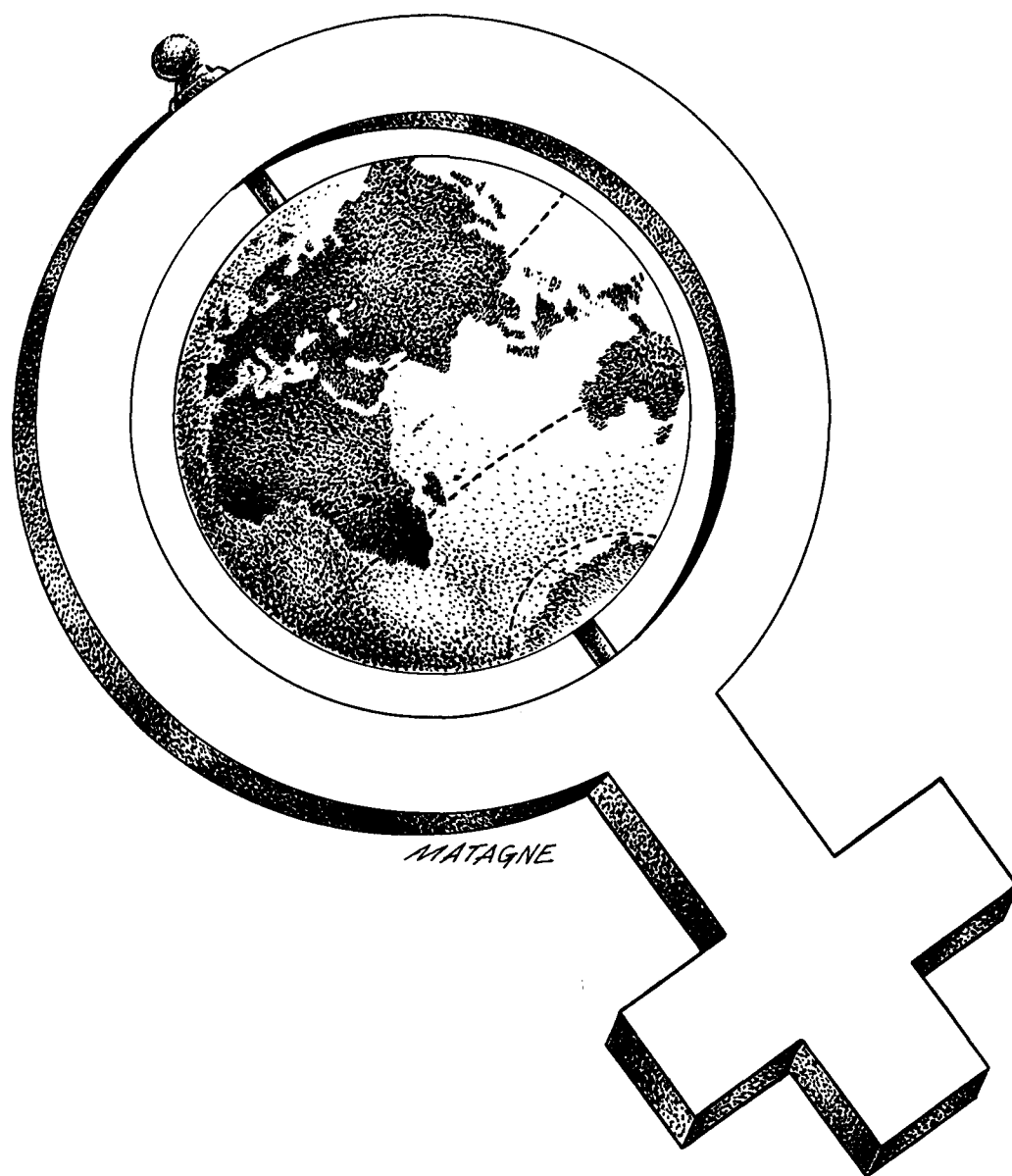


Women of Europe

Brussels, May / June / July 1980 - no. 15



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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The ad hoc committee on women's rights - The decision has been reached that the life of the committee, originally set up for six months, is to be extended until the end of 1980. Soon after its creation, it became apparent that this was far too short a period to collect all the information needed and to pave the way for a useful debate, which is likely to be included in the agenda for a European Parliament plenary session late in 1980.

The ad hoc committee is pressing on with its research, discussion and contacts. In London for instance, as in other capitals, Mrs. Yvette Roudy, the chairman, met the women leaders of about fifty British organizations on the invitation of the Women's National Commission. In the course of their joint review of the situation they expressed their shared belief: that women should be persuaded to make full use of their rights under existing legislation, a simple step that would be of benefit to women as a whole.

Responding to expressions of concern regarding the effectiveness of the committee's work, Yvette Roudy said that its report should not gather dust in the archives but must be a "plan of action for women". Whatever her position, every woman can work to implement that plan, each in her own sphere.

Education, school and vocational training: this three-fold theme has been debated at length by the ad hoc committee in meetings held to prepare the general report being drawn up by Mrs. Maij-Weggen (Dutch member of the Group of the European People's Party - Christian-democratic Group). As nobody can fail to recognize now, education is one of the sources of discrimination against women and its continues to affect them when they reach the labour market.

Mrs. Karen Fogg, a European Commission official, described the plan of action submitted to the Council of Ministers for Education. The plan is to give priority to girls under the general plan of action for helping young people to make the transition from school to the world of work.

Mrs. Pierret, from the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, explained the methods used by the Centre in its work and said that it intended to promote wider links with employers, working from the inside to change attitudes prejudicial to women.

The ad hoc committee was represented at the Manchester Conference arranged by the European Commission to review the work done by national committees in EEC countries, which had been asked to act as watchdogs over equal pay and equal terms for women as laid down by Community directives.

One of the ideas aired at the Manchester meeting and adopted by the ad hoc committee was that there should be a "European commission for equality" and an EEC directive on the subject of parental leave. Another theme tackled in Manchester that aroused the committee's interest was the assessment of the consequences of new technologies to women's employment.

Women in developing nations is an issue to be included in the final report. Two essential aspects are to be discussed: literacy and health. Under the latter heading comes sexual mutilation, a problem which Mrs. Squarzialupi (Italian Communist), who submitted a report on the subject, asked the meeting to include.

Mr. Etienne Davignon, Member of the Commission with responsibility for industrial policy, was the guest of the ad hoc committee at a meeting at which he declared that the new technologies would not necessarily work to the detriment of women, on condition that they do not merely submit to the changes they will bring but use them to their own benefit. Mrs. Roudy expressed her anxiety on the subject, for she had seen no preparation for change, especially in the training provided in schools and technical or vocational education. There is no doubt, responded Mr. Davignon, that those who encounter the greatest problems in a time of change are the least qualified - and women come under this heading. Nevertheless, the introduction of new technologies provides new opportunities in production: far more flexible working hours will be possible, for instance. Statistics show that the arrival of the computer in small and medium sized companies in fact creates new jobs.

The committee has been worried about the outdated image of women in society as conveyed in the publications issued by the European Commission, particularly in drawings and caricatures. Here again, European Commission officials will contribute towards changing attitudes from now on.

A public hearing in Italy in the autumn is to be arranged by the ad hoc committee on the theme of "women's position in family firms, small and medium sized companies and farms". Women from countries applying for membership of the EEC will be invited to the meeting as observers.

The lot of the woman farmer was described by Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgian Socialist), who recommended action in two priority fields: the social protection and the vocational training of women working on the land. One of the ways of improving the position is to create more community facilities, argued Mrs. Lizin. The information and proposals are to be embodied in the general report being prepared by Mrs. Maij-Weggen.

Is the ad hoc committee on women's rights to be represented at UNO meeting in Copenhagen? For legal reasons, some of the national governments have been somewhat reticent about participation. The Commission of the European Communities has finally decided to reserve two places for European Parliament in the group going to Copenhagen, making it clear that this will not set a precedent.

Useful address: Ad hoc Committee on Women's Rights
European Parliament
Plateau du Kirchberg
Luxembourg

* * * * *

The work done by European Parliament covers an immensely wide range of subjects. Up to the present, Women of Europe has merely reported on debates specifically relating to women's concerns. Nevertheless, women parliamentarians are vociferous on many other issues. As a matter of documentary interest, we are giving a selection of the subjects dealt with by women parliamentarians during the May sittings.

Under the heading of political issues:

The death of thousands of Cambodian children - Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution submitted by Mrs. Susanna Agnelli (Italian, Liberal Group) calling on the Governments of the Nine to allow Cambodian children to be brought into the member states. Mrs. Agnelli herself agreed to amendments to the effect that this should be a commitment adopted as a last resort when every effort to unite families in Cambodia has failed. Mrs. Cassanmagnago Cerretti (Italian, PPE - European People's Party) stated her view that adoption is no solution to the problem as it uproots the children. Mrs. De March (French Communist) argued that there would be no guarantee for the survival of Cambodia were its children not to remain in their own country.

The position of political prisoners in the eastern part of the island of Timor - Parliament asked the Nine to consider this problem under the heading of "political cooperation". The initiative was taken by Mrs. Van den Heuvel (Dutch Socialist), who stressed the dramatic nature of the situation. Replying for the European Commission, Mr. Giolitti listed the aid which the EEC had decided to give Timor. Mrs. Baduel Glorioso (Italian Communist) declared herself in favour.

Release of the Soviet mathematician, Mr. Scharansky - Parliament adopted a motion put forward by Mr. Pflimlin on this subject. Mrs. De March (French Communist) strongly objected to Parliament being turned into a "permanent tribunal for the world's affairs". She quoted the names of 13 people imprisoned for their political opinions whose release the French Communist Party had requested, including the Soviet dissident, Sharansky, and the Czech writer, Havel. In the course of the sitting, Mrs. Veil, president of Parliament, received Mrs. Sharansky.

The more technical issues raised by women included:

The report by Mrs. Maij-Weggen (Dutch, PPE) on a directive amending the 1962 directive on colouring agents that may be used in foodstuffs. The opinion of the Scientific Committee for Food had been requested before the use of gum arabic could be authorized. Mrs. Boserup (Danish, Socialist) went even further, arguing that the use of any colouring matter in food should be banned.

Motion submitted by Mrs. Le Roux (French Communist) on the pollution of the sea by tankers - Following a debate that had started in the April sitting, Parliament adopted the motion almost unanimously. One of the recommendations was that the member states should require oil tankers and ship owners to observe a set of rules that would prevent further accidents.

The two Italian Radical women in European Parliament - Emma Bonino and Maria Antonietta Macciocchi - waged two battles:

a fresh battle on regulations, to protest against the presentation of the Luster report without a debate; the report proposes to cut speaking time during explanations of voting and requests for emergency debates. Mrs. Bonino urged a general overhaul of the regulations rather than continually patching them up. Mrs. Ewing (British, PPE) spoke up for parliamentarians not belonging to the major groupings (in the old Parliament, she was listed as a non-allied member, being a Scottish Nationalist).

a battle to boycott the Olympic games. In a press conference attended by Soviet dissidents, including Mr. Plioutsh, Mrs. Macciocchi had pointed out that Europeans have a responsibility to the Afghan people and accused the politicians of turning politics into a sport.

Women make their voices heard in major debates

Many women parliamentarians raised their voices in the May session, some of them as spokesmen for their groups.

During the debate on the setback of the European Council meeting in Luxembourg, Lady Elles expressed the Conservative view, especially on more political problems such as sanctions against Iran and the boycott of the Olympic games in Moscow. Mrs. Barbara Castle stood up for the rejection of the Dankert resolution on budget problems as a whole by the British Labour members, saying that Parliament was capitulating to the Council on agricultural matters. Mrs. Spaak (Belgian, FDF) expressed regret that the British should have rejected the generous offers made by their partners.

Sheep meat - During the renewed debate on the Provan report (a vote on the report was deferred until June because of the absence of a quorum in May), speaking on behalf of the Liberals, Mrs. Martin from France said that in defending sheep farmers we are defending the common agricultural policy. Mrs. Cresson spoke along the same lines, but Mrs. Castle reiterated that France has infringed EEC law in this respect.

Plutonium cycle - Despite many votes cast against the Seligman report on the plutonium cycle, it was finally adopted. Three women opposed it: Mrs. Le Roux (French Communist), Mrs. Charzat (French Socialist) and Mrs. Dekker (Neth, Democratie '66).

Surveillance of oil shipping routes - No vote has yet been taken on the controversial motion tabled by Mr. d'Ormesson. Mrs. Veil paid homage to Mrs. Cassanmagnago Cerretti, vice-chairman of the European People's Party (Christian-democratic Group) - PPE (DC) - for the spirit of conciliation she had shown. Mrs. Cassanmagnago said that the Christian Democrat Party should not be placed in the dock for its intentions: it had consistent fought for peace.

Agreement between EEC and Yugoslavia - Mrs. Wieczoreck-Zeul was the Socialist spokesman on the Radoux report approving the agreement. Mrs. Dienesch emphasized the importance of the report to the DEP group - the European Progressive Democrats - and Mrs. Macciocchi (Radical) and Mrs. Gaiotti de Biase (PPE) discussed some of the aspects of special relevance to Italy.

The oil market - Speaking on behalf of the Socialists, Mrs. Charzat criticized the Balfour report rejecting price controls; this, she said, is the raison d'etre of the market transparency we need.

The struggle against poverty - In the debate on the Boyes report, Mrs. Poirier spoke for the French Communists, Mrs. Squarcialupi for the Italian Communists and Mrs. Dienesch for the Gaullists.

* * * * *

The June session

In the period leading up to the great debate on the status of women being prepared by Mrs. Maij-Weggen (Neth, PPE) on behalf of the ad hoc committee on women's rights, European Parliament tackled the theme in its June session, taking as its starting point the interim report submitted by Mrs. Suzanne Dekker (Neth, Democratie '66). Its aim was not to examine the problems in depth but to formulate Parliament's views in expectation of the UNO world conference on women in Copenhagen in July.

According to Mrs. Dekker, the rapporteur for the Committee on Social Affairs, the approach to the Copenhagen meeting should not be made in a spirit of triumph. Quite the contrary: since Women's Year and the Mexico world conference, the status of women has deteriorated rather than improved.

Mrs. Dekker presented the main points outlined in the lengthy resolution laid before Parliament. After a number of amendments had been made, the resolution was adopted. From the practical viewpoint, the first demand made by the resolution was that efforts should be exerted to publicize information in the form of comprehensible statistics on women and employment. The Commission should draw up reports on issues such as health protection and social security, single women and one parent families, and the employment of children. The European Commission was also urged to report on the legal position of women in countries applying for EEC membership. According to Parliament, the essential priorities for the Copenhagen conference should be:

- the establishment of an independent consultative committee on equality of status for men and women;
- signature and ratification of the United Nations convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, and actual compliance with that convention in practice;
- an analysis of the ways in which women are recruited for employment, with a view to reform;

as part of a general development policy, the formulation of a programme for the emancipation of Third World women.

After the adoption of an amendment suggested by a number of Christian Democrat members (Mrs. Lenz, Mrs. Cassanmagnago-Cerretti, etc.), the resolution formally asked that a delegation from European Parliament, led by its president, Mrs. Veil, should attend the Copenhagen conference.

Mrs. Roudy, chairman of the ad hoc committee on women's rights, opened the debate on behalf of the Socialist group. A French member of Parliament, she agreed with Mrs. Dekker on the inadequacy of progress made since the Mexico conference. Out of the 14 aims spelled out in 1975 for achievement by 1980, few had in fact been attained. It was no coincidence, said Mrs. Roudy, that the interim report was concerned mainly with the problem of employment, as were the ad hoc committee's discussions. Employment, she declared, is the number one problem. She felt we should analyze the factors holding up progress with women's employment. One factor that should be opposed is the "multiplication" of labour markets: part-time and half-time work and home jobs are tempting solutions, but they are dangerous for women.

Other members of Parliament were very concerned with the problem of employment (the German Socialists, Magdalene Hoff and Heinke Salisch, for example, as well as the French Liberal Simone Martin, who raised the issue of the wives of craftsmen, farmers and tradesmen). Other MEPs felt that the problem of employment is important but it should be viewed in a broader context. The rapporteur for the ad hoc committee, Mrs. Maij-Weggen, for instance, said we should be discussing the role of women in society. Women obviously play a part in the economic domain, but they have an even more important role in the political and social domains.- Taking this wider view, she expressed the hope that the political problem of women refugees would be tackled. Mrs. von Alemann, the Liberal spokesman, said that every facet of women's status should be subjected to scrutiny, for the problem lies at the heart of society.

Mrs. Chouraqui (France, DEP), reviewed the three aspects of women's lives with which the EEC should be most concerned:

family life, with an end to the "derived rights" of married people, paving the way for "personal rights";

working life, ending the concept of "women's jobs"; and

civil life - although women are relatively better represented in European Parliament, it should not rest on its laurels but should help women in member states to play their part at every level of political life.

Speaking of the meeting to be held in Copenhagen, Mrs. Squarcialupi (Italian Communist) warned against expecting too much and against the temptation to be content with individual solutions once some women have achieved personal emancipation. This is not the issue at stake. What must be done is to find social solutions that will help every woman to become aware of the problems she faces and work towards her solution of those problems.

The same desire for participation and solidarity was expressed by Mrs. Macciocchi (Italian Radical, speaking for the "coordination group"), who felt we should not just go by the letter of agreements but should seek true solidarity with our sisters in the Third World. One of the reasons why feminism has run out of steam in Europe is that it has become too self-absorbed. She put forward a concrete suggestion: that the European university in Florence should devote a whole year to studying women's status in all its aspects.

Among other practical measures, of special interest was the one suggested by Mrs. Spaak (Belgium, Non-attached), who felt that a preliminary step towards changing attitudes would be to publish less sexist text books for schools. Mrs. Leroux, speaking for the French Communists, thought that a 35 hour week would be a concrete way of improving women's lot. Miss de Valera (Irish, European Progressive Democrats) spoke of the difficulties faced by women workers in her own country, while Mrs. Lenz (German, PPE) and Mrs. Hammerich (Danish, Non-attached and a member of the movement against Danish membership of EEC) expressed a measure of disappointment with Mrs. Dekker's resolution.

Mrs. Gaiotti de Biase (Italian, PPE), spoke of women's need to be allowed to choose their own destiny in the world of work. She described the inadequacy of the solutions provided by society when women have to be replaced in the tasks that have traditionally been their lot. Speaking for the British Conservatives, Miss Roberts argued that women should not receive preferential treatment by comparison with men. Once the ad hoc committee has finished its report, she said, she would prefer the problem of equality for men and women to be considered by the competent parliamentary committees.

Few men took the floor (only three), but those who did stoutly defended the women's cause, as in the case of the Dutch Socialist Mr. Albers, who - unlike Miss Roberts - thought there should be positive discrimination at first in favour of women in employment. Mr. Enright, a British Socialist, expressed his belief that unless we fight for the dignity of woman we shall detract from the dignity of man. Mr. Maher (Irish Liberal) brought up a problem not often raised: life in an urban community, where the architecture is not to human scale, where houses are almost always built by men but mainly lived in by women, who spend more of their time at home. Were more women to be involved in planning our cities, he concluded, they might be happier places.

Women and the budget

European Parliament held an extraordinary session to adopt the Community's 1980 budget, an event widely reported in the press. Amendments were tabled at the session with a view to persuading Parliament to allocate greater resources to this or that policy. Few were accepted. Without questioning their legitimacy, MEPs rejected the requests in many causes because they were anxious to keep the budget down to a level acceptable to the Council of Ministers.

European Parliament's Committee on Social Affairs, for example, asked for an increase of 2.5 million EUA (European units of account) for payment appropriations and 10 million EUA for commitment appropriations in support of action for women. The amendment was rejected by a majority of Parliament, but not without lively protests from several of its members.

The National People's Republic of China visits European Parliament

Mrs. Deng Yingchao, Vice Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the National People's Assembly, led the first delegation from the People's Republic of China on a visit to European Parliament, where it met Mrs. Simone Veil, the president.

Out of the 18 members of the EP-China interparliamentary delegation, only one woman had been elected at the beginning of the session: Janey O'Neil Buchan of the British Labour Party.

Women Socialists in European Parliament

Under the abbreviated name of EUSO, the European Parliament Socialist Group is publishing a magazine edited by Raymonde Dury, a former candidate in the Belgian European elections. The theme of the first issue is "Women Socialists in European Parliament", with titles such as "women get . .", "women speak out . . " and "women question . .".

Useful address: Socialist Group
European Parliament
3, Boulevard de l'Empereur
1000 Brussels

WOMEN IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT is the title of "Supplement No. 4 to Women of Europe", a detailed analysis of the situation today and also in the period from 1952 until the elections.

The work of Mrs. Lina Vido, it gives a portrait of an average woman MEP: a woman aged between 40 and 50, married and with children. She has a university background, has been engaged in political or professional activities in the public or private sector. Her sympathies tend to be towards the Left; she is anxious to protect the different categories of citizens. She is resolute in the defence of women's rights and she is capable of appreciating power at its proper value. The publication provides many tables of statistics in support of the portrait.

It is an invaluable booklet, especially as it lists and explains all the abbreviations and acronyms which are gradually finding their way into Women of Europe.

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

Readers interested in the official report on any particular parliamentary debate may obtain a record in English by contacting

European Parliament Information Office
100 Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QQ
tel. 01-229 9366

I N T E R N A T I O N A L I N S T I T U T I O N S

UNO: THE CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN

At the time of writing these lines, hundreds of women throughout the world are packing their cases to go to the great gathering in Copenhagen. It is a two-fold encounter, with women meeting each other and also the world as it exists today.

In the next edition of Women of Europe, we shall be reporting on the meeting - the meetings - in Copenhagen, not to set out its minutes but to survey its work.

OECD and Women's Employment

Ministers and senior officials from the member states of OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) have met in Paris to discuss women in employment. The tone was set by the chairman of the conference, Mr. Svend Auken, the Danish Minister for Labour: "We must make it clear from the start: women's employment is not in itself a 'problem' for our societies but a glorious opportunity for future development".

The basic tenet for the conference was that both men and women, as members of society on an equal footing, should have equal access to paid employment whatever the economic growth rate and the labour market position. The right to provide for their own needs and to contribute to the wellbeing of their families is just as important to women as to men. The conference also stressed that women's employment plays a vital role in economic and social life, a factor that should be taken into account in economic, social and education policy.

The conference nonetheless noted that slow economic growth might intensify competition on the labour market and have unequal effects on men and women, thus making it more difficult to achieve equality of access to employment. It is all the more necessary, then, resolutely to continue to implement employment and training policies and to take other action which will prevent the continuing high rate of unemployment having unduly serious effects on disadvantaged sectors of society. In particular, it was noted that women from minority groups are at a dual disadvantage on the labour market by reason of their sex and their membership of a minority. The specific problems encountered by women immigrants in the member states should also be studied by OECD; its findings might inspire the parties concerned to take appropriate steps to improve their living and working conditions.

The conference also noted that in many countries today women are more affected by unemployment than other groups: access to the labour market is particularly difficult for young women; older women, too, find it hard to return to work after bringing up their children. It acknowledged that there must be plans to support employment and training with this in mind; there should be no discrimination against women when workers are made redundant or have to retire early, or in the case of partial unemployment.

It is manifestly harder to attain these objectives in a period of high unemployment. The real problem arises not so much with acceptance of principles but with the practical application of those principles in the present economic situation. A positive approach would be to invest right away in new opportunities for education, training and retraining. Those in need of more education would be able to add to their skills and acquire the extra qualifications they need to adapt to new technologies and new types of work.

The conference acknowledged that work is both a right and a need for women. One of the main objectives for member states is to create equality between men and women while safeguarding family life. If men and women could share their work inside and outside the home more fairly, family life would be placed on a sounder economic and social footing and life in general would be enriched for both parents and children. More flexible arrangements for working hours would make it easier for a husband and wife who both have a job to share their domestic responsibilities: in some countries, for example, part time work can be done on the same terms as full time work. Finally, day nurseries and creches would give parents greater freedom to allocate their time to paid employment and to their family obligations.

These trends are to be found in most countries, although the extent and nature of change may differ depending on tradition and the economic situation in each nation. Every OECD country represented at the conference agreed, however, that one of the fundamental aims for the 1980's must be to eliminate the obstacles preventing men and women from achieving a better and freer balance between their family responsibilities and their work. Care should be taken to ensure that tax and social security systems or other factors do not have an undue bearing on an individual's decision whether or not to seek paid employment.

The conference agreed that equal access to employment could be achieved only if steps are taken to end women's segregation in certain sectors of the economy and occupations and in subordinate, poorly paid jobs. The analytical report drawn up by OECD shows that this segregation is still common despite major efforts by governments to ban discrimination and give women equal opportunities and equal pay. It was recognized by the conference that segregation is the product of complex economic and social forces and that, to achieve further progress, an integrated body of measures must be implemented. Those measures include the legislative prohibition of any form of direct discrimination, positive action to reduce indirect discrimination in the form of recruitment, training and promotion procedures and steps to alter the deep-rooted social prejudices that restrict the range of jobs and occupations open to women. Policies along these lines could be supplemented by action in many other fields, but in most cases the success of government measures will depend on whether they win the active participation of employers and unions.

As the largest employer, the state must obviously set a good example. In most countries, the public sector provides employment for a great majority of working women; segregation by occupation and by job category is still widespread there and should be ended by the introduction of a policy of non-discrimination in recruitment, promotion and all other working conditions.

Winding up its work, the conference adopted a "declaration on policies in favour of women's employment", reflecting the firm adherence of all OECD member states to the principle of equal opportunities in employment and equal pay for men and women.

It should be pointed out that the success of the conference was largely due to the outstanding preparatory work done by Mrs. Denise Lecoultré of OECD, who is responsible for matters relating to women in employment.

Useful address: OECD - Mme Denise Lecoultré
Chateau de la Muette
2, rue André-Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16

1981: International Year for the Handicapped

"Even in our own times, a non-handicapped woman may suffer from discrimination, but a physically disabled or mentally retarded woman suffers at least twice that discrimination": Mrs. Zala Lusibu N'Kanza, executive secretary to the International Year of the Handicapped reminded the UNO Committee on Woman's Status of this bitter truth.

1981, the International Year of the Handicapped, will coincide with the start of the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women. It is hardly surprising that we have been asked to demonstrate our solidarity on a theme very familiar to us: "full participation and equality".

Useful address: International Year of the Handicapped
UNO Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian
Affairs
P.O. Box 500
A - 1400 Vienna

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

BELGIUM

In Government

Four women are included in Mr. Martens's new government, two with ministerial rank. One is Mrs. Goor-Eyben (French-speaking Social-Christian Party), with responsibility for the Brussels region. The other is Mrs. De Backer Van Ocken (Dutch-speaking Social-Christian Party), with responsibility for the Flemish community. Two other women are secretaries of state, Mrs. Steyaert (Dutch-speaking Social-Christian) and Mrs. Herman-Michielsens (Dutch-speaking Liberal); the terms of reference for both cover the Flemish community.

A forum for women's organizations

On the initiative of the Prime Minister, Mr. Martens, and the Foreign Minister, Ch.-F. Nothomb, a "forum for women's organizations" has met in Brussels to review the situation half way through the United Nations Decade for Women.

Emilienne Brunfaut, the chairman of the Advisory Committee on Women's Status, reported on the situation in Belgium. Looking beyond the strictly legal framework, she remarked that "women - all woman - must become aware of their own value, their own potential, the influence they can exert over the course of life".

To those responsible for women's organizations, the forum provided an opportunity to meet members of the European Parliament ad hoc committee on women's rights. It was a fruitful meeting. In the words of Madeleine van Raemdonck, a member of the Premier's staff, "we have to admit that it is often the international bodies that act as the stimulant needed to get national ventures going".

Two people have now been entrusted with advising the Prime Minister direct on matters relating to women's status: Madeleine van Raemdonck and Miette Pernot.

Useful address: Madeleine van Raemdonck and Miette Pernot
Cabinet du Premier Ministre
16, rue de la Loi
1000 Brussels

The meaning of words and the spirit of the times

The text of the law on the keeping of population records used to run: "a woman who has no occupation or trade but merely cares for or directs the conduct of her own household shall be deemed to have no occupation and may not be described as 'housewife', this word being applicable solely to the person who cares for or directs the conduct of another person's household".

In June 1978, the text was amended as follows: "a woman who is engaged in no occupation or trade may, at her own request, be described as a 'housewife'. The term 'housekeeper' shall be used only for a person caring for or directing the conduct of another person's household".

In April 1980, the text was revised again. It now reads: "a person who is engaged in no trade or occupation but cares for her home may, at her own request, be entered in the population record under the description of 'man in the home' or 'woman in the home'.

Useful address: Ministère de l'Intérieur
Direction générale des Affaires nationales
Direction des Elections, de la Population et du Protocole
1, rue de Louvain
1000 Brussels

Homebound men

A man who stays at home is now entitled to sickness benefits under his working wife's insurance. A royal decree has been issued acknowledging the man "who looks after the home", as laid down by EEC regulations on social security. Henceforth a husband will have the same rights as his wife. The concept of paternal authority has been abolished. "It is not a revolution," comments Belgian journalist Catherine Ferrant, "it is just a gesture of courtesy on the part of the law, faced with the actual situation."

If a child cannot be made the dependant of one or other of his working parents, he will be made the responsibility of the older "entitled person", who will no longer necessarily be the father.

Firemen and firewomen

In Brussels, it has been decided that women may be hired as members of the fire service, which is not only being called out more and more but is also having to cope with a wider range of jobs. In 1979, the Brussels fire service was called out more than 46,000 times, although only on 2,187 occasions was it to deal with a fire. Firemen also provide a social service of which the public is generally unaware. The victims of fires must be rehoused; provision must be made for children whose parents are in hospital; sometimes the fire service is called in to help in stations when the trains are not running, and so on.

Women will not necessarily be asked to scale tall ladders, but they can do invaluable work in many other directions.

Useful address: Etat-major des Pompiers
Avenue de l'Héliport
1000 Brussels(from October 1980)

Women and jobs as sailors

The Women's Working Committee has announced its views on the application for an exemption from the principle of equality submitted by the Ministry for Communications on the subject of employment as sailors. According to the Minister, access to this work and to occupational training should be given solely to men, both as crew and as officers.

The Committee feels that some of the positions could well be taken by women: deck officer, for instance, radio officer and all other general service work such as chief steward, chef and steward. It also thinks that protective legislation should merely be entitled to lay down differing working conditions for men and women but not to refuse any access to a job to women.

The Committee considers that changing technologies may in any case alter existing working conditions so that one day or another work at sea will become accessible to women. If they are to be successful in obtaining such work, they must have had suitable training. The Committee claims the right to occupational training for women here and now which, it points out, would lead to other work as well as jobs on board ships.

Useful address: Commission du Travail des Femmes
Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail
51, rue Belliard
1000 Brussels
tel. 02/230.90.10

D E N M A R K

Proposals to combat women's unemployment

One of the objectives of the job creation programme is to give women easier access to the labour market.

The plan is to change the training and employment conditions in a whole set of what have traditionally been viewed as women's sectors, such as health, to create additional job opportunities. The most important feature of the programme, however, is the lengthy list of measures being planned to provide opportunities for training and employment that were formerly out of women's reach.

Apart from the direct measures planned, the Government is placing special emphasis on solving the problems encountered by women in certain sectors. An attempt will be made, for instance, to alter the procedure for recruitment to jobs in the public sector (Danish railways, the post office, the police, the customs authority, etc.). In the same way, the difficulty often raised, the lack of sanitary installations designed specially for women, will be considered as part of the work on the regulations governing working conditions. The maintenance of high standards for vocational training is of increasing benefit to women; the aim is that one third of the places in courses for skilled workers will in the end be taken up by women. There are also plans for continuing with the specialist training course in the service sector (business and office work). Finally, to promote employment in small and medium sized concerns, the regulations on retraining for other sectors will be made more flexible so that individual retraining can also be subsidized.

The expansion of training capacity associated with several para-medical professions (physiotherapists, work therapists, civic leaders, nursing assistants, etc.) that has already been launched will continue.

The state nursing college is to be enlarged, a step towards overcoming a number of problems arising as a result of the shortage of instructors and nurses providing training in the departmental districts. For its part, the government will accept responsibility for expanding the training capacity at the nursing school attached to public hospitals.

The job creation programme will considerably augment the provision for basic vocational training. In 1981, for instance, a ninth occupational section will be created specially for young people who have not yet embarked upon vocational training, many of whom will be girls.

The special measures adopted over the past few years, two of the aims of which have been to break with sex-based tradition governing the choice of training or employment and to combat unemployment among young people, will be continued. There are plans for training courses to familiarize the unemployed with the world of work, pilot training projects designed for adults and subsidies for training in the service sector. Subsidies of this kind may also be given to other sectors to promote the recruitment of women to jobs to which they have not previously had access.

In general, priority will be given to job creation schemes designed for women.

In view of the unequal distribution of unemployment between the sexes, most projects designed to combat unemployment among young persons will be aimed at women and girls.

The law providing for specific job creation measures in local authority areas and departmental districts will be enacted, and the pilot schemes under which young people are guaranteed training and jobs will be continued. In 1981, these efforts are to be extended to one or two additional districts. Specific training modules will be added to the courses providing young people with their first contact with the world of work, thus giving them a broader range of opportunities for vocational training and employment. One of the aims is to make it easier for girls to obtain access to jobs traditionally the province of men. Due thought will be given to the possibility of directing young people's recruitment aid measures more specifically towards girls. On each of the 14 regional employment boards, a new position of adviser on equality of status for men and women will be created as part of the job recruitment system. The advisor's task will be to coordinate and stimulate the board's work to achieve greater equality on the job market for men and women.

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalraad
Niels Hemingsensgade 8
1153 Copenhagen K

tel. (01) 14.80.87.

F R A N C E

The question of quotas

Quotas - a given percentage of jobs for women, for instance - raise an interesting problem. Should women be fighting to obtain a quota? Is positive discrimination desirable or undesirable? The question has often been raised when discussing the position of women in political life, but it is relevant to almost every aspect of social life, especially employment.

In response to questions from Mrs. Nicole Pasquier, Secretary of State with responsibility for women's employment at the Ministry of Labour and Holdings, the Committee on Women's Work has given its detailed views on the subject. Priority for employment is already given to those disabled in war, war widows, war orphans and the handicapped. The Committee is generally not in favour of the introduction of a system of quotas for women, both as a matter of principle and for practical reasons.

From the point of view of principle, the Committee considers that a measure of this kind would be in conflict with trends in French law, which is gradually ending specific forms of protection linked with an outdated concept of women as the weaker sex and as a minority.

On the subject of whether quotas would be effective, the Committee notes that a quota system would have to be monitored by the authorities, and this would place a heavy burden on departments already overloaded. The Committee also fears that any minimum quota would in practice become a ceiling and that it would be difficult to go over the quota.

On being informed of the Committee's views, Mrs. Nicole Pasquer declared: "I share in the Committee's views and reservations regarding this system, but I feel that it should not automatically be excluded, provided that the quotas are seen as provisional ways of overcoming manifest instances of inequality".

Useful address: Comité du Travail féminin
1, place de Fontenoy
75007 Paris

Contact with China

At the invitation of the Chinese Women's Federation, for the first time a delegation of six Frenchwomen have gone on a study trip to China.

Led by Marie-Hélène Descamp (a member of the governing committee of the "Perspectives et Realités" clubs), the delegation's members were Irene de Lipkowski, chairman of the International Committee for liaison between Women's Associations, Evelyne Sullerot, a member of the Economic and Social Council, Monique Cacheux, the deputy mayor of Lille, Mrs. Rougerie (regional delegate for Women's Status, and Jeanine Lancier, chairman of the Women's committee of the European Movement.

In their visits and discussions, the delgation concentrated on the organization of the family nucleus, educational methods, preventive medicine, demography, women's employment and the place of women in the rural environment.

Women of Europe readers wishing to find out more on the subject can obtain a monthly magazine, Women of China (in English only), describing very varied and often little known aspects of women's lives in China.

Useful address: Guozi Shudian
Women of China
P.O. Box 399
Beijing, China

"Aujourd'hui Madame"

This is the name of a television programme broadcast every afternoon that has just celebrated its tenth birthday. For an hour every day, the programme reaches almost two million viewers, most of whom are women (average age: 50). With a team of 14 journalists (9 of whom are women), eight film technicians (including two women) and three video technicians (one of whom is a woman), a feature is that women are given an opportunity to speak out on the widest range of subjects: loneliness, prostitution, a specific film or book, etc. Without censors or barriers, the women who are freely invited to the studio can say exactly what they think and ask the kind of questions to which non-experts such as themselves would like to know the answers.

Women viewers often come onto the programme and others are far from hesitant to write to the programme producers: 200.000 letters have been received over the past ten years.

Useful address: Aujourd'hui Madame
 O.R.T.F.
 Quai Kennedy
 75 Paris

Craftsmen's and tradesmen's wives

According to a decree published in the French official gazette, the wives of small businessmen and artisans may vote in and be elected to Chambers of Trade, just as if they were the heads of the firms themselves.

Despite certain restrictions, such as the condition that a husband and wife may not be members of the same Chamber of Trade at the same time and that both husband and wife must make an application for registration in the index of trades, this measure gives women the opportunity to become a more integral part of social and business life.

Useful address: Ministère délégué à la Condition féminine
 39-43 Quai Andre Citroën
 75015 Paris

Women's Information Centre

CIF-Informations, the journal of the Women's Information Centre, has devoted its fifth issue to "the family today: the child". As usual, the journal is in the form of a wallet dossier setting out facts, figures and thoughts on the chosen theme, plus a set of booklets in which private and semi-public associations introduce themselves to a wider public.

Useful address: Centre d'Information Féminin
 B.P. 400
 75327 Paris Cedex 07

G E R M A N Y

Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik (working group for a women's policy) was set up on 1 July 1979 with a three-fold mission: to provide information to women, to encourage them in their efforts and to combat prejudice. With a DM.4 million budget, the group has decided to concentrate on a few carefully chosen fields: women's training and their return to the world of work; battered wives' refuges; and two surveys to be completed before the end of 1980, one on the consequences of matrimonial law and the other on improving the political role of women, in particular their chance of obtaining an electoral mandate.

Useful address: Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik
Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie, Gesundheit
Kennedyallee 105-107
D - 5300 Bonn Bad Godesberg
Mrs. Marlies Kutsch, tel. 2221/3381

Why unemployment?

A survey on the causes of female unemployment has been conducted in Germany by the Infratest Institute, at the request of the Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family and Health.

The figures are still disquieting: out of ten people without jobs, over five are women. Out of ten people in employment, fewer than four are women. It should also be borne in mind that about half a million unemployed women are no longer included in the statistics because they have become, or gone back to being, "just housewives".

The contention that one of the causes of female unemployment is poor job training has not been borne out by the survey, which has shown that the number of untrained women among the unemployed is not much greater than among those with jobs. The ratio is 39 to 31, compared with 36 to 13 among men.

According to Infratest, it seems that it is the respective role of women and men in family life which imposes a greater handicap on women: 49% of jobless women have children under 15. In the competition for jobs, this factor works against women far more than against men.

In the light of the information provided by the survey, the Federal Ministry is to embark upon pilot schemes. Marlies Kutsch, a former union official, now responsible for women's policy in the Ministry, considers that a reduction in hours of work might make it easier for the parents of children under 15 to reconcile their family commitments and their jobs.

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

Women and the political parties

The election campaign is giving plenty of room to women in the period leading up to the general election on 5 October next. Plenty of room? This is not the opinion of the weekly *Der Spiegel*, or *Brigitte*, the woman's magazine, according to which women have already lost the elections: few women have a "safe" position on the lists of candidates.

All the political parties are subject to three-fold pressure. Firstly, women voters have become far more politically minded. Secondly, the women who are active in the political parties have become increasingly militant. Thirdly, women in the feminist organizations have become much more critical. At least in their election manifestoes, if not in their own ranks, the political parties seem to recognize women's equality.

The CDU/CSU (Christian Democrat and Christian Social Party) uses its manifesto to express its concern at the fall in the birth rate, accusing the Socialist/Liberal Government of bringing this about through its family policy. The CDU/CSU promises to subsidize all mothers, including mothers who stay at home, by paying DM.300 a month until the child's third year on top of the family allowances given for the other children. A "mother's wage" of DM.500 should be paid to mothers, whether or not they work, for six months following the birth of a child. At present, only women in paid employment are entitled to a maternity allowance during their maternity leave: DM.750, paid by the Government.

In its election manifesto, the CDU/CSU acknowledges that housework and bringing up children constitute a real job and entitle a woman to social security and sickness and accident insurance. The party has also come out in favour of encouraging and extending part-time employment.

The main plank - as far as women are concerned - in the platform of the Liberal Party, the FDP, is a bill to prohibit discrimination against women in any field. The bill is designed to supplement the section in the Constitution banning all forms of discrimination. According to the FDP, a committee should formulate views and make proposals to the Government on the subject.

On the subject of reconciling family and job commitments, the FDP proposes parental leave in addition to maternity leave, as well as financial assistance for women who stay at home to look after their children. The Liberal Party is also in favour of expanding part-time employment.

The Social Democrat Party, the SPD, stresses that men and women have a shared responsibility for bringing about equality between the sexes; they must shed their traditional prejudices and behaviour patterns. The SPD is recommending job training schemes in traditional male sectors of employment. The authorities and companies benefiting from state funds should provide an equal number of places for girls and boys in vocational training.

The SPD is considering a bill that will give any woman who has suffered direct or indirect discrimination the right to financial compensation. On the subject of hours of work, the Social Democrats support the idea of parental leave and intend to cut the working day of parents of children under three to six hours.

Useful addresses: CDU
Konrad-Adenauer-Haus
5300 Bonn 1

FDP
Baumscheidtstrasse 15
5300 Bonn 1

SPD
Erich-Ollenhauer-Haus
5300 Bonn 1

CSU
8000 Munich

Protection or discrimination?

The law enacted to protect women at work in fact encourages discrimination, as in the case of night shifts. While nurses are allowed to work at night, women are not permitted to work on computers. The pretext: to uphold morality.

Amendments have already been made to legislation and new opportunities have been created for women. On building sites, women carpenters and women locksmiths are to be seen, while others operate site vehicles. The authorities have been encouraged in their efforts by the good results achieved by a group of 130 girls who have acquired specialist skills in carpentry and mechanical engineering.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft
5300 Bonn 2

I R E L A N D

Who makes the decisions?

The Council for the Status of Women has issued a report entitled "Who Makes the Decisions?", dealing with the representation of women on the boards of state-sponsored bodies.

The figures collated by the Women's Studies Unit of the Irish Foundation for Human Development are largely based on responses received from 75 state-sponsored bodies. They indicate that over 60% of the bodies do not even have one Government woman appointee on their boards. Even when women are represented, they are greatly outnumbered by men in every instance. On an average, women account for no more than 9.9% of Government appointees.

In its report, the Council expresses its conviction that a sufficient number of suitably qualified women is available to ensure a far higher level of female representation. The onus is on the Government to ensure that in all cases women participate with men on an equal footing.

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

three centuries of injustice

In Ireland there is a 300 year old law that gives a husband the right to compensation if his wife has committed adultery. A bill that would have ended the law has been defeated in the Dail, but with the defeat comes a promise from the Fianna Fail Government that a new, more broadly-based law will be introduced. The Government objected to the Opposition bill because it sought only to abolish the old law but made no provision to protect the injured party in marital disputes.

The Law Reform Commission had earlier stated that although the "law on criminal conversation" gives the husband rights, a wife would almost certainly succeed in any action, although this has never been tested.

The news has angered feminists, who have campaigned against the law for years. They say that court cases are objectionable because they seek to put a monetary value on a wife and lead to distasteful and salacious coverage in the media.



Women and citizenship

Two Christian Democrat members of the Italian Senate, Rosa Jervolino Russo and Alessandra Codazzi, have tabled amendments to the law on citizenship.

According to legislation that is still on the statute books, an Italian woman marrying a foreigner acquires her husband's nationality, something that is in conflict with the principle of equality between men and women. There is no reason why the law of the husband's country should prevail over the wife's own law.

The bill presented by Mrs. Russo and Mrs. Codazzi proposes that the husband of an Italian should be able to take his wife's nationality, that a wife should not forfeit her own nationality and that the children of such marriages should be entitled to Italian nationality.

Useful address: Il Senato
Palazzo Madama
R o m e

The "8th March Tribunal"

The "Tribunale 8 marzo" has decide to concentrate on two specific problems: the fact that women working on the land may not be farm owners in their own right but are considered to be no more than assistant farmers; and the fact that an Italian woman marrying a foreigner may not transmit her Italian citizenship to him, even though an Italian man does so to a foreign wife.

Formal complaints have been made against these two cases of discrimination, both to the European Parliament (in the form of a petition) and to the EC Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

The "Tribunal" has set itself the aim of throwing light on the true condition of women today by publicizing the true personal accounts of women themselves.

Mrs. Maria Gioia Di Cristofaro-Longo, a leading light in the "Tribunal", hopes to give a European dimension to the struggle against discrimination and to bring about amendments to Italian laws governing property rights and citizenship.

Useful address: Tribunale 8 Marzo
Via della Colonna Antonia 42
00186 R o m e

A woman union leader

Donatella Turtura, aged 47, a unionist from Bologna, is the first woman to have been elected confederation secretary to the CGIL trade union. It is also the very first time that a woman has attained such a senior post in an Italian union. A union official since 1950, Donatella Turtura has already held national-level office in a sector branch since 1968.

Donatella Turta has a word of advice to women taking up social and political duties: "don't be overawed by the difficulties", and to aim at "emancipating society, not just women".

A woman in the publishing world

With a turnover of approximately 600 million dollars, Mondadori is the largest publishing house in Italy. The new head of its "magazines department" is a woman, Andreina Vanni (aged 47). She has taken responsibility for twenty or so periodicals, the best known of which are Panorama, Grazia and Epoca. It was Epoca that gave Andreina Vanni the opportunity to demonstrate her management abilities: in the space of a few months, she doubled its circulation.

The magazines department accounts for about half of Mondadori's total turnover.

Useful address: Mondadori Editore
20090 Segrate

An open letter to the Constitutional Court

On the initiative of the Italian national coordination group for the application of Law 194/78 on the termination of pregnancy, numbers of well known people in the world of politics and the arts have signed an open letter to the Constitutional Court.

"...For years we have fought to shed the light of day on a great social problem: the drama of abortion, a drama that affects millions of us but one that we suffer in solitude, shame and poverty. We have come to the shared decision to fight for social legislation and a properly organized campaign to provide information on contraception. Never again do we want to have to resort to the painful decision to terminate a pregnancy.

"If the law is to be mutilated and deprived of meaning, women will be forced to return to clandestine abortions. The decision you reach will determine whether women can continue to abide by the law. No criminal law has ever prevented women from resorting to abortion at the risk - and at a tragically high risk - of losing their lives in so doing."

Useful address: Coordinamento Nazionale per l'applicazione
della legge 194/78
c/o Rinuccia Bonito
Via Sacchi 3
R o m e

Municipal elections in Porto Torres

At the local elections in Porto Torres, in the province of Rovigo, the Italian Liberal Party's list of candidates consists solely of women. It is the first time that a party has proposed such a radical change for a town council.

Useful address: Partito Liberale Italiano
Via Frattina 89
R o m e

L U X E M B O U R G

The Women's Employment Committee launched in orbit

The Women's Employment Committee, established by a ministerial regulation issued on 19 February 1980, has met for the first time to elect its chairman and map out its future action. Concerned to achieve a balanced representation of the parties concerned, the Committee has 20 statutory members, four of whom represent the National Council of Luxembourg Women, four are delegates from employers' associations, four are unionists from the most representative union bodies and eight are Government representatives.

One of the first tasks that the chairman, Mrs. Astrid Lulling (a former member of European Parliament) has set the committee is the bill on equal rights for men and women in employment.

The Committee has also set itself the medium term objective of working in the European context, with particular regard to the application of EEC directives on women's employment and social security. It will also be embarking upon an information campaign directed at the public and will arrange for the Statistical Bureau to compile more specific facts and figures than have previously been available on women and employment.

Useful address: Ministère du Travail
Boulevard de la Pétrusse
Luxembourg

A controversial allowance

In the Grand Duchy, a motion tabled in the Chamber of Deputies aims at replacing the "head of family allowance" (to which - with a few exceptions - only male civil servants were entitled) by a "family allowance". The bill would bring Luxembourg law in line with EEC directive 75-117 on the principle of equal pay for men and women.

The measure in question will affect about 425 people working in the civil service. Nonetheless, one proviso has caused controversy: a paragraph to the effect that "if two civil servants or public officials (..married to each other..) are both entitled to the family allowance, the allowance payable to each one shall be reduced by half. It shall also be reduced in the event of their separation or divorce".

The unions are divided on the issue. The CGT (Confédération Générale du Travail), for instance, demands that both husband and wife should receive the whole benefit, while the body representing civil servants and employees in the public sector tends to agree with the Government proposal.

The private sector may be affected by the decision, whichever way it goes, as most banks pay a "household bonus" based on the same procedures as the allowance paid by the Government to its employees.

Maternity allowance for non-wage earners

Since 1 April 1980, a maternity allowance of Lfrs.10,000 a month (eight weeks before and eight weeks after the birth) has been given to housewives and middle class women (free-lances, women in trade, etc.).

Since the allowance is tax-free and since women in salaried employment are not entitled to it, some unions and the opposition parties see it as a way of encouraging women to stay at home.

N E T H E R L A N D S

The Provincial Authorities and Emancipation

Special subsidies may be available from now on to help provincial authorities support emancipation projects at their own level.

Amounting to about Lfrs.30,000 to 100,000, depending on the size of the province, the subsidies are being paid out of the budget of the Ministry for the Arts, Leisure and Social Action.

Useful address: Ministerie van Cultuur, Rekreatie
en Maatschappelijk Werk
Postbus 5406
R i j s w i j k

Part time work for men as well?

Men have a right to part time work too: this, in short, is the precept laid down by the civil service tribunal, Ambtenarengerecht, in Rotterdam.

A civil servant employed in the tax department had applied for his full time job to be changed to part time work. The application was turned down by his superiors since, according to the Ministry of Finance, only women are entitled to this right. The dispute was taken to the Ambtenarengerecht, which ruled that men have just as much right to work part time as women.

Women and higher education

The percentage of women in Dutch universities and colleges has doubled between 1950 and 1978. A large majority of women still opt for the social sciences and literature faculties, while there is a "ceiling" of 5% women in the technical and economic faculties.

It is of interest that the proportion of women graduating from universities has remained consistent throughout the period at 7%.

UNITED KINGDOM

A guide to making a claim

How to prepare your own case for an Industrial Tribunal is a remarkable booklet brought out by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Written by two legal experts, Robin Allen and Richard Allfrey, the document is exceptional in its clarity of presentation, the mass of advice it gives (hints are even given on the style that should be used in written statements and the way one should behave before an industrial tribunal), the simplicity of its language and the choice of typestyle. This booklet is a reassuring friend to people in particularly difficult circumstances (it is never pleasant to go to court), pointing out all the obstacles to be overcome and how not to take no for an answer. Nothing is left unilluminated. The obscurities of procedure are explained in a language that everyone will understand. The booklet also points out basic truths: "remember that the magistrates are there to listen to YOUR claim".

A work of this kind would be helpful everywhere in Europe.

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

Nothern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission has published a report on its work in 1978/1979. During the period, the Commission dealt with 245 complaints or enquiries concerning sex discrimination in employment, education, the provision of goods and services, advertisements and other matters.

Out of the total, 76 complaints were on discriminatory advertising. The Commission itself monitored all Northern Ireland daily and weekly newspapers throughout the year, contacting advertisers when it considered the advertisements to be unlawfully discriminatory. It found it unnecessary to bring proceedings in the courts, as most advertisers were helpful and cooperative once their attention had been drawn to the matter.

To encourage wider understanding of the sex discrimination acts, the Commission held a seminar in Belfast at the end of April, attended by 100 people, including lawyers, chairmen of industrial tribunals, employers and trade unionists.

Useful address: N.I. Equal Opportunities Commission
Lindsay House
Callender Street
Belfast BT1 5DT, Northern Ireland

PORTUGAL: WOMEN WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The Comissão da Condição Feminina is a Portuguese government body set up in 1975. It is attached to the office of the President of the Council and is answerable to Francisco Pinto Balsemao, the Minister attached to the Premier.

Led by Mrs. Joana de Barros Baptista, its chairman, a delegation from the Commission, consisting of Ana Maria Braga da Cruz, Leonor Beleza and Maria Regina Tavares da Silva, visited the European Communities Commission to take a closer look at what is being done for women in the Community and to consider what links could be forged between Portugal and Europe of the Nine.

Invited to Brussels by the department of Information for Women's Organizations and Press, the Portuguese delegation attended a meeting of the European Parliament ad hoc committee on women's rights. At the end of their visit, it was decided that a seminar would be held in Lisbon in December on "the European Community and women's employment", to which women representing both the Community nations and countries applying for membership would be invited.

Over the space of a few years, the Portuguese Commission on Women's Status has worked intensively on research, the provision of information to the public and participating in Government decisions. Many studies have already been published, covering the widest range of subjects: discrimination in family law, women's participation in trade union, civic and political life, education, stereotypes in school text books, the image of women conveyed by advertising, pay discrimination, etc.

The Commission recently published a study on choosing a career, based on the writings of 8- and 9-year old schoolchildren ("A minha profissao"). It has also produced interesting discussion material, "Feminino Masculino - factos e imagens" (female/male - facts and pictures). To all this must be added its widely read leaflets and booklets on marriage, divorce, widowhood, children, family planning, childbirth and so on.

Of interest is the existence of a "Comissão Parlamentar da Condição Feminina" (a parliamentary committee on women's status), consisting of eleven members, two of them men, and chaired by Maria Teresa Vieiras Bastos Ambrosio. There is no woman minister in the Government but there are women Secretaries of State: for Emigration, the Environment and the Family.

Useful address: Comissão da Condição Feminina
Av. Elias Garcia 12, 1^o
1093 Lisbon Codex

M I L I T A N T A C T I V I T I E S

I N T E R N A T I O N A L O R G A N I Z A T I O N S

"Forward together"

This was the watchword of the 16th congress of Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), which numbers 8.5 million members in 70 nations (incidentally, the countrywomen of Poland have recently asked that their association be affiliated to ACWW).

At the congress, Mrs. Ziena Marie Westerbring-Muller (Netherlands) was elected chairman, succeeding the Australian chairman, Raigh Roe. During the discussions, those attending noted that equality for men and women has to a great extent been incorporated in their countries' legislation. Looking at the actual situation in 93 countries, however, it is obvious that events have not yet caught up with the law.

One problem of which all too little is known was raised on several occasions and discussed by many delegations: material safeguards for the family if the mother is taken from it. In some societies, the close or extended family will take over, but in others all too often the children and the father are left to themselves to learn, the hard way, how vital is the mother in the economic and social life of a family group.

Useful address: The Associated Country Women of the World
 50 Warwick Square
 London SW1V 2AJ

Women and Regional Development

The European Centre of the International Women's Council (CECIF) has held a working meeting in Rome. One of the questions tackled was regional development. Paola Coppola D'Anna Pignatelli, professor of architectural composition at Rome University, stressed that few women as yet are actively concerned with architecture, town planning and land development.

Giving an account of her own background, Mrs. Coppola said that "in a traditionally masculine career such as architecture, to identify with the male was certainly not easy (in about the 1950's), but it was essential if one were not to go under".

After 25 years of professional life, Mrs. Coppola surveyed the specific role of women in architecture. Her thoughts have led her to the conclusion that a woman has a very special relationship with space, one that differs from man's. Forced to live with things on a smaller scale and to carry out repetitive daily tasks, she has a more concrete and direct approach to space than does man.

Even when she is in the business of architecture, a woman seems to be more concerned with the use of space and the quality of life arising from architecture than with Architecture with a capital A, seen as a monument to history.

Having observed architecture students, both boys and girls, Mrs. Coppola noted that their attitudes differ at the time of approaching a project. Men tend to define the overall spatial form of a design immediately and then come down to the functional level and work out the details. Women, on the other hand, pay greater attention to the quality and use of space; once they have mastered the feeling of space, they work upwards and define the overall shape.

Mrs. Coppola enlarged on the subject by going back to history: "Men and women have lived out different destinies in space. Man the hunter, the warrior, the builder, appropriates space for himself. He establishes datum points and links them with straight lines. He dreams up a design in the abstract and he puts that dream into practice, chopping down any trees which get in his way, digging deep furrows in the land, despoiling mountains. He works not just for himself but for his children and his children's children. He wants them to remember him, through the mark he has made upon space.

"...A woman, on the other hand, sees space as a resource, to be used frugally and with respect (no doubt because it has always been in short supply for her). She sees it like water, air and the green countryside. She uses it for her personal ends, as a means of subsistence and well-being....She does not feel the urge to leave indelible traces of her existence....Space, she feels, is to be adapted to the rhythm of the day and to everyday needs. Nature and its context is to be respected in the use of space, which can be adapted to the town, just as it is to the proximity of waterways."

Mrs. Coppola is careful not to fall into the trap of compromising with professional competitors, something which tempts women to "do worse than badly".

"Never so much as now," she declared, "after thirty years of rationalism, have we seen such a return to what might in general terms be defined as 'feminine' forms and values. This is true not only of architecture. In a climate such as the present, women architects must be aware that they can make a fundamental contribution towards overcoming the crisis. Women must once again appropriate the instruments of self-expression and appreciate their own values; they must express potentially different meanings, based on their own aspirations and their own methods of approach."

During the meeting, the Centre took due note of the work being done for women by European Parliament, the European Commission, the EC Economic and Social Committee and the Council of Europe.

Useful address: C E C I F
c/o Ginette Schaak, Chairman
2, Allee L. Goebel
Luxembourg-Ville

B E L G I U M

Tax on a married couple's earnings

Up to the present, the Belgian tax authorities have lumped together the earnings of a husband and wife when assessing their liability. So intensive has been the campaign waged by women's associations that Mr. Martens, during the negotiations leading up to the formation of a new government, has accepted the principle of ending the "cumulative rule". The final tax arrangements have not yet been drawn up; it is a problem made even more difficult because the government has to look elsewhere to recoup the revenue it loses from this source.

The National Council of Belgian Women (French-speaking section) developed its line of argument at length, reminding the government that the right to work is an individual right and that the earnings from employment must be taken into account separately for each spouse.

Useful address: Conseil National des Femmes Belges
1a, Place Quetelet
1030 Brussels

Help for women prisoners

A group has been created at the "Maison des Femmes" with the aim of helping women both in and coming out of prison. It can assist women in prison by enabling them to retain contact with the outside world. The kind of help it can give women after they have served their sentences is to make it easier for them to find a job and accommodation and give them guidance with social procedures.

Useful address: Aide aux femmes détenues
c/o Fabienne Lafontaine
20, rue de la Commune
1030 Brussels

The Communist Party

The women's committee of the Communist Party, chaired by Mrs. Marie Crusse, has reviewed the forms of discrimination that still exist in the field of men's and women's rights. Apart from the iniquity of the cumulative taxation of married couples, which penalizes the working wife, the committee points to the differences in pension arrangements, which work to the disadvantage of women.

Useful address: Parti Communiste - Commission Feminine
18-20, avenue de Stalingrad
1000 Brussels

The Liberal Reform Party

The women of the Parti Reformateur Liberal (PRL) have decided to concentrate on three specific problems:

- the European Charter of the Rights of Man
- the bill on affiliation
- the protection of youth

Since the PRL is now represented in the government, its women members have a fresh opportunity to make their views known.

Useful address: Mme Jacqueline Herzet
Présidente des Femmes du PRL
82, rue de la Hulpe
1331 Rosières St André

Training women for political life

CEPIC - short for Centre Politique des Indépendants et Cadres Chrétiens - is a wing of the Social Christian Party, a political centre for Christian officials and independents in which women are particularly active and numerous. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Angela Verdin, "Formation féminine" is a body within CEPIC whose special mission is to help women take up political responsibility.

Seminars, discussion groups and visits are organized, as well as the preparation of motions and bills. The group also takes part in political debates regarding women. And there are few political problems which do not concern women....

Useful address: Formation féminine du CEPIC
39, rue Belliard
1040 Brussels

Seeing things with different eyes, saying things in different ways

A group whose name describes its objective, "Changeons les Livres scolaires" ("let's change our text books"), has decided to extend both its efforts and its audience. In adopting the new name of "Voir et dire autrement", it intends to show that men and women hold the same values dear and that they are equal in terms of wealth of spirit and potential. There are many opportunities to "see and say in different ways": by preparing information material, by analyzing books (both their textual content and their illustrations and graphics, etc.) and by training leaders with a view to lifelong education.

Useful address: Voir et dire autrement
c/o La Maison des Femmes
29, rue Blanche
1060 Brussels

Battered wives

Two non-profit making associations (one for each language region) are stimulating, coordinating and supporting the protection of battered wives in Belgium. They are the "Federatie van Huizen voor Mishandelde Vrouwen" (federation of hostels for mistreated women) and the Federation des Collectifs pour Femmes battues (federation of collective bodies for battered wives).

Useful addresses: Federatie van Huizen voor Mishandelde Vrouwen
Stenenmolenstraat 115
2800 Mechelen

Fédération des Collectifs pour Femmes battues
8 Rue Nagelmackers
4000 Liège

Equality in the cockpit

A Belgian Women Pilots Association has just been created. Its chairman, Mrs. Vladir Vitek, chief pilot with Publi-Air, has pointed out that a woman is already the pilot of a Boeing 737 for the Belgian charter company, T.E.A., and that two women will be getting their wings soon when they graduate from the civil aviation college.

Useful address: Belgian Women Pilots Association
Maison des Ailes
1, rue Montoyer - 1040 Brussels

A women's centre

A very active "Vrouwenhuis" - women's centre - is in operation in Louvain. It is open mainly in the evenings, but also on Friday mornings and Sunday afternoons, providing all the opportunities one would expect from those concerned with female solidarity, including meetings, discussions, advice and people ready to listen. The house style is a subtle mixture of sound sense and imagination.

Useful address: Vrouwenhuis Leuven
Justus Lipsiusstraat 57
3000 Leuven

Work and Maternity.

The CSC (confederation of Christian trade unions) has recently published a practical guide for mothers-to-be and young working mothers under the title of "Travail et Maternité". The handbook is written for working women in both the public and the private sectors, whether they have jobs or whether they are unemployed.

The CSC has also completed a survey on 420 women who were pregnant or had young children. In short, it showed that women are only partly aware of their rights. Employment circles seem to accept a working woman's pregnancy without hostility, but in a passive manner. Many women appear to be very much interested in paternity leave, but on condition that the father takes his leave at the same time as their own. Most women would not be prepared to allow the father to care for an infant.

Useful address: CSC
121, rue de la Loi
1040 Brussels

FRANCE

What energy for which society?

The Women's Committee of the European Movement, aware of the role that women can play when faced with the energy crisis, arranged a colloquy in Paris on the theme of "the place of energy in your life". Chaired by Mrs. Janine Lancier, the meeting was outstandingly well organized, as testified by the high level of the speakers.

About a hundred women's associations came to the event, representing approximately 2 million members in France.

Speaking at the colloquy, Mrs. Simone Veil, the chairman of European Parliament, stated that "we shall have to adapt by an effort of intelligence, sensitivity and imagination".

The European Movement Women's Committee is to continue its campaign to make women aware of the energy crisis. It hopes to increase its contact with women's associations which share the same concern at the problem in other countries.

Useful address: Commission féminine du Mouvement européen
191, boulevard St Germain
75007 Paris

Friendship without frontiers

This is the watchword of ACAFOM (Association Culturelle et Amicale des Familles d'Outre-Mer et Migrants), a charitable organization "recognized as serving the public interest".

One of the association's aims is the cultural and social advancement of young foreign girls. To this end, it arranges beginners' and advanced courses in the French language, domestic economy courses and health education sessions as well as typing courses. A period of adaptation to working life has been specially arranged to help foreign girls cope with the specific problems they encounter.

Useful address: ACAFOM
222-224, boulevard St Germain
75007 Paris

A woman industrial arbitrator

Carmen Bernabeu is the first woman in France to become the chairman of an industrial arbitration tribunal. The event is especially important as the tribunal - the "conseil de prud'hommes" - is a body whose members are directly elected by the two sides of industry.

Interviewed by Antoinette, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour) women's magazine, Carmen Bernabeu explained that her life as a militant trade unionist had taught her the law. She had started work at the age of 15, and she is not overawed at the thought of her new responsibilities: "I read things, I collect the information, I sort it out, I mull it over and I store it in my mind . . . with practice and the help of books, I feel that I shall very quickly be doing some good work", she told Antoinette.

Useful address: Antoinette
50, rue Edouard Pailleron
75019 Paris

"Choisir" and UNESCO

"Choisir", the French movement for the recognition of women's rights, is to develop its international vocation. The movement has recently obtained UNESCO status as a non-governmental organization. Arlette Amzallag, who is responsible for external relations in Choisir, sees this as an opportunity for closer contact with feminist movements in other countries, "so as to pool our efforts, increase our resources for our work and achieve the common goals we have set ourselves".

Useful address: Choisir
102, rue Saint Dominique
75007 Paris

Learning about law in the school

Why not teach children the rudiments of practical law at school? It would be invaluable for girls and boys to know more about their rights and duties associated with marriage, inheritance, signing an agreement or accepting a job.

The proposal has been made by a "legislation study circle" created by the Association Francaise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU) - the French association of women university graduates.

Useful address: AFFDU
4, rue de Chevreuse
75006 Paris

"BIFELL"

The Fédération Nationale Léo Lagrange is a Socialist-inspired workers' education association with a membership of 500 groups, clubs and centres throughout France. The association takes its name from a minister in the pre-war Popular Front government, Léo Lagrange, who helped to introduce paid holidays and sport in France.

To take a "more active part in the advancement of ideas and facts related to the place of women in our society", the national federation has decided to set up the Léo Lagrange women's information and research bureau, abbreviated to "BIFELL".

Under the leadership of Edmonde Grandazzi-Gagueneau, BIFELL has arranged a course on the theme of "women: a social environment in the process of change...". Three methods of approaching the subject have been chosen: the background history of the women's movement; women and legislation; and women in 1980.

Useful address: BIFELL
9, rue Cadet
75009 Paris

Jobs for women in electricity and gas

Over the next four years, almost one out of every four people employed by EDF-GDF - the national electricity and gas supply boards - will exercise the right to retire. This means that there will be job vacancies.

The trade union, Force Ouvriere, is aware of the situation and has launched an appeal to women officials of the trade union confederation. "We know that girls trained for jobs traditionally held by men have difficulty in gaining a foothold in the labour market; this is a challenge which must be taken up." There will be positions to be filled in various trades: electrical, electrical engineering, general engineering and plumbing, as well as in accounts and in administrative and other departments.

Useful address: Confédération Force Ouvrière
198, avenue du Maine
75680 Paris Cedex 14

G E R M A N Y

Woman's image, woman as an object

The way in which the image of women is used in advertising is a growing irritant to German feminists. In vain have women appealed to the trade body responsible for upholding ethical standards in advertising. It has affirmed its respect for the dignity of women but has failed to reprimand advertisers who all too readily confuse advertising with soliciting.

Useful address: Deutscher Frauenrat
Augustastrasse 42
5300 Bonn 2

Penalizing mothers?

Under new legislation, four months' additional maternity leave is to be added to the present leave of eight weeks. During this period, mothers will receive an allowance of DM.750 a month from the Land, while the employer is under an obligation to re-employ the mother at the end of the period.

It has now become apparent that retail businesses are systematically refusing to hire young women. Gewerkschaft Handel, Banken, Versicherungen, the trade union for business, bank and insurance workers, has complained of this trend of infringing the fundamental law by omission, if not by commission.

It should be noted, however that a company manufacturing china objects has decided to give one year's maternity leave - without pay, but with a guarantee that the job will be available to the mother when she returns.

Useful address: Gewerkschaft Handel, Banken, Versicherungen
Hans Böckler Haus
4000 Düsseldorf

A law against discrimination

"We need a reallocation of tasks between men and women so that the family without a man and a society without women will disappear", has declared Andreas Schoeler, Secretary of State.

The German Liberal Party, the FDP, of which Andreas Schoeler is a member, has called for a law to ensure that the constitutional principle of the equality of men and women is applied. It would then be easier to take proceedings against anyone failing to comply. A committee should be set up to monitor application of the law.

Useful address: FDP - Bundesgeschäftsstelle
Baumscheidtstrasse 15
53 Bonn 1

A policy for women

The congress on "Politik für Frauen" arranged in the spring by the North Rhein-Westphalia section of the Germany Christian Democrat Party (CDU) achieved the largest attendance figures since Chancellor Adenauer's meetings in the early 1960's.

During the debates, it was stressed that women are now taking on a host of very different roles. It would be absurd to keep to the old leitmotifs. The very style of the election campaign will change, since all the problems tackled will also be looked at from the woman's viewpoint: the family, employment, political life and society.

Useful address: CDU
Konrad Adenauer Haus
5300 Bonn 1

A chairwoman for the German friends of the earth

"Die Grünen" - "The Greens" - is the name of the German ecology party. Its new chairman is Petra Kelly. The party is now represented on two of Germany's regional councils, and it almost, but not quite, managed to put a representative in European Parliament last year. "We women of the ecologist movements understand the link between the exploitation of nature and the exploitation of the weak, the oppressed, women, children, the sick and the handicapped".

Useful address: Die Grünen
Friedrich Ebert Allee 120
53 Bonn

A "women's tribunal"

Current abortion legislation must be revised. To defend this view, a "women's tribunal" met in Frankfurt, backed by many events in the main towns of Germany.

According to women's stories of their own experiences, the procedure applicable today is "humiliating". The law accepts only three reasons for a legal termination of pregnancy: eugenic, ethical or distress. When she goes through the "legal" channels, a woman is forced to give a detailed account of all her woes.

The campaign, conducted by the magazines Emma and Courage, is for the total depenalization of voluntary terminations of pregnancy.

Useful addresses: Emma
Kolpingplatz 1
5000 Cologne

Courage
Bleibteustrasse 48
1000 Berlin 12

I R E L A N D

A campaign against legitimization by adoption

One of the bizarre aspects of the Irish legal system is that an unmarried woman must adopt her own natural child. In Ireland, only illegitimate children may be adopted - arguably the sole form of discrimination between legitimate and illegitimate children that works to their advantage. After they are adopted, formerly illegitimate children may go on to enjoy all the advantages of their legitimate status. For instance, they cannot be disinherited by the claims of any subsequent legitimate children their mother may have.

The youth section of Ireland's largest opposition party, Young Fine Gael, has added its weight to the campaign to abolish the legal status of illegitimacy. The organizers have produced 2,500 campaign posters, 50,000 leaflets and 10,000 signature collection forms.

Useful address: Young Fine Gael
Fine Gael Headquarters
51 Upper Mount Street
Dublin 2

An unusual speech

Camilla Hannon, the leader of the Irish Countrywomen's Association, has made one of the most hard-hitting presidential speeches in the association's 70 year history. Speaking of women's rights, Mrs. Hannon said: "We...cannot afford to sit on the laurels of those women who have made the going easier for us".

Camilla Hannon wants rural women to demand the same information and advice as are available to urban-dwelling women. She has urged the establishment of study groups in local guilds, government funding for retraining at the association's adult education centre in Country Meath, an education programme on industrial relations and more ICA representation on decision-making bodies.

Useful address: Irish Countrywomen's Association
58 Merrion Road
Dublin 4

Positive discrimination

Is there a case for positive discrimination? Women trade unionists argued the point recently and have decided there is. At the annual seminar of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions' Women's Advisory Committee, they unanimously agreed to launch a campaign in favour of positive discrimination for women within the trade union movement. They want to see women-only seats on union executive bodies.

Useful address: Women's Advisory Committee
Irish Congress of Trade Unions
19 Raglan Road
Dublin 4

Workplace creches

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions is urging government action on the provision of creches at workplaces. As a first step, it recommends that union negotiators for workers in state and semi-state employment to include talks on day care in future labour deals. Congress hopes for a national body to plan and coordinate day care development, collect information and draft legislation on training, accomodation and the registration of nurseries.

To combat the lack of provision, a group of recently qualified day care workers has established the Association of Pre-school Staff, which aims to focus the attention of the Government and the public alike on the effectiveness of good and well regulated day care. The association has written to leading employers in Ireland offering its expertise in setting up creches, pointing out that they improve company morale and help cut down staff turnover. The association has also set up a "travelling" creche to serve conferences and seminars.

Useful address: Association of Pre-school Staff
Theresa Redmond (Secretary)
18 Vale View Drive, Finglas
Dublin 12

Feminist jailed

Marie MacMahon has served a week's prison sentence, imposed on her when, following her part in a protest, she refused to sign a peace bond. The reason for the protest (more than three years ago): the banning of the British feminist magazine, Spare Rib.

Marie MacMahon is a well known feminist in Ireland: she is one of the founder members of the Irish Women's Liberation Movement. It is not the first time that she has had a brush with justice: last year, she was arrested and charged with being a common prostitute. She had in fact been helping to make a radio programme on prostitution. Amid a furore of protests from feminists and other people in public life, the charge was dropped.

I T A L Y

Service yes . . servitude no'

"COLF" is an acronym used as the title for the monthly magazine of the "Associazione professionale italiana collaboratrici familiari" - Italy's national trade association of what are respectfully known as "family collaborators". To those in domestic service, it provides information not only on the organization's activities but also on any points of law that may concern them and on wage trends.

To make sure that no employer can plead ignorance of the law, especially the law in Italian, COLF has taken a dual page spread to print the full text of the national collective contract of employment as lodged with the Ministry of Labour, translated into English.

Useful address: A.P.I. COLF
111 Via Cola di Rienzo
00192 Rome

Woman and the city

"Rethink our cities and redesign them with women in mind": this was the thread running through an encounter arranged in Milan by the Italian Communist Party's Women's Committee under the title of "Woman and the City".

In the course of the discussions, the point was made that town planning projects must be adapted to the changing needs of couples and families, with communal laundries, communal dining rooms, etc.

On the subject of community facilities, some of the experts argued for the idea that they should not merely be a response to individual needs - the needs of children at different ages, the needs of married couples or the elderly, etc. - but ways of bringing about the orderly development of society and human relationships.

Useful address: Commissione Femminile - Partito Comunista Italiano
Via Volturmo 33
M i l a n

Women in the Social Democrat Party

Women members of the Social Democrat Party (PSDI) have made a formal request for representation on all the party's executive bodies and for 15% of the seats on its central committee in particular.

The response to their request seems to have been positive since, at the recent party conference, they gained more seats on the central committee than ever before: 15, plus 7 positions as alternate members.

Useful address: Movimento femminile PSDI
Via S. Marina in Via 12
R o m e

Women, culture and custom

Salerno was the chosen venue for a meeting of the Christian Democracy Women's Movement on the theme of "woman - culture - custom". Young members of the Christian Democrat party made it a forum for an exchange of ideas, the speakers being Viviane Reding of Luxembourg, Concepcion Ferre Casals of Spain and Franca Falcucci (Italy). The chairman was Loretta Pesch, who is responsible for the Movement's international relations.

To bring about a more radical change in attitudes, and therefore in behaviour patterns, throughout the Community, those attending the meeting proposed better cultural integration by harmonizing European school curricula and by using the Community's information services to put out television programmes explaining EEC directives on equal pay and status.

Another important meeting was concerned with the force of custom. It was a seminar in Milan on the theme of the "production process and working hours by comparison with the needs of women in Europe".

Marlene Lenz (Germany), Andree Mirochnikoff and Monique Badenes (France) compared their experiences with those of Paola Gaiotti, Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago (Italy) and the women attending the meeting.

The debates showed how vital it is to seek out new ways of using time and encouraging a change in mentality. Special attention was paid to handicapped women, who should receive special aid from the European Social Fund to help them find their rightful place in the world of work.

Useful address: Movimento Femminile della Democrazia Cristiana
Corso Rinascimento 113
R o m e

The European Movement

The Italian Council of the European Movement has re-elected its governing body. Professor Giuseppe Petrilli is to continue as its chairman, backed by two women vice chairmen: Margherita Barnabei and Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, together with Michele Cifarelli and Gian Piero Orsello.

Useful address: Movimento Europeo
Viale Guido Baccelli 10
00153 Rome

N E T H E R L A N D S

Union action

The secretariat for women workers for the most powerful of the Dutch trade union federations, Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging (FNV - Dutch union federation) has embarked upon action based on the theme of "women and work".

Before the annual holidays, a preliminary debate covered the position of women in the world of work, what has been achieved and what still needs to be changed. Between September and the end of November, a second series of debates will take place to consider what action can be taken to bring about the necessary changes. Starting on the shop floor and in the office, the discussions will be continued and wound up by a national congress of the FNV in 1981.

Women's participation in union life is growing slowly but surely. In the space of one year, for instance, the number of women members of FNV has risen by almost 6,000, bringing the total number of women in the union to 126,550, i.e. 11.7% of the total number of union members. It is a striking increase at a time when the number of male members is tending to fall slightly.

Useful address: FNV - Sekretariaat voor Vrouwelijke Werknemers
Postbus 8456
1005 Al Amsterdam
tel. (020) 13.46.26

Women against Apartheid

"Vrouwen tegen apartheid" is the theme of a meeting arranged by a group of women from the Dutch movement against apartheid. On the agenda are the provision of information on women's struggle and the campaign for freedom in South Africa, and discussions on the importance of international solidarity against apartheid among women.

Useful address: A A B N (Vrouwengroep)
Lauriergracht 116
1016 RR Amsterdam

A telephone friend for girls

"Als je een meisje bent en je wilt eens praten ..." (if you are a girl and if you want a little chat ...): this is the wording of a poster announcing a new telephone service in Utrecht.

Five women actively engaged in social work found in the course of their work that girls have a lot to say but few understanding people to discuss their personal problems with. The idea of a telephone number specially for girls was quickly put into practice.

Useful address: Meisjestelefoon: (030) 32.20.20
Utrecht

UNITED KINGDOM

Women: fifty years of unionism

Women trade unionists celebrated the 50th Trade Union Congress women's conference in Brighton in March with a rally and a specially mounted exhibition describing the growth of women's organization in the unions.

Three special reports were presented to the delegates, following up on resolutions passed last year: on part-time workers, technology and women, and equal opportunities for women.

The delegates were unanimous in demanding more women's seats on the TUC General Council - they want seven rather than the two seats they have now. They were bitter about the effect of inflation and government financial stringency on women's employment.

"TUC Women's conferences are becoming much more militant now," a Transport and General Workers' Union commented; "no-one's contented any more with a pat on the head."

Useful address: TUC Women's Advisory Committee
TUC, Congress House
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3LS

Nina West Homes

At the age of 22, Nina West was deserted and left with a two-year-old daughter. It was as an experience that left its mark on her. With formidable strength of will, she fought for "the only thing that counts for me now: my daughter". She quickly discovered that an astonishing number of women were in the same plight as herself. According to the public welfare records, there are about half a million divorced or separated mothers. There are no definite figures, but it is estimated that there are 750,000 single parent families in Britain today.

Separated and divorced parents have three main problems, says Nina West: finding accommodation, finding day care and finding a job. In a down-to-earth manner, she set up Nina West Homes Ltd., an officially recognized charitable organization which can provide unfurnished accommodation at a low rent, with a system of mutual baby-sitting, a shared play room for the evenings, week-ends and school holidays and, as often as possible, a day nursery open to the tenants and the neighbours.

Old buildings - in Catherine Court, Finchley Road, Carline Court - have been modernized or new houses built. Lifecan start up again, something has been achieved through solidarity.

Useful address: Nina West Homes Ltd.
48 Mansfield Road
London NW3

Towards one world

The practical objective of the Women's Corona Society is to help women who, because of work or family, have to move from one country to another. Since most of its 7,000 members have lived or travelled widely abroad, it is able to supply information or advice and to offer personal contacts to women leaving Great Britain.

With branches throughout the world, the Society runs courses and can supply notes on conditions and customs in over 100 countries. Its members volunteer to escort members' children from train or plane at the beginning and end of school holidays, making sure that they are sent safely on the next stage of their journey. If necessary, they accommodate the children overnight. The society also provides 16 self-contained flats in London for married graduate students and their families.

Useful address: Women's Corona Society
Murray House, Vandon Street
London SW1H OAG

Women in medicine

The Medical Women's Federation has held its 63rd annual General Meeting in May, at which it elected Mrs. Amelia Marrow, a consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology in Nottingham, as its new president.

The Federation has been active in pressing for more part-time hospital consultants to enable married women to continue their careers at the higher levels of medicine. It has, for the first time, organized the election of three women doctors to the General Medical Council, the governing body in British medicine.

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

Energy in the 1980's

The National Union of Townswomen's Guilds (NUTG) filled the vast Albert Hall with several thousand of its members to discuss the need to conserve natural resources and to recycle waste materials. It hopes to give its work a European dimension and to engineer more contact with women's organizations in other countries having the same concerns. Everybody please take note!

Useful address: N U T G
2 Cromwell Place
London SW7 2JG

Discrimination against women teachers

"There seems to have become established over the years a concept of the woman teacher as a married woman, with small children, who is uninterested in promotion..." This bitter sentence is taken from a report, Promotion and the Woman Teacher, compiled by the National Union of Teachers.

While women represent almost 60% of the teaching force in Britain, they hold only 38% of the headships. The report suggests three types of discrimination that stand in the way of their progress: basic sex discrimination, discrimination against married women and discrimination against older women. Nonetheless, a survey of nearly 3,000 women teachers showed that 4 out of 5 saw themselves as pursuing a career in teaching.

The report concluded that it is a myth that they are not interested in promotion.

Useful address: National Union of Teachers
Hamilton House, Mabledon Place
London SW1

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Equality for women: the Manchester conference

A conference on "equality for women" was held in Manchester by the European Commission in cooperation with the Equal Opportunities Commission. For the first time, delegations from the nine EEC member states, representing committees and bodies concerned with equal opportunities, came together with representatives of the authorities in countries where such committees do not as yet exist.

Five themes were introduced by the remarkably detailed reports presented to the meeting:

the current situation in our countries;

the social and legislative obstacles to women's full participation in the world of work;

the persistence of segregation in employment;

changing trends in the relations between men and women and in their domestic responsibilities; and, finally,

the problems and opportunities to which new technologies give rise.

To summarize, the conference discussions led to the following conclusions:

while the principle of equality of status is generally recognized, only slowly is it being translated into practice. Consultation among national committees with monitoring responsibility should be established on a wider scale to make their work more effective; the longer term aim should be to create a "European committee on equality".

Tax and social security have not kept abreast of changes in society but penalize working women. There should be an end to any form of discrimination between the sexes. The basic unit is the individual, male or female.

There is a sub rosa form of pay inequality which should be brought to the light of day and ended.

There will never be full equality at work unless men do their fair share of the domestic chores. This change in attitude should be encouraged by an EEC directive on parental leave.

The introduction of new technologies has a very specific impact on women's employment. It would be wise to involve women in negotiations in this field.

The problem of new technologies has been of special concern to the European Parliament ad hoc committee on women's rights, which sent members to the conference in Manchester. The delegation, led by the committee chairman Yvette Roudy, stated that European Parliament would do everything within its power to ensure that the European Social Fund supports training programmes on those new technologies designed for women.

Winding up its work, the conference stressed the need to express a sense of determination at European and national levels and to pursue an active policy of achieving equality between the sexes in this rapidly changing world, where the pressure for inequality is widespread. The conference called for a system of regular consultation with a view to influencing the member states and embodying the principles of equality and non-discrimination into their policies.

During a long and impassioned speech, Mr. Vredeling, the Vice-President of the European Commission with special responsibility for social affairs, reviewed the problems and mentioned an idea not often included in political speeches: "men will have to learn not only to accept women in what have traditionally been men's jobs but also not to look down on the idea of doing what have traditionally been women's jobs themselves".

The conference documents and record of its proceedings can be obtained from the Equal Opportunities Commission.

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

Europeans and their children

On the occasion of the International Year of the Child, the European Commission (Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs) arranged for a sample survey on subjects that included:

material or practical difficulties encountered by children in raising their children;

the apportionment of time between job and family, and the problem of providing for the care of young children;

general attitudes to the child, his education and his place in society.

Some interesting items of information have emerged from the survey: two out of three parents feel they spend too little time with their children. A reduction in the number of hours worked in a day is seen as the most desirable way of reducing working hours in general. Flexible working hours are widely considered to make an appreciable contribution towards family life. "Parental leave" for a period of six months to two years, even without pay, is viewed favourably by most of the parents interviewed.

In general, parents would like their children to continue with their education longer than they have themselves. But one parent out of five fears that his or her child's education will have to be cut short, more often for financial reasons than because the child is not suited to school.

The tendency towards the ideal of a smaller family co-exists with a continuing belief in the value of the family. Two thirds of the interviewees agreed that motherhood and fatherhood are the greatest enrichment of the human being. The same proportion saw the act of bringing a child into the world as an act of faith in the future.

It should not be overlooked, however, that one quarter of the men and women in the Community believe, either categorically or more moderately, that motherhood and fatherhood do not enrich the human being. The percentage is even higher among the under-40's and people who have reached the higher levels of education, especially women.

More than half of the interviewees (52%) rejected the idea that the future of our society is too uncertain to take the risk of having children. It is of interest, however, that 42% think otherwise (75% in Italy and 51% in France).

Useful address: Mr. J.-R. Rabier
European Commission
200, rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

The education of girls and the Council of Ministers

The very first EEC plan of action specifically relating to the education of girls has been approved by the Ministers for Education of the Nine. This achievement marks the culmination of four years' thought, research and discussion.

The Community's work specifically related to the education and training of girls is based primarily on the resolution passed by the Council of Education Ministers on 9 February 1976 to the effect that equality of opportunity with a view to full access to all forms of education is an essential aim of the education policies of all member states; its importance must be taken into due account, in conjunction with all the other policies of an economic and social nature, to achieve equality of opportunity in society.

At the time of adopting the directive on equality of status for men and women, especially in access to training and in career prospects, the Council declared that the progress to be made in the field is closely linked with the question of equality of opportunity for boys and girls in education and vocational training.

It was with these two prospects in mind that the European Commission considered the extensiveness and nature of inequalities existing in the education and training of girls, particularly in secondary education.

Based on its work and enlightened by an outstanding study by Dr. Eyleen Byrne, the European Commission submitted a communication to the Council identifying the specific fields in which joint action might be taken, as recommended by the Education Ministers in February 1976.

The Education Committee, assisted in its work by representatives from the Education Ministries and the European Commission, reached agreement in October 1979 on an EEC plan of action in the field of girls' education. The next step was to obtain the approval of the Council and the Education Ministers.

It was at this point that matters became more complicated.

The Danish Government expressed some reticence on the competence of the European Community in the field of education. At the meeting of the Education Ministers, the Danish Government was represented by Ambassador Riberholdt, while Dorte Bennedsen, Minister for Education, published an explanation of Denmark's attitude in the Berlingske Tidende on the same day.

Article 10 of the Danish constitution, noted Dorte Bennedsen, states that only in specific domains may the Government transfer national sovereignty to international institutions. And it was only in the fields specified by the Treaties that Denmark waived its sovereignty when joining the European Community. The Treaty of Rome, however, does not list education as a field of Community activity.

Denmark is very willing to cooperate with other Community states but does not agree to the Council of Ministers, the decision-making body in the Community, extending its jurisdiction to the field of education.

Faced with these views, Denmark's partners were somewhat perplexed. The Danes had already taken a part - a very active part - in the Community work of preparing young people for working life and for the transition from school to the adult world. In Denmark, pilot projects have been launched that have made significant progress. Danish experts have gone on study trips and attended seminars. Its statisticians collaborate with the Communities Statistical Office to define which facts and figures should be compiled. All this work is based, very legally, on the resolution voted by the Council and the Ministers for Education in February 1976.

However that may be, an agreement emerged on matters of content in the course of the meeting of the Council and Ministers for Education on 27 June 1980. What needs to be done now is to persuade the budget authority to allocate the resources, both monetary and staff, to implement the three year programme associated with the education of girls.

Over the period from 1981-1983, EEC should, through its action, encourage study, research and the pooling of experience in the following fields:

- a comparison between the respective influences of mixed and non-mixed secondary education systems on the behaviour and achievements of boys and girls;

- the development of technical knowledge of the factors and behaviour promoting stereotyped concepts of the apportionment of roles between the sexes, for the benefit of those responsible for training teachers and career guidance advisors;

- an evaluation of compensatory programmes and other special measures with the aim of promoting equality between boys and girls in the transition from school to the world of work;

- the role of the media, where possible in cooperation with the education authorities when there is a need to suggest new attitudes and new aspirations for young people considering their future careers and adult lives;

- the special problems faced by families in certain ethnic or cultural groups when they are asked to agree to encouraging equality of opportunity for girls moving from education to a career and adult life.

Early in June, the European Parliament Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport approved a motion tabled by Mrs. Gaiotti De Biase calling upon the Council of Ministers to strengthen the programme of support for the transition from school to working life and to pay very special attention to the teaching of languages, to equal opportunities for girls in education and to the promotion of European Community studies in schools.

Members of Parliament, like the ministers and officials, are particularly concerned at the level of unemployment among girls who, according to official statistics, have been more severely affected than any other group. Having made a diagnosis, the deep-rooted cause of unemployment among girls is to be identified with their narrow or over-restrictive preparation for work, which itself is due to an educational system in which stereotype concepts linger on persistently.

"An" educational system? No, it should be educational systems in the plural, since each country has its own features, although discrimination against girls is a feature common to them all. The structure of education varies from country to country, not just because education is the fruit of each democracy's history but also because schools have to meet different needs today - and those needs may even differ internally from region to region. In some places, the national education minister is all-powerful and can lay down curricula; in others, he does no more than provide the administrative backing, with each school fulfilling its mission according to the lights of its teaching staff. Elsewhere, private education may make an impact that has no parallel in other countries.

While respecting individual solutions, the Council and the Ministers for Education trust that the states will undertake to support the ventures in their own countries, in order to eliminate the "sexist" clichés in teaching material, promote everything that might encourage girls to contemplate a broader range of careers and to make teachers and career advisors aware of the problem.

Teachers have not been forgotten (and this includes women teachers): governments will be considering how they can achieve a better balance between the sexes in teaching and administrative staff, at every level of responsibility.

The statisticians themselves have been mobilized. The countries have agreed to try to the extent possible to ensure that statistics on education include a breakdown by sex so that a continuous analysis of girls' position can be made.

According to the latest comparable figures available (October 1979), the rate of unemployment in the "under 25" working population was 11%, while the average unemployment for the working population in the Community as a whole was only 5.6%.

A comparison between boys and girls is possible only in six countries of the Community, in view of the statistics available. The following percentages relate to the under-25 working population of the same sex:

Germany:	3% of boys and 5% of girls are unemployed
Denmark:	7% of boys and 12% of girls
France:	12% of boys and 19% of girls
Italy:	17% of boys and 22% of girls
Netherlands:	8% of boys and 10% of girls
U.K.	9% of boys and 10% of girls

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

The custody of children: a painful problem

The question of who has custody of the children is a painful one, especially when the parents are of different nationalities and when antagonism continues after the divorce. A European convention on the recognition and enforcement of decisions on the subject of children's custody has been proposed by the Council of Europe and signed by all the EEC member states except Denmark.

The Convention, which will come into force as soon as it has been ratified by three national parliaments, provides for court recognition of rulings as to the custody of children pronounced in other nations. It promises rapid assistance, free of charge, from the authorities of the signatory states (15 out of the 21 members of the Council of Europe) in finding and returning a kidnapped or detained child. There is to be a "bureau" in each state which will guarantee the return of children "if the taking of a child is manifestly unlawful".

Useful address: Council of Europe
BP 431 R-6
67006 Strasbourg Cedex

2,300 kW an hour

This is what the 84,208,000 households in the European Community consumes on the average every year. This being so, it is not without interest to find out more about what domestic appliances consume. Already electric ovens used in the home are sometimes labelled to show their power consumption. The European Commission has now proposed that this requirement be extended to refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and dish-washers.

Light orange labels measuring 90 x 100 mm will make it possible for customers to compare the makes displayed in shops and will persuade them to opt for less greedy appliances. This in turn might make manufacturers produce more efficient appliances. The more enlightened manufacturers may add further information to the label, such as water consumption and noise levels.

European Unity: a progress report

Under the title of "Steps to European Unity", a chronology of European Community progress from its beginnings to 1979 has been published. An easy-to-read account of the events, great and small, the successes and the failures, in an unprecedented adventure is packed into 67 pages. Obtainable from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in Luxembourg at the price of £1. (Post Box 1003, Luxembourg)

Energy problems

A booklet in the European Documentation series (no. 2/80) on "The European Community and the Energy Problem" has been published. In 52 pages, it gives a detailed account of economic trends in the world and the Community since the beginning of the energy crisis. It also explains the need for a joint energy policy and describes the initial achievements. On sale at the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in Luxembourg (50 p.).

R E S E A R C H A N D M E E T I N G S

The University of Kent in Canterbury has arranged a one year course providing access to an M.A. degree course in Women's Studies in the Faculty of Social Science.

Credit for this project is due to the Women's Studies Committee, whose membership includes representatives of the Faculties of Social and Human Sciences. A compulsory course (theory and development of feminism) is supplemented by two optional courses from an interesting list: women, the state and social policy; women, crime and the legal system; women in Islam; women and the labour market; feminist aesthetics; biology and women; the postulates of feminism; and the social and intellectual origins of feminism.

The Committee for Women's Studies has also offered to supervise university or post-university research and is arranging seminars on different aspects of feminism.

Useful address: Dr. Mary Evans, Women's Studies Committee
 Darwin College, University of Kent
 Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ

The European Academy of Otzenhausen (in the Saar) is holding a seminar on the theme of "development aid policy - a European mission?", in cooperation with the Deutschen Frauenring (German Women's Association). To be held from 10 to 12 October, the international seminar is designed specifically for women; it will be conducted in French and German.

Useful address: Lilian ROUDAY
 Europäische Akademie Ötzenhausen E.V.
 D-6696 Nonweiler-Ötzenhausen/Saar

The Europalia Festival provides an attractive image of the cultural and social life of a European country in Belgium. To mark the 150th anniversary of its independence, this year Belgium will be the country presented in Brussels. As part of the general plans, an exhibition has been arranged from 17 October to 30 November 1980 on the theme of the lives of women from 1830 to 1980. It will provide a picture of the status and condition of Belgian women over the past 150 years.

On the one hand, there will be works of art, pictures and sculptures by the hand of the finest Belgian artists, ranging from Navez to Magritte, from Meunier to Mara; there will be some clothes, furniture and "typically feminine" objects, evoking the climate in which Belgian women lived and evolved.

A selection of documents, photographs and statistics will build up a reconstruction of social relationships, progress, changes and opinions. Mrs. R. Hammacher-van den Brande, artistic advisor to the Banque Bruxelles Lambert, has tried to create a detailed and down-to-earth picture of how woman live, now and in the past.

Useful address: Palais du Comte de Flandre
2, rue de la Régence
1000 Brussels

A.I.J.P.F. (no, the absence of a full stop between the I and the J is not a typist's error but the result of a deliberate decision on the part of the international association of Women's and Home Page Journalists) is to hold its 9th congress in Bruges from 22 to 26 October 1980.

The focus of discussion will be the "three challenges of information": new technology, recognition of the right to information and the responsibility of the media. All three are rapidly changing the business of journalism and the journalist's social role. It is up to them to accept those challenges.

Useful address: A.I.J.P.J.
c/o I.P.C.
Boulevard Charlemagne 1, boîte 54
1040 Brussels

The Fédération Internationale des Femmes des Carrières Juridiques - the international federation of women in legal careers - is to hold its next council meeting in Belgium, where it will be the guest of the Belgian association of women jurists, from 26 to 30 November 1980.

As is the federation's custom, the days will be profitably used to discuss one problem in depth. This time it will be "authority and the enforcement of foreign court judgements on the subject of family law - civil and criminal aspects".

Useful address: Association Belge des Femmes Juristes
Belgische Vereniging van vrouwelijke Juristen
c/o Roland Hacquart
Rue Guimard 19, boîte 1
1040 Brussels

B O O K S

Start again, written and published by the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission is a booklet specially written for women who want to go back to working life or who, due to poor prospects in their own job, want to change the type of work they do. Without claiming to cover all the possibilities, this little book is an invaluable guide to those wishing to make contact with public services and to explore every aspect of the problem. Distributed free of charge by the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission, Lindsay House, Callender Street, Belfast BT1 5DT, Northern Ireland.

Cosa loro ("their thing"), with its sober layout, is a compilation of the moving personal stories presented to the "8th March Tribunal" - a women's mock tribunal in Italy which puts victims in the witness box. "By testifying to their lives, the women who have written to the Tribunal have felt themselves coming alive and have reflected our own stories. It is through our diversity of experience that we have come together and found a new way of communicating, a new method of denouncing what is wrong": these words appear in the preface to the book. Bulzoni, Lit.3,500.

Der Weg der Frau in die Politik (women's path in politics) by Gabriele Strecker and Marlene Lenz has reached its fourth edition, although this time it has been revised and supplemented. Published with the help of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, this book of no more than a hundred pages provides a historical review of women's role in politics. It describes the attention paid to women in the platforms of the German political parties. Marlene Lenz, a member (European People's Party) of European Parliament, has taken a searching look at women's role in the Christian Democrat and Conservative parties of 16 European countries (Published by Verlag Ernst Knoth (postfach 266, D 4520 Melle 1) at DM.5.80.

Simple steps to public life by Pamela Anderson, Mary Stott and Fay Weldon is the sixth of the "manuals" published by Virago. It has been written for all those women who have ever said to themselves "if I had anything to do with it, it wouldn't happen like that". The author takes sector by sector, describing organizations, committees and boards: how these bodies function, how the members are elected, how a "mere woman" can participate and take her place among those who make the decisions.

Many men will read with interest the list of bodies forming part of the democratic life of British society. It would not be a bad thing if every citizen were given a booklet of this kind just before he or she comes of age. It is so clearly written, pleasingly illustrated and packed with practical details and simple explanations.

The book ends with a chapter on Europe and women. Apart from the address of the European Commission, it quotes the addresses of the coordinating bodies in the women's associations in the Community countries, plus this comment: the help and enthusiasm you offer them will not only bring you fresh experience and new friendships but will also give you a unique view of your host country.

Obtainable from: Virago Limited, 5 Wardour Street, London W1V 3HE, at £1.50.

Probleme der Frauenarbeitslosigkeit in der gegenwärtigen Krise (the problem of women's unemployment in the present crisis) by Brigitte Nauhaus is a critical and detailed analysis of the help given to women faced with unemployment in our difficult times. A painstaking researcher, Brigitte Nauhaus has compiled a remarkable set of statistical material. Her book is a useful work of reference for militant groups and for social workers, economists and sociologists. Published by Pahl Rugenstein Verlag, Gottesweg 54, D 5000 Cologne 51. 240 pages, DM.28.

The Royal Commission Report - TEN YEARS LATER is a review whose title is self-explanatory. It has been drawn up by the Canadian advisory council on women's status. Ten years ago, a royal commission of enquiry on the status of women in Canada recommended 122 changes to the Federal plan. "What progress have we made?" is the question raised, for the second time, by Canadian women. In 1974, at the time of the first review, 42 recommendations had been implemented, 37 partly implemented. Today, 43 recommendations are stamped "implemented", 53 "partly implemented". The shameful stamp of "not implemented" must be placed on 24 recommendations. Making a total of 120. The two left over? They are no longer relevant.

In all honesty, the advisory council recognizes that it has been stricter than in the past. Some of the recommendations, for instance, starting with the creation of the advisory committee itself, were recorded as having made progress in 1974. On reflection, however, this assessment had to be revised. Whereas the advisory council should have been directly responsible to Parliament, in fact it comes under a ministry. For this reason, the recommendation has been downgraded from "implemented" to "partly implemented".

Doris Anderson, chairman of the Canadian advisory council, writes in the introduction expressing her hope that the readers will use the information contained in the report to bring pressure to bear on the people who can change things: your member of Parliament, the political leaders and the cabinet ministers.

Published and sold (Can.\$ 1.50) by the Canadian advisory committee on women's status, 151 rue Sparks, C.P. 1541, branch B, Ottawa, Canada K1P 5R5.

WOMEN is the third volume of the Directory of Social Change, a handbook for people who want to take an active role in their own lives. Wendy Collins, Ellen Friedman and Agnes Pivot, the authors, say in the introduction that any social changes not involving a change in women's status would be futile and would be bound to fail in the long run.. Progress is not real if it leaves half of humankind behind.

Like the other volumes in the series, Women describes both the problems and the solutions arrived at by individuals and associations. It gives names, addresses, ideas, examples, successes and failures, so that anyone can find her own way to a solution and participate without fear. At £3.95, remarkably good value for money.

Incidentally, we have jotted down the addresses of four feminist bookshops which would be willing to send your purchases by mail: Feminist Books, Post Box HP5, Leeds 6; Grass Roots Community Bookshop, 109 Oxford Street, Manchester; Compendium Books, 240 Campden High Street, London NW1; and Corner Bookshop, 1652 Woodhouse Land, Leeds 2.

Women and Politics is a quarterly journal whose ambition it is to take a closer look at women's attitudes towards politics. What are the factors facilitating, discouraging or influencing women's participation in political life? How can women guide policies? The journal, whose first issue has now been published, welcomes contributions from research workers interested in the issues. For more information, write to Sarah Schramm, Women and Politics, 1256 Beechwood Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206, U.S.A.

Hausfrauenlohn oder Recht auf Arbeit? (a housewife's wage or the right to work?), by Inge Pauls, tries to bring a little order to the lively debate raging in both feminist groups and workers' organizations. What are the meanings of the words "work", "productivity", "wages"? What contribution can the debate made to the overall strategy conducted to achieve female emancipation? Inge Pauls notes that the question is by no means new: it was being discussed in middle class women's associations early in the century. Published by Pahl-Rugenstein Verlag, Gottesweg 54, D 5000 Cologne 51. DM.18 (141 pp.).

La mia coscienza di donna in un grande movimento organizzato per cambiare la nostra vita(my self-awareness as a woman in a great organized movement designed to change our lives) is the title chosen for the published proceedings of the 10th congress of the Unione Donne Italiane (Italian Women's Union). The document is a true reflection of one of the movement's aims: to keep its feet firmly planted in the ground. More than ever, it is determined to be an "association of women, not for women". Distributed by the Unione Donne Italiane, via Colonna Antonina 41, Rome.

Actions de formation en faveur de l'emploi et de la promotion professionnelle des femmes is a report on research carried out in all the Community countries on training projects with a view to the employment and vocational advancement of women. The research was conducted on behalf of CEDEFOP, the European centre for the development of vocational training.

CEDEFOP's terms of reference are to assist the Commission of the European Communities in promoting vocational training and adult education. Its work in the field of information and documentation, science and research has been based on the objective of evolving a common European policy for vocational training. At the same time, the centre serves as a permanent focal point for the pooling and exchange of ideas and experience among all the experts and institutions within EEC member states concerned with vocational training matters.

In accordance with those terms of reference, CEDEFOP has produced a survey conducted in the nine countries on vocational training measures designed with women in mind and that have innovatory aspects. The reports also review the experiments described against the general background of national vocational training systems.

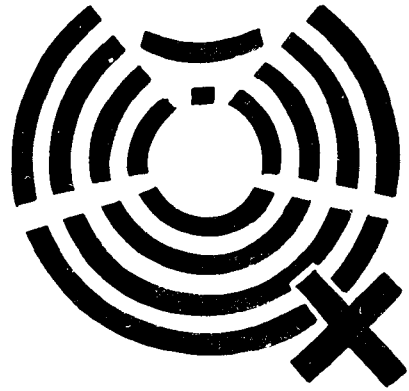
In addition to the detailed information with which the reports are crammed, they furnish invaluable guidance on the policies to be followed. In Belgium, for example, it is reported that training programmes often depend on the short term economic situation and the labour market in the region. Enquiries do not usually come from women themselves but from employers or those concerned with placing other people in jobs. Women do not seem to have much faith in schemes for training them for men's jobs. Yet once the facilities are provided for training women for work traditionally done by men, the experiments are generally looked on as a success by all the parties concerned. CEDEFOP, 22 Bundesallee, D-1000 Berlin 15.

A FEW LOGOS THAT HAVE CAUGHT OUR EYE . . . AND OUR FANCY



(Women's Centre in Brussels)

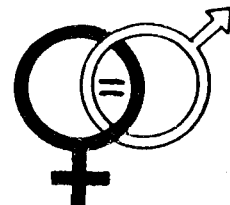
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representing women in
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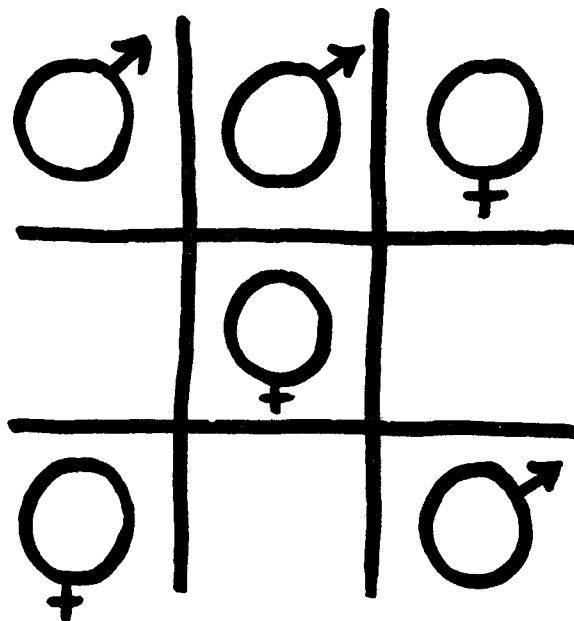
(Women's Ecology Movement)



(seen in the magazine "Porte Ouverte")

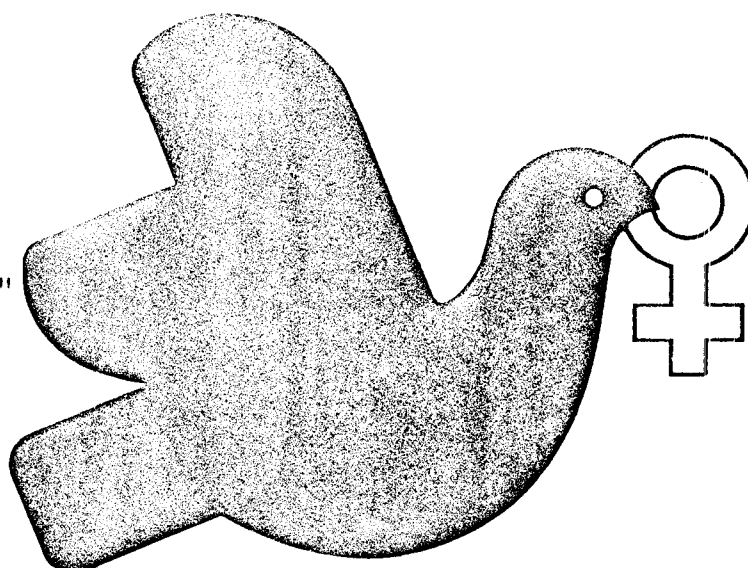


(on the cover page of the booklet "Spelregels" - the rules of the game - referring to the place of women in government advisory bodies in the Netherlands)



(from "Wages for Housework", published in Bristol)

(symbol of "Kvinder for Fred" - Women for Peace - in Copenhagen)



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