

TALSMANDENS GRUPPE
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BUREAU VAN DE WOORDVOERDER

**INFORMATION
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INFORMATION MEMO**

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**NEW MEASURES PROPOSED IN FAVOUR OF MIGRANT WORKER
AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS**

The Commission has recently made several proposals to the Council of Ministers aimed at improving the working conditions of migrant workers as part of the implementation of the Action Programme in favour of migrant workers and their families. These proposals deal with:

- 1) standardization of the system of paying family benefits to Community workers the members of whose families reside in a Member State other than the country of employment;
- 2) improving the education of the children of migrant workers;
- 3) extension of the trade union rights of Community migrant workers;
- 4) technical amendments to the social security regulations covering migrant workers adapting these rules to recent changes in national legislation.

The Commission has also sent a Communication to the Council concerning the elimination of architectural barriers which hinder the mobility of handicapped persons.

Measures in favour of migrants

Family benefits

According to the basic EEC regulation dealing with social security benefits for Community migrant workers and their families (1408/71), migrant workers are entitled to receive the family allowances of the country in which they work for the members of their families who reside in another country. Thus, an Italian worker in Germany receives German family allowances for his or her children who have remained in Italy.

However, up to the present this system has not been applied by France which, by means of a different scheme allowed for in the regulation, pays the family allowances provided by the country in which the migrant worker's family lives. The Commission believes that the system applied by the eight other countries ensures more effectively equality of treatment for all workers subject to the same legislation and it has proposed that the Council amend the regulation accordingly.

- 1) COM (74) 2250
- 2) COM (75) 132
- 3) COM (75) 3390
- 4) COM (75) 455
- 5) COM (75) 460
- 6) COM (75) 432

Trade Union rights

The freedom of movement of Community workers in accordance with Article 48 of the EEC Treaty was implemented by a Council Regulation (1612/68) but at the time of adoption it was not possible to get the agreement of all the Member States on equality of treatment for migrant workers as regards holding office or taking part in the management of a trade union. Most of the Member States, however, accepted the provision on equality of treatment for migrant workers concerning trade union rights and it was agreed that the situation would be re-examined at a later date.

The Commission believes that it is now opportune to consolidate at Community level the practice of non-discrimination against Community migrants concerning trade union rights. In this way migrant workers will have additional legal security and an element of uncertainty will be removed. Hence the Commission has proposed that the Council amend accordingly the above-mentioned regulation.

The Commission's proposal for a Council directive dealing with improving the education of the children of migrant workers was summarised in the Information Memo P - 48 of July 1975.

Helping the handicapped

In June 1974 the Council adopted a first Community action programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons one of the aims of which is to help these people to become capable of leading a normal life fully integrated into society.

The elimination of architectural barriers to their mobility appears to be an essential and preliminary condition for implementing this aim.

The Commission, therefore, convoked a group of independent experts who in less than a year have worked out a framework of minimum standards for wheelchair-users concerning access to their homes and circulation space inside their homes.

In this communication, the Commission is informing the Council on the results of the work of these experts and on the Commission's intention to bring together, as a next step, a group of government experts in order to explore the best way of implementing through national legislation the minimum standards proposed by the independent experts.

Pilot schemes and studies

The Commission also requests the Council to authorise the allocation of 450 000 units of account already inscribed in the 1975 Community budget in order to part-finance a series of pilot operations and studies in the Member States designed to improve housing conditions of handicapped workers.

In three cases (Evry, Paris region, France; Daheim, Luxembourg and Haus der Behinderten, Bonn) the Community intervention will aid the construction of buildings designed to eliminate architectural barriers. In five other cases the Community funds will help finance technical pilot studies with the same aim.

CCS (85) 100 (1)
SCJ (85) 100 (2)
CCS (87) 100 (3)
CCJ (85) 100 (4)
CCJ (85) 100 (5)
SCJ (85) 100 (6)