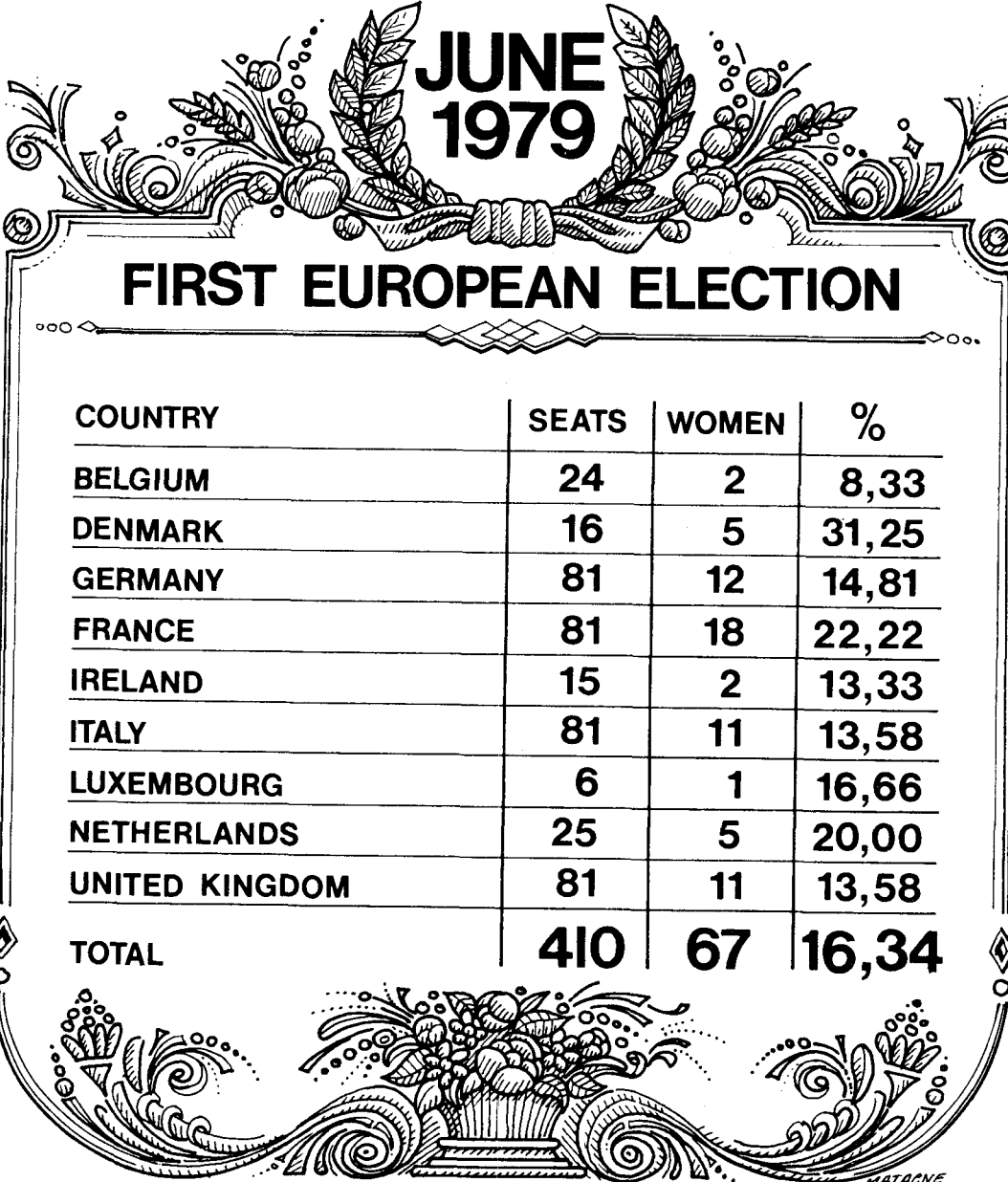


# Women of Europe

Brussels, May/June/July 1979 - no. 10/79



**JUNE 1979**

**FIRST EUROPEAN ELECTION**

COUNTRY	SEATS	WOMEN	%
BELGIUM	24	2	8,33
DENMARK	16	5	31,25
GERMANY	81	12	14,81
FRANCE	81	18	22,22
IRELAND	15	2	13,33
ITALY	81	11	13,58
LUXEMBOURG	6	1	16,66
NETHERLANDS	25	5	20,00
UNITED KINGDOM	81	11	13,58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>16,34</b>

MARTAGNE

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CEE:VI/79

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THE 67 WOMEN ELECTED TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

B E L G I U M

Socialist Party

Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin  
Cabinet official

Front des Francophones - Rassemblement Wallon

Mrs. Antonette Spaak  
Deputy for Brussels, president of Front des Francophones

D E N M A R K

Social Democrats

Mrs. Eva Gredal  
Deputy, former Minister for Social Affairs

Mrs. Mette Groes  
Academic

Liberal Party

Mrs. Tove Nielsen  
Former deputy, former Minister of Education

People's Socialist Party (Communist dissidents)

Mrs. Bodil Boserup  
Municipal Councillor for Copenhagen

National Front against the Common Market

Mrs. Else Hammerich  
Professor

F R A N C E

U.D.F. - Union de la France en Europe

Mrs. Simone Martin  
Secretary General to the Haute-Marne Chamber of Agriculture

Mrs. Louise Moreau  
Deputy for Alpes-Maritimes, Mayor of Mandelieu - La Napoule

Mrs. Marie-Jane Pruvot  
Headmistress, member of Clubs Perspectives et Réalités national bureau

Mrs. Christiane Scrivener  
Former Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs, Deputy Secretary  
General to the Republican Party

Mrs. Simone Veil  
Magistrate, Minister for Health and the Family

F R A N C E (continued)

Socialist Party

Mrs. Gisèle Charzat  
Teacher

Mrs. Edith Cresson  
Member of Socialist Party management committee

Mrs. Yvette Fullet  
Town Councillor for Marseilles, member of Socialist Party management committee

Mrs. Françoise Gaspard  
Mayor of Dreux, member of Socialist Party executive bureau

Mrs. Yvette Roudy  
Journalist, member of Socialist Party management committee

Mrs. Marie-Claude Vayssade  
Working women's training centre leader

DIFE (Défense des Intérêts de la France en Europe)

Mrs. Nicole Chouraqui  
Head of a women's economic training centre, assistant secretary general to  
Rassemblement pour la République (RPR)

Mrs. Marie Madeleine Dienesch  
Deputy for Côtes-du-Nord, former minister, former ambassador

Mrs. Louise Weiss  
Writer, founder of the journal "L'Europe Nouvelle", founder of Peace School

Communist Party

Mrs. Danielle Demarch  
General Councillor for Var, member of the Central Committee

Mrs. Jackie Joffmann  
Member of the Central Committee, welder

Mrs. Sylvie Leroux  
Scientific research worker, assistant to Mayor of Brest

Mrs. Henriette Poirier  
Teacher, member of the Central Committee

G E R M A N Y

C.D.U. (Christian Democrat Party)

Mrs. Marlène Lenz (Northern Rhineland/Westphalia)  
Interpreter, international leader of Women's Christian Democrat movement

Mrs. Renate Rabbetghe (Lower Saxony)  
Deputy

Mrs. Hanna Walz (Hesse)  
Deputy and member of previous European Parliament

C.S.U. (Bavarian Christian Democrats)

Mrs. Ursula Schleicher  
Deputy

G E R M A N Y (continued)

S.P.D. (Socialist Party)

Mrs. Katharina Focke  
Deputy, former minister

Mrs. Luise Herklotz  
Former deputy, journalist

Mrs. Magdalene Hoff  
Engineer, town councillor

Mrs. Heinke Salisch  
Town councillor

Mrs. Lieselotte Seibel  
Member of Bundestag

Mrs. Beate Weber  
Municipal Councillor

Mrs. Heidemarie Wieczorek - Zeul  
Former president of Young Socialists

F.D.P. (Liberal Party)

Mrs. Mechtild Von Alemann  
Member of Landtag

G R E A T B R I T A I N

Conservative Party

Mrs. Beata Brooks  
Farm owner and secretary to a tourism and catering company

The Baroness Elles  
Member of the House of Lords, member of former European Parliament

Mrs. Novella Forster  
Chairman/managing director of consultancy company

Miss Gloria Hooper  
Solicitor in firm of international legal consultants

Mrs. Elaine Kellett-Bowman  
Member of Parliament, member of former European Parliament

Mrs. Shelagh Roberts  
Industrial relations consultant

Labour Party

Mrs. Janey Buchan  
Local councillor

Mrs. Barbara Castle  
Member of Parliament, former minister

Miss Ann Clwyd  
Journalist

Miss Joyce Quinn  
University lecturer

Scottish National Party

Mrs. Winifred Ewing  
Member of former European Parliament

I R E L A N D

Labour Party

Mrs. Eileen Desmond  
Former member of Parliament, Senator

Fianna Fail

Miss Sile de Valera  
Former teacher

I T A L Y

Christian Democrats

Mrs. Maria Luisa Cerretti Cassanmagnago  
Deputy, member of outgoing European Parliament

Mrs. Paola Gaiotti Debiase  
Professor, writer

Communist Party

Mrs. Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso  
President of the EEC Economic and Social Committee

Mrs. Carla Barbarella

Mrs. Tullia Carettoni-Romagnoli  
Independent Senator, former Vice President of the Senate, former member  
of European Parliament

Mrs. Maria Cinciari Rodano  
Former Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies, Provincial Councillor

Mrs. Leonilde Jotti  
Deputy, member of outgoing European Parliament

Mrs. Vera Squarcialupi  
Senator, member of outgoing European Parliament

Republican Party

Mrs. Susanna Agnelli  
Deputy, Mayor of Monte Argentario (Tuscany)

Radical Party

Mrs. Emma Bonino  
Deputy

Proletarian Democratic Unity Party

Mrs. Luciana Castellina  
Deputy, journalist

L U X E M B O U R G

Democratic Party

Mrs. Colette Flesch  
Mayor of Luxembourg, deputy, president of Liberal Women, member of  
outgoing European Parliament

N E T H E R L A N D S

P.V.D.A. - Workers' Party

Mrs. Annie Krouwel-Vlam  
Member of outgoing European Parliament

Mrs. Ien Van Den Heuvel  
President of Socialist Party from 1974 to 1979, deputy

Christian Democrats

Mrs. Boot

Mrs. May-Weggen

Democrats 66

Miss Susanne Dekker  
Civil servant with the Ministry for Economic Affairs

This list is necessarily incomplete. It incorporates the information available just after the votes were counted, but not the changes that have been made since then (choice between national and European mandate, withdrawals, vote recounts, etc.).

Useful address: European Parliament  
Service d'Information  
B.P. 1601  
Luxembourg

WOMEN'S VOTE, WOMEN'S VOICE

The European elections have been a reflection of the growing role women are playing in European society: the proportion of women in the new European Parliament is far greater than in the past: 16%, compared with 6%.

It would not be unrealistic to claim that this is one of the effects of voting for European Parliament by universal suffrage.

It is true that outstanding effort was brought to bear before the votes were cast. Throughout Europe, as members of associations or by their individual exertions, women have worked first to win a more favourable position for themselves within their own political parties and then to make women voters aware of the power in their hands.

By conducting a campaign fired with imagination, a campaign that in fact lasted two long years, women have created a space in the European Community in which they can air their concerns and at the same time they have found a forum in which they can put forward their proposals.

B e l g i u m

Belgium has elected two women to take two of its 24 seats. Mrs. Antoinette Spaak, who was at the top of the party list for the French-speaking party group, Front des Francophones - Rassemblement Wallon, earned a satisfying personal success, due both to her own reputation in Brussels and to her leading position on that list. Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin, second-placed on the Socialist list of candidates (French-speaking), was also elected without difficulty.

Several candidates won a respectable number of preference votes but were unable to upset the established order of political lists.

It should also be pointed out that a very complex electoral system was devised in Belgium for these elections: there were two electoral colleges (one Dutch-speaking with 13 seats and one French-speaking with 11 seats), but there were three electoral districts: one Flemish, one Walloon and one for Brussels. This meant, for example, that some of the lists in Brussels were numbered the same, a factor that worked against a few of the lists of candidates, including the Unified Feminist Party list.

The lesson to be learned by women is that they must increase their influence in the heart of the political parties so that they are given a better position right from the start, when the electoral lists of candidates are being drawn up.



D e n m a r k

The percentage of the electorate turning out to vote was low in Denmark: 47% of registered voters. With the normal turnout for national elections as high as 85% or 90% and 70% to 80% for local elections, this has been the lowest rate ever recorded in the country.

After the bad news, the good news: no less than one third of elected members of European Parliament are women, in other words five women out of 16. It is an exceptionally high score. Danish Parliament, the Folketing, numbers 16.2% women among its members, and the average female membership of local councils is approximately 18%. This occasion has broken two records: Danish and European.

Women profited greatly from the system whereby preference votes could be used in Denmark to change the order of candidates on party lists. Mrs. Mette Groes, for instance, who was third on the Social Democrat Party's list of candidates, moved up one place. In the same way, Mrs. Tove Nielsen, the fourth on the Liberal list, moved right up to the top because of the votes cast directly in her name.

The Danish electors seem to have opted for the parties which have come out clearly for or against the Common Market, the proportion varying little since the referendum in 1972. The Folkebevægelsen mod EF (National Front against the Common Market) picked up 21% of the votes, the only party earning more being the Social Democrats with 21.9% of the votes.

F r a n c e

Under the electoral system adopted in France in voting for the European Assembly, proportional representation was applied (as in the rest of Europe except for Great Britain), although there was a special proviso to the effect that a list of candidates must obtain at least 5% of the votes cast to be eligible for a share of the seats.

The campaign to make people aware of the election before the campaign proper was actually launched was directed very energetically at women. The Women's Committee of the French European Movement organization was systematic in its contributions to meetings in every corner of France throughout the months of April and May. From Nantes to Lyons, from Macon to Bourges, broad spectra of the population were made more conscious of the issues by meetings with regional and local women's organizations.

The list of candidates for Union de la France en Europe was headed by Madame Simone Veil and included 18 women out of 81 candidates - 5 of whom were elected. The list for Défense des Intérêts de la France en Europe presented 13 candidates, four of whom will sit in Parliament according to a rotation system peculiar to the party. The Socialist Party had 22 women candidates, and six of the 22 seats won by the Socialists will be occupied by women. The French Communist party also put forward 22 women, four of whom will be going to the European Assembly with their 15 male colleagues.

The successful candidates include women who have already held office at ministerial level and many others who have many years' practical experience on local councils and in regional politics.

Mrs. Louise Weiss, the oldest member of the new Parliamentary Assembly, presided the opening session on 17 July 1979.

Madame Veil hopes to be able to create a "joint women's group" within European Parliament which should "transcend partisan and national divisions".

#### G e r m a n y

Out of the 81 seats to be filled in Germany, women won 12, i.e. 14.8%. This is a markedly higher percentage than in the Bundestag (the Federal Parliament), where the proportion is 7.2%.

During the electoral campaign, all the parties discussed the position of women at work, in the family and in political life. For many months before that, the women's movements had been drawing the attention of their sisters to the importance of the European ballot.

It is difficult to make simple comparisons between the political parties in terms of their female supporters. Under the European electoral system in Germany, parties could present either a single national list of candidates or a list in each Land.

The overall figures are that 3 seats out of the Christian Democrats' 34 have been filled by women, one out of eight in the case of the Bavarian Christian Democrats, 7 out of 35 Socialist seats and one out of the four seats held by the Liberal Party.

#### I r e l a n d

Out of the 40 candidates standing for the European elections, five were women, although three of them stood as candidates in the same constituency, Dublin: Nuala Fennell (Fine Gael), Jane Dillon-Byrne (for Labour) and Sile de Valera (for Fianna Fail), with the latter winning the seat. Eileen Desmond (Labour) was candidate in the County of Munster, where she was successful, but Monica Barnes (Fine Gael), standing in Leinster, lost. No woman stood in the fourth district of Connaught/Ulster.

A broad campaign was conducted to bring the elections to the attention of women, with posters and stickers proclaiming "Women have your say".

During the municipal elections held on the same day as the European elections, it was very clear that the campaign conducted by the Women's Political Association had borne fruit, for there was virtually no local constituency in which a woman did not stand for election by her fellow citizens.

### I t a l y

Despite the proximity of the general election, which took place just one week before the European elections, a large number of Italians flocked to vote for their Euro-candidates.

Out of the 81 seats allocated to Italy, 11 were won by women, although it is not certain that they will all take those seats in the European Parliamentary Assembly. Some will have to choose between their national mandate and their European mandate.

The Christian Democrat Party has two successful women candidates out of a total of 28. The Communist Party has 6 out of 23, the Republican Party 1 out of 2, the Radical Party 1 out of 3 and the Proletarian Democratic Unity Party has only one member, but she is a woman.

During its 26th annual meeting, the National Council of Italian Women - Consiglio Nazionale Donne Italiane - expressed the hope that women would be strongly represented in the European elections in Italy and the appeal seems to have been heard by women voters. In general, women candidates scored great personal success.

### L u x e m b o u r g

The Luxembourg national elections were held on the same day as the European election.

In the campaign for seats on the national legislative body there were 447 candidates, 63 of whom were women (i.e. 14%). Five women were in fact elected, one more than in the preceding Parliament. Among those elected were three well known personalities Colette Flesch (mayor of Luxembourg), Lydie Schmidt (president of the Luxembourg Socialist Worker Party) and Astrid Lulling (a member of European Parliament until 1974).

Of the eleven women who stood for direct election to European Parliament only one will take a seat there: Colette Flesch, who is also a member of the National Parliament and secretary general to the Democratic Party. Mrs. Flesch was already a member of the outgoing European Parliament, and the president of the Development and Cooperation Committee.

Miss Astrid Lulling will have to give up her European mandate since her party, the Social Democrats, did not obtain a seat on the European Assembly. The distribution now stands at three seats for the Christian Socialists (PSCS), two for the Democratic Party (PD) and one for the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (POSL).

It is of interest that universal suffrage came into being in Luxembourg in 1919 and Parliament has had women since that date. To celebrate this sixtieth anniversary the Minister for Cultural Affairs, in close cooperation with the National Women's Council, has organized a travelling exhibition that recounts the history of women's vote in the different European countries. An illustrated booklet is distributed at the exhibition, reproducing extracts from authentic documents to convey the extraordinary atmosphere in the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies when it was forced to give women the right to vote.

#### N e t h e r l a n d s

Five out of the 25 Dutch Parliamentarians are women. The Christian Democrats won ten seats, two of which will be taken by women; the PvdA Social Democrats won nine seats, two of which go to women. The Liberals, the VVD, have four seats but no woman in Parliament. Finally, the Democrats, known as D'66, have one woman and one man as their representatives in Strasbourg.

Clearly it was the women who obtained the most preference votes. In the Netherlands, as in Denmark, Belgium and Italy, the voter is entitled to cast a "preference vote" which may possibly change the order of candidates on a party's list.

With 91,949 preference votes, Suzanne Dekker (a 29 year old jurist) made a remarkable personal achievement, since about a fifth of the total number of votes cast for the D'66 list went to her. She has already expressed her intention to propose to European Parliament that an Emancipation Commission be set up along the Dutch lines, whose task would be to promote equal rights and opportunities within the Community.

Within the PvdA, Ien Van Den Heuvel obtained 65,972 preference votes out of a total of 1,722,240 cast in favour of her party. First president of her party's women's movement and then overall president of PvdA, Ien Van Den Heuvel is well known for her exertions to promote better understanding between Christian and Social Democrats.

In the Liberal party, VVD, the twelve thousand or so preference votes that went to Haya Van Someren-Downer were not enough to promote her to the group of successful candidates on her party's list.

U n i t e d   K i n g d o m

In Great Britain, the European elections gave the Conservative party a crushing victory and it is to send 60 members to European Parliament, as against 17 Labour and one Scottish Nationalist, a woman. Even though they obtained 13.1% of the votes cast, the Liberals were eclipsed, as the existing electoral system makes no allowance for proportional representation.

The percentage of voters going to the ballot box (32.7%) was the lowest in the Community, no doubt due to the fact that the European elections occurred so soon after the national elections and also to the relative lack of interest in Community matters among British citizens. According to various surveys, the electors did not consider themselves to be sufficiently well informed to be able to cast an effective vote and preferred to abstain.

By comparison with the national elections early in May, women scored well in the Euro-elections: out of 29 women candidates, 11 were elected. The proportion of women in the 81-strong British contingent to European Parliament is 13.5%, compared with no more than 3% among the 635 members elected to the House of Commons.

The electoral system in Northern Ireland differs from that in the rest of Great Britain. For historic reasons, a form of proportional representation is applied. The three members elected in this constituency are from three different parties and not one is a woman.

Corrigendum

Issue no. 9/79 of Women of Europe gave a list of women candidates to the European elections, as known to us at the time - 20 May 1979.

This was an unprecedented piece of work, for obvious reasons. The conditions were difficult: the final date for candidates to enter their names differed from one country to another and if we had waited until the final deadline for the last country you would not have received the list before voting day. In addition, despite our favoured position we were forced to admit that information channels have not yet been firmly established in the Community. Notwithstanding every effort on our part, there were errors and omissions.

One such omission was the failure to mention the supplementary women candidates standing for the CDU in Germany: Ottilia Pohl, Ursula Lazarus, Gabriele Peus, Charlotte von der Herberg, Johanna von Westphalen, Natascha Raemaekers, Ruth Schmidt-Niemack, Hedwig Helsing, Gertraud Nellessen, Marianne Brink, Ingeborg Kühn, Annemarie Morawietz, Hiltrud Vogel, Charlotte Fera and Brigitte Lichtenauer.

In Belgium, we should have included the names of Mrs. Bribosia-Picard (PSC), Jet Nauwelaers (BSP), Riet d'Hondt (Amada), Lutgart Smith (Agalev) and Marie-Thérèse Godinache (PRL). The name of Mr. Pol Marck (CVP) was included in the list by mistake.

We crave indulgence from all the women candidates and voters.--

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES

B E L G I U M

Three women in Government

The new Government formed by Mr. Wilfried Martens has 33 members, three of whom are women: Mrs. Rika De Backer-Van Ocken (Minister for the Dutch Community), Mrs. Rita Steyaert (Secretary of State for the Dutch Community) and Lydia De Pauw-Deveen (Secretary of State for the Brussels Region). Mrs. Cécile Goor has been elected Vice President of the Senate.

Jobs for the Boys?

The Commission for Women's Work - Commission du Travail des Femmes - has launched a poster campaign to persuade women to turn to trades other than the traditional jobs. The French slogan is "Je mets tous les atouts dans mon jeu" (I play all my trump cards), and the Dutch is "Breek met het verleden - Kies een beroep met toekomst" (Break with the past - choose a trade for the future). The poster shows a happy woman cabinet-maker of a new style, sawing through a tailor's dummy from top to bottom.

The Commission - with assistance from the European Social Fund - is pressing on with two pilot experiments on occupational training for unemployed women, in fact in traditionally "male" trades, at Hasselt-Tongres and Charleroi in particular. These experiments appear to confirm that, provided they receive the same training, women are perfectly capable of acquiring invaluable skills in areas not usually thought of as women's work, and can then go on to take advantage of new opportunities and aspire to the kind of promotion which at present is often beyond their grasp.

Useful address: Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail  
53, rue Belliard  
1040 Brussels  
Ministerie van Tewerkstelling en Arbeid  
53, Belliardstraat  
1040 Brussel

A balance sheet

Research, publications, discussions and views forwarded to the Minister for Employment and Labour: the Commission for Women's Work has embodied all this in an eloquent report on its work in 1978. Leafing through its pages, a clear picture emerges of changing law and changing mentalities.

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

Information please ... on family allowances

In response to a concern expressed by several women's groups, the Department for Women in the (Belgian) Ministry for French Culture has brought out a booklet entitled "Allocations Familiales" - family allowances. Mothers trying to find their way around the labyrinth of rules and regulations will discover a host of valuable items of information and practical, concrete advice, as well as a list of useful addresses.

Useful address: Service de la Femme, Ministère de la Culture Française  
Galerie Ravenstein, 78  
1000 Brussels

F R A N C E

A foot in every door

Monique Pelletier, the Minister for Women's Status, has stressed that women should play a more active role in regional economic and social committees. Out of the 1,318 members of these bodies, only 40 are women. It is now up to the representative professional and union bodies to designate more women candidates when these committees are re-elected in January next.

Useful address: Ministère délégué à la Condition Féminine  
39-43, Quai André Citroën  
75015 Paris

Women's employment in Europe

During the third European manual labour week, a debate was held in Paris on the diversification of female employment in Europe. A summary dossier had been drawn up for the debate by the office of the Secretary of State for Women's Employment. The Secretary of State, Nicole Pasquier, chaired a round table discussion which stressed that while mentalities and laws might be changing, attitudes were not. Men are far from putting the laws into practice, and women are far from taking full advantage of those laws.

Useful address: Secrétariat d'Etat chargé de l'Emploi féminin  
25, avenue Charles Floquet  
75700 Paris

Information: a real problem

Information on women's work is becoming a real headache: so many sources of information, a mass of facts, figures, research and publications ... are we over-informed? The Committee on Women's Work has devoted two days to discussing the documentation and information available on women's employment. Data compilation, document processing, documentary language, information networks: the work with which the various committees have to cope imposes a heavy but not an unwanted burden upon them. The various proposals generated during these two days' study were intended for application in France, once they have undergone the inevitable sifting process. One day, however, the problem must be tackled on a European scale.

Useful address: Comité du Travail féminin  
Ministère du Travail et de la Participation  
1, place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris

Women's Information Centre

The Centre d'Information Féminin, CIF, has published a special issue of its journal, CIF Informations, devoted to "Women's Europe". The issue is in the form of a pack containing not only general interest articles but also various booklets produced by the European Commission, above all an original list of many European institutions, groups and associations concerned with the problems facing women.

The Information Centre gives direct replies to over 100,000 telephone enquiries a year. In addition, about forty of its agencies serve the public in the provinces. CIF regularly edits information dossiers designed for people whose work it is to provide information but who do not always have a convenient information centre within range.

The Women's Information Centre has also been lending a helping hand to "Franche-Comté-Femmes", which has brought out a supplement to the "Journal de la Maison de la Formation Continue" in Besançon, the journal of the adult training centre. This survey of a clearly specified region, one that is in the midst of economic change, highlights the role that can be placed by regional efforts in the general context of European policy.

Many articles in the journal serve as a reminder of what Franche-Comté expects of the Community and what it can contribute in return.

Useful addresses:                   Centre d'Information Féminin  
  Boîte Postale 400  
  75327 Paris Cedex 07           tel. 705.33.60  
  
  Maison de la Formation Continue  
  21, rue de la République  
  25016 Besançon

Part-time employment

The Committee on Women's Work, on being invited to give its views on part-time work, stated that "part-time employment can be neither a palliative for unemployment                   for a policy for the smooth insertion of women into the world of work, nor can it compensate for inadequate social services and facilities.

"Compared with women's demand to be fully integrated in economic life, a demand that is becoming more and more insistent, the demand for part-time work seems to be far less clear-cut and more peripheral.

"This being so, with no prospect of an increase in the availability of full-time work in the short or medium term future, the Committee on Women's Work can only express its reservations on the attention being paid to this marginal demand for part-time employment, at a time when such a basic, manifest and priority claim as women's right to work is still unanswered."

Nevertheless, the Committee acknowledges that part-time employment provides a solution that may be of interest to several categories of workers, and it must be made as easy as possible for them to gain access to this type of work.

Among the figures quoted by the Committee on Women's Work were that fifths of part-time workers are women, more specifically women over 40 who no longer have to cope with the problem of how to look after young children.

Useful address:   Comité du Travail Féminin  
                          1, place Fontenoy  
                          75700 Paris



Women on their own

This is the theme of issue no. 4 (May 1979) of the Bulletin de la Condition Féminine. In France there are five million unmarried mothers, widows and divorcees who have to cope daily with difficulties of every kind. Financial assistance, social protection and re-insertion in the world of work: these are three three major fields of priority action upon which the Ministry for Women's Status has embarked.

Useful address: Bulletin de la Condition Féminine  
39-43, Quai André Citroën  
75015 Paris

G E R M A N Y

A new department for women

Mrs. Antje Huber, the Minister for Youth, the Family and Health, has appointed a trade unionist, Marlies Kutsch, to head a new department with special responsibility for "policy on women". Under the apportionment of Government tasks, Mrs. Antje Huber is in charge of coordinating issues pertaining to women and presenting Government policy in favour of women to the public.

The new department for which Mrs. Marlies Kutsch has been made responsible will concentrate upon the points of inadequacy in the law from which women suffer. It will also bring to light and eliminate the discrimination encountered by women in everyday life.

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

Reform of the pensions system

Following a ruling by the Supreme Court, the Federal Minister for Employment and Social Affairs is considering a reform of the pensions system. One point that is under review is the amendment of the arrangements for the surviving spouse to ensure that men and women are placed on an equal footing. According to a report now being discussed, a surviving spouse should receive 70% to 75% of the couple's retirement pension. The Government and Bundestag have not yet made their views known but there are already additional proposals on the bill: if a woman leaves work to bring up a child, the first three years should be counted as normal years during which pension contributions have been paid. In the same way, there should be no difference between men and women when calculating the number of years spent on occupational training.

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

Equality of access to work

The Government of almost every Land (region) and all the Federal Ministers will from now on be specifying more clearly that any jobs they offer are open to women just as much as to men. One very simple way of doing this is systematically to use the feminine gender for the job in question.

The Minister for the Youth, the Family and Health has issued a directive which will ensure that this principle is put into practice right from the time of occupational training.

The Minister responsible for training and science is to launch an information campaign to enlighten girls on training opportunities in trades traditionally reserved for boys.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit  
Kennedyallee 105-107  
5300 Bonn 2

A court judgement

The industrial tribunal at Gelsenkirchen has ordered a photographic laboratory to pay more than 20,000 marks to a total of 28 women laboratory workers who have suffered from discrimination in the matter of pay. The tribunal based its decision on two considerations: the principle of equality proclaimed by German law and the ruling of the EEC Court of Justice in April 1976 on the Defrenne affair.

I R E L A N D

Discussion of proposals on rape

Six months after it was submitted to Government, a report drawn up by the Council for the Status of Women has just been debated in the Irish Senate. This report calls for several changes in the legal definition of rape and the nature of the evidence to be submitted. In addition, the report would like the victim's identity not to be publicly disclosed and a guarantee given that the jury in a rape trial include women.

Mr. David Andrews, the Justice Minister, has told the Senators that the Council's proposals are receiving "sympathetic and attentive" attention, but that no hasty decision would be taken by the Government.

Useful address: Council for the Status of Women  
29 Merrion Square  
Dublin 2

Who is the head of the family?

The census form that has just been distributed in Ireland has raised an interesting point of debate: it puts the question: "who is the head of the household?". Well, who is it?

Mrs. Gemma Hussey, a senator, has suggested that the adult members of the household should be listed in alphabetical order. But the form also has to be signed by the "head of the household". In many families, the word "head" has been crossed out and "member" substituted. A former Finance Minister, Mr. Richie Ryan, and his wife Mairead have written to a newspaper to say that, being a "united household", they would sign the form jointly.

Doctors and women

In electing their 20 representatives to the Medical Council, Ireland's 4,000 doctors did not designate a single woman. Concerned at this anomaly, the Health Minister, Charles Haughey, has named two women out of the four representatives whom he is entitled to appoint to the Council.

These women are Margaret Hayes, member of the Irish Countrywomen's Association, and Joan O'Connell, who heads the Education Department of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Useful address: Medical Council  
6 Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

I T A L Y

A woman president for the lower house

The person elected to be the President of the Chamber of Deputies by 433 votes out of 615 is a woman, Mrs. Nilde Iotti.

A member of the Italian Communist Party, Mrs. Iotti was one of the earliest leaders of the Italian Women's Union. She has sat in Parliament since 1946 and became its Vice President in 1972. She has also been re-elected to European Parliament.

Mrs. Maria Eletta Martini, a member of the Christian Democrat Party, has been elected Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies.

Women in political life: making their presence felt

The Under-Secretariat for Women's Status has reported that during the election campaign early in June 871 women stood for the Chamber of Deputies (compared with 772 in 1976) and 102 for the Senate (compared with 72 in 1976).

While the figures for candidates rose, this was counterbalanced by the results of the elections. There will be only 64 women in the newly elected upper and lower houses, with 53 in the Chamber of Deputies and 11 in the Senate, compared with 65 in the previous legislature: 53 women deputies and 12 senators.

In the words of Mrs. Ines Boffari, Secretary of State for Women's Status, "these figures can be interpreted in different ways; the body of voters may distrust women candidates, but it may also be that the political parties do not necessarily give women the better positions. Perhaps, too, women have not obtained all the help they were entitled to expect from the militants during the election period. Alternatively, women candidates may conduct their campaigns in what they feel is a more democratic style, displaying scruples with which men are very little concerned."

Useful address: Sottosegretariato alla Condizione Femminile  
Via del Tritone 142  
R o m e

L U X E M B O U R G

New divorce legislation

A new phase in Luxembourg legislation on divorce has begun. The law of 5 December 1978 reforming the rules on divorce on specific grounds has introduced an objective cause for divorce for the first time in law. This is "Zerrüttungsprinzip", the principle of an irreversible breakdown of marriage taking the outward form of de facto separation for at least three years, without any period of reconciliation occurring in those three years. This "remedial divorce" or "breakdown divorce" is undoubtedly the most important reform to be introduced by the new law. By its inclusion, the Luxembourg law-makers have taken into account the large number of marriages which have ceased to exist in any practical form but which could not be ended by divorce under the former law.

The new law has also separated the question of alimony from the issue of who is responsible for the breakdown of a marriage, a decision that will make it easier for women to gain financial security following divorce.

Useful address: Ministère de la Justice  
27, rue Joseph Junck  
Luxembourg

Lifting of criminal sanctions on abortion

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has amended its legislation on the voluntary termination of pregnancy in the light of social developments and changes in our society's way of life.

From now on, abortion carried out in the first twelve weeks will cease to be an offence:

- if continuance of pregnancy or conditions of life that may arise at the time of birth might endanger the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman;
- if there is a serious risk that the baby would be borne with a serious disease, physical malformation or gross mental defect;
- if the pregnancy is the result of rape;
- on condition that the pregnant woman has consulted a gynaecologist who must inform her of the medical risks incurred by abortion and that she gives her written consent to the abortion.

Enlistment of women

For the first time, twenty girls aged 17 to 20, over 5'5" in height, have started training at the Herrenberg military camp at Diekirch, after being selected from about 200 applicants.

Because of their special status, these new recruits are considered to be members of the police on a military course, and they will not be required to mount guard or take part in other military manoeuvres. Their male colleagues have already vented their reactions: they complain of this preferential treatment and are concerned about the risk of competition from the new recruits.

Useful address: Ministère de la Force Publique  
57 boulevard de la Pétrusse  
Luxembourg

N E T H E R L A N D S

When a couple separates

The financial status of separated couples is once more a subject of debate in the Netherlands. A consultative committee set up by the Minister of Justice in 1975 proposed that a man (and, where applicable, his second wife) should have an inalienable right to a guaranteed minimum income and that the balance of his income should be distributed, in proportions to be agreed, among the man, his former wife, his children and any new partner. If the portion going to his former wife proves to be inadequate the State could **step in**. According to the committee, alimony should be payable only for a period of five years and when that expires the ex-wife should be required to make a further application for another five year period.

The Government has not yet stated its position but the Emancipatiecommissie (the Commission on Emancipation) has given its views. The point of departure, it says, is the way in which tasks are shared between men and women, and the consequences of that distribution. Allowance should be made for the wife's financial dependence on her husband; a married woman has to give up her work and career to look after the home and to bring up the children. When a marriage breaks up it is very often the case that the wife has lost the benefit of much of her working qualifications. The situation is even more difficult when, as in the majority of cases, the mother retains custody of the children and she finds it all the harder to return to work.

This is why the Emancipatiecommissie is recommending that the maintenance and care of the children should be the first point taken into consideration when working out what alimony should be paid, not the ex-husband's needs or the needs of his new partner.

Useful address: Emancipatiecommissie  
J.C. Van Markenlaan 3  
Rijswijk

Changing mental attitudes

More than 80 measures are envisaged in a memorandum setting out "a policy for emancipation in education and social research" drawn up jointly by Dr. Pais, Minister of Education, and Mrs. Kraaijeveld-Wouters, Secretary of State with responsibility for emancipation. Since the first objective is to alter mental attitudes, Dr. Pais decided that women should be given more opportunities in his own ministry to be appointed to more responsible posts. It is reported, for instance, that there are only 312 school headmistresses in the Netherlands by comparison with 8,616 headmasters.

The Minister and Secretary for State want to set up a "Women's Research Centre" which could study the status of women in greater detail. In the same way, the universities will be encouraged to conduct research on women's status. Vocational training schools, for their part, must make it easier for boys to enroll for courses in domestic subjects and for girls to take the technical subjects.

Useful address: Ministerie van Onderwijs en Wetenschappen  
Nieuwe Uitleg 1  
The Hague

Equality of opportunity....does it exist?

Amsterdam University's Kohnstamm Institute has just published a survey entitled "Gelijke kansen? Over onderwijs voor vrouwen en meisjes" (Equal opportunities? Notes on the education of women and girls). The authors report their finding that education is perpetuating inequality between men and women, quoting examples in support of the contention.

A detailed analysis of the Dutch school system emphasizes that stereotypes are being maintained: a girl is to be a wife and mother, while a boy will go out to work. This means that even if a girl is persistent she will arrive on the labour market without much training and without any enthusiasm ("there's no work for me anyway").

A sexist political party

The Staatskundig Gereformeerde Partij (SGP) is an orthodox Christian party in the Netherlands that tolerates discrimination on the grounds of sex: some of its local branches refuse to let women attend their meetings or even to become members.

A poster announcing an election meeting stated that no women would be admitted. As can readily be imagined, a number of women turned up on the evening to protest, but the chairman of the meeting suddenly decided that it would be open only to party members, thus excluding the women.

On being questioned in the House on this incident, the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Wiegels, reminded his hearers that any form of discrimination on the grounds of sex is illegal, although there is no penalty to back up this measure. A bill on sex discrimination is being drafted and, according to the Minister, it could cover cases of this kind.

Women and charity work

The Emancipatiekommissie (Commission on Emancipation), a consultative body assisting the Dutch Government, has handed a report on the roles of men and women in charity work to Mrs. Kraaijeveld-Wouter, Secretary of State for Emancipation.

In conjunction with the current debate on the apportionment of work, the Commission thought it would be of interest to take a closer look at the relationship between paid work and voluntary work. From the report, it seems that women are active mainly in the more traditional fields of charitable work: caring for children, helping the elderly and the handicapped. Men, on the other hand, do voluntary work in political and union bodies, in pressure groups and other social agencies.

The work done by women is primarily practical, while the men are more concerned with ... directing and organizing other people. It is only within the specifically female organizations that women shoulder tasks other than the traditional ones.

The Commission advocates a watching brief to ensure that charity work does not penalize paid work. Thought might be given to the granting of administrative and "organizational" assistance to voluntary bodies - whose dedication and effectiveness it does not question - that might enable them to pay remuneration to those **who** carry out charitable work.

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

UNITED KINGDOM

Downing Street and Westminster

Although Margaret Thatcher is the first women head of government in the history of Europe, she presides over a Parliament with only 19 women among the 635 members - the lowest number since 1951.

There were 135 women candidates fighting the election: 31 Conservatives, 52 Labour, 50 Liberals and 2 Scottish Nationalists. Of the 19 who were successful, 8 are Conservative and 11 Labour.

Night shifts

While the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 demands that there should be no sex discrimination in jobs and promotion, Factory and other protective Acts prohibit women from working at night or handling heavy moving machinery and certain chemical substances.

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) was asked by the Government to examine this dilemma and make recommendations. A survey commissioned by EOC showed that though women were not averse in principle to shift working, only 11% of those interviewed were prepared to undertake the night shift, running from about 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Present restrictions - for example, that factory work cannot begin before 7 a.m. or end after 9 or 9 p.m. - undoubtedly provide a pretext for employers to discriminate against women in employment, promotion and pay.

The EOC, therefore, is proposing that legislation on hours of work under which men and women are treated differently should be lifted; that health, safety and welfare regulations regarding working hours and the handling of heavy or dangerous substances should apply equally to men and women; and that restrictions on women working at night, double day shifts and a maximum number of hours a week should be abolished.

The EOC recommendations have been bitterly attacked by the Equal Pay and Opportunities Campaign (EPOC), a voluntary women's rights pressure group. EPOC believes that the lifting of restrictions on women's hours of work is a retrograde step, advocating the extension of such restrictions to men and arguing that the EOC has paid insufficient attention to the adverse effects of shift work on family life and the health of both men and women.

Useful address: E O C  
Overseas House  
Quay Street  
Manchester M3 3 HN  
  
E P O C  
59, Canonbury Park North  
London, N.1

Northern Ireland

The Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland has taken a full page in the new journal being published by EOC. The information it provides includes the announcement of a financial defeat but a moral victory: at Newry bowling grounds, women will now be entitled to pay £3 as an entrance fee, whereas they used to pay only £2 and men £4. The new "unisex" rate half way between the two has, however, aroused the anger of a local councillor: "This is what's wrong nowadays: women are taking over from men everywhere".

Useful address: E O C for Northern Ireland  
Lindsay House  
Callender Street  
Belfast BT1 5DT



M I L I T A N T   A C T I V I T I E S

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Middle Class Women

The Women's Committee set up by the Union Européenne des Classes Moyennes has met at a congress at Cadenabbia in the Konrad Adenauer Foundation buildings. During this event, a resolution was passed calling upon European Governments to devote more consistent attention to women at the head of companies and to wives who work with their husbands. According to the resolution, steps should be taken to promote their professional and adult training and to improve pension and sickness insurance schemes.

The resolution also raises the question of measures to counteract female unemployment and points out the advantages of part-time work.

Useful address: Noëlle Dewavrin  
123 rue de Lille  
75007 Paris

CECIF

The European Centre of the International Women's Council, CECIF, is a non-government body associating the national European women's councils which are members of the International Women's Council.

CECIF's aims are the same as those pursued by the International Women's Council: to stimulate women to become aware not only of their rights but also of their civic, economic, social and political responsibilities within society.

With this in mind, CECIF has set itself the specific task of strengthening the links between European councils and the international body and stepping up cooperation among the European national councils, as well as cooperating with European institutions to ensure that women make their voice heard and take part in European decisions.

The subjects on which CECIF has compiled the experience of the national councils in 16 European countries are numerous, ranging from the employment of au pairs and social security for the home-bound housewife in Europe and political participation and the vocational training of girls. In Europe of the Nine, CECIF's membership totals 286 women's bodies.

One recent, large-scale project carried out by CECIF has been a survey on "the position of woman migrant workers and the families of migrant workers in Europe". Information has been gathered in 13 European countries. The survey is a fitting culmination to the six years during which Irmgard Bohm has presided over the destiny of CECIF with an abundance of energy, injecting it with fresh enthusiasm and directing it along new paths.

Useful address: CECIF  
c/o Ginette Schaak, President  
2 Allée L. Goebel  
Luxembourg-Ville

The struggle against poverty

The Association Internationale des Charités de St Vincent-de-Paul (A.I.C.), concerned with the scale of the problem with which this international association of charities is faced, has held a seminar on the "campaign against poverty in Europe".

In its work, A.I.C. relies essentially on the dedication of voluntary helpers, but this very practical work can be enriched and improved by being better informed on what is being done in each European country, especially as the efforts launched by the European Commission is now yielding fresh information of which the best possible use must be made.

During the seminar, A.I.C. took each country in turn and considered the tasks that are to be done, with supporting diagrams, and analyzed the most effective methods and techniques.

A report on the European seminar can be obtained from Mrs. t'Sas, the "Europe" coordinator for A.I.C.

Useful address: A.I.C.  
38 rue d'Alsace Lorraine  
1050 Brussels

B E L G I U M

The gift of life

Voluntary abortion is not "a refusal to give the gift of life", but rather a refusal to give life without assuming all the responsibilities implied by acceptance. This is the stand taken by the Belgian general trade union congress, F.G.T.B., thus supporting the arguments being advanced by the Belgian Committee for the Depenalization of Abortion. The F.G.T.B. also feels that clear and comprehensive information on contraceptive methods should be more readily available.

Useful address: Fédération Générale Belge du Travail (F.G.T.B.)  
42 rue Haute  
1000 Brussels

Federation of Flemish Women's Groups

The Federatie van Vlaamse Vrouwengroepen was founded in 1975. Presided by Huguette De Bleecker-Ingelaere, its membership now includes more than 80 organization and about twenty "cores" in Flemish country. Some of these "cores" have been in existence for more than twenty years but they have not come together as part of a single federation before this time.

The kind of activities organized by the F.V.V. are local events, executive training, seminars and study days. In October 1979, the F.V.V. is to devote its congress to a critical evaluation of the Year of the Child.

Useful address: Federatie van Vlaamse Vrouwengroepen v.z.w.  
Bennesteeg 2  
9000 Ghent

### Countrywomen

Action Catholique Rurale des Femmes (A.C.R.F.) is a Catholic Action movement with 20,000 members: countrywomen from 17 regions, with 500 basic teams. The aims of the movement are social and educational. Every year, A.C.R.F. sets itself a theme for discussion and thought, on which every body within the organization works.

In 1979 the theme is "Families, the hope of society". At a time of radical change, both social and economic, affecting the countryside, it is a matter of special urgency that thought should be devoted to the issue.

A.C.R.F. also urges its members to take part in local and regional civic and political life, to attend physical education clubs, to extend the work of schools by becoming more involved with the children and so on.

Its magazine, "Plein Soleil", has drawn the attention of its members to the importance of the European elections and the machinery of European institutions.

Useful address: Action Catholique Rurale des Femmes (A.C.R.F.)  
92, rue Africaine  
1050 Brussels

### Women in Volksunie

Volksunie is a regional party whose specific aim is to defend Flemish interests in Belgium. Like most political parties in the country, Volksunie now has a woman's group; this one is called "Vrouwen in de Volksunie" (women in Volksunie). Its members meet periodically to discuss women's role within the party and the contribution they can make to its platform.

Useful address: Lutgard De Beul  
Barrikadeplein 12  
1000 Brussels

### The jobless

Women workers in a clothing factory in the Charleroi region were threatened with redundancy. For five months they staged a sit-in in the factory, and they then set up their own cooperative company which they have called "Les Sans-Emploi" - "the jobless". They now sell the jeans they make direct to the consumer. They are also offering cooperative membership shares at Belgian ₣.2,00 each.

Useful address: Société coopérative "Les Sans-Emploi"  
140, rue du Coron  
7300 Quaregnon

Infor-Femmes

As its name implies, Infor-Femmes is a centre that provides practical and immediate information on legal, professional, education, family and other matters, although it also furnishes more general information on topical problems such as the European elections, the International Year of the Child, vocational training and so on.

Infor-Femmes also publishes a journal with a circulation of 800,000 that comes out eight times a year. It produces various monographs on issues as varied as vaccines, legal arrangements in marriage and unemployment. It organizes practical workshop courses (plumbing, electricity, mechanics), debates and training courses.

Infor-Femmes is active in the Brussels urban area but also in the main towns of five other regions: Namur, Arlon, Verviers, Liège and Charleroi.

Useful address: Infor-Femmes  
7, place Royale  
1000 Brussels tel. 02/511.38.38

Christian Socialist Women

The national team of Christian Socialist Women, under the chairmanship of Cecile Goor, the Vice President of the Senate, is concerned with the difficulties of working class women and rural families faced with the present-day crisis. The points of priority in a social programme, claims the team, should be the gradual elimination of the tax system whereby the earnings of husband and wife are lumped together when assessing tax liability, a guaranteed income for the elderly, a shorter working week for all and the formulation of legislation to cut down on the number of abortions and, having done so, the adoption of positive social measures.

Useful address: Femmes P.S.C.  
Rue des Deux-Eglises 41  
1040 Brussels

The Year of the Child

The Belgian Association of women jurists has brought out a "white paper" prepared by its joint committee on "Protection of Youth - the United Nations", chaired by Mrs. Liliane Beaupain, a magistrate concerned with children in Brussels, and Maître Marlyse Ernst-Henrion, a woman lawyer.

The point stressed by this white paper is the need for effective protection of the child, both within the family and in matters of health, employment and social security.

Useful address: Association belge des Femmes juristes  
Belgische Vereniging van Vrouwelijke Juristen  
19, rue Guimard  
1040 Brussels

Women's Day

Women's Day was a memorable occasion both in Flanders and Wallonia last November. As a memento, a booklet has been brought out with the title of "Vrouwendag", presenting the major issues discussed on the day and a list of the organizations present.

Useful address: Rita Jolie  
13, Van Putlei  
2000 Antwerp

Photographic competition

The "Porte Ouverte" - the "open door" action group for "economic emancipation of the working woman" - is holding a photographic competition with the aim of projecting a positive image of the working woman. Photographs should be forwarded to the Porte Ouverte before 30 September 1979 by mail. Each photograph should be marked on the back with the entrant's name and full address. It is hoped that an exhibition can be mounted to convey "another image" of women at work.

Useful address: La Porte Ouverte  
Rue Americaine 16  
1050 Brussels

D E N M A R K
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The National Council of Danish Women

In April, the National Council of Danish Women held a conference on youth unemployment during which it disclosed the statistics on the current situation.

Denmark is now passing through a serious economic crisis combined with a high level of unemployment. Even so, more people work today than has ever been the case before, due to the supply of labour being greater than the demand.

The growing body of people looking for a job consists almost entirely of women. For many years, there has been a high rate of employment among men and the supply of jobs has roughly matched demand. The number of men leaving the labour market has been offset by the number of fresh arrivals. This is not true of women, however, particularly married women in every age category, who have entered the market for employment in great numbers. This inflow of female labour has nothing to do with the economic crisis. It marks a development that began a long time ago, before the crisis broke. Over the past twenty years, the rate at which women have come onto the labour market has risen steadily.

There are probably many reasons for this development, but the main factor is that a continually rising number of women are being trained for employment. Once someone is trained, he or she wants to put that training to good use. With the arrival of a larger body of women on the market for employment, general attitudes towards women in work have altered. The fall in the birth rate is certainly an additional factor, but it can also be observed that married women in the 25 to 35 age group have jobs in 80 out of a hundred cases. The employment rate for men is about 90%, and there is no doubt that in a few years' time the percentage of men and women in employment will be equal.

As a general rule, unemployment is greater among women than among men, even though they account for a smaller portion of the labour force as a whole in percentage terms.

One reason for this is the increase in demand for work by women; another is the fact that women are traditionally employed in industries severely affected by the economic crisis, such as textiles and clothing, the shoe industry and other marginal sectors.

Over the past few years, substantial sums have been devoted to the struggle to combat unemployment in Denmark. Many projects have been implemented and many measures introduced, and a degree of success has been achieved. The figures nonetheless show that it has been men who have found work. The statistics also demonstrate that there is a marked difference between the kind of jobs that a man can obtain by comparison with a woman. Men usually find employment in the private sector, women in the public sector, a situation that does not work in favour of women. The public sector has limited resources at its disposal and it is under an obligation to recruit new categories of the unemployed. The result is that jobs in the public sector may often be far from secure and they may not last very long: in a few months' time, women find themselves out of a job once again.

During the conference, women were urged to exercise pressure themselves to improve their own lot. They must work on the many aspects of women's participation in the world of work and their placement in employment.

Vocational guidance must be made more effective, especially in the schools, by recruiting staff more specifically concerned with the problems of women at work.

More stress should be laid on training and retraining to give women greater opportunities. The bottlenecks in the educational system must be eliminated.

Employment schemes must be formulated with a view to providing more employment for female labour. Women should be encouraged to take up jobs in areas not traditionally considered as their province.

Above all, new jobs must be reserved for women, particularly jobs in industrial production, for this is the sector in which there is a better chance of longer term employment than, for example, in the public sector.

At the end of the conference, the National Council of Danish Women forwarded a paper to the Government expressing the wishes and claims generated during the course of the debates. The Council also suggested to the Government that it draw up an overall plan for women's employment, similar to the plan that had already been formulated for young people of 15 to 24.

Article by Else Elbek

Useful address: National Council of Danish Women  
Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, 2 sal  
1153 Copenhagen K - Denmark

F R A N C E

#### Being a woman today

Under the title of "Etre femme aujourd'hui, c'est quoi?" (What is it like, being a woman today?), U.F.C.S. - the Women's Civic and Social Union - has produced a captivating audi-visual montage to mark the occasion of an "open door" operation. For U.F.C.S., this provided an opportunity to test its influence on the public and leading figures. In pursuing its two objectives (gain recognition for women's role in society and fight for greater social justice), the Union has achieved a third objective: fostering the personal development of its members, to such a point that many of its "old girls" have acquired responsibility at local, regional and even national level in the widest fields.

The recent achievements of the Union have included the publication of a dossier on consumers today and another on the voluntary termination of pregnancy.

Useful address: Union Féminine Civique et Sociale (U.F.C.S.)  
6, rue Béranger  
75003 Paris

#### Young Women

At the time of the European elections, the adult education movement, "Jeunes Femmes", produced a dossier on Europe which has the two-fold merit of being useful even after the elections are over and of raising burning issues.

Although it is not exhaustive, the dossier is very comprehensive and is backed by a well-researched bibliography. The questions it puts are those which any person with a critical mind asks but which are rarely put down in black and white. (45 pages, Fr.fr.13)

Useful address: Jeunes Femmes  
8 Villa du Parc Montsouris  
75014 Paris

Single parent families

F.F.C.F. - the Fédération nationale des femmes chefs de famille, or national federation of women heads of the family - has a membership of three thousand unmarried mothers, divorcees, widows and separated women. During a general assembly in Bordeaux, the Federation pointed out that one quarter of the families whose income is lower than the minimum wage are single parent families. In addition, under the French system - according to the Federation - the allowance paid to single parents "is subject to conditions in terms of time and resources that rule out more than 80% of the people concerned". Finally, one alimony payment out of four is never paid by ex-husbands to the wives entitled to alimony.

F.F.C.F. has stated the social reforms that women who have the sole responsibility for their family need if they are to have "the right to live in a different way".

Useful address: F.F.C.F.  
54, Boulevard Garibaldi  
75015 Paris

Choisir

The association known as CHOISIR presented eight proposals for legislation on 11 March 1979 as follows:

- bill to supplement the law of 22 December 1972 on equal pay, and the law of 11 July 1975 on discrimination on the grounds of sex
- bill regarding parental leave
- bill allowing women's and feminist associations to institute action as private persons parallel to prosecution in criminal cases
- bill to amend article 389 of the Civil Code on parental authority
- bill on the elimination of the system pertaining to equivalence
- bill on abortion
- bill on sexual assault
- bill to repress the offence of undermining the dignity of woman

Useful address: CHOISIR  
102 rue St. Dominique  
75007 Paris



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G E R M A N Y

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Women in the metallurgical sector

The tenth conference of women in the metallurgy trade union noted with satisfaction that women's earnings had risen in this sector. The women's section of the union, IG Metall, is to press on with its efforts: even today, a category 1 skilled woman worker earns DM.10.89 an hour, barely more than a category 3 auxiliary male worker who earns a rate of DM.10.32 an hour.

Useful address: IG Metall - Frauenabteilung  
Wilhelm Leuschner Strasse 79-85  
6000 Frankfurt am Main

Christian Democrat Women

The CDU-Frauenvereinigung (an association of women in the Christian Democrat Party) has called for the work done by women in the home to be recognized as on a par with a paid job. According to the Christian Democrat women, housewives should be entitled to a retirement pension that takes into account the years during which they have looked after their children.

The group also drew attention to the problem of girls' vocational training: 60% of school leavers who fail to find their first job and who do not have additional job training are girls.

Useful address: CDU-Frauenvereinigung  
Konrad Adenauer Haus  
53 Bonn 1

No to the quota

The women's group of SPD (German Social Democrat Party), at a meeting of Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sozialdemokratische Frauen (ASF - a working group of Social Democrat women), rejected the suggestion made at the Erlangen congress that there be a quota of women among those holding office in the party. Despite intervention by Willy Brandt, the president of SPD, women voted by 142 votes against 91 that the quota would be discriminatory and unacceptable in a democratic party.

Out of the membership of SPD, 25% are women, compared with 19% of the Christian Democrat Party, 21% of the Liberal FDP and 12% of the Bavarian Christian Democrats, but there are very few women in the Bundestag or holding high position in political and government bodies.

Useful address: S.P.D. Frauenreferat  
Erich Ollenhauer Weg  
5300 Bonn 1

Women on their own

More than 12% of women on their own with children are unemployed. A more detailed analysis of this group of society gives cause for concern: 42% of these women are untrained for a job, compared with an average of 33% for other women. In addition, they have to cope with the care and bringing up of their children with inadequate social facilities. Of the women who are entitled to alimony from their former husbands, 33% do not receive the payment. In view of these facts and figures, the Social Democrat Party (SPD) and the Liberal Party (FDP) have proposed that a special fund be established out of which alimony payable in respect of children should be paid, with action being taken against defaulting fathers.

Useful address:           Fraktion der SPD  
                          Fraktion der FDP  
                          Bundeshaus  
                          53 Bonn

Battered wives: a second refuge in Berlin

Berlin's municipal government has just given its consent to the establishment of a second refuge for battered wives. The first was financed jointly by the Berlin government and the Federal Ministry for the Youth, the Family and Health but, with 70 women and about 70 children constantly being provided with accommodation for periods of up to six days, the refuge can no longer cope with the scale of the problem. About 20% of women asking for help have left their husbands or partners. For obvious safety reasons, no address is given.

Useful address:           Frauenhaus Berlin  
                          Tel: 030/614.79.60  
                          030/691.30.28

Second Conference of Women in Berlin

Meeting for the second time in Berlin, with support from the European Commission information service, to discuss the application of the EEC directive on equality in conditions of work, representatives from women's association and feminist groups asked for a hearing before the Bundestag on the bill being drawn up by the Government on equal rights for women in the world of work.

During the conference,           protests were made against the various age limits prescribed for women wishing to enroll for study or vocational training.

Those at the conference also discussed the position of women in the mass media: they called for a 50% quota of women on the screen, at the microphone and in information agencies.

Towards a feminist party?

The idea of a German feminist party has been raised again. Eva Rath, vice president of the women's section of the German Social Democrat party in Schleswig-Holstein has resigned on the grounds that the traditional parties do not give women the position they are entitled to expect. Eva Rath is putting out feelers to find out whether a feminist party could be created in Germany and to work out a specific platform for such a party.

Useful address:           Eva Rath  
                              Hasselkamp 26  
                              2360 Kronshagen über Kiel

Shop closing time

The magazine Emma is conducting a campaign for an easing of the regulations which prescribe that shops must shut at 6 p.m. It is a practice that causes great difficulty to working women who have to fetch their children from school and still do some of their essential shopping.

All the women interviewed by Emma, including salesgirls, said they were in favour of more flexible regulations; they would even like to have a whole evening when shops would be entitled to stay open to whatever time suits their customers.

Useful address:           E m m a  
                              Kolpingplatz  
                              5000 Cologne 1

Supermarket cashiers

Especially just before the weekend, supermarket cashiers work at an exhausting rate and cope with what is in fact a heavy manual job: on the average, they lift half a ton of goods an hour and, from Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon, they pick up a total of five or six tons!

Pressure groups and unions are pooling their efforts in an attempt to do away with transfer cashier points at supermarket exits.

Useful address:   Gewerkschaft Handel, Banken, Versicherungen  
                          Besenbinderhof  
                          2000 Hamburg 1

Arbeitskreis Emanzipation Moers  
c/o Jutta Henke  
Kornstrasse 18  
4130 Moers 1

I R E L A N D

A fourth women's refuge opens

The Bray Women's Group has opened the fourth refuge for women in domestic stress in Ireland; centres already exist in Dublin, Cork and Limerick and there are plans for two more in Sligo and Galway.

The main concern now is to help women cope with the difficulties they experience in finding accommodation for themselves and their children when they leave the centres.

Telephone:           Bray Women's Group  
                          01-868407  
                          01-860393

No change in women's status

Anne Kavanagh, the chairwoman of the Council for the Status of Women, has complained that nothing has changed in women's status in Ireland since the Council's previous annual meeting.

Despite pressure, there has been no change in the law whereby a woman is automatically regarded as having the same domicile as her husband even if he lives apart in another country. An Irish woman, for instance, cannot seek a divorce in another country, although the reverse does not apply: Irish husbands can and do get foreign divorces.

Nor has there been any change in the law on "criminal conversation", which gives an Irish husband the right to sue another man for committing adultery with his wife. Ms. Kavanagh also pointed out that Ireland is the only EEC country not guaranteeing maternity leave for women in private industry.

On the subject of state-sponsored bodies, only 5.6 per cent of board members are women. Another point raised by Ms. Kavanagh was the way in which taxation discriminates against married women. Since the introduction of equal pay, she said, the differential between men's and women's wages has narrowed by only 2.7%.

Useful address:           Council for the Status of Women  
                          27, Merrion Square  
                          Dublin, 2

A women's centre planned

A group of Irish women are planning to set up a women's centre which will be open to all women, irrespective of age, class, race, sexual orientation or political outlook.

It is an ambitious project: there will be a creche, library, rooms for groups and individuals to meet, an information centre and a coffee shop.

Useful address:           Campaign for a Women's Centre   (Wednesdays and  
                          8 Marlborough Street            Saturdays from  
                          Dublin 1                           1 - 5 p.m.)

Mother - daughter relationships

The Sandymount Women's Health Group has set up a special workshop to carry out research on relations between mothers and daughters. After five years' work with women, Nicola Quinn and Rosalind Pearmain have found that it is a problem that recurs so often as to cause concern.

"When women consciously become feminist, they can see how their own mothers have been oppressed. But mothers are still full of indignation and also feel guilty about their own indignation. I think that a very real problem arises from the fact that every woman has been forced to take on the outward role of being a 'good mother'. As soon as you become a mother you are supposed to be tender and loving, a rock. But of course you do not always feel like that" says Nicola Quinn.

Useful address: Sandymount Women's Health Group  
c/o 6 Seafort Terrace  
Dublin 4

Home-workers

The Women's Research Co-op (attached to Trinity College, Dublin) has decided to carry out a detailed survey of work at home. There are thousands of women - some of them working for derisory wages, as low as 12½p. an hour! - who type labels, pack toys or do sewing work at home without the benefit of social security, any protection for their jobs or defence against exploitation.

Useful address: The Women's Research Co-op  
c/o Department of Sociology  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Farmers' wives

Mairead Moran has presented an unprecedented survey on the lot of women in Irish agriculture, published in the May issue of Progressive Farmer. With a wealth of detail, the survey gives a mass of facts and figures on the lives and aspirations of farmers' wives.

In a family of six, for instance, she will spend five hours on the domestic chores, three hours on preparing meals and three and a half hours on the children. Despite this heavy timetable, 45% of women still find time to work on the farm itself for one to three hours a day.

Retirement? They hardly think about it. On the contrary 84% of women would like to learn more about farming. Only 23% receive a little pocket money for their work around the farm.

The survey deserves to be quoted in full. It is clearly illustrated with simple tables.

Useful address: The Progressive Farmer  
Poolberg House  
1-2 Poolberg Street  
Dublin 2

I T A L Y

Militant Socialist Women

Rome was the venue for 15,000 militant women members of the Italian Socialist Party, PSI, at the first "national assizes" for their movement. Woman's status and proposals that the political world should be urged, through the Socialist Party, to take up were the focus of the two days of debate.

It was decided that local sections should press on with the concepts generated in Rome, and also that links should be strengthened with sister organizations in other European Community countries.

Useful address:            Movimento Femminile PSI  
                              c/o On. Noya Magnani  
                              Via del Corso 476  
                              R o m e

Women and information in Southern Italy

More than a hundred journalist met to discuss the theme of "Woman and information in the South", a meeting organized by Coordinamento Nazionale Giornaliste (national women journalists' coordinating body), Associazione Napoletana della Stampa (Naples press association) and Federazione Nazionale della Stampa Italiana (Italian national press federation). Women are both the subject and the target of information. The field is vast: access to the world of work, women's image in the press, unofficial work . . . the problems are many. However that may be, a few points emerged clearly from the discussions: women reject stereotypes, they are no longer content to stand on the fringes of society and they will not brook frustration.

Useful address:            Coordinamento giornaliste Romane  
                              Marisa Bergamini  
                              3, Via G.B. Falda  
                              R o m e

Domestic workers

A new word for a familiar figure has entered the Italian vocabulary: a "Colf". It is an acronym derived from the officialese for a domestic worker or home help, "collaboratrice familiare". There are over a million officially registered workers of this kind, but how many more are there who are unregistered or moonlight, with no social security of any kind? Last year, a new national agreement was reached for "Colfs" under which their minimum wage must be 185,000 lire a month for category 1 domestics, 160,000 for category 2 and 125,000 for category 3 workers.

"Colfs" are not underrated: Mr. Andreotti, then Prime Minister, inaugurated the congress in Rome on the issue of "domestic work in the economy and in the family", organized by the Associazione professionale italiane collaboratrici familiari (Italian domestic workers' trade association), known as Apicolf for short.

At the end of the discussions, the 500 people attending the congress called for specialist occupational training for those of their number looking after children and the elderly, improvements in compensation payable during sickness and a more favourable status for foreign household workers.

Useful address:           APICOLF  
                          Via Casale S. Pio V, 20  
                          00165 R o m e

#### Radio, women and Europe

Among the many programmes broadcast at the time of the European elections, the one put out on the Italian national broadcasting corporation's Radio 2 service in the morning as part of its "Sala F" series caught the imagination of its women listeners: women from every country in the European Community came to the microphone to swap views, air their thoughts and give information. Women listeners phoned in to the programme with questions, stressing the importance of greater mutual understanding and enquiring about every detail of daily life of women in each of our countries.

Useful address:           RAI - TV  
                          Viale Mazzini  
                          R o m e

#### An exhibition and an encounter

Through an exhibition and a meeting organized at Pavia, the Federazione Italiana Laureate e Diplomate Istituti Superiori (the Italian federation of women graduates) drew public attention to the women of Europe.

Consisting of 25 pictures, the exhibition showed the history of Europe, women's lot and their problems. Discussions were held daily on woman and Europe, woman in Italy and woman in local everyday life.

Useful address:           F.I.L.D.I.S.  
                          Collegio Castiglioni-Brugnatelli  
                          Via S. Martino 18  
                          P a v i a

L U X E M B O U R G

A woman's centre ... at last

The first women's centre in Luxembourg has just been officially inaugurated. In fact it is a four room flat which has been rented and done up beautifully by MLF (Women's liberation movement). For the time being, it is being financed by standing orders contributed by militant women. It provides a place where women can meet, whatever the organization to which they belong, to discuss and exchange ideas, to find a refuge from the isolation in which they live, without constraint. The short term objectives are to install a telephone service which will provide advice on unwanted pregnancies, and later on to set up a permanent gynaecological and legal assistance service.

Useful address: Centre des Femmes  
17, avenue Monterey (2nd floor)  
Luxembourg

N E T H E R L A N D S

A women's health centre

Amsterdam is soon to have a health centre for women only, with financial support from the local council which has released a loan of 50,000 guilders for this purpose. After the centre has been in operation for three years, there is to be a preliminary survey report to determine whether the experiment should be continued.

Doctors, legal experts and a nurse: eight women will be responsible for running the centre. Already other local councils are thinking about setting up centres of their own.

Technology: it is women's province too

A pressure group of women in technical trades, Steungroep Vrouwen in Technische Beroepen, whose membership includes women mechanics, carpenters and bricklayers, has pointed out to Mr. Albeda, the Minister for Social Affairs, that leaflets and booklets on the trades distributed by the Government are far too often male-oriented, even though the literature is also meant for women embarking upon a trade. Documents published in the future must give as much space to women as to men when describing the trades and crafts open to them.

Useful address: Steungroep Vrouwen in Technische Beroepen  
Postbus 15139, Amsterdam

Unmarried mothers

BOM-groep is an association of unmarried mothers, set up a year ago. It has done such useful work - exchanging information, ideas and advice - that it has brought out a booklet full of good addresses, good advice, examples and general information, at a modest price of 7.50 guilders.

Useful address: Laurien Teepe  
Rozengracht 101  
Amsterdam



U N I T E D   K I N G D O M

Women publishers

The publishing house run by and for women, Virago, set up in 1977 by Carmen Cahill, works from a tiny one-roomed office near Piccadilly in London but already has an impressive booklist, ranging from reprints of important works of earlier women writers to modern fiction and educational books on sex and education written expressly from the woman's point of view. Jane Cousin's book, "Make it Happy", described as the best sex education book there is, has had excellent sales in France, Italy, Germany and the Scandinavian countries as well as in Britain.

Owned and run by four women, Virago is advised by a distinguished advisory council of women writers and journalists, including Germaine Greer, famous for her book "The Female Eunuch". Carmen Cahill and her colleagues know exactly what they want to do: publish books which reflect women's lives in history and the present.

Apart from fiction and biography, they have launched a series of handbooks on health and welfare written by women for women. As Ursula Owen, the editorial director, points out, such books are usually written by men. However good they may be, men can never feel as women feel, nor do their interests always coincide.

Books of particular interest to women to be published in 1979 include "The Powers of Science on Women's Lives" and a biography of Alexandra Kollontai, the only woman in Lenin's government.

Virago is prepared to publish male authors if their work is relevant to Virago's aims. Not so The Women's Press, run largely single-handed from her kitchen in London's East End by Stephanie Dowrick. She is firmly against including male authors in her booklist. "We would not employ a man or publish a book by a man," she says; "women are sick of hearing men talk about women. As a women's publisher, we aim to help women materialize new feminine ideas."

It is the aim of The Women's Press to publish a wide range of provocative books by women, chiefly in the areas of fiction, literary and art history, physical and mental health and politics. Books that have already attracted attention include "The World Split Open: Women Poets 1552-1950" - an anthology of women's poetry - and an attractively illustrated book of "Women Artists".

The response to these ventures has been encouraging, both publishers agree. New women writers find it particularly helpful to discuss their work with women, who often have a better understanding of what they are trying to say.

Useful addresses:

Virago  
5 Wardour Street  
London W1Y 3HE

The Women's Press  
12, Ellesmere Road, Bow  
London E3 5QX

Co-operative Women's Guild

The Co-operative Women's Guild, with its 18,000 members, held its annual congress in the spring. The aim of the Guild is to encourage women to take an active interest in the Co-operative movement, both politically and in its commercial wholesale and retail outlets. The Guild also has a long tradition of campaigning for the women's cause, particularly among working class women.

Resolutions before the Congress called on the Government to extend co-operative forms of ownership so that they can play a far larger part in Britain's economy. On the subject of the European Community, the Guild would like to see a fundamental reform of common agricultural policy and a massive increase in the financial aid given by the Regional Fund and the European Social Fund.

Useful address: Co-operative Women's Guild  
342 Hoe Street, Walthamstow  
London E17

A few "firsts"

Taking a backwards look over the past few years, Home and Country, the magazine of the National Federation of the Women's Institutes has recorded a few "first occasions" in the field of equality between men and women.

Two women have lost no time since the passing of the Sex Discrimination Act in 1975: they have applied for jobs at Chatham docks and are now working as crane-drivers on the loading and unloading of ships.

Susan Brown has become the first woman to be trained by the Building Industry Training Board as a plant operator, handling heavy machinery. Three young women have become guards in London's underground. At the age of 18, a girl has become the first driver's mate on a train. Five years after becoming the first bus conductress, in her own county of Sussex, Barbara Williams is now the first woman instructor for a bus company and, by the beginning of the year, she had already trained 25 male bus drivers.

Other women have become miners, gasfitters, tilers and so on. The Confederation of British Industry has appointed its first woman director to head the information department. Mrs. Agnes Curran has set a record by becoming the first woman governor of a men's prison.

Useful address: Home and Country  
11a, Kings Road  
Sloane Square  
London SW3 4RR

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Education and equal opportunities

"Education and equality of opportunity for girls and women" was the central issue tackled by the European Education Ministers of the 21 Council of Europe member states during their recent meeting at The Hague.

Speaking on behalf of the European Commission, Mr. Schuster, Director General of Research, Science and Education, emphasized that the authorities with responsibility for education should not underestimate their influence at a time when there is a pressing need for a coherent policy on female emancipation. Schools and other educational institutions must project an image of a more egalitarian society. The educational system cannot of course change society on its own, but the inequalities which still exist in society must not be used as an alibi for the educational system in perpetuating injustice. On the contrary: educators must prepare boys and girls to behave in a way which, once they have grown up, will help to iron out inequalities between men and women.

The ministers' attention was drawn to the finding that, although in theory boys and girls have the same freedom of access to education and are treated in the same way, the results achieved by the two sexes are not the same. Ministers then discussed the point of whether the policy of equality of opportunity should not be based on obtaining roughly equivalent results from both sexes. A new phase is beginning, now that the formal obstacles preventing one sex or the other gaining access to education are being removed.

The obstacles to the achievement of equal opportunity are not always raised by the decisions reached by the authorities, however. A sociologist, Mrs. Evelyne Sullerot, reported on the scruples felt by a teacher who had taught a boys' class, a girls' class and then a co-educational class in turn and realized that even in his choice of subjects for compositions he had differentiated between his pupils depending on their sex. He was promoting the expression of a spirit of adventure and invention among boys, and then an aesthetic sense and sentiment among girls.

The Education Ministers at The Hague were also given a report on "Equality of Education and Training for Girls (10 - 18 years)" prepared by Dr. Eileen Byrne for the European Commission. Dr. Byrne has looked at the position of girls in secondary education in all nine EEC countries and has found very tangible proof that too little use is being made of girls' potential, to a point at which their career prospects are affected.

After a detailed list of the obstacles of every kind to equality of opportunity, Dr. Byrne sets out a few thoughts: girls should be encouraged to study mathematics and science subjects right up to the end of their scholastic education. They should be able to opt for technical subjects just like boys, for their educational value is greater than the domestic science subjects towards which they are usually steered as a matter of course.

In conclusion, Dr. Byrne feels that a form of "positive discrimination" should now be practised, for example in vocational training schools, to encourage girls to go forward without fear in sectors traditionally reserved for boys.

Dr. Eileen Byrne's report has just been published in the six official languages of the Community by the EEC publications department in the Education Series (no. 9/79).

Useful address: Office des Publications Officielles des Communautés  
Européennes

B P 1003  
Luxembourg

### Family policy in Europe

The European Commission has published its annual "Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the European Community" for 1978. An important chapter is devoted to family questions. For instance, in 1978, despite curbs on government spending, the benefits acquired in the form of family allowances were not reduced; on the contrary, there was a slight increase in the family allowances paid in every EEC country except in Italy and Ireland.

In most of our countries there is heavy pressure upon the government to add to the facilities for the care and upbringing of young children. In the United Kingdom, there have been broad-based campaigns, in particular by the unions and the Equal Opportunities Commission, which estimates that at least 35% of mothers with small children have far fewer opportunities for employment because of the lack of structural facilities to cater for children.

Several of our countries are thinking about ways of looking after children that cost less than a community creche. Basically, these are versions of the "registered child-minder" system, under which women caring for children are given training and status. Italy, for its part, is adding to the number of its community creches under a programme drawn up as far back as in 1971.

Progress in each EEC country is reported in the publication, which gives figures that may be unfamiliar and which are sometimes surprising. In Belgium, for example, registered centres providing pre-matrimonial, marriage and family advice - 101 in 1977 - were consulted 27,698 times on medical subjects and 83,155 on non-medical subjects. In Denmark, there were 95,000 names on the waiting lists for day care centres in August 1978. In France, there were 6,720 qualified family workers in the home in 1978. In Ireland, the number of creches financed by the authorities rose from 31 in 1975 to 66 in 1978.

In addition to a large volume of figures, the publication reports on the various changes that have been taking place in the legislation of the European states.

Useful address: Office des Publications Officielles des Communautés  
Européennes

B.P. 1003  
Luxembourg

The European Social Fund and Women

Over the past few weeks, very many requests for help have been brought to the attention of the European Social Fund in the field of women's training and retraining. It is very probable that the applications made to the European Commission will be equal in value to, if not greater than, the allocation of 18 million units of account made available to women under the European Social Fund budget.

In May, the Vice President of the European Commission with responsibility for social affairs, Mr. Vredeling, drew the attention of EEC ministers to the fact that applications to the Commission for grants amounted to only 4.5 million u.a. Quoting the release that followed the Paris Summit on 12 and 13 March, Mr. Vredeling stressed the importance of concrete efforts to improve women's occupational status.

Little European Citizens

Hand in hand already - at least on the cover of a booklet - are the "little citizens of Europe". To mark the International Year of the Child, the European Commission has issued a publication of about twenty pages with a simple text, written for the sixty million or so "little citizens".

The booklet opens with a regretful statement: at the time of writing, we have to admit that European Treaties give the Community many very specific responsibilities but nowhere do they specify any overall policy in favour of children. One thing can be observed, however: even though no mention is made in the Treaties, children are always in the minds of everybody who is working in any field to build a happier Europe.

In the pages of the booklet, drawings by Marie (11), Jan (11), Laurence and Anne (11) as well as many other children add a lighter touch to the concerns expressed by the adults.

Useful address: Commission of the European Communities  
Directorate-General of Information  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Brussels

### Nurses

In pursuance of an EEC directive which now has the force of law, nurses (and this includes male nurses, of course) in the European Community are entitled to practise their profession in any of its member states.

Before they are entitled to work in another EEC country, male and female nurses must have done general nursing for at least three years out of the five years before obtaining their diploma. They must have held full responsibility for the organization and giving of medical care.

It is very unlikely that this will lead to a rush of nurses across the frontiers of Europe. Before working in Germany, for example, a French nurse must have acquired a good working knowledge of the German language; for many, this is a difficult hurdle, to judge by the precedent set by the doctors. They already enjoy the right of free establishment but few have emigrated.

In addition to the doctors, lawyers will soon be able to practise their talents in EEC countries other than their own, and there are hopes that veterinaries will be able to do the same next year. The Commission is now looking into the case of midwives, architects, chartered accountants and tax consultants.

Women and the economy

On the initiative of the "Economic Commission for Europe", U.N.O. has organized a seminar in Paris on the "role of woman in the economic development of the European Community region".

This provided an opportunity not only to exchange the benefit of experience and stress new trends but also to reconsider certain rather hasty conclusions which have become far less evident in the light of the current economic crisis.

In an outstanding contribution in the name of all market economy countries, for instance, Marijke Van Hemeldonck, president of the Belgian Commission for Woman's Status, pointed out the degree to which women's paid work is in fact determined by the unpaid work allotted to women. It is a factor that influences the attitudes of both workers and employers when defining, classifying and evaluating "women's jobs".

Marijke Van Hemeldonck also described a recent occurrence: while work in the industrial sector requires ever more advanced technical training, there is a rapid "downgrading" of work in the service sector due to technological progress, and it is to this sector that women are being channelled more and more.

In addition, Marijke Van Hemeldonck drew attention to the lot of all those women whose marriage vows took the place of a contract of employment. When faced by divorce, separation or widowhood, these women workers are overwhelmed in two ways. To avoid these crises, there must be a reform of civil law.

Useful address: Commission Economique pour l'Europe  
Palais des Nations-Unies  
Geneva

RESEARCH, MEETINGS, BOOKS

Women and Shift Work

By Alan Marsh, this is a report on research undertaken at the request of the Equal Opportunities Commission on legislation to protect women at work in the United Kingdom.

Useful address: Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
P.O. Box 569  
London SE1

Sprache und Geschlecht

Language and sex is the theme of an international symposium held at the University of Osnabrück in March 1979. Norms in verbal and non-verbal communications, the structure and use of language, socialization through language: these are all important themes in women's speech. Minutes of the symposium will be published during the course of the summer by the journal, OBST.

Useful address: Redaktion OBST  
Fachbereich 7: Kommunikation/Asthetik  
Universität Osnabrück  
Postfach 4469  
4500 Osnabrück

Woman and society

"Donna e Società" is a research and documentation journal on woman and society published by the women's movement of the Christian Democrat Party in Italy. Issue no. 49, devoted mainly to the problems of childhood, also covers motherhood throughout the course of nature and cultures. A new feature entitled "Pensare europeo" (thinking European) groups very varied items of information taken from the European press.

Useful address: Donna e società  
Corso Rinascimento 113  
Rome

Women in Europe

Donne in Europa is a book written by Vera Squarzialupi, published by Editori Riuniti. A journalist and Communist senator (she has just been re-elected to European Parliament), the author describes the social and political road that 132 million European women have been taking over the past twenty years. The book records the milestones passed and above all what we hope to reach at the end of that road. The book is a comprehensive and unprecedented piece of documentation.

Useful address: Editori Riuniti  
Rome



Women and equality of opportunity

"Femmes et l'égalité des chances": under this title, an OECD report is shortly to be published which will try to describe where we stand now that women have broken into economic life. A preliminary extract from its conclusions has already been printed by the OECD's Observateur in its March 1979 issue.

Useful address: L'Observateur de l'OCDE  
Chateau de la Muette  
Paris

Psychological factors

At the René Descartes University, Germaine de Montmollin has undertaken research on the psychological factors affecting the changing role of women. Her work is a direct consequence of the international congress on applied psychology held in Munich in August 1978.

Useful address: U.E.R. de Psychologie  
28, rue Serpente  
75006 Paris

The issue of women and feminism in the history of the Republic

This is the subject of a book recently published by Morcelliana, written by Paola Gaiotti-De Biase (who has just been elected to European Parliament on the Christian Democrat list): "Questione femminile e femminismo nella storia della Repubblica". It is the first critical summary, by a Catholic woman historian, of the problem of women in Italy's history after the second world war.

Useful address: Morcelliana  
Brescia

Woman as the subject of advertising

"La Donna - Oggetto in Pubblicità" is a fascinating document produced by Elena Pellegrini and published by Marsilio Editori (Venice) in its Blow-Up collection. An anthology of "booby trap" advertising, the book presents more than a hundred photographs in which woman plays the role of bait. Its aim is not to raise a laugh but to provoke thought. It ends with photo-montages in which men in their turn are used as stooges to sell products. The effect is striking and it is a sharp reminder of the whole question of human dignity.

Feminist information centre

In Paris, this is now a reality. Ten women, some of whom are documentary researchers, some not, put their heart and soul into running the centre. They will be delighted to receive research, dossiers, journals, etc. from you.

Useful address: Documentation Femmes  
50, rue de l'Ouest  
75014 Paris

Why Europe?

Enrico Jacchia, writer and journalist, in a polished but simple style outlines the history of the European concept, Community policies and their influence on daily life in a book entitled "Europa, perchè?". Anyone wanting to understand Europe and its apparently complex mechanisms should read this work. In a postscript, Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli reviews women's status within the European Community and the efforts being made by women on behalf of Europe.

Published by Arnoldo Mondador, L.6,000.

Women in a commercial society

"Les Femmes dans la société marchande" is a collection edited by Andrée Michel published as part of the "Sociologie d'Aujourd'hui" series produced by the Presses Universitaires de France. It contains papers presented at a seminar in Royaumont on the theme of "non-commercial domestic production". The essence of the problem is embodied in the four major issues discussed: the family and domestic production, qualitative aspects, the expenditure of time and the monetary equivalent of non-commercial domestic output. Why is domestic production not taken into account in the economic indicators? What are the consequences of this obstinate oversight? An important book for those who wish to reduce inequality of the sexes.

Revue du Travail

Issue no. 12 of La Revue du Travail, now in its 79th year, published by the Belgian Ministry for Employment and Labour (53 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels), has printed a report on a seminar organized by the Commission for Women's Work on the theme of "how to integrate men and women at work". One of the prejudices that is belied is female absenteeism. In fact, absenteeism depends upon the quality of the job being done; it is well known that women are concentrated in the lower grade jobs.

Giving life

Giving life is the theme of the international symposium organized by the French association, "Choisir", on 5, 6 and 7 October in Paris. Doctors, scientists, men and women politicians, economists and population experts are to come to the UNESCO building from every quarter of the globe to discuss the issue and give their own witness.

Useful address:     CHOISIR  
                      102, rue St-Dominique  
                      75007 Paris