

Brussels, May , 1964

P-28/64

Manpower in the Community in 1964

The EEC Commission has just brought out its fifth annual report on the manpower situation in the Community. The report is based on a study made in consultation with national experts and with the Consultative Committee Free Movement of Workers which included representatives of both sides of industry.

The first part of the report analyses the manpower situation in 1963 by country, branch of industry and area. It shows that the labour shortage persisted in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, and that the manpower surplus in Italy continued to decrease making recruitment difficult in industrial areas.

The Community as a whole is reaching a full employment situation. Despite rising productivity and recourse to foreign manpower, there are still very many unfilled vacancies.

The second part of the report gives forecasts for 1964 of manpower requirements and availability in the Community. Little improvement in the labour shortage is to be expected in the Federal Republic. In the Netherlands, despite measures already taken or contemplated, such as reduction of military service, increased employment of women and older workers, and tax concession in order to encourage overtime, it is unlikely that the strain on the labour market will be much relieved before the end of the year. In Luxembourg the strain on the labour market will increase. In Belgium skilled manpower reserves are practically exhausted and the working population will rise more slowly than last year. The manpower situation in France should be more stable in 1964 with a lower unemployment level. Unemployment in Italy will continue to decrease during the year.

The third part of the report deals with national measures to meet the skilled labour shortage, and contains suggestions for improved cooperation at the Community level. The Commission is to make an assessment of manpower resources in the Community and to study vocational training facilities available to workers wishing to migrate to other Member States.

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