

The Charter itself does not specify in financial terms what the 'decency level' is.

However, an advisory Committee to the Council of Europe suggested that it should be set at 68% of the average adult full-time worker's wages. This suggestion has not been confirmed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. In the United Kingdom this works out at £ 116 28 p per week.

As the European Social Charter is not a document of the European Community and has not been ratified by all the Community Member States, and since the suggested 'decency level' has been ratified by no one, the Commission has not calculated figures throughout the Community.

2. Under the terms of Council Decision 85/8/EEC (1), which effectively launched the second anti-poverty programme, the Commission is investigating ways and means of collecting and disseminating on a regular basis comparable data on poverty in the Community.
3. Since as noted in 1 above, the 'decency level' wage suggested by the abovementioned advisory Committee is calculated as 68 % of the average adult full-time worker's wages, it is unlikely that the distribution of incomes will ever be such that there are not workers earning less than 68 % of the average.

The Commission is, however, anxious to improve the standard of living of the citizens of Europe as indicated in the 'Cooperative Growth Strategy for More Employment', described in the annual economic report 1985/86 (2).

(1) OJ No L 2, 3. 1. 1985, p. 24.

(2) Doc. COM(85) 570 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2820/85

by Mr Willy Kuijpers (ARC—B)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 February 1986)

(86/C 256/12)

Subject: Trade in rhinoceros horns

Since 1970 the number of rhinoceroses has fallen by 72 % and the world's five species are threatened with extinction. The main reason for this drastic reduction in numbers is the great demand for rhinoceros horn for medical purposes.

Can the Commission say:

- Whether rhinoceros horn is imported into the Community Member States (including Spain and Portugal)?

- If so, which Member States are involved?
- What quantities were imported by the Member States concerned during the period 1975 to 1985?
- For which specific experiments was rhinoceros horn used?
- Can such experiments be carried with other substances?

**Answer given by Mr Clinton Davis
on behalf of the Commission**

(20 May 1986)

Under Council Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1), imports of rhinoceros products into the Community for primarily commercial purposes, as well as commercial activities within the Community are prohibited.

The market for rhinoceros products is, however, in the Far and Middle East where rhino horn in particular is sought for a variety of purposes.

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

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2822/85

by Mr Willy Kuijpers (ARC—B)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 February 1986)

(86/C 256/13)

Subject: Independent radio in the European Community

All the Member States now have independent (or local) radio stations. Can the Commission say whether, when authorizing local radio stations, the Member States apply standards with regard to the cultural or local content of the programmes such as, the use of local dialects, cultural importance of broadcasts, programming, etc?

**Answer given by Lord Cockfield
on behalf of the Commission**

(3 June 1986)

The Commission has no detailed information about the conditions applied in the Member States with regard to the licensing of local radio stations and the broadcasting services they provide, which normally do not involve cross-frontier broadcasts.