



A PEOPLE'S EUROPE



Europe
on the move





European passports, gradually brought in since 1985, are a symbol of the progress that has been made. For the first time people in the 12 member countries share a common identity document. By the year 2000 we should also have a common currency.

'Let there be no mistake. Each of us must contribute to the building of Europe. Each of us must feel involved. The task includes the shaping of a people's Europe ... and, of course, broadening support for our shared venture if we are to create an open and effective Community.'

Jacques Delors,
President of the
Commission of the
European
Communities

More than half the people in the 12 Member States of the European Community (53%) claim to feel a sense of European identity 'sometimes' or 'often', according to a Eurobarometer opinion poll carried out in 1991. Throughout the Community, people's sense of belonging not merely to their own country but to a wider Europe is steadily growing.

Eight years ago, in June 1984, the European Council (the 12 Heads of State or Government) officially endorsed the idea of 'a people's Europe', setting up a special committee chaired by Pietro Adonnino, which produced two reports putting forward proposals to bring Europe more closely in touch with the ordinary citizen. More recently, on 7 February 1992 in Maastricht, the leaders of the Twelve took a further big step with the signing of the Treaty on European Union, which includes a chapter on European citizenship.

European integration is, of course, meant to benefit ordinary people. It would be rather pointless otherwise. And as this integration process has advanced, so it has come to play an ever larger part in people's everyday lives, reflecting their concerns, hopes and aspirations.

Through the Community every EC citizen enjoys the right to study, work and live in any of the 11 other member countries.



A EUROPE OF FREEDOMS

For the majority of people the most tangible sign of 'a community without internal frontiers' is freedom of movement. The right to study, work and live in another country is something which our predecessors never enjoyed.

As we move towards completion of the single European market at the end of 1992, the benefit of dismantling our internal frontiers is beginning to make itself more widely felt. Soon checks and queues at the borders will be a thing of the past.

With a green sticker, drivers can already cross from one country to another without stopping at customs, and very soon the customs' posts themselves will disappear. Special channels for Community nationals help to speed up controls at seaports and airports.

European passports, gradually brought in since 1985, are a symbol of this progress. For the first time, people in the 12 member countries share a common identity document.

But freedom of movement would not be complete without 'freedom of establishment' – the freedom to settle anywhere in the Community, so that EC citizens can go and work in other Member States. Whether they are in paid employment or self-employed, they have the right to settle where they like. All they need is a

residence permit, which is valid for five years and renewable on request. And they cannot be refused one except on overriding grounds of public policy, security or health.

The right to live in other member countries also applies to students, non-working people and pensioners provided they can show that they have sufficient income not to become a burden on their host country.

Any EC national who has settled in another Member State enjoys exactly the same rights as local people in terms of social protection and taxation, access to schooling and vocational training, and every other aspect of daily life.

The Treaty on European Union will allow Community citizens to vote and stand as candidates at municipal and European elections in the Member State where they live, on the same terms as citizens of that country. This will strengthen the Community's democratic base.

Freedom to choose where to work and live presupposes that the 12 Member States must recognize each other's diplomas and professional qualifications.

From 1991, any university degree or higher education diploma awarded in a member country after at least three years' study is now recognized in all the others under arrangements adopted at Community level. The system rests on mutual confidence, allowing some scope for exceptions such as requiring people to take aptitude tests or work for a period under supervision to help them adapt. Specific rules have also been agreed for the recognition of more specialized diplomas and qualifications in some individual fields.

The subject is too complex for us to go into in any further detail here, but sub-

'We have succeeded in giving the Community a political dimension through the introduction of a common foreign and security policy. But we have been less successful on the issue of "the democratic deficit", as the European Parliament has only been given joint law-making power in certain areas, and I think a great deal remains to be done in that respect.'

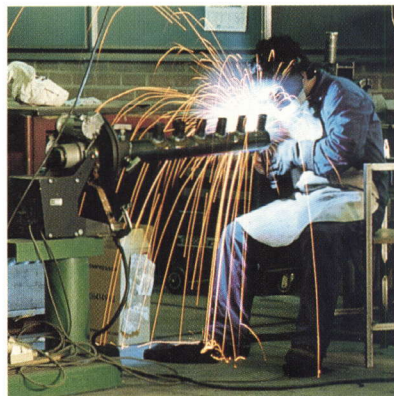
Jacques Delors

Community citizens living in another Member State

Nationals of	Living in											
	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
	1988	1988	1988	1987	1982	1988	1988	1988	1988	1988	1988	1985-1987
B	—	283	17 854	1 233	9 730	50 200	—	3 674	—	22 942	910	—
DK	2 094	—	12 519	1 123	5 451	2 440	—	1 110	—	1 298	348	—
D	24 304	6 320	—	10 693	39 066	43 840	—	24 517	—	39 400	4 133	43 000
GR	19 075	461	274 793	—	606	7 860	—	11 774	—	3 953	51	13 000
E	50 187	875	126 402	906	—	321 440	—	6 841	—	17 578	7 105	30 000
F	92 322	1 853	71 773	6 268	23 599	—	—	17 118	13 200	7 496	2 803	28 000
IRL	1 318	930	8 360	529	684	1 880	—	1 037	—	3 103	199	532 000
I	250 209	2 006	508 656	6 418	13 025	333 740	—	—	—	15 890	1 060	75 000
L	4 948	16	4 542	43	—	3 180	—	223	—	381	26	—
NL	60 825	1 763	96 881	2 685	13 821	13 980	—	4 405	20 450	—	1 546	20 000
P	10 554	272	71 068	336	31 012	764 860	—	1 936	32 900	7 766	—	13 000
UK	21 000	10 096	83 010	16 093	65 318	34 180	—	17 209	—	37 094	7 115	—
EUR 12	536 836	24 875	1 275 858	46 327	193 312	1 577 600	66 400	89 844	—	156 901	25 296	766 000
EUR 12 and in third countries	858 650	136 177	4 489 105	155 187	334 935	3 680 100	83 500	407 023	—	591 847	94 453	1 785 000

stantial progress has been made and more will be done to keep pace with emerging needs as the single market develops and people make increasing use of their right to move freely within the Community.

On the social side, the Community's Social Charter lays the foundation for a minimum standard of social protection in all the Member States that have endorsed it. The Charter covers a broad range of issues: freedom of movement, employment and wages, better living and working conditions, social security, freedom of association and collective bargaining, vocational training, equal treatment for men and women, worker information, consultation and participation, health and safety at work, and safeguards for children and young people, the elderly and the handicapped.



The Treaty on European Union signed in Maastricht on 7 February 1992 allows Community citizens to vote and stand as candidates at municipal and European elections in the Member State where they live, on the same terms as local citizens.

The Community attaches as much importance to social issues as to the economic side of the single market. It therefore sets great store on gradually bringing in concrete measures to implement the Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers. This initiative has won widespread public support.



345 MILLION CONSUMERS

Community consumers enjoy a wealth of choice, with all EC products free to circulate throughout the Twelve. So the Community has had to bring in rules in an effort to combine free trade with safeguards to protect the health of consumers and ensure product safety.

Creation of the 'common market' did much to benefit the interests of the citizens as consumers. With goods circulating freely, the range of products available improved substantially and consumers' patterns of consumption gradually changed and improved accordingly. So the EC has had to bring in rules in an effort to combine free trade with safeguards to protect the health of consumers and ensure product safety.



The scheme to establish the single European market has led to the need for harmonized rules covering a good many products. Food labelling and packaging, the composition of cosmetics, and the labelling of textiles are just some examples. Others include dangerous substances, pharmaceuticals, motor vehicles and toys. In all these areas Community action is guided by one and the same aim: to give consumers more information, to look after their economic interests (for instance through rules on consumer credit and misleading advertising) and to guard their health and safety.

HEALTH PROTECTION

The Community coordinates national efforts to overcome the major health risks of the modern world, such as cancer and AIDS.

The 'Europe against cancer' programme has set itself the initial goal of cutting the number of cancer deaths by at least 1.5% by the year 2000. That amounts to saving 150 000 lives a year. The programme aims above all to promote research, public information and training for health-care professionals.

In June 1991 similar measures were agreed to combat that other great scourge of our time: AIDS. Here, too, effective action requires international cooperation, whether on prevention, information or research. The same goes for the fight against alcohol and drug abuse.

Lastly, action has also been taken to help improve the situation of certain categories of people, such as the handicapped

(Helios programme), children, pregnant women and the elderly (1993 has been designated 'European Year of the Elderly and Solidarity between Generations').

A EUROPEAN OUTLOOK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

For young people it is only natural to want to get to know their European neighbours and to go and live among them.

The EC has launched several initiatives to make it easier for young people in general, young workers, students, teachers and scientists to move around in the Community.

Youth for Europe seeks to encourage the growth of exchange schemes for young people between the ages of 15 and 25.

The **European exchange programme for young workers** aims to give young people between the ages of 18 and 28 an opportunity to follow training courses or gain work experience in other Member States.

The **Erasmus programme** seeks to promote mobility and European studies among students.

Comett is a scheme to foster partnerships between universities and industry, joint continuing training projects and the placement of students in firms in other Member States, so as to enhance advanced training in new technologies.

The **Petra programme** aims to encourage modernization of vocational training for young people.

Lingua is designed to improve language training on a broad basis.

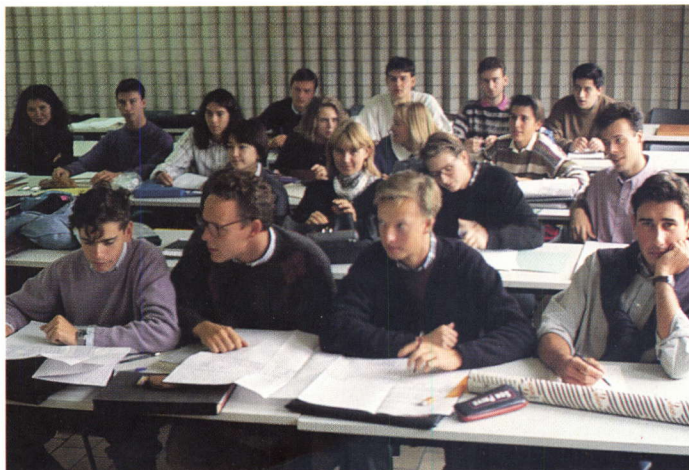
Science seeks to foster cooperation and exchanges between European



researchers in the exact and the natural sciences. **SPES** extends these goals to economic science.

The Community is coordinating and supporting efforts to overcome major health scourges of the modern world such as cancer and AIDS. Community programmes aim above all to promote research, public information and training for health-care professionals.

Community programmes for the young aim at promoting exchanges, increasing mobility among young people, fostering partnership schemes, bringing vocational training into line with today's requirements, spreading language learning and encouraging cooperation between researchers.



Pollution knows no boundaries

Never before has the environment suffered so much at the hands of man as in this second half of the 20th century. Oil spills, polluted rivers, ozone depletion and toxic waste are constantly in the news. The Community has a major responsibility for action to safeguard our environment, both in its own interest and for the sake of the world at large.

Air, water, noise, the nuclear industry, conservation of natural resources, waste management – improving the state of the environment calls for coordinated action in all these areas. The Community's decision to set up a European Environment Agency reflects its determination to harness the efforts of the Member States in order to preserve a viable world for future generations.



But along with these outward symbols, a genuine sense of European identity is gradually being forged – a shared identity, at the heart of European citizenship, preserving the diversity of our separate national heritages but adding a further dimension that Europeans have never had before.

Pollution knows no boundaries. So the fight to safeguard the environment is a priority task for the Community.

IDENTITY AND CITIZENSHIP

More and more often nowadays the European flag with its circle of gold stars on a blue background, as the emblem of European unity, can be seen alongside the national flags. The 'Ode to Joy' from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony has come to be regarded as the future anthem of the European Union.

The Community institutions (Parliament, the Commission, the Council, and the Court of Justice) are the guardians of the European ideal. The ordinary citizen participates in European integration through these institutions, above all through direct elections to the European Parliament. As Community decisions come to affect people more and more directly at work and in their everyday lives, they will want to be even more closely involved. The European venture will only come of age when it can point to truly democratic decision-making embodying a majority consensus following mature reflection and wide-ranging debate.



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