopted in this area is drafted in a way which would not pre-empt the discretionary powers conferred to the regulator.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002884/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

David Martin (S&D)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Israeli policy of ‘targeted killing’

As the High Representative will be aware on Friday 9 March the Israeli government ordered an airstrike which killed a Palestinian commander in the Popular Resistance Committee, and two others. This sparked an escalation of violence in the region. Palestinian militant groups fired rockets into Israel and further Israeli airstrikes were carried out. On Tuesday 13 March a ceasefire was agreed to end the violence which saw 25 Palestinians, one of which a 15-year-old boy, killed and one Israeli injured.

This incident is one of many in recent years caused as a result of the Israeli government’s policy of ‘targeted killing’, which could be viewed as State sponsored murder. This policy has been described by a prominent human-rights lawyer as ‘the death penalty without due process’. The use of ‘targeted killing’ inflames the situation in the region, spreads mistrust and is an obstacle to any peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Will the Vice-President/High Representative:

1. outline her view on the policy of ‘targeted killing’?
2. raise this issue with the Israeli Government in the future?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(19 June 2012)

While fully recognising Israel’s legitimate security needs, High Representative/Vice-President Ashton has repeatedly called on Israel to respond to any threat in a measured and proportionate manner. The lives of civilians must be spared in all circumstances.

With regards to the specific events referred to by the Honourable Member the HR/VP issued the following statement on 10 March 2012 :

‘The EU is following with concern the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and in the south of Israel. I very much deplore the loss of civilian life. It is essential to avoid further escalation and I urge all sides to re-establish calm.’

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002886/12
an die Kommission
Angelika Werthmann (NI)
(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: Unterstützungsmaßnahmen der Kommission in Somalia

Am 7. März kündigte die Kommission an, sie werde die Mission der Afrikanischen Union in Somalia mit 67 Mio. EUR unterstützen.

1. Welche Hilfsmaßnahmen fallen unter dieses Projekt?
2. Umfasst diese Hilfsmaßnahme auch Projekte zur Verbesserung der Lage von Frauen in Somalia?

Antwort von Herrn Piebalgs im Namen der Kommission
(2. Mai 2012)

Die EU hat für die Unterstützung der Mission der Afrikanischen Union in Somalia (AMISOM) seit März 2007 insgesamt rund 325 Millionen EUR bereitgestellt. Der letzte Beitrag von 67 Millionen EUR für den Zeitraum vom 1. Februar bis zum 31. Juli 2012 deckt vor allem den Unterhalt der AMISOM-Truppen, die Gehälter des internationalen und lokalen, zivilen Personals, die Kosten für Kommunikation und medizinische Versorgung sowie die laufenden Kosten der Büros der Mission in Nairobi.

Die erneute Unterstützung durch die EU — zusammen mit der Unterstützung durch andere Partner einschließlich der Vereinten Nationen — soll es AMISOM ermöglichen, ihr Mandat weiterhin zu erfüllen. Das Mandat erstreckt sich auf folgende Bereiche: Schutz der Übergangs-Bundesinstitutionen und Gewährleistung der Sicherheit wichtiger Infrastrukturen, Hilfe bei der Umsetzung des Nationalen Sicherheits- und Stabilisierungsplans, Beitrag zur Schaffung der Sicherheitsvoraussetzungen für die Bereitstellung humanitärer Hilfe sowie Schutz der AMISOM-Mitarbeiter und -Einrichtungen.

Obwohl Frauen auch von der verbesserten Sicherheit profitieren, wird durch dieses Projekt nicht gezielt die Lage von Frauen verbessert. Die EU finanziert jedoch mehrere andere Projekte zur Förderung der Gleichstellung der Geschlechter und zur Stärkung der Rolle der Frau in Somalia.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002886/12
to the Commission**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Commission support in Somalia

The Commission announced on 7 March that it would send EUR 67 million in new aid to support the African Union mission in Somalia.

1. What will this aid cover?
2. Does this aid support programmes to promote the status of women in Somalia?

Answer given by Mr Piebalgs on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

The EU has been supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) since March 2007 with an overall contribution of around EUR 325 million. The most recent contribution of EUR 67 million for the period 1 February to 31 July 2012 mainly covers allowances for Amisom troops, international and local civilian staff salaries, communication costs, medical costs and the running costs of the mission's offices in Nairobi.

The renewed EU support — together with the support provided by other partners including the United Nations — aims at enabling Amisom to continue to fulfil its mandate which includes: the protection to the Transitional Federal Institutions and security for key infrastructure, assistance with the implementation of the National Security and Stabilisation Plan, contribution to the necessary security conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance and protection of its personnel and facilities.

Although, women also benefit from improved security, this particular project does not support the status of women specifically. However, the EU funds several other projects to support gender equality and empowerment of women in Somalia.

(Deutsche Fassung)

**Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002887/12
an die Kommission (Vizepräsidentin/Hohe Vertreterin)
Angelika Werthmann (NI)
(15. März 2012)**

Betrifft: VP/HR — Verdacht ungerechtfertigter Gewalttätigkeiten auf den Malediven

Seit dem Rücktritt von Präsident Mohamed Nasheed am 7. Februar 2012 mehren sich die Demonstrationen der Bürger auf den Malediven. Die beiden Hauptgegner, die sich im Lande gegenüberstehen, sind die Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) und die Polizei- und Militärkräfte, die den neuen Präsidenten Dr. Mohamed Waheed unterstützen.

Die internationalen Medien und NRO haben über mehrere Verstöße gegen die Menschenrechte in der Hauptstadt Malé und anderen Städten berichtet. Amnesty International zufolge hat die Gewalt sich am 7. März dieses Jahres extrem zugespitzt, als es zu Auseinandersetzungen in der Region Lonuziyaarai Kolhu im Großraum der Hauptstadt kam, bei denen mindestens 6 Demonstranten verletzt wurden. Amnesty International betont, dass das Militär verletzten, in Polizeigewahrsam genommenen Demonstranten das Recht verweigert, Besucher zu empfangen.

1. Ist sich die Hohe Vertreterin dieser problematischen Situation bewusst?
2. Beobachtet der EAD die Lage auf den Malediven, mit dem Ziel, die Achtung der grundlegenden Menschenrechte wiederherzustellen?
3. Hat die neue Regierung in Malé weitere Einzelheiten über den Rücktritt von Präsident Nasheed bekannt gegeben, der einen Monat zuvor den Richter am Staatsgerichtshof festgenommen hatte, weil dieser angeordnet hatte, einen Regierungskritiker freizulassen?
4. Inwieweit haben sich die diplomatischen Beziehungen zwischen der EU und den Malediven verändert, seit die Behörden der Malediven sich weigern, auf die Anfragen der EU und der UN hin Einzelheiten über die Verhaftung von Richter Abdulla Mohamed und den Rücktritt von Mohamed Nasheed bekannt zu geben?

**Antwort von Frau Catherine Ashton — Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin im Namen der Kommission
(23. Mai 2012)**

1. Die EU hat die Ereignisse auf den Malediven aufmerksam verfolgt und ist wegen der anhaltenden politischen Unruhen weiter besorgt. Sie hat sowohl die Regierungskräfte als auch die Demonstranten nachdrücklich aufgefordert, Zurückhaltung zu üben und Provokationen zu vermeiden.
2. Die EU beobachtet die Lage auf den Malediven gemeinsam mit internationalen Partnern, einschließlich der Vereinten Nationen und des Commonwealth. Der EAD steht im Dialog mit den politischen Parteien und der Regierung und weist immer wieder darauf hin, dass die Verfassung, die Rechtsstaatlichkeit und die Menschenrechte unbedingt geachtet werden müssen, da dies für den Übergang zur Demokratie unabdingbar ist.
3. Präsident Waheed hat eine nationale Untersuchungskommission eingesetzt, die sich mit den Ereignissen des 7. Februar befasst. In dieser Untersuchungskommission, deren Zusammensetzung und Mandat für alle Parteien akzeptabel sein sollten, sollten auch internationale Vertreter mitwirken. Dies scheint bisher nicht der Fall zu sein, obwohl die Regierung das Commonwealth um Unterstützung gebeten hat. Die nationale Untersuchungskommission soll Ende Mai 2012 einen Bericht vorlegen.
4. Die EU hält es für wichtig, Beziehungen zu allen politischen Akteuren der Malediven zu unterhalten und ruft alle Parteien auf, zusammenzuarbeiten, um einen nationalen Weg aus der Krise zu finden. Die internationale Gemeinschaft ist bereit, diesen Prozess zu unterstützen. In diesem Zusammenhang hat das Commonwealth Sir Don McKinnon zum Sondergesandten ernannt.

Die Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin Ashton hat am 20. März im Namen der EU eine Erklärung abgegeben, um die Vermittlungsbemühungen von Sir Don McKinnon zu unterstützen.

Diese Erklärung findet sich unter folgender Internetadresse:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/de/cfsp/129103.pdf

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002887/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Suspicion of unjustified violence in the Maldives

Since the resignation of President Mohamed Nasheed on 7 February 2012, there have been more and more demonstrations by citizens in the Maldives. Currently two main factions are at loggerheads in the country: the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), and the police and military forces, which support the new president Dr Mohamed Waheed.

The international media and NGOs have denounced several breaches of fundamental human rights in the capital Malé and in other cities. According to Amnesty International the violence reached its highest level on 7 March this year with clashes in the Lonuzihaarai Kolhu area of the capital, where at least six protesters were injured. Amnesty International stresses the refusal of the military forces to allow injured protesters in the custody of the police to receive visits.

1. Is the VP/HR aware of this problematic situation?
2. Is the EEAS monitoring the situation in the Maldives in order to re-establish respect for fundamental human rights?
3. Has the new government in Malé given more details about the resignation of President Nasheed after he arrested the Chief Justice of the country's criminal court, Judge Abdulla Mohamed, who was deemed guilty of having released an opposition leader who had been arrested for allegedly defaming the government?
4. To what extent have diplomatic relations between the EU and the Maldives changed since the Maldivian public authorities refused to provide details of Judge Abdulla Mohamed's arrest and Mohamed Nasheed's resignation, as requested by the EU and the UN?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(23 May 2012)

1. The EU has been following events in the Maldives closely and remains concerned over the continued political unrest. The EU has urged both the Government forces and the demonstrators to exercise restraint in their actions and to avoid provocations.
2. The EU is monitoring the situation in the Maldives in cooperation with international partners, including the United Nations and the Commonwealth. The EEAS is engaged in a dialogue with political parties and government and continues to stress the importance of respect for the constitution, the rule of law and human rights, which are central to the process of democratic transition.
3. A National Enquiry Commission has been established by President Waheed to investigate the events of 7 February. The National Enquiry Commission should have international participation and its composition and mandate should be acceptable to all parties. This seems not to be the case so far, although the Government has recently requested support from the Commonwealth. The National Enquiry Commission is expected to issue a report at the end of May 2012.
4. The EU believes that it is important to engage with all the Maldivian political actors and urges all the parties to cooperate in order to find a national way forward away from the crisis. The international community is willing to support this process. In this context, the Commonwealth appointed Sir Don McKinnon as a Special Envoy.

HR/VP Ashton issued a Declaration on behalf of the EU (20 March) to support Sir Don McKinnon's mediation efforts.

Please refer to the link of HR/VP's Declaration (http://eeas.europa.eu/maldives/index_en.htm).

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002888/12
an die Kommission
Angelika Werthmann (NI)
(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: Nutzbringende Eigenschaften von Rotwein

Auf kürzlich veranstalteten Konferenzen im Europäischen Parlament anlässlich des Europäischen Frauentags hoben Wissenschaftler die negativen Auswirkungen von übermäßigem Weingenuss hervor, der zu einem erhöhten Krebsrisiko führt.

Laut einiger Studien enthält Rotwein den wichtigen Stoff „Resveratrol“, der Beschädigungen der Blutgefäße vorbeugt, „schlechtes“ Cholesterol im Blut reduziert sowie Blutgerinnsel vorbeugt. Die Verbindung Resveratrol besitzt offenbar entzündungshemmende und antioxidierende Eigenschaften, die Schäden an kritischen Zellfunktionen neutralisieren und das Wachstum verschiedener Krebszellen hemmen können. Ihre potenziellen chemopräventiven und chemotherapeutischen Eigenschaften konnten in allen drei Stadien der Karzinogenese (Initiation, Promotion und Progression), bei der chemischen und durch UVB-Strahlung veranlassten Hautkarzinogenese bei Mäusen sowie bei verschiedenen Arten von humanen Tumoren nachgewiesen werden.

1. Beabsichtigt die Kommission, weitere Forschung in diesem Bereich zu unterstützen?
2. Liegen der Kommission bereits weitere Forschungsergebnisse und Informationen über die Trauben mit hohem Resveratrolgehalt vor?
3. Beabsichtigt die Kommission, Weinerzeuger zu unterstützen, die Trauben mit hohem Resveratrolgehalt kultivieren?
4. Liegen der Kommission Informationen über diese Trauben insbesondere in Österreich vor: Produzenten, die diese Traube zur Herstellung verwenden, Qualität des produzierten Weins, Geschäftsperspektiven?

Antwort von Frau Geoghegan-Quinn im Namen der Kommission
(26. April 2012)

1. Auf der Grundlage des Sechsten und des Siebten Rahmenprogramms für Forschung und technologische Entwicklung (RP6, 2002-2006, und RP7, 2007-2013) hat die Europäische Kommission mit 150 Mio. EUR viele Projekte unterstützt, die sich mit der Erforschung der möglicherweise gesundheitsförderlichen oder das Krankheitsrisiko senkenden Mechanismen bioaktiver Verbindungen in Lebensmitteln (darunter auch in Obst und Gemüse) befassen. Mit Horizont 2020 werden die Faktoren Lebensmittel und Ernährung als Hauptkomponenten für die Gesundheitsförderung und den Gesundheitserhalt sowie für die Krankheitsprävention weiter erforscht.

2. Die Europäische Kommission hat zwei Projekte im Zusammenhang mit der Verbindung Resveratrol gefördert:

ANTICANCER RES METAB ⁽¹⁾ — Metabolismus von Resveratrol und seiner Hydroxymetaboliten — Auswirkungen auf ihre krebsverhütenden Eigenschaften (RP6). Im Rahmen dieses Projekts wurde die Zytotoxizität und die Induktion von Zelltod bei Brustkrebszelllinien durch Resveratrolanaloga bewertet und deren Metabolismus untersucht. Wenngleich diese Verbindungen eine deutliche Aktivität gegen Brustkrebszellen zeigten, mussten vor ihrem möglichen In-vivo-Einsatz einige Probleme im Zusammenhang mit ihrem Transport zum Zielgewebe gelöst werden.

RESVERATROL ROLES ⁽²⁾ — Resveratrolinduzierte molekulare Marker bei der Ausbreitung von Krebs- und Vorläuferzellen (RP7). Mit diesem noch laufenden, auf vier Jahre angelegten Projekt sollen mithilfe von Netzmodellen zur Genregulierung vertiefte Erkenntnisse über die Tumorbilogie gewonnen werden. Erwartet wird die Identifizierung von resveratrolinduzierten neuartigen Interaktionen der Genregulierung bei karzinogenen Geweben.

3-4. Die Europäische Kommission beabsichtigt nicht, Weinerzeuger, die Trauben mit einem hohen Resveratrolgehalt anbauen, stärker zu unterstützen als andere Weinerzeuger und ihr liegen auch keine Angaben zu diesen Trauben vor.

⁽¹⁾ http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/85262_en.html

⁽²⁾ http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/97249_en.html

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002888/12
to the Commission**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Benefits of red wine

At recent conferences organised at the European Parliament on the occasion of European Women's day, scientists underlined the negative consequences of overuse of wine, which increases the risk of cancer.

According to some studies, red wine contains a key ingredient called 'Resveratrol' that helps prevent damage to blood vessels, reduces 'bad' cholesterol and prevents blood clots. This compound seems to have significant anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, which can neutralise damage to critical cellular functions and inhibit the growth of a variety of cancer cells. Its potential chemo-preventive and chemotherapeutic activities have been demonstrated in all three stages of carcinogenesis (initiation, promotion and progression), in both chemically and UVB-induced skin carcinogenesis in mice, as well as in various models of human cancers.

1. Does the Commission intend to support further research on this topic?
2. Does the Commission already have further research and information about those grapes containing high levels of 'Resveratrol'?
3. Does the Commission intend to support wine producers who cultivate grapes with high 'Resveratrol' content?
4. Does the Commission have any information regarding these grapes with reference to Austria: existing producers, quality of the wine produced, business prospects?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission

(26 April 2012)

1. In the Sixth and Seventh Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development (FP6, 2002-2006 and FP7, 2007-2013), the European Commission has funded many projects (EUR 150 million) to identify and understand the mechanisms of bioactive compounds in foods (including fruit and vegetable) which could improve health and possibly reduce the risk of diseases. Horizon 2020 will continue to explore food and diet as the main factors for promoting and sustaining health and for preventing diseases.

2. The European Commission has funded two projects related to the compound resveratrol:

ANTICANCER RES METAB ⁽¹⁾ — Metabolism of resveratrol and its hydroxymetabolites — impact on their anticancer properties (FP6). This project estimated cytotoxicity and cell death induction in breast cancer cell lines by resveratrol analogs and investigation of their metabolism. Even though these compounds showed pronounced activity against breast cancer cells, some problems connected with their delivery to the target tissues had to be solved prior to their possible *in vivo* use;

RESVERATROL ROLES ⁽²⁾ — Resveratrol-induced molecular markers in cancer and progenitor cells proliferation (FP7). This still running 4-years project aims to have deeper tumour biology knowledge through gene regulatory network models. The expected outcome is the identification of resveratrol-induced novel gene regulatory interactions in carcinogenetic tissues.

3-4. The European Commission does not intend to propose more support to wine producers who cultivate grapes with high 'resveratrol' content than to any other wine producers and has no information regarding these grapes.

⁽¹⁾ http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/85262_en.html

⁽²⁾ http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/97249_en.html

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002889/12
an die Kommission
Angelika Werthmann (NI)
(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: Prostatakrebs

Prostatakrebs ist die häufigste Krebsform bei Männern. Nach Meinung von Sachverständigen wird dieses Problem in der Europäischen Union nicht ausreichend thematisiert. Während die EU zahlreiche Informationskampagnen zu Brustkrebs finanziell unterstützt hat, wird in Bezug auf Prostatakrebs nur sehr wenig unternommen.

Die Wahrscheinlichkeit, an Prostatakrebs zu erkranken, steigt mit zunehmendem Alter — die meisten Fälle entstehen bei Männern, die etwa 70 Jahre alt sind. Es ist jedoch wichtig, schon viel früher präventiv tätig zu werden. Bei Männern mit hohem Blutdruck und geringem Vitamin-D-Spiegel ist die Wahrscheinlichkeit, an dieser Krebsform zu erkranken, höher. Auch Fettleibigkeit und ein erhöhter Testosteronspiegel im Blut können das Prostatakrebsrisiko erhöhen.

Eine aktive Lebensführung und gesunde Ernährung sind daher wichtige Faktoren, die der Entstehung dieser Krebsform vorbeugen können. Laut Statistik Austria ist die häufigste Krebsart bei Männern in Österreich seit 1994 Prostatakrebs; 2009 wurden 73,5 Fälle pro 100 000 Männern verzeichnet.

1. Ist sich die Kommission dieses Themas und seiner Bedeutung für die Gesundheit beim Mann bewusst?
2. Welche Art von Maßnahmen hat die Kommission bisher eingeleitet, um Prostatakrebs in Europa zu bekämpfen?
3. Beabsichtigt die Kommission, mehr finanzielle Mittel für die Prostatakrebsforschung bereitzustellen, etwa im Rahmen des Siebten Rahmenprogramms für Forschung und Innovation?

Antwort von Herrn Dalli im Namen der Kommission
(30. April 2012)

Die Kommission verweist die Frau Abgeordnete auf ihre Antwort auf die schriftliche Anfrage E-006446/2011 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2011-006446&language=EN>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002889/12
to the Commission**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Men's prostate cancer

Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer affecting men. According to experts, this problem is not sufficiently addressed in the European Union. Whereas numerous information campaigns on breast cancer have been financed by the EU, very little has been done with regard to prostate cancer.

The probability of being affected by prostate cancer increases with age — most cases develop around the age of 70 — however, it is important to take preventive action at a much earlier age. Men with high blood pressure and low levels of vitamin D are more likely to catch this illness. Obesity and elevated blood levels of testosterone may also increase the risk of prostate cancer.

Therefore, an active life style and healthy nutrition are important factors which can prevent the cancer. According to 'Statistics Austria', since 1994, the most common cancer for Austrian men has been prostate cancer with 73.5 cases per 100 000 in 2009.

1. Is the Commission aware of this topic and its relevance to the health of men?
2. What kind of activities has the Commission so far initiated to combat prostate cancer in Europe?
3. Does the Commission intend to increase funding of prostate cancer-related research, for example within the forthcoming Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Innovation?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question E-006446/2011 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2011-006446&language=EN>.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002890/12
an die Kommission
Angelika Werthmann (NI)
(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: Recht auf Privatsphäre und Datenschutz

Die Kommission hat am 25. Januar 2012 einen Vorschlag für die Überarbeitung der europäischen Datenschutzgesetze angenommen und sich selbst und die anderen EU-Organe von den Bestimmungen der neuen Datenschutzregelung ausgenommen, die zu viele Ausnahmen vorsieht und der Kommission zu viel Befugnis gibt, in Überprüfungen einzugreifen.

1. Warum erhält die Kommission die Befugnis, in Einzelfällen nationale Datenschutzbehörden zu übergehen?
2. Wie sieht das Programm der Kommission für den Datenschutz aus?
3. Warum hat die Kommission EU-Organe von der vorgeschlagenen Verordnung ausgenommen?

Antwort von Frau Reding im Namen der Kommission
(25. Mai 2012)

Am 25. Januar 2012 nahm die Kommission ihre Vorschläge zur Reform der europäischen Datenschutzvorschriften an und legte sie dem Europäischen Parlament und dem Rat vor ⁽¹⁾. Die Vorschläge hatten das zweifache Ziel, den Schutz der personenbezogenen Daten von Einzelpersonen zu verbessern und die Datenschutzvorschriften zu vereinfachen, zu harmonisieren und zu straffen. Hierdurch sollten auch die Fragmentierung sowie die Verwaltungskosten für Unternehmen verringert werden.

Mit der vorgeschlagenen Verordnung wird eine einzige Anlaufstelle eingeführt. Dabei ist die Datenschutzbehörde, wo der für die Verarbeitung Verantwortliche seinen Sitz hat, zuständig für einen diesen betreffenden Beschluss. Gleichzeitig umfasst die Verordnung ein Kohärenzverfahren, das den Datenschutzbehörden die Zusammenarbeit und ein Mitspracherecht in Datenschutzfragen ermöglicht, für die sie nicht die Zuständigkeit haben. Dieses Verfahren findet beispielsweise Anwendung, wenn ein von einer Datenschutzbehörde anzunehmender Entwurf für eine Maßnahme Verarbeitungstätigkeiten betrifft, die sich auf das Anbieten von Waren und Dienstleistungen in verschiedenen Mitgliedstaaten beziehen oder die sich erheblich auf den freien Datenverkehr in der Union auswirken könnten.

Die Kommission kann im Rahmen dieses Verfahrens eine Stellungnahme abgeben und in Fällen, die zu einer nicht ordnungsgemäßen oder uneinheitlichen Anwendung der Verordnung führen würden, die betreffende Datenschutzbehörde auffordern, ihren Maßnahmenentwurf aufzuheben. Allerdings wird die Kommission unter keinen Umständen in Einzelfällen entscheiden können.

Um die einheitliche und ordnungsgemäße Durchführung der Verordnung zu gewährleisten, kann die Kommission unter bestimmten Voraussetzungen im Einklang mit Artikel 291 AEUV auch Durchführungsrechtsakte annehmen, wenn es um Fragen geht, die von Datenschutzbehörden im Rahmen des Kohärenzverfahrens aufgeworfen wurden.

Die Vorschriften über die Datenverarbeitung durch EU-Organe sind in Verordnung (EG) Nr. 45/2001 enthalten und finden auch weiterhin Anwendung. Bei Bedarf wird diese Verordnung an die neue Datenschutzverordnung angepasst, sobald diese in Kraft getreten ist.

⁽¹⁾ Vorschlag für eine Verordnung des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates zum Schutz natürlicher Personen bei der Verarbeitung personenbezogener Daten und zum freien Datenverkehr (Datenschutz-Grundverordnung), KOM(2012)011 endg., und Vorschlag für eine Richtlinie des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates zum Schutz natürlicher Personen bei der Verarbeitung personenbezogener Daten durch die zuständigen Behörden zum Zwecke der Verhütung, Aufdeckung, Untersuchung oder Verfolgung von Straftaten oder der Strafvollstreckung sowie zum freien Datenverkehr, KOM(2012)10 endg.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002890/12
to the Commission**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Privacy rights and data protection

On January 25 2012 the Commission adopted a proposal for an overhaul of the EU's data protection laws, excluding itself and the other EU institutions from the provisions of the new data protection regime, which provides too many exceptions and gives the Commission too much power to interfere in investigations.

1. Why is the Commission being handed the power to overrule national data protection authorities in individual cases?
2. What is the Commission's agenda on data protection?
3. Why has the Commission exempted EU institutions from the proposed regulation?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission

(25 May 2012)

On 25 January 2012, the Commission adopted its proposals for European Union (EU) data protection reform and submitted them to the European Parliament and the Council ⁽¹⁾, with the twofold objective of enhancing the protection of individuals' personal data and of simplifying, harmonising and streamlining EU data protection rules, thereby reducing fragmentation and administrative costs for business.

The proposed Regulation introduces a 'one-stop-shop' whereby only one Data Protection Authority (DPA) — the one of the main establishment of the data controller — is responsible to take a decision towards such controller. At the same time, it includes a cooperation and consistency mechanism allowing DPAs to cooperate and have a say on data protection matters, even when they are not the responsible authority. This applies, for example, when a draft measure to be adopted by a DPA relates to processing activities which are related to the offering of goods or services in several Member States, or may substantially affect the free movement of personal data within the Union.

The Commission may issue an opinion in the framework of this mechanism and — in cases that would lead to an incorrect or inconsistent application of the regulation — require the concerned DPA to suspend their draft measure. However, under no circumstances will the Commission be able to decide individual cases.

To ensure the uniform and correct implementation of the regulation, the Commission may also under certain conditions adopt implementing acts, in line with Article 291 TFEU, on matters raised by DPAs in the framework of the consistency mechanism.

The rules on data processing by EU institutions are contained in Regulation (EC) No 45/2001, which will continue to apply. If needed, this regulation will be adapted to the new data protection regulation following its entry into force.

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation), COM(2012) 11 final, and Proposal for a directive the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and the free movement of such data, COM(2012)10 final.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002893/12
alla Commissione**

Alfredo Antoniozzi (PPE)

(15 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Utilizzo delle zone franche contro la crisi recessiva nell'UE

La materia delle zone franche ha recentemente suscitato un particolare interesse in sede comunitaria, per il profondo revirement legislativo introdotto nel settore doganale, che è stato assoggettato ad una nuova disciplina più trade-oriented, con l'emanazione del regolamento (CE) n. 450/2008 ⁽¹⁾. La richiesta di istituzione di tali aree speciali proviene soprattutto dagli Stati in via di sviluppo: tuttavia, anche mercati geografici economicamente più evoluti aspirano al mutamento di scenario rispetto all'attuale stagnazione industriale e commerciale e al progressivo e endemico disagio sociale. Un esempio recente è la proposta di creazione di una vasta zona franca comprendente tutto il Mar Baltico e gli Stati rivieraschi in esso inclusi. Non è un caso se il 18 febbraio u.s. la delegazione cinese, presieduta dal Vicepresidente Xi Jinping, abbia scelto l'Irlanda come unica tappa nell'area UE per visitare la prima «zona franca industriale di esportazione» realizzata al mondo, la Shannon Free Trade Zone creata nel 1959, oggi nota per il profilo altamente tecnologico degli insediamenti produttivi ivi stabiliti.

Il 28 ottobre 2011, il Commissario Olli Rehn, in risposta ad un'interrogazione parlamentare del 21 settembre 2011 circa l'eventuale realizzazione, in alcune regioni della Grecia, di zone economiche speciali, nelle quali vige un differente sistema di tassazione e di regolamentazione del lavoro rispetto al resto del Paese, ha considerato la sua fattibilità come strumento per contribuire alla soluzione della grave crisi ellenica.

Considerando l'attuale situazione economica recessiva comunitaria e nell'auspicio che il contributo reso dalle aree franche attualmente ubicate nel territorio europeo, soprattutto se permeate da una cornice normativa business-oriented, secondo gli indirizzi del nuovo regolamento (CE) n. 450/2008, possa oggettivamente essere fondamentale per un'inversione di tendenza che attragga investimenti e trasmetta fiducia e ottimismo sia agli operatori commerciali sia ai giovani in cerca di prima occupazione, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. se non ritiene che, in relazione alla positiva propensione già manifestata circa l'ipotesi di creare zone economiche speciali in Grecia, sia necessario favorire, ancora di più in questomomento, l'attuazione dell'istituto delle zone franche, pur variamente modulato a seconda delle circostanze, nell'intera area comunitaria?
2. quali sono le misure che intende adottare per agevolare la creazione, da parte dei singoli governi nazionali, di ulteriori zone franche sui loro territori? Può dire, altresì, se saranno valutate delle possibili deroghe eccezionali all'attuale regime UE in materia di aiuti di Stato, che limitano fortemente la creazione di zone franche e zone economiche speciali, alla luce dell'urgenza di promuovere misure per la crescita e occupazione in Europa?

Risposta di Joaquín Almunia a nome della Commissione

(14 giugno 2012)

Gli sforzi degli Stati membri per promuovere la crescita e l'occupazione sono molto importanti, ma tali misure non devono essere contrarie ai principi del mercato unico che rappresenta la principale risorsa europea per generare crescita e occupazione. La concorrenza basata su un mercato libero e aperto è un incentivo per le società a fornire i prodotti e i servizi migliori, stimola l'innovazione e permette alle imprese più efficienti di crescere.

I controlli sugli aiuti di Stato hanno un ruolo fondamentale nella tutela e nel rafforzamento del mercato unico e allentare tali controlli non sembra giustificato, specialmente in tempi di crisi. Se indirizzati correttamente e limitati a quanto strettamente necessario, gli aiuti di Stato possono contribuire a correggere le carenze del mercato e ad assicurare una distribuzione più omogenea delle ricchezze per una società più equa.

⁽¹⁾ Come analizzato nel saggio di Maurizio D'Amico, «La disciplina delle zone franche. Parte Prima — La normativa comunitaria» pubblicato sul n. 3/2011 della Rivista «Diritto Comunitario e degli Scambi Internazionali».

La creazione di zone economiche speciali può avvenire attraverso l'adozione di svariate misure, alcune delle quali di tipo normativo e che non prevedono l'utilizzo di risorse statali. In tali casi non sono presenti aiuti di Stato e le misure adottate non sono quindi soggette alle norme vigenti in tale ambito. Tuttavia, l'istituzione di zone franche, se prevede la concessione di incentivi fiscali o di altri vantaggi che costituiscono aiuti di Stato, può essere autorizzata dalla Commissione solamente se contribuisce agli obiettivi di interesse comune e non falsa indebitamente la concorrenza e il commercio. Inoltre, per evitare una concorrenza fiscale dannosa, i privilegi fiscali concessi alle zone franche devono essere conformi ai principi e ai criteri del Codice di condotta. Tali privilegi possono avere effetti distorsivi sostanziali sia sugli altri Stati membri, sia sulle zone confinanti dello stesso paese.

La Commissione ha già approvato tali misure in passato ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ nei casi in cui i regimi pianificati erano appropriati e gli effetti positivi attesi erano superiori all'eventuale distorsione della concorrenza.

⁽²⁾ Ad es. Aiuto di Stato N 425/2004 (Lituania).

⁽³⁾ Ad es. Aiuto di Stato N 70/A/2006 (Francia), Aiuto di Stato N 346/2009 (Italia) — Zone franche urbane.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002893/12
to the Commission**

Alfredo Antoniozzi (PPE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Use of free zones to fight the recession crisis in the EU

The matter of free zones has recently sparked particular interest in the European Union, due to the major legislative turnaround introduced in the customs sector, which has been subjected to new, more trade-oriented regulations with the issuing of Regulation (EC) No 450/2008 ⁽¹⁾. The call to establish these special zones comes above all from developing countries. However, more economically developed geographical markets also desire a change in the situation regarding the current industrial and commercial stagnation and the progressive and endemic social unease. A recent example is the proposal to create a vast free zone comprising the whole of the Baltic Sea and the countries that lie on its shores. It is no coincidence that on 18 February, a Chinese delegation, chaired by Vice-President Xi Jinping, chose Ireland as their only stopover in the EU to visit the first 'industrial export free zone' in the world, the Shannon Free Trade Zone created in 1959, today famous for the highly technological production plants established there.

On 28 October 2011, in response to a parliamentary question of 21 September 2011 on the potential creation of special economic zones in some regions of Greece, in which a different system of taxation and employment regulations would apply in relation to the rest of the country, Commissioner Olli Rehn considered it feasible as a tool with which to help solve the serious crisis in Greece.

Given the current economic recession in the European Union and in the hope that the contribution made by the current EU free zones, particularly if imbued with a business-oriented regulatory framework in accordance with the guidelines set out in the new Regulation (EC) No 450/2008, can objectively prove to be vital in reversing the trend, to attract investment and convey trust and optimism to both commercial operators and young people in search of their first jobs, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does it not agree that, in relation to the positive view already expressed with regard to the possibility of creating special economic zones in Greece, it is necessary, even more so at this time, to encourage the implementation of free zones, albeit organised in different ways according to circumstances, throughout the European Union?
2. What measures does it intend to take to facilitate the creation, by individual national governments, of additional free zones in their territories? Could it also say whether it will evaluate possible exceptions to the current EU state aid system, which greatly limits the creation of free zones and special economic zones, in view of the urgent need to promote measures for growth and employment in Europe?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission

(14 June 2012)

Member State efforts to promote growth and employment are very important, but these measures should not run counter to the principles of the single market, which is Europe's best asset for generating growth and employment. Competition based on free and open markets provides the incentive for companies to deliver the best products and services, spurs innovation and allows the most efficient firms to grow.

State aid control plays a key role in defending and strengthening the single market, therefore relaxing such control does not appear justified, especially in times of crisis. Where properly targeted and limited to what is strictly necessary, state aid can help to correct market failures and ensure a more even distribution of wealth for a fairer society.

⁽¹⁾ As analysed in the essay by Maurizio D'Amico entitled 'Rules governing free zones. Part 1 — EU legislation', published in the Italian journal *Diritto Comunitario e degli Scambi Internazionali* (Community law and international trade law) No 3/2011.

The creation of special economic zones might entail a variety of measures, some of which are regulatory and do not involve state resources. In such cases, state aid is not present and the measure is not subject to state aid rules. However, if free zones involve the granting of tax incentives or other advantages constituting state aid, this may only be authorised by the Commission if it contributes to objectives of common interest without unduly distorting competition and trade. Moreover, tax privileges granted in free zones will need to comply with the principles and criteria of the Code of Conduct to avoid harmful tax competition. They can have substantial distortive effects on other Member States but also in neighbouring areas within the same country.

The Commission has cleared such measures in the past ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ where the design of the schemes was appropriate and their expected positive effects outweighed the likely distortions of competition.

⁽²⁾ E.g. State Aid No N 425/2004 (Lithuania).

⁽³⁾ E.g. State Aid N 70/A/2006 (France), State Aid N 346/2009 (Italy) — smaller scale urban free zone cases.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002894/12
alla Commissione**

Giommaria Ugias (ALDE)

(15 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Riconoscimento «Mobilità intelligente» a Trenitalia e disservizi

Il 12 marzo 2012, la Commissione europea ha annunciato i nomi dei vincitori del primo concorso «Mobilità intelligente» che verte sui pianificatori di viaggio multimodali europei. Tra i vincitori, all'interno della categoria «Pianificatori di viaggio operativi» vi è Trenitalia, primo operatore italiano nel settore ferroviario, premiata per il pianificatore di viaggio SIPAX, che offre collegamenti per treno, autobus e traghetti in Italia e in alcuni paesi limitrofi.

Questo riconoscimento appare paradossale alla luce degli innumerevoli disservizi e dei disagi di cui Trenitalia si è resa protagonista, nel corso degli anni, a scapito degli utenti, italiani e non: il problema della pulizia dei treni, i drammatici ritardi dei collegamenti regionali, l'aumento sproporzionato dei costi non rapportato a un effettivo miglioramento del servizio, un'assistenza alla clientela piuttosto lacunosa unita alla più totale assenza di informazioni per l'utente.

Riconoscendo che, soprattutto nel contesto economico attuale, è necessario puntare sull'innovazione e sulla condivisione delle informazioni, si ritiene sia allo stesso tempo necessario che strumenti innovativi, come il già citato SIPAX, debbano essere supportati da un solido servizio di base, effettivo ed efficace, che manca nel caso di Trenitalia.

Alla luce delle considerazioni sopra esposte, si chiede alla Commissione:

- se essa sia a conoscenza delle circostanze relative al servizio effettivo offerto da Trenitalia ai propri utenti e se intenda, in tal senso, effettuare una verifica empirica dell'efficienza di tali servizi.
- se non ritenga che i premi e i riconoscimenti debbano essere quantomeno corrispondenti alla realtà del servizio offerto.

Risposta data da Siim Kallas a nome della Commissione

(25 aprile 2012)

Il primo concorso «Mobilità intelligente» per pianificatori di viaggio multimodali è stato lanciato per dare impulso all'innovazione nel settore, informare meglio i viaggiatori in merito alle diverse opzioni di viaggio e promuovere il trasferimento modale. I pianificatori di viaggio presentati da varie organizzazioni/imprese sono stati oggetto di una prima selezione in base ai criteri annunciati (anni di attività, paesi coinvolti, reti di trasporto interessate, frequenza d'utilizzo, potenziale futuro). Successivamente, i pianificatori preselezionati sono stati sottoposti a una votazione pubblica online, effettuata seguendo la modalità «un voto per indirizzo di posta elettronica».

La decisione di premiare Trenitalia è stata presa sulla base dei risultati della votazione pubblica online, che rispecchia l'opinione degli utenti soltanto in merito al pianificatore. Il premio non è stato conferito per i servizi e la qualità offerti da Trenitalia in altri settori, quali il trasporto di merci o passeggeri.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002894/12
to the Commission**

Giommaria Uggias (ALDE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: 'Smart mobility' award to Trenitalia and poor service

On 12 March 2012, the Commission announced the names of the winners of the first ever 'Smart mobility' challenge, focusing on European multimodal journey planners. Among the winners of the 'Operational journey planners' category was Trenitalia, Italy's biggest operator in the railway sector, rewarded for its SIPAX journey planner, which provides train, bus and ferry connections in Italy and certain surrounding countries.

This award would appear somewhat ironic in view of the poor service and countless difficulties which Trenitalia has experienced over the years, to the detriment of Italian and foreign users alike: the problem with the lack of cleanliness on trains, the major delays in regional connections, the disproportionate increase in costs with no corresponding improvement in service, the particularly ineffectual customer service and the complete lack of information for users.

While acknowledging that — particularly in the current economic climate — it is essential to focus on innovation and information sharing, innovative tools, such as the abovementioned SIPAX, should be supported by a solid basic service that is effective and efficient. This is sadly lacking in the case of Trenitalia.

In view of the above considerations, can the Commission say:

- whether it is aware of the circumstances relating to the actual service provided by Trenitalia to its users and whether, in this regard, it intends to conduct an empirical evaluation of the efficiency of those services;
- whether it does not consider that prizes and awards should at least correspond to the reality of the service provided?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission

(25 April 2012)

The 1st Smart Mobility Challenge for multimodal journey planners was launched in order to promote innovation and raise awareness among travellers about different travel options, and promote the modal shift. The journey planners submitted by the different organisations/companies were first evaluated on the basis of announced criteria (years in operation; countries covered; transport modes covered; quantified usage; future potential). Then those pre-selected planners were put to a public Internet-based vote with the rule of 'one vote per e-mail address'.

The decision to give this award to Trenitalia was taken on the basis of the results of the public Internet-based vote, reflecting the public appreciation of the planner only. This is not linked to the performance and quality of Trenitalia in other sectors, such as the transport of freight or passengers.

(Wersja polska)

**Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej E-002896/12
do Komisji**

Filip Kaczmarek (PPE)

(15 marca 2012 r.)

Przedmiot: Wysoki poziom zachorowań na malarię

Z raportu opublikowanego w miesięczniku „The Lancet” wynika, że liczba zgonów w wyniku zachorowania na malarię jest blisko dwukrotnie wyższa niż podaje Światowa Organizacja Zdrowia. Najnowsze badania uwzględniają dane, dotyczące zgonów wśród osób dorosłych i starszych, które dotychczas były pomijane w statystykach. Pomimo stałego spadku liczby zachorowań malaria jest jedną z najgroźniejszych chorób w Afryce. Wyeliminowanie zachorowań na malarię jest jednym z priorytetów Milenijnych Celów Rozwoju, jednak na chwilę obecną jest on praktycznie nieosiągalny.

Zwracam się w związku z tym z pytaniem:

- Czy Komisja planuje przeprowadzenie nowych badań, dotyczących śmiertelności wśród osób dorosłych i starszych, a w konsekwencji stworzenie programów minimalizujących zachorowania w tej grupie wiekowej?
- Czy Komisja zamierza zwiększyć intensywność przeciwdziałania malarii tak, aby do 2015 r. jak najbardziej zbliżyć się do osiągnięcia Milenijnych Celów Rozwoju?

Odpowiedź udzielona przez komisarza Andrisa Piebalga w imieniu Komisji

(11 maja 2012 r.)

W ciągu ostatniego dziesięciolecia UE zainwestowała ponad 200 mln EUR w badania nad malarią poprzez partnerstwo na rzecz badań klinicznych między Europą a państwami rozwijającymi się (EDCTP) oraz 6PR i 7PR w dziedzinie badań i innowacji. Program prac w dziedzinie badań zdrowotnych na 2012 r. obejmuje zaproszenia do składania wniosków, które umożliwiają naukowcom proponowanie rozwiązań i innowacyjnych sposobów kontroli i zwalczania różnych aspektów malarii w środowisku dysponującym ograniczonymi zasobami i możliwościami rozwoju.

W uzupełnieniu do wsparcia tematycznego skierowanego na podstawowe aspekty ochrony zdrowia, UE wspiera kraje rozwijające się głównie poprzez reformy sektora zdrowia i usprawnienia systemów opieki zdrowotnej na poziomie danego kraju. Uważa się, że jest to najbardziej efektywny i zrównoważony sposób, w jaki UE zajmuje się problemem chorób zakaźnych, jak i niezakaźnych, które wywierają ogromne skutki. Wsparcie UE dla inicjatyw w zakresie zdrowia na świecie, takich jak Światowy Fundusz na rzecz Walki z AIDS, Gruźlicą i Malaria (ang. *Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*, GFATM), stanowi uzupełnienie tej strategii. W latach 2008-2010 łączna kwota przeznaczona na wsparcie sektora ochrony zdrowia wynosiła około 650 mln EUR rocznie.

UE jest zaangażowana we wspieranie realizacji milenijnych celów rozwoju (MCR) i przeznaczyła dodatkowy miliard EUR w ramach inicjatywy służącej zajęciu się tymi celami, których realizacja jest najbardziej odległa. Z tej kwoty 255 mln EUR zostało przeznaczone na wsparcie dla sektora zdrowia.

Wsparcie UE na rzecz walki z malarią jest przekazywane głównie za pośrednictwem GFATM (do tej pory wypłacono kwotę 922 mln EUR). W podziale na poszczególne choroby, 29 % funduszy z portfela GFATM przeznaczane jest na zwalczanie malarii. Jako członek zarządu GFATM, Komisja stara się dostosować swoje działania do planów w zakresie ochrony zdrowia i realiów epidemiologicznych poszczególnych krajów.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002896/12
to the Commission
Filip Kaczmarek (PPE)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: High level of malaria

According to a report published in *The Lancet*, the number of deaths due to malaria is almost twice as high as reported by the World Health Organisation. The latest research takes into account figures relating to deaths among adults and the elderly, which have, until now, been overlooked in statistics. Despite the steady decrease in the number of episodes, malaria continues to be one of the most dangerous diseases in Africa. Elimination of malaria is one of the priorities of the Millennium Development Goals. However, it is practically unattainable at the moment.

Therefore, I would like to ask the following question:

- Is the Commission planning to carry out new research into mortality among adults and the elderly, and on that basis to set up programmes to minimise malaria in this age group?
- Does the Commission intend to step up its action to combat malaria, so that by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals will be as close as possible to being achieved?

Answer given by Mr Piebalgs on behalf of the Commission
(11 May 2012)

The EU has invested almost EUR 200 million in research on malaria during the last decade through the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) and the EU's Research & Innovation Programmes FP6 and FP7. The 2012 Work Programme for Health research included calls for proposals that allowed researchers to propose solutions and innovative ways to control and confront various aspects of malaria in resource-poor setting and development.

The EU supports developing countries mainly through health sector reforms and health systems strengthening at country level in addition to thematic support addressing core health issues. This is perceived as the most effective and sustainable way for the EU to address communicable diseases and non-communicable ones which have a huge impact. EU support to the global health initiatives such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) complements this strategy. The total of such support to the health sector has been about EUR 650 million per year during the period 2008-2010.

The EU is committed to supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and has established an additional EUR 1 billion MDG initiative to address the most off-track MDGs, under which EUR 255 million have been identified for health sector support.

EU support to fight malaria is mostly channelled through the GFATM (EUR 922 million disbursed so far). Malaria represents 29 % of the GFATM portfolio by disease. As part of the GFATM Board, the Commission seeks to align the response to the countries' own health plans and epidemiological realities.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-002897/12
aan de Commissie (Vicevoorzitter — Hoge Vertegenwoordiger)
Peter van Dalen (ECR)
(15 maart 2012)

Betreft: VP/HR — Kerksluiting in Bethlehem

Afgelopen zaterdag 10 maart is de Arabische First Baptist Church in Bethlehem gesloten op last van de Palestijnse Autoriteit. De reden voor deze maatregel is niet bekend gemaakt, maar er zijn sterke aanwijzingen dat de kerksluiting verband houdt met het feit dat de kerk de Joodse staat Israël erkent.

1. Is de vicevoorzitter/hoge vertegenwoordiger op de hoogte van de sluiting van de First Baptist Church in Bethlehem op 10 maart 2012?
2. Deelt de vicevoorzitter/hoge vertegenwoordiger mijn opvatting dat het onacceptabel is dat de Palestijnse Autoriteit politieke argumenten gebruikt om de deuren van een kerk te sluiten? Zo nee, waarom niet?
3. Welke middelen is de vicevoorzitter/hoge vertegenwoordiger van plan in te zetten om deze kerksluiting, een overduidelijke schending van het recht op vrijheid van godsdienst, ongedaan te maken?

Antwoord van hoge vertegenwoordiger/vicevoorzitter Ashton namens de Commissie
(24 mei 2012)

Hoge vertegenwoordiger/vicevoorzitter Ashton is op de hoogte van de sluiting van de First Baptist Church in Bethlehem, maar kent de redenen daarvoor niet.

De EU voert een regelmatige dialoog over alle mensenrechtenkwesties met de Palestijnse Autoriteit in het kader van het subcomité voor de mensenrechten, goed bestuur en rechtsstatelijkheid van de EU en de Palestijnse Autoriteit, dat jaarlijks samenkomt. Alle kwesties met betrekking tot godsdienst- of geloofsvrijheid zullen in dat kader met de Palestijnse Autoriteit worden opgenomen.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002897/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Peter van Dalen (ECR)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Church closure in Bethlehem

The Arabic First Baptist Church in Bethlehem was closed on Saturday 10 March 2012, on the orders of the Palestinian Authority. The reason for this measure has not been made public, but there are strong indications that the church closure is linked to the fact that the church recognises the Jewish state of Israel.

1. Is the Vice-President/High Representative aware of the closure of the First Baptist Church in Bethlehem on 10 March 2012?
2. Does the Vice-President/High Representative share my opinion that it is unacceptable for the Palestinian Authority to use political arguments to close church doors? If not, why not?
3. What means does the Vice-President/High Representative plan to employ to reverse this church closure, which is a flagrant violation of the right to freedom of religion?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(24 May 2012)

High Representative/Vice-President Ashton is aware of the closure of the First Baptist Church in Bethlehem, but not of its reasons.

The EU is engaged in a regular dialogue on all human rights issues with the Palestinian Authority in the framework of the EU-PA subcommittee on human Rights, good governance and rule of law, which is held annually. All issues relating to freedom of religion or belief will be raised with the Palestinian Authority in this framework.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002900/12

an die Kommission

Franz Obermayr (NI)

(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: EFSA und Aspartam

Die Europäische Behörde für Lebensmittelsicherheit (EFSA) hat vor Kurzem mitgeteilt, dass der künstliche Süßstoff Aspartam nicht gesundheitsschädlich sei und dass Studien, die zu anderen Ergebnissen führen würden, nicht aussagekräftig seien. Dr. Ralph G. Walton, Professor für Psychiatrie am Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, hat eine Analyse der insgesamt 164 Aspartam-Studien durchgeführt und kommt zu einem anderen Ergebnis: Von insgesamt 164 Studien über Aspartam waren 74 von der Süßstoff-Industrie finanziert und jede einzelne dieser 74 Studien attestierte die Sicherheit von Aspartam. Von den 90 unabhängig finanzierten Studien kamen 83 zu dem Ergebnis, dass Aspartam gesundheitsschädlich ist. So kann eine hohe Zufuhr des künstlichen Süßstoffes Aspartam zur Degeneration von Gehirnzellen und verschiedenen anderen mentalen Störungen führen und erhöht laut Studien auch das Risiko von Nierenkrebs und Tumorerkrankungen im Kopf, und es wurde ein deutlich erhöhtes Krebsrisiko, vor allem in den Bereichen von Lunge und Leber nachgewiesen. Für die EFSA sind alle Studien, die ein schlechtes Zeugnis zu Aspartam ausstellen, kein Grund, die geltenden Regelungen innerhalb der EU für Aspartam und andere künstliche Süßstoffe zu überdenken und gegebenenfalls zu ändern.

Daraus ergeben sich folgende Fragen:

1. Wie beurteilt die Kommission die Meinung der EFSA, dass Aspartam nicht gesundheitsschädlich sei?
2. Wie beurteilt die Kommission, dass die EFSA unabhängigen Studien offenbar sehr viel weniger Gewicht gibt als den von der Industrie finanzierten Studien?
3. Werden die neuen Regeln bezüglich Interessenkonflikten in der EFSA hier für eine Neugewichtung sorgen?
4. Ist die Kommission der Ansicht, dass das mangelnde Verbrauchervertrauen in die Bewertungen der EFSA durch die neuen Regeln verbessert werden kann?
5. Wie kann nach Ansicht der Kommission der durch besagte Interessenkonflikte entstandene Vertrauensverlust der EFSA korrigiert werden?
6. Medienberichten zufolge ist in den USA eine (in Kalifornien bereits vollzogene) Änderung der Coca-Cola-Rezeptur wegen des gesundheitsschädlichen Aspartam angedacht und in Europa nicht; wie sieht die Kommission das?

Antwort von Herrn Dalli im Namen der Kommission

(11. Mai 2012)

1. Die Kommission hat die EFSA damit beauftragt, bis Ende September 2012 eine umfassende Risikobewertung zu Aspartam durchzuführen. Hierbei wird sie alle Daten aus den ursprünglichen Unterlagen ebenso berücksichtigen wie alle neuen Daten zum Thema, die seit der letzten Risikobewertung von 2009 möglicherweise hinzugekommen sind.
2. Bei der Erstellung ihrer Risikobewertungen trägt die EFSA allen verfügbaren wissenschaftlichen Studien ungeachtet ihrer Auftraggeber Rechnung.
- 3.-4. Zum Thema Interessenkonflikte verweist die Kommission den Herrn Abgeordneten auf ihre Antwort auf die schriftliche Anfrage E-04782/2011 ⁽¹⁾, in der die Punkte Unabhängigkeit und Interessenkonflikte behandelt werden. Mit den neuen Durchführungsbestimmungen, die kürzlich vom Verwaltungsrat der EFSA angenommen wurden, wurden die geltenden Regelungen verschärft. Sie sind auf der Website der EFSA einsehbar.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=DE>

5. Die Kommission ist davon überzeugt, dass die EFSA ihren Verpflichtungen in puncto Wahrung der Unabhängigkeit und Ausschluss von Interessenkonflikten ordnungsgemäß nachkommt. Die EFSA hat Maßnahmen und Verfahren zur Wahrung ihrer Unabhängigkeit nach und nach verbessert. Vor Kurzem hat sie den betreffenden Akteuren auf zwei gut besuchten Veranstaltungen über diese Entwicklungen berichtet. Näheres hierzu kann auf der Website der EFSA abgerufen werden.

6. In den US-amerikanischen Medienberichten wird auf die Verwendung von Karamell als Lebensmittelfarbstoff in Softdrinks Bezug genommen. Zu diesem Thema verweist die Kommission den Herrn Abgeordneten auf die schriftliche Anfrage E-2847/2012 ⁽¹⁾.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002900/12
to the Commission**

Franz Obermayr (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: EFSA and aspartame

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has recently stated that the artificial sweetener aspartame is harmless and that studies with findings to the contrary are not convincing. Dr Ralph G. Walton, Professor of Psychiatry at the Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine, has analysed the studies on aspartame, 164 in all, and arrived at a different conclusion: out of these 164 studies, 74 were funded by the sweetener industry and in each of those 74 studies aspartame was found to be safe. Out of the 90 independently financed studies, 83 have concluded that aspartame is harmful. They indicated that aspartame, if consumed in large quantities, leads to brain cell degeneration and various other mental disorders and increases the risk of kidney cancer and brain tumours; a significantly higher risk of cancer, particularly in the lung and liver regions, has also been found to exist. Even in the light of all the studies indicating that aspartame is harmful, the EFSA sees no reason to review and, if need be, amend the EU's current provisions on aspartame and other artificial sweeteners.

1. How does the Commission view the EFSA's opinion that aspartame is not harmful?
2. How does the Commission view the fact that the EFSA clearly lends far less weight to independent studies than to studies financed by industry?
3. Will the new rules on conflicts of interest within the EFSA correct the imbalance?
4. Does the Commission take the view that the lack of consumer confidence in EFSA assessments could be remedied by the new rules?
5. How will it be possible, in the Commission's view, to correct the loss of confidence in the EFSA resulting from the aforementioned conflicts of interest?
6. According to reports in the media, there are plans to change the Coca Cola recipe in the US because of the harmful nature of aspartame (this has already happened in California), but there are no such plans in Europe. How does the Commission view this situation?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(11 May 2012)

1. The Commission has requested EFSA to carry out a full risk assessment on aspartame by the end of September 2012 taking into account all data including the original dossier as well as any new relevant data which may have become available since its last risk assessment in 2009.
2. EFSA takes into account in its risk assessment all available scientific studies irrespective of their source.
- 3 and 4. With regard to the issue of conflict of interest, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its reply to Written Question E-04782/2011 ⁽¹⁾ which deals with independence and conflict of interest. The new Implementing Rules recently adopted by the EFSA Management Board strengthen the procedures in place and can be consulted on the EFSA website.
5. The Commission is satisfied that EFSA correctly discharges its responsibilities with respect to independence and conflict of interest. EFSA has progressively improved its policies and procedures to safeguard independence and has organised two recent well attended stakeholder events to communicate these developments, the details of which are published on its Internet website.
6. The media reports in the US concern the use of caramel as food colour in soft drinks. The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to Written Question E- 2847/2012 ¹ which deals with this issue.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB>.

(Verżjoni Maltija)

Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-002901/12
lill-Kummissjoni
Edward Scicluna (S&D)
(15 ta' Marzu 2012)

Suġġett: Tnaqqis fil-baġit f'Malta

Fis-6 ta' Jannar 2012, il-Gvern ta' Malta habbar tnaqqis fil-baġit ekwivalenti għal 0.59 % tal-Prodott Domestiku Gross (PDG), jiġifieri, madwar EUR 40 miljun. Dan it-tnaqqis għe allokat mill-gvern kif ġej: salarji (0.1 % tal-PDG), sahra (0.04 % tal-PDG), nefqa operazzjonali u għal manutenzjoni (0.07 % tal-PDG), programmi u inizzjattivi (0.21 % tal-PDG) u entitajiet tal-gvern (0.17 % tal-PDG).

Fil-prattika dan wassal għal tnaqqis ta' EUR 805 000 mill-kontribuzzjonijiet lill-entitajiet tal-gvern inklużi l-Appoġġ, is-Support u s-Sedqa, li jipprovdu servizzi ta' appoġġ essenzjali lin-nies l-aktar vulnerabbli fis-soċjetà (li jinkludu assistenza lill-persuni b'dipendenzi fuq id-droga u l-alkohol, servizzi ta' ħarsien tat-tfal, appoġġ għall-vittmi ta' vjolenza domestika u bosta servizzi oħra bbażati fil-komunità).

Fid-dawl tal-ittra ta' twissija bikrija tal-Kummissjoni mibghuta lill-Gvern Malti f'Novembru 2011 fejn titlob evidenza konvinċenti li turi li se jintlahqu l-miri tad-defiċit, u tad-dikjarazzjoni sussegwenti li saret fil-11 ta' Jannar ta' din is-sena dwar il-fatt li Malta hadet azzjoni effettiva f'dan ir-rigward:

1. Għaliex il-Baġit ta' Malta għall-2012 ma kkonvinċiex lill-Kummissjoni li l-miri stabbiliti mill-Gvern ser jintlahqu?
2. Il-Kummissjoni għamlet kuntatt mal-Gvern rigward il-valutazzjoni u l-konkluzjoni tagħha?
3. Il-Kummissjoni tat sugġerimenti lill-Gvern dwar it-tnaqqis meħtieġ?
4. Il-Kummissjoni ssuġġeriet b'mod speċifiku l-ammonti ta' tnaqqis li għandhom isiru?
5. Il-Kummissjoni ssuġġeriet id-dettalji ta' kif u fejn għandu jsir it-tnaqqis?
6. Il-Kummissjoni insistiet dwar il-fatt li n-nefqa kapitali għandha tigi eskluża minn dan it-tnaqqis?

Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sur Rehn fisem il-Kummissjoni
(26 ta' April 2012)

Il-Kunsill irrakkomanda lill-Malta tniżżel d-defiċit tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika taht it-3 % tal-PDG b'mod kredibbli u sostenibbli sal-2011. Skont il-Previżjoni tal-Harifa 2011 tas-servizzi tal-Kummissjoni, id-defiċit tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika kien mistenni li jkun 3 % tal-PDG fl-2011, u li jikber sa 3.5 % tal-PDG fl-2012 u sa 3.6 % tal-PDG fl-2013. L-andament mistenni tad-defiċit tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika fil-previżjoni ma kienx konsistenti ma' korrezzjoni sostenibbli tad-defiċit żejjed. Il-Viċi President Rehn ikkomunika din il-valutazzjoni lill-ministru tal-finanzi ta' Malta f'Novembru tal-2011, u talab għal miżuri addizzjonali li jiżguraw korrezzjoni sostenibbli u f'waqtha tad-defiċit żejjed. Il-gvern Malti ressaq il-baġit tiegħu għall-2012 f'Novembru tal-2011. F'Jannar tal-2012, wara konsultazzjonijiet bilaterali prevji, il-Kummissjoni ppubblikat il-valutazzjoni tagħha tal-miżuri baġitarji li ttiehdu għall-2012, fejn qieset li l-awtoritajiet Maltin hađu azzjoni effettiva lejn korrezzjoni sostenibbli u f'waqtha tad-defiċit żejjed.

Il-Kummissjoni se tkompli tissorvelja mill-qrib l-iżviluppi baġitarji f'Malta skont it-Trattat u skont il-Patt ta' Stabbiltà u Tkabbir.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002901/12
to the Commission**

Edward Scicluna (S&D)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Malta budget cuts

On 6 January 2012, the Government of Malta announced budget cuts equivalent to 0.59 % of gross domestic product (GDP), that is, of about EUR 40 million. These cuts were allocated by the government as follows: salaries (0.1 % of GDP), overtime (0.04 % of GDP), operational and maintenance expenditure (0.07 % of GDP), programmes and initiatives (0.21 % of GDP) and government entities (0.17 % of GDP).

In practical terms this resulted in cuts of EUR 805 000 in contributions to government entities including Appogg, Sapport and Sedqa, which provide essential support services to the most vulnerable people in society (including assistance to persons with drug and alcohol dependencies, child protection services, support for victims of domestic violence and many other community-based services).

In view of the Commission's early warning letter sent to the Maltese Government in November 2011 seeking convincing evidence that it would meet its deficit targets and the subsequent statement made on 11 January of this year that Malta had taken effective action in this regard:

1. Why did the Malta 2012 Budget not convince the Commission that the targets set by the Government would be attained?
2. Did the Commission communicate with the Government regarding its evaluation and conclusion?
3. Did the Commission suggest to the Government that cuts were needed?
4. Did the Commission suggest specifically the amounts of the cuts that should be made?
5. Did the Commission suggest the details of how and where these cuts should be made?
6. Did the Commission insist that capital expenditure should be excluded from these cuts?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission

(26 April 2012)

The Council recommended Malta to bring the general government deficit below 3 % of GDP in a credible and sustainable manner by 2011. According to the Commission services' 2011 Autumn Forecast, the general government deficit was estimated at 3 % of GDP in 2011 and projected to widen to 3.5 % of GDP in 2012 and 3.6 % of GDP in 2013. The projected path of the general government budget deficit in the forecast was not consistent with a sustainable correction of the excessive deficit. Vice-President Rehn communicated this assessment to the Maltese finance minister in November 2011 and asked for additional measures that would ensure a timely and sustainable correction of the excessive deficit. The Maltese government presented its budget for 2012 in November 2011. In January 2012, after prior bilateral consultations, the Commission published its assessment of the budgetary measures taken for 2012 considered that the Maltese authorities have taken effective action towards a timely and sustainable correction of the excessive deficit.

The Commission continues to closely monitor budgetary developments in Malta in accordance with the Treaty and the Stability and Growth Pact.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-002902/12
à la Commission (Vice-Présidente / Haute Représentante)
François Alfonsi (Verts/ALE) et José Bové (Verts/ALE)
(15 mars 2012)

Objet: VP/HR — Situation du leader kurde Abdullah Öcalan, emprisonné en Turquie et, plus généralement, situation au Kurdistan

Depuis 230 jours, Monsieur Öcalan est gardé au secret par le gouvernement turc dans la prison d'Imrali. Sa famille, ses avocats et amis sont sans nouvelles de lui.

À l'heure où le Kurdistan fait de nouveau face à un conflit violent faisant de nombreuses victimes civiles, notamment au sein de la population kurde, la situation ne fait qu'empirer. Une répression très choquante est en cours. Près de 6 500 militants ont été emprisonnés pour leur appartenance au BDP (Parti pour la paix et la démocratie). Parmi eux figurent de nombreux élus, notamment des députés, tout comme, il y a vingt ans, Mme Leyla Zana, députée kurde à qui le Parlement européen a remis le prix Sakharov en 1995, avait été emprisonnée durant huit ans.

Face à cette répression, les militants kurdes ont engagé une protestation déterminée. Quatre cent d'entre eux sont en grève de la faim depuis vingt-neuf jours dans les prisons turques, dont quatre députés, des journalistes et des avocats. Tout près du Parlement européen, à Strasbourg, ils sont quinze (cinq femmes et dix hommes), à avoir entamé une grève de la faim qui dure depuis quatorze jours. Ils demandent notamment la levée du secret que le gouvernement turc a imposé autour de M. Öcalan.

— La Vice-présidente/Haute représentante est-elle en mesure de donner des informations vérifiées sur l'état de santé de Monsieur Öcalan, sur ses conditions de détention et sur le respect de ses droits?

— Quelle démarche entend-elle engager pour que la question kurde connaisse une évolution pacifique dans le respect des droits du peuple kurde?

Réponse donnée par M. Füle au nom de la Commission
(10 juillet 2012)

L'Union européenne rappelle que le PKK figure sur la liste des organisations terroristes, et réaffirme également sa solidarité envers la Turquie dans la lutte contre le terrorisme. En ce qui concerne les conditions de détention de M. Öcalan, l'Union européenne note qu'au cours de l'année écoulée, tout contact avec ses avocats lui a été refusé, ce qui constitue une possible violation des dispositions juridiques turques ainsi que de la Convention européenne des Droits de l'homme.

L'Union européenne souligne que toutes les parties doivent travailler sans relâche pour apporter paix et prospérité à tous les citoyens de Turquie. Le sud-est de la Turquie a besoin de paix, de démocratie, de stabilité ainsi que d'un développement social, économique et culturel qui ne peut être atteint qu'au moyen d'un consensus sur des mesures concrètes visant à étendre les droits sociaux, économiques et culturels des populations vivant dans la région.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002902/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
François Alfonsi (Verts/ALE) and José Bové (Verts/ALE)**

(15 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Fate of the Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan, held prisoner in Turkey, and the wider situation in Kurdistan

For 230 days, Mr Öcalan has been held by the Turkish Government in solitary confinement at Imrali prison. His family, his lawyers and friends have received no news of him.

At a time when Kurdistan is again facing a violent conflict with many civilian victims, particularly among the Kurdish population, the situation is just getting worse. Appalling repression is taking place. Nearly 6 500 activists have been imprisoned for belonging to the BDP (Peace and Democracy Party). Among them are a number of elected office-holders, including members of parliament, such as Ms Leyla Zana, to whom the European Parliament awarded the Sakharov Prize in 1995 and who, 20 years ago, was imprisoned for eight years.

Kurdish activists have responded to this repression by embarking on all-out protest. In Turkish prisons, 400 activists, including four members of parliament and journalists and lawyers, went on hunger strike 29 days ago. Not far from the European Parliament in Strasbourg, 15 people (5 women and 10 men) have been on hunger strike for 14 days. They are calling on the Turkish Government to lift the veil of secrecy surrounding Mr Öcalan.

— Is the Vice-President/High Representative in a position to provide reliable information on Mr Öcalan's state of health, his conditions of detention and the degree of respect for his rights?

— What action will she take to ensure both a peaceful outcome to the Kurdish issue and respect for the rights of the Kurdish people?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission

(10 July 2012)

The European Union recalls that the PKK is on the list of terrorist organisations, and also recalls its solidarity with Turkey in the fight against terrorism. As regards the conditions of detention of Mr Öcalan, the European Union notes that he was not allowed contact with his lawyers over the past year, in possible violation of the Turkish legal framework as well as the European Convention of Human Rights.

The European Union underlines that all parties need to work unrelentingly to bring peace and prosperity for all citizens of Turkey. The south-east of Turkey needs peace, democracy and stability as well as social, economic and cultural development. This can only be achieved via consensus over concrete measures expanding the social, economic and cultural rights of the people living in the region.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002903/12
al Consiglio**

Roberta Angelilli (PPE)

(15 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Adozione del regolamento Bruxelles II bis da parte della Danimarca

Nella presentazione del programma di lavoro per Giustizia e Affari interni la Presidenza danese ha sottolineato l'importanza di rafforzare uno spazio europeo di effettiva libertà e giustizia per i cittadini europei. Tra questi ci sono anche i bambini. Com'è noto, conseguentemente all'aumento dell'esercizio della libera circolazione delle persone, è aumentato il numero delle coppie e dei matrimoni bi nazionali. Ogni anno, infatti, si registrano nell'Unione europea 300 000 matrimoni tra persone di diversa nazionalità. Tuttavia, si è conseguentemente sviluppato il problema della sottrazione internazionale di minori: sono molti infatti i genitori che sottraggono i figli all'altro coniuge in seguito a una separazione o un divorzio, impedendo al bambino di avere contatti con l'altro genitore.

Attualmente, conformemente agli articoli 1 e 2 del protocollo sulla posizione della Danimarca allegato al trattato sull'Unione europea e al trattato che istituisce la Comunità europea, la Danimarca non partecipa all'adozione del regolamento Bruxelles II bis relativo alla competenza, al riconoscimento e all'esecuzione delle decisioni in materia matrimoniale e in materia di responsabilità genitoriale, e pertanto, non partecipa alla cooperazione giudiziaria europea in materia di sottrazione internazionale di minore.

La Carta dei diritti fondamentali dell'Unione europea, giuridicamente vincolante con l'entrata in vigore del trattato di Lisbona, all'articolo 24 sancisce che il minore ha «il diritto di intrattenere regolarmente relazioni personali e contatti diretti con i due genitori».

Ciò premesso, può il Consiglio far sapere:

1. se non ritiene contraddittorio rispetto alla funzione da svolgere che lo Stato membro che detiene la Presidenza dell'Unione non partecipi all'adozione di uno dei regolamenti di cooperazione giudiziaria in un ambito fondamentale della vita quotidiana dei cittadini europei;
2. se intende adottare sotto la Presidenza danese misure volte a sollecitare l'adozione del suddetto regolamento;
3. un quadro generale della situazione.

Risposta

(6 giugno 2012)

Il protocollo n. 22 relativo alla posizione della Danimarca è allegato al trattato sull'Unione europea e al trattato sul funzionamento dell'Unione europea ed è quindi parte del diritto primario dell'Unione. È dunque conformemente al diritto dell'Unione che la Danimarca non ha partecipato all'adozione del regolamento (CE) n. 2201/2003 del Consiglio relativo alla competenza, al riconoscimento e all'esecuzione delle decisioni in materia matrimoniale e in materia di responsabilità genitoriale ⁽¹⁾ (cosiddetto «regolamento Bruxelles II bis») e che non è da esso vincolata né soggetta alla sua applicazione.

Conformemente al protocollo n. 22 la Danimarca può in qualunque momento, secondo le proprie norme costituzionali, informare gli altri Stati membri che non intende più avvalersi, in tutto o in parte, del protocollo o che intende applicare l'allegato al protocollo.

Spetta quindi alla Danimarca decidere di avvalersi di tali possibilità. Fino ad allora, si continuerà ad applicare il protocollo nella sua forma attuale.

⁽¹⁾ GU L 338 del 23.12.2003, pag. 1.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002903/12
to the Council**

Roberta Angelilli (PPE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Adoption by Denmark of the Brussels IIA Regulation

In presenting the work programme for Justice and Home Affairs, the Danish Presidency stressed the importance of strengthening a successful European area of freedom and justice for European citizens, including children. As is well-known, following the increase in the free movement of persons the number of dual-nationality couples and marriages has increased. Every year, 300 000 marriages between couples holding different nationalities are registered in the European Union. However, the problem of the international abduction of minors has grown as a result with many parents abducting their children from the other spouse following a separation or divorce, preventing the children from having contact with that parent.

Currently, pursuant to Articles 1 and 2 of the protocol on the position of Denmark annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark is not involved in the adoption of the Brussels IIA Regulation concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, and therefore does not participate in European judicial cooperation concerning the international abduction of minors.

Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which has been legally binding since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, stipulates that a child has 'the right to maintain on a regular basis a personal relationship and direct contact with both his or her parents'.

In view of this:

1. Does the Council consider it contradictory, given the function to be carried out by the Member State holding the Presidency of the EU, for that state not to participate in the adoption of one of the regulations on legal cooperation in a fundamental sphere of the daily lives of European citizens?
2. Does it intend to adopt, under the Danish Presidency, measures to press for the adoption of that regulation?
3. Can the Council give an overall picture of the situation?

Reply

(6 June 2012)

Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark is annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and is thus part of Union primary law. As a consequence, it is in accordance with Union law that Denmark did not participate in the adoption of Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility ⁽¹⁾ (the so-called 'Brussels IIA regulation') and that it is not bound by it or subject to its application.

According to Protocol No 22 Denmark may, at any time, in accordance with its constitutional requirements, inform the other Member States that it either no longer wishes to avail itself of all or part of the Protocol or wishes to apply the annex to the Protocol.

It is therefore for Denmark to decide to make use of these possibilities. Until such time, the Protocol in its current form will continue to apply.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 338, 23.12.2003, p. 1.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002904/12
alla Commissione**

Roberta Angelilli (PPE)

(15 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Adozione del regolamento Bruxelles II bis da parte della Danimarca

Nella presentazione del programma di lavoro per Giustizia e Affari interni la Presidenza danese ha sottolineato l'importanza di rafforzare uno spazio europeo di effettiva libertà e giustizia per i cittadini europei. Tra questi ci sono anche i bambini. Com'è noto, conseguentemente all'aumento dell'esercizio della libera circolazione delle persone, è aumentato il numero delle coppie e dei matrimoni bi nazionali. Ogni anno, infatti, si registrano nell'Unione europea 300 000 matrimoni tra persone di diversa nazionalità. Tuttavia, si è conseguentemente sviluppato il problema della sottrazione internazionale di minori: sono molti infatti i genitori che sottraggono i figli all'altro coniuge in seguito a una separazione o un divorzio, impedendo al bambino di avere contatti con l'altro genitore.

Attualmente, conformemente agli articoli 1 e 2 del protocollo sulla posizione della Danimarca allegato al trattato sull'Unione europea e al trattato che istituisce la Comunità europea, la Danimarca non partecipa all'adozione del regolamento Bruxelles II bis relativo alla competenza, al riconoscimento e all'esecuzione delle decisioni in materia matrimoniale e in materia di responsabilità genitoriale, e pertanto, non partecipa alla cooperazione giudiziaria europea in materia di sottrazione internazionale di minore.

La Carta dei diritti fondamentali dell'Unione europea, giuridicamente vincolante con l'entrata in vigore del trattato di Lisbona, all'articolo 24 sancisce che il minore ha «il diritto di intrattenere regolarmente relazioni personali e contatti diretti con i due genitori».

Ciò premesso, può il Commissione far sapere:

1. se non ritiene contraddittorio rispetto alla funzione da svolgere che lo Stato membro che detiene la Presidenza dell'Unione non partecipi all'adozione di uno dei regolamenti di cooperazione giudiziaria in un ambito fondamentale della vita quotidiana dei cittadini europei;
2. se intende adottare sotto la Presidenza danese misure volte a sollecitare l'adozione del suddetto regolamento;
3. un quadro generale della situazione.

Risposta data da Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione

(7 maggio 2012)

La Commissione non può intervenire per sollecitare la Danimarca ad adottare il regolamento Bruxelles II bis ⁽¹⁾, poiché, in base al protocollo n. 22 del trattato di Lisbona, tale Stato ha scelto di non partecipare alla cooperazione giudiziaria in materia civile. Ciò significa che, in generale, la Danimarca non prende parte alle misure UE relative a tale settore.

La partecipazione della Danimarca a certi strumenti di giustizia civile basati sul Titolo V, Parte III del trattato è stata eccezionalmente predisposta mediante la conclusione di due accordi bilaterali UE-Danimarca nel 2005 partendo dall'esistenza di accordi internazionali precedenti negli stessi settori. Questi accordi paralleli, conclusi con decisione 2006/325/CE ⁽²⁾ e 2006/326/CE del Consiglio ⁽³⁾, sono rispettivamente:

- (1) l'accordo tra la Comunità europea e il Regno di Danimarca concernente la competenza giurisdizionale, il riconoscimento e l'esecuzione delle decisioni in materia civile e commerciale, e
- (2) l'accordo tra la Comunità europea e il Regno di Danimarca relativo alla notificazione e alla comunicazione degli atti giudiziari ed extragiudiziali in materia civile o commerciale.

⁽¹⁾ Regolamento (CE) n. 2201/2003 del Consiglio, del 27 novembre 2003, relativo alla competenza, al riconoscimento e all'esecuzione delle decisioni in materia matrimoniale e in materia di responsabilità genitoriale, che abroga il regolamento (CE) n. 1347/2000, GU L 338 del 23.12.2003, pag. 1.

⁽²⁾ Decisione 2006/325/CE del Consiglio, del 27 aprile 2006, relativa alla conclusione di un accordo tra la Comunità europea e il Regno di Danimarca concernente la competenza giurisdizionale, il riconoscimento e l'esecuzione delle decisioni in materia civile e commerciale, GU L 120 del 5.5.2006, pag. 22 (questa decisione rende le disposizioni del regolamento (CE) n. 44/2001 applicabili alla Danimarca).

⁽³⁾ Decisione 2006/326/CE del Consiglio, del 27 aprile 2006, relativa alla conclusione dell'accordo tra la Comunità europea e il Regno di Danimarca relativo alla notificazione e alla comunicazione degli atti giudiziari ed extragiudiziali in materia civile o commerciale, GU L 120 del 5.5.2006, pag. 23 (questa decisione rende le disposizioni del regolamento (CE) n. 1348/2000 applicabili alla Danimarca).

L'UE ha approvato questi due accordi paralleli per ragioni di certezza del diritto, poiché esisteva un precedente accordo internazionale fra la Danimarca e altri Stati membri nel momento in cui tali accordi internazionali sono stati trasformati in regolamenti UE. Non vi è una situazione paragonabile nel settore del diritto di famiglia.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002904/12
to the Commission
Roberta Angelilli (PPE)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: Adoption by Denmark of the Brussels IIa regulation

In presenting the work programme for justice and home affairs, the Danish Presidency stressed the importance of strengthening a successful area of freedom and justice for European citizens, including children. As is well known, following the increase in the free movement of persons, the number of dual-nationality couples and marriages has increased. Every year, 300 000 marriages between couples holding different nationalities are registered in the European Union. However, the problem of the international abduction of minors has grown as a result with many parents abducting their children from the other spouse following a separation or divorce, preventing the children from having contact with that parent.

Currently, pursuant to Articles 1 and 2 of the protocol on the position of Denmark annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark is not involved in adoption of the Brussels IIa regulation concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, and therefore does not participate in European judicial cooperation concerning the international abduction of minors.

Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which has been legally binding since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, stipulates that a child has 'the right to maintain on a regular basis a personal relationship and direct contact with both his or her parents'.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission consider it contradictory, given the function to be carried out by the Member State holding the Presidency of the EU, for that state not to participate in the adoption of one of the regulations on legal cooperation in a fundamental sphere of the daily lives of European citizens?
2. Does it intend to adopt, under the Danish Presidency, measures to encourage the adoption of the aforementioned regulation?
3. Can the Commission give an overview of the situation?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(7 May 2012)

The Commission would like to inform the Honourable Member that it cannot intervene to encourage Denmark to adopt the Brussels IIa regulation ⁽¹⁾ since, on the basis of Protocol 22 of the Treaty of Lisbon, Denmark opted out in the area of civil judicial cooperation. This means that as a general rule Denmark does not participate in any EU measures related to civil judicial cooperation.

The participation of Denmark in certain civil justice instruments based on Title V, part III of the Treaty was exceptionally arranged through the conclusion of two EU-Denmark bilateral agreements in 2005 on the basis of the existence of previous international agreements in the same areas. These parallel agreements, concluded by Council Decisions 2006/325/EC ⁽²⁾ and 2006/326/EC ⁽³⁾ respectively, are:

- (1) the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters; and

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, repealing Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000, OJ L 338, 23.12.2003, p. 1-29.

⁽²⁾ 2006/325/EC: Council Decision of 27 April 2006 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, OJ L 120, 5.5.2006, p. 22-22 (this decision makes the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 44/2001 applicable to Denmark).

⁽³⁾ 2006/326/EC: Council Decision of 27 April 2006 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark on the service of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters, OJ L 120, 5.5.2006, p. 23 (this decision makes the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1348/2000 applicable to Denmark).

- (2) the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark on the service of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters.

The EU agreed, for the reasons of legal certainty, to these two parallel agreements because there was a preceding international agreement in force between Denmark and other EU Member States at the moment when those previous international agreements were turned into EU Regulations. There is no comparable situation in the area of family law.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002905/12

alla Commissione

Roberta Angelilli (PPE)

(15 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Possibili finanziamenti per l'associazione di promozione sociale «International Crossroads»

«International Crossroads» è un'associazione di promozione sociale con sede a Melendugno, in provincia di Lecce, affiliata alla International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE), con sede in Lussemburgo e presente in 85 paesi nel mondo. Dal 2011 l'associazione «International Crossroads» è l'unico soggetto abilitato a gestire il programma di scambio IAESTE sul territorio italiano.

Attualmente sono quattro le Università che partecipano al programma che si rivolge a studenti e neolaureati italiani che vogliono intraprendere un percorso di tirocinio retribuito in uno degli 85 paesi membri aderenti. L'associazione si rivolge ad aziende, enti pubblici e studi professionali italiani che offrono la possibilità di svolgere un'esperienza di stage sul territorio italiano a giovani qualificati ai quali affidare progetti da portare a termine in tempi brevi (da poche settimane a 12 mesi). L'associazione in questione, oltre che attivarsi per far ottenere il tirocinio, segue anche l'iter di selezione del candidato e aiuta gli studenti extra-UE nell'ottenimento del visto.

Ciò premesso, può la Commissione precisare quanto segue:

1. esistono finanziamenti a sostegno delle attività dell'associazione «International Crossroads»?
2. Esistono altre realtà associative con le medesime finalità nella UE?
3. E fornire un quadro generale della situazione?

Risposta data da Androulla Vassiliou a nome della Commissione

(16 maggio 2012)

Il Programma europeo sull'apprendimento permanente sostiene la mobilità transnazionale degli studenti dell'istruzione superiore o dei neolaureati sul mercato del lavoro per il tramite dei programmi settoriali Erasmus e Leonardo Da Vinci.

Organismi intermedi che agevolano il collocamento degli studenti, come ad esempio ASP International Crossroads possono rientrare in un «consorzio di collocamento Erasmus», vale a dire in un gruppo di istituzioni di istruzione superiore in possesso di una carta universitaria Erasmus ed eventualmente in altre organizzazioni (imprese, associazioni, camere di commercio, ecc.) che si adoperano per agevolare il collocamento degli studenti in tirocini. Un consorzio di collocamento può chiedere un finanziamento Erasmus, a patto che detenga un «certificato di collocamento del consorzio Erasmus». Tali certificati sono rilasciati per il tramite di un bando annuale del programma sull'apprendimento permanente, il prossimo bando è previsto per il 2013 ⁽¹⁾.

Il programma Leonardo da Vinci sostiene a sua volta i collegamenti in rete tra le parti interessate dell'istruzione professionale e della formazione al fine di incoraggiare la mobilità in tale settore ⁽²⁾.

Diverse organizzazioni di questo tipo sono già attive ⁽³⁾. Nel 2010-2011 tali organizzazioni hanno partecipato al 14 % di tutti i collocamenti in tirocinio Erasmus (40912 in totale nel 2010-2011). Complessivamente 74 consorzi di collocamento Erasmus hanno organizzato 5736 collocamenti in tirocinio in tredici paesi.

Le informazioni pertinenti, compresa una versione aggiornata della lista dei consorzi di collocamento Erasmus ⁽⁴⁾, verranno raccolte durante la campagna promozionale che la Commissione ha avviato il 17 aprile per sensibilizzare le imprese sulle opportunità e sui benefici che possono trarre se ospitano un tirocinante Leonardo Da Vinci e Erasmus ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Cfr. http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc/call12/fiches_en.pdf

⁽²⁾ Cfr. http://ec.europa.eu/education/leonardo-da-vinci/what_en.htm

⁽³⁾ Cfr. <http://leo-net.tue.nl/leonet>.

⁽⁴⁾ Cfr. <http://www.eu.daad.de/eu/llp/veranstaltungen/14646.html>

⁽⁵⁾ Cfr. <http://we-mean-business.europa.eu>.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002905/12
to the Commission
Roberta Angelilli (PPE)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: Possible funding for the ASP International Crossroads

International Crossroads is an association for social advancement (ASP) based in Melendugno in the province of Lecce and affiliated to the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE). IAESTE has its registered office in Luxembourg and is present in 85 countries worldwide. Since 2011 International Crossroads has been the only organisation authorised to run the IAESTE exchange programme in Italy.

At present, four universities are taking part in the programme for students and recent university graduates in Italy wishing to take up a paid traineeship in one of the 85 participating countries. The association finds Italian businesses, public bodies and professional firms that can offer traineeships in Italy for qualified young people, who are given short-term projects to complete (ranging from a few weeks to 12 months). The association does not just obtain traineeship places, it also monitors the selection of applicants and helps non-EU students obtain visas.

1. Can the Commission say whether any funding exists that could support the work of International Crossroads?
2. Are there any other associations with the same purpose in the EU?
3. Could the Commission provide a general overview of the situation?

Answer given by Mrs Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(16 May 2012)

The European Lifelong Learning programme supports transnational mobility of students in higher education and of recent graduates on the labour market through the Erasmus and Leonardo Da Vinci sectoral programmes.

Intermediary bodies facilitating placements of students like ASP International Crossroads can be part of an 'Erasmus placement consortium', i.e. a group of higher education institutions which hold an extended Erasmus University Charter and possibly other organisations (enterprises, associations, chambers of commerce, etc.) working to facilitate placements for students. A placement consortium may apply for Erasmus funding provided that it holds an 'Erasmus consortium placement certificate'. Such certificates are awarded through an annual LLP call, the next one planned for 2013 ⁽¹⁾.

The Leonardo da Vinci programme also supports networking between vocational education and training stakeholders to encourage mobility in this sector ⁽²⁾.

Many organisations of this type are already active ⁽³⁾. In 2010-2011, such organisations were involved in 14 % of all placements under Erasmus (40912 in total in 2010-2011). In all 74 Erasmus placement consortia organised 5736 work placements in 13 countries.

Relevant information, including an updated version of the Erasmus placement consortia directory ⁽⁴⁾, will be gathered during the promotion campaign that the Commission launched on 17 April to make companies aware of the possibilities and benefits of hosting Leonardo Da Vinci and Erasmus trainees ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc/call12/fiches_en.pdf

⁽²⁾ See http://ec.europa.eu/education/leonardo-da-vinci/what_en.htm

⁽³⁾ See for example <http://leo-net.tue.nl/leonet>.

⁽⁴⁾ See <http://www.eu.daad.de/eu/llp/veranstaltungen/14646.html>

⁽⁵⁾ See <http://we-mean-business.europa.eu>.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002907/12
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(15 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: 30 milioni di persone in più senza acqua potabile

Secondo un gruppo di ricercatori delle Università di Bristol, Southampton, Surrey e North Carolina, le stime prodotte dall'Organizzazione mondiale della sanità sull'accesso all'acqua potabile sarebbero sbagliate. I metodi utilizzati per il calcolo, infatti, non includono oltre 30 milioni di persone. Per questo motivo, l'Obiettivo del Millennio che prevede di dimezzare la percentuale della popolazione senza accesso all'acqua potabile entro il 2015 è molto più lontano di quanto non si pensasse.

I ricercatori hanno rivelato che il rapporto dell'OMS definiva sicure alcune sorgenti d'acqua in cui, invece, sono state riscontrate contaminazioni chimiche e microbiche.

Pertanto, rifacendo i calcoli pubblicati dall'OMS, è stato evidenziato che la stima di accesso all'acqua potabile era peggiorativa in 4 paesi su 5.

Ciò si traduce in un impatto sulla popolazione molto significativo: si tratterebbe di 9 milioni di persone in più senza acqua potabile in Etiopia, 22 milioni in più in Nigeria e circa 2 milioni tra Giordania, Nicaragua e Tagikistan.

Considerato che l'Europa contribuisce in maniera attiva al progressivo raggiungimento degli Obiettivi del Millennio e che l'iniziativa europea EUWI è direttamente coinvolta nel miglioramento della cooperazione al fine di apportare risultati concreti, può la Commissione far sapere se, e in quale modo, intenda modificare la sua strategia in questo ambito, alla luce dei nuovi dati menzionati?

Risposta data da Andris Piebalgs a nome della Commissione
(3 maggio 2012)

L'Unione europea, che riconosce quanto sia importante l'accesso a risorse idriche salubri e ai servizi igienico-sanitari per la lotta contro la povertà, ha erogato nel periodo 2003-2010 circa 3 miliardi di euro in aiuti ai paesi in via di sviluppo, aiuti che hanno permesso di fornire acqua potabile a oltre 32 milioni di famiglie e servizi igienici a 9 milioni di famiglie.

Sebbene di recente sia stato annunciato il raggiungimento del traguardo degli obiettivi di sviluppo del millennio (OSM) sull'acqua potabile, la Commissione è ben conscia del fatto che per i servizi igienico-sanitari rimane ancora molto da fare e che i miglioramenti nell'accesso all'acqua potabile non sono uniformi. Occorre quindi velocizzare e estendere la portata dei progressi per garantire un accesso universale a questi servizi di base.

Per questo motivo la Commissione ha lanciato nel 2010 un'iniziativa OSM nei paesi ACP (Africa, Caraibi, Pacifico) mirata in particolare agli obiettivi per i quali si registrano i maggiori ritardi. Circa 260 milioni di euro saranno assegnati a progetti per l'approvvigionamento idrico e igienico-sanitario in 18 paesi.

La comunicazione della Commissione «Potenziare l'impatto della politica di sviluppo dell'Unione europea: un programma di cambiamento»⁽¹⁾ dell'ottobre 2011 propone peraltro una serie di misure per migliorare le modalità di concezione e attuazione della politica di cooperazione allo sviluppo dell'Unione europea in modo da rendere più incisivi gli aiuti che l'Unione destina al raggiungimento degli OSM.

Per realizzare tutto ciò occorrono ulteriori sforzi per la crescita inclusiva e sostenibile, con iniziative sull'accesso alle risorse idriche, laddove necessarie.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2011)637 definitivo.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002907/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: Thirty million more people without drinking water

According to a group of researchers at the universities of Bristol, Southampton, Surrey and North Carolina, the estimates drawn up by the World Health Organisation (WHO) of the number of people without access to drinking water are incorrect. The calculations fail to take account of more than 30 million people affected by precisely this problem. The Millennium Development Goal of halving the percentage of the population without access to drinking water by 2015 is therefore much more distant than had been thought.

The researchers have shown that the WHO report classified as safe several water sources in which chemical and microbiological contamination has been found.

Re-running the calculations published by the WHO has shown that the estimates were wrong in four countries out of five.

The impact on the figures is very considerable: 9 million more people without access to drinking water in Ethiopia, 22 million more in Nigeria and around 2 million in Jordan, Nicaragua and Tajikistan.

Given that Europe actively contributes to the gradual achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and that the European Union Water Initiative is specifically intended to improve cooperation in an effort to produce practical results, can the Commission state whether, and how, it intends to alter its strategy in this area, in the light of the new information outlined above?

Answer given by Mr Piebalgs on behalf of the Commission
(3 May 2012)

The EU recognises access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene as a critical element of the fight against poverty. Overall, during 2003-2010, the EU has provided around EUR 3 billion for water and sanitation in developing countries. This support has resulted in more than 32 million households getting access to safe drinking water and 9 million benefitting from improved sanitation facilities.

While it has been recently announced that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target for access to safe drinking water has been reached, the Commission is well aware that the target for sanitation is still far off-track and that improvement in clean water supplies is uneven. It is thus important that progress is made more quickly, and on a larger scale, than currently. The goal is to achieve universal access to these basic services.

For this purpose, the Commission has launched in 2010 a MDG Initiative in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries with a specific focus on MDGs which are most off-track. Around EUR 260 million will be allocated to the water and sanitation projects in 18 countries.

The Commission, in October 2011, proposed also various improvements to the design and implementation of EU development policy, with the aim of increasing the impact of EU development assistance on the achievement of all MDGs: 'Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy: An Agenda for Change' ⁽¹⁾.

This would also involve enhanced efforts in the area of inclusive and sustainable growth, including where appropriate action in the field of water.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2011) 637 final.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002908/12
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(15 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Benefici del riciclo dei cellulari

In Europa i cellulari che non sono più utilizzati sono riciclati in modesta quantità. Solo una percentuale inferiore all'1 % è recuperata.

Il riutilizzo dei dispositivi porterebbe a miliardi di euro di risparmi, oltre che numerosi benefici per l'ambiente.

Secondo un'associazione fondata di recente che si prefigge esattamente l'obiettivo di sensibilizzare l'industria e gli utenti sul tema del riciclo dei cellulari, se le parti più preziose dei dispositivi, come la videocamera, il display e la batteria, venissero riutilizzati nella produzione di nuovi esemplari, il prezzo pagato dai consumatori sarebbe inferiore del 50 %.

In Europa ogni anno si contano circa 160 milioni di cellulari gettati e non riciclati. Se si raggiungesse un tasso di riciclo del 95 % si potrebbero risparmiare ben 1,5 miliardi di euro sui materiali e 120 milioni di euro in energia.

Considerato che il riciclo dei telefoni cellulari ha notevoli vantaggi sia economici che ambientali e che molti dispositivi potrebbero essere riutilizzati in mercati emergenti, potrebbe la Commissione far sapere se intende:

- promuovere il riciclo delle parti più sensibili dei telefoni cellulari,
- promuovere il riutilizzo dei cellulari ancora funzionanti nei paesi in via di sviluppo?

Risposta data da Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione
(10 maggio 2012)

La direttiva 2002/96/CE ⁽¹⁾ sui rifiuti di apparecchiature elettriche ed elettroniche (di seguito RAEE), che riguarda migliaia di tipi di apparecchiature, ivi compresi i telefoni cellulari e le parti che li compongono, prevede obiettivi generali vincolanti ai fini della raccolta, del recupero e del riciclo dei RAEE. La nuova direttiva sui RAEE ⁽²⁾ stabilisce obiettivi più ambiziosi. La nuova direttiva non contiene obiettivi specifici per i diversi tipi di apparecchiature, quali i telefoni cellulari, tuttavia rende più facile per i consumatori finali depositare i vecchi telefoni cellulari in modo da incrementare i tassi di raccolta dei rifiuti.

La Commissione intende monitorare l'attuazione della nuova direttiva sui RAEE da parte degli Stati membri, nonché delle pertinenti disposizioni riguardanti la preparazione ai fini del riutilizzo. La Commissione non ha intenzione di promuovere in modo particolare il riutilizzo dei telefoni cellulari nei paesi in via di sviluppo.

⁽¹⁾ G.U. L 37 del 13.2.2003.

⁽²⁾ Cfr. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2012-0009+0+DOC+XML+V0//IT>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002908/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(15 March 2012)**

Subject: Benefits of recycling mobile phones

In Europe, only a small number of mobile phones that are no longer in use are recycled. Less than 1 % of phones are recovered.

Reusing these devices would lead to billions of euro in savings, as well as numerous environmental benefits.

According to a newly established association set up specifically to raise awareness in the industry and among users regarding mobile phone recycling, if the most valuable parts of the devices, such as the video camera, the screen and the battery, were reused in the production of new mobile phones, the price paid by consumers would be halved.

Every year in Europe, around 160 million mobile phones are thrown away and not recycled. Were a recycling rate of 95 % to be achieved, EUR 1.5 billion could be saved on materials and EUR 120 million on energy.

Recycling mobile phones has significant economic and environmental benefits and many devices could be reused in emerging markets. In view of this:

- Does the Commission intend to promote recycling of the most sensitive parts of mobilephones?
- Will it promote the reuse of mobile phones which are still working in developing countries?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission
(10 May 2012)**

The directive 2002/96/EC ⁽¹⁾ on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), covering thousands of different types of equipment including mobile phones, and the parts in them, contains binding overall targets for the collection, recovery and recycling of WEEE. These targets have been raised in the new WEEE Directive ⁽²⁾. The new Directive does not contain targets for specific types of equipment such as mobile phones. It does however make it easier for end-consumers to deposit their old mobile phone devices so that collection rates can be increased.

The Commission intends to monitor the implementation of the new WEEE Directive by the Member States, including the relevant provisions regarding preparation for reuse. The Commission does not intend to specifically promote the reuse of mobile phones in developing countries.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 37, 13.2.2003.

⁽²⁾ See <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2012-0009+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002909/12
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(15 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Restrizioni cinesi alle esportazioni di terre rare

Le terre rare sono un gruppo di 17 minerali indispensabili per produrre la maggior parte degli strumenti tecnologici ed hi-tech. La Cina detiene circa il 65 % delle riserve naturali mondiali di queste preziose risorse e ben il 90 % del commercio globale.

I costi per l'estrazione di tali materiali sono molto elevati e ne consegue un forte impatto ambientale, che molti paesi non sono disposti ad affrontare.

Già nel 2010 Pechino ha ridotto del 40 % le quote di terre rare destinate all'export, favorendo in tal modo la concorrenza sleale da parte delle imprese cinesi a danno di quelle straniere.

La Cina si è difesa più volte dall'accusa di usare i minerali preziosi come «arma commerciale» sostenendo che non si tratta di strumentalizzazione delle risorse, bensì di una strategia per difendere l'ambiente e ridurre l'inquinamento.

Attualmente, la domanda mondiale di metalli rari è pari a 110mila tonnellate all'anno. Si prevede che la richiesta potrebbe raggiungere la quota di 250mila tonnellate entro il 2015. La Cina trattiene per il mercato nazionale il 75 % della produzione di terre rare mentre il resto è acquistato in ordine decrescente da Giappone, Stati Uniti e Europa.

Lo scorso 13 marzo l'Unione europea ha presentato un ricorso all'OMC, insieme a Giappone e Stati Uniti, proprio per contestare le continue restrizioni cinesi alle esportazioni di materie prime che violano le regole commerciali internazionali. La politica di Pechino in materia di export danneggia notevolmente le imprese europee. L'OMC, che ha già esaminato il caso in precedenza, ha apertamente messo in dubbio le dichiarazioni della Cina secondo la quale le norme imposte mirano a tutelare l'ambiente e le risorse naturali.

Considerato che Pechino non aderisce alla lotta al cambiamento climatico, si oppone al pagamento della tassa sulle emissioni aeree, non rispetta i diritti umani, vuole porre limitazioni alla commercializzazione delle terre rare e, quindi, con una serie di atti danneggia l'economia europea, non ritiene la Commissione necessario quale contromisura, applicare nuovi dazi alle merci cinesi importate in Europa?

Risposta data da Karel De Gucht a nome della Commissione
(15 maggio 2012)

La politica commerciale dell'UE si basa su norme multilaterali convenute nel quadro dell'Organizzazione mondiale del commercio (OMC) che disciplinano l'imposizione di tariffe e contromisure. Al fine di creare un quadro affidabile e stabile per gli operatori economici, possono essere introdotti nuovi dazi o contromisure in casi molto limitati, ad esempio come misure di ritorsione a seguito dell'esito favorevole di una controversia nell'ambito dell'OMC. Potrebbero essere applicate sanzioni o compensazioni commerciali, ad esempio sotto forma di aumenti di aliquote o sospensione degli obblighi imposti dall'OMC, qualora un membro dell'organizzazione non si attenga alle raccomandazioni di adeguare le proprie pratiche alle norme dell'OMC.

L'UE può utilizzare inoltre strumenti di difesa commerciale per affrontare il commercio sleale dovuto al dumping e/o alle sovvenzioni illegali. Le indagini nel contesto della difesa commerciale vengono avviate su sollecitazione delle imprese, e la Commissione non esita a impiegare tale strumento se vi è una richiesta valida. Anche se alcuni partner commerciali dell'UE mettessero in atto pratiche commerciali sleali e illegali, essa non deve ricorrere a misure analoghe ma piuttosto contestarle per sostenere il corretto funzionamento del sistema internazionale del commercio.

Per quanto riguarda le varie questioni specifiche menzionate nell'interrogazione dell'onorevole parlamentare, quali cambiamento climatico e diritti umani, esse sono discusse dalla Commissione con la Cina nelle sedi competenti, tra cui il dialogo bilaterale sui diritti umani e i negoziati delle Nazioni Unite sul cambiamento climatico.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002909/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: Chinese restrictions on the export of rare earths

Rare earths are a group of 17 minerals that are essential for the manufacture of the majority of technological and hi-tech devices. China holds approximately 65 % of the world's natural reserves of these valuable resources and has a good 90 % of the world trade.

The cost of extracting these materials is very high and has a major impact on the environment, which many countries are not prepared to deal with.

In 2010, Beijing reduced the quota of rare earths destined for export by 40 %, leading to unfair competition favouring Chinese businesses to the detriment of foreign businesses.

China has defended itself on several occasions against the accusation that it is using precious minerals as a 'trade weapon', maintaining that it is not a question of exploiting resources but rather a strategy by which to protect the environment and reduce pollution.

At present, global demand for rare metals stands at 110 000 tonnes per year, which forecasts say may rise to 250 000 tonnes by 2015. China retains 75 % of its production of rare earths for the domestic market while the remainder is purchased, in descending order, by Japan, the United States and Europe.

On 13 March 2012, the European Union, together with Japan and the United States, filed a formal complaint with the WTO to challenge the continued Chinese restrictions on the export of raw materials, which are in breach of international trade rules. Beijing's export policy is damaging European businesses significantly. The WTO, which has already examined this issue on a previous occasion, has openly cast doubts on statements by China that the regulations have been imposed to protect the environment and natural resources.

Given that Beijing does not adhere to the fight against climate change, opposes payment of taxes on aircraft emissions, does not respect human rights, wants to set limits on trade in rare earths and is, therefore, through a whole series of actions damaging the European economy, does the Commission agree that new duties should be imposed on Chinese goods imported into Europe, as a countermeasure?

Answer given by Mr De Gucht on behalf of the Commission
(15 May 2012)

EU trade policy is based on multilateral rules agreed at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that govern the imposition of tariffs and countermeasures. In order to create a reliable and stable framework for economic operators, new duties or countermeasures can be introduced in very limited circumstances, for instance as retaliatory measures following a successful WTO dispute. If a WTO member does not comply with WTO recommendations on bringing its practice in line with WTO rules, then trade compensation or sanctions, for example in the form of duty increases or suspension of WTO obligations, may follow.

In addition, the EU can use trade defence instruments to address unfair trade due to dumping and/or illegal subsidies. Launch of trade defence investigations is industry-driven and the Commission does not hesitate to use such action when there is a valid request. Even if some of the EU's trading partners may adhere to illegal and unfair trade practices, it should not resort to similar measures but rather contest them in order to sustain the proper functioning of the international trading system.

As regards the various specific issues also mentioned in the Honourable Member's question, such as climate change and human rights, they are brought up by the Commission with China in the relevant fora, including the bilateral human rights dialogue and the United Nations negotiations on climate change.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002910/12
alla Commissione**

Francesco De Angelis (S&D)

(15 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Situazione stabilimento ILVA di Patrica (FR)

È attualmente paventato, e non smentito dall'azienda, un piano di delocalizzazione dello stabilimento ILVA di Patrica (FR). Lo stabilimento lavora da anni con efficienza nel settore metallurgico, distinguendosi per la zincatura e per la produzione di alluminato, costituendo un sito vitale per l'economia della zona.

Se confermata, la delocalizzazione dello stabilimento di Patrica rappresenta una seria minaccia per i circa 100 operatori correntemente impiegati, dal momento che l'età media estremamente bassa rende la situazione difficilmente gestibile in termini di ammortizzatori sociali.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione attivarsi e verificare la conformità delle vicende ultime dell'ILVA rispetto alla normativa europea relativa all'impatto sociale delle ristrutturazioni industriali, tra cui la direttiva 98/59/CE sui licenziamenti collettivi, la direttiva 2001/23/CE sul trasferimento di imprese, la direttiva 94/45/CE e, non ultima, la direttiva 2002/14/CE sull'informazione e la consultazione dei lavoratori?

Si chiede inoltre alla Commissione:

- ritiene le scelte di politica industriale messe in atto dall'ILVA compatibili con la nuova strategia europea in materia di politica industriale e con gli aspetti occupazionali emergenti dalle linee guida della strategia UE 2020?

Risposta data da László Andor a nome della Commissione

(3 maggio 2012)

La Commissione ribadisce la necessità di preparare e gestire in modo proattivo le ristrutturazioni con quanto più anticipo possibile. Nell'Unione europea si devono applicare in modo più efficace le buone pratiche in tema di previsione, preparazione e gestione delle ristrutturazioni aziendali. La Commissione ha pertanto avviato una consultazione pubblica (Libro verde) sulla gestione proattiva del cambiamento e delle ristrutturazioni ⁽¹⁾. La Commissione sta analizzando le risposte al Libro verde e sarà presto in condizioni di decidere se sia giustificata una nuova iniziativa. Essa si adopera per identificare le prassi e le politiche più efficaci in questo ambito al fine di promuovere l'occupazione, la crescita e la competitività e migliorare la cooperazione tra tutti gli attori interessati.

La Commissione desidera inoltre fare presente che spetta alle autorità nazionali competenti, compresi i tribunali, assicurare che la legislazione nazionale che recepisce le direttive cui fa riferimento l'onorevole deputato sia applicata in modo corretto ed efficace dal datore di lavoro in questione, tenuto conto delle circostanze specifiche dei singoli casi.

⁽¹⁾ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1166&furtherNews=yes>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002910/12
to the Commission**

Francesco De Angelis (S&D)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Situation of the ILVA plant at Patricia in the province of Frosinone

Current fears of a planned relocation of the ILVA plant at Patricia in the province of Frosinone have not been denied by the company. The plant has been working efficiently for years in the metallurgy industry and is renowned for its galvanisation and aluminate products, which make it a site of vital importance for the area's economy.

If confirmed, the relocation of the Patricia plant constitutes a serious threat to the approximately 100 employees currently working there, given that the very low average age makes the situation difficult in terms of social welfare benefits.

In view of the above, can the Commission take action and verify whether the latest moves by ILVA comply with European legislation relating to the social impact of industrial restructuring operations, including Directive 98/59/EC on collective redundancies, Directive 2001/23/EC on the transfer of businesses, Directive 94/45/EC and, last but by no means least, Directive 2002/14/EC on informing and consulting employees?

Can the Commission also state:

- whether it considers the industrial policy choices made by ILVA to be compatible with the new European strategy on industrial policy and with the employment-related aspects of the EU 2020 strategy guidelines?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission

(3 May 2012)

The Commission reaffirms the need to anticipate and prepare restructuring operations as far in advance as possible. Good practice in anticipating, preparing and managing corporate restructuring needs to be applied more effectively across the European Union. The Commission has accordingly launched a public consultation (Green paper) on anticipating change and restructuring ⁽¹⁾. The Commission is currently in the process of accessing the replies to the Green paper and will be in a position soon to decide whether a new initiative is justified. It seeks to identify successful practice and policy in this field with a view to promoting employment, growth and competitiveness and improving cooperation between all the actors concerned.

The Commission would also point out that it is for the competent national authorities, including the courts, to ensure that the national legislation transposing the directives to which the Honourable Member refers is correctly and effectively applied by the employer concerned, having regard to the specific circumstances of each case.

⁽¹⁾ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1166&furtherNews=yes>.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-002911/12
adresată Comisiei
Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(15 martie 2012)

Subiect: Consumul excesiv de iod

Prin Hotărârea de Guvern nr. 568/2002, în România a fost interzisă comercializarea sării neiodate, iar populația este obligată să consume exclusiv sare iodată, direct sau indirect, prin orice aliment procesat în țară. [*„În România, în alimentația oamenilor, se utilizează numai sarea iodată” (art. 3, alin. 1)*]

Guvernul a adoptat această hotărâre în scopul prevenirii tulburărilor provocate de carența de iod (hipotiroidia), în condițiile în care doar un număr redus de asemenea cazuri s-a datorat deficitului de iod.

Pe de altă parte, s-a demonstrat că iodarea obligatorie excesivă atrage consecințe grave: hipotiroidie la feți în cazul administrării iodului la femeile gravide, blocarea reacțiilor de organificare și cuplare (efectul Wolf-Chaikoff), alergii, ș.a.

Comisia este rugată să precizeze dacă adoptarea unei asemenea decizii corespunde normelor prevăzute de legislația europeană, în condițiile în care restrânge posibilitățile de opțiune ale consumatorilor și îi expune unui risc ridicat de îmbolnăvire din cauza consumului excesiv de iod.

Răspuns dat de dl Dalli în numele Comisiei
(30 aprilie 2012)

Regulamentul (CE) nr. 1925/2006 privind adaosul de vitamine și minerale, precum și de anumite substanțe de alt tip în produsele alimentare ⁽¹⁾, reglementează doar adăugarea voluntară de vitamine și minerale în produsele alimentare. Adaosul obligatoriu de vitamine și minerale în produsele alimentare, care se efectuează atunci când guvernele impun producătorilor de produse alimentare să adauge vitamine și minerale specifice anumitor produse alimentare sau categorii de produse alimentare, nu este armonizat la nivelul Uniunii Europene.

⁽¹⁾ JO L 404, 30.12.2006, p. 26-38.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002911/12
to the Commission**

Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Excessive iodine consumption

Government Decision No 568/2002 banned the sale of non-iodised salt in Romania, and the population is forced to consume exclusively iodised salt, directly or indirectly, in any food processed in the country. [‘In Romania only iodised salt shall be used in food for human consumption’ (Article 3, Paragraph 1)]

The Government adopted this decision with the aim of preventing disorders caused by iodine deficiency (hypothyroidism), even though only a small number of such cases have been caused by iodine deficiency.

On the other hand, it has been shown that excessive mandatory iodisation has serious consequences: foetal hypothyroidism when iodine is administered to pregnant women, inhibition of organification and coupling reactions (Wolff-Chaikoff effect), allergies, etc.

Can the Commission specify whether the adoption of such a decision complies with the norms stipulated in European legislation, given that it restricts consumers’ choices and exposes them to a high risk of falling ill due to excessive iodine consumption?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 ⁽¹⁾ on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods, only regulates the voluntary addition of vitamins and minerals to foods. Mandatory addition of vitamins and minerals to foods, which occurs when governments require food manufacturers to add specified vitamins or minerals to particular foods, or categories of foods, is not harmonised at European Union level.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 404, 30.12.2006, p. 26-38.

(Dansk udgave)

Forespørgsel til skriftlig besvarelse E-002913/12
til Kommissionen
Anne E. Jensen (ALDE)
(15. marts 2012)

Om: Afvikling af mælkekvoteordningen

Udviklingen på verdensmarkedet tilsiger en stigende efterspørgsel efter mælkeprodukter. Men flere medlemsstater er ikke på vej mod en gnidningsløs afvikling af mælkekvoterne.

I 2012 oplever vi fortsat, at europæisk mejeribrug mister markedsandele på verdensmarkedet.

Hvis de europæiske producenter skal kunne imødekomme de kommende års efterspørgsel på verdensmarkedet, er der behov for at kunne udvide mælkeproduktionen uden begrænsninger allerede nu. Producenterne er for øjeblikket tyngt af virkningerne af den finansielle krise og af stigende produktionsomkostninger. Det vil ligeledes være et godt bidrag til et bedre driftsresultat, såfremt omkostningerne til indkøb af kvoter og til betaling af superafgift kunne spares.

I Sundhedstjekket fra 2007 er det bestemt, at Kommissionen inden den 31. december 2010 og inden den 31. december 2012 skal forelægge Europaparlamentet og Rådet en rapport om udviklingen i markedssituationen og de deraf følgende betingelser for gnidningsløs afvikling af mælkekvoteordningen, om fornødent ledsaget af relevante forslag.

Vil Kommissionen sørge for, at man denne gang opfylder bestemmelsen i sundhedstjekket og fremsætter de nødvendige forslag, så de europæiske producenter kan tilpasse sig de kommende markedsvilkår og investere i adgang til eksportmarkederne?

Vil Kommissionen ligeledes sørge for, at der hurtigst muligt iværksættes initiativer, som kan spare de trængte europæiske producenter unødvendige omkostninger til kvoteopkøb og superafgift, f.eks. i form af justering af fedtreguleringskoefficienten?

Svar afgivet på Kommissionens vegne af Dacian Cioloș
(23. april 2012)

Der har fundet tilbundsående drøftelser sted som led i sundhedstjekket af den fælles landbrugspolitik. Drøftelserne førte blandt andet til en beslutning om en gradvis forhøjelse af de nationale kvoter på 1 % om året samt en ændring af korrektionsfaktoren for fedtindholdet. Denne beslutning er resultatet af et omfattende kompromis indgået af medlemsstater med forskellige potentialer, hvad angår udbud og betingelser.

Beslutningen som følge af sundhedstjekket havde til formål at sikre en »blød landing« i EU som helhed. Det kan meget vel være, at den ikke giver de store eller mere effektive producenter lov til at udvide så hurtigt, som de gerne ville i overgangsperioden, men den giver andre producenter mulighed for at tilpasse sig den nye situation gradvist. For medlemsstater med et større produktionspotentiale, udgør afskaffelsen af kvoten allerede en betydelig fordel.

Europa-Kommissionens første rapport til Europa-Parlamentet og Rådet om udviklingen i markedssituationen og de deraf følgende betingelser for en gnidningsløs afvikling af mælkekvoteordningen blev offentliggjort i december 2010. Rapporten konkluderede, at den »bløde landing« forløb planmæssigt i langt størstedelen af medlemsstaterne. Mælkekvotepriserne var meget lave, allerede nul i nogle medlemsstater og nedadgående i de fleste andre med udsigt til at nå nul i 2015. I de fleste medlemsstater blev mælkekvoterne ikke længere anvendt som produktionsgrænse, og markedstilpasning var allerede det ledende princip i en række af medlemsstaterne. På den baggrund har det ikke været nødvendigt at tage de beslutninger om gradvis forhøjelse af kvoterne, som blev truffet i forbindelse med sundhedstjekket, op til fornyet overvejelse.

Den næste rapport vil foreligge inden udløbet af 2012. Rapporten ledsages om nødvendigt af behørigt forslag.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002913/12
to the Commission**

Anne E. Jensen (ALDE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Phasing out of the milk quota scheme

Global market developments point to an increasing demand for milk products. However, many Member States are not making any progress towards an orderly phasing out of milk quotas.

In 2012, we continue to see the European dairy industry losing global market share.

For European producers to meet global market demand in the years to come, milk production needs to be expanded without the restrictions currently in place. Currently, producers are burdened by the effects of the financial crisis and by rising production costs. Saving the costs of purchasing quotas and paying super-levies will also be a good way to contribute to improving operating results.

In the 2007 Health Check, it was decided that, before 31 December 2010 and before 31 December 2012, the Commission would present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on market developments and the resulting conditions for an orderly phasing out of the milk quota scheme, accompanied, if necessary, by relevant proposals.

Will the Commission ensure that, this time, the Health Check findings are followed up on and present the necessary proposals to enable European producers to adjust to future market conditions and invest in access to the export markets?

Will the Commission also ensure that initiatives are implemented as quickly as possible to save hard-pressed European producers the unnecessary costs of quota purchasing and super-levies, e.g. by adjusting the fat conversion factor?

Answer given by Mr Ciołos on behalf of the Commission

(23 April 2012)

A comprehensive discussion took place in the framework of the Health Check. This discussion brought — among other elements — a gradual increase in the national quotas by one percent a year and a change in the fat correction factor. This decision was the outcome of a large compromise amongst Member States with different supply potential and conditions.

The Health Check decision was aimed to ensure a ‘soft landing’ in the EU as a whole. It might not allow big or more efficient producers to expand as fast as they would like during this transitional period, but it gives other producers the opportunity to gradually adapt to the new situation. For the Member States with a higher production potential, the abolition of the quota as such constitutes already an important advantage.

The first report from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the evolution of the market situation and the consequent conditions for smoothly phasing out the milk quota system was issued in December 2010. It concluded that ‘soft landing’ was on track in an overwhelming majority of Member States. Milk quota prices had a very low value, already zero in some Member States, and decreasing in most of the others with a view to reach zero in 2015. Milk quotas had ceased to work as a production limit in most Member States and market orientation was already the leading principle in a number of them. Under these circumstances there was no reason to revisit the Health Check decisions with regard to the gradual increase in quotas.

The next report will be tabled before the end of 2012. If necessary the report will be accompanied by appropriate proposals.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002914/12

an die Kommission

Hans-Peter Martin (NI)

(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: Exportverbot für indische Baumwolle

Am 5. März 2012 setzte die Republik Indien, bisher zweitgrößter Baumwollexporteur der Welt, ein sofort wirksames Exportverbot für Baumwolle in Kraft. Medienberichten zufolge will die indische Regierung damit die Baumwollpreise für die eigene Industrie niedrig halten. Nur ein kleiner Teil der Baumwollimporte der EU wurde bisher durch indische Baumwolle gedeckt, aber die EU importiert durchaus Baumwollprodukte aus Indien und aus Ländern, insbesondere der Volksrepublik China, die bisher Baumwolle aus Indien importierten.

1. Wie wird der Wegfall von Baumwollimporten aus Indien nach Schätzung der Kommission (a) die Baumwollproduzenten in der EU, und (b) die Baumwolle verarbeitenden Industrien in der EU, insbesondere die Textilindustrie, beeinflussen?
2. Welche Auswirkungen erwartet die Kommission aufgrund des indischen Exportverbots auf den europäischen Handel mit Baumwolle und Baumwollprodukte mit der Volksrepublik China?
3. Erwartet die Kommission aufgrund des Exportverbots eine Steigerung der Endpreise in der EU, insbesondere für Textilprodukte?
4. Besteht nach Einschätzung der Kommission die Wahrscheinlichkeit, dass Indien den Export weiterer Exportgüter unterbinden oder einschränken wird?
5. Welche Maßnahmen wird die Kommission diesbezüglich ergreifen?

Antwort von Karel De Gucht im Namen der Kommission

(23. April 2012)

Ende Februar 2012 verhängte die indische Regierung eine sofort wirksame Ausfuhrbeschränkung für Rohbaumwolle. Das Ausfuhrverbot galt auch für bereits von der Regierung ausgestellte Ausfuhrlizenzen (Registration Certificates). In der Mitteilung wurde keine Begründung für die Maßnahme angegeben. In einem Schreiben wandte sich die Europäische Kommission daraufhin umgehend an das indische Handelsministerium und brachte starke Bedenken und Zweifel hinsichtlich der Vereinbarkeit mit den WTO-Bestimmungen zum Ausdruck.

Am 13. März 2012 gab das indische Handelsministerium eine Mitteilung heraus, nach der die Baumwollausfuhren wieder freigegeben wurden. Die Aussetzung der Erteilung neuer Ausfuhrlizenzen sollte von der Regierung am 23. März 2012 aufgehoben werden, allerdings gibt es bisher keinen Nachweis, dass dies geschehen ist.

Da Indien einer der weltweit führenden Baumwollexporteure ist, stellt das Ausfuhrverbot für Rohbaumwolle eine systemische Bedrohung für die Textilindustrie in der EU dar, insbesondere für den Teil der Branche, der immer noch Textilien aus Baumwolle herstellt. Nicht nur die EU zeigte sich über diese Maßnahme besorgt, auch China meldete förmlich Protest gegen Indiens Vorgehen an.

Die Kommission kann nicht voraussagen, ob Indien die Absicht hat, weitere Ausfuhrbeschränkungen für andere Waren einzuführen. Sie wird die allgemeine Situation sowie die Situation bei den Baumwollausfuhren weiter im Auge behalten, und dabei mit der EU-Textilindustrie und der EU-Delegation in New Delhi zusammenarbeiten. Welche Auswirkungen die Maßnahmen Indiens gegebenenfalls haben, kann jedoch erst nach einer gewissen Zeit beurteilt werden und wird auch davon abhängen, wie die indische Regierung letztendlich weiter vorgeht.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002914/12
to the Commission**

Hans-Peter Martin (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Ban on exports of Indian cotton

On 5 March 2012, the Republic of India, previously the world's second largest exporter of cotton, imposed an immediate ban on cotton exports. According to reports in the media, the Indian Government has taken this step with the aim of keeping cotton prices low for its indigenous industry. To date, only a small portion of the EU's cotton imports have been covered by India, but the EU certainly imports cotton products from India and from countries that previously imported cotton from India, in particular the People's Republic of China.

1. In the Commission's view, what impact will the discontinuation of cotton imports from India have on (a) cotton producers in the EU, and (b) cotton-processing industries in the EU, especially the textiles industry?
2. How does the Commission expect the Indian ban on cotton exports to affect European trade in cotton and cotton products with the People's Republic of China?
3. Does the Commission expect that the ban on exports will lead to a rise in retail prices in the EU, particularly for textile products?
4. Does the Commission regard it as likely that India will ban or restrict the export of other goods?
5. What steps does the Commission intend to take in this regard?

Answer given by Mr De Gucht on behalf of the Commission

(23 April 2012)

Late in February 2012 the Indian Government imposed an immediate export restriction on raw cotton. The ban included the Registration Certificates already issued by the Government. The notification gave no reason for the measure. The Commission swiftly addressed a letter to the Indian Ministry of Commerce expressing EU's deepest concerns and doubts on the compliance with WTO rules.

On 13 March 2012, the Indian Ministry of Commerce issued a notification freeing raw cotton exports. The suspension of the issuing of new Registration Certificates was due to be lifted by the Government on 23 March 2012, although there is no evidence this has occurred so far.

As India is one of the world leading cotton exporters, the ban on raw cotton exports represents a systemic threat for the EU textile industry, especially for the industrial sector that still produces textiles made of cotton. The EU was not the only one concerned about this measure as China also lodged a formal protest against India.

The Commission cannot predict India's intention as regards the imposition of further export restrictions on other goods. The Commission will continue to monitor the situation generally as well as regards cotton in cooperation with the EU Textile Industry and the EU Delegation in New Delhi. However, we will have to wait some time in order to be able to assess the impact, if any, which will also depend on how the Indian Government finally determines its course of action.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002915/12
an die Kommission
Hans-Peter Martin (NI)
(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: Auswirkungen von Kälteeinbrüchen auf Reaktorschutzhüllen von Kernkraftwerken

Seit Juni 2011 werden die Atomkraftwerke in der EU Stresstests unterzogen. Am Atomkraftwerk Davis-Besse im US-Bundesstaat Ohio wurden bei Reparaturarbeiten im Oktober 2011 große Risse in der Reaktorschutzhülle entdeckt, die Untersuchungen nach sich zogen. Der im Februar 2012 veröffentlichte Untersuchungsbericht ergab, dass diese Risse infolge von Kälteeinbrüchen bei Schneestürmen entstanden seien. Auch in einigen Regionen der EU gibt es immer wieder schwere Kälteeinbrüche. In den letzten Jahren gab es nach Einschätzung von Meteorologen mindestens zwei außergewöhnlich kalte Winter in Europa.

— Sind der Kommission Vorfälle an europäischen Atomkraftwerken bekannt, bei denen Risse in der Reaktorschutzhülle der Kraftwerke entdeckt wurden? Wenn ja, wurden die Ursachen der entdeckten Schäden in jedem Fall untersucht und welche Ursachen wurden für die Risse identifiziert?

— Werden im Rahmen der an den europäischen Kernkraftwerken durchgeführten Stresstests auch die Auswirkungen von Kälteeinbrüchen auf die Bausubstanz der Kraftwerke und vor allem auf die Reaktorschutzhüllen untersucht? Wenn ja, welche Ergebnisse brachten die bisherigen Untersuchungen? Wenn nicht, werden derartige Untersuchungen noch durchgeführt?

— Werden bei der Planung des Atomreaktors im finnischen Pyhäjoki, welcher der am nördlichsten gelegene Atomreaktor in der EU würde, höhere Maßstäbe für die Kälteresistenz der Bausubstanz angelegt, als für Reaktoren in wärmeren Regionen Europas?

Antwort von Herrn Oettinger im Namen der Kommission
(27. April 2012)

1. Alle europäischen Länder, die Kernkraftwerke betreiben, verfügen über Systeme zur Bewertung der im Verlauf des Betriebs gewonnenen Erfahrungen und zur Durchführung eventueller Korrekturmaßnahmen. Darüber hinaus betreibt die Gemeinsame Forschungsstelle der Kommission in Zusammenarbeit mit den für die nukleare Sicherheit zuständigen Aufsichtsbehörden die Europäische Koordinierungsstelle für das Feedback zum Kernkraftwerksbetrieb („European Clearinghouse on Nuclear Power Plant Operational Experience Feedback“) ⁽¹⁾, die regelmäßig den Betrieb analysiert und die daraus gezogenen Schlussfolgerungen weitergibt.

In der EU ist bislang noch kein solcher Vorfall, wie ihn der Herr Abgeordnete beschreibt, von den Mitgliedstaaten gemeldet worden.

2. Die Stresstests der EU befassen sich mit einer großen Palette möglicher Unfallszenarien, die infolge einer Vielzahl von Fehlern entstehen können: Dazu gehören technische Ausfälle, menschliches Versagen sowie organisatorische Schwachstellen. Ein Beispiel für einen technischen Ausfall sind Risse in Ausrüstungsteilen infolge umgebungsbedingter Beanspruchung wie extremer Temperaturen.

Im Juni 2012 wird die Kommission die Ergebnisse der Stresstests dem Europäischen Rat vorlegen.

Gemäß der Richtlinie 2009/71/Euratom des Rates ⁽²⁾ sind die Mitgliedstaaten verpflichtet, einen nationalen Rahmen für die nukleare Sicherheit einzurichten, der von den Genehmigungsinhabern verlangt, unter Aufsicht der zuständigen nationalen Behörde die Sicherheit ihrer kerntechnischen Anlagen regelmäßig in systematischer und nachprüfbarer Weise zu bewerten und kontinuierlich zu verbessern.

3. Investitionsvorhaben für neue Anlagen sowie die allgemeinen Angaben zu sämtlichen Plänen für die Ableitung radioaktiver Stoffe werden der Kommission gemäß den Artikeln 41 bzw. 37 des Euratom-Vertrags gemeldet. Die Kommission gibt dazu jeweils ihre Stellungnahme ab.

Eine Meldung bezüglich des von dem Herrn Abgeordneten genannten Reaktors liegt der Kommission bisher nicht vor.

⁽¹⁾ <https://clearinghouse-oef.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>.

⁽²⁾ ABl. L 172 vom 2.7.2009.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002915/12
to the Commission**

Hans-Peter Martin (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Impact of sudden drops in temperature on the protective casing around nuclear power station reactors

Since June 2011, nuclear power stations in the EU have been undergoing stress tests. Repair work carried out on the Davis-Besse nuclear power station in the US State of Ohio in October 2011 revealed major cracks in the reactor's protective casing, prompting detailed investigations. The investigation report published in February 2012 indicated that the cracks had been caused by sudden drops in temperature during snow storms. Weather phenomena of this kind are also common in some parts of Europe. According to the figures compiled by meteorologists, in recent years there have been at least two unusually cold winters in Europe.

— Is the Commission aware of incidents involving the discovery of cracks in the protective casing around the reactors in European nuclear power stations? If so, were the causes of the cracks investigated in every case, and what causes were identified?

— Do the stress tests being carried out on European nuclear power stations also include tests regarding the impact of sudden drops in temperature on the structure of power stations and, above all, on the reactor casing? If so, what results have the tests produced to date? If not, are such tests still being carried out?

— Do the plans for the nuclear reactor at Pyhäjoki in Finland, which would be the most northerly reactor in the EU, involve compliance with higher standards of resistance to cold than would be the case for reactors in warmer parts of Europe?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission

(27 April 2012)

1. All European countries operating Nuclear Power Plants (NPP) have systems in place to assess the operational experience and implement corrective actions. In addition, the Commission's Joint Research Centre, in cooperation with the EU Nuclear Safety Regulators, runs the 'European Clearinghouse ⁽¹⁾ on NPP operational experience feedback' which regularly analyses the operating experience and disseminates the lessons learned.

In the EU, no similar incident as the one mentioned by the Honourable Member has been reported by the Member States to date.

2. The EU stress tests deal with a large variety of possible accident scenarios based on a large number of contributing failure events, which include technical failures, human errors, as well as organisational weaknesses. An example of a technical failure is the cracking of equipment due to environmental stress, such as extreme temperatures.

The results of the stress tests will be presented by the Commission to the European Council in June 2012.

Under Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom ⁽²⁾, it is an obligation for Member States to establish a national framework for nuclear safety which requires licence holders, under the supervision of the competent national authority, to regularly assess and continuously improve the safety of their nuclear installations in a systematic and verifiable manner.

3. Investment projects relating to new installations, as well as general data relating to any plan for the disposal of radioactive waste, are communicated to the Commission in accordance with Articles 41 and 37 of the Euratom Treaty respectively. The Commission issues its opinion thereupon.

To date, the Commission has not received any notification of the plant referred to by the Honourable Member.

⁽¹⁾ <https://clearinghouse-oef.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 172, 2.7.2009.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002916/12

an die Kommission

Barbara Lochbihler (Verts/ALE)

(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: VP/HR — Ukraine

Gegenwärtig setzt die International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in der Ukraine das SIREADA-Projekt um, das von der Europäischen Union sowie dem österreichischen Innenministerium mit knapp 2,4 Mio. EUR gefördert wurde. Erklärtes Ziel dieses Projektes ist „Humanitarian assistance for migrant detainees in Moldova and Ukraine“. Darüber hinaus setzte das „International Centre for Migration Policy Development“ das ERIT-Projekt um, das mit knapp 1,75 Mio. EUR durch die Europäische Union gefördert wurde. Hierzu schreibt das ICMPD: „Technical support in the amount of 140 thousand Euro has been recently provided to two detention centres in Rozsdiv (Chernigov oblast) and Zhuravichi (Volyn oblast) under the GDISC ERIT project. That was in addition to substantial financial assistance of the EU to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine for actual establishment of those facilities in 2008“ (Vor Kurzem wurde zwei Gewahrsamseinrichtungen in Rozsdiv (Chernigov oblast) und Zhuravichi (Volyn oblast) im Rahmen des GDISC ERIT-Vorhabens technische Unterstützung in Höhe von 140 000 EUR zur Verfügung gestellt. Dies erfolgte zusätzlich zu der erheblichen finanziellen Unterstützung der EU an das Ministerium für Innere Angelegenheiten der Ukraine für die Errichtung dieser Anlagen im Jahr 2008). Laut Stellungnahmen von UNHCR, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International sowie dem Ukrainischen Flüchtlingsrat traten in den Einrichtungen Rozsdiv (Chernigov oblast) und Zhuravichi (Volyn oblast) Anfang 2012 somalische Flüchtlinge in den Hungerstreik, um auf ihre Situation hinzuweisen. Weiterhin gibt es Berichte von einem gewaltsamen Übergriff auf die Hungerstreikenden am 30. Januar 2012 durch ukrainische Sicherheitskräfte. Das UNHCR spricht hinsichtlich der Inhaftierung der somalischen Flüchtlinge von einem potenziellen Verstoß gegen Artikel 5 EMRK.

1. Welche Erkenntnisse hat die Vizepräsidentin und Hohe Vertreterin hinsichtlich der Inhaftierung somalischer Flüchtlinge in den oben genannten Objekten und dem daraus resultierenden Hungerstreik?
2. Wie bewertet die Vizepräsidentin und Hohe Vertreterin den Hinweis des UNHCR, dass die Inhaftierung der somalischen Flüchtlinge einen potenziellen Verstoß gegen Artikel 5 EMRK darstellt?
3. Wie bewertet die Vizepräsidentin und Hohe Vertreterin die Bemühungen der IOM und des ICMPD hinsichtlich der Unterstützung bei der Etablierung bzw. dem Betrieb der genannten Objekte? Ist die Vizepräsidentin und Hohe Vertreterin der Ansicht, dass die genannten Projekte tatsächlich in der Lage waren bzw. sind, Menschenrechtsverstöße bei der Inhaftierung somalischer Flüchtlinge in der Ukraine zu reduzieren bzw. zu vermeiden?
4. Auf welche Art und Weise stellt die Vizepräsidentin und Hohe Vertreterin sicher, dass die von Organisationen wie Human Rights Watch ⁽¹⁾ oder dem Border Monitoring Project Ukraine ⁽²⁾ dokumentierte weit verbreitete Korruption im Migrations- und Asylbereich in der Ukraine in den von der Europäischen Union geförderten Projekten auszuschließen war bzw. ist?

Antwort von Frau Catherine Ashton — Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin im Namen der Kommission

(1. August 2012)

Die Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin prüft die Inhaftierung von somalischen Asylbewerbern vor dem Hintergrund von Artikel 5 der Europäischen Menschenrechtskonvention. Die EU-Delegation in Kiew hat sich mit den Behörden, dem Flüchtlingskommissariat der Vereinten Nationen (UNHCR) und der IOM in Verbindung gesetzt, um die Bemühungen zur Lösung des Problems zu unterstützen. Der Hungerstreik ist mittlerweile beendet und die ukrainischen Behörden ergreifen Maßnahmen, um sicherzustellen, dass jede betroffene Person in der geeigneten Weise versorgt wird.

Den betroffenen Personen wird im Rahmen von Projekten, die von der EU finanziert werden, regelmäßig rechtlicher Beistand und Beratung zu den Verfahren angeboten. Rechtsanwälte von Partner-Nichtregierungsorganisationen (NRO) informieren Migranten über ihre Rechte und beraten sie zu Verfahren und Asylanträgen. Die EU wird weiterhin mit Organisationen wie der IOM und dem UNHCR zusammenarbeiten, um die Kapazitäten der Ukraine auf diesem Gebiet zu verbessern, und demnächst werden zusätzliche Mittel für den Bereich Migrations- und Asylpolitik bereitgestellt.

⁽¹⁾ Vgl.: <http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ukraine1210WebVersion.pdf>

⁽²⁾ Vgl.: <http://bordermonitoring-ukraine.eu/files/2012/01/corruption.pdf>

Auf längere Sicht ist es unser Ziel sicherzustellen, dass die Asylfrage durch eine umfassende Reform gelöst wird, in deren Rahmen entsprechende Kapazitäten auf nationaler Ebene aufgebaut werden.

Innenpolitische Themen einschließlich Asylfragen werden in einem regelmäßigen Dialog mit der Ukraine erörtert, insbesondere beim Justiz- und Innenministertreffen, in den Unterausschusssitzungen sowie im Rahmen des Dialogs über Visafragen. Der Aktionsplan für die Visa-Liberalisierung von November 2010 beinhaltet unter anderem spezifische Zielvorgaben für die Bereiche Asylpolitik und Korruptionsbekämpfung. Fortschrittsberichte über die Umsetzung der ersten (legislativen) Stufe des Aktionsplans für die Visa-Liberalisierung durch die Ukraine wurden dem Parlament vorgelegt und sind online verfügbar ⁽³⁾.

Die Bekämpfung der Korruption steht bei den auf allen Ebenen stattfindenden Dialogen zwischen der EU und der Ukraine weiterhin ganz oben auf der Tagesordnung.

(3) <http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/20120209/UA%202nd%20PR%20VLAP%20SWD%202012%2010%20FINAL.pdf>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002916/12
to the Commission**

Barbara Lochbihler (Verts/ALE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Ukraine

At present, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is running the SIREADA project in Ukraine, with backing of almost EUR 2.4 million from the European Union and the Austrian Ministry of the Interior. The declared aim of this project is to provide 'Humanitarian assistance for migrant detainees in Moldova and Ukraine'. In addition, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) carried out the ERIT project, which was funded by the European Union to the tune of EUR 1.75 million. The ICMPD has written the following about the project: 'Technical support in the amount of 140 thousand Euro has been recently provided to two detention centres in Rozsudiv (Chernigov oblast) and Zhuravichi (Volyn oblast) under the GDISC ERIT project. That was in addition to substantial financial assistance of the EU to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine for actual establishment of those facilities in 2008.' According to statements by the UNHCR, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the Ukrainian Refugee Council, Somali refugees went on hunger strike in the Rozsudiv (Chernigov oblast) and Zhuravichi (Volyn oblast) detention centres at the beginning of 2012 in an effort to draw attention to their situation. There are also reports of a violent attack on the hunger-strikers by members of the Ukrainian security forces on 30 January 2012. The UNHCR has cited a potential breach of Article 5 ECHR with regard to the detention of the Somali refugees.

1. What information does the Vice-President/High Representative have regarding the detention of Somali refugees in the aforementioned centres and the resulting hunger strike?
2. How does the Vice-President/High Representative assess the UNHCR's suggestion that the detention of Somali refugees represents a potential breach of Article 5 ECHR?
3. How does the Vice-President/High Representative assess the efforts made by the IOM and ICMPD to provide support for the establishment and operation of the aforementioned centres? Does the Commission take the view that the aforementioned projects are/were genuinely capable of reducing or preventing human rights violations in relation to the detention of Somali refugees in Ukraine?
4. How does the Vice-President/High Representative ensure that the widespread corruption involving migration and asylum officials in Ukraine, as documented by organisations such as Human Rights Watch ⁽¹⁾ or the Border Monitoring Project Ukraine ⁽²⁾, does not affect the projects funded by the European Union?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(1 August 2012)

The HR/VP looks at the detention of Somali asylum-seekers in the context of Article 5 of the European Convention of Human Rights. The EU Delegation in Kyiv has been in contact with the authorities, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and IOM in order to support the efforts to resolve the situation. The hunger strike has now ended and steps are being taken by the Ukrainian authorities to ensure adequate treatment of every person concerned.

Projects financed by the EU provide legal assistance and advice on procedures to the persons concerned on a regular basis. Lawyers from partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs) inform migrants of their rights and advise on procedures including applications for asylum. The EU will continue to work with organisations such as IOM and UNHCR to improve Ukraine's capacities in this field, and additional funding focusing on migration and asylum policies will be made available soon.

In the longer term, our aim is to ensure that the asylum issue is tackled through a comprehensive reform, building the right capacities at national level.

⁽¹⁾ Vgl. <http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/ukraine1210WebVersion.pdf>

⁽²⁾ Vgl. <http://bordermonitoring-ukraine.eu/files/2012/01/corruption.pdf>

Home affairs issues, including asylum, are discussed in regular dialogue with Ukraine, including at the Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial, Subcommittee meetings as well as in the context of the Visa Dialogue. The action plan on Visa Liberalisation of November 2010 contains specific benchmarks on, *inter alia*, asylum policy and also on fighting corruption. The progress reports on the implementation by Ukraine of the first (legislative) phase of the action plan on Visa Liberalisation were presented to Parliament and are available online ⁽³⁾.

The fight against corruption is kept high on the agenda of the EU's dialogues with Ukraine, at all levels.

⁽³⁾ <http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/20120209/UA%202nd%20PR%20VLAP%20SWD%202012%2010%20FINAL.pdf>

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002917/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Spyros Danellis (S&D) και Dimitrios Droutsas (S&D)
(15 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Καταγγελίες σχετικά με επιπρόσθετες εξακριβώσεις ταξιδιωτικών εγγράφων εντός της ΕΕ

Οι προδιαγραφές ασφαλείας των βιομετρικών διαβατηρίων που εκδίδουν τα κράτη μέλη της περιοχής Σένγκεν καθορίστηκαν λεπτομερώς από τον κανονισμό 2252/2004 του Συμβουλίου με σκοπό την πάταξη της απάτης μέσα από την αξιόπιστη σύνδεση των διαβατηρίων με τους κατόχους τους.

Ωστόσο, πρόσφατο περιστατικό που αποκαλύφθηκε από τον Ιρλανδικό τύπο πριν μερικές μέρες έφερε στο φως της δημοσιότητας την πρακτική διεξαγωγής γλωσσικών ελέγχων σε κατόχους ελληνικών διαβατηρίων εκ μέρους τουλάχιστον μίας αεροπορικής εταιρίας με σκοπό την επιβεβαίωση της ταυτοπροσωπίας. Ένα δεύτερο δημοσίευμα, ελληνικής εφημερίδας, αναφέρεται σε καταγγελία που φέρει το αεροδρόμιο του Άρχους της Δανίας να απαιτεί από μη-Δανούς πολίτες της ΕΕ (αρχικά Έλληνες και στη συνέχεια και άλλων κρατών) να διαθέτουν δεύτερη μορφή ταυτότητας, πέραν του διαβατηρίου τους, κατά την άφιξή τους στο αεροδρόμιο.

Οι αυθαίρετες πρακτικές ελέγχου από αεροπορικές εταιρίες και αρχές αεροδρομίου δεν μπορούν να προωθούνται ως αντιμετώπιση των όποιων προβλημάτων παρουσιάζει το σύστημα διαβατηρίων των χωρών Σένγκεν.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Είναι ενήμερη για τη συγκεκριμένη ή παρόμοιες πρακτικές περαιτέρω εξακρίβωσης από άλλες αεροπορικές εταιρίες ή αρχές αεροδρομίων;
2. Αν ναι, ποιές είναι αυτές οι εταιρίες και σε ποιά κράτη μέλη εφαρμόζονται οι πρακτικές αυτές;
3. Θεωρεί πως τέτοιου είδους εξακριβώσεις παραβιάζουν το δικαίωμα της ελεύθερης μετακίνησης των ευρωπαίων πολιτών εντός της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης;
4. Σε τι βήματα σκοπεύει να προβεί ώστε να αποφευχθεί η εξάπλωση τέτοιων φαινομένων και να διατηρηθεί ένας ενιαίος για το επιβατικό κοινό τρόπος ελέγχου από όλες τις εταιρίες και τα αεροδρόμια;

Απάντηση της κας Reding εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(7 Μαΐου 2012)

Σχετικά με την εικαζόμενη πρακτική επιβολής τεστ γλωσσομάθειας σε ορισμένους κατόχους διαβατηρίων που αναφέρθηκαν στον ιρλανδικό Τύπο, η Επιτροπή παραπέμπει το Αξιότιμο Μέλος στην απάντηση της στην ερώτηση E-002822/2012 ⁽¹⁾ σχετικά με το περιστατικό στο αεροδρόμιο της Βαρκελώνης.

Τα εικαζόμενα περιστατικά που έχουν κοινοποιηθεί στην Επιτροπή σχετικά με το αεροδρόμιο του Άρχους προκαλούν ανησυχία σχετικά με την εφαρμογή της νομοθεσίας της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης (ΕΕ). Συνεπώς, η Επιτροπή έχει σκοπό να επικοινωνήσει με τις αρχές του εν λόγω κράτους μέλους προκειμένου να εξακριβώσει τα γεγονότα.

Σ' αυτό το πλαίσιο, είναι απαραίτητο να τονιστεί ότι οι πολίτες της ΕΕ πρέπει πάντα να μπορούν να διέλθουν από τα σύνορα αν έχουν ισχύον αποδεικτικό ταυτότητας. Αυτό μπορεί να είναι είτε ισχύον διαβατήριο είτε ισχύον εθνικό δελτίο ταυτότητας. Συγκεκριμένα, οι αρμόδιες αρχές ενός κράτους μέλους ή οι μεταφορείς δεν μπορούν να υποχρεώσουν κανένα πολίτη της ΕΕ να παρέχει και ταυτότητα και εθνικό δελτίο ταυτότητας ή οποιοδήποτε επιπλέον έγγραφο ταυτότητας.

Η κατάργηση των συνοριακών ελέγχων στα εσωτερικά σύνορα δεν θίγει τη διενέργεια ελέγχων ασφαλείας στους λιμένες ή αερολιμένες από τις αρμόδιες αρχές δυνάμει της νομοθεσίας κάθε κράτους μέλους, από τους υπευθύνους των λιμένων ή αερολιμένων ή από τους μεταφορείς, στο βαθμό που αυτοί οι έλεγχοι αφορούν και τα πρόσωπα που ταξιδεύουν στο εσωτερικό κράτους μέλους. Το προσωπικό των αερολιμένων ή των μεταφορέων μπορεί να επαληθεύσει την ταυτότητα των επιβατών για εμπορικούς λόγους ή για λόγους ασφάλειας της μεταφοράς. Οι έλεγχοι αυτοί θα πρέπει να διενεργούνται μόνο για την εξακρίβωση της ταυτότητας του ταξιδιώτη βάσει ενός ταξιδιωτικού εγγράφου.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=EN>.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002917/12
to the Commission
Spyros Danellis (S&D) and Dimitrios Droutsas (S&D)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: Complaints about additional verification of travel documents within the EU

The security specifications of biometric passports issued by Member States in the Schengen area were set out in detail in Council Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 in order to stamp out fraud by reliably linking passports with their holders.

However, a recent incident reported by the Irish press a few days ago brought to light the practice of at least one airline of subjecting holders of Greek passports to language controls in order to confirm their identity. A second article, in a Greek newspaper, concerns a complaint about Aarhus Airport in Denmark requiring non-Danish EU citizens (initially Greeks and then citizens of other Member States) to have a second form of identification with them, in addition to their passport, on arrival at the airport.

Arbitrary controls by airlines companies and airport authorities cannot be put forward as the answer to whatever problems the Schengen area passport system is encountering.

In view of this, will the Commission say:

1. Is it aware of this specific practice or similar practices by other airlines or airport authorities carrying out additional controls?
2. If so, which airlines are they and in which Member States do these practices exist?
3. Does it consider that this sort of control infringes the right of European citizens to freedom of movement within the European Union?
4. What steps does it intend to take in order to prevent such incidents from spreading and in order to ensure that all airlines and airports apply standard controls to the travelling public?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(7 May 2012)

Concerning the alleged practice of subjecting certain passport holders to language tests reported by the Irish press, the Commission would refer the Honourable Members to its answer to Written Question E-002822/2012 ⁽¹⁾ concerning an incident in the airport of Barcelona.

The alleged incidents that have been reported to the Commission in relation to the Aarhus airport raise concerns in the light of the application of European Union (EU) law. The Commission therefore intends to contact the authorities of the Member State concerned in order to ascertain the facts.

In this context, it needs to be recalled that EU citizens should always be able to cross the border if they have a valid identity document. It can be either a valid passport or a valid national identity card. In particular, the competent authorities of a Member State or carriers cannot oblige any EU citizen to present both a passport and a national identity card or any other additional ID document.

The abolition of border controls at internal borders shall not affect security checks on persons carried out at airports by the competent authorities under the law of each Member State, or by airport officials or by carriers, provided that such checks are also carried out on persons travelling within a Member State. The personnel of airports or carriers may verify the identity of passengers for commercial or transport security reasons. These checks should only verify the identity of the traveller against a travel document.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=EN>.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-002918/12

au Conseil

Karima Delli (Verts/ALE)

(15 mars 2012)

Objet: Programme de travail du Comité de la Protection Sociale sur la lutte contre le sans-abrisme et l'exclusion liée au logement

Le Programme de travail du Comité de la Protection Sociale pour 2012 compte parmi ses priorités la lutte contre le sans-abrisme et l'exclusion liée au logement. Le CPS examinera comment la Méthode Ouverte de Coordination (MOC) peut contribuer au mieux à intensifier l'attention accordée à cette question.

Le Parlement européen, dans sa résolution du 14 septembre 2011, qui appelle à l'élaboration d'une stratégie européenne ambitieuse et intégrée pour les personnes sans-abri, a invité la Commission à créer un groupe de travail chargé de réfléchir à une telle stratégie et à associer tous les acteurs concernés à la lutte contre ce phénomène, notamment les décideurs politiques nationaux, régionaux et locaux, les chercheurs, les ONG œuvrant au service des sans-abri, les sans-abri eux-mêmes et les secteurs connexes tels que le logement, l'emploi et la santé.

— Quelles actions concrètes le Comité de la Protection Sociale envisage-t-il de mettre en œuvre en 2012 sur la question du sans-abrisme, et sur le plus long terme dans le cadre de la Méthode Ouverte de Coordination pour les années à venir?

— Comment le Conseil explique-t-il l'absence de toute avancée de la part de la Commission européenne quant à la demande du Parlement européen de la mise en place d'une stratégie? Le CPS partage-t-il les préoccupations du Parlement européen à ce sujet?

Réponse

(19 juin 2012)

Les profils nationaux en ce qui concerne le problème des sans-abri et de l'exclusion en matière de logement ont tout particulièrement retenu l'attention dans le rapport conjoint 2010 sur la protection sociale et l'inclusion sociale ⁽¹⁾.

Il convient de souligner que le Comité de la protection sociale (CPS) a intégré cette question dans son programme de travail pour 2012, ce qui montre bien toute l'importance qu'il attache au problème des sans-abri et de l'exclusion en matière de logement.

Le 17 juin 2011, le Conseil a, par ailleurs, approuvé l'avis du Comité de la protection sociale sur la relance de la méthode ouverte de coordination en matière sociale (MOC sociale) dans le cadre de la stratégie «Europe 2020» ⁽²⁾.

S'agissant de la deuxième question de l'Honorable Parlementaire, il n'appartient pas au Conseil de faire des commentaires sur les initiatives de la Commission.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. 6500/10.

⁽²⁾ Doc. 10405/11.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002918/12
to the Council**

Karima Delli (Verts/ALE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Work programme of the Social Protection Committee on tackling homelessness and housing exclusion

Among its priorities, the work programme of the Social Protection Committee (SPC) for 2012 includes tackling homelessness and housing exclusion. The SPC will examine how the open method of coordination (OMC) can help in stepping up the attention given to this issue.

In its resolution of 14 September 2011, the European Parliament, calling for an ambitious and integrated European strategy for the homeless, asked the Commission to establish a working group to carry out a study on such a strategy and to involve all stakeholders in the fight against homelessness, including national, regional and local policy-makers, researchers, NGO homeless service providers, people experiencing homelessness and related sectors such as housing, employment and health.

— What specific actions does the Social Protection Committee plan to implement in 2012 on the issue of homelessness, and in the long term as part of the open method of coordination for the years to come?

— How does the Council explain the absence of any movement on the part of the European Commission with regard to the European Parliament's demand for a strategy to be put in place? Does the SPC share the European Parliament's concerns over this issue?

Reply

(19 June 2012)

Country profiles on homelessness and housing exclusion were the thematic focus of the Joint Report 2010 on social protection and social inclusion ⁽¹⁾.

It should be pointed out that the Social Protection Committee (SPC) has included this issue in its 2012 work programme, which demonstrates the importance it attaches to homelessness and housing exclusion.

Furthermore, on 17 June 2011 the Council endorsed the opinion of the Social Protection Committee on reinvigorating the Social Open Method of Coordination (Social OMC) in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy ⁽²⁾.

Concerning the Honourable Member's second question, it is not for the Council to comment on the Commission's initiatives.

⁽¹⁾ 6500/10.

⁽²⁾ 10405/11.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002919/12
alla Commissione**

Mario Borghezio (EFD)

(15 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: L'UE sostenga i restauri del Duomo di Milano

Sono in corso nel duomo di Milano ben 12 cantieri di lavoro per i restauri resisi urgenti e necessari anche ai fini della stessa stabilità e sicurezza del delicatissimo complesso architettonico di epoca gotica; la difficoltà di reperire i necessari finanziamenti ha costretto le competenti autorità religiose ad attuare forme di ingresso a pagamento, i cui proventi non potranno però essere sufficienti alla realizzazione di tutto l'ingente impegno finanziario relativo.

Intende la Commissione intervenire finanziariamente per contribuire alla salvaguardia ed alla messa in sicurezza del duomo di Milano, così come di altre cattedrali che costituiscono l'immagine architettonica e storica dell'Europa cristiana?

Risposta data da Johannes Hahn a nome della Commissione

(30 aprile 2012)

I progetti intesi a migliorare il patrimonio naturalistico e culturale delle regioni, allo scopo di accrescere la loro attrattiva e promuovere lo sviluppo locale, possono beneficiare di cofinanziamenti nel quadro del Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale (FESR).

Il programma per la Regione Lombardia che stabilisce la strategia per l'assistenza del FESR nella regione per il periodo 2007-2013 prevede la possibilità di cofinanziare interventi di restauro del patrimonio culturale se ed in quanto questi sono destinati a valorizzare aree ad alto valore culturale e naturalistico e purché favoriscano la sua inclusione in una rete di attrazioni turistiche. Tali interventi devono riguardare zone protette, aree fluviali, zone lacustri e aree montane, mentre le aree urbane con una popolazione superiore a 100 000 abitanti sono esplicitamente escluse.

In linea con il principio della gestione concorrente applicato nella politica di coesione, la selezione e la realizzazione dei progetti sono di competenza delle autorità nazionali. Per maggiori informazioni, la Commissione invita l'onorevole parlamentare a contattare direttamente l'autorità di gestione del programma:

Regione Lombardia, Direzione Generale Industria, Artigianato, Edilizia e Cooperazione, UO Programmazione comunitaria, Via Pola 12/14, 20124 Milano, E-mail: Adg_fesr@regione.lombardia.it

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002919/12
to the Commission**

Mario Borghezio (EFD)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: EU support for the restoration of Milan Cathedral

A total of 12 building sites are currently in operation on the restoration of Milan cathedral, which has become urgently necessary in order, for example, to ensure the very stability and safety of this extremely delicate architectural complex which dates back to the Gothic period. The difficulty in obtaining the necessary funding has forced the religious authorities concerned to charge for entry, while proceeds may not be enough to cover the major financial outlay necessary.

Does the Commission intend to provide funding to help preserve and ensure the safety of Milan Cathedral and other cathedrals making up the architectural and historic landscape of Christian Europe?

Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

Projects aimed at improving the natural and cultural heritage of regions, with a view to improving their attractiveness and fostering local development are eligible for co-financing under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The programme for region Lombardia which sets out the strategy for ERDF assistance in the region for 2007-2013 envisages the possibility to co-finance interventions for the restoration of the cultural heritage, in so far as they are aimed at enhancing areas of significant natural and cultural value, and provided that they favour its inclusion in a network of touristic attractions. Such interventions need to be focused in protected areas, river, lake or mountain areas, while urban areas with a population higher than 100 000 inhabitants are specifically excluded.

In line with the shared management principle used for the administration of cohesion policy, project selection and implementation is the responsibility of the national authorities. For more information, the Commission suggests the Honourable Member contacts directly the managing authority programme:

Regione Lombardia, Direzione Generale Industria, Artigianato, Edilizia e Cooperazione, UO Programmazione comunitaria, Via Pola 12/14, 20124 Milano, E-mail: Adg_fesr@regione.lombardia.it

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-002920/12
aan de Commissie
Bas Eickhout (Verts/ALE)
(15 maart 2012)

Betreft: Biologische middelen als gewasbescherming

Het Nederlandse College voor de toelating van gewasbeschermingsmiddelen en biociden (CtgB) trekt wetgeving in over de uitzonderingspositie van het gebruik van natuurlijke producten in de landbouw. Er zijn bijvoorbeeld bioboeren die bier gebruiken als natuurlijke slakkenverdrijver. Door dit besluit zouden er opeens strenge toelatingseisen gaan gelden voor bier, bijenwas en andere huis-, tuin- en keukenmiddelen in de landbouw.

1. Is de Commissie bekend met het voornemen van het Nederlandse College voor de toelating van gewasbeschermingsmiddelen en biociden (CtgB) om de Regeling uitzondering bestrijdingsmiddelen in te trekken?
2. Is de Commissie bekend met het feit dat verschillende biologische bestrijdingsmiddelen, waaronder natuurlijke producten zoals bier en bijenwas, als gevolg daarvan aan strenge toelatingseisen moeten gaan voldoen en daardoor mogelijk niet meer gebruikt kunnen worden in de biologische landbouw?
3. Is bij de Commissie bekend of in andere lidstaten vergelijkbare besluiten worden voorbereid?
4. Is de Commissie op de hoogte van het feit dat het CtgB op grond van Verordening (EG) nr. 1107/2009 concludeert dat de Regeling uitzondering bestrijdingsmiddelen moet worden ingetrokken? Is dit oordeel van het CtgB volgens de Commissie correct?
5. Op welke termijn verwacht de Commissie de uitvoeringsbepalingen voor Verordening (EG) nr. 1107/2009 vast te stellen? Verwacht de Commissie dat natuurlijke producten zoals bier en bijenwas daarbij onder de categorie basisstof zullen gaan vallen, waardoor ze niet aan strenge toelatingseisen hoeven te voldoen?
6. Is de Commissie het eens met de stelling dat we juist in moeten zetten op ecologisch verantwoorde alternatieven voor chemische bestrijdingsmiddelen en dat het derhalve niet de bedoeling kan zijn dat nationaal beleid van lidstaten onnodige barrières opwerpt voor de toepassing van biologische gewasbescherming?
7. Is de Commissie bereid om contact op te nemen met het CtgB en aan te geven dat het verstandig is de Regeling uitzondering bestrijdingsmiddelen in elk geval niet in te trekken voordat de uitvoeringsbepalingen voor Verordening (EG) nr. 1107/2009 zijn vastgesteld?

Antwoord van de heer Dalli namens de Commissie
(14 mei 2012)

De producten waarnaar de geachte Parlementsleden verwijzen, zoals bier en bijenwas, zijn gereguleerd bij Verordening (EG) nr. 1107/2009 ⁽¹⁾ betreffende het op de markt brengen van gewasbeschermingsmiddelen.

Artikel 23 van die verordening bepaalt dat een werkzame stof die voldoet aan de criteria van een „voedingsmiddel” volgens de definitie in artikel 2 van Verordening (EG) nr. 178/2002 ⁽²⁾, als een basisstof wordt beschouwd. Bier en bijenwas vallen onder deze definitie en zullen waarschijnlijk als basisstoffen worden goedgekeurd.

De Commissie is zich ervan bewust dat de lidstaten op dit ogenblik hun nationale wetgeving betreffende de afwijkingen voor deze soorten producten intrekken om de samenhang met specifieke bepalingen van Verordening (EG) nr. 1107/2009 te waarborgen, die onder andere beoogt het verlenen van toelatingen voor dergelijke stoffen te vergemakkelijken.

De Commissie kan het geachte Parlements lid verzekeren dat zij werkt aan de voorwaarden voor een degelijke uitvoering en toepassing van deze bepalingen. Zodra deze stoffen als basisstoffen zullen zijn geïdentificeerd en goedgekeurd, zal voor het gebruik ervan voor gewasbescherming geen toelating krachtens artikel 28 van die verordening nodig zijn.

⁽¹⁾ PB L 309 van 24.11.2009, blz. 1.

⁽²⁾ PB L 31 van 1.2.2002, blz. 1.

Het promoten van alternatieve technieken om de afhankelijkheid van chemicaliën terug te dringen behoort tot de doelstellingen van Richtlijn 2009/128/EG ⁽³⁾ inzake het duurzaam gebruik van pesticiden. Volgens deze richtlijn moeten de lidstaten tegen november 2012 nationale actieplannen aannemen om de risico's en de effecten van het gebruik van pesticiden te verminderen en moeten zij de ontwikkeling en de invoering van geïntegreerde gewasbescherming en alternatieve technieken bevorderen.

⁽³⁾ PBL 309 van 24.11.2009, blz. 71.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002920/12
to the Commission**

Bas Eickhout (Verts/ALE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Organic plant protection products

The Dutch Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb) is withdrawing legislation on exceptions for the use of natural products in agriculture. For example, some organic farmers use beer as a natural snail control product. As a result of this decision, strict authorisation requirements will suddenly apply to the use of beer, beeswax and other home, garden and kitchen products in agriculture.

1. Is the Commission aware that the Ctgb intends to withdraw the regulation on exceptions for certain plant protection products?
2. Is the Commission familiar with the fact that, as a result of this, strict authorisation requirements will apply to various organic plant protection products, including natural products such as beer and beeswax, and, because of this, it may no longer be possible to use them in organic agriculture?
3. Does the Commission know whether comparable decisions are being prepared in other Member States?
4. Is the Commission aware of the fact that the Ctgb concludes, on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, that the regulation on exceptions for certain plant protection products should be withdrawn? Does the Commission regard this judgment by the Ctgb as correct?
5. Within what period does the Commission expect to establish the rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009? Does the Commission expect that, under those rules, such natural products as beer and beeswax will be considered as basic substances and, as such, will not have to satisfy strict authorisation requirements?
6. Does the Commission agree with the statement that we should promote environmentally responsible alternatives for chemical plant protection products and that, in this view, it is counterproductive that Member States should create, by their national policies, unnecessary barriers for the application of organic plant protection?
7. Is the Commission prepared to approach the Ctgb, stating that it is inadvisable to withdraw the regulation on exceptions for certain plant protection products before the rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 have been established?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(14 May 2012)

The products the Honourable Member refers to, such as beer and beeswax, are regulated under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 ⁽¹⁾ on placing of plant protection products on the market.

Article 23 of that regulation lays down that an active substance which fulfils the criteria of foodstuff as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 ⁽²⁾ shall be considered as a basic substance. Beer and beeswax fall under this definition and are likely to be approved as basic substances.

The Commission is aware that some Member States are currently withdrawing their national provisions concerning derogations for these types of products, in order to ensure coherence with specific provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 which aims, among others, to facilitate the authorisation of such substances.

The Commission can assure the Honourable Member that it is currently acting to create the conditions for the proper implementation and application of these provisions. Once these substances will be identified and approved as basic substances, their use in plant protection will not require an authorisation as provided for in Article 28 of the same regulation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1.

The promotion of alternative techniques to reduce the dependency from chemicals is among the objectives of Directive 2009/128/EC ⁽³⁾ on the sustainable use of pesticides. According to that directive, the Member States have to adopt national action plans by November 2012 to reduce the risks and impacts of pesticides uses and they will have to encourage the development and introduction of integrated pest management and alternative techniques.

(³) OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 71.

(българска версия)

Въпрос с искане за писмен отговор E-002921/12

до Комисията

**Илияна Малинова Йотова (S&D), Кристиан Вигенин (S&D), Ивайло Калфин (S&D), Евгени Кирилов (S&D),
Ioan Enciu (S&D), Claude Moraes (S&D) и Sylvie Guillaume (S&D)**
(15 март 2012 г.)

Относно: Полицейски тормоз в Европа

В последно време в доклади на Хюмън Райтс Уоч („Case Book: Police abuse in Europe“) и на Хелзинкския комитет се подчертава тревожното нарастване в целия ЕС на насилствените нападения от служители на полицията срещу граждани на ЕС и на смъртните случаи по време на период на задържане от полицията. При неотдавнашни инциденти граждани на Съюза са били подложени на тормоз и ненужно задържане след мирни антиправителствени демонстрации. В други случаи е установявано, че полицаи са използвали ненужна сила срещу невинни граждани без никакви правни основания в подкрепа на подобни действия. Ставаме свидетели на сериозни нарушения на правата на човека на гражданите на ЕС.

Какви действия възнамерява да предприеме Комисията, за да гарантира спазването на основните права в целия ЕС?

Отговор, даден от г-жа Малмстрьом от името на Комисията

(31 май 2012 г.)

Доколкото е известно на Комисията, проявите, споменати във въпроса, не са свързани с изпълнението на закон, с който се прилага законодателството на Съюза.

Очевидно е, че в своите действия полицията трябва да спазва основните права. В ЕС защитата на основните права се гарантира на национално равнище от конституционните системи на държавите членки, а на равнище ЕС — от Хартата на основните права на Европейския съюз.

Хартата се прилага за всички действия на институциите и органите на ЕС, включително законодателната работа на Европейският парламент, на Съвета и на Комисията, която трябва да е в пълно съответствие с Хартата. Хартата се прилага по отношение на държавите членки единствено когато те прилагат правото на ЕС. Тя не се прилага в ситуации извън приложното поле на правото на ЕС и не разширява определените в Договорите правомощия на Съюза. В тези ситуации на национално равнище спазването на основните права продължава да бъде гарантирано съгласно националните конституционни системи. Всички държави членки са поели също ангажименти по Европейската конвенция за правата на човека отделно от задълженията си съгласно правото на ЕС.

За да осъществява мониторинг на прилагането на Хартата в ситуации, попадащи в обхвата на правото на ЕС, Комисията публикува Годишен доклад относно прилагането на Хартата. Вторият доклад, съдържащ редица примери, бе публикуван на 16 април 2012 г. ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Докладът може да бъде намерен на следния адрес: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/charter-brochure-report_en.pdf

(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-002921/12
à la Commission**

**Iliana Malinova Iotova (S&D), Kristian Vigenin (S&D), Ivailo Kalfin (S&D), Evgeni Kirilov (S&D),
Ioan Enciu (S&D), Claude Moraes (S&D) et Sylvie Guillaume (S&D)**
(15 mars 2012)

Objet: Exactions policières en Europe

Selon des rapports récents de Human Rights Watch («Case Book: Police abuse in Europe») et du comité Helsinki, on constate une augmentation alarmante des cas de brutalités de la part des membres des forces de l'ordre contre des citoyens de l'Union européenne, ainsi que du nombre de décès en garde à vue dans l'ensemble de l'Union. Au cours de récents incidents, des citoyens européens ont fait l'objet de violences et de détention inutile à la suite de manifestations pacifiques contre les gouvernements. Dans d'autres cas, des policiers ont fait inutilement et sans aucune base légale usage de la force contre des citoyens innocents. Nous observons des violations graves des droits fondamentaux des citoyens de l'Union.

Quelles mesures la Commission envisage-t-elle de prendre pour faire en sorte que les droits fondamentaux soient respectés dans l'ensemble de l'Union?

Réponse donnée par Mme Malmström au nom de la Commission
(31 mai 2012)

À la connaissance de la Commission, les événements mentionnés dans la question ne concernent pas la mise en œuvre d'un acte portant exécution du droit de l'Union.

Il est évident que les missions de police doivent respecter les droits fondamentaux. Dans l'UE, la protection des droits fondamentaux est garantie au niveau national par les régimes constitutionnels des États membres et, au niveau de l'Union, par la charte des droits fondamentaux de l'UE.

La charte s'applique à l'ensemble des actions des institutions et des organes de l'UE, et notamment aux travaux législatifs du Parlement européen, du Conseil et de la Commission, qui doivent respecter intégralement les dispositions de la charte. Cette dernière ne s'applique aux États membres que lorsqu'ils mettent en œuvre le droit de l'UE. Elle ne s'applique pas dans les situations où le droit de l'UE n'est pas concerné et elle n'étend pas les pouvoirs de l'Union tels qu'ils sont définis dans les traités. Dans ces situations, les droits fondamentaux continuent d'être garantis au niveau national conformément aux régimes constitutionnels nationaux. Tous les États membres se sont aussi engagés à respecter la convention européenne des Droits de l'homme, indépendamment de leurs obligations en vertu du droit de l'UE.

Pour assurer le suivi de la mise en œuvre de la charte dans les situations relevant du champ d'application du droit de l'UE, la Commission publie un rapport annuel sur l'application de la charte. Le deuxième rapport de ce type, qui contient un certain nombre d'exemples, a été publié le 16 avril 2012 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Il peut être consulté (en anglais) à l'adresse suivante: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/charter-brochure-report_en.pdf

(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-002921/12
adresată Comisiei**

**Iliana Malinova Iotova (S&D), Kristian Vigenin (S&D), Ivailo Kalfin (S&D), Evgeni Kirilov (S&D),
Ioan Enciu (S&D), Claude Moraes (S&D) și Sylvie Guillaume (S&D)**
(15 martie 2012)

Subiect: Forme de abuz polițienesc în Europa

Rapoarte recente ale organizației Human Rights Watch („Dosar: Abuzuri polițienești în Europa”) și ale Comitetului Helsinki au evidențiat o creștere alarmantă a numărului de atacuri violente ale forțelor de poliție asupra cetățenilor europeni și de decese survenite în custodia poliției în întreaga Uniune. În incidentele recente, cetățeni europeni au fost supuși abuzurilor și privării inutile de libertate în urma unor demonstrații pașnice antiguvernamentale. În alte cazuri, s-a constatat că forțele de poliție au făcut uz de forță în mod nejustificat împotriva unor cetățeni nevinovați, fără a avea vreun temei juridic care să le susțină acțiunile. Suntem martorii unor încălcări grave ale drepturilor fundamentale ale cetățenilor europeni.

Ce măsuri intenționează Comisia să ia pentru a asigura respectarea drepturilor fundamentale în toată Europa?

Răspuns dat de dna Malmström în numele Comisiei
(31 mai 2012)

Din informațiile pe care le deține Comisia, evenimentele menționate în întrebare nu se referă la punerea în aplicare a dreptului Uniunii.

În mod evident, activitatea organelor de poliție trebuie să respecte drepturile fundamentale. În UE, protecția drepturilor fundamentale este garantată, la nivel național, de sistemele constituționale ale statelor membre și, la nivelul UE, prin Carta drepturilor fundamentale a UE.

Carta se aplică tuturor acțiunilor efectuate de către instituțiile și organismele UE, inclusiv activității legislative a Parlamentului European, Consiliului și Comisiei, care trebuie să fie în deplină conformitate cu Carta. Carta se aplică statelor membre doar atunci când acestea pun în aplicare dreptul UE. Nu se aplică în situațiile care nu intră în sfera dreptului UE și nu extinde competențele Uniunii astfel cum sunt stabilite în tratate. În astfel de situații, drepturile fundamentale continuă să fie garantate la nivel național, în conformitate cu regimurile constituționale naționale. De asemenea, toate statele membre și-au asumat angajamente în temeiul Convenției europene a drepturilor omului, independent de obligațiile care le revin în temeiul dreptului UE.

Pentru a monitoriza aplicarea Cartei în situațiile care intră în domeniul de aplicare al legislației UE, Comisia publică un raport anual privind aplicarea Cartei. Al doilea raport, conținând o serie de exemple, a fost publicat la data de 16 aprilie 2012 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Disponibil la adresa de internet: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/charter-brochure-report_en.pdf

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002921/12
to the Commission**

**Iliana Malinova Iotova (S&D), Kristian Vigenin (S&D), Ivailo Kalfin (S&D), Evgeni Kirilov (S&D),
Ioan Enciu (S&D), Claude Moraes (S&D) and Sylvie Guillaume (S&D)**
(15 March 2012)

Subject: Police abuse in Europe

Recent reports from Human Rights Watch ('Case Book: Police abuse in Europe') and the Helsinki Committee have highlighted an alarming increase in violent attacks by members of the police forces against EU citizens and deaths in police custody across the EU. In recent incidents, EU citizens have been subjected to abuse and unnecessary detention following peaceful anti-government demonstrations. In other cases, police have been found to have used unnecessary force against innocent people without any legal grounds to support their actions. We are witnessing serious breaches of the fundamental rights of EU citizens.

What action is the Commission intending to take to ensure that fundamental rights are respected across the EU?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission
(31 May 2012)

To the Commission's knowledge, the events mentioned in the question do not relate to the implementation of any act implementing Union law.

Obviously, police work must comply with fundamental rights. In the EU, the protection of fundamental rights is guaranteed at national level by Member States' constitutional systems and at EU level by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The Charter applies to all actions by EU institutions and bodies, including the legislative work of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, which must be in full conformity with the Charter. The Charter applies to Member States only when they are implementing EC law. It does not apply in situations where EC law is not involved and it does not extend the powers of the Union as defined in the Treaties. In these situations, fundamental rights continue to be guaranteed at national level according to the national constitutional systems. All Member States have also made commitments under the European Convention of Human Rights, independently of their obligations under EC law.

To monitor the application of the Charter in situations within the scope of EC law, the Commission publishes an Annual Report on the Application of the Charter. The second report, containing a number of examples, was published on 16 April 2012 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/charter-brochure-report_en.pdf

(Deutsche Fassung)

**Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002923/12
an die Kommission (Vizepräsidentin/Hohe Vertreterin)**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: VP/HR — Gemeinsame EntschlieÙung zu Kasachstan

Politische Gruppierungen innerhalb des Europäischen Parlaments haben ihre Besorgnis geäußert über die fortgesetzten Menschenrechtsverletzungen der kasachischen Regierung. Der UN und NRO zufolge nutzt der kasachische Präsident Nursultan Nasarbajew seine Macht, um die gesamte Bevölkerung illegal überwachen zu lassen. Der letzte Fall von Menschenrechtsverletzung wurde am 16. Dezember 2011 berichtet, als mindestens 17 Menschen infolge von Auseinandersetzungen mit Polizei und Militär in der kasachischen Stadt Schanaosen ums Leben kamen.

Kasachstan gewinnt aufgrund seiner natürlichen Ressourcen, vor allem Erdgas und Öl, immer mehr an Bedeutung für Europa.

1. Wie will der Europäische Auswärtige Dienst mit diesen jüngsten Vorkommnissen umgehen, ohne die Beziehungen zwischen der EU und Kasachstan zu gefährden?
2. Auf welche Weise will der Europäische Auswärtige Dienst den von Präsident Nasarbajew versprochenen Demokratisierungsprozess überwachen?
3. Auf welche Weise könnte sich ein etwaiger Beitritt Kasachstans zur WTO auf Europa auswirken?

Antwort von Frau Catherine Ashton — Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin im Namen der Kommission

(21. Mai 2012)

Die Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin ist besorgt über die jüngsten Entwicklungen und die Menschenrechtssituation in Kasachstan. Diese Bedenken wurden sowohl in allen bilateralen Kontakten mit den kasachischen Behörden geäußert als auch öffentlich in den Erklärungen, die die Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin im vergangenen Jahr abgegeben hat [insbesondere nach den Präsidentschaftswahlen im April 2011, den gewalttätigen Zwischenfällen im Dezember 2011 und den Parlamentswahlen im Januar 2012]. Die Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin hat außerdem immer wieder betont, dass sowohl die Europäische Union als auch Kasachstan von einer verstärkten Zusammenarbeit und von der Vertiefung der Beziehungen sehr profitieren könnten. Dies sollte jedoch mit der Achtung unserer gemeinsamen Werte einhergehen. Dementsprechend wird der erfolgreiche Abschluss der Verhandlungen über ein neues vertieftes Partnerschafts- und Kooperationsabkommen von den Fortschritten bei der Umsetzung politischer Reformen abhängen sowie von der Erfüllung der internationalen Verpflichtungen Kasachstans, insbesondere hinsichtlich der Meinungs-, Vereinigungs- und Versammlungsfreiheit.

Kasachstans Beitritt zur Welthandelsorganisation (WTO) wäre ein klares Zeichen dafür, dass das Land den wirtschaftlichen Übergang ernst nimmt und bereit ist, sich zu multilateralen Regeln zu verpflichten. Kasachstans Handelsregelung und Rechtsvorschriften zu Handelsfragen würden dann in Einklang mit den internationalen Normen stehen. Diese Entwicklung läge nicht nur im Interesse Kasachstans, sondern auch im Interesse der EU. Für die EU würde das bedeuten, dass die kasachische Wirtschaft klaren Vorschriften unterläge, so dass man im Fall von Handelsstreitigkeiten auf geeignete Mechanismen zurückgreifen könnte. Der WTO-Beitritt Kasachstans würde auch den Weg dafür ebnen, das Land in die Weltwirtschaft zu integrieren und die Handels- und Investitionsmöglichkeiten der europäischen Wirtschaftsakteure in Kasachstan zu vervielfachen.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002923/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Angelika Werthmann (NI)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Joint motion for a resolution on Kazakhstan

Political groups within the European Parliament have expressed their concerns about the continuing breaches of fundamental human rights by the Kazakh Government. According to the UN and to NGOs, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev uses his powers illegally to control the entire population. The most recent breach of human rights took place on 16 December 2011 when at least 17 people died as a result of a confrontation with police and military forces in the city of Zhanaozen.

Kazakhstan is becoming ever more important to Europe as a source of natural resources, principally oil and gas.

1. How does the European External Action Service (EEAS) propose to deal with these recent issues without causing EU-Kazakhstan relations to deteriorate?
2. How is the EEAS planning to monitor the democratisation process promised by President Nazarbayev?
3. What implications could the possible accession of Kazakhstan to the WTO have for Europe?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(21 May 2012)

The HR/VP is concerned about the recent developments and the human rights situation in Kazakhstan. These concerns were raised with the Kazakh authorities in all bilateral contacts, as well as publicly through the statements of the HR/VP published over the past year [notably after the Presidential elections of April 2011, violent events of December 2011 and the parliamentary elections of January 2012]. The HR/VP has also underlined, on many occasions, that both the EU and Kazakhstan could derive important benefits from enhanced cooperation and stronger relations. However, this should go hand-in-hand with respect of our common values. In line with this, the successful conclusion of the negotiations for a new enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement will depend on progress in political reforms and fulfilment of Kazakhstan's international commitments, especially regarding freedom of expression, association and assembly.

World Trade Organisation (WTO) accession of Kazakhstan would be a clear expression that the country takes economic transition seriously and is ready to commit to multilateral rules. Kazakhstan's trade regime and trade-related legislations will be in conformity with the international norms. This development is in the interest not only of Kazakhstan but also the EU. For the EU, it would imply a rule-based Kazakh economy, where recourse to appropriate mechanisms in the case of trade disputes would be available. WTO accession of Kazakhstan would also pave the way for integrating the country into the world economy and multiplying trade and investment opportunities for European economic actors with Kazakhstan.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-002924/12
aan de Commissie
Cornelis de Jong (GUE/NGL)
(15 maart 2012)

Betreft: Mogelijk gebruik van Israëlische gevechtsvliegtuigen door grensbewakingsagentschap Frontex

In een op 13 maart gepubliceerd artikel ⁽¹⁾ staat vermeld dat een onbemande drone, gefabriceerd door Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), deelnam aan een demonstratieoefening georganiseerd door Frontex. Deze demonstratie werd gehouden als onderdeel van een onderzoek door Frontex naar de mogelijke aankoop van drones, die Frontex moeten helpen om boten met migranten te identificeren die Europa proberen te bereiken.

Een verklaring op de website van IAI geeft aan dat de gedemonstreerde drone van het Heron-type is ⁽²⁾. Deze drones zijn gebruikt tijdens de Operation Cast Lead, een drieweekse aanval op Gaza, eind 2008-2009. De inzet van dergelijke drones hebben geleid tot schending van mensenrechten door het Israëlische leger, doordat tussen de 43 en 87 burgerslachtoffers zijn gevallen, zoals gerapporteerd door Human Rights Watch ⁽³⁾.

1. Kan de Commissie aangeven waarom een demonstratieoefening plaatsvond, aangezien commissaris Malmström recentelijk aangaf dat er nog geen besluit is genomen om technologie die ontwikkeld is voor militaire doeleinden in te zetten voor civiele grenscontroles?
2. Kan de Commissie bevestigen dat IAI deelnam aan de demonstratieoefening?
3. Beschikt de Commissie over een zwarte lijst van bedrijven die uitgesloten zijn van aanbestedingsprocedures, specifiek in de defensie-industrie? Indien dit niet het geval is, waarom staat de Commissie toe dat bedrijven deelnemen aan een demonstratieoefening voor een mogelijke aanbestedingsprocedure waarvan bekend is dat hun materieel gebruikt is bij mensenrechtenschendingen en mogelijk aan misdaden tegen de menselijkheid?
4. Is de Commissie het ermee eens dat de EU in al haar activiteiten de fundamentele mensenrechten moet waarborgen, dat diensten afnemen van bedrijven die bijdragen aan mensenrechtenschendingen niet in overeenstemming is met haar beleid inzake mensenrechten en maatschappelijk verantwoord ondernemen en dat daarom Frontex niet zou moeten samenwerken met IAI?

Antwoord van mevrouw Malmström namens de Commissie
(26 april 2012)

1. Frontex heeft tot taak de ontwikkelingen op onderzoeksgebied te volgen die van belang zijn voor grenscontrole en de lidstaten hierover te informeren. Frontex en de lidstaten bekijken momenteel verschillende oplossingen voor bewaking vanuit de lucht, waaronder bemande luchtvaartuigen, onbemande luchtvaartuigen (*remotely piloted aircraft*, RPA) en ballonnen.

Vorig jaar vond in Griekenland de demonstratie van de RPA plaats. De 16 deelnemende bedrijven hadden gereageerd op een open uitnodiging van Frontex.

Er is nog niet veel ervaring opgedaan met het gebruik van RPA-systemen voor grensbewaking. Deze technologie is van belang voor het opsporen en volgen van kleine, niet-zeewaardige vaartuigen die worden gebruikt voor illegale migratie. Bij pogingen om in dergelijke vaartuigen over te steken is een aanzienlijk aantal migranten omgekomen. In 2011 zijn bij de Frontex-operatie Hermes in het centrale Middellandse Zeegebied meer dan 22 000 mensen gered. Naar schatting zijn er in datzelfde deel van de Middellandse Zee 1 500 mensen verdronken. Technologie die de capaciteit voor grensbewaking uit de lucht ten goede komt en kan bijdragen tot het redden van mensenlevens is per definitie van belang.

De mogelijkheden van RPA-technologie voor civiele doeleinden zijn onderkend voor het monitoren van milieu en fauna (branden, overstromingen, walvissen), landbouw (gewassen) en verkeerscontrole.

⁽¹⁾ http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/david/eu-border-agency-shops-around-israeli-warplanes?utm_source=El+readers&utm_campaign=778f2c81da-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email

⁽²⁾ http://www.iai.co.il/32981-43752-en/MediaRoom_News.aspx

⁽³⁾ http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iopt0609webwcover_0.pdf

2. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) was een van de 16 deelnemende bedrijven.
 - 3-4. In het voornoemde geval heeft Frontex enkel de civiele/politiële toepassingen van RPA-technologie getest, zonder enige aanschafverplichting aan te gaan. Er is nog geen besluit genomen over de eventuele aanschaf van dergelijke technologie.
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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002924/12
to the Commission
Cornelis de Jong (GUE/NGL)
(15 March 2012)**

Subject: Possible use of Israeli combat aircraft by EU's border management agency Frontex

An article ⁽¹⁾ published on 13 March 2012 reports that an unmanned drone manufactured by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has taken part in a demonstration exercise organised by Frontex to study the possibility of buying drones to help Frontex identify boats carrying migrants *en route* to Europe.

According to a statement published on the IAI website, the drone is a Heron type ⁽²⁾. These drones were used during Operation Cast Lead, a three-week assault on Gaza in late 2008-2009. The use of such drones led to the violation of human rights by the Israeli army, as a result of which between 43 and 87 civilians were killed, according to Human Rights Watch ⁽³⁾.

1. Can the Commission indicate why a demonstration exercise was held, given Commissioner Malmström's recent statement that no decision has yet been taken to use technology developed for military purposes in civilian border controls?
2. Can the Commission confirm that IAI took part in the demonstration exercise?
3. Does the Commission have a blacklist of companies excluded from tender procedures, specifically in the defence industry? If this is not the case, why does the Commission allow companies to take part in a demonstration exercise with a view to a possible tender when it is known that their equipment has been used in human rights violations and possibly in crimes against humanity?
4. Does the Commission agree that the EU should safeguard fundamental human rights in all its activities, that buying services from companies involved in the violation of human rights does not comply with its policy on human rights and socially responsible business management and that, for this reason, Frontex should not cooperate with IAI?

**Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission
(26 April 2012)**

1. Frontex has the task of following up on developments in research relevant for border control and disseminating this information to the Member States. Frontex and the Member States are currently looking at different aerial surveillance platforms, including manned aircraft, remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) and balloons.

The RPA demonstration took place last year in Greece. The 16 participating companies responded to an open call published by Frontex.

So far there is limited experience with the use of RPA systems for border surveillance. This technology is of interest for detecting and tracking small and unseaworthy vessels used for irregular migration. Attempts to travel in such vessels have led to a considerable death toll among migrants. In 2011, over 22 000 people were rescued during Frontex's Operation Hermes in the Central Mediterranean. Despite this, some 1 500 people are estimated to have drowned in the same area. Any technology that increases the capacity for aerial border surveillance and that thus can contribute to saving lives is of interest.

The potential of RPA technology for civilian use has been recognised for environmental and wildlife monitoring (fires, floods, whales); agriculture (crops); and traffic control.

2. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) was one of 16 participating companies.
- 3-4. In the abovementioned case, Frontex was merely testing RPA technology for civilian/law enforcement use only, without any obligation to procure it. No decision has been taken on whether to procure such technology.

⁽¹⁾ http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/david/eu-border-agency-shops-around-israeli-warplanes?utm_source=El+readers&utm_campaign=778f2c81da-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email
⁽²⁾ http://www.iai.co.il/32981-43752-en/MediaRoom_News.aspx
⁽³⁾ http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iopt0609webwcover_0.pdf

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita P-002925/12
a la Comisión**

Carmen Fraga Estévez (PPE)

(15 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Productos pesqueros provenientes de Papúa Nueva Guinea: incumplimiento de los requisitos exigidos por la legislación comunitaria para los productos pesqueros exportados a la UE

El Informe final de la misión a Papúa Nueva Guinea del 12 de febrero al 18 de febrero de 2008 para evaluar los sistemas de control para la producción de productos pesqueros destinados a la exportación a la Unión Europea (DG(SANCO)/2008-7646-MR-FINAL) determina que, a pesar de una ligera mejoría en la desastrosa situación higiénico-sanitaria de Papúa Nueva Guinea desde la inspección de 2007, la conclusión es que los productos pesqueros de PNG exportados a la UE no cumplen con los requisitos comunitarios establecidos en el Reglamento (CE) n° 2074/2005 modificado por el Reglamento (CE) n° 1664/2006.

Asimismo se detectan irregularidades en la emisión de los certificados sanitarios de exportación a la UE, de manera que no son conformes con lo dispuesto en el Anexo VI, punto 2 del Reglamento (CE) n° 854/2004 y la Directiva del Consejo 96/93/CE.

Teniendo en cuenta estas irregularidades, y otras detectadas por el propio informe de la Comisión, y que las exportaciones a la UE se siguen produciendo a pesar de ello, ¿qué acciones tiene previstas la Comisión para garantizar que las exportaciones de productos pesqueros de PNG cumplen los requisitos establecidos en la legislación comunitaria?

Respuesta del Sr. Dalli en nombre de la Comisión

(12 de abril de 2012)

El informe [DG (SANCO)/2008-7646 MR FINAL] al que se refiere Su Señoría estaba acompañado por un plan de acción que abordaba todas las recomendaciones recogidas en el informe. Este plan de acción fue evaluado por la Comisión y se solicitó información complementaria, que fue recibida (resúmenes de los informes de inspección de los buques y de los establecimientos en tierra firme y una solicitud de exclusión de buques de la lista de la UE). La evaluación de diciembre de 2008 concluyó que se habían abordado de manera satisfactoria todas las recomendaciones recogidas por la autoridad competente de Papúa Nueva Guinea.

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-002925/12
to the Commission**

Carmen Fraga Estévez (PPE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Fishery products from Papua New Guinea: failure to comply with the requirements under EU legislation for fishery products exported to the EU

The final report of the mission carried out in Papua New Guinea from 12 to 18 February 2008 in order to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery products intended for export to the European Union (DG(SANCO)/2008-7646-MR-final) concludes that, despite a slight improvement to the disastrous health and hygiene conditions in Papua New Guinea since the 2007 inspection, the PNG fishery products exported to the EU do not meet the EU requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1664/2006.

Similarly, irregularities were found in the issue of health certificates for export to the EU, which are consequently not in accordance with Annex VI, point 2, of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 or with Council Directive 96/93/EC.

In view of these irregularities, and others identified in the Commission's report, and of the fact that exports to the EU are nevertheless continuing, what action will the Commission take to ensure that exported PNG fishery products comply with the requirements laid down in EU legislation?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(12 April 2012)

The report (DG (SANCO)/2008-7646 MR FINAL) referred to by the Honourable Member was accompanied by an action plan addressing all the recommendations in the report. This action plan was evaluated by the Commission and additional information was requested and received (summaries of inspection reports of vessels and land based establishments and a request to delist vessels from the EU list). The evaluation of December 2008 concluded that all recommendations had been addressed satisfactorily by the competent authority of Papua New Guinea.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung P-002926/12
an die Kommission
Jürgen Klute (GUE/NGL)
(15. März 2012)

Betrifft: In türkischen Gefängnissen festgehaltene und missbrauchte kurdische Kinder

Sieben kurdische Kinder im Alter zwischen 13 und 17 Jahren, die in der Türkei im Jugendgefängnis (M-Typ) von Pozanti in der Nähe von Adana aus politischen Gründen inhaftiert sind, sollen Berichten zufolge gefoltert, sexuell missbraucht und entwürdigender unmenschlicher Behandlung unterworfen worden sein. Sie konnten diese Menschenrechtsverletzungen in handschriftlichen Mitteilungen öffentlich machen, die sie im April 2011 dem Menschenrechtsverein (IHD) von Mersin zukommen ließen.

Nach Gesprächen mit diesen und 25 weiteren in derselben Einrichtung festgehaltenen Kindern, die sich in derselben Lage befinden, haben Menschenrechtsvereinigungen einen Bericht über diese Situation ausgearbeitet und einen Strafantrag beim Staatsanwalt von Adana gestellt. Sie berichteten im Juli 2011 auch dem Justizministerium und dem Menschenrechtsausschuss des türkischen Parlaments darüber. Trotz der Aufzeichnungen des Menschenrechtsausschusses des türkischen Parlaments an das Justizministerium hatte keine türkische Behörde Maßnahmen ergriffen oder eine Untersuchung über diese Fälle eingeleitet, bis diese Missstände nach einer von den Kindern selbst abgegebenen Erklärung am 29. Februar 2012 in die Schlagzeilen kamen.

Diese Anschuldigungen gegen das Gefängnis in Pozanti sind nichts Besonderes, sie gelten genauso gut für alle Gefängnisse, in denen Kinder, vor allem kurdische Kinder, im Rahmen des Anti-Terror-Gesetzes aus politischen Gründen inhaftiert sind.

Der Justizminister hat erst nach den letzten Presseerklärungen Maßnahmen ergriffen. Er entsandte drei Inspektoren in das Gefängnis von Pozanti, um die Anschuldigungen überprüfen zu lassen. Vier Gefängnismitarbeiter wurden entlassen und aus Sicherheitsgründen auf andere Posten gesetzt. Am 6. März 2012 wurden alle Kinder aus dem Gefängnis in Pozanti in die Jugendstrafanstalt in Sincan bei Ankara verlegt, das aber keine besseren Haft- und sonstigen Rahmenbedingungen erwarten lässt, die eine Verbesserung des physischen und psychischen Zustands der Kinder ermöglichen könnten.

Als ein Land, das die UN-Konvention über die Rechte der Kinder und die Europäische Menschenrechtskonvention ratifiziert hat, muss die Türkei die in den UN-Konventionen und dem Völkerrecht verankerten Bestimmungen achten. Jüngsten Berichten zufolge sind Hunderte kurdischer Kinder noch immer im Gefängnis und werden als Folge der Anti-Terror-Gesetzgebung (TMK) rechtswidrigerweise willkürlich ihrer Freiheit beraubt.

Was beabsichtigt die Kommission zu unternehmen, um eine Lösung für die misshandelten Kinder in türkischen Gefängnissen herbeizuführen und sicherzustellen, dass das für diese unmenschliche Behandlung der Kinder verantwortliche Gefängnispersonal ausgemacht und bestraft wird? Ist die Kommission nicht der Ansicht, dass die Türkei Dringlichkeitsmaßnahmen erlassen müsste, um solche Menschenrechtsverletzungen künftig zu verhindern und die Haftbedingungen zu verbessern? Ist die Kommission nicht auch der Meinung, dass die dringende Notwendigkeit besteht, dass die Türkei ihr Strafgesetzbuch und die Anti-Terror-Gesetze grundlegend überarbeitet und abändert, um sie mit den Demokratie-Normen der EU in Einklang zu bringen?

Antwort von Herrn Füle im Namen der Kommission
(18. April 2012)

Der Kommission sind die Berichte von Misshandlungen jugendlicher Insassen des Typ-M-Gefängnisses in Pozanti (Adana) bekannt.

Die Kommission weiß auch von der Ankündigung des Menschenrechtsausschusses der Großen Nationalversammlung der Türkei, dass er den Vorwürfen nachgehen wird.

Die Türkei als Land, das mit der EU Beitrittsverhandlungen führt, muss im Einklang mit der Europäischen Menschenrechtskonvention und der Rechtsprechung des Europäischen Gerichtshofs für Menschenrechte die Achtung der Grundrechte und Grundfreiheiten aller ihrer Bürger garantieren. Dazu gehören die Kinderrechte, die Verhütung von Folter und Misshandlung in Gefängnissen und angemessene Haftbedingungen. Wie außerdem im Fortschrittsbericht 2011 über die Türkei betont wurde, muss das System des Jugendstrafvollzugs dringend überprüft werden, um die Zahl jugendlicher Gefängnisinsassen und die Dauer ihrer Inhaftierung zu reduzieren und sicherzustellen, dass die Haftbedingungen den Bedürfnissen von Kindern gerecht werden.

Die Kommission beabsichtigt, die türkischen Behörden auf dieses Thema anzusprechen, insbesondere im Rahmen des politischen Monitoring.

Was das türkische Strafgesetzbuch und das Anti-Terror-Gesetz angeht, so hat die Kommission verschiedentlich hervorgehoben, dass diese Bestimmungen geändert werden müssen, damit die uneingeschränkte Achtung der Grundrechte im Einklang mit der Europäischen Menschenrechtskonvention und der Rechtsprechung des Europäischen Gerichtshofs für Menschenrechte gewährleistet wird.

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-002926/12
to the Commission**

Jürgen Klute (GUE/NGL)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Kurdish children jailed and abused in Turkey

Seven Kurdish children aged between 13 and 17, who were detained in Turkey on political grounds and jailed in Pozanti M Type Juvenile Prison near the city of Adana, reported that they were subjected to torture, sexual and physical abuse and degrading and inhuman treatment. They reported these violations in handwritten notes they sent to the Mersin Branch of the Human Rights Association (IHD) in April 2011.

Following interviews with these children and 25 other children in the same situation in Pozanti prison, human rights associations prepared a report on the subject and filed criminal complaints with the Adana Public Prosecutor's Office; in July 2011 the associations also reported the situation to the Ministry of Justice and the Human Rights Commission of the Turkish Parliament. Although the Human Rights Commission of the Turkish Parliament notified the Justice Ministry, none of Turkey's state authorities handled or investigated the matter properly until the events hit the headlines following public press statements made by the children themselves on 29 February 2012.

Such allegations are not peculiar to Pozanti Prison, but are very common in respect of all prisons in which children are detained on political grounds, especially Kurdish children detained under the Anti-Terror Law (TMK).

The Justice Minister took action only after these latest press statements: he dispatched three inspectors to Pozanti Prison to launch a probe into the allegations; four prison administrators were removed from office and reassigned to other positions as a precautionary measure. On 6 March 2012 all children were transferred from Pozanti Prison to Sincan Juvenile Prison in Ankara, which does not promise better conditions or an environment conducive to the victims' physical and psychological recovery.

As a country having ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Convention on Human Rights, Turkey must comply with the obligations and rules arising under UN conventions and international law. Recent reports show that hundreds of Kurdish children are still in prison, being unlawfully or arbitrarily deprived of their liberty under the Anti-Terror Law.

What does the Commission intend to do as regards solutions for abused children in Turkish prisons, and in order to ensure that the officers responsible for such inhuman treatment are brought to account and punished? Does the Commission not think that Turkey should take urgent measures to prevent such human rights violations and improve prison conditions? Does the Commission not think that there is an urgent need for Turkey to overhaul and amend the Turkish Penal Code and the Anti-Terror Law in order to bring them into line with EU democratic standards?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission

(18 April 2012)

The Commission has been informed of the allegations of ill-treatment of juvenile prisoners in the Pozanti M Type Prison in Adana.

The Commission has also been informed that the Human Rights Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly has announced that it will investigate the allegations.

Turkey, as a country negotiating accession to the EU, needs to guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms of all its citizens in line with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. These include children's rights, the prevention of torture and ill-treatment in prisons as well as appropriate prison conditions. Moreover, as underlined in the 2011 Progress Report on Turkey, an urgent review of the system for dealing with juveniles is needed to minimise the number in prison and the time they spent there and make sure that detention conditions meet the needs of children.

The Commission intends to bring up the issue with the Turkish authorities, notably in the framework of the political monitoring.

As regards the Turkish Criminal Code and the Anti-Terror Law, the Commission has stressed at various occasions that they need to be amended in order to ensure full respect for fundamental rights in line with the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite P-002927/12

à la Commission

Frédérique Ries (ALDE)

(15 mars 2012)

Objet: Recherche européenne sur les cellules souches embryonnaires humaines en vue du traitement de la cécité

La rétinopathie pigmentaire est la plus fréquente des maladies oculaires d'origine génétique, elle touche à peu près 400 000 personnes en Europe. La prévalence de la rétinopathie pigmentaire est estimée entre 1/3 000 à 1/5 000.

Même s'il n'existe pas à l'heure actuelle de traitement permettant de guérir la rétinopathie pigmentaire comme cela est le cas dorénavant pour la cataracte, des résultats prometteurs ont été enregistrés lors d'essais menés sur deux patientes malvoyantes par l'unité I-stem de l'Inserm en France. La particularité de cet essai clinique a consisté à injecter sous la rétine 50 000 cellules d'épithélium pigmentaire dérivées de cellules souches embryonnaires humaines (CSEH). Cette recherche, qui fera prochainement l'objet d'un essai comparable au Royaume-Uni, a bien sûr été accueillie avec enthousiasme par les organisations de patients lors de la journée européenne des maladies rares du 29 février.

Cette avancée porteuse d'espoir démontre une fois de plus l'utilité de la recherche sur les cellules souches sous toutes leurs formes lorsqu'elles sont menées à des fins thérapeutiques.

Quelle est la position de la Commission à cet égard? Entend-elle appliquer à la lettre la jurisprudence de la Cour de justice européenne qui, dans son arrêt du 18 octobre 2011, a proscrit tout type de brevet sur des procédés utilisant des cellules souches obtenues à partir de cellules souches embryonnaires? Ou réfléchit-elle à une autre forme de protection juridique pour ce type de recherche innovante essentielle en vue du traitement des maladies neurologiques ou de cécité?

La Commission est-elle prête, dans le cadre des négociations à venir sur le 8^e programme-cadre de recherche (2014-2020), à autoriser le financement public communautaire pour la recherche sur les lignées de cellules souches embryonnaires humaines destinées à des fins thérapeutiques?

Réponse donnée par Mme Geoghegan-Quinn au nom de la Commission

(2 mai 2012)

La Commission a appris avec intérêt les récents résultats prometteurs donnés par un traitement contre la cécité à base de cellules souches embryonnaires humaines.

La Commission considère la thérapie à base de cellules souches comme un domaine dynamique à l'évolution rapide qui offre un espoir de traitement pour de nombreuses maladies graves. Ce secteur a été soutenu au titre des sixième et septième programmes-cadres de recherche et de développement technologique de l'UE (6^e PC, 2002-2006 — 7^e PC, 2007-2013). Comme l'indiquent les propositions législatives du 30 novembre 2011, la Commission souhaite continuer à soutenir, dans le cadre du programme Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), et sous certaines conditions, ce domaine de recherche et notamment celui de la recherche sur les cellules souches embryonnaires humaines.

En ce qui concerne l'arrêt de la Cour de justice du 18 octobre 2011, la Commission constate qu'il concerne la question de la brevetabilité et non celle de la recherche. Étant donné qu'il existe de nombreux types de traitements, de techniques de mise en œuvre et de cibles thérapeutiques, qui se trouvent généralement à un stade initial des travaux de développement, il est difficile d'anticiper la réponse de ce secteur aux exclusions. Cependant, il pourrait y avoir des démarches à ce que soit trouvée une forme alternative de protection de la propriété intellectuelle, notamment par le secret industriel ou par le ciblage des technologies connexes.

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-002927/12
to the Commission**

Frédérique Ries (ALDE)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: European research on human embryonic stem cells for treating blindness

Pigmentary retinopathy is the most common genetic eye disease; it affects almost 400 000 people in Europe. The prevalence of pigmentary retinopathy is estimated at between one in 3 000 and one in 5 000.

Although there is currently no treatment to cure pigmentary retinopathy, as is now the case for cataracts, promising results were obtained during tests carried out on two visually impaired patients in the I-stem unit of the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm). This clinical trial consisted of injecting 50 000 pigment epithelium cells from human embryonic stem cells (HESC) into the retina. This research, which will soon be the subject of a similar study in the United Kingdom, was of course greeted with enthusiasm by patient organisations on European Rare Disease Day on 29 February 2012.

This promising breakthrough shows once again the benefit of research on stem cells in all their forms, when carried out for therapeutic uses.

What is the Commission's opinion on this matter? Does it intend to strictly apply the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union which, in its decision of 18 October 2011, banned all types of patents on processes involving the removal of stem cells from human embryos? Or is it considering another form of legal protection for this type of innovative research to treat neurological diseases or blindness.

Is the Commission prepared, as part of the forthcoming negotiations on the 8th Research Framework Programme (2014-2020), to authorise EU public funding for research on human embryonic stem cells for therapeutic use?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

The Commission is interested to hear of the recent promising results obtained from a human embryonic stem cell-based treatment for blindness.

The Commission regards stem cell therapy as an active and fast-moving field that offers hope for the treatment of many serious diseases and the field has been supported under the EU's Sixth and Seventh Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development (FP6, 2002-2006 — FP7, 2007-2013). As stated in the legislative proposals made on 30 November 2011, the Commission proposes to continue support to this research field, including to research on human embryonic stem cells, in the Horizon 2020 programme (2014-2020) under certain conditions.

As for the 18 October 2011 ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Commission notes that this concerns patentability and not research. Since there are many different treatment models, delivery techniques and disease targets, generally at an early stage of development, it is hard to say how the field will react to the exclusions; however, attempts may be made to find alternative form of protecting intellectual property, such as trade secrets or focusing on surrounding technology.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002928/12
προς την Επιτροπή (Αντιπρόεδρος/Υπατη Εκπρόσωπος)
Georgios Toussas (GUE/NGL)
(15 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: VP/HR — Αεροπορικές επιδρομές από τον ισραηλινό στρατό κατά αμάχων στη Λωρίδα της Γάζας

Από τις 9 Μαρτίου ο ισραηλινός στρατός έχει εξαπολύσει τουλάχιστον 37 αεροπορικές επιδρομές κατά αμάχων στη Λωρίδα της Γάζας, με αποτέλεσμα πάνω από 24 νεκρούς και περισσότερους από 73 τραυματίες Παλαιστίνιους. Η νέα κλιμάκωση της επιθετικότητας των κατοχικών δυνάμεων του Ισραήλ ενάντια στον Παλαιστινιακό λαό ξεκίνησε με τη δολοφονία από τον Ισραηλινό στρατό του Ζουχάιρ αλ Κάισι, ηγέτη της οργάνωσης «Λαϊκές Επιτροπές Αντίστασης», πυροδοτώντας νέα δολοφονικά ισραηλινά πλήγματα εναντίον των Παλαιστινίων. Το ΚΚ Ισραήλ και η οργάνωση «Χαντάς» εκτιμούν πως η κλιμάκωση της έντασης στην περιοχή αποτελούν προπομπό μιας μεγαλύτερης ισραηλινής επίθεσης στα παλαιστινιακά εδάφη. Η αναβάθμιση των σχέσεων ΕΕ-Ισραήλ ενθαρρύνει την κλιμάκωση της ισραηλινής επιθετικότητας εναντίον του παλαιστινιακού λαού.

Οι συνεχιζόμενες δολοφονικές επιθέσεις του Ισραηλινού στρατού κατοχής δεν πρόκειται να ανακόψουν την πάλη του Παλαιστινιακού λαού για τη δημιουργία ανεξάρτητου, ενιαίου Παλαιστινιακού κράτους στα εδάφη του 1967 με πρωτεύουσα την Ανατολική Ιερουσαλήμ.

Καταδικάζει η Υπατη Εκπρόσωπος τη νέα βάρβαρη επίθεση των ισραηλινών δυνάμεων κατοχής ενάντια στον Παλαιστινιακό λαό; Θεωρεί ότι πρέπει να συνεχίσουν να αναβαθμίζονται οι σχέσεις ΕΕ-Ισραήλ;

Απάντηση της Υπατης Εκπροσώπου/Αντιπροέδρου Ashton εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(22 Μαΐου 2012)

Σχετικά με τα γεγονότα της 10ης Μαρτίου στα οποία αναφέρεται το Αξιότιμο Μέλος, η Υπατη Εκπρόσωπος εξέδωσε την ακόλουθη δήλωση:

«Η ΕΕ παρακολουθεί με ανησυχία την πρόσφατη κλιμάκωση της βίας στη Γάζα και στο νότιο Ισραήλ. Εκφράζω τη βαθιά μου λύπη για τις απώλειες άμαχου πληθυσμού. Είναι καθοριστικής σημασίας να αποφευχθεί περαιτέρω κλιμάκωση και ζητώ από όλα τα μέρη να αποκαταστήσουν την ειρήνη.»

Σχετικά με την αναβάθμιση των σχέσεων μεταξύ ΕΕ και Ισραήλ, υπενθυμίζεται ότι μετά τη σύγκρουση της Γάζας (από το Δεκέμβριο του 2008 έως τον Ιανουάριο του 2009), τα κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ επανέλαβαν τη δέσμευσή τους, καταρχήν, για την «αναβάθμιση» των σχέσεων μεταξύ ΕΕ και Ισραήλ, όμως, τόνισαν ότι «η αναβάθμιση πρέπει να είναι, και όχι απλά να φαίνεται ότι είναι, στο πλαίσιο μεγάλου εύρους κοινών συμφερόντων και στόχων οι οποίοι περιλαμβάνουν την επίλυση της Ισραηλο-Παλαιστινιακής διένεξης μέσω της εφαρμογής μιας λύσης που θα προβλέπει δύο κράτη και της προώθησης της ειρήνης, της ευημερίας και της σταθερότητας στη Μέση Ανατολή». Επιπλέον, τα κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ πρότειναν «να παραμείνει το τρέχον σχέδιο δράσης ως το έγγραφο αναφοράς των σχέσεών μας» (δήλωση της ΕΕ το βράδυ του Συμβουλίου Σύνδεσης ΕΕ-Ισραήλ, Ιούνιος 2009). Συγκεκριμένες καθημερινές αποφάσεις που λαμβάνει η Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης (ΕΥΕΔ) βασίζονται αυστηρά σ' αυτά τα δύο στοιχεία — (i) διατήρηση του συνδέσμου μεταξύ της «αναβάθμισης» των σχέσεων μεταξύ ΕΕ και Ισραήλ και της προόδου της ειρηνευτικής διαδικασίας στη Μέση Ανατολή και (ii) συνέχεια των διμερών δραστηριοτήτων στο πλαίσιο του σχεδίου δράσης του 2005.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002928/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Georgios Toussas (GUE/NGL)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Air raids by the Israeli army against civilians in the Gaza Strip

The Israeli army has unleashed at least 37 air raids against civilians in the Gaza Strip since 9 March, killing more than 24 and wounding more than 73 Palestinians. The recent escalation in aggression against the Palestinian people on the part of the Israeli occupying forces started with the assassination by the Israeli army of Zuhair al-Qaissi, leader of the Popular Resistance Committees, setting off a new round of killings of Palestinians by the Israelis. The Israeli communist party and the 'Hadash' organisation estimate that the escalating tension in the region presages a more serious attack by Israel on the Palestinian territories. Improved relations between the EU and Israel are encouraging the escalation of Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

The continuing killings by the Israeli occupying army will not be able to end the struggle by the Palestinian people to create an independent, united Palestinian State within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Does the High Representative condemn the new barbaric attack by Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people? Does she consider that relations between the EU and Israel should continue to be upgraded?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(22 May 2012)

In relation to the events referred to by the Honourable Member, on 10 March 2012, the High Representative issued the following statement:

'The EU is following with concern the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and in the south of Israel. I very much deplore the loss of civilian life. It is essential to avoid further escalation and I urge all sides to re-establish calm.'

As regards the upgrading of the relationship between the EU and Israel, it is recalled that following the Gaza conflict (December 2008 — January 2009), EU Member States reiterated their commitment, in principle, to the 'upgrade' of EU-Israel relations, but underlined that 'the upgrade needs also to be, and to be seen, in the context of the broad range of our common interests and objectives [which] include the resolution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict through the implementation of the two-state solution [and] the promotion of peace, prosperity and stability in the Middle East.' Furthermore, EU Member States proposed that 'the current Action Plan remain the reference document for our relations' (EU statement on the eve of the EU-Israel Association Council, June 2009). Concrete day-to-day decisions taken by the European External Action Service (EEAS) are firmly based on these two elements — (i) maintaining the link between the 'upgrade' of EU-Israel relations and progress in the Middle East Peace Process and (ii) continuing bilateral activities in the framework of the 2005 Action Plan.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002929/12
to the Commission
Roger Helmer (EFD)
(15 March 2012)**

Subject: EN 50291-compliant audible carbon monoxide (CO) detectors

I have recently been contacted by a constituent who is concerned about the Commission's aim to allow only audible carbon monoxide (CO) detectors complying with the EN 50291 standard to be sold in the EU. This would affect my constituent's business in the East Midlands and cause considerable job losses.

Is it the case that proposed EU legislation would ban CO detectors which do not comply with the EN 50291 standard?

Can the proposal be amended so as not to prejudice this old-established business in my region?

**Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(30 April 2012)**

The European standard EN 50291 'Electrical apparatus for the detection of carbon monoxide in domestic premises' specifies general requirements for carbon monoxide gas detection apparatus which provide a visual and audible alarm.

The Commission is currently discussing with the Member States the possibility that the reference of this standard, or an amended version of this standard, could be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* under the applicable European Union (EU) legislation. No decisions have been made to date however.

If the reference of the standard was published, its application, as for all European standards, would still remain voluntary.

Products that do not conform to referenced standards cannot be considered unsafe for this reason alone. Nevertheless, products which conform to a referenced standard benefit from a presumption of compliance with the safety requirements of the applicable EU legislation with respect to the risks covered by the standard.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-002931/12
aan de Commissie
Cornelis de Jong (GUE/NGL)
(15 maart 2012)

Betreft: Noodzaak tot aanpassing Europees Arrestatiebevel — De zaak Hörchner

1. Is de Commissie op de hoogte van de zaak van de heer Hörchner, die door Nederland op basis van een Europees Arrestatiebevel (EAB) aan Polen is uitgeleverd en langdurig onder misereabele detentieomstandigheden in voorarrest heeft gezeten ⁽¹⁾? Is de Commissie ermee bekend dat deze zaak zich nog steeds voortsleept? Zo kan hij zijn borgsom alleen terugkrijgen als hij zich daarvoor eerst vrijwillig meldt bij de gevangenis in Polen.

2. Hoe is in het kader van het Europees Arrestatiebevel de rechtsbijstand geregeld? In het geval van de zaak van de heer Hörchner was er in Polen geen goede rechtsbijstand beschikbaar. Zo kreeg hij iemand toegewezen die niet deskundig was, en die leek te zijn toegewezen omdat hij een keer in Nederland geweest was en een klein beetje Nederlands sprak.

3. Uiteraard moet worden erkend dat het Europees Arrestatiebevel van groot belang is voor de aanpak van ernstige grensoverschrijdende misdaden. Toch zijn er sinds de invoering van het EAB verschillende misstanden naar boven gekomen die eigenlijk alleen kunnen worden aangepakt door de bestaande tekst van het Europees Arrestatiebevel te wijzigen.

De belangrijkste problemen die zouden moeten worden aangepakt zijn:

- a) Het gebruik van EAB's bij lichte vergrijpen, zonder dat daarbij wordt gekeken naar de psychologische impact op de verdachte en de financiële kosten voor justitie.
- b) Het gebruik van spoedprocedures (fast-track extradition system) bij uitlevering, waardoor er geen mogelijkheid is voor de verdediging van de verdachte om serieus en inhoudelijk bezwaar te maken tegen uitlevering. Er ontbreken hiervoor minimumstandaarden.
- c) Extreem lange periodes van voorlopige hechtenis in sommige lidstaten voordat een proces werkelijk begint, en onaanvaardbare detentieomstandigheden.

Is de Commissie bereid om een voorstel te doen voor herziening van het Europees Arrestatiebevel om lacunes, zoals hierboven vermeld, aan te pakken?

Antwoord van mevrouw Reding namens de Commissie
(7 mei 2012)

De Commissie is op de hoogte van de door het geachte Parlementslid aangehaalde kwesties, zoals blijkt uit het verslag van de Commissie van 11 april 2011 over de uitvoering sinds 2007 van het kaderbesluit betreffende het Europees aanhoudingsbevel ⁽²⁾ (EAB). In dit verslag uit de Commissie haar tevredenheid over de successen van het EAB-systeem, maar wijst zij ook op de tekortkomingen ervan. In plaats van het succesvolle EAB-kaderbesluit te herzien, verbindt de Commissie zich ertoe het EAB-systeem te verbeteren door middel van andere maatregelen, zoals wetgeving inzake procedurele rechten en richtsnoeren voor beroepsbeoefenaars.

Met betrekking tot minder ernstige strafbare feiten heeft de Commissie benadrukt dat een evenredigheidstoets dient te worden verricht wanneer een EAB wordt uitgevaardigd. De Commissie dringt er bij de lidstaten dan ook op aan om positieve maatregelen te nemen om ervoor te zorgen dat beroepsbeoefenaars het onlangs gewijzigde EAW-handboek ⁽³⁾ gebruiken als leidraad voor de wijze waarop een evenredigheidstoets moet worden verricht.

⁽¹⁾ http://www.fairtrials.net/cases/article/robert_hoerchner.

⁽²⁾ COM(2011) 175 definitief en SEC(2011) 430 definitief. Verslag van de Commissie aan het Europees Parlement en de Raad over de uitvoering sinds 2007 van het kaderbesluit van de Raad van 13 juni 2002 betreffende het Europees aanhoudingsbevel en de procedures van overlevering tussen lidstaten.

⁽³⁾ 17195/10 COPEN 275 van de Raad.

Het verslag van de Commissie legt de nadruk op het belang voor het EAB van EU-wetgeving inzake gemeenschappelijke minimale procedurele rechten voor verdachten en beklaagden. Het voorstel van de Commissie voor een richtlijn betreffende het recht op toegang tot een advocaat ⁽⁴⁾ bevat bepalingen over toegang tot een advocaat in EAB- procedures in de uitvoerende staat en in de uitvaardigende staat en een bepaling waardoor advocaten het recht krijgen om de detentie omstandigheden te controleren. Een effectbeoordelingsstudie over de kwestie van juridische bijstand (met aanbevelingen voor EU-actie) zal nog volgen. Verder verzamelt de Commissie momenteel reacties op het Groenboek over detentie ⁽⁵⁾, dat het verband behandelt tussen detentiekwesties en maatregelen inzake wederzijdse erkenning, met name het EAB.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2011) 326 definitief. Voorstel voor een richtlijn van het Europees Parlement en de Raad betreffende het recht op toegang tot een advocaat in strafprocedures en betreffende het recht op communicatie bij aanhouding.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2011) 327/3. Versterking van het wederzijds vertrouwen in de Europese rechtsruimte — Een groenboek over de toepassing van EU-strafwetgeving op het gebied van detentie.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002931/12
to the Commission**

Cornelis de Jong (GUE/NGL)

(15 March 2012)

Subject: Need to amend European arrest warrant — the Hörchner case

1. Is the Commission aware of the case of Mr Hörchner, who was extradited by the Netherlands to Poland on the basis of a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) and held there on remand at length under appalling detention conditions ⁽¹⁾? Does the Commission know that this case is still dragging on? He can only recover his bail if he first reports voluntarily to the prison in Poland.
2. How is legal aid arranged within the framework of the European Arrest Warrant? In Mr Hörchner's case there was no proper legal aid available in Poland. He was assigned someone who was not competent and who seemed to have been assigned because he had visited the Netherlands once and spoke a little Dutch.
3. It must be acknowledged, of course, that the European Arrest Warrant is of great importance in combating serious cross-border crimes. Nevertheless, since the EAW's introduction, various abuses have surfaced that can really only be dealt with by amending the existing text of the European Arrest Warrant.

The major problems that need to be addressed are:

- a. The use of EAWs in cases of minor offences, without consideration for the psychological impact on the suspect and the financial costs for the judiciary.
- b. The use of a fast-track extradition system, which does not allow for the defence of the suspect to make serious and substantive objection against extradition. There is an absence of minimum standards in such cases.
- c. Extremely long remand periods in some Member States before a trial actually begins and unacceptable detention conditions.

Is the Commission prepared to make a proposal for a review of the European Arrest Warrant in order to address gaps, such as the ones described above?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission

(7 May 2012)

The Commission is aware of the issues raised by the Honourable Member as evidenced by the Commission's Report of 11 April 2011 on the implementation since 2007 of the framework Decision on the European arrest warrant ⁽²⁾ (EAW), which, while welcoming the ongoing success of the EAW system, also highlights its shortcomings. Rather than re-opening the successful EAW Framework Decision, the Commission is committed to improving the EAW system through other measures such as procedural rights legislation and guidelines to practitioners.

To this end, in relation to minor offences the Commission has stressed that a proportionality test should be applied when an EAW is issued and Member States therefore have been urged by the Commission to take positive steps to ensure that practitioners use the recently-amended EAW handbook ⁽³⁾ as the guideline for the manner in which a proportionality test should be applied.

⁽¹⁾ http://www.fairtrials.net/cases/article/robert_hoerchner.

⁽²⁾ COM(2011) 175 final and SEC(2011) 430 final, Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation since 2007 of the Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2002 on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States.

⁽³⁾ Council 17195/10 COPEN 275.

The Commission report highlights the importance to the EAW of European Union (EU) legislation to provide common minimum procedural rights for suspects and accused persons. Consequently the Commission proposal for a directive on the right of access to a lawyer ⁽⁴⁾ contains provisions on access to a lawyer in EAW proceedings in both executing and issuing states and a provision for lawyers to check detention conditions in individual cases. An impact assessment study on the issue of legal aid will follow with recommendations for EU action. The Commission is also currently collating replies to its Green Paper on detention ⁽⁵⁾, which addresses the relationship between detention issues and mutual recognition measures in particular the EAW.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2011) 326/3, Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and on the right to communicate upon arrest.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2011) 327/3, Strengthening mutual trust in the European judicial area — A Green Paper on the application of EU criminal justice legislation in the field of detention.

(Svensk version)

**Frågor för skriftligt besvarande E-002932/12
till kommissionen
Åsa Westlund (S&D)
(15 mars 2012)**

Angående: Farliga ämnen i nappflaskor

2011 lagstiftade EU om ett förbud mot bisfenol A i nappflaskor. En ny studie visar nu att även de nya nappflaskorna kan läcka farliga ämnen ⁽¹⁾. Totalt fann man 31 stycken främmande substanser som släppte från plasten. Flera av dem kan vara farliga.

Vilka åtgärder ämnar kommissionen vidta med anledning av detta?

**Svar från John Dalli på kommissionens vägnar
(14 maj 2012)**

Kommissionen hänvisar parlamentsledamoten till första delen av svaret på den skriftliga frågan E-002795/2012 ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.projetnesting.fr/pdf/SljDIEJQQSBTdWJzdGl0dXRlcyBzdHVkeSBGZWJyIDlwMTlucGRm.pdf>
⁽²⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB>.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002932/12
to the Commission
Åsa Westlund (S&D)
(15 March 2012)

Subject: Dangerous substances in plastic baby bottles

In 2011, the EU legislated a ban on bisphenol A in baby bottles. A new study shows that even new baby bottles can leak dangerous substances ⁽¹⁾. In total, the study found 31 foreign substances that migrated from the plastic. Many of them can be dangerous.

What measures does the Commission intend to take in response to this?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(14 May 2012)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to the first part of its reply to Written Question E-002795/2012 ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.projetnesting.fr/pdf/SljDIEJQQSBTdWJzdGl0dXRlcyBzdHVkeSBGZWJyIDlwMTlucGRm.pdf>

⁽²⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002935/12
to the Commission**

Edward McMillan-Scott (ALDE)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: The economic, social and environmental cost of the three working places of the European Parliament

1. Can the Commission give an estimate of the number of offices and the volume of office space it has in (a) Luxembourg and (b) Strasbourg?
2. Can the Commission give an estimate of the duration and cost of the missions its members, officials and other staff undertook to the European Parliament in (a) Luxembourg and (b) Strasbourg in 2010 and 2011?
3. Can the Commission give an estimate of the number of working days lost as a result of these missions in 2010 and 2011?
4. Can the Commission provide an estimate of the environmental cost of these journeys in 2010 and 2011?
5. Can the Commission inform us if any assessment has been made of the physical and mental health of officials so transferred?
6. Can the Commission indicate what contribution it made towards the cost of (a) renting and (b) maintaining offices and equipment in (a) Luxembourg and (b) Strasbourg in 2010 and 2011?
7. Can the Commission indicate how much money would be saved annually if the Treaty were to be amended to give the European Parliament a single seat and working place, in Brussels?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission

(11 June 2012)

The Commission office space in Luxembourg is not related to the situation of Luxembourg as one of the working places of the EP, but due to the fact that Luxembourg is one of the seats of the Commission.

1. The surface for Commission offices in Luxembourg amounts to around 145 000 m² (including archives, conference rooms, libraries etc). The Commission offices in Strasbourg include around 160 offices, meeting rooms, corridors or technical rooms within the Parliament building.
2. In order to answer this question of the Honourable Member the information requested, the Commission would have to undertake lengthy research. It cannot consider doing this at the present time because of other priorities.
3. No it cannot, as the concept of working days lost is not easily discernible.
4. The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question E-2386/06 by Mr Bowis, Mr Callanan and Mr Helmer ⁽¹⁾. Furthermore, it should be underlined that since January 2010, the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme has been extended to all services' activities.
5. No such assessment has been made.
6. The costs of buildings and other equipment in Luxembourg are set out in the Commission's annual budget ⁽²⁾. There is no renting or maintenance costs for the offices in Strasbourg as this is covered by the Parliament' contracts.
7. The Commission cannot provide such an estimate.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/>.

⁽²⁾ See OJ L 56, 29.2.2012, II/994, reference 26 01 23 02.

(Tekstas lietuvių kalba)

Klausimas, į kurį atsakoma raštu, Nr. E-002936/12

Komisijai

Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė (PPE)

(2012 m. kovo 16 d.)

Tema: Europos humanitarinio universiteto finansavimas

Kai atsirado indikacijų, kad nuo 2006 m. teikiama ES parama Europos humanitariniam universitetui (EHU) gali būti nutraukta 2011 metais, 2011 m. sausio 20 d. EP rezoliucijoje dėl situacijos Baltarusijoje absoliuti dauguma Europos Parlamento narių paragino Europos Komisiją tęsti ir padidinti finansavimą EHU. Komisija atsižvelgė į EP poziciją, tinkamai įvertino padėtį Baltarusijoje ir padidino finansavimą Baltarusijos pilietinės visuomenės projektams nuo 4 mln. eurų iki 15,6 mln. eurų ir įsipareigojo iki 2013 m. kasmet į EHU Patikos fondą pervesti 1 mln. eurų.

Pažymėtina, kad situacija Baltarusijoje po rinkimų ne tik nepagerėjo, bet ir toliau kelia didelį susirūpinimą. Atsižvelgdama į prastėjančią situaciją, Taryba toliau didina spaudimą Lukašenkos režimui, nuosekliai plėsdama sankcijų taikymą. Taip pat būtina dar labiau stiprinti projektus, skirtus pilietinei visuomenei. Pažymėtina, kad projektas dėl EHU yra beprecedentis ir puikiai pasiteisinęs šioje srityje. Tai pripažįsta visos projekte dalyvaujančios šalys. Šio projekto stiprybė yra laisvos minties sklaida ir europietiškas išsilavinimas jauniems baltarusiams, išlaikant baltarusišką identitetą ir pagarbą baltarusių kalbai.

Kokios apimties Europos humanitarinio universiteto finansavimą Komisija yra suplanavusi naujoje daugiametėje 2014-2020 m. finansinėje programoje?

Š. Fülės atsakymas Komisijos vardu

(2012 m. gegužės 3 d.)

Komisija gerai supranta nemažėjančią paramos Europos humanitariniam universitetui svarbą ir būtinybę.

Reaguodama į 2010 m. gruodžio mėn. porinkiminę krizę Baltarusijoje, tarptautinėje paramos teikėjų konferencijoje „Solidarumas su Baltarusija“ (2011 m. vasario 2 d. Varšuvoje) ES įsipareigojo skirti iš viso 17,3 mln. EUR sumą, siekdama suteikti neatidėliotiną pagalbą ir vidutiniu laikotarpiu padidinti paramą pilietinei visuomenei ir studentams. Nuo tada ši suma buvo didinama skiriant papildomas priemones ir dabar sudaro 19,3 mln. EUR, kuriuos galima naudoti 2011-2013 m. laikotarpiu.

Į šį specialų finansavimo paketą įtrauktas 3 mln. EUR asignavimas (1 mln. EUR per metus) Europos humanitariniam universitetui toliau remti 2011-2013 m., taip pat Atviros Europos stipendijų Baltarusijos studentams programai skirti 4 mln. EUR. Komisija nuolat ragina ES valstybes nares ir kitus paramos teikėjus skirti papildomų lėšų.

Diskusijos dėl naujosios daugiametės 2014-2020 m. finansinės programos tebevyksta, todėl dėl papildomų į Europos humanitarinio universiteto patikos fondą pervestinių ES lėšų taip pat turės būti susitarta per šį 2014-2020 m. programų sudarymo procesą.

Nuolat bendradarbiauti su Baltarusijos universitetais, studentais ir akademiniais darbuotojais ketinama ir pagal naująją programą „Erasmus visiems“, kurią Komisija pasiūlė pagal naująją daugiametę finansinę programą.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002936/12
to the Commission**

Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė (PPE)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: Financing of the European Humanities University

When there were indications that assistance for the European Humanities University (EHU), which had been provided by the EU since 2006, may be suspended in 2011, an absolute majority of MEPs called on the European Commission to continue and to increase financing for the EHU in a European Parliament resolution on the situation in Belarus on 20 January 2011. The Commission has taken into account the position of the EP, it has appropriately evaluated the situation in Belarus, and it has increased financing for Belarusian civil society projects from EUR 4 million to EUR 15.6 million. It has also committed itself to transferring EUR 1 million to the EHU Trust Fund annually until 2013.

It should be noted that not only has the situation in Belarus following the elections failed to improve, but it continues to cause great concern. Given the worsening situation, the Council is continuing to increase pressure on the Lukashenko régime while consistently extending the application of sanctions. It is also essential to strengthen projects aimed at civil society. It should be noted that the EHU project is unprecedented and it is well proven in this area. This is recognised by all parties involved in the project. This project's strength lies in the dissemination of free thought and a European education for young Belarusians, including support for Belarusian identity and respect for the Belarusian language.

What volume of financing for the European Humanities University has the Commission planned in the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission

(3 May 2012)

The Commission is well aware of the continuing interest and necessity to support the European Humanities University.

As a reaction to the post electoral crisis of December 2010 in Belarus, the EU pledged a total of EUR 17.3 million at the international donors conference 'Solidarity with Belarus' (Warsaw, 2.2.2011) for immediate assistance and increased support to civil society and students in the mid-term. Since then, this amount was increased by additional measures and is currently worth EUR 19.3 million for the period 2011-2013.

This special package includes the allocation of EUR 3 million (EUR 1 million per annum) to further support the European Humanities University over the period 2011-2013, as well as EUR 4 million for the ongoing Open Europe scholarship scheme for Belarusian students. The Commission continues to encourage EU Member States and other donors to provide additional funds.

The debate on the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 is ongoing; therefore, additional EU allocations for the Trust Fund of the European Humanities University will have to be settled in the context of this 2014-2020 programming exercise.

Continued cooperation with Belarus' universities, students and academic staff is intended also as part of the new programme Erasmus for All, which has been put forward by the Commission under the new Multiannual Financial Framework.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung P-002937/12
an die Kommission
Reimer Böge (PPE)
(16. März 2012)

Betrifft: Gefahrenpotenzial von über Bord gegangenen Containern

Aufgrund des Gefahrenpotenzials der über 2 000 Schiffscontainer, die jährlich in den Gewässern der EU über Bord gehen, hatte bereits im August 2010 der Vorsitzende des Verkehrsausschusses, Brian Simpson, eine Anfrage an die Kommission gestellt. Zwei Monate später fand hierzu eine Aussprache im Plenum in Straßburg statt. Die Abgeordneten benannten die Hauptgründe für das Umkippen von Containerstapeln: fehlerhafte Vertäuerung, zu schwere Container und falsche Verstauung. Kommissionsmitglied Geoghegan-Quinn verwies auf die IMO und auf eine anzustrebende Verbesserung der internationalen Normen.

Beabsichtigt die Kommission, mit einer legislativen Initiative zu handeln?

Ist die Kommission seit der Aussprache im Plenum nun im Rahmen der IMO tätig geworden, um die Verfahren und die Ausrüstung für die Vertäuerung von Containern zu verbessern?

Wie wird die Kommission in Zukunft regulierend eingreifen, um sicherzustellen, dass alle Container im Hafen gewogen und ordnungsgemäß verstaut werden, bevor die Schiffe auf See auslaufen?

Antwort von Herrn Kallas im Namen der Kommission
(12. April 2012)

1. Aus den Gründen, die sie bereits in ihrer Antwort auf die Anfrage zur mündlichen Beantwortung 0115/2010 „Auf See verlorene Container und Schadenersatz“ während der Debatte des Parlaments in der Plenarsitzung vom September 2010 dargelegt hat und auf die sie kürzlich in ihrer Antwort auf die Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002321/2012 (Nr. 5) ⁽¹⁾ Bezug genommen hat, plant die Kommission derzeit nicht, die geltenden einschlägigen Rechtsvorschriften dies betreffend zu ergänzen.
2. Was die Maßnahmen der Internationalen Seeschiffahrts-Organisation (IMO) in dieser Angelegenheit angeht, so hat der IMO-Unterausschuss „Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers“ (DSC) einen Vorschlag für Maßnahmen diskutiert, durch die das Überbordgehen von Containern verhindert werden soll; dieser Vorschlag soll in der nächsten Sitzung des Unterausschusses im September 2012 eingehend geprüft werden. Die Kommission unterstützt die Bestrebungen, auf internationaler Ebene eine Lösung für dieses Problem zu finden, nachdrücklich.
3. Nach Artikel 13 und Anhang IV der Richtlinie 2009/16/EG ⁽²⁾ umfasst die Überprüfung von Schiffen, die in EU-Häfen einlaufen, eine Überprüfung des „Handbuchs für die Ladungssicherung“ des jeweiligen Schiffs, das entsprechende Bestimmungen zur Befestigung von Containern an Bord enthält.

⁽¹⁾ Abrufbar unter: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/search.do>

⁽²⁾ ABL L 131 vom 28.5.2009, S. 57-100. Siehe insbesondere Anhang IV, Nr. 33 zum „Handbuch für die Ladungssicherung“

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-002937/12
to the Commission
Reimer Böge (PPE)
(16 March 2012)**

Subject: Potential danger from containers lost overboard

Because of the potential dangers from the over 2 000 shipping containers lost overboard in EU waters each year, the Chair of the Committee on Transport, Brian Simpson, was prompted to raise the matter with the Commission in August 2010. Two months later there was a plenary debate on the issue in Strasbourg. The Members identified the main reasons for the overbalancing of stacked containers as faulty lashings, excessively heavy containers and incorrect stowage. Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn referred to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the need to improve international standards.

Does the Commission intend to respond with a legislative initiative?

Since the plenary debate, has the Commission taken any action within the IMO to improve the procedures and equipment for securing containers?

What regulatory steps does the Commission intend to take in the future to ensure that all containers in port are weighed and correctly stowed before ships take to sea?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(12 April 2012)**

1. The Commission, for the reasons set out in its reply to Oral Question 0115/2010 'Containers lost at sea and compensation' at the Parliament's Plenary Session of September 2010, as referred to recently in its answer to the Written Question E-002321/2012 (No 5) ⁽¹⁾, has currently no plan to supplement existing legislation on this matter.
2. With regard to IMO actions on this issue, the IMO Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers ('DSC') has been discussing a proposal on measures to prevent loss of containers which will be further examined at its next meeting, in September 2012. The Commission supports fully these discussions that aim to an international solution to this problem.
3. In accordance with Article 13 and Annex IV of Directive 2009/16/EC ⁽²⁾, inspections carried out on ships entering EU ports include a check of the cargo securing manual of the vessel, which specifically addresses fastening of containers on board.

⁽¹⁾ Available at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/search.do>.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 131, 28.5.2009, p. 57-100. See specifically clause 33 of Annex IV on 'cargo securing manual'.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002938/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)
(16 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Δέσμευση και δήμευση χρημάτων που προήλθαν από παράνομες δραστηριότητες στην Ευρώπη

Σύμφωνα με τις εκτιμήσεις του ΟΗΕ, το συνολικό ύψος των προϊόντων εγκλήματος που παρήχθησαν το 2009 ανήλθε περίπου σε 2,1 τρισεκατομμύρια δολάρια ΗΠΑ, ή στο 3,6 % του παγκόσμιου ΑΕΠ του έτους αυτού. Οι ίδιες εκτιμήσεις αναφέρουν πως λιγότερο από το 1 % των προϊόντων του εγκλήματος έχει δεσμευθεί και δημευθεί.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Διαθέτει στοιχεία και εκτιμήσεις για το ύψος των προϊόντων εγκλήματος που παρήχθησαν στην Ευρώπη και το ποσοστό αυτών που τελικά δεσμεύτηκαν ή κατασχέθηκαν;
2. Με ποιον τρόπο ενθαρρύνει η Επιτροπή την ανταλλαγή βέλτιστων πρακτικών μεταξύ των κρατών μελών για την πάταξη των εγκλημάτων αυτών;
3. Καθώς η Επιτροπή προτείνει την ευκολότερη δήμευση περιουσιακών στοιχείων, η οποία θα θέσει φραγμό στις εγκληματικές δραστηριότητες και θα αποθαρρύνει την εγκληματικότητα, είναι σε θέση να με ενημερώσει ποια κράτη μέλη εφαρμόζουν σήμερα αυστηρότερες πολιτικές στον τομέα αυτό και ποια ελαστικότερες;

Απάντηση της κας Malmström εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(2 Μαΐου 2012)

Η Επιτροπή δεν διαθέτει εκτιμήσεις σχετικά με τα συνολικά έσοδα που απορρέουν από την εγκληματικότητα στην Ένωση, ούτε σχετικά με την αναλογία αυτών που δεσμεύτηκαν και κατασχέθηκαν.

Ως παράδειγμα ενός μη-νομοθετικού συνοδευτικού μέτρου, η Επιτροπή διοργανώνει συνεδριάσεις του δικτύου υπηρεσιών ανάκτησης περιουσιακών στοιχείων που έχουν οριστεί στην ΕΕ, όπου εκπρόσωποι εθνικών υπηρεσιών ανάκτησης περιουσιακών στοιχείων και άλλοι ειδικοί του κλάδου ανταλλάσσουν τακτικά βέλτιστες πρακτικές σχετικά με τον εντοπισμό περιουσιακών στοιχείων από εγκληματικές δραστηριότητες και με άλλα θέματα που σχετίζονται με κατασχέσεις.

Εδώ και αρκετά χρόνια, κάποια κράτη μέλη (για παράδειγμα το Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο, η Ιταλία, οι Κάτω Χώρες και η Ιρλανδία) εφαρμόζουν πολιτικές που έχουν ως στόχο την εξάλειψη των κερδών από εγκληματικές ενέργειες, κάτι που συχνά είχε ως αποτέλεσμα την υιοθέτηση νομοθετικών μέτρων μεγάλης εμβέλειας, σε εθνικό επίπεδο. Η Επιτροπή δεν είναι σε θέση να αναφέρει ποια κράτη μέλη έχουν λιγότερο αυστηρές πολιτικές σ' αυτόν τον τομέα, δεδομένης της σπανιότητας των διαθέσιμων στατιστικών σχετικά με τα δεσμευμένα ή κατασχεμένα περιουσιακά στοιχεία και με τα εκτιμώμενα ετήσια έσοδα οργανωμένου εγκλήματος σε κάθε κράτος μέλος.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002938/12
to the Commission**

Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: Freezing and confiscation of assets derived from illegal activities in Europe

According to UN estimates, the total sum for the proceeds of crime generated in 2009 came to approximately USD 2.1 trillion or 3.6 % of global GNP for that year. According to the same estimates, less than 1 % of the proceeds of crime have been frozen and confiscated.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission possess data and estimated sums for the proceeds of crime generated in Europe and the proportion of this figure that is finally frozen or confiscated?
2. In what way does the Commission encourage the exchange of best practices between Member States for the elimination of such crimes?
3. Given that the Commission proposes easier freezing of assets, which would erect a barrier to such criminal activities and discourage criminality, is it in a position to state which Member States are today implementing stricter policies in this sector and which are implementing more flexible policies?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

The Commission does not have estimates on the amount of crime proceeds generated in the Union as a whole, or on the proportion of these amounts that are frozen and confiscated.

As an example of a non-legislative flanking measure, the Commission organises meetings of the European Union Asset Recovery Offices Platform, where representatives of the National Asset Recovery Offices and other practitioners regularly exchange best practice on the identification of criminal assets and on other issues related to confiscation.

Since several years, some Member States (for example, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands and Ireland) have been implementing policies aimed at attacking criminal wealth, which has often resulted in the adoption of far-reaching legislative measures at national level. The Commission is not in a position to indicate which Member States have a less stringent policy in this area, given the scarcity of available statistics on both the assets frozen and confiscated and of estimates on annual organised crime revenues in each Member State.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002939/12

**προς την Επιτροπή
Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)**

(16 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Αντιμετώπιση της εμπορίας ανθρώπων στην ΕΕ

Στις 7 Μαρτίου 2011, το Συμβούλιο εξέφρασε την ικανοποίησή του για την ανακοίνωση της Επιτροπής σχετικά με την emblematicή της πρωτοβουλία «Ευρωπαϊκή πλατφόρμα για την καταπολέμηση της φτώχειας», η οποία προτείνει μια ολοκληρωμένη και καινοτόμο προσέγγιση που αποσκοπεί στην ανάληψη μιας κοινής δέσμευσης μεταξύ των κρατών μελών, σε εθνικό, περιφερειακό και τοπικό επίπεδο, καθώς και των θεσμικών οργάνων της ΕΕ και των κύριων ενδιαφερομένων (κοινωνικών εταίρων και ΜΚΟ), στις προσπάθειές τους να καταπολεμήσουν τη φτώχεια και τον κοινωνικό αποκλεισμό. Σύμφωνα με την Επιτροπή, δεδομένου ότι τα στοιχεία για την εμπορία ανθρώπων πρέπει να συγκεντρώνονται σε διάφορα επίπεδα, με τη συμμετοχή διαφόρων φορέων, χρειάζεται να υπάρξουν εθνικοί συντονιστές. Το δίκτυο εθνικών εισηγητών ή ισοδύναμοι μηχανισμοί, οι οποίοι συμμετέχουν ενεργά στο εγχείρημα, έπρεπε να αναθεωρήσουν κατά το 2011 τον προτεινόμενο κατάλογο και να εξετάσουν τη δυνατότητα υλοποίησης μιας πρώτης συλλογής δεδομένων.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Διαθέτει και είναι σε θέση να μου παραθέσει τα βασικότερα στοιχεία της συλλογής δεδομένων;
2. Κρίνει αποτελεσματική τη διαδικασία διαβούλευσης μεταξύ των εθνικών συντονιστών; Ποια είναι τα βήματα της Επιτροπής από εδώ και πέρα για την αντιμετώπιση του φαινομένου της εμπορίας ανθρώπων;

Απάντηση της κας Malmström εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής

(25 Απριλίου 2012)

Η Επιτροπή αναγνωρίζει ότι η φτώχεια και ο κοινωνικός αποκλεισμός, ως βασικές αιτίες της εμπορίας ανθρώπων, πρέπει να αντιμετωπιστούν. Η κα. Μύρια Βασιλειάδου, που πρόσφατα διορίστηκε συντονίστρια της ΕΕ για την καταπολέμηση της εμπορίας ανθρώπων, έχει ως στόχο να συντονίσει την πολιτική της ΕΕ σχετικά με την εμπορία των ανθρώπων και, για αυτό το σκοπό, δημιούργησε την διϋπηρεσιακή ομάδα για την εμπορία ανθρώπων στην οποία συμμετέχουν περισσότερες από 16 ΓΔ. Μία από αυτές τις ΓΔ είναι η ΓΔ DEVCO, η οποία ασχολείται με τη φτώχεια στις αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες.

Πράγματι, η Επιτροπή έχει ξεκινήσει μια επιχείρηση συλλογής δεδομένων σχετικά με την εμπορία ανθρώπων ⁽¹⁾. Το 2011 η Eurostat έστειλε ένα ερωτηματολόγιο στα κράτη μέλη, στις υποψήφιες για ένταξη χώρες και στις χώρες ΕΖΕΣ/ΕΟΧ, προκειμένου να συλλέξει δεδομένα σχετικά με την εμπορία ανθρώπων σε επίπεδο ΕΕ. Ζητήθηκαν δεδομένα σχετικά με τον αριθμό των θυμάτων, τις έρευνες και τις καταδίκες σε υποθέσεις εμπορίας ανθρώπων, καταναμεμένα ανά φύλο, ηλικία, μορφή εκμετάλλευσης και χώρα ιθαγένειας. Όλα τα κράτη μέλη έχουν απαντήσει. Η Επιτροπή, επί του παρόντος, βρίσκεται στη διαδικασία ανάλυσης των δεδομένων που έχουν συλλεχθεί, ενώ μια σχετική δημοσίευση προβλέπεται για το 2012. Αυτή η έκθεση θα παρέχει χρήσιμα στοιχεία σχετικά με τις τάσεις στην εμπορία ανθρώπων και θα μπορούσε να χρησιμοποιηθεί για σκοπούς πολιτικών και νομοθεσιών σε εθνικό και ενωσιακό επίπεδο.

Οι εθνικές στατιστικές υπηρεσίες και το ανεπίσημο δίκτυο εθνικών εισηγητών ή ανάλογων μηχανισμών σχετικά με την εμπορία ανθρώπων συμμετείχαν στην επιλογή βασικών δεικτών και στην παροχή δεδομένων.

Σχετικά με τα βήματα που προτάθηκαν για την καταπολέμηση του φαινομένου, η Επιτροπή, επί του παρόντος, εργάζεται πάνω σε μια ολοκληρωμένη στρατηγική κατά της εμπορίας ανθρώπων. Μια γενική επισκόπηση των αποτελεσμάτων της συλλογής δεδομένων θα ενσωματωθεί στην στρατηγική. Η ημερομηνία έκδοσης προβλέπεται εντός του 2012.

⁽¹⁾ Ανακοίνωση της Επιτροπής προς το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο και το Συμβούλιο σχετικά με τη μέτρηση της εγκληματικότητας στην ΕΕ: Στατιστικό σχέδιο δράσης 2011-2015, COM(2011)713, τελικό.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002939/12
to the Commission**

Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: Addressing human trafficking in the EU

On 7 March 2007, the Council welcomed the Commission communication on its flagship initiative 'The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion', proposing an integrated and innovative approach aiming at a joint commitment among the Member States, at national, regional and local levels, as well as among EU institutions and the key stakeholders (social partners and NGOs), in their efforts to fight poverty and social exclusion. According to the Commission, since data on trafficking must be collected at different levels, with the involvement of various stakeholders, national coordinators are required. The network of National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms, which is actively involved in the exercise, was supposed to review the proposed list during 2011 and examine the feasibility of a first data collection.

In view of this: answer the following:

1. Does the Commission have at its disposal, and can it provide, the basic findings of the data collection?
2. Does it consider that the consultation procedure between the national coordinators is proving effective? What steps does it henceforth propose to take to combat human trafficking?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission

(25 April 2012)

The Commission recognises that poverty and social exclusion, being root causes of trafficking in human beings, need to be addressed. The recently appointed EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Ms Myria Vassiliadou, aims at coordinating EU policy touching on trafficking in human beings and, for this purpose, has established an inter-service group on trafficking in human beings where more than 16 DGs participate. One of these DGs is DG DEVCO which, targets poverty in developing countries.

The Commission has indeed initiated a data collection exercise on trafficking in human beings ⁽¹⁾. In 2011 Eurostat sent out a questionnaire to Member States, potential, candidate and EFTA/EEA countries to collect data on trafficking in human beings at EU level. Data was requested on the number of victims, investigations and convictions of human trafficking, disaggregated by gender, age, form of exploitation and country of citizenship. All Member States have replied. The Commission is currently in the process of analysing the collected data, a publication is foreseen in 2012. This report will provide input on trends on trafficking in human beings and could be used for policy and legislation purposes at national and EU level.

The national statistical offices and the informal network of national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms on trafficking in human beings were involved in the selection of key indicators and in providing the data.

Regarding the steps proposed to combat this phenomenon, the Commission is currently working on an Integrated Strategy against trafficking in human beings. A general overview of the findings of the data collection will be integrated into the strategy. Adoption is foreseen for 2012.

⁽¹⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Measuring Crime in the EU: Statistics Action Plan 2011-2015, COM(2011) 713 final.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002940/12

προς την Επιτροπή
Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)
(16 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Σκέψεις για μονομερή επαναφορά συνοριακών ελέγχων

Σύμφωνα με δημοσιεύματα έγκριτων εφημερίδων ⁽¹⁾ που επικαλούνται δηλώσεις ευρωπαίων αξιωματούχων, τρία κράτη μέλη του χώρου Σένγκεν (Γερμανία, Αυστρία, Φινλανδία) προσανατολίζονται να προτείνουν την επαναφορά συνοριακών ελέγχων για επιβάτες, οχήματα ή πτήσεις που προέρχονται από την Ελλάδα. Μάλιστα, εκπρόσωπος της αυστριακής κυβέρνησης επιβεβαίωσε αυτήν την πρόθεση χωρίς να διευκρινίζει εάν θα επανεισχυθεί μονομερής έλεγχος των διαβατηρίων. Οι πληροφορίες αυτές ενισχύονται, λαμβάνοντας υπόψη τις δηλώσεις της Αυστριακής Υπουργού Εσωτερικών κας Γιοχάνα Μικλ-Λάιτνερ και του Γερμανού ομόλογού της, κ. Χανς-Πέτερ Φρίντριχ, στο πλαίσιο της Συνόδου του Συμβουλίου σε επίπεδο Υπουργών Εσωτερικών, στις 8.3.2012. Συγκεκριμένα, οι δύο Υπουργοί εξέφρασαν την ανησυχία τους για την κατ' αυτούς αδυναμία της Ελλάδας να ελέγξει επαρκώς τις παράνομες μεταναστευτικές ροές που λαμβάνουν χώρα στα χερσαία σύνορά της με την Τουρκία.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

Έχει γίνει αποδέκτης προβληματικής σχετικά με την επαναφορά μονομερών συνοριακών ελέγχων κρατών μελών για την Ελλάδα; Ποια είναι η στάση της;

Απάντηση της κας Malmström εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(2 Μαΐου 2012)

Η Επιτροπή συμμερίζεται τις ανησυχίες σχετικά με τη ροή παράνομων μεταναστών στην Ελλάδα, ιδίως διαμέσου των εξωτερικών συνόρων με την Τουρκία, και έχει εφαρμόσει μια ολοκληρωμένη στρατηγική για την αντιμετώπιση του προβλήματος αυτού, στοιχεία της οποίας είναι λειτουργικής φύσης και περιλαμβάνουν τον οργανισμό FRONTEX. Συγκεκριμένα, η Επιτροπή θεωρεί πως είναι σημαντικό να ενισχύσει τις παρούσες δράσεις του FRONTEX στα ελληνοτουρκικά σύνορα και να συνεχίσει να στηρίζει την Ελλάδα στην διαδικασία δημιουργίας ενός αποτελεσματικού συστήματος διαχείρισης συνόρων, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των ενεργειών σχετικά με την επιστροφή των παράνομων μεταναστών.

Παράλληλα, η Επιτροπή εξακολουθεί να ενθαρρύνει τις τουρκικές αρχές να υπογράψουν την συμφωνία επανεισδοχής την οποία έχουν διαπραγματευτεί με την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, εφαρμόζοντας πλήρως τις υπάρχουσες υποχρεώσεις επανεισδοχής, ώστε να βελτιωθεί η πρόληψη της παράνομης μεταναστευσης γενικά και να συνεργαστούν με την Ευρωπαϊκή Αστυνομική Υπηρεσία (EUROPOL) και τον FRONTEX σ' αυτή τους την προσπάθεια.

Όσον αφορά το ενδεχόμενο να επανεισχυθούν έλεγχοι στα εσωτερικά σύνορα της περιοχής Σένγκεν μεταξύ κρατών μελών, η Επιτροπή παραπέμπει στην απάντηση της στην γραπτή ερώτηση E-001507/2012 στις 28.3.2012 και υπενθυμίζει ότι αυτό το ενδεχόμενο είναι μόνο δυνατό -ως έκτακτο και προσωρινό μέτρο ενός κράτους μέλους- αν θεωρηθεί απαραίτητο σε περίπτωση σοβαρής απειλής για τη δημόσια τάξη και την εσωτερική ασφάλεια.

⁽¹⁾ Ενδεικτικά: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/9132205/Britain-calls-for-EUs-free-movement-rules-to-be-suspended.html> και http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304537904577279670217804342.html?mod=WSJEurope_hpp_LEFTTopStories.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002940/12
to the Commission**

Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: Reflections on unilateral restoration of border controls

According to reports by leading newspapers ⁽¹⁾ which refer to statements by European officials, three Schengen area Member States (Germany, Austria, Finland) are proposing the restoration of border controls for passengers, vehicles and flights from Greece. The representative for the Austrian Government confirmed this intention without clarifying whether unilateral passport controls will be reintroduced. This information tallies with the statements made by the Austrian and German Interior Ministers Ms Johanna Mikl-Leitner and Hans-Peter Friedrich, of the meeting of the Council of Interior Ministers of 8 March 2012. Specifically, the two ministers expressed their concerns about Greece's inability to effectively control flows of illegal immigrants at its land borders with Turkey.

In view of this:

Has the Commission been made aware of the issue regarding the restoration of unilateral border controls of Member States for Greece? Will it state its position?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

The Commission shares the concerns about the flow of irregular migrants into Greece, in particular through the external border with Turkey and has put in place a comprehensive strategy to tackle this problem, elements of which are of an operational nature involving the Frontex agency. In particular, the Commission considers that it is important to enhance the current Frontex operations at the Greek/Turkish border and to continue to assist Greece in building an effective border management system, including with regards to the return of irregular migrants.

At the same time, the Commission continues to encourage the Turkish authorities to sign the readmission agreement it has negotiated with the European Union, fully implementing its existing readmission obligations to better prevent irregular migration generally and to cooperate with Europol and Frontex in this endeavour.

As regards the possible reintroduction of internal border controls between Member States inside the Schengen area, the Commission refers to its reply on 28.3.2012 to the Written Question E-001507/2012, and recalls that this is only possible — as an exceptional and temporary measure by a Member State — when it is considered necessary on account of a serious threat to public policy or internal security.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/9132205/Britain-calls-for-EUs-free-movement-rules-to-be-suspended.html> and http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304537904577279670217804342.html?mod=WSJEurope_hpp_LEFTTopStories

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002941/12

προς την Επιτροπή
Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)
(16 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Εκτίμηση της πορείας του ελληνικού χρέους ως αποτέλεσμα του PSI

Η ενεργοποίηση της ρήτρας συλλογικής δράσης για την ανταλλαγή των ελληνικών ομολόγων ανέβασε την συμμετοχή των ιδιωτών στο πρόγραμμα αυτό σε ποσοστό άνω του 95 %, γεγονός που υπερβαίνει τις αρχικές εκτιμήσεις για το ύψος της συμμετοχής του ιδιωτικού τομέα. Κατόπιν τούτου, εκτιμά η Επιτροπή ότι ο αρχικός στόχος, όπως αυτός εμφανίζεται στις σχετικές εκδόσεις της τρόικας για μείωση του ελληνικού χρέους στο 120 % του ΑΕΠ του 2020, μπορεί να αναθεωρηθεί προς τα κάτω; Διαθέτει η Επιτροπή εκτιμήσεις σχετικά με το πότε αναμένεται να επανέλθει η Ελλάδα στην ελεύθερη αγορά για την κάλυψη έστω και μέρους των δανειακών της αναγκών;

Απάντηση του κ. Rehn εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής

(16 Μαΐου 2012)

Η ενεργός συμμετοχή των ιδιωτών που είναι κάτοχοι ομολόγων στην ανταλλαγή ελληνικών ομολόγων και η επακόλουθη ενεργοποίηση των ρητρών συλλογικής δράσης που επέλεξαν οι ελληνικές αρχές συνέβαλε στην επιτυχία της ανταλλαγής χρέους. Βάσει ενός όχι και τόσο αισιόδοξου αλλά ρεαλιστικού κεντρικού σεναρίου, εάν η Ελλάδα τηρήσει πιστά τις πολιτικές απαιτήσεις του προγράμματος, το δημόσιο χρέος ως ποσοστό του ΑΕΠ θα ανέλθει στο 116,5 του ΑΕΠ έως το 2020. Η Επιτροπή δημοσίευσε πρόσφατα την έκθεση συμμόρφωσης σχετικά με την Ελλάδα, η οποία περιλαμβάνει λεπτομερή εκτίμηση της βιωσιμότητας του χρέους της χώρας ⁽¹⁾.

Όσον αφορά την πρόσβαση στην αγορά, προς το παρόν η Ελλάδα έχει πρόσβαση μόνο σε βραχυπρόθεσμη χρηματοδότηση (έντοκα γραμμάτια). Το πότε θα επανέλθει στην αγορά είναι ουσιαστικά αβέβαιο. Η βασική μας πρόβλεψη είναι ότι η Ελλάδα θα μπορέσει να επανέλθει στην αγορά μεσοπρόθεσμης και μακροπρόθεσμης χρηματοδότησης το 2015, αλλά η πρόσβαση στην αρχή θα είναι μικρής διάρκειας. Αυτό όμως προϋποθέτει πλήρη εφαρμογή του νέου προγράμματος.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/occasional_paper/2012/op94_en.htm (βλέπε ιδίως πλαίσιο 3).

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002941/12
to the Commission**

Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: Assessment of progress with the Greek debt as a result of private sector involvement

The activation of the collective action clauses for the Greek bond exchange increased participation by private investors in this programme to over 95 %, exceeding initial estimates on the level of private sector involvement. As a result, does the Commission deem that the original target, as set out in the relevant Troika reports on the reduction of Greek debt to 120 % of GDP by 2020, can be revised downwards? Does the Commission have estimates on when Greece is expected to return to the free market in order to cover at least part of its borrowing requirements?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission

(16 May 2012)

The active participation of private bondholders in the Greek bond exchange and subsequent activation of collective action clauses chosen by the Greek authorities has contributed to the success of the debt exchange. Under a moderately optimistic but realistic central scenario, if Greece abides to the programme policy requirements, the sovereign debt-to-GDP level will fall to 116.5 % of GDP by 2020. The Commission recently published its Compliance Report on Greece, which provides a thorough assessment of the country's debt sustainability ⁽¹⁾:

As regards market access, currently Greece has access only to short-term (Treasury bills) financing. The issue of when market financing will be restored is inherently uncertain. Our baseline projection is that Greece will be able to return to the medium- and long-term financing market in 2015, although market access will initially be at relatively short maturities. This presupposes that the new programme is fully implemented.

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/occasional_paper/2012/op94_en.htm (see in particular box 3).

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-002942/12

**προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)**

(16 Μαρτίου 2012)

Θέμα: Ένταση μεταξύ Αλβανοφώνων και Σλαβομακεδόνων στην ΠΓΔΜ

Σύμφωνα με πρόσφατα δημοσιεύματα, εδώ και τρεις εβδομάδες παρατηρείται μια μεταφορά βίαιων διεθνοτικών επεισοδίων στους ποδοσφαιρικούς αγώνες στην Πρώην Γιουγκοσλαβική Δημοκρατία της Μακεδονίας (ΠΓΔΜ). Τουλάχιστον είκοσι επεισόδια μεταξύ νεαρών Σλαβομακεδόνων και Αλβανόφωνων συνέβησαν τις προηγούμενες ημέρες, κυρίως στα Σκόπια και στο Τέτοβο.

Τα επεισόδια αυτά καταγράφονται στον απόηχο των πρόσφατων γεγονότων στο Γκόστιβαρ, με τη δολοφονία δυο νεαρών Αλβανών από Σλαβομακεδόνα αστυνομικό, ύστερα από διαπληκτισμό που είχαν για μία θέση παρκαρίσματος.

Λαμβάνοντας αυτά υπόψη, ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Πως σκοπεύει να δράσει για την εξομάλυνση της κατάστασης μεταξύ των Αλβανοφώνων και Σλαβομακεδόνων με σεβασμό στα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα;
2. Έχει εξετάσει η Επιτροπή εάν και κατά πόσο πληρούνται οι βασικές αρχές της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης και συγκεκριμένα οι σχέσεις καλής γειτονίας και σεβασμού των διαφόρων εθνοτικών ομάδων στην εν λόγω χώρα που τελεί υπό ένταξη στην ΕΕ;

Απάντηση του κ. Füle εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής

(27 Απριλίου 2012)

1. Η Επιτροπή παρακολουθεί εκ του σύνεγγυς την κατάσταση που επικρατεί στη χώρα και έχει ζητήσει από τις αρχές να διεξαγάγουν επείγοντως ανακρίσεις για όλα τα πρόσφατα επεισόδια και να προσαγάγουν τους δράστες ενώπιον της δικαιοσύνης. Η Επιτροπή αντιλαμβάνεται ότι οι τοπικές και οι κεντρικές αρχές διεξάγουν εξονυχιστικές ανακρίσεις και στηρίζει τις προσπάθειες που έχουν στόχο την εξασφάλιση του πλήρους σεβασμού του κράτους δικαίου στη χώρα. Η ΕΕ υποστηρίζει κάθε δραστηριότητα που αποσκοπεί στην ενίσχυση της ανοχής και του σεβασμού μεταξύ των κοινοτήτων. Αν υπάρχουν ζητήματα που υπονομεύουν τον αμοιβαίο σεβασμό και τις αρμονικές διεθνοτικές σχέσεις, αυτά θα πρέπει να επιλύονται θεσμικά και σύμφωνα με το πνεύμα της συμφωνίας-πλαίσου της Οχρίδας.

Στο πλαίσιο αυτό, η Επιτροπή εκφράζει την ικανοποίησή της για τις δηλώσεις που έγιναν από πολιτικούς αρχηγούς, με τις οποίες επιβεβαιώνουν την προσηλωσή τους στο κράτος δικαίου και στην αρμονία μεταξύ των εθνοτήτων.

2. Η Επιτροπή παρακολουθεί διαρκώς την από μέρους των υποψήφιων χωρών εκπλήρωση των πολιτικών κριτηρίων. Οι σχέσεις καλής γειτονίας αποτελούν βασικό μέρος της διαδικασίας που οδηγεί τη χώρα προς την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση. Η προσεχής έκθεση προόδου με τα πορίσματα της Επιτροπής θα δημοσιευθεί το φθινόπωρο του 2012.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002942/12
to the Commission**

Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: Tension between Albanian speakers and Slav Macedonians in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

According to recent articles in the press, in the past three weeks there has been a shift in violent interethnic incidents to football matches in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). There have been at least 20 incidents between young Slav Macedonians and Albanian-speakers recently, mainly in Skopje and Tetovo.

These incidents come in the wake of recent events in Gostivar, where two young Albanians were murdered by a Slav Macedonian police officer following a quarrel over a parking space.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. What measures does it intend to take in order to ease the situation between Albanian-speakers and Slav Macedonians, so that human rights are respected?
2. Has it considered whether and to what extent the basic principles of the EU, namely good neighbourly relations and respect for various ethnic groups, are being respected in that candidate country?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission

(27 April 2012)

1. The Commission closely monitors the situation in the country and has urged the authorities to investigate all the latest incidents and bring the perpetrators to justice. The Commission understands that local and central authorities are following up with thorough investigations and supports efforts to ensure full respect for the rule of law in the country. The EU supports all activities aimed at strengthening tolerance and respect among the communities. If there are issues that undermine mutual respect and harmonious interethnic ties, they should be resolved institutionally and in line with the spirit of the Ohrid Framework Agreement.

In this context the Commission welcomes the statements by political leaders which reaffirm their commitment to the rule of law and inter-ethnic harmony.

2. The Commission constantly monitors candidate countries' fulfilment of the political criteria. Good neighbourly relations form an essential part of the country's process of moving towards the European Union. The next Progress Report outlining the Commission's findings will be published in autumn 2012.

(Tekstas lietuvių kalba)

Klausimas, į kurį atsakoma raštu, Nr. E-002943/12

Komisijai

Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)

(2012 m. kovo 16 d.)

Tema: Pasiūlymo dėl reglamento dėl Europos prisitaikymo prie globalizacijos padarinių fondo (2014-2020) projektas – tikslai

2011 m. spalio 6 d. Komisija patvirtino pasiūlymą dėl Europos Parlamento ir Tarybos reglamento dėl Europos prisitaikymo prie globalizacijos padarinių fondo (2014-2020).

— Ar galėtų Komisija patikslinti 1 straipsnio 3 dalyje pateikiamus Fondo tikslus?

— Ar tikslas užtikrinti, kad bent 50 proc. darbuotojų per metus nuo finansinės paramos iš Europos prisitaikymo prie globalizacijos padarinių fondo gavimo rastų stabilų darbą, yra privalomas, ar tai tiesiog rekomendacija?

Klausimas, į kurį atsakoma raštu, Nr. E-002944/12

Komisijai

Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)

(2012 m. kovo 16 d.)

Tema: Pasiūlymo dėl reglamento dėl Europos prisitaikymo prie globalizacijos padarinių fondo (2014-2020) projektas: reikalavimus atitinkantys veiksmai

2011 m. spalio 6 d. Komisija patvirtino pasiūlymą dėl Europos Parlamento ir Tarybos reglamento dėl Europos prisitaikymo prie globalizacijos padarinių fondo (2014-2020).

Ar galėtų Komisija patikslinti 7 straipsnio 1 dalies b punkte pateikiamos sąvokos „slaugymas“ apibrėžtį: „specialios laikinos priemonės, pavyzdžiui, išmokos, mokamos darbo ieškančiam asmeniui, įdarbinimą skatinančios išmokos darbdaviams, judumo išmokos, dienpinigiai arba stipendijos (įskaitant slaugymo išmokas ir išmokas laikino pavadavimo paslaugoms), mokamos tik dokumentais pagrįstu aktyvios darbo paieškos laikotarpiu arba mokymo(si) visą gyvenimą laikotarpiu“?

Ką šiuo atveju reiškia „slaugymas“: vaiko priežiūra, vyresnio amžiaus žmonių priežiūra, sergančio arba neįgalaus šeimos nario slaugymas?

Bendras atsakymas, L. Andoro atsakymas Komisijos vardu

(2012 m. balandžio 30 d.)

Pasiūlymo dėl Europos prisitaikymo prie globalizacijos padarinių fondo (EGF) 2014-2020 m. 1 straipsniu siekiama užtikrinti, kad EGF paramą gaunančios valstybės narės įgyvendintų tinkamiausias ir veiksmingiausias priemones, kuriomis būtų didinamos remtinų darbuotojų galimybės kuo greičiau rasti kitą darbą. Pasiūlytas 50 proc. tikslas nėra privalomas.

Terminą „slaugymas“ Komisija sieja su darbuotojais, kuriems būtų skirta EGF parama ir kurie atsakingi už išlaikytinius, visų pirma vaikus, pagyvenusius asmenis ar neįgaliuosius. Šia nuostata siekiama padėti tokiems išlaikytiniams prižiūrintiems asmenims, kuriems būtų skirta EGF parama, padengti papildomas išlaidas, patiriamas vykdant priežiūros pareigas, kad jie galėtų pasinaudoti mokymo ar kitomis priemonėmis.

Jei gerbiamoji Parlamento narė pageidautų išsamiau išsiaiškinti techninius Komisijos pasiūlymo dėl teisėkūros procedūra priimamo akto aspektus, norėčiau nurodyti, kad tai taip pat aptariama tebevykstančiose diskusijose, kurias rengia Europos Parlamentas, konkrečiau, Užimtumo ir socialinių reikalų komitetas.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002943/12
to the Commission**

Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: Draft proposal for a regulation on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020): objectives

On 6 October 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020).

Can the Commission clarify how the objectives outlined in the third paragraph of Article 1 may be achieved?

Is the target of a minimum of 50 % of workers finding stable employment within a year from the receipt of financial aid from EGF intended as binding or as a recommendation?

**Question for written answer E-002944/12
to the Commission**

Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: Draft proposal for a regulation on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020): eligible actions

On 6 October 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020).

Could the Commission clarify what exactly was meant by the word 'carers' in Article 7(1)(b): 'special time-limited measures, such as job-search allowances, employers' recruitment incentives, mobility allowances, subsistence or training allowances (including allowances for carers or farm relief services), all of which limited to the duration of the documented active job search or life-long learning or training activities'?

What type of care does it mean by this: childcare, elderly care, care of an ill or disabled family member?

Joint answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

Article 1 of the proposal on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) for the period 2014-2020 aims at ensuring that the Member States benefiting from EGF contributions implement the most relevant and effective measures so as to increase the targeted workers' chances to find another job as quickly as possible. The proposed target of 50 % is not binding.

By the word 'carers', the Commission refers to workers targeted for EGF assistance who are responsible of dependent persons, in particular children, elderly or disabled persons. This provision aims at helping the 'carers' targeted for EGF support to cover the additional costs they face because of their caring responsibilities in order to avail themselves of training or other measures.

The ongoing discussions held by the European Parliament, in particular its committee on Employment and Social Affairs, provide also a relevant framework, should the Honourable Member seek further technical clarifications on the Commission's legislative proposal.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002945/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)**

Fiorello Provera (EFD)

(16 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Il gruppo islamico nigeriano Boko Haram attacca scuole

Il 7 marzo 2012, Human Rights Watch ha riferito che gli attacchi da parte del gruppo militante islamico nigeriano Boko Haram sono peggiorati infatti più di una dozzina di scuole erano state attaccate e danneggiate a Maiduguri, capitale dello Stato di Borno, e dintorni, lasciando 7 000 bambini privi di accesso all'istruzione. Un portavoce del Boko Haram ha rivendicato al gruppo la responsabilità degli attacchi e ha minacciato nuove violenze. Ha detto che gli attacchi erano la risposta agli attacchi contro le scuole coraniche e all'arresto di religiosi locali. Le autorità nigeriane sono convinte che gli insegnanti islamici utilizzano le scuole coraniche per reclutare e addestrare nuovi membri del Boko Haram. Nei media locali si riferisce che un membro del gruppo abbia detto: «Certo, se non sarà permesso all'educazione coranica di continuare, neanche l'istruzione laica occidentale continuerà». Il risultato degli attacchi del Boko Haram è che la qualità dell'educazione dei bambini è in pericolo, perché insegnanti e studenti hanno paura di nuovi attacchi, e non meno di 5 000 studenti restano a casa per star via da scuola. Dal luglio 2010, il Boko Haram ha iniziato una campagna di attacchi mortali, tra cui attentati suicidi, che sono costati la morte di oltre 1 000 persone.

1. La Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante è a conoscenza della recrudescenza di attacchi contro le scuole nello Stato nigeriano di Borno?
2. La Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante è pronta ad offrire sostegno alle autorità nigeriane per migliorare la sicurezza in modo da garantire che i bambini abbiano accesso all'istruzione?
3. Allo stato attuale, che tipo di supporto pratico sta apportando l'UE alle autorità nigeriane onde migliorare la sicurezza nelle aree maggiormente colpite dagli attacchi del Boko Haram?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione

(4 giugno 2012)

L'Unione europea è a conoscenza degli attacchi del Boko Haram contro le scuole e condivide le preoccupazioni dell'onorevole parlamentare.

Il ministro degli Esteri danese Villy Søvndal ha rilasciato una dichiarazione a nome dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton alla sessione plenaria del Parlamento del 14 marzo 2012, con particolare riferimento all'istruzione. Anche il commissario responsabile dello sviluppo, Andris Piebalgs, ha formulato osservazioni conclusive nella stessa occasione.

L'Unione europea non prevede di fornire alle autorità nigeriane un sostegno volto specificamente a migliorare le condizioni di sicurezza per garantire l'accesso dei bambini all'istruzione. Tuttavia, l'attuale dialogo tra l'UE e la Nigeria, che comprende la sicurezza, verrà potenziato attraverso un apposito dialogo locale in materia di sicurezza, pace e stabilità. Inoltre, a seguito della recente riunione ministeriale, l'UE sta elaborando un piano d'azione a sostegno della Nigeria. Viene riesaminata altresì l'assistenza già esistente per rivolgere maggiore attenzione alla parte settentrionale del paese. L'UE si sta inoltre adoperando per inviare un esperto di mediazione e prevenzione dei conflitti al fine di valutare un eventuale ulteriore sostegno alle iniziative nigeriane in corso per far fronte alle tensioni interetniche ed interreligiose.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002945/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Fiorello Provera (EFD)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram attacks schools

On 7 March 2012, Human Rights Watch reported that attacks by the Nigerian Islamic militant group Boko Haram has worsened as more than a dozen schools have been attacked and damaged in and around Maiduguri, which is the capital of Borno State. This has left 7 000 children without access to education. A spokesman for Boko Haram has claimed the group is responsible for the attacks and threatened further violence. He said the attacks were in response to attacks against Koranic schools and the arrest of local clerics. The Nigerian authorities believe that Islamic teachers use these schools to recruit and train new Boko Haram members. In the local media a member of the group is reported to have said: 'Certainly, if Quranic education will not be allowed to continue, then secular and Western education will not continue also'. The result of Boko Haram's attacks means that the quality of children's education is suffering, as both teachers and students are afraid of new attacks, and as many as 5 000 students are staying home from school. Since July 2010, Boko Haram began a campaign of deadly attacks including suicide bombings that have claimed the lives of more than 1 000 people.

1. Is the Vice-President/High Representative aware of the upsurge of attacks against schools in Nigeria's Borno State?
2. Is the Vice-President/High Representative prepared to offer support to the Nigerian authorities to improve security to ensure children have access to education?
3. At present, what kind of practical support is the EU lending to the Nigerian authorities to improve security in areas most affected by Boko Haram attacks?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(4 June 2012)

The EU is very aware of the attacks by Boko Haram on schools and shares the concern expressed by the Honourable Member.

Danish Foreign Minister Villy Søvndal delivered a statement, on behalf of High Representative/Vice-President Ashton, at the Parliament's plenary session on 14 March 2012, notably regarding education. Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, responsible for Development, also made closing comments on the same occasion.

There are no plans to offer EU support to the Nigerian authorities specifically for improving security to ensure children's access to education. However, the EU and Nigeria have a dialogue which includes security matters which will now be strengthened with a dedicated local dialogue regarding security, peace and stability. Furthermore, in follow-up to the recent Ministerial meeting, the EU is in the process of preparing an action plan for support to Nigeria. Existing support is also being reviewed in order to increase the focus on the northern part of the country. The EU is also working on deploying a mediation and conflict prevention expert with a view to analysing what further support might be provided for existing Nigerian initiatives to deal with inter-ethnic and inter-religious tensions.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002947/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)**

Fiorello Provera (EFD)

(16 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Adolescenti vittime delle milizie religiose irachene

L'11 marzo 2012, secondo quanto riportato da diversi mezzi d'informazione, gruppi di milizie religiose in Iraq avrebbero ucciso almeno 90 adolescenti vestiti in stile «emo» (abbreviazione di «emotional»), termine utilizzato per descrivere ragazzi che portano abiti alla moda e acconciature particolari e hanno un'aria depressa. Le milizie sciite, come l'esercito al-Mahdi, mantengono un rigido controllo sociale sulle comunità sciite più povere, tra cui quelle di Sadr City, Kufa e Nasiriyah. Moqtada al-Sadr, capo del movimento politico sadrista, che fa parte della coalizione del governo iracheno, ha definito il fenomeno «emo» come «una piaga della società» e ha chiesto agli agenti di polizia di eliminarlo.

Inoltre, il ministro degli Interni iracheno ha rilasciato una dichiarazione sul suo sito web, nella quale afferma: «Il fenomeno «emo» — o culto del diavolo — è stato seguito dalla polizia morale, che ha la licenza di eliminarlo quanto prima, dal momento che incide negativamente sulla società ed è diventato un pericolo.» Un attivista iracheno a Londra ha scritto che anche gli omosessuali sono presi di mira, come dimostra il fatto che nelle ultime settimane ne sono stati uccisi oltre 30. Immagini raccapriccianti degli adolescenti vittime degli attacchi sono apparse su Facebook e sui siti di altri social network come avvertimento nei confronti dei giovani che si atteggiavano e si vestono in una determinata maniera. Secondo il *Washington Post* tra i giovani si sarebbe diffuso il panico, poiché la polizia sarebbe stata autorizzata a entrare nelle scuole per dare la caccia ai soggetti sospettati di vestire in stile «emo».

1. È il Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante a conoscenza delle ultime serie di attacchi nei confronti dei giovani in Iraq?
2. È il Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante disposto a chiedere spiegazioni al primo ministro iracheno Nouri Maliki in merito alle numerose uccisioni di giovani iracheni e al ruolo del ministro degli Interni del paese, che avrebbe ordinato alla polizia morale di dare la caccia alle persone che si atteggiavano e si vestono in una determinata maniera?
3. È il Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante disposto a revocare il finanziamento UE al governo iracheno se questo non adotterà delle misure per affrontare il recente problema delle uccisioni mirate?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione

(24 maggio 2012)

L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente è a conoscenza delle notizie riguardanti gli attacchi alla comunità gay e altri gruppi come quelli di giovani che si presume vestano in stile «emo». L'UE, assieme alle Nazioni Unite, che stanno lavorando alla verifica di tali notizie, ha sollevato la questione presso le autorità irachene attraverso i canali diplomatici.

Come delineato nella strategia dell'UE per i diritti umani, l'UE crede nell'importanza fondamentale di un dialogo costruttivo sui diritti umani come parte integrante del dialogo politico e come strumento per sollecitare le autorità irachene a tutelare la parità di diritti tra i cittadini e a lottare contro ogni forma di discriminazione. L'Unione intrattiene regolarmente discussioni anche con le organizzazioni della società civile più attive in questo ambito.

L'UE sostiene da molto tempo la promozione e la protezione dei diritti umani in Iraq, in particolare i diritti delle persone che appartengono alle minoranze. L'assistenza dell'UE in questo settore si pone un duplice obiettivo: 1) garantire un sostegno costante alle autorità governative a favore dei diritti umani e sviluppare le loro capacità di promozione, protezione e miglioramento del sistema dei diritti umani in Iraq, compreso il sostegno all'attuazione della strategia nazionale per i diritti umani; 2) rafforzare la società civile e consentirle di contribuire attivamente alla sensibilizzazione, alla protezione dei diritti umani, alla prevenzione di abusi in materia di diritti umani e alla riabilitazione delle vittime di tali abusi.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002947/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Fiorello Provera (EFD)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Iraqi religious militias target young men

On 11 March 2012 a number of media sources reported that religious militia groups in Iraq had killed at least 90 men for dressing in an 'emo' — short for 'emotional' — style: a term used to describe men who wear fashionable clothes, style their hair and adopt a moody look. Shia militias such as the Mahdi Army maintain strict social control in poor Shia communities, including those in Sadr City, Kufa and Nasiriyah. Moqtada al-Sadr, the head of the Sadrist political movement, which is part of Iraq's ruling coalition, described the 'emo' phenomenon as a 'plague on society' and called for law enforcement officials to eliminate it.

In addition, Iraq's Interior Ministry issued a statement on its website which read: 'The "Emo phenomenon" or devil worshipping is being followed by the Moral Police who have the approval to eliminate it as soon as possible since it's detrimentally affecting the society and becoming a danger'. A London-based Iraqi activist has written that gays are also being targeted, with more than 30 gay men having been killed in recent weeks. A number of gruesome images of men who have been targets have appeared on Facebook and other social networking sites as a warning to young men who act and dress in a certain manner. *The Washington Post* reports that panic has been spreading among young people, as the police have been given permission to enter schools to target individuals suspected of dressing in an 'emo' style.

1. Is the Vice-President/High Representative aware of the latest series of attacks on young men in Iraq?
2. Is the Vice-President/High Representative prepared to approach Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki in order to ask about the spate of killings of young Iraqi men and the role of the country's Interior Ministry in ordering the Moral Police to target individuals who act and dress in a certain way?
3. Is the Vice-President/High Representative prepared to withdraw EU funding to the Iraqi Government if it does not take steps to tackle the recent problem of targeted killings?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(24 May 2012)

The High Representative/Vice-President is aware of the reports of attacks on the gay community and others including young men supposedly dressed in an 'emo' style. The EU, alongside the United Nations which is working to verify the reports, is taking up this issue with the Iraqi authorities through diplomatic channels.

As outlined in the EU human rights strategy, the EU believes in the key importance of a constructive dialogue on human rights, as part of the political dialogue, as a means to urge the Iraqi authorities to protect the equal rights of its citizens and fight all forms of discrimination. Discussions are also held regularly with the most active civil society organisations in this area.

The EU has long been supporting the promotion and protection of human rights in Iraq, notably the right of persons belonging to minorities. The objective of the EU assistance in this field is twofold: 1) ensure continuous support for human right within the governmental authorities and develop capacities in the promotion, protection and improvement of the human rights system in Iraq, including support to the implementation of the national human rights strategy; 2) strengthen civil society and enable it to actively contribute to awareness-raising and protection of human rights, prevention of human rights abuses and rehabilitation of victims of such abuses.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002948/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)**

Fiorello Provera (EFD)

(16 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Detenzione arbitraria a Gibuti

Il 12 marzo 2012, l'Organizzazione mondiale contro la tortura (OMCT) ha riferito che il 5 febbraio 2012, Abdallah Mohamed Youssouf, 21enne, abitante di un villaggio della regione Mablasi a Gibuti, è stato arrestato dall'esercito nazionale di Gibuti in un intervento di «ripulitura» radicale. Portato quindi in baraccamenti militari nel distretto di Obock, dove è stato detenuto e torturato. Youssouf veniva accusato di avere legami con il Fronte per il ripristino dell'unità e la democrazia (FRUD). Il FRUD è un partito politico legato agli interessi del popolo Afar, che nel 1991 aveva lanciato una ribellione contro il governo dominato dagli Issa.

Si ritiene che Youssouf abbia subito torture, quali pestaggi plurimi e l'ingestione forzata di acqua e sapone. L'8 febbraio 2012, Youssouf è stato trasferito alla Divisione ricerca e documentazione (SRD) della Gendarmeria nella capitale Gibuti. Al momento, non ha accesso né a un avvocato né alla famiglia. Continua inoltre a subire abusi e la privazione del sonno. Ultimamente, nella regione del Mablasi a Gibuti, c'è stata un'ondata di arresti arbitrari di presunti ribelli FRUD.

Il movimento di insorti FRUD ha sede nel nord del paese, patria dell'etnia Afar. È stata la scarsa rappresentanza del popolo Afar in parlamento a portare alla guerra civile nel paese, nel 1991.

1. La Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante è a conoscenza delle detenzioni arbitrarie perpetuate dall'esercito nazionale di Gibuti?
2. La Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante è pronta a chiedere alle autorità di Gibuti di rilasciare il signor Youssouf, previa concessione dell'accesso alla rappresentanza legale, all'assistenza medica e al diritto di vedere la famiglia?
3. Alla luce di queste notizie, la Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante è pronta a discutere con il Presidente di Gibuti, Ismail Omar Guelleh, le attività dell'esercito nazionale di Gibuti e i recenti casi di violazioni dei diritti umani?
4. Il problema è stato sollevato in passato e, in caso affermativo, quali ne sono stati i risultati?

Risposta dell'Alto Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione

(25 luglio 2012)

La delegazione dell'UE a Gibuti è stata informata in merito alle segnalazioni di casi di arresti e detenzioni arbitrarie ad opera delle autorità del paese e ha preso le misure necessarie per seguire da vicino questi casi. Si sta attualmente cercando di verificare e analizzare le segnalazioni ricevute. Tuttavia le informazioni disponibili sono piuttosto scarse, in quanto la regione di Obock non è accessibile agli stranieri.

La delegazione UE a Gibuti porterà la questione all'attenzione del governo di Gibuti esprimendo la sua preoccupazione in relazione ai casi di detenzione arbitraria.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002948/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

Fiorello Provera (EFD)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Arbitrary detention in Djibouti

On 12 March 2012, the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) reported that on 5 February 2012, Mr Abdallah Mohamed Youssouf, a 21-year-old Djibouti villager from the Mablas region, was arrested by the National Djibouti Army in a sweeping operation. Afterwards he was taken to a military barracks in Obock district, where he was detained and tortured. Youssouf was accused of having links to the Front pour la Restauration de L'Unité et la Democratie (FRUD). FRUD is a political party, linked to the interests of the Afar people, which in 1991 launched a rebellion against the Issa-dominated government.

Mr Youssouf is believed to have suffered torture, such as multiple beatings and forced ingestion of soap and water. On 8 February 2012, Youssouf was transferred to the Research and Documentation Division (SRD) of the Gendarmerie in the capital city Djibouti. At the moment, he has no access to either a lawyer or his family. He also continues to suffer abuse and sleep deprivation. Lately, in the Djibouti region of Mablas, there has been a wave of arbitrary arrests of suspected FRUD rebels.

The insurgent movement FRUD is based in the north of the country, which is home to the ethnic Afar people. It was the low representation of the Afar people in the parliament which prompted the country's civil war in 1991.

1. Is the Vice-President/High Representative aware of the arbitrary detentions carried out by the Djibouti National Army?
2. Is the Vice-President/High Representative prepared to call on the Djiboutian authorities to release Mr Youssouf, after having first granted him access to legal representation, medical care and the right to see his family?
3. In light of this report, is the Vice-President/High Representative prepared to discuss with the President of Djibouti, Ismail Omar Guelleh, the activities of the Djibouti National Army and the recent cases of human rights abuses?
4. Has this issue been raised in the past and, if so, what were some of the outcomes?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

(25 July 2012)

The EU Delegation in Djibouti is alerted to the reports of cases of arrests and arbitrary detentions by Djiboutian authorities and has taken steps to closely monitor such cases. Efforts are being made to analyse and verify the reports. Information is, however, scarce, as the Obock Region is not accessible to foreigners.

The EU Delegation in Djibouti will bring to the attention of the Djibouti Government its concern with the cases of arbitrary detention.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-002949/12

à la Commission

Michel Dantin (PPE)

(16 mars 2012)

Objet: Difficultés de la production caprine

Alors que la filière caprine était dans une phase plutôt dynamique, elle connaît depuis quelques mois un effondrement du cours du lait et du revenu des producteurs.

La difficulté économique de certaines entreprises due à la persistance des surstocks pousse à un nouveau bradage des stocks et à une dévalorisation accrue du marché, dont la filière pourrait durablement pâtir.

Cette crise intervient alors que les coûts de production se sont eux-mêmes fortement accrus du fait de la sécheresse survenue au printemps 2011, dans l'ouest de l'Europe. Le manque de stock de fromage engendre une flambée des coûts.

La Commission est-elle en capacité de venir en aide à ce secteur?

Est-il possible d'engager au niveau européen un plan stratégique pour la production caprine?

Réponse donnée par M. Ciolos au nom de la Commission

(11 mai 2012)

La Commission suit de près la situation dans le secteur caprin et est consciente des problèmes engendrés par la sécheresse et du besoin en aliments pour animaux supplémentaires qu'elle suscite; cette situation se traduit par une augmentation des coûts de production et une diminution de la production de lait.

La politique agricole commune (PAC) offre les possibilités suivantes pour soutenir le secteur caprin:

- un certain nombre d'États membres ont décidé d'apporter un soutien spécifique au secteur caprin au titre des articles 68 à 72 du règlement relatif aux paiements directs ⁽¹⁾ (la Bulgarie, la République tchèque, la Grèce, l'Espagne, la France et le Portugal);
- le secteur caprin peut également bénéficier de ces paiements au titre du règlement (CE) n° 1698/2005 sur le développement rural ⁽²⁾, pour autant que ceux-ci soient inclus dans le programme de l'État membre ou de la région concernés et que les conditions spécifiques de soutien prévues dans ces programmes soient respectées;
- afin de pallier rapidement les difficultés, les États membres peuvent, conformément au règlement (CE) n° 1535/2007 ⁽³⁾, accorder aux agriculteurs des aides *de minimis*. Le montant total des aides *de minimis* octroyées à une même entreprise ne peut excéder 7 500 euros sur une période de trois exercices fiscaux.

À cet égard, il est intéressant de se référer aux propositions de réforme de la PAC de l'après 2013 qui laissent aux États membres encore plus de souplesse pour répondre de manière adéquate à un secteur en difficulté.

À titre d'exemple, conformément à la proposition concernant les paiements directs, les États membres seraient toujours autorisés à utiliser un pourcentage limité de leur plafond national pour financer un soutien couplé facultatif en faveur de secteurs, notamment le secteur ovin et caprin, ou de régions où des types particuliers d'agriculture connaissent des difficultés.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne le développement rural, il est proposé que les États membres puissent inclure dans leurs programmes nationaux ou régionaux de développement rural des sous-programmes thématiques visant à répondre à des besoins spécifiques en matière de restructuration des secteurs agricoles ayant une incidence significative sur le développement d'une zone rurale particulière.

⁽¹⁾ JO L 30 du 31.1.2009, p. 16.

⁽²⁾ JO L 277 du 21.10.2005, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ JO L 337 du 21.12.2007, p. 35.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002949/12
to the Commission
Michel Dantin (PPE)
(16 March 2012)**

Subject: Difficulties in the goat farming sector

Although the goat farming sector had been going through a rather dynamic phase, it has been experiencing a collapse in the price of milk and producers' income over the past few months.

The economic difficulty affecting certain businesses due to the continued existence of excess stocks is pushing the sector towards a new selling-off of stock and increased devaluation of the market, which could cause the industry to suffer in the long term.

This crisis comes at a time when production costs themselves have increased greatly as a result of the drought that occurred in the west of Europe during spring 2011. The shortage of cheese stock is causing costs to soar.

Is the Commission in a position to come to the aid of this sector?

Is it possible to put in place a strategic plan for the goat farming sector at European level?

**Answer given by Mr Ciolos on behalf of the Commission
(11 May 2012)**

The Commission follows closely the situation in the goat sector and is aware of the problems caused by the drought and the related need for additional animal feed, thus increased production cost and decreased production of milk.

The common agricultural policy (CAP) offers the following options to support the goat sector:

- A number of Member States have decided to provide specific support for the goat sector under Articles 68-72 of the Direct Payments regulation ⁽¹⁾ (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, France, and Portugal).
- Goat sector can also benefit from the payments under the Rural Development Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 ⁽²⁾ provided that these are included in the programme of the Member State or region concerned and the specific conditions for support as laid down in these programmes are met.
- To quickly alleviate the difficulties, the Member States may, according to Regulation (EC) No 1535/2007 ⁽³⁾ grant *de minimis* aid to farmers. The total *de minimis* aid granted to any one undertaking may not exceed EUR 7 500 over any period of three fiscal years.

In this respect, it is interesting to refer to the post 2013 CAP reform proposals who give even more flexibility to the Member States in order to provide an appropriate answer to a sector in need.

For instance, according to the proposal on direct payments, Member States would still be allowed to use a limited percentage of their national ceiling for financing of a voluntary coupled support to sectors, including the sheep and goat one, or regions where specific types of farming undergo difficulties.

And for rural development it is proposed that Member States may include, in their national or regional rural development programmes, thematic sub-programmes aimed to address specific needs relating to the restructuring of agricultural sectors with a significant impact on the development of a specific rural area.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 30, 31.1.2009, p. 16.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 277, 21.10.2005, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 337, 21.12.2007, p. 35.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002950/12

alla Commissione

Elisabetta Gardini (PPE)

(16 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Carenze nella cura della tubercolosi resistente ai farmaci

La tubercolosi resistente ai farmaci sta costantemente riemergendo come una malattia che affligge anche l'Europa. Secondo recenti studi del Centro collaborativo dell'Organizzazione Mondiale della Sanità, 15 dei 27 Paesi colpiti da tubercolosi resistente appartengono all'UE o allo Spazio Economico Europeo. Risulta inoltre inquietante apprendere che, sempre secondo questi studi, se la tubercolosi resistente ai farmaci sta aumentando in Europa, la responsabilità sarebbe dei centri che la curano e che non rispettano in vari punti le linee guida internazionali per la gestione di questa malattia riemergente.

Lo studio è stato condotto analizzando i dati relativi a 200 casi di tubercolosi provenienti da 5 centri di riferimento nazionale di altrettanti paesi europei. I quattro errori principali commessi dai medici sono risultati i seguenti:

1. mancata prescrizione dei 4 farmaci attivi contro la tubercolosi;
2. errori nelle dosi somministrate;
3. gestione non adeguata di oltre il 34 % dei pazienti con tubercolosi affetti anche da Hiv;
4. dimissioni senza un referto finale sul quadro clinico per il 32 % dei pazienti.

Può la Commissione dire se è a conoscenza di questi dati e cosa intende fare per affrontare l'emergenza della tubercolosi resistente ai farmaci?

Risposta data da John Dalli a nome della Commissione

(2 maggio 2012)

La Commissione è consapevole della problematica della tubercolosi resistente ai farmaci e dei fattori soggiacenti.

Adeguate misure di controllo sono essenziali per prevenire l'ulteriore diffusione della tubercolosi resistente ai farmaci. A tal fine, su richiesta della Commissione, il Centro europeo per la prevenzione e il controllo delle malattie (ECDC) ha sviluppato nel 2007 un piano d'azione quadro dell'UE di lotta contro la tubercolosi ⁽¹⁾ che affronta la questione della tubercolosi resistente ai farmaci e le sfide correlate come ad esempio la sorveglianza, i test di sensibilità ai medicinali e la gestione dei pazienti.

La Commissione promuove diverse iniziative che contribuiscono a ridurre l'onere della tubercolosi resistente ai farmaci. Tra di esse vi sono progetti per lo sviluppo di nuovi trattamenti, diagnosi e misure di prevenzione finanziati attraverso il programma quadro di ricerca dell'UE, l'attuazione del piano d'azione summenzionato e il suo follow-up ⁽²⁾ nonché la pubblicazione ad opera dell'ECDC degli standard UE per la cura della tubercolosi e gli orientamenti sulla gestione dei contatti con i pazienti affetti da tubercolosi farmacoresistente ⁽³⁾. Infine, la prevenzione e il controllo delle infezioni come quelle da tubercolosi farmacoresistente rientrano nel piano d'azione recentemente adottato dalla Commissione sulla resistenza antimicrobica ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/0803_SPR_TB_Action_plan.pdf

⁽²⁾ http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/101111_SPR_Progressing_towards_TB_elimination.pdf

⁽³⁾ <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/201203-Guidance-MDR-TB-contacts.pdf>

⁽⁴⁾ Comunicazione della Commissione al Parlamento europeo e al Consiglio — Piano d'azione di lotta ai crescenti rischi di resistenza antimicrobica (AMR), COM(2011)748 definitivo. http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/docs/communication_amr_2011_748_it.pdf

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002950/12
to the Commission**

Elisabetta Gardini (PPE)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: Deficiencies in the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis

Drug-resistant tuberculosis is steadily re-emerging as a disease which is also affecting Europe. According to recent studies by the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre, 15 of the 27 countries hit by resistant tuberculosis are members of the EU or the European Economic Area. It is furthermore worrying to learn that, according to those same studies, the responsibility for drug-resistant tuberculosis increasing in Europe lies with the centres that treat it and which fail to comply with various aspects of the international guidelines for the management of this re-emerging disease.

The study was carried out by analysing data relating to 200 cases of tuberculosis provided by five national reference centres from as many European countries. The four main errors made by doctors are as follows:

1. failure to prescribe the four active anti-tuberculosis drugs;
2. errors in the doses administered;
3. inadequate management of over 34 % of patients with tuberculosis who are also HIV positive;
4. patients discharged without a final report on clinical findings in 32 % of cases.

Can the Commission say whether it is aware of this data and what it intends to do in order to deal with the emergence of drug-resistant tuberculosis?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

(2 May 2012)

The Commission is aware of the issue of drug resistant tuberculosis (TB) and its underlying factors.

Appropriate control measures are key to prevent drug resistant TB from spreading further. As such, at the request of the Commission, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) developed in 2007 an EU Framework Action Plan to Fight tuberculosis ⁽¹⁾ which addresses drug resistant TB and its related challenges such as surveillance, drug-sensitivity testing and management of patients.

The Commission is fostering a number of initiatives that contribute to reducing the burden of drug resistant TB. These include projects on the development of new treatments, diagnostics and prevention funded through the EU Research Framework Programme; the implementation of the abovementioned Action Plan and its follow-up ⁽²⁾; and the publication by the ECDC of EU Standards for TB care and guidelines on the Management of contacts of drug resistant TB patients ⁽³⁾. Finally, the prevention and control of infections such as drug resistant TB is included in the Commission recently adopted Action Plan against Anti microbial resistance ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/0803_SPR_TB_Action_plan.pdf

⁽²⁾ http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/101111_SPR_Progressing_towards_TB_elimination.pdf

⁽³⁾ <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/201203-Guidance-MDR-TB-contacts.pdf>

⁽⁴⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council — Action Plan against the rising threats from AMR, COM(2011) 748 final. http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/docs/communication_amr_2011_748_en.pdf

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-002952/12
alla Commissione**

Giommaria Uggiàs (ALDE)

(16 marzo 2012)

Oggetto: Allarme amianto

L'amianto è stato riconosciuto come un agente cancerogeno certo per l'essere umano. I maggiori livelli di rischio si sono riscontrati negli ambienti di lavoro dove l'amianto veniva manipolato, ma anche negli ambienti di vita dove è presente amianto in cattivo stato di conservazione. I materiali più pericolosi sono quelli che rilasciano facilmente le fibre in aria, cioè quelli friabili.

Nelle scorse settimane è stata scoperta la presenza di carcasse di aeroplani dell'Alitalia, costruiti con l'utilizzo dell'amianto, depositate presso l'aeroporto di Roma Fiumicino. Questi aerei appaiono smembrati, quasi del tutto smantellati. I lavori di demolizione, iniziati nel 2010, si sono fermati alcuni mesi dopo proprio perché è stata rilevata, all'interno dei velivoli, la presenza di amianto. Lo stop pare sia stato dovuto all'assenza delle condizioni di sicurezza necessarie per lo smaltimento dei rifiuti pericolosi, come è previsto dalla legge.

Tutto ciò premesso, può la Commissione verificare che le autorità italiane competenti abbiano garantito sia la corretta e tempestiva bonifica dell'area aeroportuale sia l'effettiva applicazione della direttiva 2009/148/CE sulla protezione dei lavoratori contro i rischi connessi con un'esposizione all'amianto, soprattutto in considerazione del rischio per la salute degli lavoratori dello scalo romano nonché dei passeggeri quantificati lo scorso anno in 38 milioni?

Risposta data da László Andor a nome della Commissione

(3 maggio 2012)

La Commissione non è a conoscenza dei particolari del caso cui fa riferimento l'onorevole deputato. Tuttavia, in tali circostanze, spetta alle autorità nazionali competenti, nella fattispecie alle autorità italiane, far rispettare le disposizioni nazionali che recepiscono la direttiva 2009/148/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 30 novembre 2009, sulla protezione dei lavoratori contro i rischi connessi con un'esposizione all'amianto durante il lavoro ⁽¹⁾, nonché le disposizioni della direttiva 2008/98/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 19 novembre 2008, relativa ai rifiuti ⁽²⁾.

La Commissione chiederà chiarimenti nel merito alle autorità italiane.

⁽¹⁾ GUL 330 del 16.12.2009.

⁽²⁾ GUL 312 del 22.11.2008.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002952/12
to the Commission**

Giommaria Uggias (ALDE)

(16 March 2012)

Subject: Asbestos warning

Asbestos has been recognised as a definite carcinogen for human beings. The highest risk levels have been found in workplaces where asbestos was handled, but also in residential environments where the asbestos is in a poor state of repair. The most dangerous materials are those which easily release fibres into the air, namely brittle materials.

In recent weeks, the existence of Alitalia aircraft carcasses built using asbestos has been discovered at Rome Fiumicino airport. These aircraft appear to be broken up, almost totally dismantled. The demolition work, which began in 2010, was halted a few months later specifically because of the discovery of asbestos inside the aircraft. The stoppage seems to have been due to the absence of the necessary safety conditions for the disposal of hazardous waste, as required by law.

In view of this, can the Commission confirm that the competent Italian authorities have seen to the proper and timely clean-up of the airport area as well as the effective application of Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work, especially considering the risk to the health of employees at Rome airport and to passengers, who last year numbered 38 million?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission

(3 May 2012)

The Commission is not aware of the details of the case to which the Honourable Member refers. However, in such a case, it is for the competent national authorities, in the present instance the Italian authorities, to enforce the national provisions which transpose Directive 2009/148/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work ⁽¹⁾ and the provisions of Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste ⁽²⁾.

The Commission will request clarification about this case from the Italian authorities.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 330, 16.12.2009.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 312, 22.11.2008.

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-002953/12
to the Council**

Paul Murphy (GUE/NGL)

(19 March 2012)

Subject: Irish referendum and access to the European Stability Mechanism

As you will be aware, the Treaty establishing the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) that was signed on 11 July 2011 did not contain a clause stipulating that access to funds by a state was conditional on that state ratifying the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (TSCG).

However, a second ESM Treaty was signed on 2 February 2012. This contained the relevant clause, in Recital 5: 'On 9 December 2011 the Heads of State or Government of the Member States [...] It is acknowledged and agreed that the granting of financial assistance in the framework of new programmes under the ESM will be conditional, as of 1 March 2013, on the ratification of the TSCG by the ESM Member concerned and [...]'.

Could the Council answer the following questions:

1. Who proposed this additional clause?
2. Did the Council unanimously support this clause?
3. Did the Irish Government express opposition to the addition of this clause?

Secondly, the Council has agreed to amend Article 136 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) in order to allow the ESM to come into existence. This amendment reads: '[...] the Member States whose currency is the euro may establish a stability mechanism to be activated if indispensable to safeguard the stability of the euro area as a whole [and stating that] the granting of any required financial assistance under the mechanism will be made subject to strict conditionality'.

Could the Council state whether this amendment must be ratified by all Member States in order for it to come into force?

In Ireland, this will take place with a vote in the *Oireachtas* (Irish Parliament). Could the Council confirm that if the *Oireachtas* does not ratify this amendment to the TFEU, in effect the establishment of the ESM would be blocked?

Reply

(23 May 2012)

The Treaty Establishing the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) is an intergovernmental treaty signed by 17 euro-area Member States. It is therefore not for the Council to comment on the process of negotiating and finalising the Treaty text or on its implementation.

On 25 March 2011, the European Council adopted a decision ⁽¹⁾ amending Article 136(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union with regard to a stability mechanism for Member States whose currency is the euro. This decision is based on Article 48(6) TEU, which empowers the European Council to make an amendment of the Treaties through a simplified revision procedure. According to Article 48(6) TEU, 'that decision shall not enter into force until it is approved by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements'. This is reflected in Article 2 of the decision, which states that it shall enter into force on 1 January 2013, provided that all EU Member States have notified the completion of the procedures for the approval of the decision in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements, or, failing that, on the first day of the month following receipt of the last of those notifications.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 91, 6.4.2011, p. 1.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002954/12
a la Comisión
Iratxe García Pérez (S&D) y Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D)
(19 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Medidas de apoyo a los agricultores afectados por la sequía

La sequía más aguda de los últimos 50 años está ya pasando factura a agricultores y ganaderos de España y otros Estados miembros del sur de Europa. La ausencia de lluvias desde el pasado mes de noviembre ha provocado ya, en nuestro país, una pérdida de rendimientos de entre el 30 y 60 % en las siembras de cereales de otoño-invierno. También las consecuencias están siendo muy graves en las explotaciones ganaderas donde la falta de hierba está obligando a suplementar la alimentación con piensos y forrajes cuyo alto coste es difícil asumir para muchas explotaciones. Las señales de alarma están llegando de numerosos Estados miembros afectados.

¿Qué medidas está estudiando la Comisión para adelantarse a las graves consecuencias económicas que esta situación está provocando en los agricultores y ganaderos del sur de Europa?

¿Está valorando la Comisión la autorización de anticipos en los pagos de las ayudas directas u otras medidas de flexibilización pertinentes para amortiguar el impacto de las pérdidas económicas causadas por la sequía?

Respuesta del Sr. Ciolos en nombre de la Comisión
(11 de mayo de 2012)

La Comisión es consciente de la falta de lluvia en España y está vigilando de cerca su posible incidencia en la producción agrícola y en la ganadería.

Los programas de desarrollo rural de algunas regiones españolas ya incluyen medidas que podrían destinarse a paliar los efectos adversos de la sequía que sufren estas regiones, siempre que se cumplan las condiciones de financiación específicas establecidas en dichos programas. Estas medidas tienen como objetivo financiar las inversiones necesarias para reconstituir la capacidad agrícola y forestal dañada por catástrofes naturales. La participación del Feader en estas medidas, en el marco de los programas de desarrollo rural correspondientes, asciende a 9 372 848 euros.

En relación con las ayudas directas, está prevista la presentación de una Decisión de la Comisión que autorice a España a pagar a los ganaderos beneficiarios la prima por vaca nodriza y la prima nacional adicional por vaca nodriza correspondientes al año civil 2012 en función del número de animales presentes en la explotación durante un período de retención más corto de cinco meses (frente al período normal de seis meses). Este proyecto de Decisión debe presentarse al Comité de Gestión de Pagos Directos para su dictamen, tan pronto como haya finalizado el procedimiento de consulta interna de la Comisión.

España ha solicitado también oficialmente a la Comisión autorización para abonar, a partir del 16 de octubre de 2012, anticipos a las regiones afectadas por la sequía, una vez finalizado el control de las condiciones de admisibilidad. La Comisión está examinando la solicitud, habida cuenta de las condiciones excepcionales y de las dificultades económicas por las que atraviesan los agricultores.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002954/12
to the Commission**
Iratxe García Pérez (S&D) and Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D)
(19 March 2012)

Subject: Measures to support farmers affected by the drought

The most severe drought in 50 years has begun to take its toll on farmers and stockbreeders in Spain and other Member States in southern Europe. The lack of rain since last November has already caused autumn-winter cereal crop yields to fall by between 30 and 60 % in Spain. The consequences are also very serious for livestock farming because the lack of grass is making it necessary to supplement food with feed and fodder, the high cost of which is difficult for many farms to bear. Alarm bells are being rung in several Member States.

What measures is the Commission considering to address the serious economic consequences of this situation for farmers and stockbreeders in southern Europe?

Is the Commission considering allowing advanced payment of direct aid or other measures according greater flexibility in order to cushion the blow of the financial losses caused by the drought?

Answer given by Mr Ciolos on behalf of the Commission
(11 May 2012)

The Commission is aware of the rainfall deficit in Spain and is closely monitoring its potential impact on agricultural production and livestock farming.

The Rural Development programs of some Spanish regions already include measures which could be used — provided that the specific funding conditions laid down in these programmes are fulfilled — to mitigate the adverse effects of drought affecting those regions. These measures aim at funding the investments needed for rebuilding the agriculture and forest capacity damaged by natural disasters. EAFRD's contribution for these measures in the concerned Rural Development programs amounts to EUR 9 372 848.

In relation to direct aids, a Commission Decision is intended to be proposed to authorise Spain to pay the suckler cow premium and the national additional suckler cow premium corresponding to calendar year 2012 to recipient farmers according to the number of animals kept on the holding during a shortened retention period of five months (compared to a regular period of six months). This draft Decision is to be submitted to the opinion of the Management Committee for Direct Payments as soon as the Commission internal consultation procedure is finished.

Spain has also informally presented to the Commission a request to provide for advances from 16 October 2012 for the regions affected by the drought after the finalisation of the controls of eligibility conditions. The Commission is evaluating the request with regard to the exceptional conditions and the financial difficulties faced by farmers.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-002956/12

a la Comisión

Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

(19 de marzo de 2012)

Asunto: Caducidad del estudio de impacto ambiental de los proyectos del Tren de Alta Velocidad en Navarra e incumplimiento del Convenio de Aarhus

Varias organizaciones ecologistas y ciudadanas de Navarra (España) llevan tiempo denunciando las consecuencias negativas de la mayoría de los proyectos que se están ejecutando en esta Comunidad Autónoma en relación al Tren de Alta Velocidad y el incumplimiento de varias Directivas europeas relativas a la participación pública en este tipo de proyectos y la protección medioambiental. Entre estos proyectos existen dos —«Eliminación del Bucle Ferroviario de la Comarca de Pamplona y la nueva estación intermodal» y «Corredor Ferroviario Noreste de Alta Velocidad. Tramo Castejón-Comarca de Pamplona»— en los que la declaración de impacto medioambiental ha superado el periodo de vigencia establecido legalmente para este tipo de estudios.

Así el primero de los proyectos, que implica la construcción de una nueva línea de alta velocidad ferroviaria, la mejora de la línea convencional y la construcción de una nueva estación intermodal, lleva aparejado un fuerte impacto medioambiental en un área densamente poblada, por lo que es necesario un respeto escrupuloso de las normativas sobre protección medioambiental (Directivas 2003/4/CE y 2003/35/CE), cosa que no ocurre, ya que la evaluación de impacto medioambiental fue realizada en el 2002 y la declaración de Impacto Medioambiental positiva fue formulada en junio de 2004. El segundo de los proyectos, que consiste en la construcción de una nueva línea de Alta Velocidad Ferroviaria, la mejora de la actual y la construcción de una nueva estación intermodal, cuenta con una declaración de impacto ambiental emitida por el órgano competente de mayo de 2004.

Desde ese momento la administración pública competente no realizó ninguna actuación para la ejecución de ambos proyectos, siendo en noviembre del año pasado cuando se inician las primeras obras sin tener en cuenta la caducidad tanto de las evaluaciones de impacto ambiental como de sus correspondientes declaraciones. Además de este incumplimiento de la normativa comunitaria, según varias asociaciones, la obligatoriedad de participación pública en este tipo de proyectos no ha sido respetada, violándose lo establecido en el Convenio de Aarhus, ratificado tanto por España como por la UE.

¿Dispone la Comisión de más información sobre estos proyectos o piensa solicitar más información a las autoridades competentes? ¿Piensa la Comisión investigar los incumplimientos mencionados relativos a las Directivas 2003/4/CE y 2003/35/CE? ¿Piensa la Comisión paralizar el inicio de estas obras hasta que haya una nueva declaración de impacto ambiental y se cumpla con lo establecido en el Convenio de Aarhus relativo a la participación ciudadana en estos proyectos?

Respuesta del Sr. Potočník en nombre de la Comisión

(10 de mayo de 2012)

La Comisión no tiene conocimiento de las cuestiones planteadas por Su Señoría sobre la evaluación del impacto ambiental (EIA) de estos proyectos ferroviarios en la Comunidad Autónoma de Navarra, España.

La Directiva 2011/92/CEE ⁽¹⁾ (conocida como Directiva sobre la evaluación del impacto ambiental o Directiva EIA) obliga a la realización de una EIA en determinados proyectos públicos y privados. Gracias al procedimiento de la EIA, pueden identificarse y evaluarse las repercusiones medioambientales de los proyectos antes de que la autoridad competente los autorice.

En el marco de este procedimiento, se aplican las obligaciones derivadas del Convenio de Aarhus relativo a la participación del público. No obstante, conviene señalar que la Directiva EIA no establece un plazo de validez de las EIA realizadas.

La Comisión no tiene competencias para detener el comienzo de las obras.

La Comisión ha solicitado información a las autoridades competentes españolas acerca del cumplimiento de los requisitos pertinentes del Derecho medioambiental de la UE, a fin de conocer los pormenores del asunto.

⁽¹⁾ DO L 26 de 28.1.2012 (versión codificada de la Directiva 85/337/CEE relativa a la evaluación de las repercusiones de determinados proyectos públicos y privados sobre el medio ambiente, en su versión modificada).

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002956/12
to the Commission**

Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

(19 March 2012)

Subject: Expiry of environmental impact study for high-speed train projects in Navarra and failure to comply with the Aarhus Convention

Several environmental and civic organisations in Navarra, Spain, have been complaining for some time now about the negative consequences of most of the projects being carried out in their autonomous community in connection with the high-speed train, as well as the fact that several EU directives on public participation in projects of this kind and on environmental protection have not been complied with. In the case of two of these projects — removal of the Pamplona district railway junction with construction of a new intermodal station, and the Castejón-Pamplona District section of the north-eastern high-speed rail corridor — their environmental impact statements have lapsed as the legal validity period for studies of this type has expired.

The first of these two projects, involving the construction of a new high-speed railway line, upgrading of the conventional line and construction of a new intermodal station, will entail a major environmental impact in a densely populated area. Consequently, the legislation on environmental protection (Directives 2003/4/EC and 2003/35/EC) should be strictly adhered to. However this is not the case, since the environmental impact assessment was performed in 2002, and the favourable environmental impact statement was issued in June 2004. The environmental impact statement for the second project, comprising a new high-speed rail line, upgrading of the current line and constructing a new intermodal station, was issued by the body responsible in May 2004.

After that, the government body concerned did not take any steps to execute either project until November of last year, when the initial work began without any thought being given to the fact that both the environmental impact assessments and their corresponding statements had expired. In addition to this breach of EU legislation, several associations report that the requirement for public participation in projects of this type has not been met, in violation of the Aarhus Convention, ratified by both Spain and the EU.

Does the Commission have more information about these projects or is it planning to request more information from the authorities concerned? Will the Commission investigate the aforementioned violations of Directives 2003/4/EC and 2003/35/EC? Will the Commission halt commencement of this work until a new environmental impact statement has been issued and the provisions of the Aarhus Convention concerning citizen participation in these projects are complied with?

Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission

(10 May 2012)

The Commission is not aware of the issues raised by the Honourable Member concerning the EIA of these railway projects in the Autonomous Community of Navarra, Spain.

Directive 2011/92/EU ⁽¹⁾ (known as the Environmental Impact Assessment or EIA Directive) makes provisions for the carrying out of an EIA for certain public and private projects. The EIA procedure ensures that environmental consequences of projects are identified and assessed before development consent is granted by the competent authority.

The obligations pursuant to the Aarhus Convention regarding public participation are applied in the framework of the EIA procedure. However, it should be noted that the EIA Directive does not set a time limit for the validity of the EIA carried out.

The Commission has no powers to halt the commencement of the works.

The Commission has requested information from the competent Spanish authorities concerning compliance with the relevant requirements under EU environmental law, in order to know the details of the case.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 28.1.2012 (codified version of Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended).

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-002957/12
an die Kommission
Martin Ehrenhauser (NI)
(19. März 2012)

Betrifft: Schutz vor Interessenkonflikten

Das Bündnis „Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation“ (ALTER-EU) hat im November 2011 seine neue Studie vorgestellt. Darin wird insbesondere auf die Interessenkonflikte hingewiesen, die entstehen, wenn EU-Beamte eine Tätigkeit außerhalb der EU-Institutionen aufnehmen. Die Studie führt mehrere Beispiele von EU-Beamten auf, die nach ihrer EU-Karriere Lobbytätigkeiten aufgenommen haben, die zu einem Interessenkonflikt führen können. So zeigt die Studie, dass mehr als 50 % der Angestellten in den vier größten Lobbyorganisationen in Brüssel Erfahrungen innerhalb der EU-Institutionen vorweisen können.

1. Ist die Kommission ebenfalls der Ansicht, dass es in diesem Bereich eine verbesserte Regelung geben muss, z. B. durch die Einführung einer Übergangsfrist, während der EU-Beamte keine Lobbytätigkeit annehmen dürfen, die zu Interessenkonflikten mit ihrer ehemaligen EU-Institution führen könnten? Falls nein, warum nicht?
2. Was unternimmt die Kommission, um diese Interessenkonflikte zu verhindern?
3. Welche konkreten Vorschläge wurden von der Kommission seit 2010 in dieser Hinsicht ausgearbeitet?
4. Wie verhindert die Kommission, dass interne Kontakte und geheime Informationen zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt von EU-Beamten missbraucht werden?
5. Wie steht die Kommission zu dem Vorschlag, die Arbeitsplatzwechsel von EU-Beamten (zumindest im Falle der hochrangigen Beamten) in die Privatwirtschaft und Lobbytätigkeit innerhalb eines Registers öffentlich zu machen?

Antwort von Herrn Šefčovič im Namen der Kommission
(30. April 2012)

1. Aufgrund der derzeitigen Bestimmungen für Tätigkeiten nach dem Ausscheiden aus dem Dienst stehen bereits ausreichend Mittel zur Verfügung, um Interessenkonflikte zu vermeiden. Hierzu gehört in hinreichend begründeten Fällen die Anwendung einer Übergangsfrist. Eine solche Übergangsfrist zwingend einzuführen, widerspräche den Grundsätzen der Verhältnismäßigkeit und der freien Beschäftigungswahl ehemaliger EU-Bediensteter. In diesem Zusammenhang ist im Einzelfall bzw. im globalen Rahmen des individuellen Rechts auf Arbeit zu prüfen, ob die Gefahr eines Interessenkonflikts besteht.
2. Zu Punkt 2 verweist die Kommission auf ihre Antworten auf die Parlamentarischen Anfragen E-378/2012 von Frau Childers, P-187/2012 von Herrn Schlyter und E-6232/2010 von Frau Childers ⁽¹⁾.
3. Die Kommission überarbeitet zurzeit ihren Beschluss über Nebentätigkeiten und Aufträge ⁽²⁾. Die Arbeitsgrundlage sieht allerdings die Aufnahme von Bestimmungen im Hinblick auf eine zwingende Übergangsfrist nicht vor.
4. Gemäß dem Vertrag über die Arbeitsweise der Europäischen Union (Artikel 339) besteht die Verpflichtung, Auskünfte, die unter das Berufsgeheimnis fallen, nicht preiszugeben. Artikel 17 des Statuts legt fest, dass ehemalige Beamte weiter verpflichtet sind, sich jeder nicht genehmigten Verbreitung von Informationen zu enthalten, von denen sie im Rahmen ihrer Aufgaben Kenntnis erhalten haben, sofern diese Informationen nicht bereits veröffentlicht wurden oder der Öffentlichkeit zugänglich sind. Ein Verstoß gegen diese Bestimmungen kann disziplinarische Maßnahmen nach sich ziehen.
5. Zu dem letzten Punkt verweist die Kommission den Herrn Abgeordneten auf ihre Antwort auf die parlamentarische Anfrage Nr. E-8839/2011 von Frau Childers ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/>

⁽²⁾ Beschluss der Kommission über Nebentätigkeiten und Aufträge, K(2004) 1597/10 vom 28.4.2004.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002957/12
to the Commission**

Martin Ehrenhauser (NI)

(19 March 2012)

Subject: Protection against conflicts of interest

The Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation (ALTER-EU) published its latest study in November 2011. This focused in particular on the conflicts of interest that arise when EU officials take up employment outside the EU institutions. The study listed several examples of EU officials who, after their career in the EU, took up positions as lobbyists that could have led to a conflict of interests. The study shows that more than 50 % of employees in the four largest lobbying organisations in Brussels have experience within the EU institutions.

1. Does the Commission agree that there is a need to improve the rules within this area, e.g. by introducing a transition period during which EU officials are not permitted to become involved in lobbying activities that could lead to a conflict of interests with their former EU institution? If not, why not?
2. What is the Commission doing to prevent such conflicts of interest?
3. What specific proposals have been drawn up by the Commission in this regard since 2010?
4. How does the Commission prevent internal contacts and confidential information from being misused by EU officials at a later stage?
5. What is the Commission's view on the proposal that a public register should be kept of EU officials (or at least high-ranking officials) who move to jobs in private business or take up lobbyist positions?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission

(30 April 2012)

1. The present provisions related to post-service activities provide already sufficient tools to deal with conflict of interest situations, which include the application of a cooling-off period in duly substantiated cases. To make the cooling-off period mandatory would be contrary to the principles of proportionality and freedom of employment of former members of staff. In this respect, a case by case analysis is needed which can assess any conflict of interest risks in the general framework of the individual right to work.
2. As for the second point, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answers to parliamentary questions, reference: E-378/2012 by Mrs Childers, P-187/2012 by Mr Schlyter and E-6232/2010 by Mrs Childers ⁽¹⁾.
3. The Commission is at present revising the decision on outside activities and assignments ⁽²⁾ but the working basis does not provide for the inclusion of provisions leading to a mandatory cooling off period.
4. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Article 339) provides the obligation not to disclose information covered by professional secrecy. Article 17 of the Staff Regulations provides that the former official continues to be bound by the obligation to refrain from any unauthorised disclosure of information obtained in the line of duty, unless that information has already been made public or is accessible to the public. A breach of those rules may be subject to disciplinary follow-up.
5. Regarding the last point, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer given to the parliamentary question number E-8839/2011 by Mrs Childers ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/>

⁽²⁾ Commission Decision on outside activities and assignments, C(2004) 1597 of 28.4.2004.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/>