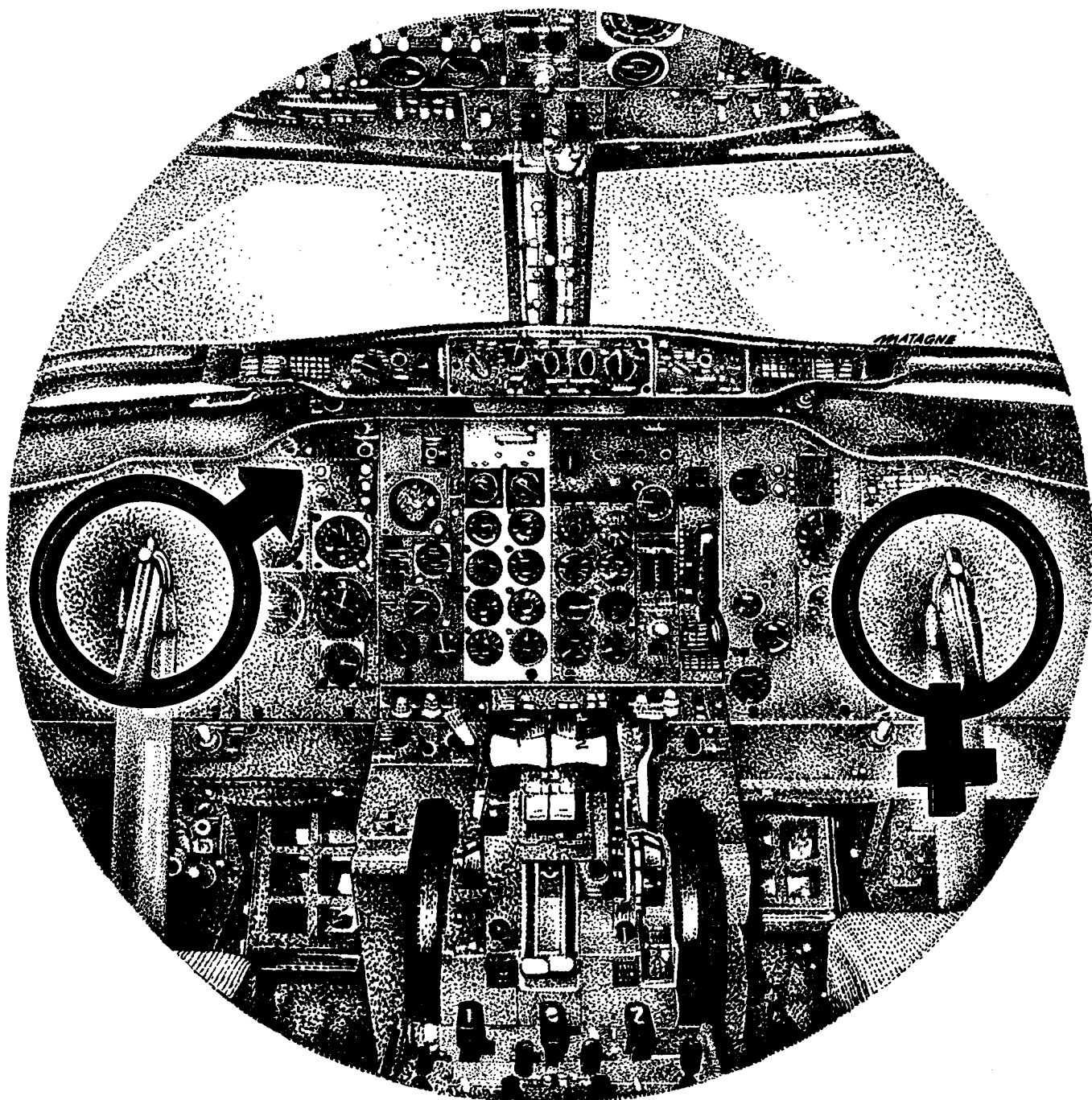


# Women of Europe

Brussels, May/June/July 1981 - no. 21



216/X/81-EN

This bulletin is published by the

**COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

Directorate-General Information

Information for Womens' organisations and press

Rue de la Loi 200

B-1049 - Brussels - Tel. 736 60 00



**IN THIS ISSUE**

The changing European Community	3
Court of Justice of The European Communities	10
European Parliament	11
Facts, Institutions and Laws	21
Children, children....	46
Militant Activities	47
Research, Meetings and Books	70

Note to our readers

If you change your address, please send us back the label on the paper wrapper in which Women of Europe is posted to you. It has your special reference and we need it when recording your new address. Thank you!

**Our correspondents in the Community**

Belgium	Nanette Nannan, 33 Rue E. Bouillot, Boite 9, 1060 Brussels
Denmark	Danske Kvinders Nationalraad, N. Hemmingsensgade 8, 1153 Copenhagen
France	Jeanne Chaton, 43 Avenue Ernest Reyer, 75014 Paris
Germany	Christa Randzio-Plath, Hadermanns Weg 23, 2 Hamburg 61
Ireland	Janet Martin, 2 Claremont Close, Glasvenin, Dublin 11
Italy	Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, 47 Via Borgognona, 00187 Rome
Luxembourg	Alix Wagner, 58-60 Rue de Hollerich, Luxembourg
Netherlands	Marjolijn Uitzinger, Fivelingo 207, Zoetermeer
United Kingdom	(interim) Melanie Davies, 6 Elia St., London N1
European Parliament	Lidya Gazzo, 17 Avenue de Tourville, 75007 Paris
Editor:	<b>Fausta Deshormes</b> , 200 Rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels

**THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

Education and Employment

Early in June, there was a special meeting of the European Community ministers of finance, economy and social affairs. It was the very first time that the people who, as a body, have the highest responsibility for combating unemployment have met.

Their purpose in meeting was to embark upon a consistent, agreed course of action in fields which often make conflicting demands. Following the same line of reasoning, soon afterwards a meeting of the Council of Education Ministers was held to discuss policies on education and training against the background of the employment situation in the Community.

The theme chosen for the meeting was designed to reassure some of the EEC partners - in particular the Danes - who feel that there is no call for the European Community to discuss a common educational policy, since the purpose of education is not economic.

The ministers pooled their views in an open and positive manner, acknowledging the importance of education in helping young people to cope with the difficult employment situation. The European Community has already introduced pilot schemes to smoothe the passage of young people from school to the world of work.

The links between education and employment have been recognized by the European Commission, as shown by its departmental structure: since the start of 1981, departments responsible for educational matters have come under the Directorate General of Social Affairs, with a director whose sphere of competence also includes vocational training.

Among the decisions taken, with special reference to the recognition of diplomas and periods of study, it was agreed that EURYDICE (the European education information system, which came into operation in 1980) could be used, via national authorities, by students, parents, teachers and prospective employers, so that carefully checked information on academic qualifications could be compiled and distributed.

Women: 300 pages of figures

The spotlight has been turned on the 138 million women who live in the European Community. A weighty document has been published by the European Community Statistical Office, better known as EUROSTAT. Under the title of the "Economic and social position of women in the Community", its 300 pages contain densely packed facts and figures on European women: what they do, how they have been trained, what their aspirations are, how mobile they are geographically and in terms of employment, etc.

From this searching investigation into European women, let us take up three points: the age at which they marry, what work married women do and the means of transport they use to get themselves to work.

In every country of Europe of the Ten with the exception of Denmark, girls are marrying younger and younger. The average age at which a ring is slipped on a girl's finger is 22 and a bit, whereas in 1960 she would have waited to the age of 23, 24 or even 25 before taking the big step. Only Danish girls have moved in the other direction. Today they tend to marry at 24, compared with 22.9 in 1960. At the same time, the gap between the ages of husbands and wives is narrowing in every European country except Germany. On the average, newly-wed husbands are 2 years and a few months older than their brides.

To take the second point, the percentage of married women with a job: Denmark is once again out of step with the rest of the Community. It is the only country in which a majority (52.7%) of married women is numbered as part of the working population, i.e. has a job (48.8%) or is temporarily unemployed (3.9%). The proportion of working women in other EEC member states varies greatly, ranging from 14.2% in Ireland and 17.8% in the Netherlands to 44.3% in France and as much as 48.1% in the United Kingdom. In the Community as a whole (not including Greece), the proportion stood at 36.8% in 1977. Nevertheless, of the 63.2% of married women not counted as part of the working population, about 3% have part-time jobs and 4% do temporary work.

The third point may be less of a vital issue but it is interesting all the same. It seems that many European women walk to work (25.5%, compared with only 13.3% of men) or use public transport (about 30%, compared with 17% of men). On the other hand, only 30.5% go by car, whereas 51.6% of male workers take the wheel every morning.

The document can be obtained from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities at a price of B.Fr.600.

Useful address: Office for Official Publications of the  
European Communities  
Boîte Postale 1003  
Luxembourg

#### Second consumer programme

The second EEC consumer protection and information programme has now been adopted. It will be remembered that the preliminary programme that came into being in 1975 placed special emphasis on the five "fundamental consumer rights": the right to protection of his health and safety; the right to protection of his economic interests; the right to recover damages; the right to information and education; and the right to representation.

Under the second programme, the main guidelines are:

more emphasis on prices and the quality of goods and services offered to consumers;

consumer participation in the reaching and implementing of major economic decisions that affect consumers as users or purchasers. The Community hopes to promote two-way traffic and consultation between consumer representatives and the representatives of those who manufacture and distribute goods or provide services in the public and private sectors;

special agreements giving consumers additional guarantees as to good trading practice. On an experimental basis, the second programme suggests agreements between the parties involved in different fields of after-sales service and on the subject of professional ethics.

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

#### The place of women in institutions

At the meeting of the EEC ministers devoted to social affairs, the ministers tackled the question of equality of status between men and women. It expressed the hope that men and women would be encouraged to achieve a fairer share of responsibility at every level, especially in the Community bodies themselves.

#### A European passport

A standard European passport should be issued by 1 January 1985 at the latest. This is the undertaking into which the European Community member states has entered.

Claret-coloured, the cover of the passport will bear the words "European Community" in all the official EEC languages, as well as the name and symbol of the country issuing the passport.

Inside the passport, the particulars on its holder will be in the official language or languages of the country by which it is issued, as well as in English and French.

The standard European passport is just the first step towards the creation of a "passport union", a subject on which the European Commission will be making proposals in the near future.

### Vocational training

CEDEFOP, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, has embarked on a scheme of evaluating experiments conducted in EEC countries in ways of diversifying women's employment by more suitable vocational training.

Known as "innovatory training projects", these pilot schemes have had their successes and their failures, but whatever the outcome there are many lessons to be learned.

In a recent report, CEDEFOP pointed out the side effects of in-company training. First of all, this type of training makes for closer links between management and workers. Women become aware of their rights and are more involved in their company's business. It is a starting point for commitment to social negotiation and participation in the decision-making process. In addition, training helps women to develop in other ways: it helps them to acquire self-assurance and a feeling of independence, it gives them the desire to find out more and to be better trained.

On its side, management learns to pay more attention to the special nature of its staff and to devise ways of operating and organizing work that may represent a departure from its previous practice but is often just as effective and as profitable.

Among the difficulties reported by CEDEFOP is the fact that "feminizing" a job implies far more than just replacing a man by a woman. Job organization, training and methods of operation - all these have to be integrated and sometimes completely redesigned. Another difficulty is identification with male or female roles. Girls who opt for a traditionally male job sometimes encounter a lack of understanding in their families and in their community. Their personalities may be affected by the open or underlying conflict. In a pilot scheme conducted and monitored on scientific lines in West Germany, despite psycho-social support 30% of the girl trainees were unable to cope with this identity crisis and failed to complete the training course.

Useful address:   CEDEFOP  
                  22 Bundesallee  
                  1000 Berlin 15

### Research grants

The European Commission has offered 21 research scholarships to young teachers, professors and university research workers studying European integration. Its jury considered 210 applications from 29 countries.

One of the successful applicants is a woman: Christiane Gilon, a research worker at the Paris college of advanced social science studies. Her project is entitled "a movement potentially promoting the European idea: the women's movement".

Women and development

At a meeting of the ministers for development cooperation, Mr. de Koning from the Netherlands stressed the vital role of women in ensuring the success of any development cooperation policy. On this subject, reference was made to the resolution passed by European Parliament in its debate on the position of women in Europe.

The Council of Ministers asked the European Commission and any member states wishing to do so to compile information and marshal their thoughts with a view to a forthcoming debate on this issue.

No doubt, back in their own countries, the ministers will read with interest the comments they will undoubtedly be receiving from women's groups.

Equality of opportunity

Since December 1980, the European Commission has arranged several meetings of a standing liaison group on equal opportunities, in pursuance of the resolutions passed by the Manchester Conference in May 1980. This group consists of representatives from national employment and/or equality committees or similar bodies. The membership of these national committees varies somewhat in different countries. In almost every case, both sides of industry are represented, and in some instances women's associations are also members. In this spirit, the European Commission has extended invitations to the meetings of the liaison group to observers from the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the EEC (COPA) and the Union of Industries of the European Community (UNICE).

The standing liaison group on equal opportunities is preparing suggestions for the European Commission on the practical implementation of the resolution passed by European Parliament following the debate on women's position in the Community.

After an initial period, the Commission plans to take a formal decision on the status of an equal opportunity committee at EEC level. Will women's groups have access to such a committee? When a question was put along these lines by Johanna Maij-Weggen, MEP, the European Commission replied to the effect that direct participation on the part of national women's organizations in such a committee raises major problems of its representativeness, its operation and its effectiveness. It would be greatly facilitated either by better representation of these organizations on national committees or by an attempt on their part to come together in a group at EEC level.

Schools - learning to eat better

The European Commission has brought out a report commissioned from Dr Reginster-Haneuse of the University of Liege on nutrition education in the school in European Community countries.

A comparative analysis of nutrition education programmes in EEC schools shows that the specific subject does not form part of the school curriculum in most countries; in many cases, organizations such as the Red Cross publicize information that helps to modify habits.

Dr Reginster-Haneuse points out that there is general consensus on what "good eating" means: adjusting the intake of food to the level at which a theoretical weight is maintained; reducing the consumption of fats, especially saturated (not more than 25% to 35% of the total daily energy intake should be in the form of fats, and the breakdown should be one third saturated, one third monounsaturated, and one third polyunsaturated fatty acids); the diet should contain less refined sugar; the amount of animal protein in the diet should be reduced to 10% or 15% of the daily energy intake; alcohol consumption should be lower; the amount of complex carbohydrates and "roughage", i.e. cereals, vegetables and fruit, should be increased.

Every country has its own traditions, tastes, qualities and defects in the matter of food and it would be unrealistic to propose a "common policy". Dr Reginster-Haneuse is more down-to-earth in suggesting a "tree" of common educational objectives, with each country pruning and shaping the tree as it thinks appropriate.

The "large branches of the tree", in other words the general aims, are as follows:

- get to know the nutritional features of foodstuffs;
- find out your personal nutritional needs;
- work out a daily "food ration"
- divide that daily ration into several meals
- understand the workings of the digestive system and adjust your eating habits accordingly;
- make sure that you include certain nutritional ingredients in your diet;
- be careful to eat food that is rich in mineral salts;
- check on your intake of vitamins from your diet;
- know how to buy food;
- know how to prepare meals;
- enjoy your meals in a relaxed atmosphere.

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



Women and the European Social Fund

In 1980, the third year in which the European Social Fund has been taking action specifically in favour of women, the volume of applications amounted to 71 million ECUs (1 ECU = approximately \$1), compared with 31 million in 1979. This means that the applications are three and a half times greater than the amount of money available (21 million).

The European Commission says it is concerned with the unequal distribution of applications from member states. West Germany alone accounted for 60% of the applications, and only in France and Italy was there also a reasonable number of major projects. The logical consequences were that two thirds of the funds were allocated towards projects submitted in Germany and that France, Italy and Germany took up more than 95% of the total funds available.

In assessing projects, priority was given to those designed to extend the range of jobs accessible to women and promote a greater variety of jobs on the labour market, as well as helping to integrate women in new types of employment, including those in which women are under-represented. Despite the economic situation, it was noted that there was a considerable increase in the number of programmes of this type - their value rose from 0.5 million ECUs in 1978 to 6.6 million in 1979 and 14 million in 1980, an increase that is likely to continue in 1981.

One example is a scheme brought into being with the help of the Stuttgart training centre, under which women were trained as joiners. The organizers managed to overcome initial resistance to giving work to women joiners, and they are no longer looked on as oddities by local employers. The centre is now conducting an identical pilot scheme to provide training in car maintenance and repairs.

It is estimated that about 11,300 women benefited from projects subsidized by the European Social Fund in 1980. About two thirds of them were trained for work in sectors in which too few women are employed.

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

Relations between Portugal and the European Community

Strasbourg was the venue for the first meeting of the joint committee of representatives from European Parliament and the Portuguese national assembly. The discussions were chaired jointly by Ann Clwyd (Labour) and Ms Roseta (Social Democrat Party), the chairman of the Portuguese delegation.

-----  
**COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**  
-----

Part-time employment

A recent decision of the Court of Justice of the European Communities may result in fatter pay packets for over three and a half million women who have part-time jobs in Great Britain.

The case was brought before the Court by Mrs Jenkins, with the backing of the Equal Opportunities Commission. As a part-time worker, she had been receiving 10p. an hour less than her male counterparts working full time and she felt that she was the victim of discrimination on the grounds of sex. The industrial tribunal to which the case was first referred found for the employer, who explained the difference in wages by saying it was due to material factors. An appeal court referred the matter to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for its view on whether article 119 of the Treaty of Rome was applicable.

The Court of Justice stated that there might be objective reasons why the hourly wage paid for part-time work should be lower than that paid for full-time work. Nevertheless, it pointed out that if the wage rate depends on the sex of the person working, this would constitute discrimination.

This opinion introduces the concept of "indirect discrimination" in the interpretation of British law on equal pay. Industrial tribunals dealing with similar cases will have to look at the facts of the case, including the background to the difference in wages between full-time and part-time work.

Useful address: Court of Justice of the European Communities  
Kirchberg European Centre  
Luxembourg

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The May session of European Parliament was devoted mainly to industrial problems: industrial cooperation, competition, Japanese car imports, the steel industry, etc.

**Norvela Forster**, spokesman for the European Conservatives, in the debate on industrial cooperation, called for an "industry" sub-committee of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. On the problems faced by the steel industry, she urged the abolition of direct and indirect aid and a return to a system of voluntary self-regulation by European producers. **Antoinette Spaak** (FDF, Belgium) hoped that the member states would stop shifting the blame for the steel crisis from one to another.

In a debate on the development of new microchip techniques, the French Communist, **Sylvie Le Roux**, stressed that the new technologies should be used in the interests of all workers: in many cases their introduction increases the risk of redundancy. **Heinke Salisch** (SPD, Germany), for her part, hoped that they would lead to shorter working hours.

Speaking for EEC action in transport infrastructure, the German Liberal, **Mechtild von Alemann**, raised the problem of financing investment in this domain. European funding is desirable and a trans-national pattern of investment should be evolved. **Shelagh Roberts** (UK, Conservative) stressed the major role of ports and airports in the European context.

In discussing the possibility of a nuclear moratorium (which it finally rejected), European Parliament tackled a far more political issue. **Hanna Walz** (CDU, Germany), chairman of the Committee on Energy and Research, reminded the chamber of some of the results that had been achieved by efforts to conserve energy. She thought it would be impossible to do without nuclear power and said that less dramatic emphasis should be placed on the Harrisburg accident, as communities should not be made unnecessarily afraid of nuclear energy. **Henriette Poirier** (Communist, France) also felt that safety in nuclear power stations is very good in general and that giving up nuclear energy would mean being dependent on foreign multinational companies. **Phili Viehoff**, Dutch Socialist, the originator of many amendments that were rejected by Parliament, spoke in favour of a moratorium, reminding her hearers of the incidents (in the Hague and Japan) that have occurred since the Harrisburg accident; a moratorium, she said, is vital for both ecological and economic reasons.

Parliament asked the European Commission to withdraw its proposed directive on the harmonization of excise duty on cigarettes. In the debate that preceded its conclusion, two of its members expressed their hostility to the text: **Barbara Castle** (Labour, UK) and **Henriette Poirier**, who regretted the marked fall in the use of EEC-grown tobacco.

Women against the mafia

During a visit to Sicily, Simone Weil - the President of European Parliament - met women in mourning due to the acts of the mafia. It will be recalled that a delegation had come from the south of Italy at the time of the parliamentary debate on the position of women in the Community, to draw Parliament's attention to the mafia's crimes.

In Taormina, Simone Weil met representatives of all political parties as well as the widow of Judge Costa, who had been murdered by the mafia, and Sicilian delegates from Associazione Nazionale Donne Elettrici (the national association of women voters).

Beatrice Rangoni-Macchiavelli, vice chairman of the Italian Council of the European Movement, who was at the meeting, stressed how important it is for Parliament to be concerned with the struggle against the mafia. The criminal acts of this secret society disrupt the life of the community by perpetuating a state of violence in which women are the chief victims.

Simone Weil declared that she was profoundly aware of the drama of the situation and confirmed that the matter would be referred to European Parliament's Political Committee.

Parliament, however, did not concern itself only with economic issues. Two days after the death of the IRA militant, Bobby Sands, it discussed the situation in Ulster and the problem of terrorism. As was only natural, many Irish MEPs raised their voices in the debate, including **Sile De Valera** (Fianna Fail in Ireland, a member of the DEP in Europe). Having visited Bobby Sands for over an hour in the previous few weeks, she said he was seeking no more than an improvement in his own and his comrades' prison conditions. **Luciana Castellina** (PDUP, Italy) attacked the attitude of the British Government, whereas **Baroness Elles** defended her Government, which she said had demonstrated a degree of flexibility. She reminded Parliament that neither the papal emissaries nor representatives of the Commission on Human Rights had managed to persuade Bobby Sands to change his mind.

European Parliament went on to discuss cultural problems, reviewing the work of the European University Institute in Florence in the four years since it had been set up. **Marie-Jane Pruvot** (Liberal, France) reminded Parliament of the importance of policy on culture; it is a primary duty of MEPs, she said, to perpetuate culture, as it is one of the surest ways of forging a true European identity.

The Italian Christian Democrat, **Paola Gaiotti de Biase**, spoke of the contradiction underlying the Institute: on the one hand, it is over-ambitious in aspiring to be a "total university", on the other it is over-courageous, as its Community nature has not yet been recognized. This contradiction is likely to be resolved as the Institute finds its own vocation, that of a centre essentially devoted to research. In common with other MEPs speaking in the debate, she expressed satisfaction that the Institute was to receive the archives of the European Commission. She hoped it would also be given the archives of Parliament, the Court of Justice and other European bodies.

Virtually the only member to express reservations on the way in which the Institute operates was the British Socialist, **Janey Buchan**: she would have liked more information to be available on what it offers, easier access to the Institute and more details of how much it costs.

#### Europe and Women

An audio-visual package entitled "Europe and women" has been produced by "Information for Women's Organizations and Press" in cooperation with the Information Office for the European Communities in Paris.

The package, consisting of 48 slides and a nine-minute cassette, gives a general picture of Europe and its daily life, its influence on the lives of women and their prospects for contributing towards the building of a European community.

Written material is also provided, as it will be helpful in preparing for and enlivening a discussion: a bibliography, useful addresses, facts and figures and a few helpful tips on projecting the slides.

Useful address: European Commission  
Information for Women's Organizations and Press  
200 Rue de la Loi  
1049 Brussels

European Communities Information Office  
61 Rue des Belles-Feuilles  
75782 Paris Cedex 16

One of the outstanding events of the June plenary session of European Parliament was a major debate on the reform of the common agricultural policy. **Barbara Castle**, acting as the spokesman for the Socialist group (even though that group was split when it came to the vote), tabled an amendment - rejected by the assembly - which would have replaced the rapporteur's text with an entirely new version. Her view was that the proposals set out in the report did no more than tinker with the problems. They did not go far enough; they did not call for profound rethinking of the common agricultural policy or its social implications. In essence, Barbara Castle called for strict control over spending and agricultural surpluses and the introduction of direct aid for farmers which would give them an adequate level of earnings without pushing up prices.

The spokesman for the Italian Communists, **Carla Barbarella**, also urged a radical overhaul of the common agricultural policy through expansion in every sector of farming. This should be achieved by doing away with the anarchy of production and imbalance between regions, as part of a multi-annual budget. She felt that any reform should include a redefinition of price policy and the introduction of structural measures which would form part of genuine territorial efforts.

Speaking for the French Communists, **Silvie Le Roux** took up the cudgels on behalf of the farmers and argued forcefully against any limitation of farming output. She called for both an export policy and wider protection against certain imports.

The Nobel Prizewinners' "Appeal/Manifesto"

An appeal launched by 53 Nobel Prizewinners for the survival of those about to be wiped out by hunger, malnutrition and underdevelopment has received the active support of many Members of European Parliament. Among those who signed the appeal were Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams, winners of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976 for their non-violent efforts for civil peace in Northern Ireland.

The appeal is addressed "to all men and women of good will, to the powerful and the humble, each with his or her own responsibilities, so that life can be restored to the tens of millions of human being tormented by hunger and underdevelopment, the victims of the international political and economic disruption that reigns today".

**Marie-Claude Vayssade**, French Socialist, has presented her report on the abolition of the death penalty. Her abolitionist views appeared to be shared by Parliament on the whole. She believed that the arguments advanced in favour of capital punishment are not convincing, especially the contention that it has a deterrent effect. Furthermore, the death penalty brings the risk of irreparable judicial error.

Reviewing the position in the European Community, the rapporteur divided the member states into countries that are totally abolitionist (Denmark, West Germany and Luxembourg), countries that are abolitionist in the case of common law in time of peace (Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) and countries where people can still be condemned to death (France, Belgium, Greece and Ireland). In the last three of the latter group, there has been no instance of capital punishment for varying periods and in France the law is shortly to be amended.

The Italian Radical, **Maria Antonietta Macciocchi**, spokesman for the views of the Political Affairs Committee, argued strongly along the same lines. She did not believe that the death penalty deters terrorism in countries suffering from that disease. How could capital punishment affect the feelings of insecurity of a citizen, when he suffers so profoundly from the difficulty of upholding the right to the respect for human dignity?

**Winne Ewing**, the Scottish member of the Group of European Progressive Democrats, felt that the possibility of an irreversible judicial mistake is a strong argument against the death penalty. She made the point that in several kinds of murder capital punishment is irrelevant as a deterrent, as in the case of crimes of passion. The death penalty is a form of legal homicide by the state; it degrades those who ask for it, who decide on it or who carry it out as well as the society that accepts it.

**Simone Martin** (Liberal, France) presented her report for the Regional Policy Committee on the situation in Northern Ireland and the possibility of providing help under regional policy. This area, where industrial decline has led to growing unemployment aggravated by one of the highest birth rates in Europe, needs more help. Simone Martin regretted that regional aid from the European Community to Northern Ireland should often have been retained by the British Government to offset its spending on the area, whereas it should have been in addition to that expenditure. The specific measures she suggested included modernization of housing and the residential environment, encouragement for new industry by tax concessions and the development of tourism.

#### Parliamentary Presidents

Early in July, on the invitation of Simone Veil, the presidents of the Parliaments of EEC member states and of European Parliament met in Luxembourg. Three women were there: Leonilde Iotti, the president of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Lady White, the first vice chairman and chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Lords, and Simone Veil, the president of European Parliament.

Although the president of European Parliament is present at many parliamentary sessions, she does not often have a chance to express her views to her colleagues. **Simone Veil** took advantage of the opportunity afforded by the second anniversary of the Parliament she chairs to do just that. One of the points she made related to the work it had accomplished in this two year period. It had fulfilled the mission with which it had been entrusted by the treaties and had performed in full its duty as an assembly elected by universal suffrage. Simone Veil hit back against "unfair and sterile" criticisms. Although she acknowledged the limitations on Parliament's work, she dismissed those criticisms, too often inspired by a desire to weaken the Community by attacking its democratic institution.

In the present situation, Parliament must react against the feeling of disaffection in public opinion, making progress in its own internal organization in particular. It must create fresh impetus for European unity in every member state and in all institutions. The Council must not ignore appeals from Parliament; on the contrary, it must redouble its contacts. Each of us, said Simone Veil, and each of our governments must give up our over-narrow view of things; this is the way in which Europe can retain what it has achieved so far and make further progress.

#### The social situation in 1980

"Whereas the principle of equal rights for men and women has been established, the fact that a woman is denied a job - if, for example, she would like to have a family and a career, or if she is forced to do so - highlights the injustice of a society generally organized by and for men, and its failure to adapt. A woman is not necessarily considered to be a man's equal even if her training and abilities are the same."

This comment is taken from a view on the evolution of the social situation in the Community in 1980 delivered by the social affairs section of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities.

As a reminder, this Committee consists of representatives from different walks of economic and social life (employers, unions, family associations, farmers, etc.). Although the Committee's views are not binding, it must be consulted on a large number of decisions before they are reached. It may also give its views on its own initiative.



During the July session of European Parliament, the issues at stake were institutional, leading to a vote on a resolution calling for the creation of a standing committee responsible for submitting a draft reform of the treaties before the end of this legislative period. Supported by an overwhelming majority in Parliament, the man who inspired the resolution was Altiero Spinelli.

In the course of the debate, **Paola Gaiotti de Biase** (Christian Democrat, Italy) stated her view that the procedure adopted is unassailable, as Parliament has sovereignty over the way in which it organizes its own work. She acknowledged that the treaties do not supply all the answers to the questions that arise today; moreover, we have already gone further than the treaties, for example in the case of the decision-making process. **Katherina Focke**, a German Socialist, thought that a radical reform and the "policy of taking small steps" advocated by some people may be compatible. She urged those in both camps to show a little more understanding of each other. **Antoinette Spaak** (FDF, Belgium) supported the plan, exclaiming "Mr Spinelli, it would have been unthinkable for the daughter of Paul-Henri Spaak not to be at your side today!". She was convinced that the "future shock" generated by an institution committee will be very salutary.

Other reports were submitted as part of the debate on institutions, in particular one from the British Conservative, **Lady Elles**, on political cooperation, in which she set forth a set of measures that would help European Parliament to be better informed on what is happening in the world of political cooperation (meeting of foreign ministers freely discussing international political problems outside the framework of the treaties). She also suggested that a small permanent secretariat should be brought into being to streamline the process of political cooperation. One of its functions might be to arrange meetings at short notice when a crisis is brewing. The need for machinery of this kind, she said, had been demonstrated by the events in Afghanistan, Poland and Iran. She also expressed the wish (a point that had already been raised by the heads of state and government meeting as part of the European Council in Luxembourg about ten days earlier) that the president of the European Council, in other words a head of state or government, should report to European Parliament on the Council meeting instead of the president of the Council of Ministers, i.e. a foreign minister.

Among the MEPs who spoke in the debate on Lady Elles's report was the French Socialist, **Gisele Charzat**, who was not in favour of over-formalizing political cooperation procedures and who was therefore against a permanent secretariat. She thought it unwise to define a common foreign policy before other EEC policies were nearing finalization; for instance, European social space should first be created. The Belgian Socialist, **Anne-Marie Lizin**, differed from her Belgian colleague by speaking in favour of a permanent secretariat (which she hoped would be located in Brussels). She also thought that security problems should be discussed as part of the issue of political cooperation.

A commission of enquiry

More than 110 members of different political groups in European Parliament have called for the creation of a **commission of enquiry on discrimination against women in the Community**. In a resolution tabled by Anne-Marie Lizin, Marie-Claude Vayssade, Antoinette Spaak, Vera Squarzialupi, Maria Antonietta Macciocchi, Mechtild von Alemann and others, it was suggested that a commission of this kind should take over from the **ad hoc committee on women's rights**, which completed its mission in February 1981.

The commission of enquiry should be asked to keep a watching brief on the implementation of the measures set out in the resolution for which European Parliament voted in February. The Bureau of Parliament should make its proposals on the membership of the commission, which should present its report within a year at most.

**Fabrizia Baduel-Glorioso** (Communist Group, Italy) presented a report on relations between European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, which she had chaired.

Reminding her hearers that Simone Veil, the President of European Parliament, had looked for improved cooperation between the two institutions, the rapporteur stressed the value of the committee in that it provides a forum for representatives of workers, employers and "sundry interests", giving them a better insight into the views of other sectors of society. Her report set out specific proposals on ways in which each body could be kept better informed and could cooperate more effectively.

European Parliament voted for a resolution on the controversial subject of its "workplace" (the national governments are responsible for deciding on the seat of all EEC institutions, including Parliament, but the latter sees it as only reasonable that it should decide where it should sit).

It is a genuine problem, since Parliament holds its plenary meetings in Strasbourg, has its secretariat in Luxembourg and holds most committee and group meetings in Brussels. Despite a substantial minority in favour of concentrating all parliamentary activities in Brussels to make them more politically effective (due to the proximity of other institutions, etc.), Parliament finally opted for a resolution that plenary meetings should be held in Strasbourg and committee and group meetings in Brussels. Luxembourg would gradually be dropped (and would be compensated), as the secretariat would be split between Strasbourg and Brussels.

The Luxembourg MEP, **Marcelle Lentz-Cornette**, spoke out fiercely against this resolution, making the point that the wishes of the officials - i.e. to stay in Luxembourg - should be taken into account. She deplored the fact that the interests of the small countries should take second place if they conflict with those of their more powerful neighbours.

According to **Louise Weiss**, French Gaullist, to tear Parliament away from Strasbourg would be like tearing out the heart of France. She stressed the symbolic role of Stasbourg in Franco-German reconciliation and pointed out that the city had always upheld the cause of freedom.

Her Communist compatriot, **Danielle De March**, thought that the existence of two places of work would not necessarily undermine Parliament's credit provided that its work was properly organized. A staunch opposer of supranationality, she did not want to see all European decision-making centres too close to each other.

#### Pesticides and mother's milk

Twenty or so children aged from six months to two years vigorously supported their mothers when they came to protest to European Parliament against the misuse of pesticides and insecticides, which have now been found even in mother's milk.

**Lieselotte Seibel-Emerling**, the coordinator on questions of environment and health in the Socialist group, condemned the exaggerated use of chemicals in agriculture. The milk of many mothers would be "unfit for consumption" if the Germany law on food products were applied. She called on the European Commission to pay special attention to the short- and long-term harm to the human organism caused by the combination of different noxious substances. asking it to propose an EEC directive on the issue as soon as possible.

#### On the committees

Simone Veil has sent a letter of reminder to the committees concerned asking them to include an item in their agendas on the outcome of the resolution passed by European Parliament on women's status.

"Women of Europe" to be computerized?

**Anne-Marie Lizin** (Socialist, Belgium) has asked the European Commission whether it agrees that it would be very useful to computerize the information contained in "Women of Europe".

In its reply, the Commission says that it has taken due note of the Honourable Member's suggestion, but lack of funds means that the issue cannot be included as a priority in the field of data compilation.

The Socialist Group

EUSO - a portmanteau word derived from "Europe" and "Socialism" - is the title of a magazine brought out by the Socialist group in European Parliament. Issue 2/1981 comes under the banner headline of "European Parliament and Women's Rights", and is devoted entirely to this theme.

Several women MEPs use its columns to discuss the problem of abortion, pointing to the diversity of legislation in the ten EEC member states.

Useful address: EUSO  
Raymonde Dury  
97/113 Rue Belliard  
1040 Brussels

Europe - new hope for women

The journal of the European People's Party, "DC Europe", has given up the centre pages of its second issue in 1981 to the subject of women in Europe to mark European Parliament's debate on the status of women in the Community.

The Christian Democrat parliamentary group is not entirely satisfied with the resolution passed at the end of the debate: it would like to launch a debate on "family policy in the European Community". **Maria Luisa Cassamagnago**, vice-chairman of the EPP, has been asked to draw up a report on the matter.

Useful address: Group of the European People's Party  
in European Parliament  
97/113 Rue Belliard  
1040 Brussels

**FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS**

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

World Health Organization

The 34th meeting of the World Health Organization was chaired by a woman, Dr Meropi Violaki-Paraskeva. Trained as a micro-biologist, she is Greek and an adviser to her Ministry of Social Services where she fills the position of Director General of Health.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr. Meropi Violaki-Paraskeva stressed the importance of health education. "This long-term effort is not always viewed very favourably by governments as it costs money without an immediate return. Nevertheless, it is a good investment.

Useful address: WHO  
Geneva, Switzerland

United Nations

The Economic Commission for Europe is a United Nations body concerned with the countries of continental Europe, including the Soviet Union, as well as with Canada and the United States. A major publication on the economic role of women has been published by the Commission, providing material for statistical comparisons between thirty or so countries on the subjects of occupations, pay, educational methods, etc. Price US \$10.

Useful address: United Nations  
Sales Department  
New York or Geneva

Educate the mother, save the child

According to recent research by UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund), infant mortality declines as the level of education of mothers is raised.

This is particularly true of developing nations where the relationship between the two factors is very discernible: teaching mothers about health and nutrition is a vital factor in any plan to help a country's population.

Better informed women

Access to information and communications plays an important part in the development of a woman's ability to participate and reach her own decisions in every field. To promote better information for women, UNESCO is trying to arrange for the systematic circulation of information, especially in the direction of developing nations. Compiling articles and translations and distributing them to regional agencies and the press, UNESCO has embarked on an ambitious programme. Four regional coordinators work on the programme in close cooperation with Yvette Abrahamson and Margaret Gallagher in UNESCO's Population Division.

Useful address: UNESCO  
Population Division  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris

A file on Europe

In the "European Dossiers" series, the European Commission has brought out two booklets dealing with topical themes in a brief but very readable way: "Energy, objective for 1990: what point have we reached?" and "Development and reducing working hours in the Community".

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

**B E L G I U M**

Making the law better

The Ministerial Committee for the Status of Women has decided that the expression "head of the family" will no longer be used in official documents. It harks back to what is seen as a structure of authority between husband and wife that is outmoded both in law and in practice.

Decisions along the same lines have been taken in other domains. Tax reimbursements, for instance, will no longer be made to the husband alone. From now on, husband and wife will be allowed to choose, or the repayment cheque will be made out in their joint names.

Another decision is that when advisory bodies are being set up or their terms of reference reviewed by the ministries, no more than two thirds of their members may be male (or, to be fair, female).

Another minor but highly symbolical point: at present, transport workers are given free rail tickets, but a male worker will be given an extra ticket for his wife while a female worker receives no ticket for her husband. This form of discrimination is to be abolished provided that it leads to no extra expenditure.

The Ministerial Committee for the Status of Women has approved the idea of setting up an alimony fund to help divorcees when the ex-spouse is insolvent or refuses to pay the alimony ordered by the court. A working group has been asked to draft a bill along these lines.

Useful address:     Comite Ministériel pour le Statut de la Femme  
                          16 Rue de la Loi  
                          1000 Brussels

#### Boys and girls in education

In September 1979, the Ministry of National Education (French sector) set up a "committee on equal opportunities for boys and girls in education".

The committee has recently expressed its opinions on the education imparted to pre-school age children. In French, the term for nursery school - "ecole maternelle" - implies (as perhaps the English term does too) that only women are qualified to care for young children. The committee would like a less sexist name to be used, for instance "pre-school educational unit".

The commission would like to see the status of pre-school teachers improved in general and, in particular, measures to ensure that both men and women form part of the teaching body. If men were to work with the "tots", children from a far earlier age would have a more balanced view of the tasks that can be performed by men and women.

Useful address:     Ministere de l'Éducation Nationale  
                          26-28 Boulevard de Berlaimont  
                          1000 Brussels

#### Rape and the law

A Social Christian MP, Mr. Remacle, has tabled a bill on rape. The revised definition of rape suggested in the bill is that it is "committed against a non-consenting person". This wording allows for the circumstances in which the victim is a man, and also for the possibility of rape being committed by one partner to a marriage against another.

The bill also forbids any particulars being made public that might reveal the victim's identity.

Useful address:     M. Remacle, Chambre des Représentants  
                          Palais de la Nation, Rue de la Loi  
                          1000 Brussels

Rights of inheritance

By unanimous vote without any abstentions, the Chamber of Deputies has passed a law radically overhauling the succession rights of surviving spouses. The pattern of life expectancy being what it is, this law is of special interest to women.

If a partner to a marriage dies and there are children, the spouse retains the use of the whole estate during his or her lifetime. If there is no child, the surviving spouse has full ownership of property previously owned jointly and enjoyment of all other property. If there are no other heirs, the spouse acquires full ownership of the whole estate.

Two points of interest: a surviving spouse continues to be responsible for providing for the board, lodging and education of the deceased's children by a previous marriage to the extent made feasible by the estate; and in the event of a de facto separation, the surviving spouse may, on certain conditions, be deprived of the inheritance.

Useful address:   Ministère de la Justice  
                  Place Poelaert  
                  1000 Brussels

Abortion and the Courts, Government and Parliament

The parties making up the government majority in Belgium have differing views on the subject of abortion. To avoid conflict, the government has decided to leave the matter up to Parliament, but that body has been slow in making up its mind.

The judiciary, for its part, refuses to prolong the situation as has been done in the Netherlands, in other words to allow a disputed law to remain in the statute books and turn a blind eye to the fact that it is not observed. To make the legislature face up to its responsibilities, the court of Brussels has scheduled about thirty cases at the rate of four or five a month. The first is being heard on 2 September, and the case list for the 21st Criminal Court in Brussels is full on every Wednesday afternoon in September.

Some people feel that the courts are taking doctors hostage to extort legislation. To overcome the dilemma, a suspension of the cases was proposed, but rejected by the parliamentary commission on public health by 12 votes to 11.

Following an example set in Italy, France and Great Britain, many women have made written confessions of breaking the law, hoping that the backlog of cases will bring the legal machinery to a grinding halt.

Useful address:   Coordination Nationale pour la Dépenalisation  
                  de l'Avortement, c/o Monique Geudin  
                  25 Rue A. Giron  
                  1050 Brussels



Where have all the women gone?

"Porte ouverte" - "open door", a group working for economic emancipation of working women, has been reading Belgium's official gazette from cover to cover. Dull reading, it might be thought, for the "Moniteur Belge" prints the text of all new legislation, but the group finds it illuminating.

Royal decree issued on 3 April 1981, for instance, lists the members of the joint (joint in the sense that the two sides of industry are represented) commission on the metallurgical, mechanical and electrical engineering industry. Not a single woman is featured among the statutory and substitute members, even though a sizeable proportion of those working in the industry is female - just one more example of the non-proportional "representation" of women.

Royal decree of 6 March 1981 names the members of the national advisory council on the promotion of employment - not one woman. Nor is there a woman among the delegates representing the workers on the joint committee for the tobacco industry (although there is one woman on the employers' side of the table). How many women on the senior finance council? None!

There is no woman on the joint committee on ferrous metal industry or the joint committee on cleansing and disinfection or the committee on the jute bag industry and trade, and no representative of the unions (but one of the employers) on the ceramics industry committee.

There are no women on the joint committee for insurance agencies and brokerage firms, whereas there are women representatives of the employers but not employees on the committee for subsidized private institutes of education.

Only 3 of the 82 members of the provincial committees for the promotion of employment were women were found (representing employers, workers and private education respectively).

Useful address:     Porte Ouverte  
                      16 Rue Americaine  
                      1050 Brussels

## D E N M A R K

### New advisers on equal rights to work for fairer make access to employment

On 1 May, 14 new advisers on equal rights started work in employment bureaux in different Danish regions, one per region.

Their main task is to back up efforts to bridge the gap between the sexes on the labour market. The main way in which they will do this will be to find employment for the many jobless women and, as part of this work, to initiate schemes to help young unemployed women.

The advisers will be working in the regional bureaux in liaison with the employment departments. Their work will include career guidance and staff training in the employment bureaux to ensure that the people who come in direct contact with the unemployed are able to cope better with the problems linked with differentiation between the sexes, an issue that arises with even greater force when there is unemployment and pressure for jobs.

The advisers will also have the task of implementing specific measures in favour of women unemployed, mainly in the form of incentives to take up non-traditional forms of training and to try to enter fields of employment which have hitherto been a male preserve.

Lotte Valbjørn, a graduate in psychology, who has worked on the Council for Equal Rights in the past, has been asked to direct and coordinate the work of the new advisers. She has declared that, as things now stand, women are under a handicap when competing for vacancies. The advisers' work is vital in helping put women on at least an equal footing with men in every field.

### The law on equal status as it relates to specific and positive measures

In the current crisis, women are a very exposed group and Lotte Valbjørn insists that the law on equal status should be brought into effect immediately. That law provides for "specific and positive measures" to abolish the de facto inequality which, for example, hampers access to employment and vocational training.

The schemes already adopted in the field of employment have not braked the tragic rise in female unemployment and Lotte Valbjørn feels that there are good reasons for giving women extra support and help.

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalraad  
Niels Hemmingsensgade 10  
1153 Copenhagen

"Women of Europe - 1977/1980 index

An index of the information published in the first 18 issues of "Women of Europe", covering 1977 to 1980, has been produced. This long and detailed work is available only in French, in view of the problems of translation and impagination, which vary from language to language. The index is far more than an analysis of "Women of Europe": it is a mirror image of the efforts made by women and their organizations in every field.

Useful address: European Commission  
Information for Women's Organizations and Press  
Directorate General of Information  
200 Rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels

**F R A N C E**

In the new Government

Following the election of Mr. François Mitterand as President of the French Republic, a new government has been formed by Mr. Pierre Mauroy, which includes the following women:

**Nicole Questiaux** - Minister for National Solidarity.

Born in 1930, former student at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, she was the first woman to be appointed Government Commissioner on the Council of State in 1963.

**Yvette Roudy** - Minister attached to the Prime Minister, with special responsibility for Women's Rights.

Born in 1929, since 1965 she has been a member of the Women's Democratic Movement. Elected as a Member of European Parliament in 1979, she chaired its ad hoc committee on women's rights.

**Edith Cresson** - Minister of Agriculture.

Mayor of Thure since 1977 and Member of European Parliament since 1979. Her thesis for her degree in demography was on the life of farmers' and workers' wives in a rural district of France.

**Edvige Avice** - Minister for Youth and Sport.

Born in 1945. A graduate in law, she has been an active member of the Socialist Party and has been elected MP for Paris.

**Catherine Lalumière** - Minister for Consumer Affairs.

Born in 1935. Specialist in public law and administrative science, she was a lecturer at Paris I University.

**Georgine Dufoix** - Secretary of State with responsibility for the Family, attached to the Minister for National Solidarity.

Born in 1943, a graduate in economic science, she is a member of the Nimes town council.

In the President's Cabinet

The new President, Mr. François Mitterand, has chosen four women to be in his special team of aides. **Jeanette Laot**, a senior member of the Secretariat General, was born in 1925. A union militant in the Confederation Française Démocratique du Travail and a member of the Economic and Social Council, Ms Laot is the author of a book entitled "Stratégie pour les Femmes" (published by Stock). **Nathalie Dubamel**, born in 1948, has been Mr. Mitterand's press attaché since 1974. Ms **Dayan** will be concerned with relations with Parliament and Ms **Soudet** will be in the President's personal secretariat.

Parliament: 29 women

The national elections followed hard on the heels of the presidential elections in France. Out of the 491 seats contested, 26 were won by women (5.3%): 19 Socialists, three Communists, three R.P.R. and one U.D.F.

Under the French system, MPs who become members of the Government move up and their seats are taken by their substitutes. This will mean that in the end there will be 29 women in Parliament: 20 Socialist, four Communists, one left-wing Radical, three R.P.R. and one U.D.F.

There were 21 elected women members (4.3%) in the previous assembly.

Women's Rights

Yvette Roudy, Minister for Women's Rights, has outlined her Government's policy for the next few months, when it will be taking its first step towards greater freedom, equality, employment and responsibility for women.

The Council of Ministers has reached the following decisions:

1. At least 60% of the places on training courses and beneficiaries of on-the-job training contracts must be young women. This positive discrimination in favour of girls is justified by the fact that two thirds of the unemployed under 25 are girls.
2. After consultation with the unions and employers, the Government will table a new bill on part-time employment which will give men and women seeking part-time work guarantees not afforded by the 1980 law passed by Parliament.
3. After consultation with the unions and employers, the Government will take the necessary steps to abolish sexist discrimination in the matter of recruitment, wages and careers in the private and public sectors.

4. Two bills will be tabled: one will, if passed, end current discrimination against women in the arts, information and education, while the others will make it possible to take action in the courts against associations discriminating against women or in the case of violence.  
Through local job creation schemes and social employment projects on which the Council of Ministers decided on 10 June 1981, information centres on women's rights will be encouraged.
5. A broad-ranging information campaign on contraception will be brought into being by the Minister for Women's Rights before the end of the year. The necessary facilities and instructions will be given to all hospitals to ensure that in practice they carry out the law on contraception and the voluntary termination of pregnancy in a spirit of understanding and humanity.
6. The Minister of State for the Interior and Decentralization will take the necessary steps before the beginning of 1982 to ensure that police stations have specially trained personnel, preferably female, to receive women victims of violence and those in distress.
7. The Minister for Women's Rights will arrange for a report to be drawn up and published on the position of women in economic, social and political life, and on the legal and practical measures that conflict with the principle of equal rights for men and women.
8. Two research projects are to be carried out on the subject of pensions and alimony: one on the entitlement of women to pensions in their own right and the level of pensions reverting to them after their husbands' death, the other on the problems that are encountered in recovering alimony due.

Yvette Roudy's official terms of reference are "to promote measures that will ensure that women's rights are respected in society, eliminate any form of discrimination against them and increase their guarantees of equality in the political, economic, social and cultural domains....In these domains, especially in matters of employment and health, she will guide and coordinate the steps taken by the authorities with regard to women".

The regional delegates for women's status come under her, and she chairs the joint ministerial committee responsible for action on behalf of women.

Useful address:     Ministère des Droits de la Femme  
                          25 Avenue Charles Floquet  
                          75700 Paris

A woman Prefect

Yvette Chassagne, senior councillor in the Auditor General's Department, has been appointed Prefect of the Department of Loire-et-Cher. Born in 1922, she was a student at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration before working in various ministries with special expertise in economic matters.

In the French administrative system, a prefect is the Government's representative in the geographical department. Several women already hold the position of deputy prefect, but Ms Chassagne is the first woman to have been nominated to this high position.

Committee on Women's Employment

In a recently published report, the "Comité du Travail Féminin" critically reviews the situation under the heading of "law and women's employment". This outstanding piece of research is not just a routine catalogue of legislation. Each law is viewed on its own and in the light of its consistency with others, its relevance to women's position today and its effectiveness in achieving the desired end. In this way, it shows the legal side of political efforts in favour of women, stage by stage - one often conflicting with the others.

On a superficial reading of the laws and regulations, the impression may be gained of an abundance of good faith. The Committee points out that legislation in favour of women sometimes protects the working woman, sometimes the mother and sometimes the housewife. Despite the large volume of legislation, it does not feel that much real progress has been made over the past decade towards the ideal of greater equality for men and women.

The report recommends that the "employment code be divested of all the clutter of clauses by which it is unnecessarily encumbered, those that create the illusion that women enjoy a multiplicity of privileges.

Useful address: Comité du Travail Féminin  
1 Place Fontenoy  
75700 Paris

Chien-Shung Wu, Woman of the Year

The third Saint Vincent International Prize for "La donna dell'anno" has been awarded after consideration of many highly respected candidates. The winner is Ms Chien-Shung Wu, born in China in 1912 and now a naturalized U.S. citizen.

A specialist in experimental physics, she has been teaching at the New York Columbia University for thirty years. A Nobel Prizewinner colleague of hers has said that "she is the queen of nuclear physics". Her research work has covered the use of nuclear physics techniques for the treatment of cell anaemia, paving the way for the medical application of experimental physics.

Ms Chien-Shung Wu's name was put forward by the Soroptimist International movement. That name is also linked with research on "non-conservation of parity", for which her two younger colleagues, Mr Chen Ning Yang and Mr Tsung Dao Lee, won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1957.

Useful address: La Donna dell'Anno  
Centro Culturale Saint Vincent  
11027 Saint Vincent (Aosta)

**G E R M A N Y**

No special law against discrimination

Herbert Ehrenberg, the Federal Minister for Employment, speaking to the DGB women's congress (the DGB is the German union federation), came out against an additional law against discrimination.

In his view the existing legislation is adequate. The struggle against discrimination should begin on the shop floor; union vigilance will produce far more immediate and practical results than any law, which will inevitably fall short of the ideal.

Mr Ehrenberg took the opportunity to announce that work was beginning on drafting a bill to protect workers, both men and women, in their places of work.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung  
Postfach 14 02 80  
5300 Bonn 1

Lower Saxony: a research institute

The regional government of Lower Saxony has decided to set up the "Frau und Gesellschaft" ("woman and society") research institute, which may become operational even before the end of the year.

To lay the foundations for the institute, a committee has been brought into being, chaired by the president of the German Women's Council, Dr Helga Thieme.

Useful address: Dr. Helga Thieme  
Wissenschaftliche Institut "Frau und Gesellschaft"  
Landeskanzlei Niedersachsen  
Hanover

Hesse: a department for women

Since 1 February 1979, the region of Hesse has had a "Zentralstelle für Frauenfragen" (central administrative unit for women's affairs). Anyone with a problem is welcome at its office at 2 Bierstädter Strasse, Wiesbaden.

To explain the work done by this department to the community, a booklet has been brought out by the Land (region) authority entitled "Zentralstelle für Frauenfragen". The booklet strikes a democratic note by not being just a piece of self-advertisement on the part of civil servants. More simply, it sets out the full text of a question put to the regional Parliament, the reply from the regional government and the debate that ensued. Both the flowers and the brickbats are reported indiscriminately.

One practical idea: the booklet ends with a page of questions to its readers, both male and female. Do you know of a case of discrimination against women? Can you quote a practical instance? Would you like information on specific subjects?

Useful address: Zentralstelle für Frauenfragen  
Bierstädter Strasse 2  
6200 Wiesbaden



### Telecommunications

The Federal Minister for Postal Services has urged more women to take training courses in the field of telecommunications. No more than 2% of apprentices in the Post Office engineering departments are women.

A recent report has provided a partial explanation for this finding: the Post Office is as much a hotbed of sexist prejudice as anywhere else in the country. Several women who have had specialist training in this field have complained of minor hassle from their male colleagues.

Useful address: Bundespostministerium  
Pressestelle  
53000 Bonn 1

### The ideal man, the ideal woman

The EMNID institute has carried out a sample survey on the German image of the ideal man and woman.

An odd point: whereas the replies of both sexes on the ideal woman are roughly the same (high on the list are qualities related to family life and emotional attitudes), they diverge on the subject of the ideal man. Women, for instance, think that home-making and an affectionate nature are more important in an ideal man than do men.

The image of woman is very much of a stereotype and the images held by both sexes is much the same, whereas the image of man conflicts in two ways. Men and women agree in thinking that the ideal man - more often than the ideal woman - will have some of what are traditionally viewed as male characteristics (firmness of purpose, success in his career, intelligence, etc.), but women project the qualities conventionally thought of as feminine in the man of their dreams - the kind of qualities with which they themselves identify and which they would undoubtedly like to find more often in the men in their lives.

## I R E L A N D

### Eleven women in Parliament

In the recent general elections, eleven of the 166 members elected to the Dail were women: the percentage is the highest at 6.6% in the country's history. Seven of these eleven women take their seats in Parliament for the first time.

Ironically, several women candidates who have been most vocal in their support of women's rights were not elected, as in the case of Mary Robinson, senator and lawyer, Hazel Bolland, chairwoman of the Council for the Status of Women, Monica Barnes, former administrator of the Council, and Gemma Hussey, Fine Gael senator and spokesman for her party on women's affairs.

Eileen Desmond, the Labour Party's only woman deputy, has already proposed to other women members of the Dail that an all-party committee of women's members be set up, a suggestion that has been greeted with some enthusiasm.

During the campaign, the Fine Gael Party (fielding 16 women candidates, 6 of whom were elected) made much of their party programme on women. Fianna Fail Party, the defending Government party, countered with newspaper advertisements listing the party's achievements on behalf of women.

STOP PRESS\* Mrs Eileen Desmond (Labour) has been appointed Health Minister in Dr. Garret Fitzgerald's Government.

### Irish Church moves towards women's ordination

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland has agreed that women should be allowed to become deacons. While this still does not mean that women will be permitted into the priesthood of the Church of Ireland, it is seen by many as an important step in that direction. Last year a similar motion before the predominantly male Synod was narrowly defeated.

The Synod, incidentally, comprises clergymen and lay people, traditionally called synodsmen, elected by vestrymen. Perhaps the appearance of women deacons in Ireland's dwindling Anglican population will cause the emergence of less gender-bound titles.

Useful address: Central Office of the Church of Ireland  
Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue,  
Rathmines, Dublin 6

Discrimination in Broadcasting

Radio Telefis Eireann has published the results of its working party's enquiry into women in broadcasting. Of the 44 recommendations, the proposal is made that one in three managerial, editorial and programme posts should be held by women.

The working party has quantified the position of women and shows that the position is far short of the ideal. Other recommendations concern the portrayal of women in advertising and the programmes.

Useful address: Radio Telefis Eireann  
Donnybrook, Dublin 4

Domicile rules challenged

Senator Mary Robinson, a member of the Irish Labour Party, is determined to battle on to change the law on domicile. As the law now stands, a married woman is assumed to have the same domicile as her husband. Although the rules have nothing to do with nationality or citizenship, they can severely restrict the rights of a wife separated from her husband, where one or the other lives outside Ireland.

For instance, a husband can establish domicile in another country simply by living there; since in international law the adopted country normally interprets domicile according to the rules of a person's home country, this means that his wife and family are assumed to be domiciled there too. He may then take divorce proceedings in the courts of the country of adoption, although no Irish wife has the same freedom. So long as her husband remains in Ireland, she "lives" there too.

**I T A L Y**

Abortion

Italian voters have demonstrated in a referendum their refusal to amend the law as it now stands on the voluntary termination of pregnancy. It is one of the most comprehensive laws - if not the most comprehensive - in Europe. By a vote of 67.4% versus 32.6%, the electorate objected to tightening up the law, despite the intensive campaign conducted by Movimento per la Vita (movement for life). At the same time, however, a proposal for liberalizing the law presented by the Radical Party was overwhelmingly rejected by a majority of 88.5% against 11.5%.

A white paper on the family

The Commissione Nazionale per i Problemi della Famiglia (national commission on family problems) that has been set up within the Employment Ministry is to present the findings of its investigations in the form of a white paper, to be published towards the end of the year.

The commission has formed five working groups to study the ways in which family law should be brought up to date, women's status, the problems and tasks facing the family, the organization of work and time devoted to the family, and tax and family allowances.

Useful address: Ministero del Lavoro  
Via Flavia 6  
R o m e

Taking civil proceedings in criminal cases

Italy's highest court has recently given its ruling on the matter of who may take civil proceedings in criminal cases, stating that the only parties entitled to sue for damages or those having suffered direct prejudice from the criminal act in questions. This means that associations representing the community or specific social groups may not be a party to proceedings.

The question arose with a trial on a charge of abortion in Ancona, when the Court of Cassation ruled against a feminist group wishing to be a party to the case as representatives of the community.

The supreme court's decision is not directed solely against women's organizations. In cases that involve, for instance, consumer groups or bodies of workers their representative associations will no longer be allowed to be involved in cases.

Under the Italian Constitution, if 50,000 voters sign a petition for a bill it must be tabled in Parliament. The "Unione Donne Italiane" (Italian Women's Union) is campaigning for an anti-rape law to be brought in "by popular initiative", one of whose provisos would be that women's organizations could be represented in cases of this kind.

Useful address: Unione Donne Italiane  
Via Colonna Antonina 41  
R o m e

New appointments

Two women have been elected to the Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura - Cecilia Assanti and Ombretta Fumagalli. This is the highest administrative body in the judiciary, with ten members appointed jointly by Parliament and the Senate and fifteen members elected by the judges. The Council is presided by the Italian President himself.

In the municipal police force

Luisella Alberti, a 28-year-old law graduate, is a captain in the Castello city police, one of the five women of officer rank in Italy's municipal police force.

There are 55 women in the Milan force, 40 already on duty and 15 being trained. In Rome 264 women are serving. When the competitive recruitment of police was announced, 70% of the applicants were women. The capital's police department is expected to have 1,400 women in its force in the near future.

Life as it is really lived

Both Italian TV channels have shown a fascinating series investigating the way women live in a district on the outskirts of Rome. Scheduled under the title of "Un giorno, ogni giorno" (one day, every day), the series is the outcome of several weeks spent filming in the Tiburtino III district of Rome. Through their direct and continuous contact with the women there, the production crew managed to film them not only in their own homes but also in all the places where they gathered informally.

In the four programmes in the series, the women of Tiburtino talked of their lives, problems, responsibilities and loneliness.

Useful address: RAI - Radiotelevisione Italiana  
Via Colonna Antonina 41  
R o m e

**L U X E M B O U R G**

When the census ignores the spinsters

According to the Constitution, there must be a general population census in the Grand Duchy every ten years. This time the census form that dropped on the doormat of every home has caused a minor uproar.

The Liberal MP, Lydie Polfer, raised the point at issue in a question in Parliament to the Minister for the National Economy, Colette Flesch: question 27 on the census form, asking about the number of children, was addressed only to married women, widows and divorcees.

In her reply, the Minister said she had received complaints from many women on the subject and when she had asked the statistical office, Statec, about it the officials had said that the only reason for restricting question 27 to non-spinsters was psychological. It was feared that a question of this kind put to unmarried women might be seen as indiscreet and answered untruthfully, or cause hostility to the census form as a whole. Statec's approach was not discriminatory against unmarried mothers but just a matter of caution and discretion.

Colette Flesch went on to say that "spinster" is a word that embodies a legal concept as to civil status. If it were to be used in question 27 it would lead to incomplete replies to the population survey (the figures show that about 4% of children born in the Grand Duchy each year are "natural"). It would be discriminatory and contrary to the intentions of the legislators voting for the law of 13 April 1979 that reformed the law on affiliation, as well as the law of 26 April 1979 governing the rights of inheritance of a surviving spouse and natural children, which also amended the provisions of the Civil Code on inheritance.

According to the Minister responsible for the census, the question should have been addressed to all women who have borne a child or, more simply, to all women. He has given instructions that the type of wording used in question 27 should be dropped in the future.

Useful address: Statec  
Forum Royal, Boulevard Royal  
Luxembourg

#### Women in small industry

"D'Handwierk", the official monthly journal for the Chamber of Small Industry and Business for the Grand Duchy, has published interesting figures on women and small firms. For the first time, the statistical section of this body promoting small business and industry has worked out the precise number of people employed there: a total of 3,258, working in 4,018 firms and accounting for 12% of the overall number of people employed in the sectors.

Those working in the food, clothing and toiletries sectors are engaged almost exclusively in selling the goods in question and, as is obvious, the great majority are women. For instance, 77% of workers in small food concerns are women, 61% in the clothing and toiletries trades. The general figure for workers in small business and industry is 55% men and 45% women.

The overall pattern of employment shows that women are relegated to certain sectors. In the building industry, only 2% of workers are women, while the percentages are 13% in art-oriented trades, 44% in the food trade and 81% in clothing and toiletries.

These figures demonstrate the urgency of giving girls the same basic training as boys. By improving career guidance, raising girls' sights and enabling them to be better qualified, the present over-concentration of women in certain areas of the labour market will gradually be reduced.

Useful address: Fédération des Artisans  
42 Rue Glesener  
Luxembourg

## NETHERLANDS

### Emancipation - a plan of action

Until 1 November 1981, Dutch organizations and their members will have an opportunity to comment on 130 measures included in the emancipation plan drawn up by the Ministerie van Cultuur, Recreatie en Maatschappelijk Werk - the Ministry for Culture, Leisure and Social Activities.

Under an agenda prepared by Ms Kraaeijeveld-Wouters, secretary of state responsible for emancipation in the outgoing government, the plan is to be reviewed before it is submitted to the Emancipatieraad - the Emancipation Council. This Dutch plan of action is the direct result of the U.N. world conference on the status of women in Copenhagen last summer.

The main objectives are: a redistribution of work inside and outside the home, with the man and the woman being equally responsible for the upbringing of their children; financial and other support for activities in which women are basically engaged; wider publicity for women's rights and opportunities; specific measures to deal with structural, social and psychological obstacles to emancipation, especially in employment, education and health; help with the exceptionally difficult position of women migrants; involvement of men in the process of change; and - last but not least - solidarity with women in the developing nations.

To promote a broad and democratic debate, the ministry has assembled a comprehensive dossier that can be obtained free of charge. Anyone contributing to the debate on the subject will be sent a summary of the findings.

Useful address: Ministerie van Cultuur, Recreatie en Maatschappelijk Werk  
Steenvoordelaan 370, Postbus 5406  
2280 HJ Rijswijk

In Dutch Parliament

Following the recent general elections, 24 women were elected to the Lower Chamber out of a total of 150 (16%).

The distribution is as follows: 7 women members from the PvdA Party (Socialist), six from the CDA (Christian Democrats), three from the VVD (Liberals), five from D'66 (Centre-Left Democrats), one from PPR (Radical), one Communist and one PSP (Socialist-Pacifist).

A new law on abortion

The Netherlands has changed its law on abortion. Women will now have to wait for a period of five days, when the situation will be discussed with various specialists. Any infringement of the law will also be punishable under the Criminal Code.

Women's movements and some of the political parties feel that the legislation is not in touch with reality. Until the new law was voted in, abortion was illegal in the Netherlands but no action had been taken by the authorities for at least ten years past. In practice, any woman was at complete liberty to decide whether or not she wanted to have her pregnancy terminated.

In medical and social departments, many people reject the amended law and declare that they will treat women just as in the past.

Working at night

The outgoing Dutch Government has submitted a bill to Parliament on work done by women at night in factories and workshops. As the law stands, it is absolutely forbidden for women to work at night, but if the new law is approved the inspectorate of labour will be responsible for authorizing such work, the aim being to ensure that women do not have to work under unacceptable conditions.

The problem as a whole has been discussed heatedly in the Netherlands. The Government would like to see absolute equality between men and women on the one hand; on the other, women's associations and, in their support, the Emancipation Commission, feel that equality should not lead to a deterioration in women's working conditions and that, as a result, the ban on night work should be continued.

Useful address:     Ministerie van Sociale Zaken  
                          Zeestraat 73  
                          The Hague



### Parental leave

Both father and mother should be entitled to "parental leave", for example when a child is sick. The outgoing government has been considering the various forms it might take and has asked the Sociaal-Economische Raad (Economic and Social Council) for its views on the subject.

The last government was prepared to legislate on parental leave but not to bear any extra expenditure arising from the measure. With a few minor exceptions, the leave will be unpaid.

Useful address: Ministerie van Sociale Zaken  
Zeestraat 73  
The Hague - tel. 070-71.59.11

### Accommodation

Women staying in all the hostels and refuges in the Netherlands are lobbying Parliament to solve the problem of accommodating women in distress. More than 500 women and children are being temporarily housed in the hostels specially provided for this purpose.

The women in these refuges would like every local authority to set aside a number of homes for women in difficulty without demanding the normal qualifications for being put on the housing application list, such as having a job in or near the local authority area. The government has written to the authorities along these lines, but the latter have the final word and the type of accommodation provided for women in times of trouble is not always the best that could be found.

Useful address: Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten  
Nassaulaan 10  
The Hague

### School hours

New primary schools catering for the 4- to 12-year olds will be under the obligation of looking after children at lunch time. Part of the cost will be borne by parents wishing to take advantage of the facility. This is the measure announced by the Education Minister, Mr. Arie Pais, during the debate on the bill on primary education.

He also said that under the new system all children will start and finish school at the same time - something for which the group "Tijd voor school" (time for school) has been campaigning for many years.

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

The Emancipation Council

As proposed by Ms Kraaeijeveld-Wouters, Secretary of State for emancipation in the outgoing government, the members of the Emancipatieraad have now been chosen. The only male member is Mr H. Vredeling, former vice president of the European Commission with responsibility for social affairs. The others are Dr Schoo (chairman), Dr M. Bruyn-Hundt, C. Evenhuis, Dr A. Grewel, Dr H.J.A. van der Kamp, J.H. Rijnen, Ms Rothuizen-van Dijk, E. Sleijsers-Tegelaar, Dr J. van Vaalen and M.P. Weyenberg-Pot.

Unlike the Emancipation Commission (Emancipatiekommissie) which was its predecessor, the Council has been set up by law and it must be consulted by the government on all major pieces of legislation affecting women's emancipation. It may also take up issues related to emancipation on its own initiative.

Useful address: Ministerie van Cultuur, Recreatie en Maatschappelijk Werk  
Steenvoordelaan 370  
Rijswijk tel. 070-94.93.93

The quality of work

"Kwaliteit van Vrouwenarbeid" is a report on the quality of women's employment produced by the University of Leiden for the Ministry of Social Affairs. The research objective was to draw up an inventory of everything available in the Netherlands on the subject of the quality of employment in sectors in which women play a major role: the clothing industry, retailing, education, health care, temporary work, etc.

According to the authors of the report, women's employment is linked with the idea of subordinate duties - with all their negative connotations. To change affairs, women must be given greater opportunities on the labour market and a watch should be kept on the chances for advancement in the places where they work. Better education, more information and active support for emancipation are the prerequisites for success. Jobs calling for low levels of skill should also be upgraded.

The next report is to deal with women working in a hazardous chemical environment.

Useful address: Ministerie van Sociale Zaken  
Zeestraat 73  
The Hague - tel. 070-71.59.11

Married names

The local authority in Vlaardingen has decided that it will not automatically use women's married names when writing to them. If their female correspondents wish, they can be addressed by their maiden name: all they have to do is to apply to the town hall. The same applies to divorced women wishing to retain their former husband's name.

Fire among the ashes

The Rotterdam firemen are smouldering: they argue heatedly that they do not want women in their ranks. The introduction of women in the force, they allege, might extinguish their esprit de corps. In a scorching letter to the local authority, they claim that their position might be "unacceptably eroded" if women were to be allotted to specific tasks. It would also be searingly expensive to convert the fire stations, shower rooms and rest rooms if women were to become firefighters.

The debate is still blazing, but it seems that the local authority has burnt its boats and is plunging into the experiment.

Useful address: Gemeente Rotterdam  
Coolsingel 40  
Rotterdam

Emancipation at provincial level

The province of North Brabant has launched a wide-ranging debate on emancipation policy on the provincial scale. Two weighty dossiers have been forwarded to all the organizations concerned, one describing the theoretical framework for emancipation, the other setting out practical proposals.

With this comprehensive input of facts and figures, the issue is now open to discussion. When the associations and citizens have had time to air their views, proposals as to action will be submitted to the provincial authorities.

Useful address: Provinciaal Opbouworgaan Noord-Brabant  
Stationsstraat 15  
Tilburg

Equality of status

The commission on equal status for men and women in the workplace has published its annual report for 1979. Appointed by the Minister for Social Affairs, the members of the commission - employers, workers' representatives and civil servants - consider individual complaints from both sides of industry. Between 1975 and 1979, the commission delivered 218 opinions, 184 relating to women and 34 to men.

Useful address: Commissie gelijke behandeling van mannen en vrouwen  
bije de arbeid  
Rijkskantorengedouw  
Muzenstraat 30  
2511 VW 's Gravenhage

UNITED KINGDOM

Five difficult years

The Equal Opportunities Commission has published its Fifth Annual Report in which a gloomy picture is painted of the past five years.

Women's earnings are still only about 73% of men's. Women account for 40% of the work force but there is only one woman in every twelve managerial position, whereas there was one in eight in 1975. Attitudes towards women are not ideal either in the public or in the private sector. Whereas more than 90% of primary school teachers are women, only 43% of head teachers are women.

Only very slowly are girls starting to think about careers in science. In 1970, 2.1% of engineering and technology students were girls; by 1975, the percentage was 5.5%.

The past five years have been the most disappointing since the war and the economic crisis has had a disastrous effect on women's employment. The report notes that the first five years of the Commission's work must be judged in the light of these great handicaps.

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

After divorce - who pays the bill?

The present obligation of providing life-long support is becoming increasingly inappropriate and unworkable with the rising rate of divorce and remarriage, according to the Equal Opportunities Commission, especially many people who divorce go on to live with a partner without thinking of marriage. The EOC has pointed out that before amending the law careful thought should be given to the financial position of single-parent families. The differences between the wages of men and women being what they are, single mothers always find it difficult to make ends meet. A right to alimony should be established if there is a demonstrable need.

According to the EOC, before moving away from the principle of automatic life-long support better provision should be made for child care facilities, and training opportunities for women need to be more readily and widely available.

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

Code of Practice on employment

The Equal Opportunities Commission has begun a final round of consultation on its draft Code of Practice on employment; if approved by Parliament it will be taken into account in sex discrimination and equal pay cases in industrial tribunals, although it will not be legally binding.

The Code concentrates on three main areas. Part (I) gives details on setting up an equal opportunities employment policy. Part (II) gives practical guidance as to how to avoid discrimination in areas like recruitment, promotion and training. Part (III) covers employment agencies.

The Commission hopes that both sides of industry will accept the Code's practical recommendations, especially as it advises full consultation between employers and trade unions at an early stage. Other suggestions include giving a member of senior management overall responsibility for policy, making sure that all staff is familiar with principles and practice. The Code specifies how staff should deal with job applications; job interviewers for example, should not ask about marriage plans.

Baroness Lockwood, the EOC Chairman, said at a General & Municipal Workers Union equal rights conference in Manchester that "the Code will be invaluable to those taking cases before the industrial tribunals. A judge will be able to use it as a yardstick when judging employers' conduct in sex discrimination cases. It gives guidance on good employment practices and the trades unions will, we believe, find it helpful as a negotiating tool when pressing for equality of opportunity in the workplace".

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

Women and the handicapped

The Equal Opportunities Commission is deeply disturbed about the way the wives and companions of handicapped people are treated. Although an allowance is given to friends giving up work to care for invalids, wives and mistresses are specifically excluded as the Department of Health and Social Security considers that they benefit from the income of their handicapped partners.

According to the EOC, it is hard to see how married women can be fully dependent on their partners. Three times more families would fall below the poverty line if the woman had to give up her job. The importance of a woman's pay packet to the family budget can no longer be ignored. If she gives up her job to look after a handicapped person, it is unfair that she should be the only one not to receive any compensation.

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

Children, children ..

The political struggle in Argentina has had its innocent victims: children whose parents have been arrested and who have disappeared. About 400 children have vanished without trace. A preliminary list of 53 known cases is being circulated by grandmothers desperately searching for their grandchildren.

This is the beginning of the list of heartbreak and tragedy:

Clara, born on 12 August 1976, daughter of Diana and Daniel - deceased - who disappeared on 24 November 1976;

Gabriel, born on 14 October 1976, daughter of Maria and Enrique, snatched from his mother's arms on 11 January 1977;

Paula, born on 10 June 1976, the daughter of Monica and Claudio who were arrested and disappeared with their child on 18 May 1978;

a boy or girl due to be born, who was to be named Hector or Alicia, the baby of Liliana and Hector, imprisoned on 5 May 1977; no news since that date;

boy, Christian name unknown, born on 17 July 1977, son of Silvia who was put in prison on 17 July 1977; whereabouts unknown;

girl, Christian name unknown, born in prison in July 1977, the daughter of Gloria and Roberto, arrested on 17 January 1977; disappeared;

and so many others ....

Their grandmothers are searching and questioning. Have the children been adopted? Have they been used in some sort of traffic? Might they have been killed? How can they ever find out?

European Parliament's Political Affairs Committee had decided to send an all-woman commission of enquiry to Argentina to look into the disappearance of Argentine nationals. It had to give up the idea. The Argentine government made it clear that it would no longer permit foreign delegations to come and investigate human rights.

Based in Italy, a committee of solidarity with the families of those who have been imprisoned and who have died or disappeared in Argentina - CO.SO.FAM - has called on women's associations for their wholehearted support.

Useful address: Comitato di Solidarietà con i Familiari dei Detenuti,  
Scomparsi e Morti in Argentina (CO.SO.FAM)  
2 Via della Trasfigurazione  
Rome 00151

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

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Zonta

Zonta is a Sioux word meaning "serve". It is also the name of an international organization whose aim is to improve women's legal and occupational status. Most of its members are women executives, managers or members of the professions.

Early in June representatives from the twelve countries that make up "district XIV" met in Brussels to express their thoughts on "women in public life" and elect their governing bodies.

For several years now, Zonta International has been awarding bursaries to young women for research in fields such as aerospace, mathematics, space medicine and molecular biology.

Useful address      Zonta International  
                          c/o Mme Raemdonck  
                          368 Avenue Louise, Boite 2  
                          1050 Brussels

A.IJ.P.F.

In Hungary, on the shores of Lake Balaton, the International Association of Women's and Home Page Journalists is to hold its tenth congress in the spring. This decision is the outcome of the cordial and fruitful partnership that has existed between the Association of Hungarian Journalists and A.IJ.P.F. for many years now. The theme of discussion will be changes in the way of life and the press.

Useful address      A.IJ.P.F., c/o I.P.C.  
                          Boulevard Charlemagne 1, Boite 54  
                          1050 Brussels

WIN - NEWS

Edited by Fran P. Hoskens, WIN-NEWS is the quarterly journal of the Women's International Network. Human rights, health, development, the environment and world news: since 1975 the publication has been compiling and publicizing a wide range of information.

Useful address      WIN-NEWS - Fran P. Hosken  
                          186 Grant Street  
                          Lexington, Mass. 02173

U.F.D.C.

The U.F.D.C. - Union of Christian Democrat Women - has held its second general assembly in Luxembourg, taking as its theme "Europe faces the future: the commitment of Christian Democrat Women". During the meeting, work groups considered ways of building a new community in a society in crisis, the aspirations of young people and their opportunities, social solidarity and personal responsibility, parity and participation, solidarity and development.

The chairman, Franca Falcucci, deplored all the time that had already been wasted before embarking on the path to integration. She declared that "Europe must be a political reality or it will be nothing at all".

During the statutory elections that followed, Franca Falcucci was voted in once again as the Union chairman, supported by vice-chairmen: Charlotte Fera (Germany), Madelene Van Raendonck (Belgium), Luisa Raposo (Portugal) and Erika Danzinger (Austria). The secretary general of the Union is Monique Badenes (France).

Useful address      Franca Falcucci  
                            Via Plebiscito 107  
                            R o m e

International Women's Council

The executive committee of the International Women's Council met in Brussels, with 120 delegates from 40 countries. It was an opportunity to hear the reports made by the national presidents on the changing situation in their own countries and to consider the work that had been done by twelve committees concerned with issues of general concern.

One of the highlights of the congress was the seminar on "women, the agents for development", arranged by the Belgian National Women's Council. The seminar emphasized the economic interdependence of industrialized and developing nations. Its main conclusion was that when integrating women into the process of industrialization, due allowance must be made for their effects on the care and health of children, seeking valid solutions to the problems. Plans for socio-economic infrastructure must be supplemented by minor schemes to create the small-scale infrastructure that will meet the immediate needs of women in rural regions. National women's councils will demand that the planners of projects for the Third World pay due attention to their effects on women's status.

A comprehensive report on the congress can be obtained for B.F.200 from the Belgian National Women's Council.

Useful address      Conseil National des Femmes Belges  
                            Place Quetelet 1a  
                            1050 Brussels



Marching for Peace

Following last year's "signatures for Peace" campaign, various Scandinavian women's organizations have been pressing on with the work by arranging a "Peace March". Starting out from Copenhagen on 22 June, the women are arriving in Paris on 16 August under a single banner: "for a denuclearized Europe, from Poland to Portugal". In the space of 45 days, they are covering over 700 miles, an average of almost 16 miles a day. Women's groups in the regions through which they are travelling have been invited to support the marchers.

Useful address      1981 Peace March  
                          Piestredet 36  
                          O s l o l

The challenge of the Eighties

An international seminar arranged by Cercles Populaires Européens (an association close to the European People's Party) has taken "women and the challenge of the eighties" as its theme. The travelling seminar began in Brussels by debating "the status of women in the eighties", based on the report by Ms Maij-Weggen. The seminar then moved on to Louvain-la-Neuve for a panel discussion on "the role of the universities in regional development". Next stop was Liege, where Michèle Bribosia, deputy MEP, had made the practical arrangements and prepared for discussions on the theme of "industrial policy for women, women's position". The challenge of the eighties is a subject that gives rise to more questions than answers, but people are thinking more deeply about the issue.

Useful address      Cercle Populaire Européen  
                          Marguerite le Hodey, 28 Rue Franklin  
                          1040 Brussels

The European Movement

The international women's committee of the European Movement has met in Rome under the leadership of its chairman, Margherita Barnabei. Besides pooling information on changes in emancipation each country, the meeting called on the European Commission to strengthen cooperation between the official bodies responsible for promoting equality and emancipation in the EEC states. One of the points made was that Italy should itself have a commission responsible for such problems at the earliest possible time.

Within the European Movement - itself in the process of change - the international women's committee would like to make structural improvements and to help it play a more forceful, effective role. Proposals that might achieve this end have been sent to the Federal Council of the European Movement.

Useful address      Commissione femminile internazionale del Movimento  
                          Europeo, 10 Viale Baccelli  
                          R o m e

Women and banking

"Women's World Banking", a foundation based in the Netherlands, is an independent international organization founded to promote direct participation by women in the economy. This association is led by women who hold managerial office in banks or financial bodies.

Women contribute almost two thirds of the total number of hours worked in world banking but they earn only one tenth of the income. "Women's World Banking" would like to promote financial independence for women and to ensure that they gain all the benefits of credit.

In developing nations, the courage and honesty of women are far sounder guarantees than any that may be given by an industrialist. The "Self Employed Women Association" of Ahmedabad (India), for example, has its own cooperative bank. Although the loans it gives may be small they are sometimes decisive. Should we look down on the sum of 50 rials lent to 20-year-old Kanta Kalu to start up a little biscuit and confectionery shop? That was in 1974; today she has permanent credit of 700 rials and 400 rials in her savings account.

Useful address      Women's World Banking

P.O. Box 1691  
Grand Central Station  
New York 10017, N.Y.

More women in Medicine and Pharmacy

A World Health Organization report states that there has been a clear increase in the number of women doctors, dentists and pharmacists in most of the 22 industrialized nations, according to a census conducted by WHO between 1960 and 1979.

During that period, the number of women doctors rose by 3% in the U.S. and by over 10% in Hungary. In the eastern bloc, the increase has been very marked overall except in Russia where the proportion of women doctors has fallen from 75.8% to 71.8%. Women are known to predominate the pharmacist's profession: in Poland, the percentage is 85%, and in Finland it is as high as 90%.

In its report the World Health Organizations suggests various reasons for the trend, including one that men may be "running away" from professions in which prestige and earnings have been declining.

These and many other particulars are published as part of the International Health Foundation's monthly information service.

Useful address      International Health Foundation  
43 Rue de Namur, Boite 5  
1000 Brussels



Film distributors

Metis-film is a fledgling film distribution firm that has decided to specialize in women's films. Martine Couder and her friends are optimistic, especially as women's film distribution groups are already well launched in the Netherlands and Great Britain. To make it quite clear which way they are going, the first film whose rights the four founders have bought with their own money is entitled "Le silence des femmes, c'est la force des hommes" - "women's silence is men's strength".

Useful address        Metis-film - Martine Couder  
                              60, O.L.Vrouwenstraat  
                              3000 Leuven

**D E N M A R K**

Farmers' wives in the 20th century

Three groups have come together to sponsor nation-wide research on the subject of "changes in the occupational, economic, social and cultural position of farmers' wives and their role in daily life". The groups are Danske landboforeningers Husholdningsudvalg (the home economics committee of the Danish agricultural associations), Samvirkende Danske Husholdningsforeningers (Danish federation of consumer associations) and Danske Husmandsforeningers Husholdningsudvalg (home economics committee of the Danish confederation of smallholders).

The report should throw light on the position of farmers' wives since 1920 to our own times, although emphasis will be on the present. It will be undertaken by the home economics committee coming under the Ministry of Agriculture's productivity commission.

The research will be based on a combination of:  
interviews based on questionnaires;  
spot-check interviews in certain households and field work in selected locations;  
information derived from research, statistics and the literature.

The working conditions and social and cultural position of most farmers' wives are directly or indirectly linked with agriculture and, over the past few generations, there have been profound changes in local ways of life on the land. The committee thinks that it would be desirable to concentrate on these conditions in particular.

An essential feature of Danish agriculture is the absolute predominance of farms in which the work is done by the family. The farm is both a production unit and a home, something that will serve as the point of departure for the research.

Changes in the role of farmers' wives

In describing the changes between the 1920s and our own times, special attention will be paid to the changing role of the wife in the home, on the farm, in the village and local life, as well as her relations with the external labour market.

Depending on the size of the farm, the type of farming and the reference period, women can be expected to have played a very specific role. In the 1920s, an average Danish farm provided work not only for the family but also for servants - farm lads and girls - and on occasion for seasonal workers as well. There are few or no servants today. Because of this, the mistress of the house has a very different role in her relations with her husband, the home and the farm, something that is reflected in the daily life of the local communities. Employment is seen by some as a way of embarking on new activity, both at home and in the village. What women would like to do would be to earn money by paid work at home, various activities outside the home and unpaid work in the local community.

Useful address      Karen Baelum  
                            Formanden for Landbrugsministeriets  
                            Produktivitetsudvalgs Husholdningsudvalg  
                            Vestervang, Lundby Mosevej 9  
                            9260 Gistrup

                            Sys Thoden  
                            Sekretaer for Landbrugsministeriets  
                            Produktivitetsudvalgs Husholdningsudvalg  
                            Vester Farimagsgade 6/3  
                            1606 Copenhagen V

Studies and research

NYCK is both the abbreviation and the nickname for Nydhesbrev fra Center Samfundsvidenskabelig kvindersforskning - the centre for sociological research on women. The institute has arranged a series of seminars which will continue during the autumn on the theme of "sex roles, living as a couple and life together". Last spring, NYCK devoted a seminar in English to research on women in other countries.

NYCK can give invaluable help to European women wishing for contact with Scandinavian countries. It is through the Danish institute that we learned of the existence of a coordinating body on women's equality in Finland. Its leader, Liisa Husu, has chosen to give priority to two issues: women and the employment market, and women and the problem of alcohol.

Useful address      NYCK  
                            H.C. Anderson Boulevard 38  
                            1553 Copenhagen V

                            Liisa Husu  
                            Council for Equality  
                            Korkeavuorenkatu 47 b  
                            00130 Helsinki 13

## FRANCE

### Background material

Agence Femmes Information - AFI - has launched a weekly press bulletin serving the media. It is also engaged on original research, published in a new series entitled "Pièces à l'appui". The first issue asks the question: "what have we done with the right to vote?".

Claire Poinson and Cathérine Vimenet have brought out a sound dossier of information on the subject, tracing back the history of the vote since 1789. The material will soon be supplemented by a detailed analysis of the way women voted during the recent presidential and general elections in France.

To pass on or obtain news, just call AFI at 523.45.17.

Useful address      Agence Femmes Information - AFI  
                         104 Boulevard Saint Germain  
                         75006 Paris

### Getting the message to the press

How to go about creating a good working relationship with journalists is something that can be learned. The Union Féminine Civique et Sociale has drawn up a "guide to public relations" for its active members. An organizations with a large network of local sections must know how to obtain good publicity for its activities in the local and regional press.

The guide's contents page has headings such as: how to arrange an exhibition; printed literature; the media; and internal information. Many other organizations - perhaps a few ministries! - could well find some useful tips in this vade mecum.

Useful address      U.F.C.S.  
                         6 Rue Beranger  
                         75003 Paris

## GERMANY

### National egos

The "Europe" committee of the C.D.U./C.S.U. women's association has held a seminar whose central point was a debate on the position of women in the European Community.

In their statement winding up the seminar, those taking part noted that "national governments are no longer capable of coping with the confrontation of national egos through European ventures". They urged governments to seek solutions and to show a Community spirit in more practical ways than in the past.

The "Europe" committee will be working both to ensure that its own members know more about Europe and to improve relations between European partners by their shared work within international organizations. European Parliament's debate and resolution on the position of women within the European Community will also be the subject of searching discussion.

The final statement calls for more and better facilities for providing information to the women's press and organizations within the Commission of the European Communities.

Useful address            Europe-Sektion der Frauen in der CDU  
                                  CDU - Bundesgeschäftsstelle  
                                  Konrad Adenauer Haus  
                                  5300 Bonn 1

#### Women and the World

"Actionsring Frau und Welt" - "women and the world" action club - is an apolitical association, lay but Christian-inspired, that has been in existence for 25 years, with sections now established in almost 400 towns and villages in the Federal Republic.

Since 1965, its "Dusseldorf Gespräche" - Dusseldorf conversations - have been the occasion for a twice-yearly meeting during which active members, leaders and guests have pooled their ideas and their experience.

Under the title of "Schritte Wagen" - "dare to take the step" - one of the association's recent publications presents its wide-ranging activities. Its founder, Maria Berg, stresses the importance of women taking joint action to prevent themselves being overwhelmed by the problems and to bolster up their self-confidence.

Useful address            Actionsring Frau und Welt  
                                  Bastionstrasse 4-6, Postfach 200 368  
                                  4000 Dusseldorf 1

#### In the space of a generation....

The attitudes and behaviour of women in society have undergone a profound change between 1953 and 1979. A German research institute has been curious enough to compare replies to the same questions put in these two years. Three times more women are now prepared to join a political women and the percentage of women who discuss politics has risen from 25% to 61%.

It seems that men's attitudes have not evolved so fast. Through emancipation, women have become more critical of their partners than have men.

Useful address            Institut für Demoskopie  
                                  Allenbach

Young mothers and employment

The Deutscher Frauenring (German women's association) arranged a meeting of about twenty young mothers and their children in Ludwigshafen at the end of June to find out about the difficulties they encounter if they want to work.

While their mothers talked the children played under the supervision of nursery teachers, all coming together for a picnic in the woods. The young mothers learned with surprise that their counterparts in France can entrust their children to a crèche while they do a full-time job. In Germany, nursery hours rarely fit in with the working day.

Ways in which the European Social Fund helps were of special interest to those present, who said they would like to know more about the pilot schemes, especially those involving women. According to several of the mothers there, a reapportionment of working hours will prove helpful only if men do in fact do their share of the domestic chores.

Useful address            Deutscher Frauenring  
                                  Augustastrasse 42  
                                  5300 Bonn 1

**G R E E C E**

National Greek Women's Council

Having kept a watching brief on European Parliament's debate and vote on the proposal drawn up by the ad hoc committee on women's rights, the National Greek Women's Council and the Association for Women's Rights have launched an information campaign through the media to publicize the rights given to Greek women under EEC law and the prospects opened out by European Parliament's resolution. It also hopes that pressure will be exerted on national bodies to introduce vital measures applying EEC law as soon as possible. The rules on sex equality must be applied in full in every sector, as required by EEC law and the Greek Constitution. Greek representatives to the EEC institutions are urged to work for the adoption of the additional measures proposed by European Parliament.

The National Greek Women's Council the first federation of women's associations in Greece. Founded in 1908, with membership of fifty associations throughout the country, the Council now numbers eighty groups in Greece and Cyprus. It is governed by a 16-member administrative committee elected by the member associations. The Council also has individual members working on its committees and supporting it in general ways, without the right to vote in its general assembly.



The Greek Council is itself a member of the European Women's Council (CECIF) and the International Women's Council (CIF).

The aims of the National Council are to raise the status of women in the family, society and the state, protect young people, promote sport and achieve the International Women's Council's other aims such as eliminating all forms of discrimination, upholding human rights and promoting peace and wider international cooperation.

The National Greek Women's Council vows to pursue its aims without allegiance to any one political party and without fear or favour, guided solely by the criterion of social progress and justice.

The Council is essentially a headquarters staff. It is not involved in the activities of its member associations but keeps abreast of their work and gives them support with every means at its disposal where necessary. Through the special committees and bodies it organizes in sectors of concern, it keeps a systematic watch on changes in various domains. It replies to questionnaires, draws up reports, gives out and collates information and represents its individual or corporate members at international meetings and on the bodies in which it takes an active part. It draws up proposals on specific subjects and backs those proposals in negotiations with national or foreign authorities.

A review of the Council's activities over a period of time shows that there have been marked changes in the order in which it has placed its priorities over a period of time, reflecting its efforts to adapt to international events, internal difficulties and practical local needs.

When it started up, for instance, the Council headed a group of essentially philanthropic women's groups. It then did good work in the fields of education and social welfare, based on voluntary cooperation. After the catastrophe in Asia Minor, it arranged for refugee aid, field canteens, women's workshops and child care units in the refugee squatter villages. Between 1941 and 1947, it founded and ran two orphanages for the victims of the war. From 1975 to 1979, it organized cultural events in almost all the towns of Thrace and the islands of the Eastern Aegean. The heritage of all these past activities is the children's training centres in Byron and Colona and the Petralona arena, a sport and recreation centre for children, which have been running without a break for several decades. Another invaluable achievement is the legal department which has been dispensing legal advice for fifty years free of charge, as well as representing women without financial means in the courts.

Ever since its foundation, the Council has fought to bring the law in many fields up to date. With women's problems in particular, alone or in cooperation with other women's groups, it has battled for the principle of equal rights to be put into practice. It was at the forefront of the struggle for the vote and for political rights for women and has worked for broader involvement of women in employment and public office.

It has succeeded in including measures on equality for the sexes, equal pay and protection for motherhood in the Constitution. Through thick and thin, it has fought for these principles to be put into practice. One of its recent activities along these lines has been to mobilize and obtain the cooperation of other women's groups to ensure that the principle of equality in family law was translated into reality.

Useful address      Ethniko Symvoulío Hellenidon  
Rue Voulis 38  
Athens

#### The Greek Y.W.C.A.

Founded in 1923, the Y.W.C.A. in Greece quickly embodied the ideal of dedication imparted by its founder, Florence Nightingale. At the time, Greece - with a population of less than four million - had to cope with an overwhelming flow of refugees from Turkey.

For 15 years, the Y.W.C.A. in Athens and Thessalonica provided services and facilities for them, taking on a new role in a society with conservative ideas on the role of women. Holiday camps, discussion groups, cheap board and lodging, physical education and health education courses, and international contact were the basis of the association's work even then.

After the second world war, the Y.W.C.A. played an important part in educating girls and women. At the time, the problem was to end the bitterness and scars left by dictatorship, war and civil war. When, in 1955, it settled in new buildings, the Y.W.C.A. launched out into many new fields: a school for librarians, a school for social workers, adult education courses, evening literacy classes, art workshops, public discussions, a career guidance section, physical education programmes, etc.

In the Greek islands and on the mainland, in large towns and small, today more than 20 local associations are affiliated to the national Y.W.C.A.

Under its president, Athena Athanassiou, the Greek Y.W.C.A. is a member of the Coordination Committee (recognized by the authorities), whose efforts are now being directed towards revising the Family Code.

Useful address      Greek Y.W.C.A.  
Amerikis 11  
Athens 135

#### Post Office Administration

Two competitions for administrative jobs in the Post Office staff training school were announced this summer, one in Thessalonica and one in Athens, with the words "in pursuance of statutory regulations, only males may apply...". The Democratic Women's Movement was amazed. Women have access to Parliament, the judiciary, the universities. Why not to the Post Office administration? The appropriate department has been notified.

Useful address      Kinissi dimokratikon gynaikon  
Genadiou 5  
Athens

I R E L A N D

Teachers and the Unions

The Irish National Teachers' Organization has appointed its first full-time woman official - a somewhat belated achievement when 71% of the union's 22,000 members are women. Catherine Byrne will be in charge of press relations and communications.

Useful address        The Irish National Teachers' Organization  
                          35 Parnell Square  
                          Dublin 1

Socialists update policy documents

The Irish Labour Party's Women's Council has updated the party's position on two important women's issues, childcare and training.

"Women cannot have equal opportunities or a real choice as to whether to work outside the home or not unless there is a provision of childcare facilities in the community and in the workplace." The Council blames the move by women towards part-time employment and outwork for the absence of facilities, pointing out that neither is well paid or offers promotion opportunities or job satisfaction. It favours broadening the concept of maternity leave to parental leave.

Its recommendations on training for women include flexi-time provisions, in-service training, removal of age barriers, more return-to-work courses, student grants and the unionization of part-time workers.

Further information is available in "Childcare and Parental Leave" and "Training for Women".

Useful address        The Labour Women's Council, The Labour Party  
                          16 Gardiner Place  
                          Dublin 1

Funds crisis hits women's groups

Dublin's Rape Crisis Centre, Cherish (an organization supporting single mothers) and Women's Aid (which runs a centre in Dublin for the victims of domestic violence) have all announced that their work will be drastically curtailed unless government money is forthcoming. Last year, Cherish counselled 4522 single parents and answered 4,000 letters and calls, but it is having to lay off staff. Women's Aid has been served with an eviction notice on the huge but outmoded hostel premises which it occupied illegally some years ago. Meantime the Rape Crisis Centre states that its appeal to local health authorities has met with a disappointing response.

Useful address    Cherish                            Women's Aid            Dublin Rape Crisis Centre  
                          2 Lr Pembroke St.    PO Box 1027            Centre, PO Box 1027  
                          Dublin 2                            Dublin 1                            Dublin 1



I T A L Y

Women's problems or everyone's problems?

The Italian Liberal Party's women's coordination group - Coordinamento Donne del Partito Liberale - under the leadership of Constanza Pera has recently outlined its plan of action. Liberal Party women will of course be concerned with women's liberation, sexual violence and abortion, but they will not stop there. The Liberal Party's secretariat has been asked to set up political work groups to tackle what have been seen through the deforming spectacles of politics as "women's" issues. Relationships between the sexes concern men just as much as women; the lack of social services is a problem that must be dealt with by men as well.

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

Female agricultural labour

Pouring in from every region of Italy, three hundred women met in Rome for the fourth national conference on women farm workers who are members of Federbraccianti - CGIL (the federation of female agricultural labourers attached to the CGIL union confederation).

Discussions bore not just on the usual union matters (jobs, the organization of work, etc.) but were broadened to take in other aspects of women workers on the land such as health, maternity and social services.

The voice of the women's movement rings out in the towns but is rarely heard in the countryside. This meeting provided a good opportunity to highlight the need for joint action. Women farm workers must become aware of the important contribution they make to society.

Useful address      Federbraccianti CGIL  
Via Buonarroti 29/a  
R o m e

A 15% share in Socialist responsibility

The Italian Socialist Party's central committee has decided to allocate at least 15% of the offices in the PSI's administrative bodies to women.

At its last conference, when the measure was being applied, 40 women took their place among the 197 members of the central committee (compared with four women before). Three of the governing committee's 41 members are now women, whereas there was not one before. More and more women are gaining access to positions of responsibility in bodies at regional and provincial level.

Useful address      Partito Socialista Italiano  
476 Via del Corso  
R o m e



Women and reconstruction

To wipe out the terrible traces of the earthquake which ravaged southern Italy every form of energy must be deployed. How women's organizations can help with reconstruction was the subject of an ad hoc meeting arranged by the Federazione Italiana Donne Arti Professioni Affari (Italian federation of women in the arts, professions and business). The speakers stressed the important role of voluntary bodies; since they are more flexible than the authorities, they can make a fundamental contribution towards mobilizing forces and provide moral and practical support.

The women of the south urged that this opportunity of creating a new way of life should be grasped with both hands. Some women from Friuli, the scene of a previous earthquake in the north, said that an earthquake disrupts not only land and buildings; sometimes it shakes us enough to arouse our consciences. The problems of the south must be solved in this time of drama, or they will never be solved at all.

Winding up their discussions, the women's groups reiterated their solidarity with the women of the south and their desire to help them rebuild not just roads and buildings but their culture and society.

Useful address      F.I.D.A.P.A.  
Via Vittorio Veneto 146  
38100 Trento

Historical Research

The "Centro di Studi Storici sul Movimento di Liberazione della Donna in Italia" - the centre of historical studies on the women's liberation movement in Italy - was set up in 1979. Its host is the Feltrinelli Foundation, and it enjoys financial support from the Lombardy regional authority and the city of Milan. About thirty members have already taken part in its work.

The centre's aim is to expand and publicize information on the position of women through its research and publications of a scientific nature. It has started to build up a surprisingly varied and rich body of archives.

Useful address      Centro di Studi Storici sul Movimento di Liberazione  
della Donna in Italia, c/o Fondazione Feltrinelli  
Via Romagnosi 3  
3 Milan

A women's centre

A women's centre has been running successfully for several months now in Venice-Mestre, housed in the Mestre civic centre. It arranges lectures and debates and has a library of over 1,000 books. It also lends its premises to groups with no meeting place of their own.

Useful address      Centro Donna, c/o Centro Civico di Mestre  
Piazza Ferretto  
Venezia - Mestre

Women and the unions

At the national conference of the Italian national confederation of labour (CGIL), about 220 women spoke on the various committees and in the general assembly. In his speech, Luciano Lama, the secretary general, pointed out how greatly the entry of women into the world of work had transformed society. He also spoke of the internal changes in the union movement made necessary by the presence of women.

Useful address       C.G.I.L.  
                          Corso d'Italia 25  
                          00198 Rome

A feminist? A rebel....

How do young people understand the words so often on their parents' lips? Maddalena Treccani was curious enough to go and ask secondary school boys. Without the help of a dictionary, they were asked to explain the meanings of, for example, "ambiguous", "synthetic", "society".

The most common definition of "feminist" was "a woman trying to get equal rights with man". Some of the replies stressed the militant aspect: "a feminist is a fighter for the rights of women", "a revolutionary way of thinking which upholds women's rights and wants to subject men", "a person of the female sex who wants her own rights and wants to be better than men", "a woman who rebels against her husband and tries to tell him what he should do", or "a woman or girl who thinks she's superior".

Women and the cinema

"Il reale e l'immaginario" - the real and the imaginary - was the theme of an international women's film festival arranged under the auspices of the Catania local authority in liaison with the local editorial offices of "Quotidiano Donna", the Germaine Dulac Group and the Centro Studi Cinematografi (cinematographic research centre).

Scheduled for showing were Dutch, Italian, French, American, German, Belgian, Algerian and Soviet films, but there were also chances to meet the women producers and writers for a debate on "women and language: cinematographic and written practice".

Useful address       Quotidiano Donna  
                          Via Vittorio Emanuele 120  
                          Catania



## LUXEMBOURG

### Helvi Sipila in Luxembourg

The former assistant Secretary General in the United Nations, Helvi Sipila, has visited the Grand Duchy to brief government official and non-government organizations on the voluntary contribution fund for the U.N. decade of women.

The fund is used to support technical cooperation and regional and international programmes to improve the lot of women in every field. Priority is given to the least developed nations and to women in rural areas or in the slums of urban centres.

The Luxembourg National Women's Council will act as the national committee for the promotion of the fund and it also intends to take over a programme for upgrading women's work in a developing nation.

Useful address      Conseil National des Femmes  
                          c/o Mlle Rosemarie Kieffer  
                          10 Rue Lemire  
                          Luxembourg

### Exclusive abortions?

In a press conference to mark the international action day organized by the International Campaign for Abortion, Sterilization and Contraception, the Women's Liberation Movement has deplored the exorbitant rates charged for abortions in the Grand Duchy.

According to the Movement, the Luxembourg 1978 abortion law has not been put into effect or, where it has been, it is being wrongly applied. Some hospitals do no abortions at all, while those that do charge roughly £300 to £500. This price, alleges the Movement, is far too high and means that only rich women can choose whether or not to have a child.

The main reason for this state of affairs, say the Luxembourg feminists, is the fact that the rates charged for abortions can be freely decided. It calls for an official scale of charges to be laid down by the health scheme, which should be within the reach of every single woman. In the same context, the Movement is considering a demonstration with the participation of national and foreign movements in November.

## NETHERLANDS

### Women, the cinema and video

In their attempts to capture a fleeting image, women have already become remarkably adept at the technique of making video films, a medium that now competes with conventional films. More flexible, easier to handle and less expensive than the standard film camera, video equipment lends itself very well to fast, militant action, to catching life in the raw without the endless preparation of lighting and sequences.

The international conference of feminist cinema and video held in Amsterdam has contributed invaluable information on the subject. With the help of their expertise in technique and presentation of their work, the women film-makers provided a basis for a curious comparison of the attitudes of women in English-speaking countries and in Mediterranean cultures: the former seem to reject the model of womanhood in that it has been imposed by men, while the latter are in search of their own cultural roots, their own identities.

### Prostitution

The De Graaf foundation would like to contact associations or institutions concerned with the problems of prostitution, with a view to promoting a joint approach to the problem, especially as prostitution is organized by international networks that use frontiers to cover their tracks.

Useful address      Mr. A. De Graaf Stichting  
                            Westermarkt 2  
                            1016 Amsterdam

### Summer university

Early in July a "Zomeruniversiteit Vrouwenstudies" (women's studies summer university) was held in Amsterdam university, with 200 women's groups helping with the arrangements. A broad range of subjects was included in the curriculum: motherhood, education, social movements, Third World women, etc. The plan was not to have lecturers laying down the law but to consider the problems of women and to seek solutions as a body.

Useful address      Universiteit van Amsterdam  
                            Spui 21  
                            Amsterdam

### A women's festival

A "Vrouwenfestival" was held in Kadzand on the theme of women's emancipation. The event was arranged by "Streekwerkgroep Zeeland/Oost en West Vlanderen" - the western and western Zeeland and Flanders regional working group and was a venture that brought women together from both sides of the frontier between Belgium and Holland.

Taking liberties...

It is by no means unusual for working women to have trouble with an over-familiar boss. When a weekly, "Viva", printed personal stories on the subject, it attracted a large postbag. Some of the magazine's women readers told how resisting their boss's advances had led to the sack on trivial grounds. A working group has been set up to help women who suffer from the unwanted attentions of one of their superiors or colleagues.

Useful address      Werkgroep Ongewenste Intimeiten  
                         Postbus 61022  
                         Amsterdam

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Conservative women: the top issue

"Women and Employment" was the theme for this year's 51st conference of the Women's National Advisory Committee held on 19-20 May. Baroness Young, vice-chairman of the party organization, said that women's unemployment has increased by 223% between 1975 and 1980, compared with a 50% increase among men. Women make up nearly 50% of the country's labour force and nearly half of them are married.

Every part of the country has an Area Women's Advisory Committee which prepares a paper based on interviews and surveys covering, for example, women working part-time, training opportunities, pensions and retirement, and disabled women in employment. With the facts and figures at their fingertips, the participants at the conference had a unique opportunity to question Government ministers and put over their point of view.

Useful address      Women's National Advisory Committee  
                         Conservative and Unionist Central Office  
                         32 Smith Square  
                         London SW1

What we need is positive action

Positive action for women at work was the topic of an international conference organized by the National Council of Civil Liberties (NCCL) on 6-8 April. The concept of positive action goes further than simply legislating against discrimination: positive measures must be taken to overcome job segregation and the disadvantages women suffer on the labour market.

Although the British Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts were amongst the first in Europe, the U.K. was quoted as an example of the limitations of legislation: job segregation there has worsened, with 66% of women now concentrated in only three occupational groups.

The 150 participants heard how the U.S. has implemented "affirmative action programmes" (AAPs) since 1971. Federal contractors with over 50 employees and more than \$50,000 in federal contracts have to submit written AAPs to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance, containing a work force analysis to show where women and ethnic minority employees are being under-utilized. Employees then establish goals for each job classification by race and sex, including a target date for rectifying the situation. In practice, this arrangement means that 30 million people have been covered by detailed AAPs.

Useful address        National Council of Civil Liberties - Jo Morris  
                          186 Kings Cross Road  
                          London WCl

#### Rights of Women

The Rights of Women (ROW) is a group of women working in the legal profession, campaigning to achieve legislation benefiting and determined by women. It also has twice-weekly advice sessions for women.

ROW has recently brought out a pamphlet, "The Employment Act 1980 and why we must fight it", arguing that the new act restricts women's emancipation in the workplace by hedging in the legal powers of trade unions.

Another publication issued by ROW is called "The Cohabitation Handbook". Over the past few years, cohabitation has raised tricky problems for both authorities and citizens. Women are often the victims of a situation that the lawmakers are reluctant to tackle, leaving it to the civil servants to sort out the difficulties.

Useful address        Rights of Women - ROW  
                          374 Grays Inn Road  
                          London WCl

#### Learning cruise for potential women politicians

The Mill House Group, an offshoot of the expanding 300 Group which aims to get more women into Parliament, has arranged a conference cruise to Denmark. Room on board the Dana Anglia is open to any women seriously interested in entering British politics. Emphasis will be placed on the practical aspects of politics in Britain. Two or three present-day MPs will be invited, as well as lecturers speaking on topics such as "the ins and outs of becoming an MP" and "the future of work; how will it be organized?".

Useful address        Lesley Abdela - The Mill House Group  
                          The Mill House, Burford  
                          Oxfordshire

Laws in dispute

The Equal Pay Act and the Sex Discrimination Act are both attacked for causing unemployment among women in a paper published today by the Selsdon Group, a Conservative think-tank group.

"Some women benefit from the Acts," says the paper, "the young, the well educated and the attractive, but at the expense of those whose only asset is their willingness to work at a low wage. Employers will employ fewer women than they would at a lower wage, and insofar as they do employ women they will attempt to get as much value for their money as they can." They will seek women who are particularly well qualified, which will operate against the less qualified woman who is "probably relatively poor and most in need of employment. What is most important to her is not that she receives the same wages as a man but that she has a job at all".

The paper, "Sex in the Market", concludes that "by precluding her from price competition the law has made her life that much more difficult".

Useful address            Selsdon Group  
                                 170 Sloane Street  
                                 London SW1

First British gallery for women artists

"The Gal" is the first gallery for women artists in Britain. A one-room gallery above a Chelsea antiques shop with a friendly atmosphere, "The Gal" is the brainchild of Dean Le Cain, an artist herself before becoming an illustrator's agent. "Women need to show their work," she says, "they are discriminated against in the gallery world."

Dean resists the pressure to make "The Gal" a women-only gallery. "We exercise discrimination, not prejudice." She gives women artists a chance if their work is good enough but not just because they are women. She is interested in making contact with galleries in Europe concerned with women artists.

Useful address            Dean L Cain - "The Gal"  
                                 98 Waterford Road - Kings Road  
                                 London SW6

Lucy Cavendish College

Lucy Cavendish College is the only college in Cambridge University to cater exclusively for women who are late starters, career developers or returners to professional life. Every year since 1972 it has taken 50 women students over 25 for a course lasting three years or less, depending on their qualifications.

Useful address            Lucy Cavendish College  
                                 Lady Margaret Road  
                                 Cambridge CB3 0BU

Single Parents in Scotland - Scottish Home and Country Magazine has written a friendly letter to point out that the address given in the item on single parents in Scotland in our issue 18/1 should have been: Scottish Council for Single Parents, 44 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QR.

RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

**Qui fait quoi à la maison?** Hélène Rousse and Caroline Roy, researchers at the French national institute for economic statistics and research (INSEE), have drawn on a sample of 8,000 people for their scientific study of who does what in the home. In brief, their findings are that men tend to do the lighter and shorter domestic chores, while women take on the longer, heavier work. What about bachelors? The research shows that 40% get their ironing done for them outside, 20% do not have their clothes ironed at all. The detailed findings are set out in "Economie et Statistiques" no. 131, Paris.

**Essere donna** - "being a woman" - by Gaetano Cazorla Russo has been published in paperback edition by Rizzoli. This broad-ranging enquiry into the social status of women in Italy has already come out in two weighty volumes, but it has been condensed without any loss of clarity. The author has even managed to add international facts and figures on such topics as education and the image of women in advertising.

**La part du père** by Geneviève Delaisi de Parseval is a piece of historical, social and psychological research on the role of the father, his experiences, the things that haunt him. The book takes eleven cases to illustrate male attitudes to fatherhood, adoption, vasectomy, etc. Women's emancipation helps fathers to discover that they do far more than just bringing children into the world and educating them. Published by Le Seuil, Paris.

**Women's Worlds: the new scholarship** is the theme of an international multidisciplinary congress to be held in Haifa (Israel) from 28 December 1981 to 1 January 1982. For details, write to Pr. Marilyn P. Safir, P.O. Box 3054, Tel Aviv 61030, Israel.

Women's film festival

With wide international participation, the Women's Film Festival in Brussels provided an opportunity for fascinating comparisons and contrasts. The audience noted how consistently the women film-makers suggest a new pattern for society in their works. Another similarity is that films tend to tackle a two-fold problem: being a woman in a country at war, being a (Japanese) woman and an immigrant (in Brazil), being a (Southern Italian) woman emigrant (in the North of Italy), being a woman and the victim of violence, etc.

Of special note was the sense of humour, sometimes tender, sometimes wistful, but always there.

Useful address      Les femmes dans le cinéma  
                         99 Rue C. Lemonnier  
                         1060 Brussels

**L'interruption volontaire de grossesse dans l'Europe des Neuf** is the record of discussions in October 1979 arranged by the Conseil supérieur de l'information sexuelle, de la régulation des naissances et de l'éducation familiale - France's higher council for sex education, birth control and family education. Supplemented by the legislation on the subjects, figures and statistical tables, every paper makes the vital point that not only women but society as a whole must be educated and informed. Published by Presses Universitaires de France, Cahier no. 91, in the collection entitled "Travaux et Documents de l'Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques".

**Socialism and feminism** was the theme of a meeting in June 1980 under the auspices of the Women's Socialist International. "Donna Oggi", published by the Italian Social Democrat Party, has devoted all 160 pages of its tenth issue to this encounter. Write to Donna Oggi, 12 Via S. Maria in Via, Rome.

**Jeremy Bentham padre del femminismo** - "Jeremy Bentham, father of feminism" - by Lea Campos Boralevi recounts the generous ideas of this English philosopher, man of law and reformer (1748-1832). With his penetrating mind, Bentham was amazingly modern. He defended equality and respected differences, something unusual at the dawn of the industrial revolution. Lea Campos Boralevi obtained her "European doctorate" at the Florence European University Institute with a thesis on this great figure. 150 pp., Lit.4,000, pub. by Carucci, Rome.

**Women and Science** - Issue no. 4 of "Pénélope", a journal on history for women, has 120 pages of articles which question accepted ideas on the relations between women and the sciences, opening out many new fields of research. Fr.20 per issue. Centre de Recherches Historiques, 54 Boulevard Raspail, 75270 Paris Cedex 06.

The **National Federation of Women's Institutes** has arranged more than 200 study courses at the Abingdon Denman College in 1982, covering a variety of topics: history of costume, law and women, an elocution course, microprocessors, musical composition, etc. Most courses are from Mondays to Fridays. For information and enrolment, write to Denman College, Marcham, Abingdon, OX13 6NW.

**Le donne di Seveso** describes the changes that have taken place since the day when a cloud of dioxin overwhelmed the lives of the inhabitants of a little town on the outskirts of Milan. After the anger and the anguish, its women react and reflect.

**Integrating Women in the Labour Market** is the theme of a European seminar arranged from 6 to 8 October 1981 in Copenhagen by the Women's Research Centre in Social Science. The main issues are the possible strategic convergence between institutional changes, legislative measures and progress in education and vocational training. For further information, write to Kirsten Jørgensen, H.C. Andersens Boulevard 38, mezz., 1553 Copenhagen.

**Memoria** is a new history journal consisting of a monograph plus many columns on current research, bibliographies, etc. Pub. by Rosenberg & Sellier, Via Andrea Doria 14, 10123 Turin.

**The new Soviet Woman: Model or Myth?** A report published by CHANGE, which has already brought out studies on women in Singapore and Thailand. Although there are 13 women for every 12 men in the Soviet Union, only one woman has ever been a member of the Politburo. Price £1.25 from CHANGE, Parnell House, 25 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1JS.

**1975-1985 Dieci Anni per la Donna - 1975-1985, woman's ten years** - describes the origins, the highlights and the prospects as seen during an important decade for women. In the introduction, Margherita Barnabei stresses the international scale of women's efforts. Although some countries have acknowledged equality for women in their law, discrimination is still the practice all over the world. Published by the Consiglio Italiano del Movimento Europeo (Italian European Movement Council), 10 Viale Guido Baccelli, 00153 Rome.

**Women and Libraries Conference** was the title of a day of study attended by 180 women in London. There were two main concerns: the position of women in publishing and the image of women as reflected in books. A pressure group has been formed as a result of this meeting: Women in Libraries, 8 Hill Road, London NW8.

**La forza lavoro femminile - analisi e prospettive** is the focal subject of the second issue of *Economia, Istruzione e Formazione Professionale*, with 175 pages of thought and many statistical tables. Published by Nuova Italia at Lit.5,500, Casella Postale 183, 50100 Florence.

**Women Speaking and Learning for Ourselves** is a report brought out by the International Council of Adult Education that describes in detail fourteen experiences of adult education in which women have taken an active part. Most were efforts in country areas and in slum districts of towns. U.S.\$3.50, published by Convergence P.O., Box 250, Station F, Toronto, Canada M4Y 2L5.

**Will, my Son** by Sarah Boston is a simple account of the life of Will, the author's mongol child and his mother's reactions. An invaluable book to all those faced with the reality of a handicapped child. She shows how essential it is to talk, to share experience, to come together to bring about a radical change in society's attitude to the mentally handicapped. Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH.

**COW Films** (COW stands for Cinema of Women) is a collective of six women film-makers who have pooled their resources to distribute feminist films. They feel that the showing of films should above all provide an opportunity for common debate and thought.

Useful address            COW Films  
                                 27 Clerkenwell Close  
                                 London ECL



**Press and Information offices  
of the European Community**

**BELGIUM**

1040 BRUSSELS  
Rue Archimède 73  
Tel. 735 00 40/735 80 40

**DENMARK**

1004 COPENHAGEN K  
4 Gammeltorv  
Postbox 144  
Tel. 14 41 40

**FRANCE**

75782 PARIS CEDEX 16  
61, rue des Belles-Feuilles  
Tel. 501 58 85

**GERMANY**

5300 BONN  
Zitelmannstraße 22  
Tel. 23 80 41  
1000 BERLIN 31  
Kurfürstendamm 102  
Tel. 8 92 40 28

**IRELAND**

DUBLIN 2  
39 Molesworth Street  
Tel. 71 22 44

**ITALY**

00187 ROME  
Via Poli, 29  
Tel. 678 97 22 a 26

**LUXEMBOURG**

LUXEMBOURG  
Bâtiment Jean Monnet B/O  
Rue Alcide de Gasperi  
Luxembourg-Kirchberg  
Tel. 430 11

**NETHERLANDS**

THE HAGUE  
29, Lange Voorhout  
Tel. 070-46 93 26

**UNITED KINGDOM**

LONDON W8 4QQ  
20, Kensington Palace  
Gardens  
Tel. 727 8090

CARDIFF CF1 9 SG  
4 Cathedral Road  
Tel. 371631

EDINBURGH EH2 4 PH  
7, Alva Street  
Tel. (031) 225.2058

BELFAST BT2 7eG  
Windsor House  
9/15 Bedford Street  
Tél. 40708

**CANADA**

OTTAWA, Ont. K1R 7S8  
Inn of the Provinces -  
Office Tower (Suite 1110)  
350 Sparks St.  
Tel. 238 64 64

**LATIN AMERICA**

CARACAS (VENEZUELA)  
Quinta Bienvenida  
Calle Colibri  
Valle Arriba  
Caracas 106  
Postal address:  
Apartado 67076  
Las Américas  
Tel.: 92 50 56 - 91 47 07

SANTIAGO, CHILE  
**Américo vespucio Sur**  
**1835 Santiago**  
Postal address:  
Casilla 10093  
Tel. 25 05 55

**GREECE**

ATHENS 134  
Vassilisis Sofias 2  
T.K. 1602  
Tel. 743 982/83/84

**JAPAN**

102 TOKYO  
Kowa 25 Building  
8-7 Sanbancho  
Chiyoda-Ku  
Tel. 239-04 41

**SPAIN**

MADRID 1  
Centro Serrano  
Calle de Serrano 41  
5o planta  
Tel. 474.11.87

**SWITZERLAND**

1202 GENEVA  
37-39, rue de Vermont  
Tel. 34 97 50

**THAILAND**

BANGKOK  
Thai Military Bank Bldg  
34, Phya Thai Road  
Tel. 282.1452

**TURKEY**

ANKARA  
Kavaklidere  
13, Bogaz Sokak  
Tel. 27 61 45/46

**UNITED STATES**

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
20037  
2100 M Street, N.W.  
Suite 707  
Tel. (202) 862-95-00

NEW YORK, N.Y., 10017  
1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza  
245 East 47th Street  
Tel. (212) 371-38-04

**PORTUGAL**

1200 LISBON  
35, rua do Sacramento à Lapa  
Tel. 66 75 96

**Sales offices for publications  
of the European Community**

**Belgique - België**

*Moniteur belge -  
Belgisch Staatsblad*  
Rue de Louvain 40-42  
Leuvensestraat 40-42  
1000 Bruxelles — 1000 Brussel  
Tél. 512 00 26  
CCP 000-2005502-27  
Postrekening 000-2005502-27

*Sous-dépôts — Agentschappen:*

Librairie européenne  
Europese Boekhandel  
Rue de la Loi 244  
Wetstraat 244  
1040 Bruxelles — 1040 Brussel

**CREDOC**

Rue de la Montagne 34 - Bte 11  
Bergstraat 34 - Bus 11  
1000 Bruxelles — 1000 Brussel

**Danmark**

*J.H. Schultz — Boghandel*  
Montergade 19  
1116 København K  
Tel. (01) 14 11 95  
Girokonto 2001195

*Europa-Bøger*

Gammel Torv 6  
Postbox 137  
1004 København K  
Tel. (01) 14 54 32

**BR Deutschland**

*Verlag-Bundesanzeiger*  
Breite Straße  
Postfach 10 80 06  
5000 Köln 1  
Tel. (02 2 1) 21 03 48  
(Fernschreiber: Anzeiger Bonn  
9 882 595)  
Postscheckkonto 834 00 Köln

**France**

*Service de vente en France  
des publications  
des Communautés européennes*

*Journal officiel*

26, rue Desaix  
75732 Paris Cedex 15  
Tel. (1) 578 61 39  
CCP Paris 23-96

*Sous-agent*

D. E. P. P. — Maison de l'Europe  
37, rue des Francs-Bourgeois  
75004 Paris  
Tél. 887 96 50

**Ireland**

*Government Publications*

Sales Office  
G.P.O. Arcade  
Dublin 1

or by post from

*Stationery Office*

Dublin 4  
Tel. 78 96 44

**Italia**

*Libreria dello Stato*

Piazza G. Verdi 10  
00198 Roma — Tel. (6) 8508  
Telex 62008  
CCP 387001

*Agenzia*

Via XX Settembre  
(Palazzo Ministero del tesoro)  
00187 Roma

**Grand-Duché  
de Luxembourg**

*Office des publications officielles  
des Communautés européennes*

5, rue du Commerce  
Boîte postale 1003  
Luxembourg  
Tél. 49 00 81 — CCP 19190-81  
Compte courant bancaire :  
BIL 8-109/6003/300

**Nederland**

*Staatsdrukkerij-  
en uitgeverijbedrijf*

Christoffel Plantijnstraat,  
s-Gravenhage  
Tel. (070) 62 45 51  
Postgiro 42 53 00

**United Kingdom**

*H. M. Stationery Office*

P.O. Box 569  
London SE1 9NH  
Tel. (01) 928 6977, ext. 365  
National Giro Account 582-1002

**United States of America**

*European Community  
Information Service*

2 100 M. Street, N.W.  
Suite 707  
Washington, D.C. 20 037  
Tel. (202) 862 95 00

**Schweiz - Suisse - Svizzera**

*Librairie Payot*

6, rue Grenus  
1211 Genève  
Tél. 31 89 50  
CCP 12-236 Genève

**Sverige**

*Librairie C.E. Fritze*

2, Fredsgatan  
Stockholm 16  
Postgiro 193, Bankgiro 73/4015

**España**

*Libreria Mundi-Prensa*

Castelló 37  
Madrid 1  
Tel. 275 46 55

**Other countries**

*Office for Official Publications  
of the European Communities*

5, rue du Commerce  
Boîte postale 1003  
Luxembourg  
Tel. 49 00 81 — CCP 19190-81  
Compte courant bancaire :  
BIL 8-109/6003/300