

Women of Europe

Brussels, September/October 1978 - no. 5/78

A WOMAN PRESIDENT FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso has been elected president of the Economic and Social Committee by a substantial majority of votes.

A doctor of law, Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso has been a member of the Economic and Social Committee (ECS) since 1970. She carved out her career within the Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori (CISL), the Italian trades union congress, on the staff of its research department until 1965 and then as a director of the international department. As a member of EEC committees on the social fund, free movement and vocational training, she represented CISL at every international level, including the European Federation of Unions.

In a speech delivered at the time of her investiture on the Economic and Social Committee, Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso - speaking "both as a unionist and as a woman" - thanked the council members for having elected her.

"Without tub-thumping, we must all recognise and be aware of woman's role in society, production and political and union representation, mindful of the historic significance in our century of the movement towards the liberation of woman and recognition of her contribution".

For the first time in the twenty five year history of European integration, a woman has been appointed as president of an institutional body in the European Community.

By the precedent which it sets, an event of this kind should be a matter of rejoicing among women. It is symptomatic of the changes in attitude that are coming about. Let us hope that it is a harbinger of the "Europe-2" to which Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso referred in her presidential speech when she spoke of a second phase in the Community, ushered in by the direct elections to European Parliament. In that second European phase, we hope that women will be given responsibilities equal to those now borne by men.

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FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES

G E R M A N Y

"Mitmachen macht Mut"

"Joint action boosts morale": this is the spirit of the slogan adopted by the German Ministry for Young People, the Family and Health, which has launched a broad-ranging promotional campaign aimed not only at women but also at their husbands and partners. A sticker, in fact, asks the question "Are you a pasha or a partner?".

One of the original ideas in this campaign is to offer "information scholarships", meetings that are organised at local level by all women's interest groups (the political parties, unions, churches, social work, etc.), to which women are all invited and where they can learn about the activities and services available to them.

Useful address: Bundesminister für Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit
Postfach 20 04 90
5300 Bonn 2

An anti-discrimination law?

S.P.D. (the German Social Democrat party), F.D.P. (the German Liberal party), the Humanistische Union (Humanist Union) and various independent women's groups are considering the inclusion of an anti-discrimination law in German legislation according to the precedents set by the U.S., Britain and Scandinavia.

The problem is whether a law of this kind could be added to article 3 of the Grundgesetz (the German equivalent of the constitution), which establish that all citizens are equal.

The anti-discrimination bill envisages concrete sanctions and the establishment of a commission or authority empowered to conduct enquiries and take legal action to uphold women's rights. Antje Huber, the woman Minister for Young People, the Family and Health, has been entrusted with the task of finding out whether such an anti-discrimination law would be necessary and useful.

A special "baby" leave

In response to a proposal made by Ministers Antje Huber and Herbert Ehrenberg, the German Federal Government has just decided to institute a special leave for mothers with new-born babies from 1 July 1979. Under this law, mothers may take six months' unpaid leave to look after their babies without losing their jobs. This "baby" leave is in addition to the paid maternity leave to which mothers are already entitled: six weeks before, and eight weeks after, childbirth.

Approximately half of the 600,000 babies born in Germany every year are the children of working mothers. To safeguard the mother's earnings during her special "baby" leave, her net wages, up to the level of DM.750 per month, will be paid to her out of Federal funds.

According to the Bundesanstalt für Arbeit (Federal Employment Agency), the new regulations will have very little impact on the labour market, as no more than 8,000 jobs will be affected in 1979.

Useful address: Bundesminister für Arbeit und Sozialordnung
Postfach 14 02 80
53 Bonn 1

A brighter outlook for employment

Two thirds of those out of work are girls. To counterbalance this trend, several regional authorities (Hamburg, Lower Saxony, North Rhein-Westphalia), backed by the Federal Government, have decided to help employers to open out new prospects for girls. Some of the qualifications which young women can now acquire are as welders and materials inspectors.

In Westphalia, the regional authority is granting a monthly subsidy of DM.400 to pilot companies for three years and will also refund certain incidental expenses such as the installation of extra cloakroom facilities.

Model child-minding units: a three-year experiment

After a period of three years, the Government has wound up an experiment in model child-minding units, a programme that has cost DM.1.25 million. The 171 Tagesmütter (qualified child-minders) and 17 Ersatzmütter (emergency foster mothers) are now under threat, especially as the regional authorities have refused to accept responsibility for the costs, a burden that has been shouldered by the Federal authorities up to this time.

Help yourselves: the child-minding units have decided to combine to form an association to continue discussions with the Federal authorities.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Familie,
Jugend und Gesundheit
Kennedy-Allee 105-107
5300 Bonn - Bad Godesberg

B E L G I U M

Equality before the law

By a unanimous vote, Belgian parliamentarians approved Title V of the Law of 4 August 1978 on new economic guidelines for parity between men and women. Under this law, Belgium may now apply the EEC second directive on equal pay. Special implementing decrees are already being prepared with regard to some of its provisions.

The Belgian press has given very wide coverage to the voting on this law, a milestone in the struggle for female emancipation. A "good advertiser's guide" has also been published to help employment agencies, employers and newspapers to comply with those sections of the law covering "asexual" job advertisements.

One newspaper is already printing an important notice every day: "All the jobs advertised in our columns under the headings of Office Workers, Blue Collar Jobs, Domestic Workers, are open to both men and women, subject to the exceptions permitted by law".

Useful address: Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail
Bureau 747
53, rue Belliard
1040 Brussels tel. 513.40.90
ext. 2452

The rights of mother and child

In the space of two years, 64 charges have been lodged with the courts against fathers who had "kidnapped" children to take them outside the country.

Are mothers so poorly protected in Belgium?

Moved by their predicament and in particular by the case of an unmarried mother who has been forced to adopt her own child, whose complaint is shortly to be considered by the European Court of Human Rights, the Consultative Committee on Woman's Status has been reacting energetically. Marijke Van Hemeldonck, the president of the Committee, has raised the whole problem of affiliation in public and has also supported these efforts by political action in the parliamentary chambers through women senators Dhondt, Herman-Michielsen, Mathieu-Mohin, Nauwelaerts, Petru and Staels-Dompas.

The Consultative Committee was set up by royal decree on 1 April 1975 as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

It has 26 statutory members and the same number of members available for co-option. They speak for the social and political organisations most representative of the women's movement and ministries directly concerned with the position of women (the Ministries of Justice, Middle Classes, Social Welfare, Employment and Labour, Public Health and Foreign Affairs). The Committee is presided by Belgium's representative on the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women.

It is the three-fold task of the Committee to keep abreast of all the ideas being put forward by international organisations and institutions to improve women's status, to inform the Minister of its views so that a decision can be reached on Belgian policy in this domain and to check on the ways that decisions reached at an international level are being implemented.

Useful address: Commission Consultative de la Condition de la Femme
12 rue du Grand Cerf
1000 Brussels tel: 513.62.40
ext. 1795

A woman on the air

Léa Martel, a graduate in political and diplomatic science, has just been appointed as the administration manager of B.R.T. (Belgian radio and television). It is the first time that a woman has reached this level in Belgian broadcasting.

Léa Martel was a journalist as far back as in 1956, before becoming the editorial secretary and then editor responsible for the "Service en Maaschappelijke Programma's" department which created programmes dealing with problems in society.

In her new job, Léa Martel has special responsibility for schools broadcasting, adult education and many other programmes broadcast on both radio and television.

Useful address: B.R.T.
August Reyerslaan, 52
1040 Brussels tel: 736.10.10

Protective measures and women's employment

The National Council on Employment and the Committee on Women's Employment have each set up a study group to analyse developments in production processes and in the materials being used in the light of legislation enacted to protect women at work.

The purpose of this work is to update the legislation that may in many cases have been superseded as a result of developments in technology and the social sciences, to ensure that the law does not become an indirect obstacle to women seeking access to certain occupations.

Useful address: Commission du Travail des Femmes
Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail
53, rue Belliard
1040 Brussels

Equal access to jobs in Charleroi

The Sub-regional Committee for Employment in Charleroi has organised a debate on the employment of men and women, in cooperation with the Committee on Women's Employment.

The forum was attended by representatives from many firms in industry and the service sector. It highlighted the obstacles to equal access to jobs for men and women and the steps that should be taken to allow women to take up occupations that have been the traditional preserve of men. Those present also considered the pilot experiment that had been organised by the Committee on Women's Employment in liaison with a technical group of the Sub-regional Committee.

Useful address: Commission du Travail des Femmes
Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail
53, rue Belliard
1040 Brussels

F R A N C E

Monique Pelletier, Minister for Women's Status

The fourth Frenchwoman to reach ministerial rank, Monique Pelletier has recently been assigned responsibility for Women's Status. An issue that was originally handled by a Secretariat of State (under Françoise Giroud), then by a national delegation (led first by Nicole Pasquier and later by Jacqueline Nonon), women's status is now the responsibility of a ministry created for the purpose. The Minister will chair the twice-yearly meetings of a joint ministerial committee responsible for action on behalf of women.

A mother of seven, Monique Pelletier was born in Trouville-sur-Mer (Calvados) in 1926. After studying law and a career in law, she directed the School of Parents and Educators, an institution authorised as being in the public interest.

In June 1977, Monique Pelletier was asked by the President of the Republic to carry out a survey on drug addiction. In January 1978, she was appointed Secretary of State to the Minister of Justice.

A member of the political bureau of the Republican Party, Monique Pelletier represents Neuilly on the municipal council and has been assistant to the mayor since 1977.

Helping babies to survive

On the instigation of Simone Veil, the Minister of Health, several measures have been adopted in France recently to combat infant mortality and morbidity.

Maternity leave, for instance, has been extended by two weeks - six weeks before birth and ten weeks after - to encourage breast-feeding and give more time for close contact between mother and child. In cases of difficult pregnancies or multiple births, maternity leave may be as much as eighteen weeks, or even twenty weeks when both circumstances are combined.

Simone Veil has succeeded in negotiations for the whole cost of ante-natal care received by women during the last four months of pregnancy to be borne by social security, as well as all expenses incurred in hospitalising infants during the first thirty days of their lives. The social security authority will also bear the cost of examination and treatment necessitated by non-fertility.

Population figures: on the qui vive

By a very large majority, the Economic and Social Council adopted a report submitted by Evelyne Sullerot on the demographic situation in France and its economic and social implications.

The well-researched, extensive and topical information embodied in Evelyne Sullerot's report makes a powerful impact. Among the new population factors described, the author notes that the fall in the birth rate taking place over the past few years means that the population will decline in coming generations; only if the birth rate rises again will it be possible for the population figures to remain steady.

The report forcefully states the right of individuals to reach their own decisions with regard to their private lives and the size and make-up of their families.

A higher birth rate would imply greater expenditure on the family, which should be offset by "modular" allowances based on the number of children, associated with tax rebates.

Nevertheless, in emphasising the importance of increasing the birth rate care should be taken not to penalise women in matters relating to their education, training and work. It is also essential that young couples should be offered a standard of living that allows for family needs for housing, infrastructure and community services.

The world of work: the questions women are asking

The Women's Information Centre has published a weighty book with more than 200 pages setting out a detailed analysis of the questions which it has been asked by women over the past few years.

While the survey is a telling indicator of the Centre's usefulness, it also draws a striking picture of women's lot in their jobs. The book, entitled "Vie professionnelle: des femmes nous interrogent", depicts two very different categories of women: those who are segregated from the world of work due to family circumstances and who would like to enter or go back to that world, and women who have an occupation but who do not know, or do not understand, their rights and the means of enforcing those rights.

"What they all have in common is that they are under-informed and isolated," the report notes. In contacting the Centre by letter or telephone, they have often taken the first step to overcoming this dual handicap.

The survey published by the Centre is praiseworthy in that it lets the public speak for itself, a public generally regarded as the silent majority. Its difficulties provide a very good pointer to the tasks that must be tackled in the field of working life.

True to its calling, the Centre has drawn on the findings of this study to make several proposals regarding specific training designed for older women, a rethinking of general culture, more effective briefing of working women on their recruitment, etc.

Useful address: Centre d'Information Féminin
Boîte Postale 400
75327 Paris Cedex 07

The Committee on Women's Employment

The "Comité du Travail féminin" has forwarded three important memoranda to the ministry under whose auspices it was set up, stating its views on: "specific problems of female unemployment", "leave granted for care of children when sick" and "the problems of absenteeism". The full text of these views have been published by "Actualité du Travail des Femmes", the journal of the Committee on Women's Employment.

Useful address: Comité du Travail Féminin
Ministère du Travail et de la Participation
1 Place Fontenoy
75700 Paris

tel. 567.55.44

I R E L A N D

Suggestions welcome!

The Employment Equality Agency has launched an appeal to everyone to help it improve its advertising campaigns.

Established since October 1977, the Agency works to ensure that the Employment Equality Act and the Anti-Discrimination (Pay) Act are being effectively enforced.

Television slides, radio slots and eye-catching posters on public transport have already evoked a very positive response from the general public.

Have you any other ideas? Then send them to:

Useful address: Employment Equality Agency
Davitt House
Mespil Road
Dublin 4

tel. 76.58.61

Examining legal action under a microscope

The Employment Equality Agency is monitoring cases under the Anti-Discrimination (Pay) Act and the Employment Equality Act that come before the Labour Court, the body adjudicating on such cases. The Agency is particularly interested in cases against which the employers appeal, and the number of appeals upheld by the Labour Court.

An analysis of these cases will help the Agency to draw up amendments to both Acts where loopholes become apparent or where certain sections need to be tightened up.

Useful address: Employment Equality Agency
Davitt House
Mespil Road
Dublin 4

I T A L Y

Two women vice-presidents

Maria Eletta Martini has just been elected vice-president of the Chamber of Deputies. The Christian Democrat group in Parliament was unanimous in putting forward her name as candidate. A member of the Christian Democrat national council and of the body presiding the Centro Italiano Femminile (the Italian Women's Centre), Maria Eletta Martini has also won special praise for her effective chairmanship of the World Population Conference held in Budapest in 1974.

In the Italian Senate, another women - Tullia Romagnoli Caretoni, a left-wing independent - is also vice-president.

Women in the regions and provinces

A provincial conference on women's status and employment has been organised in the province of Trento by the Provincial Council in cooperation with the Provincial Consultative Council on Women's Status. All the bodies concerned with social and political affairs in the province were represented at the conference, which focussed on three major issues: women, sex, the family and society; women and work; social services policy. The principle traditionally upheld by women's groups was stressed once again: women should not make their presence felt just by advancing claims but also by direct and personal participation, the only means whereby they can make up for all the accumulated delays.

A publication provides regular reports on the Women's Consultative Councils. Its title is simple: "Il Giornale dei C.A.F."

Useful address: Il Giornale dei C.A.F.
Corso Vinzaglio, 14
10021 Turin

Civil servants: sex and age

Law 288 of 3 June 1978 has put an end to an injustice: it will no longer be possible to differentiate between men and women candidates when prescribing an age limit in competitions for office in the public sector. The archaic practice was still to be found in financial undertakings and banking institutions formed under public law.

No more oil in the soup

The protracted nightmare of petroleum bioproteins has come to an end: the Senior Health Council has issued a recommendation that petroleum bioproteins may be used "only as feedstuffs for domestic pets, dairy cattle and animals bred for their coats". They may not be fed to any other animal which might turn up on the table sooner or later in the form of a chop or slice of ham. It was to Tina Anselmi, the Minister of Health, that the Council forwarded its views.

The campaign against petroleum bioproteins was conducted by the Movimento per la Difesa della Salute (Health Defence Movement), backed by many women's organisations including the Centro Italiano Femminile (the Italian Women's Centre) and the group known as "Donne e ambiente" (Women and the Environment).

This victory in the battle against petroleum bioproteins is a telling example of the weight that women's organisations can bring to bear and at the same time highlights their responsibility when faced with environmental problems.

Useful address: Movimento per la Difesa della Salute
c/o Valeria Galletti
Via Avezzana 45
Rome

N E T H E R L A N D S

The 1979 budget

The emancipation movement has reached a point at which it can take stock of itself; the problem now is one of gradual, steady evolution. Care should be taken not to demand too sudden a change that would only produce a counter-reaction to the objectives at which we are aiming. This, in brief, was the view expressed by Mrs. Gardeniers-Berendsen and Mrs. Kraaijeveld-Wouters, responsible for emancipation problems in the Dutch Government, when they presented their budget for 1979.

It was their attention to make all the ministries concerned more aware of the many ways of integrating emancipation into their overall policy. Any ventures on the part of women's organisations along the same lines will be supported to the extent possible.

During the autumn, Parliament is to receive an inventory of all laws and regulations that contain or imply a form of discrimination based on sex or marital status. Based on this document, the Minister and her Under-Secretary of State may suggest steps that would do way with any discriminatory measure.

At the end of 1979, ministry officials will consider whether a subsidy can be given to the movement known as "Vrouwen bellen Vrouwen" (Women calling Women), which has organised a sort of self-help programme. During the year, courses in self-defence and in verbal expression were arranged on an experimental basis by the Ministry of Culture, Leisure and Social Work. The results of the experimental work will soon reveal whether these efforts should be continued or expanded.

Useful address: Ministerie van Cultuur, Recreatie en
Maatschappelijk Werk
Steen voordelaan, 370
Rijswijk

Women in education

The women members of the Algemeen Bond voor Onderwijzend Personeel (General Union of Teaching Staff) have decided to set up a separate group within their union, since they feel that A.B.O.P. should be more concerned with women's affairs. In particular, women teacher point out that they are the first to be made redundant when there are staff cuts, especially as many of them are only part-time teachers.

The women members of A.B.O.P. are asking that even part-time teachers should be given a proper contract giving them security of employment. In addition, they would like their earnings to be guaranteed if they have to stay at home because a child or husband is sick.

Useful address: Algemeen Bond voor Onderwijzend Personeel
Herengracht, 56
Amsterdam tel. (020) 26.46.33

Forgotten housewives

The Landbouwhogeschool (Advanced School of Agriculture) Vereniging van Huishoudwetenschappen (Domestic Science Association) has organised a day's study devoted to housework, this "forgotten sector" - to quote Prof. H. Priemus, an economist.

Domestic work is never taken into account when working out the national product, Professor Priemus pointed out, even though in fact it contributes 40% of the country's internal product. He went on to show that housework plays a "buffer" role in the economy: in a period of expansion, many forms of housework are reduced, releasing women to find work outside the home, whereas in periods of recession women can return to their sole role of housewife.

Professor Priemus has a broad concept of domestic work, embracing actual housework and also gardening, education, parent participation in their children's school activities, leisure, family travel, social activities, etc.

As employment is unlikely to increase to a spectacular extent, Professor Priemus pleaded for the redistribution of employment, and especially for more part-time jobs, a reduction in working hours, an upgrading of the home as a workplace and focus of production and finally a housing policy that takes these new factors into account.

Useful address: Landbouwhogeschool
Salverdaplein, 10
Wageningen tel. (08370) 89111

No conference in Teheran

According to the Emancipatiekommissie (Emancipation Commission), the Dutch Government should not take part on the world conference on women's status to be held in Teheran in 1980.

In a letter addressed to the Dutch Government, the Commission pointed out that human rights are being severely infringed in Iran. In a country such as this, a government has little right to claim that it champions women's rights, asserts the Commission.

Useful address: Emancipatiekommissie
J.C. van Markenlaan, 3
Rijswijk tel. (070) 94.92.25

Amending the Civil Code

The Emancipatiekommissie (Emancipation Commission) has made a recommendation to the Dutch Government that certain amendments should be made to the Civil Code to ensure that none of its measures contradicts the principle of equality among men and women.

The Commission recommended, for instance, that the minimum age for marriage should be altered to 18 for both young men and young women. As the Code now stands, girls may marry at the age of 18.

The Code states that a husband is under an obligation to give his wife an adequate sum of money to run the home, a provision that the Commission argues should be abolished, especially as it includes other measures specifying that responsibilities within the household must be fairly shared. The concept of "housekeeping money" can only perpetuate the idea that it is the woman, the partner who administers this money, who is solely responsible for the household, whereas in practice most married people already share the housework and domestic responsibilities.

According to the law, parental authority must be jointly exercised by the parents. In actual fact, the father has the final word. The Commission believes that if agreement cannot be reached between parents the courts should be able to settle the matter.

Useful address: Emancipatiekommissie
J.C. van Markenlaan
Rijswijk

Emancipation agencies

There are plans for setting up "emancipation agencies" throughout the Netherlands, whose terms of reference would be to back and stimulate all the efforts that are being made to achieve emancipation. The Emancipation Commission has forwarded a recommendation to the Dutch Government that these agencies should give advice on the spot, explain individual rights and promote the pooling of information and experience, as well as other services. The Commission envisages the creation of eleven regional agencies supplemented by an agency in each of the major cities (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, the Hague and Utrecht), with a national agency for overall coordination.

These agencies could also notify the authorities of those cases - and there are still many - in which emancipation is far from a reality.

Useful address: Emancipatiekommissie
J.C. Van Markenlaan, 3
Rijswijk

U N I T E D K I N G D O M

Taxpayers at last!

After a tough struggle, British wives are finally to be allowed to be taxpayers in their own right. They will no longer have to ask their husbands to sign their tax returns for them, nor will their husbands receive tax repayments due to their wives. Better still, women will be able to claim allowances for employing a male housekeeper, just as men may now claim for a woman housekeeper.

While welcoming these changes, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) believes that the proposals do not go far enough. A working wife who is paying the mortgage on a house still cannot claim tax relief without her husband's consent. While the husband can conceal his income from his wife, she still has to tell him what she earns. A working mother on her own may not claim child-minding costs as an allowable business expense, even though she would be unable to work without these costs.

Sex discrimination will continue, says the EOC, until the law is changed and a woman's income is considered entirely her own and not her husband's for tax purposes.

Under pressure from women's organisations and the EOC, the Government has announced that it will publish a discussion paper on the whole question of women and tax reform.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission
Commission House
20 Grosvenor Hill
London W1X 0HX

Camden, a pilot borough

The London Borough of Camden is the first local authority in Britain to introduce an equal opportunities policy for its staff. The Council decided that its employment policies needed to be changed to help women realise their full potential: there are few women in the higher employment grades and the Council wants to achieve a better ratio between men and women at all levels.

Camden is to run special courses for women (and men) where they have been under-represented in a particular kind of work in the previous twelve months, while questions to job applicants about their marital status, occupation of husband or wife, number of children and domestic arrangements have been forbidden.

Camden has already distinguished itself by its generous maternity leave for its employees: six weeks' leave on full pay and 24 weeks on half pay. Mothers are also encouraged to return to work and the Council is opening a crèche which may be used by all women employees.

Useful address: The Town Clerk
Camden Borough Council
Town Hall
Euston Road
London NW1

Northern Ireland

The Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland has claimed that women are still being discriminated against in Northern Ireland, particularly where hire purchase and mortgage services are concerned.

As a result, the Commission decided to write to banks, building societies and hire purchase firms reminding them of the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act.

It was not until June of this year that U.K. divorce legislation was introduced into Northern Ireland. The new Order gives judges important powers to settle disputes concerning property and to make provision for lasting financial support for the children of divorced parents.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland
Lindsay House
Callender Street
Belfast BT1 5DT

Children and Mortgages

With so many mothers at work, school holidays pose serious problems. British provision for child minding compares badly with other Community countries, according to the Equal Opportunities Commission. In the United Kingdom, only 20% of three year olds receive nursery education, compared with 70% in France, while provision for children under five in general has fallen from 72,000 day nursery places in 1944 to 25,000 in 1975. Less than one third of children under five actually receive day care, about half of those who need it.

The Commission recently pointed out the need for society to recognise the strains imposed on women by this lack of provision and to accept that the whole pattern of family life has changed.

In another field, but one that is linked with women's employment, there should be recognition of the changes that have occurred. In Britain, 66% of all women between the ages of 40 and 54 work outside the home, with 5% of married women earning more than their husbands. A recent survey undertaken by the Commission suggests that more than a third of building societies are likely to discriminate in some way against married couples where the wife earns the higher income. The average loan offered to couples where the wife was the higher earner, for instance, was £500 lower than in cases when the husband earned more. Under the Sex Discrimination Act, this discrimination is unlawful.

MILITANT ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The European Movement

The European Movement's International Women's Committee, whose president is Margherita Barnabei, has decided to present a document designed to be women's contribution towards the establishment of a new European society. It will outline a plan for life in a society which would satisfy the most pressing of aspirations for full realisation of individual potential, social justice and international solidarity.

The nine women's committees set up by the national branches of the European Movement are at work drawing up a preliminary draft for discussion at an international meeting. The text will then be forwarded to all women's organisations in the nine EEC countries to win the broadest possible support from the women of Europe.

Useful address: Margherita Barnabei
c/o Movimento Europeo
Via Guido Baccelli 10
00153 Rome

The European Union of Women

Given the language problem in Europe, the "Union Européenne Féminine" is known by several names (see "Women of Europe", 2/78, March/April 1978). To avoid confusion, its names are: Europäische Frauen-Union, Union Européenne Féminine, European Union of Women and Unione Europea Femminile.

It has held a congress in Lisbon where the discussions were influenced by the two-fold prospect of the forthcoming European parliamentary elections and the International Children's Year. Documents are being prepared for the latter event by all the national sections, and these will be pooled and summarised for publication in 1979.

Useful address: European Union of Women
President: Lady Diana Elles
c/o Conservative Party Headquarters
32 Smith Square
London SW1 3HH

Widows' rights

The International Federation of Widowers' and Widows' Associations is conducting a comparative survey of social legislation here in Europe as it pertains to surviving spouses.

Useful addresses: Fédération internationale des associations de
veufs et de veuves
28, place Saint Georges
75009 Paris

National Association of Widows
35 Penny Cofts Court
Strafford ST1 2RA

GRUSE
The Charter House
6, Lion Gate Gardens
Richmond (Surrey) TW9 2DF

National Association of Widows in Ireland
3 North Earl Street
Dublin

Associazione Donne Italiane Capofamiglia
Piazza Bologna 1 bis
Rome 00162

Stichting Welzijnsbevordering Weduwen en Wedewnaars
Postbus, 36
Eelde

Any other associations with the same objectives are asked to contact the International Federation.

Women bosses

The Fédération européenne de responsables professionnelles et de femmes patrons, a European federation of women managers and employers, has been established by the French organisation which invited its sister organisations in other EEC countries to a joint seminar at Saint-Vincent d'Aoste.

Denise Dufour, barrister at law, is responsible for coordination for the time being.

Useful address: Fédération européenne de responsables profession-
nelles et de femmes patrons
99, rue de Courcelles
75017 Paris

CEFRES

CEFRES stands for Centre européen féminin de recherche sur l'évolution de la société, whose English name is European Women's Centre of Studies in a Changing Society.

Françoise Latour da Veiga Pinto, its secretary general, has outlined a programme of research for 1978-1979 based on four major themes: evolution of the concept of work; woman and the environment; evaluation of biological discoveries, their psychological, demographic, political and social consequences; the role of women in political, economic, social and scientific decision-making.

Useful address: CEFRES
Rue de Varenne, 55
75007 Paris

tel. 548 95.48

G E R M A N Y

Europe: an opportunity for Women

Women should go and vote and above all they should present themselves as candidates at the European elections: this was the clarion call at the seminar organised in Cologne by the German Council of the European Movement. In this way, women can speak their minds on social policy and on employment policy.

The reaction was one that had already been gathering momentum during the Kiel week where women debated the theme: Europe - an opportunity for women.

There is growing solidarity among the women of Europe across their frontiers, a fact highlighted by a seminar run by the Neuen Gesellschafts (new society) association. The fifty or so women who came to the seminar at Derseau noted that women share a common past and have the same needs, with particular reference to the social policy of the European Communities.

Sexism on trial

On the grounds that they were insulted by the cover pages of a mass circulation magazine, "Stern", a group of about ten women have brought the first legal action based on "sexism" in the history of the Federal Republic. Nudes and semi-nudes, the women decorating Stern's first page do not provide a fair picture of today's woman, argued the plaintiffs. One of them, the psychologist Margarete Mitscherlich, stressed that woman's acquisition of sexual freedom had not helped to liberate her.

Despite the wave of solidarity aroused by their venture, the women lost their case against the magazine. Many organisations and individuals gave financial support to help them pay the costs of the case and of an appeal against its ruling in a higher court.

Useful address: Emma
Zeitschrift für Frauen von Frauen
Kolpingplatz, 1a
5 Köln 1

Equal pay for equal work

Although pay discrimination has officially been abolished in Germany, "women's wages" still exist: on an average, women's pay packets are 30% smaller than those of their male colleagues. Most women are not brave enough to take their employers to the labour courts. Even the campaigns conducted by the political parties, the unions and women's newspapers have little effect.

Nevertheless, one woman baker has complained of her employer: her hourly rate of pay of DM.6.86 was far short of the DM.8.24 earned by her male counterparts. As soon as her complaint became known, her employer suggested that she should be moved to another job. She was happy working with the baker's ovens, however, and she is now claiming back pay from 1 January 1976 as well as the same rate of earnings as her workmates.

B E L G I U M

Launching the electoral campaign

The Parti féministe unifié (Belgium's unified feminist party) and the "Choisir" movement (France) have decided to present feminist candidates for the European parliamentary elections. The two organisations have formulated a joint platform, which could be summarised as follows:

- economic independence for women;
- right to dispose freely of their own bodies;
- a new image of women in the educational and information media.

The unified feminist party has just launched its campaign by forwarding a letter to all French-speaking members of Parliament in Belgium asking for their signatures, since the signatures of about ten M.P.'s are required before the feminists can present a list of candidates.

Useful address: Parti féministe unifié
 Rue des Aduatiques
 1040 Brussels tel. 736.30.73

The child and its local authority

Looking forward to International Children's Year, the National Council of Belgian Women has organised a meeting with about forty women who are local councillors to discuss what could be done by the local authorities to improve the lot of children.

Fanny Fuks, president of the French-speaking branch of the National Council of Belgian Women, said that she intended to encourage any joint action that could be taken by the Council and the women councillors.

Useful address: Conseil National des Femmes Belges
 Place Quételet, 1a
 1030 Brussels tel. 219.50.53

F R A N C E

Women's employment and the unions

The Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail (C.F.D.T.) has sent us its report issued as a result of its national conference devoted to women's employment and union action. One of the resolutions passed at the 37th congress of this union federation stated: "Every woman must have the opportunity to work and procure the economic means for her independence", and "to bring about the recognition of this right to employment, there must be a fight against everything which perpetuates the predetermination of roles and division of labour between men and women".

Winding up the national conference on women and the unions, Edmond Maire, the secretary general to the federation, emphasised the important part that unions are playing in changing attitudes as well as the cultural role of the union in breaking down women's traditional resistance to unionisation.

Useful address: C.F.D.T.
 5, rue Cadet
 75009 Paris

The C.G.T.

Following the sixth conference of the Confédération Générale du Travail (C.G.T.) on working women today, a book with over 150 pages has been published under the title of "Les questions qui font bouger" (stirring issues), brought out by the union federation's magazine for its women members. The questions raised during the conference are set out under clear-cut headings, reproduced just as they are in the report: family and management pressures, sexist prejudices, growing awareness of women who want a voice in the union and so on.

The charter of claims and a document adopted by C.G.T.'s executive committee describe the importance of educating women in union matters and the more important role that can be played by women union officials.

Useful address: C.G.T.
213, rue de Lafayette
75480 Paris

Force Ouvrière

Paulette Hofman, secretary general of the Confédération Générale du Travail - Force Ouvrière (shortened to F.O.), has organised a "union day" for women delegates from the departmental areas at which they considered "European social policy and the position of women". The final motion passed at the end of the day quoted the EEC directive on equality for men and women, pointing out that there was a good deal to do before this could become a reality.

Useful address: Force Ouvrière
198, Avenue du Maine
75014 Paris

Mastering technology

The Union Professionnelle Féminine (the French federation of clubs for women in professional and business careers affiliated to the international federation), following its biennial congress, has held a European meeting devoted to the problem of women and technology.

With the cooperation of sociologists, technical advisers, engineers, managers and teachers, the European meeting analysed the advanced technology of the post-industrial era and its effects on health, family life and the labour market.

It concluded that in Europe technology should be at the service of the human being, promoting basic values, the balance of men's and women's roles and the ability to adapt and improve life; the meeting called for solidarity among European research workers, technicians and producers.

Useful address: Dr. Claude Rossignol
President, U.P.F.
7, rue Abel
75012 Paris

I R E L A N D

Briefing Irish Women

The Council for the Status of Women, working through its member organisations, has organised a series of seminars and meetings on the subject of Europe.

The Irish Housewives' Association, for instance, has held three seminars in three different towns on Community consumer legislation. The Soroptimists have held a seminar on "equality of opportunity in education within the European Community", while the Irish Nurses' Organisation has had a special day devoted to the EEC directive on the nursing profession and its implications for the profession in Ireland. The Cork and Limerick Federations of Women are to debate various issues this year, including women and work, women and the law, women as creators and women and politics, within the European context.

"Women and politics" will also be the theme of a major seminar to be held by the Women's Political Association in Dublin.

Useful address: Council for the Status of Women
 27 Merrion Square
 Dublin 2 tel. 76.34.48

A Women's Centre in Dublin

This is the text of a message that has been sent to us: "We are a group of women who come from different spheres in the Women's Movement in Ireland and who are hoping to set up a women's centre in Dublin, organised by women, for women.

"We believe that we can learn a good deal from the experience acquired by women who have already set up women's centres in other countries. We should welcome any comments and suggestions based on experience that any women's groups or centres in Europe could offer us. Any literature will be warmly welcomed."

Useful address: Steering Collective for a Women's Centre
 c/o 99 Tritonville Road
 Sandymount
 Dublin 4

I T A L Y

Women in posters

"For revolution, for the native land, for the family and for women" is the ironic title of a surprising exhibition of posters whose doors have just closed in Venice and which was organised by the city of Venice.

Heroic or moving, concerned or radiant, woman has adorned posters of every political trend throughout modern history. but, with her eyes brimming with tears or hope, she is an ideal woman, a symbol or pretext very consciously used by the artist. As for so many years, as always in fact, she is there only to justify man, even in his political excesses.

The fact that women is so often pressed into service to persuade men by her image is in itself highly significant, but the fact that women are made to say precisely the opposite of what they think is no less significant. Over the past few years, feminist posters produced by women for women have made their appearance. After years of male bombast, the time has come for humour, irony, the raising of an eyebrow to mock this funny sort of a world.

Useful address: Assessorato alla Cultura e alle Belle Arti
 Comune di Venezia
 Venice

Woman and her image in history

The Centro Italiano Femminile (Italian Women's Centre) has organised a seminar on the theme of "a historical and cultural reading of our condition as women". It is of the greatest interest, both because of its topicality and because of the influence it may exert on women's constructive contribution to society.

Women today are at odds with the culture that refuses to acknowledge any vital function for them in history, thus dismissing the role of women in the building of society. They have managed to break away from the old patterns but they are still influenced by the various messages aimed at them from every side.

If women are not to be misled by the image of their past or by the misrepresentation of women imparted by today's culture, they must discover the essential values which enable them to take their position side by side with men as active partners working for a more just and human world. This was also the guideline for the seminar organised by the Centre, expressed in the form of discussions, working group and round table meetings.

Useful address: Centro Italiano Femminile
 Via Carlo Zucchi 25
 Rome tel. 622 11 67

The Italian Women's Union enforces the law

The Unione Donne Italiane (Italian Women's Union) has won a victory against the Ente Nazionale Cellulosa e Carta, a nationalised company that manufactures cellulose and paper. With the backing of Law 903 enacted on 8 December 1977 to guarantee equal access to professions for men and women, the Union disputed the company's announcement of a competition for scholarships to be awarded "to students of the male sex who have successfully completed their third year of studies at the Industrial Engineering Institute".

Faced with this protest from the Union, the company withdrew the disputed text and issued it again in an amended form, also allowing more time, so that women candidates could compete.

Useful address: Unione Donne Italiane
 Via Colonna Antonina 41
 Rome tel. 679 17 58

Women, art and culture

The Folklore Museum in Rome has been the location for the Sixth International Exhibition of Art and Culture organised by the Centro Italiano Femminile Artisti e Professionisti (Italian Centre for Women Artists and Professional Women). The Centre's aim is to popularise art and culture and it also seeks new forms of expression in the field of pure art. Its activities are wide ranging, including arts events, exhibitions and lectures or debates, the presentation of literary and scientific works, etc.

Useful address: CIFAP
Via di Villa Torlonia 10
Rome

Milan for Europe

"Milano per l'Europa" is the name given to a woman's group set up by the European Federalist Movement in Milan, whose membership includes women's representatives from the political parties and various associations.

The group's first round table discussion on the theme of "women's work in the European context and looking forward to monetary union" was led by Teresa Caizzi, president of the Lombardy European Federalist Movement. Many women active in politics took part: Maria Luisa Cassammagnago, Vera Squarcialupi, Beatrice Machiavelli and others.

Useful address: Milano per l'Europa
Via San Rocco 20
Milan

Christian Democrat Women and Europe

The "Movimento Femminile della Democrazia Cristiana" (Christian Democrat Women's Movement) has organised a national seminar to train "European militants". With less than a year to go before the European elections, the Movement is taking active steps to prepare its members for the campaign that must be conducted to explain and discuss the issues at stake: the institutions, common policies and the problems still unsolved. The seminar provided an opportunity for those attending to refresh their knowledge of European affairs and to compare them with the problems being faced in Italy.

Many of those taking part emphasised the stand and policies adopted by the Christian Democrat movement in Europe, which has built up a federation of European parties and established a C.D. women's union at the European level.

Useful address: Movimento Femminile DC
Piazza delle Cinque Lune, 113
Rome tel. 656 90 15

Youth unemployment: a European problem

Unemployment among young people was the theme for the Twenty-eighth National Assembly of the Associazione Nazionale Donne Elettrici (National Association of Women Voters) held in Turin. The figures for each region were compared, with the active participation of young officials working in the political parties, union representatives, experts from other EEC countries, etc.

Once again, the striking factor was that girls are in the majority among young people in search of employment. Girls are having to fight on two fronts: they are struggling to acquire social status outside the family and they are also fighting for the right to work under particularly difficult economic circumstances.

Useful address: Associazione Nazionale Donne Elettrici
Via del Corso 262
Rome tel. 679 49 93

Women in prison

A survey on the condition of women in prison in Italy has been conducted by the Coordinamento Romano delle Giornaliste (Rome women journalists' coordination group), with a delegation visiting four womens' prisons at Messina, Perugia, Venice and Rebibbia.

In the course of their investigations the journalists saw for themselves the halfhearted nature of prison reform, even its absence - a factor on which all those concerned are agreed, whether they are magistrates, politicians, officials or social workers.

The most serious problem for women in jail is the deprivation of emotional ties, with separation from their children being a particularly severe difficulty. It would not be beyond the bounds of possibility to devise a social service arrangement whereby women could look after their children outside prison.

Women account for only 4% of the prison population and they are often imprisoned for only minor offences. Women always commit crimes at the direct or indirect instigation of men, a fact that is just as true today despite all the changes that have been taking place in the relations between men and women. A woman will hardly ever act as the ringleader.

By carrying out this survey, the Rome journalists hoped to throw further light on a special aspect of women's status, a subject on which the information available - as in many other cases - is fragmented and slanted.

Useful address: Coordinamento giornaliste romane
c/o Marisa Bergamini
Via G.B. Falda 3
Rome

"Quotidiano Donna"

This Italian "daily" newspaper in fact comes out only once a week at present, on Saturdays (its price is 200 lire), but its ambition is to appear every day as its title suggests. The ambitious venture was originally launched by five women, but they have already received a good deal of encouragement, generous contributions and an abundance of dedicated help.

The next step: to set up more regional links so that the paper can mirror the work and problems of women's groups throughout Italy.

Useful address: Quotidiano Donna
 Via del Governo Vecchio 5
 Rome

N E T H E R L A N D S

Five years of discrimination

The working group, Meld en Regelkamer (shortened to MERK, meaning "mark"), set up by the Man-Vrouw-Maatschappij association (Man, Woman and Society), has brought out a booklet that describes, in words and pictures, many examples of discrimination against women in the Netherlands. Its title is "Merk toch hoe sterck", a pun on the working group's name and meaning "Mark how strong it is still!". The world of advertising does not come out of this searching survey with flying colours.

Useful address: Man-Vrouw-Maatschappij
 Pastoorwarande, 12
 The Hague

Surinam women

Tens of thousands of the former inhabitants of Surinam, once a Dutch colony in the Caribbean, have been living in the Netherlands for many years. A number of Surinam women have taken the initiative of meeting on a "national contact day", to which they invited representatives from Dutch women's organisations.

Suffering as they are from three-fold discrimination - as women, as coloured women and as coloured women in search of employment - the Surinam women also complain of the absence of education designed in the light of their situation.

They have decided to tackle their problems themselves, with the aid of other women's organisations in the Netherlands.

Useful address: Werkgroep Surinaamse Vrouwen
 c/o Mevr. O. Shantiprekash
 Vinkenstraat, 72-11
 Amsterdam

UNITED KINGDOM

Fifty Years of the Vote

This summer British women celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the passing of the Representation of the People's (Equal Franchise) Act of 1928, which gave women equal voting rights at the age of 21. A government-sponsored exhibition in Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament marked the event, showing the women's struggle for over half a century before this right was achieved.

The first National Society for Women's Suffrage was set up in 1867; in the early 1900's the militant Suffragettes took over the battle, often leading to violence, imprisonment and forced feeding. In 1918, however, Parliament gave women over 30 the vote; it took a further ten years to achieve equal rights with men. Fifty years later women are still struggling for equality of opportunity under the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975.

Manual Work and Women

Women working professionally as builders, bricklayers, lorry drivers and carpenters are few and far between in Britain. "Women in the Manual Trades" is a small action group, launched three years ago, which seeks to break down the isolation of women in these trades and to work for genuine equality.

The group is concerned that Government retraining courses appear to discriminate against women entering the manual trades. With a subsidy granted by the Equal Opportunities Commission, it has prepared a film for use in schools, aimed particularly at encouraging girls to take up careers in these trades which, as a spokeswoman put it, "demand more knack and practice than brute strength".

Useful address: Women in the Manual Trades
 23 Bridge Avenue Mansions
 Bridge Avenue
 London W.6

Women's National Commission

Ann Toulmin is the new Secretary of the Women's National Commission (WNC), following the retirement of Dr. Grace Thornton. An Oxford graduate, Ann Toulmin served in the Women's Royal Naval Service during the 1939-1945 war and has had a distinguished career in Government service.

The WNC acts as a link between the Government and the major women's organizations in Britain.

It was only natural that the Commission should have played a coordinating role in UK activities during International Women's Year, 1975. Dr. Thornton, who was its Secretary General at the time, helped to establish an International Committee to carry on the work of the International Women's Year.

In the latest issue of the WNC International News Sheet, Dr. Thornton writes: "We are now in the middle of the Decade for Women and shall soon be considering the substantive documentation and other preparations for the mid-term Conference in 1980, in which the WNC will doubtless play its full part". She adds that if the United Nations accepted this year the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, this would indeed be encouragement for the second half of the Decade for Women.

Useful address: Women's National Commission
 Queen Anne Chambers
 41, Tothill Street
 London SW1H 9JX

Less part-time work for Women Doctors

The Medical Women's Federation is concerned that, under a new Government contract for consultants in the National Health Service, there will no longer be part-time posts for senior women doctors who wish to work less than eight half days a week in clinics.

The Medical Women's Federation calculated that approximately half of its members would like to work part time. Many of these doctors had postponed having children until after post-graduate training so that when they are ready for consultant posts they often have young families.

They need part-time work; if such posts are not available, their hard-won skills may be wasted.

Useful address: Medical Women's Federation
 Tavistock House North
 Tavistock Square
 London WC1H 9HX

More responsibility in the Union

The Transport and General Workers Union (T&GWU), Britain's largest union, is making a determined effort to encourage women members to take up the union's training and educational opportunities, to apply for full-time posts and to get themselves elected to the important committees that run the union from local to national level.

Of the present 500 full-time officers, only three are women; the best known is Marie Patterson, former President of the Trades Union Congress and a member of the Equal Opportunities Commission. While the Union has one third of a million women members, only a few are elected to regional and national committees, a situation that Union leaders would like to see changed.

Useful address: T&GWU
 Transport House
 Smith Square
 London SW1P 3JB

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Equal status and the law

The EEC Governments have been given thirty months to adapt their national legislation to the EEC directive on the principle of the equal status of men and women in terms of access to employment, professional and vocational training and promotion and working conditions.

As of 12 August 1978, the European Commission had been formally notified of the following legislation:

Italy	Law 903, 9 December 1977
United Kingdom	1975 Sex Discrimination Act, 12 November 1975
France	Law 75/625, 11 July 1975
Denmark	Law 161, 12 April 1978
Belgium	Title V, Law of 4 August 1978
Ireland	1977 Employment Equality Act, 1 June 1977

The Court of Justice and air hostesses

The victory won by Gabrielle Defrenne, a Belgian air hostess, before the Court of Justice of the European Communities may be remembered: yes, the Court said, a hostess is in fact entitled to the same pay as her male colleagues in pursuance of article 119 of the Treaty of Rome, even if the Belgian Government has not adapted its laws accordingly.

Gabrielle Defrenne pressed her case: since the aims of the Treaty of Rome are two-fold, economic and social, does not article 119 mean that men and women should enjoy equal working conditions? In that case, is not the age limit of 40 as applied to air hostesses contrary to the Treaty?

The Court of Justice did not uphold Gabrielle Defrenne's contention. "Article 119 of the EEC Treaty," it said, "cannot be interpreted as prescribing, in addition to equal pay, that the working conditions applicable to male workers shall be the same as those applicable to female workers."

All hopes have not been dashed, however, as the Court ruling also specifies that "at the time of the facts originating the main issue in dispute, there was no rule under Community law relating to working relationships subject to national law that prohibited discrimination between male and female workers in the area of working conditions other than the system of earnings covered by article 119 of the EEC Treaty".

Now, in 1978, Community law on non-discrimination does exist. This means that differences in age limits in contracts with men and women employees are illegal, as they are in conflict with the directive.

Girls in secondary education

Girls must have the same access to all forms of education as boys: this, in brief, is the declaration made by the ministers of education in every EEC country in 1976. In a report due to be published shortly, Dr. Eileen Byrne has compiled a wide-ranging survey of the situation in each individual country. Everywhere, she finds, girls are still discriminated against by an educational system that was brought into being before women's aspirations were being expressed.

After reading Dr. Byrne's report, the European Commission has forwarded a communication to the EEC Council of Ministers on "equality of opportunity in the field of education and training for girls in secondary education".

Why are girls' academic achievements in secondary schools disappointing? Why are there fewer girls than boys in vocational and technical schools at secondary level? Why do girls leave school earlier than boys? Is it true that the school syllabus itself discriminates against girls? Above all, what should be done?

The education ministers in the nine EEC countries are to discuss the issue again this year under the Community education action programme.

Useful address: Commission of the European Communities
Directorate General of Science, Research and Education
200, rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Women in the Third World

Lady Fisher of Rednal, a member of the European Parliament, has raised a question to the European Commission: what account does the Commission take of women's role in agriculture in the developing nations?

In development projects financed by EEC credit and administered by the Commission, the Commission makes a special effort to take into account the important role of women in the production of food. Where, for instance, women traditionally have their own field or plot near their homes whose crops are at their own disposal, the plans for any project in the area will allow for continuance of that tradition. In addition, attempts are being made to make women's work more productive without adding to the burden it places upon them. Two of the important points borne in mind when evaluating a project before its adoption are the farming calendar and the respective working hours of the various working members of a family living on the land. Efforts are being made to integrate women in planned training programmes. Finally, if a project involves migration of workers, provision is made for settling the whole family, not only in terms of housing and social infrastructure but also with due regard for the land that the woman will need for her traditional crops, thus avoiding families being split up to the extent possible.

RESEARCH, MEETINGS, BOOKS

Belgium: CRISP and women jurists

The Centre de recherche et d'information socio-politiques (socio-political research and information centre, CRISP for short) has dedicated an issue of its "weekly newsletter" to the Belgian association of women jurists. Specialising in research on pressure groups, in this issue CRISP gives a detailed account of how women can influence the decision-making processes in Belgian civil service and political circles.

Useful address: CRISP
35, rue du Congrès
1000 Brussels

The Netherlands: part-time employment

The consequences of part-time employment are little known: this is the main conclusion reached in a survey on the subject conducted in the Netherlands by the Vereniging van Vrouwen met Academische Opleiding (university women's association). To accept a part-time post, for example, may often rule out all hope of access to greater responsibility. "Deeltijdarbeid op hoger niveau" (part-time employment at senior levels) is a survey which dispels many commonly held views.

Useful address: Vereniging van Vrouwen met Academische Opleiding
Breedvelsingel 38
Rotterdam tel. (010) 18.66.62

The Netherlands: literature and the arts

Three Dutch women writers, Hanneke van Buuren, Ethel Portnoy and Hannes Meinkema, have decided to launch a magazine on literature and the arts aimed at their women colleagues, with the title of Chrysallis. There will be two issues a year and it is to be published by Elsevier.

Italy: the image and reality of work

Research conducted under the auspices and with a grant from the Giovanni Agnelli Foundation has revealed that the image of work as projected by school text books is still, in our own time, incredibly sexist. All books - anthologies and history books, technical manuals and simple readers - tend to portray women in their traditional roles.

Useful address: Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli
Via Ormea, 37
10125 Turin tel. (011) 65.86.66

Italy: the myth of the matriarch

In a book entitled "Matriarcato e potere delle donne" (Matriarchy and the power of women), Ida Magli sets out a lively analysis of the myth of matriarchy. Starting with the definition given by the Oxford Dictionary, Ida Magli shows that there is an abyss between inheritance through the maternal line and real power. Even though women may create family links, true strength and power are in men's hands. Another myth debunked! In the space of 190 pages the case for matriarchy is heard and put in its proper place. Publisher: Feltrinelli, price Lire 3,000.