

Women of Europe

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FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

B E L G I U M

Widows' employment

From January 1st, 1980, widows will be entitled to work no more than 60 hours a week if they wish to continue drawing their pension as the surviving spouse.

Several women's associations have protested against this measure, which treats widows on a par with retired persons. Widows faced with the problem of bringing up their children cannot cope on a survivor's pension, even if it is augmented by family allowances payable for fatherless children. The only way they can manage is to earn the extra income they need.

The bill makes only a few exceptions to the rule. In addition, the maximum amount that a widow may earn in a year, whether she works for an employer or is self-employed, is to be the small sum of Bfrs 94,441.

Useful address: Femmes P.S.C. (Parti Social Chrétien)
Rue des Deux Eglises, 41
1040 Brussels

An anti-discrimination committee

"Forward-looking company seeks an ambitious young man" - "Advertising agency is looking for man of action": there is no doubt that employers are finding it hard to come to grips with things and to comply with both the spirit and the letter of the law. The Centre Féminin d'Education Permanente - a women's centre for adult education - has conducted a survey on discrimination in job advertisements, now that the law on equality of status for men and women at work has been in force for a year. Its findings: three advertisements out of four are still sexist and infringe the law.

In the light of the findings, the women's centre has decided to set up an "anti-discrimination defence committee" with the role of systematically monitoring small ads to find those that contravene the law and reporting them to the public prosecutor. The intention is not to have individual employers convicted but rather to create legal precedents and to arouse public awareness.

C.F.E.P. invites all women's groups to support it by taking similar action.

Useful address: Centre Féminin d'Education Permanente
Place Quételet, 1a
1030 Brussels

If you marry a foreigner ...

A Belgian woman who marries a non-Belgian loses her own nationality and automatically acquires her husband's, although she may declare her wish to retain her Belgian nationality within six months of her marriage. Even then, she must have completed the necessary formalities within the specified periods.

These Belgian legal measures regarding nationality are a flagrant contradiction of a number of international conventions signed by member states of the United Nations or Council of Europe. Most of the countries bordering Belgium have already set their house in order, ruling that a woman need not change her nationality on marriage unless she asks to do so.

In Belgium, there are many mixed marriages. Unless a Belgian wife carries out these formalities, all her family affairs will be governed by the laws of her husband's country. The problems that arise in the event of disagreement between the partners to a marriage can readily be imagined.

This is not the whole story, however: even if a wife retains her Belgian nationality, her children are nationals of their father's country only. If the father takes them away to his native country she is unlikely ever to see them again. Very many cases of this kind are being handled by the Foreign Ministry.

For this reason, the Foreign Ministry's Consultative Committee on Women's Status has called for two changes: first, that the nationalities of the husband and wife should not be altered by marriage unless one of the partners wishes to avail himself or herself of the other's nationality; second, that any child who has a Belgian parent should be a Belgian national.

The Committee's claims have fallen on deaf ears up to this time. Indeed, the bill on consanguinity in lineal descent now being discussed by a parliamentary committee still proposes that the father alone should transmit his nationality to the child.

Useful address: Commission Consultative de la Condition de la Femme
Rue du Grand-Cerf, 12
1000 Brussels

Co-education

Training for adult life starts when the child first attends school, and yet there are still many obstacles to co-education, the first step towards greater equality between men and women in the world of work. To pinpoint the obstacles in the way of co-education and take the first step towards removing them, a two day seminar has been held under the auspices of the Committee for Women's Work and the Ministry of Education.

Many teachers came to the seminar both from the private sector and from the state schools to compare their experience and share their difficulties. With the success already achieved and with the development of a practical strategy for improvements, it can now be hoped that co-education will become an ever more effective instrument for the emancipation of women.

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

No government hand-out for battered wives

Madame Mathieu-Mohin, speaking in the Senate, expressed regret that the government still provides no financial support for refuges for battered women. The first Belgian refuge was set up in 1977; this year, hostels exist in Brussels, Liège, Namur, La Louvière, Malines, Louvain, Vilvorde, Antwerp, Ghent and Turnhout.

Useful contact: Collectif pour Femmes Battues/Kollektief voor Mishandelde Vrouwen
tel. 02/345 35 26

D E N M A R K

Women's record electoral success

The elections to the Folketing held on 23 October can be chalked up as a success by women. Never before have so many women been elected and never before has the percentage of women members in Danish Parliament risen so fast. Before the election this year there were 30 women MPs, 17% of the total. Following the national elections there are 42, representing 23% of all members of Parliament. Even so, 23% is not a satisfactory proportion, although the 7% increase at each election is praiseworthy, providing encouragement and the impetus to work to achieve a fairer representation for women in politics.

More women candidates

One of the reasons for the election results is that more women candidates stood than ever before. Out of the total number of candidates, 21.8% were women - a record in Danish political annals. The parties on the Left were those that put up the largest number of women candidates, the best record being held by the Communist Party, the worst by the largest party in Denmark, the Social Democrats.

Voting procedures: a major factor

Under the Danish electoral system, the electorate may vote in one of two ways: the voter may vote for a list (a party) by putting his cross against the name of a party on the voting slip, or he may cast a preferential vote, in other words he may vote for a candidate by putting his mark in the box beside his name. The parties may also present their candidates in two ways, either with a pre-set list or with a competitive list.

The way in which a list is set out determines to a great extent the candidates who will be elected. With a pre-set list, the candidates are named in the order decided by their party. When the votes are counted, those cast in favour of the party list are shared out among the candidates in the order in which they are listed on the voting slip. The first-listed candidate is allocated not only the votes cast for him personally but also as many of the votes for the party list as he needs to secure his election. Any votes left over are allocated to the second candidate on the list, and so on.

With a competitive list, the candidates are usually named on the voting slip in alphabetical order. After the votes have been counted, those cast for the party list are shared out among the candidates in proportion to the number of preferential votes going to each one. This means that a candidate right at the bottom of the voting list may be elected if he or she receives a large number of preferential votes.

Women receive many preferential votes

The Danish Council for Equal Rights has analyzed the distribution of preferential votes cast at the 23 October election and has clearly shown that on the average women candidates received more preferential votes than their male colleagues. The 238 women candidates obtained an average of 1,723 preferential votes each, while the 549 men candidates received an average of 1,272.

The survey is likely to arouse a good deal of controversy. One conclusion is that there would be many more women MPs at the Folketing if all the voters took the trouble to go to the polls. There are two factors militating against the election of women. First of all, many election constituencies are "black spots", in that not all parties put up women candidates there. Secondly, the pre-set list system favours the candidates at the head of the list and in general these are men.

A curious finding revealed by the survey is that it is not the voters themselves who wish to see a parliament dominated by men.

The survey also belies the criticisms levelled at the proposal put forward by the Danish Women's Association regarding "positive discrimination". The proposal (described in the last issue of Women of Europe) was called undemocratic because such an arrangement (with sex-based quotas) would restrict the electorate's freedom to express its wishes. It is clearly demonstrated by the survey, however, that voters' influence over events and their freedom of choice are also hampered by the existing system.

Vote for a woman

For many years, women's organizations have based their election campaigns on the slogan "vote for a woman", and they have always been criticized for doing so. The slogan was misinterpreted and people called it undemocratic to appeal to women to vote for women. In fact, women's groups have never made such an appeal but have always urged men too to vote for women candidates, to restore the political balance between the sexes.

It has also been claimed that it is undemocratic to vote for a woman solely because she is a woman. The reply has been that any candidate for political office must of course have the necessary qualifications, but this applies just as much to men as to women. It is very unusual for anyone to cast aspersions on a male candidate's qualifications. As a general rule, all that a man has to do is to present himself as candidate and to be male. Are these qualifications adequate?

Women's organizations have also stressed the difficulty of deciding what qualifications a member of the Folketing ought to possess. How can one tell whether a person is or is not suited to a job until he or she has done it for a certain time? And how can women demonstrate their political abilities unless they come forward as candidates and unless they are elected?

Every time a woman wins a seat in Parliament, a man has to give his up

The criticisms levelled at the election campaign conducted by the women's organizations are easy to understand when one realizes that there are only 179 seats in Danish Parliament. Whenever a woman wins another seat, a man has to vacate his . . . and nobody likes to give up his privileges.

Else Elbaek.

F R A N C E

Voluntary termination of pregnancy

The abortion law passed in 1974 for a five year period has come before French Parliament again for review. The Council of Ministers considered that on the whole practical experience with its implementation had been satisfactory and it recommended that the law should be entered in the statute book on a permanent basis.

In Parliament, the issue was hotly debated by its advocates and its detractors. At one point the idea was mooted - but only in the lobbies - that the law should merely be extended for a further five year period, but when the motion was put to the vote the law was made final.

Voluntary termination in the Community

To shed light on an issue causing controversy throughout France, the Ministry of Health and Social Security held a day's seminar on the termination of pregnancy in E.E.C. nations.

In the course of discussions it became apparent that the legislative machinery in Europe of the Nine on the subject of abortion is moving towards a degree of harmonization. It is true that Ireland and Belgium have laws which make recourse to abortion absolutely unlawful, but the other European countries, including France, have all brought in legislation whose aim is to liberalize abortion and remove criminal sanctions for abortions performed during the first three months of pregnancy. In the Netherlands, there is a paradoxical situation in that the ban on abortion imposed by law is generally disregarded. Out of 70,000 abortions carried out in the Netherlands in 1978, no more than 12,000 were on Dutch women.

Useful address: Ministère de la Santé et de la Sécurité Sociale
Conseil Supérieur de l'Information Sexuelle, de la
Régulation des Naissances et de l'Education Familiale
29, Boulevard Raspail
75007 Paris

Family policy: the cost

During a Parliamentary debate on family policy, the Minister responsible for Women's Status and the Family, Monique Pelletier, said that in 1976 France paid out Fr.5,400 for each child under the age of 15. For the purpose of comparison, the European Communities Statistical Office has quoted a figure of Fr.4,750 in Belgium, Fr.4,600 in Denmark, Fr.3,850 in Germany, Fr.3,600 in Luxembourg, Fr.3,500 in the Netherlands, Fr.2,250 in the United Kingdom, Fr.1,900 in Italy and Fr.1,300 in Ireland.

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

Wednesday afternoons with the children

In response to a proposal put forward by Monique Pelletier, the Minister responsible for Women's Status, three ministries (Health, Employment and the Environment) have decided that civil servants with children (either the mother or the father) may take time off without pay on Wednesday afternoons, when school-age children in France usually have a half-day holiday.

Family planning and parenthood

The "Centre d'Information sur la régulation des naissances, la maternité, la vie sexuelle" - known as CIRM for short - is an information centre on family planning, maternity and sex life set up in 1976 under the auspices of the Health Ministry.

CIRM provides a telephone information service for use by the public (tel. 544 56 46), a library and documentary information service, an audio-visual material department and information leaflets (29, Boulevard Raspail, 75007 Paris).

CIRM's first regional department is now open in Lille. It works along the same lines as the Paris centre, providing information over the telephone (20/52 76 76) and literature (24, Boulevard Louis XIV, 59800 Lille).

The Centre's services are naturally available both to individuals and to organizers of social and cultural events.

Useful address: C I R M
29, Boulevard Raspail
75007 Paris

Women, age and the public sector

From now on - or more specifically from 7 July 1979 - there is no age limit for certain categories of women wishing to compete for employment in the public sector.

Jobs offered by the State, local communities, public institutions and savings banks are now accessible to widows, unmarried women with at least one child, women who have legally separated from their husbands, divorcees who have not remarried and mothers with at least three children, no age limit being imposed.

Useful address: Secrétariat d'Etat à la Fonction Publique
32, Rue de Babylone
75007 Paris

G E R M A N Y

Women at work

With 9.7 million women at work, 37% of the working population of Germany in 1978 were female. Despite the overall reduction in employment figures the number of working women has increased.

The proportion of women working in the public sector has risen from 42% in 1970 to 54% in 1978, although the trend for promotion to higher echelons has not followed the same pattern: not even 10% of the high ranking positions in the civil service are held by women.

Nevertheless, the general structure of the labour market is changing, one specific factor being the efforts made by the authorities to broaden the spectrum of occupations that are accessible to women. Bolting, planing, thread-cutting and turning: the first hundred girls to have embarked upon the venture have declared themselves very happy about their jobs. When the Ministry of Training and Science invited them to talk about their experience, they stressed that "any girl could learn a man's trade as they had done".

One of the guests who had successfully completed her vocational training as a mechanic had been rejected by her employer on the grounds that "the job would be too heavy for a girl". The tribunal dealing with employment problems said that the contract could not be cancelled as this would be an "infringement of the law on non-discrimination".

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft
Referat für Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
5300 Bonn 1

Monitoring the application of the law

Several organizations are urging that the anti-discrimination bill being discussed by the Bundestag should not become an "alibi law". The women members of Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (D.G.B. - German trades union congress), D.A.G. (the German office workers union), the Humanists Union and the Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (S.P.D. - German Social Democratic party) would like a commission to keep an entirely independent watch on the way in which the law is applied. These organizations are also calling for penalties to be applied to those who infringe the law.

Useful addresses: D.G.B.
Hans Böckler-Strasse
4000 Düsseldorf 30
D.A.G.
Karl-Muck-Platz 1
2000 Hamburg 36
Humanistische Union
z. H. Frau Hering
Hauptstrasse 26
8014 Neubiberg

No children in the battered wives' hostel

Wherever possible, battered wives who seek refuge at the hostels that have been set up for them take their children with them. Such hostels already exist in many towns in Germany, partly due to the financial support provided by the State. Even so, a judge in Frankfurt has just "disqualified" a battered wives' hostel by declaring that it is not a fit place for children to stay.

The women of Frankfurt have registered their protests, especially as it has been the experience of those who run the hostel that, on the contrary, a long stay there has a beneficial effect on children. In the hostel criticized by the judge, three specially trained women are employed to look after the children.

Useful contact: Ulrike von Braunmühl
Tel. 0611/70 80 55

Shop closing hours

Should shop opening times be altered? The magazine EMMA has claimed that shops close too early, and it is supported by Birgit Breuel, Minister for Economic Affairs in Lower Saxony.

Their views are not shared by the women members of the union representing those employed by shops, banks and insurance companies, Frauenausschuss Gewerkschaft HBV. On weekdays, shops close at 6 p.m., with late shopping hours one Saturday a month. The women who work in this sector feel that the existing regulations represent a hard-won achievement for them; they are convinced that different steps could be taken to meet customers' needs, for example by reducing the number of hours worked a day and maintaining wages at the same level for the population as a whole.

Useful address: Frauenausschuss Gewerkschaft H B V
Postfach 300 410
4000 Düsseldorf 30

"Equal work": catch 22

"You are not entitled to the same wages as your male counterparts because you do not do the same work, and you do not do the same work because you are not allowed to do heavy jobs or to work night shifts". This is the legal obstacle placed in the way of many women workers in Germany claiming equal pay.

The 28 women employed by a photographic firm in Gelsenkirchen are to submit their case to the courts on the grounds of inequality of status rather than inequality of pay. The situation is also faced by twenty women workers from Neuss who receive DM.1.15 an hour less than their male colleagues.

Of the 400,000 lowest paid workers, 300,000 are women. The bill on equal status on which the Bundestag is to vote, based on EEC regulations, should help to put an end to this abuse.

Useful address: Arbeits- und Sozialministerium
Pressestelle
Postfach
5300 Bonn 1

I R E L A N D

Money problems

The Employment Equality Agency set up by the Irish Government is facing serious money troubles. Due to lack of funds, the Agency has been obliged to leave two of its allocated ten staff posts unfilled. It has been unable to seek office accommodation to establish its own separate and independent identity. For the time being, it operates from offices belonging to the Department of Labour and its staff is seconded from other Government departments.

Lack of funds has also prevented the Agency from pursuing as vigorous a publicity campaign about its work as it would have liked.

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

Couple win unfair tax claim in court

The Irish High Court has decided that the tax laws as they apply to married couples are unconstitutional. A claim, upheld by the Court, was made by a schoolteacher couple, Francis and Mary Murphy, on the grounds that married people pay more income tax on their combined salaries than would an unmarried couple.

Mr. Justice Hamilton based his decision on the fact that a couple's income is aggregated for tax purposes solely because they are married; he pointed out that on entering the married state a woman does not surrender her right to work. The Court did not, however, accept the couple's contention that the tax laws constitute a moral threat to the institution of marriage, nor did it agree to the couple's objection to a woman having to disclose her income to her husband since he is responsible for making income tax declarations on their behalf.

The Irish Government has decided to appeal against the decision by the High Court, although it has been widely welcomed, not least by the 3,500 members of the Married Person's Tax Reform Association.

Useful address: The Married Person's Tax Reform Association
c/o 52 Lakelands Avenue
Stillorgan

Research into educational inequalities

Girls do better than boys in examinations, yet only about a third as many girls go on to universities and colleges. This is only one fact among so many. To pinpoint the source of such injustice, the Employment Equality Agency - at the request of the Department of Labour - has undertaken a research project into equality of educational opportunities, commissioning the Economic and Social Research Institute to do the investigation. The project is expected to take three years and is jointly financed by the Agency, the Departments of Labour and Education and the EEC.

Useful address: Economic and Social Research Institute
4 Burlington Road
Dublin 4

Lifting 16 kilos

The Employment Equality Agency has pointed out that protective legislation in Ireland prohibits women from lifting weights in excess of 16 kilos and that the law has sometimes been used by employers as a pretext for paying women lower wages and even for refusing to hire them.

The Agency referred the matter to the Joint Labour Committee, which has agreed to delete the stipulation.

A similar restriction has been placed on industrial night work for women. Here again, the Agency has recommended the abolition of this restriction to the Minister for Labour.

Equal pay in theory and practice

The Employment Equality Agency states that 66% of claims for equal pay have been successful, while 47% of appeals have resulted in a decision in favour of employees.

An important analysis of equality claims under the two new employment equality laws operating in Ireland carried out by the Agency has led it to the conclusion that the Labour Court should not always be the body called upon to adjudicate on disputes arising under these laws. The Agency criticizes the long delays involved in Labour Court proceedings and states that the Court is more concerned with conflicts of interests. The point at issue in equality disputes, claims the Agency, is a conflict of rights.

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

Women's watchdog committee disbanded

The Women's Representative Committee, set up for a limited period shortly after the publication of a report by the Commission on the Status of Women to monitor progress in implementing the Commission's recommendations, is now defunct.

In its recently published second and last report, the Committee points out that the Employment Equality Agency is obliged to confine its activities to the world of work, even though there are other fields in which action is needed: education, taxation, social welfare and political affairs, etc.

The Minister for Labour has decided not to transfer the Committee's functions to another permanent advisory committee. In most western nations, national advisory committees have been established to consider every aspect of emancipation.

Useful address: Government Publications Sales Office
GPO Arcade
Dublin 1

I T A L Y

Eight bills before Parliament

The Socialist Party has submitted no fewer than eight bills intended to promote women's status, rights and dignity. The weighty "package" deals with physical violence directed against women, family rights, adoption, voluntary termination of pregnancy, divorce, infanticide and the institution peculiar to Italy, the "crime of honour".

On the subject of physical abuse of women, the Socialists would like to see heavier penalties and a reduction of the humiliating questioning of rape victims to the minimum needed to throw light on the crime. Their bill proposes that the concepts of violence and indecent assault be covered by a single term new to Italian law: "sexual acts committed without consideration for the injured party".

Dealing with the question of abortions, the Socialist Party calls for a definition of doctors' rights to object on the grounds of conscience and for limits to be placed upon those rights. It proposes that the minimum age at which a girl is entitled to avail herself of her rights under the abortion law be lowered from 18 to 16. It also proposes that the regional authorities should be entitled to call upon the services of staff outside the hospital institutions for the termination of pregnancies. In other words, if a doctor refuses to carry out an abortion on grounds of conscience, it must nonetheless be possible for an outside colleague to use the hospital facilities for that purpose.

Regarding divorce, the bill proposes that the period of separation before a married couple can obtain a divorce be reduced from five to two years, providing that both parties consent. If one of the partners to the marriage withholds his or her consent, the separation should be five years as at present.

In the field of family law, the Socialists would like financial assistance to be provided for whichever partner is left with the lowest level of resources in the event of a separation.

On the issues of infanticide and "crimes of honour", the Italian Socialists want to abolish those measures in the Criminal Code which literally make it excusable to kill a child of an adulterous union on birth or to kill a man - provided that the act is done without premeditation - who has "cast a slur on family honour", for instance when a man kills his sister's or wife's lover.

Useful address: Movimento Femminile del Partito Socialista Italiano
Via del Corso 476
Rome

Piedmontese women

The Piedmont women's regional consultative body has sent a statement to the parliamentarians for their area (European, national and regional), listing the problems they would like the legislators to tackle.

The main issues are adoption, equal pay and equality at work, the provision of facilities for mother and child, vocational training for women and adult education.

Useful address: Consulta Regionale Femminile del Piemonte
Via Maria Vittoria 18
Turin

L U X E M B O U R G

A "family bonus"

The independent union confederation OGB-L has once again raised the issue of the "family bonus", a special payment made by employers in the public sector and by many private concerns on top of the basic salary.

There are two requirements for payment of this quite substantial bonus: the employee must be married and a man. The latter is contrary to Community legislation.

Two women members of Parliament have questioned the Government on the matter and have received a promise that married women will receive a fair deal.

Useful address: OGB-L
60 Boulevard John F. Kennedy
Esch s/Alzette

Forgotten single parents

A gap in social legislation has been pointed out by a Socialist woman MP: the National Solidarity Fund, created to provide financial aid to people in difficulty, pays a special subsidy to widows with a handicapped dependent child but gives no support at all to unmarried mothers in the same position. When the subject was raised, the Minister for the Family promised to make good this injustice.

Useful address: Ministère de la Famille
2a, Rue de Strasbourg
Luxembourg

N E T H E R L A N D S

The Emancipation Commission: what of its future?

The Dutch Emancipatiekommissie was set up in 1974 to act as a consultative body to the Government, but for a period of no more than five years.

The Commission was due to complete its task at the end of 1979, but Jeltien Kraaijeveld-Wouters, Secretary of State with responsibility for emancipation, has asked it to continue with its work. The Commission has asked the Government on several occasions to establish an "emancipation council" (Emancipatieraad), an independent body whose terms of reference would be to act as a link between groups concerned with emancipation in social life on the one hand and, on the other, with national politicians.

In the absence of a prompt and favourable reaction from the Government, the members of the Commission have announced that they cannot continue with their duties indefinitely. They have proposed an interim administrative structure responsible for completing the ventures launched by the Commission and for paving the way for a new Council by 1 September 1980 at the latest.

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

An experiment at Utrecht

It is not easy for a woman to gain a foothold in the kind of job that is traditionally done by a man. For this reason, the Utrecht regional employment department - Gewestelijk Arbeidsbureau - is setting up a special section, operating from 1 January 1980 for an experimental period of one year, to help women take up "male" jobs.

Courses are being arranged for women wishing to work in a boiler-plate works, as one employer at least is already supporting the Utrecht employment department.

Useful address: Gewestelijk Arbeidsbureau
Rijndijk 5
Utrecht

Cohabitation and the law

On being consulted by the Dutch Government on how the law should view forms of cohabitation other than marriage, the Emancipation Commission has submitted a very detailed report of its views.

If an irregular union were to be treated by the law on a par with marriage serious risks would be incurred, the Commission feels. Apart from other factors, it would be a step away from the financial independence of a couple one from another at a time when even married couples are moving closer to such independence.

According to the Commission, due allowance should of course be made for the lot of women at the time when the rules on marriage were formulated but we should also bear in mind the changes that have been taking place in manners and morals both inside and outside marriage. Discrimination on the grounds of whether or not a woman is married, for instance in matters of social security, is banned; what purpose would it serve to assimilate married and unmarried couples by an administrative decree?

UNITED KINGDOM

Women fight change in abortion law

A Conservative M.P., Mr. Corrie, is the sponsor of a private member's bill in Parliament which aims to amend the 1967 Abortion Act by reducing the upper time limit by which an abortion may be carried out from 28 to 20 weeks, by narrowing the criteria for a legal abortion to "grave and serious" risks to the life or mental health of the pregnant women and by tightening restrictions on private clinics undertaking abortions.

According to the movements challenging Mr. Corrie's arguments, at least 10,000 women are expected to want but not qualify for a legal abortion each year if the law is amended, undoubtedly increasing the number of back-street abortions.

Useful address: National Abortion Campaign
374 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1

Maternity leave

The Government has proposed amending the Employment Protection Act to limit the rights of women to return to their old jobs after having a baby. At present women are entitled to maternity benefit for 18 weeks.

Under the new proposals, a woman would have to notify her employer three times that she intends to return to work; even then, however, if her employer believes that it is not "reasonably practical" she need be offered only suitable alternative employment. Women working for firms employing fewer than 20 people might find they lose the right to be given back their old job.

Since 1 October 1979, a women employee may not bring a case against a firm for unfair dismissal because of having a baby unless she has worked for it for a year; previously the time limit was six months.

The Equal Opportunities Commission, the Trades Union Congress and a number of voluntary organizations are opposed to the changes, seeing them as a deliberate setback to the achievement of equality by women in places of work.

Useful address: Department of Employment
8, St. James's Square
London SW1

Expenditure cuts hit women hard

The British Government is determined to cut back public expenditure. The Equal Opportunities Commission is concerned at the effects of its policy of making cuts in the education service, since they will:

- make it more difficult for mature women to receive training grants which would help them return to work;
- drastically reduce nursery accommodation for the under-fives, making it difficult for working mothers and reducing the number of jobs available to women in this sector;
- reduce the number of part-time jobs in education, which are mainly filled by women;
- render it increasingly difficult for women to take up further and adult education courses, affecting both teachers and students;
- hit working mothers again by reducing the availability of school meals.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission
Overseas House, Quay Street
Manchester M3 3HN

EOC wins first discriminatory advertising case

The Equal Opportunities Commission has won its first case on discriminatory advertising, brought against a Cornwall-based company that persisted in placing "sexist" recruitment advertisements.

The Commission is the only body empowered to take a case of this nature against an employer or publisher. The Commission's policy is to take action only when there has been persistent and deliberate discrimination in advertising, especially as cooperation from advertisers and newspaper publishers who have followed its guidance has hitherto made such action unnecessary.

If a similar unlawful act were to be committed by the respondent in this case within the next five years, the EOC has powers to apply to a county court for an injunction to prevent further such acts.

To provide guidance rather than taking legal action, the Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland, for its part, has brought out "The Employer's Guide to Equal Opportunities for Men and Women".

Useful addresses: Equal Opportunities Commission
Overseas House, Quay Street
Manchester M3 3HN

Equal Opportunities Commission 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

B E L G I U M

A new "women's house"

The "Maison des Femmes" is now well and truly installed at 29 Rue de la Blanche only a short walk from Porte Louise in Brussels. With spacious and inviting premises, it is easily accessible. A "bistro" attracts visitors who want to stop and relax as well as those who come for information.

The House was inaugurated on 11 November, the date of "Women's Day" in Belgium. It was a happy, easy-going occasion, with briefings, group meetings and discussion ... a good send-off.

Useful address: Maison des Femmes
 29, Rue Blanche
 1060 Brussels tel. 02/539 27 66

The groups briefly described below have not yet been mentioned in Women of Europe and may well be of interest to our readers.

W Q E

Women's Organization for Equality is an English-speaking feminist group in Brussels whose aim is to arouse women's awareness of their role in society and to suggest ways of bettering their status.

Danes and Irishwomen, Canadians and Austrians, the members of WQE may be economists or secretaries, artists or housewives. Monthly meetings are held on feminist subjects, supplemented by other activities such as informal discussions on women's experience and consciousness raising groups. Among the publications brought out by WQE are a monthly newsletter and a booklet on the opportunities available to women in Belgium for work and education.

WQE provides discreet but effective help to the battered wives' collective movement.

Useful address: WQE
 29, Rue Blanche
 1060 Brussels

Les amies de la terre

"We do not have to choose between feminism and ecology: woman is ecology": with this clear and simple profession of its faith, the group of women "friends of the earth" is good-humouredly campaigning for a life closer to nature in which we consume better but less, one that respects nature and takes the longer-sighted view of the benefits we should enjoy.

Useful address: Les Amies de la Terre
 27, Rue Marché-aux-Herbes
 1000 Brussels

Changeons les Livres

"Mummy is washing the dishes, Daddy is smoking his pipe": textbooks are quite unscrupulous in perpetuating images that do not reflect reality, for real events at least have evolved. The group that calls itself by the literal name of "let's change books" is seeking suggestions and ideas, and hopes to formulate alternative plans.

Useful address: Changeons les Livres
c/o Jeannine Evrard
16, Rue de Chambéry
1040 Brussels

Autodéfense Féministe

The feminist self-defence group organizes meetings and practical courses on self-defence to help women overcome their fears and regain their right to walk in the streets or countryside and no longer be considered as the weaker sex.

Useful addresses: Autodéfense féministe
c/o Danièle Colinet
42, Rue Félix Paulsen
4900 Angleur

and Pepterstraat 64-66
1980 Tervuren

Porte Ouverte

This Belgian group with the name of "open door", working for the economic emancipation of women workers, has pointed out that the authorities themselves are infringing the law on the advertising of jobs. The city of Namur, for instance, is recruiting male firefighters only, and Belgium's ultra-official gazette, the Moniteur Belge, will employ only men on the work of assistant document folders and despatchers.

Porte Ouverte has also launched a petition against husbands' and wives' incomes being lumped together for the purpose of assessing personal income tax.

Useful address: Porte Ouverte
16, Rue Américaine
1050 Brussels

GRIF returns

The feminist research and information group, Groupe de Recherche et d'Information Féministes - better known by the initials GRIF - took the decision to cease publication of its "notebooks", even though they were at the peak of their success, to take time off for thought.

After a year's retreat, GRIF has come to the surface again, this time to launch the GRIF Women's University. It will be open to all women at any time during their training and their lives, whatever their origin. The University does not dismiss current knowledge but it helps its students question that knowledge and to view it in the light of women's research and experience, explains Françoise Collin.

Useful address: GRIF - Université des Femmes
Place Quetelet 1a
1030 Brussels

Women's Day at Turnhout

The Dutch-speaking part of Belgium celebrated Women's Day at the Turnhout arts centre. About 45 women's groups were represented, with the two-fold watchword, "the same career guidance, the same job opportunities".

It was a full day, with discussions, film and theatre, but even so the growing number of militant groups in Flanders found time to get to know each other better.

Useful address: Nationale Vrouwenraad van Belgie
c/o Violette Vansteelandt
Parklaan, 61
9000 Ghent

Two bookshops

A feminist bookshop that has opened in Brussels has a curious name, "La Rabouilleuse", meaning a "woman angler in muddied waters". It is equally curious itself: it does not just sell books but the visitor will find records, hear a poetry recital and view exhibitions. Most of the books it sells are in French.

Those looking for books on the women's movement in English or Dutch will find an outstanding selection in just as friendly and relaxed an atmosphere at the bookshop "Dulle Griet".

Useful addresses: Dulle Griet
Verenigingstraat, 65
1000 Brussels

La Rabouilleuse
Chausée d'Ixelles, 221
1050 Brussels

Vrouwen Overleg Komitee

The "women's thought committee", Vrouwen Overleg Komitee, chose Women's Day to bring out its small but comprehensive booklet entitled "Kies voor een beroep met toekomst" (a good choice for a job for the future).

This really useful little book analyzes discrimination in the schools, lists careers that are not nearly as inaccessible to women as they might think and sets out current legislation on the subject, giving the address of the ministries concerned.

Useful address: Vrouwen Overleg Komitee
Van Putlei, 13
2000 Antwerp

Part-time work

During a week's training course designed for militant women unionists, Mrs. Hoornaert, the head of the "women's sector" in the ABVV trade union, stressed that part-time work is far from being an exclusively female issue.

ABVV considers that men and women share the problem of how to apportion their working time; it feels that part-time work will solve neither the question of unemployment nor the problem of how to share out the work available in a just manner.

ABVV would like to see a shorter working week for everyone, combined with changes in the economic structure and appropriate social measures.

Useful address: Marina Hoornaert
Nationaal Verantwoordelijke "Vrouwen" van het
Algemeen Belgisch Vakverbond
Hoogstraat, 42
1000 Brussels

Night shifts

The subject of night work was debated at length at a recent meeting of the women's consultative committee for the confederation of Christian trade unions, CSC.

The meeting concluded that, since night shifts are bad for all workers, the revision of regulations governing night work is not a matter of concern to women workers only but to all, both men and women.

Although there is an inevitable need to work at night for social and humanitarian reasons (as in hospitals), compensation for such work should be made not in the form of bonuses and overtime but by improving the quality of life.

Useful address: Commission consultative féminine de ls CSC
121, Rue de la Loi
1040 Brussels

F R A N C E

Agence Femmes Information

The "women's information centre", known as AFI for short, is a triple service embracing the giving of information by telephone, a documentation centre and a press agency. Dreamed up in April 1978 by a few professional information women, the agency is now going through its running-in period and is learning how best to respond to questions from women.

AFI's work is not restricted to topical matters. It also wants to "explore forgotten or prohibited paths in the history of women and strike out into new territories of feminine thought".

Useful address: Agence Femmes Information
104, Boulevard St. Germain
75006 Paris

The long march

Women members of the Socialist Party have brought out two posters which neatly illustrate the ideas that women should be bearing in mind, one entitled "La longue marche" (a historical review of the milestones in the emancipation of women) and a "declaration of women's rights". On sale at French ₣.15, from the Socialist Party headquarters.

Useful address: Parti Socialiste
7 bis, Place du Palais Bourbon
75007 Paris

"Vues d'ici"

"A film that holds up a mirror to life: not quite a documentary, not really fiction. All is acted and composed with the utmost discipline, with admirable moments": this is the comment made by Le Monde in its review of "Vues d'ici", a film made in Le Havre with the help of women's associations and groups. It is distributed by "Les films Armorial" (223, Boulevard Péreire, 75017 Paris), although the project was launched by the arts centre at Le Havre, from which fuller information may be obtained.

Useful address: Maison de la Culture - Unité Cinéma
B.P. 1106
76063 Le Havre Cedex

A festival of women today

The Union des Femmes Françaises (abbreviated to U.F.F.) has announced its plans to organize a gathering in Paris on the theme of "a day's celebration of women now", to be held on 8 March 1980, International Women's Day.

Reviewing the "women's decade" declared by U.N.O. now that it has reached its half-way point, the Union noted the progress that has recently been made in France but said that "while legislation and regulations are needed in favour of women, these will not be enough in themselves; the financial and administrative adjustments which will make it possible to implement them are just as important".

In view of the work upon which it is engaged, the U.F.F. hopes that it will receive recognition as a people's education movement.

Useful address: U.F.F.
15, Rue Martel
75010 Paris

At the peak of her profession?

Martine Rolland-Journet is the first woman to have passed the entrance examination for applicants for a mountain guide training course - a "first" which has been harder to achieve than climbing the highest mountain.

A mother with one boy, Martine points out that women have more stamina in coping with continued stress, and that muscular strength is only a matter of training.

In fact it is not the first time that a woman has been accepted for a course as a mountain guide: in 1955, when no examination was needed, one woman enrolled but when it came to the practical tests she was failed. "It was because she was a woman," some of the guides admit today.

G E R M A N Y

Woman to woman

In Hamburg, women can now turn to an information centre known as Beratung und Informationen von Frauen für Frauen (advice and information from women to women). Women from different callings meet at the centre to place their knowledge and experience free of charge at the disposal of anyone who may need them. Discussions take place in a friendly and very personal atmosphere, making it easier to talk about bureaucratic quibbling, a crisis in the family or how to go about getting a divorce.

Useful address: Beratung und Informationen von Frauen für Frauen
Emilienstrasse 5
2000 Hamburg 19

Insurance for women in the home

The German housewives' association, Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund, acting in its official status, has proposed that there should be "accident insurance" to cover housewives just like the sickness and disability cover on women in paid employment.

The Association reckons the number of housewives to be about 24 million, working a total of 50,000 million hours; this figure should be compared to the 52,000 to 55,000 million hours worked by their sisters with jobs.

The work done by housewives is not taken into account when calculating the gross national product; nevertheless, that work should not be underestimated just because it is done for no financial reward, nor should it mean that proper protection should not be provided.

Useful address: Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund E.V.
Adenauerallee 193
5300 Bonn 1

Do we need a Women's Party?

There is a continuing debate in Germany as to whether or not a "Women's Party" should be set up, with the approach of the national elections making the issue even more topical.

A Women's Party, founded by Eva Rath in Kiel, already exists, but some women complain that the founders launched the party without adequate consultation of women in other regions.

Here as elsewhere, the idea is also opposed by women who are already members of a traditional party and intend to continue working within that party.

As in any "revolutionary" movement, there may well be two opposing trends: the "organizers", who feel that no action can be taken without an organization, and therefore without a party; and the "libertarians", who feel that any party, even a women's party, contains the seeds of dictatorship.

The magazine EMMA has loaned its premises to a group called the "women's venture for the 1980 elections" whose members - both inside and outside the traditional parties - are reluctant to give up the idea of a women's party.

Useful address: Frauen-Initiative
c/o EMMA

I R E L A N D

The difficulties of being a woman doctor

In eight years, the number of women doctors has increased by 63%, compared with 23% for men, but only 10% of the country's 1,000 specialists are women. The figures have been quoted by three women members of the Royal College of Physicians who conducted a study on the career structures of women physicians.

Girls have no difficulty in gaining entrance to medical schools, but when they qualify as doctors the chances are that they will remain in the lower echelons of medicine. There are few part-time training or career posts which allow for women doctors' domestic commitments.

The Irish Medical Journal, publishing the results of the study, points out that medical career structures are not designed with women's specific problems in mind.

Useful address: The Irish Medical Association
10, Fitzwilliam Place
Dublin 2

I T A L Y

War on waste

During its 29th congress, the Italian national association of women electors (Associazione Nazionale Donne Elettrici) decided to focus its efforts on the problem of energy.

The campaign against the wastage of energy is looked on as a civic gesture and will be the subject of talks, documents, films and discussions. All suggestions will be welcomed.

Useful address: A.N.D.E.
Via del Corso 262
00186 Rome

The Adelaide Ristori Prize

Founded in 1967, the Adelaide Ristori Italian cultural centre has the self-appointed task of helping women to emerge from the narrow confines of their families and national concerns so that they can freely contribute towards the economic, social and civic progress of Europe.

In this spirit, the Adelaide Ristori prize is awarded annually to women inside or outside Italy who have distinguished themselves in social or political life or in the arts.

Up to this time, over fifty women have received the prize, now entering its tenth year. Full information can be obtained from the secretary general, Edith Toussan Mingoni di Montegrotto.

Useful address: Centro Culturale Italiano "Adelaide Ristori"
Via Ugo De Carolis 87
00136 Rome

Motherhood: freedom of choice

The feminist coordination group in Italy concerned with relations between women and institutions has sent the President of the European Commission a dossier calling upon the Community to issue a directive on freedom to choose whether or not to have a baby.

The group argues that different national abortion laws have certain economic effects that distort competition between those states in which abortion is legal and those where it is banned. It would also like to see harmonization at European level of scientific research on the biology of reproduction and joint efforts to provide information on sex problems.

Useful address: Coordinamento femminista per il confronto tra donne e
istituzioni
Via di Villa Massimo, 1
Rome

DON'T FORGET YOUR ADDRESS!

Here at Women of Europe, we receive a large number of press releases, invitations and reports. A surprising number of documents are sent to us by people who do not quote the name of the person in charge, any address or even in cases the name of the organization concerned.

An address included in a single introductory page is not enough; the safest way is to be sure to put your address on the last page of the document.

L U X E M B O U R G

A hostel for battered wives

The Ministry for the Family has signed an agreement with the association known as "Femmes en détresse" (women in distress) whereby the State will make a suitable home available for women in trouble and undertakes to pay its staffing and running costs while allowing the women themselves to manage it.

Backed by this financial support, two women (one a social worker) have been recruited and will be working full time to help other women in need.

In the preliminary phase, the new hostel will be able to accommodate seven or eight women with their children.

Useful address: Femmes en détresse, asbl
17, Avenue Monterey
Luxembourg

N E T H E R L A N D S

Woman and Work

"Vrouw en Arbeid" (woman and work) was the theme of the congress organized by the association of women university graduates, Vereniging van Vrouwen met een Academische Opleiding.

During the assembly, Mrs. Kraaijeveld-Wouters, Secretary of State with responsibility for emancipation, spoke of her concern at rising female unemployment. The old patterns must be broken down to secure full access to the world of work for women, she declared.

Winding up the work of the congress, the association decided to set up a work centre where women can obtain information on work, careers and training.

Useful address: V.V.A.O.
Postbus 26
or Herenstraat, 24
Wageningen

Voluntary work

The value of charitable work is a subject of serious debate in the Netherlands. Those who make the sacrifice are usually women, who give their wholehearted and socially productive services for which they are not paid.

The women's association of the Dutch trade union congress (Nederlands Verbonds van Vakverenigingen) is very much aware of the problem and has brought out a booklet warning women against all forms of exploitation in this field, with the explicit title of "Werkt u ook zo graag voor niets?" (do you work so voluntarily for nothing?).

The booklet is on sale at the price of 1.50 guilders (postage not included); transfers should be made to post office account no. 406915 in the name of Vrouwenbond NVV, Amsterdam.

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

The price of a broken nose

The British Government plans to pay compensation to victims of family violence. Hitherto battered wives have not been eligible for compensation, but now the cash will come from the Criminal Injuries Board if the father is prosecuted for violence. The Board will give £225 for a broken nose, £400 for two broken front teeth and £6,000 for the loss of sight in one eye...

West London Women's Aid has worked hard to press the idea and it has welcomed the plan. Even so, it points out that compensating for a broken nose does not make up for a broken home.

Useful address: Women's Aid
 369 Chiswick High Road
 London W4

Should women be protected?

The Equal Opportunities Commission has urged the Government to repeal the protective legislation which limits the overtime, night and shift work done by women on the factory floor. It argues that such legislation keeps women out of some jobs, prevents them from earning higher wages and is a form of sex discrimination that should be abolished.

Women will get no support from the trade unions on this matter, which are firmly against repeal of the legislation on the grounds that it would only lead to further exploitation of women. Rather than equalization "downwards", the Trades Union Congress wants the protective legislation extended to men to protect them for working irregular hours.

Useful address: Trade Union Congress
 Congress House, Great Russell Street
 London WC1

Cylchgrawn Merched Cymru

Welshwomen now have their own Welsh language magazine with the title of "Pais".

Fashion (the Welsh word is Ffasiwn), current topics, book and record reviews: a whole spectrum of interests is brought to life for Welshwomen.

Useful address: PAIS
 Bwthyn Cefn Braich, Rhiwlas
 Bangor
 Gwynedd LL57 4EW

IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The problem of world hunger is causing the members of European Parliament grave concern. By the end of 1979, no fewer than 50 million people - 17 million of them children aged less than five - will have died of hunger. Seven people out of ten on this earth live in a state of chronic under-nutrition.

During a prolonged debate on the subject of world hunger, Mrs. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul (Socialist) urged that food aid - a humanitarian matter - should not be bound by the international agreement on cereals, which is an economic matter. Mrs. Louise Weiss, speaking in the name of the European Progressive Democrats, called for "immediate, effective and supervisable" aid supplemented by basic training in agricultural and family matters.

Mrs. Cassanmagnango-Cerretti, on behalf of the European People's Party, proposed an increase in voluntary contributions to international organizations working in the development field. Mrs. Edith Cresson (Socialist) restated an idea first suggested by Willy Brandt: an international tax whose proceeds would be allocated to developing nations. Mrs. Henriette Poirier (Communist) accused capitalist countries of maintaining developing countries in a state of dependence for their food, supporting a proposal made by Mr. Ferrero (Communist) that public hearings should be held in preparation for an extraordinary session of European Parliament to be devoted to all development problems.

Mrs. Emma Bonino (Italian Radical), supported by Mrs. Dekker (Dutch Democracy 66) said that the European Commission should report every six months on the efforts undertaken to combat hunger throughout the world.

The Education Ministers have not met for three years, their meeting scheduled for November having been cancelled. European Parliament has asked them to set a new date as soon as possible.

The problems that were to be reviewed by the ministers included equality of opportunity in the fields of education and the training of girls and young women, language teaching, encouragement for study of European Community affairs in schools and the acceptance of students by the institutes of higher education of other member states.

During the debate in Parliament, Mr. Pedini said that the education ministers' meeting had been cancelled at the request of Denmark as it felt that education does not come within the Community's sphere of competence. Mr. Price pointed out that this objection to the principle of meeting had already been raised in the past but a formula had been found which had been binding on nobody but had at least made it possible to tackle the problems.

Parliament expressed its regret "that, once again, the need to reinforce Community cooperation on the subject of education should be disregarded".

The Youth Forum, set up to improve relations between youth organizations and Community institutions, was a subject of the public meeting of the European Parliamentary Committee on Youth, Culture and Education. The youth groups would like to be more closely involved in the formulation of Community policy, especially in the fields of education and efforts to counteract the unemployment of young people.

This is the second time that the Committee has held a public meeting, the first having been devoted to information policy. Mr. Pedini, the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, has declared: "Silence reigns; that silence must be broken".

The budget debate provided the opportunity for a true confrontation between European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. The problem of determining the sphere of influence of the respective institutions was superimposed upon the specific problem of the budget.

For its part, European Parliament insisted on the European Commission having a larger staff when matters of special urgency arise such as the provision of aid to developing countries, women's employment, the provision of information to women's organization and the women's press, the environment and consumer protection.

As of the time of going to press, European Parliament has not appointed the members of the ad hoc committee on women's rights set up during the October session (see Women of Europe no. 11, September/October 1979). We shall return to the subject in our next issue.

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

European Society and computer technology

Everyone agrees that the mid-80's will see a new technological revolution, the focal centre of which will be data processing and telecommunications. If the Community is to be in the running in this race and not to sit back and be a mere spectator to the strategies deployed by its U.S. and Japanese competitors, now is the time to act.

Action at European level is all the more vital since it will determine the lot of EEC citizens in the last two decades of the 20th century: employment, the society in which they live and the protection of the individual against misuse of information technology.

Action at Community level does not mean that the European Commission is recommending a tight "corset" for industry; on the contrary, it calls for no more than a substantial budget to be devoted by the Nine to this end. In essence, what must be done is to make effective use of a true European market, a common market that will satisfy industry's primary need: conditions comparable to its competitors'.

To achieve this aim, the first step is to overcome the ~~factors that militate~~ against a more open market: national monopolies, the award of public contracts only to domestic companies, disparate technical standards. These factors not only make it hard for European "machineries" to communicate with each other but also create technological obstacles to innovation, since change is seen above all as a threat.

The computer technology market is not a threat, however, but a hope for the future. It contributes towards growth (its growth rate is 15% per year) and it will - through its impetus for the exceptional effort to re-educate the individual - create many new services and facilities, which in turn will create employment.

The time is ripe for a major political decision on computer technology strategy at European level. Following the European Commission's full consultation both with industry within the Community and with the national bodies concerned (industry ministers, post office authorities and so on), it is clear that they are looking for clear guidelines from the Community so that they can develop their own strategies.

European industry must look to the horizon of the late 80's and set itself the objective of furnishing computer technology to one third of the world market. It is an ambitious but not unrealistic objective.

The figures for overall purchases in the sector show that the Community as such accounts for more than a third of the market today, with one third of the world market for telecommunication equipment, 30% of the market for computers and 25% of the world market for components.

During 1980, the Council of Ministers is to rule on Commission proposals on social and protection aspects of the individual and his private life, unification of the European telecommunications market, the new services that will be created as a result, the development of the data processing

industry, especially in the field of micro-electronics, the status of the Community as a client by its launching of a data bank project to establish rapid links between European institutions and member states and, finally, the Community's role in European space policy.

Lomé 2

The Lomé Convention under which the EEC provides help to 57 developing nations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, has made a useful contribution towards the establishment of a new and more equitable economic order.

In February 1975, the first Lomé Convention was an expression of the signatories' determination to give priority to agricultural development. In October 1979, the second Convention paid special attention to industrialization, increasing the input of funds, especially to the mining and energy sectors.

No customs duties are payable on 99.4% of the products exported by the signatories to the Common Market. The Third World also buys a good third of the Community's exports, in other words as much as the United States and Soviet Union lumped together!

Useful address: European Commission
Directorate General of Development
200, Rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Cambodia

In an effort to provide assistance for the Cambodian peoples, there has been intensive coordination to pool aid from the Community as such with aid furnished by individual member states.

The emergency aid given by the Community and its member states accounts for 45% of the people's requirements, estimated at 182 million dollars over a six month period.

Research scholarships

To support university research in the field of European integration, the European Commission is to award 15 research scholarships in July 1980, to a total value of Bfr.180,000.

These scholarships will be taken up by young members of university teaching staffs, men and women at the beginning of their career, who will conduct individual or team research on integration.

Applications should be handed in by 31 March 1980 at the latest.

Useful address: European Commission
University Information
200, Rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Vocational training: an idea

During a debate organized in Berlin by CEDEFOP (Centre Européen pour le Développement de la Formation Professionnelle - the European centre for the development of vocational training), Mr. Friederich Edding, a specialist in training, called for a better balance between vocational training supply and demand within the Community.

Germany, for example, has excellent job training facilities, but they are not used to the full because there are too few trainees. About 50,000 places on courses could be offered to "students" from other European countries.

If Mr. Edding's idea were implemented, it would lead not only to better use of the facilities that do exist but also to closer links among workers from different countries within our Community.

The minutes of the meeting will be published by CEDEFOP in the near future.

Useful address: CEDEFOP
 22 Bundesallee
 1000 Berlin 15

Equal status at work

The EEC directive on equality in remuneration, job training and working conditions came into force in August 1978. In August 1980, the European Commission is due to report to the Council of Ministers on changes in the situation.

Certain countries did not have to amend their legislation because it already complied with the spirit of the directive, as in the case of France (Law no. 75/625, 11 July 1975, and Law no. 75/599, 10 July 1979) and Great Britain (Sex Discrimination Act of 12 November 1975).

Other countries passed new laws to come into line with the directive, as in the case of Belgium (Title V, Law of 4 August 1978, on equality between men and women in working conditions and access to employment and vocational training as well as to the professions). Denmark passed Law no. 161 on 12 April 1978 prohibiting discrimination in matters of employment on the grounds of sex, as did Ireland in bringing in the Employment Equality Act of 1 June 1977, and Italy with Law no. 903, 9 December 1977, on equality of status for male and female workers.

Germany, the Netherlands and Luxembourg are still discussing the measures to be introduced.

To obtain a clear and realistic picture of the way in which legislation is being implemented in practical terms, the European Commission has forwarded a questionnaire to the Governments and both sides of industry and expects to receive the answers during the first quarter of 1980.

Useful address: European Commission
 Directorate General of Social Affairs
 Bureau for questions concerning employment and equal
 200, Rue de la Loi treatment for women
 1049 Brussels

Sandwich courses

The system whereby theoretical training is alternated with practical work on the job is of special value in strengthening the links between learning and experience: a trainee will sandwich a vocational training course with periods spent at the workplace.

The European Commission is keeping a close watch on this trend in training for employment. It has forwarded a communication on the subject to the Council of Ministers, proposing that priority for this new type of training be given to young people.

Various experiments have already proved their worth in several member states, demonstrating the benefit to young people of finding out about the world of work at a very early stage.

Useful address: European Commission
 Directorate General of Social Affairs
 200, Rue de la Loi
 1049 Brussels

A students' guide

The European Commission has brought out a new edition of the "Guide for European Community Students", the aim being to provide practical information for young people wishing to continue with their studies in a Community country other than their own.

Written by Dr. Stassen, the Guide sets out invaluable information on the structure of advanced education in each individual country and also furnishes useful tips on scholarships, social security, accommodation and other points.

The Guide is being distributed to institutes of higher education and bodies concerned with university exchange arrangements. It may also be obtained from stationery offices selling publications brought out by the European Community in each member state.

Useful address: Office for Official Publications of the European
 B.P. 1003 Communities
 Luxembourg

Understanding EEC institutions

It has taken Emile Noël, the Secretary General to the European Commission, no more than 36 pages to explain how the European Community institutions work. He shows how they act and react, including lesser known bodies: the Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Committee and the ECSC Consultative Committee. The booklet is entitled "Working Together".

Useful address: Office for Official Publications of the European
 B.P. 1003 Communities
 Luxembourg

 European Communities Information Office
 20 Kensington Palace Gardens
 London W8 4QQ

University research and European integration

A tenth survey of university research on European integration has just been brought out. A wealth of bibliography and an analysis of the situation are set out in this 25 page booklet, covering 1,471 research projects: 1,196 current projects and no more than 275 completed studies.

The most popular subjects are still agriculture (10%), competition (10%), tax and industrial affairs (4.75%) and relations with developing nations (5.5%).

Among the new or topical issues that have attracted the attention of many research workers are European Parliament (3%), the enlargement of the Community (3.5%) and the environment (3.75%).

Useful address: Nouvelles Universitaires Européennes
2, Rue Mérimée
75116 Paris Cedex 16

RESEARCH, MEETINGS, BOOKS

Woman into Citizen by Arnold Whittick tells the story of the campaign in the twentieth century for equal status of women with men in all fields of political, social, economic and cultural life. The book has an introduction by Helvi Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs at the United Nations, whose services to the interests of women have been invaluable in the first half of the decade dedicated to the advancement of women in society. Published by Athanaeum with Frederick Muller, London 1979.

L'altra metà della Resistenza (the other half of the Resistance) is a reminder of women's active role in the Resistance, often at the risk of their lives. More than twenty documentary texts recount and analyze the efforts in which women played in invaluable part. Published by Mazzotta as part of its series entitled "Storia e Classe".

L'enfant et la famille dans les pays de l'OCDE (the child and the family in OECD countries) is an analysis of censuses on household and family membership. OECD Information Service, 2 Rue André Fascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16.

Frauenprogramm gegen Diskriminierung (women's anti-discrimination programme): Marie-Louise Janssen-Jurreti has compiled almost 40 items analyzing every aspect of life in which women have to put up with discrimination. This catalogue of inequalities is published by Ro-Ro (no. 4426) as part of its Frauen Aktuell series.

Gli alimenti tra salute e portafoglio (food: health and the wallet) is by Anna Bartolini, a journalist who specializes in nutrition. A practical guide to everyday eating, it deals not only with proteins but also with labelling, seasonings and diet. Attractively illustrated by Valentino Benati, who just happens to be the author's husband. Published by Teti.

Les premières journalistes by Laure Adler recounts the epic battles waged between 1830 and 1850 by courageous early women journalists, pen in hand, derided as "ill-mannered sempstresses". Doggedly they continued to bring out newspapers with titles such as "La femme libre" and "La voix des femmes". They would talk about themselves as "we women who have no past, who have no history". Published by Editions Payot, 231 pages.

The Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach has published the findings of a survey on equal rights in Germany. The view that when men and women with comparable qualifications apply for a job it is always the men who succeed is held by 51% of men but 72% of women. Summarizing the surveys conducted on the theme over the past 25 years, the Allensbach Institute notes that, in spite of all their good intentions, German men are reluctant to give up their privileges. Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach - 7753 Allensbach.