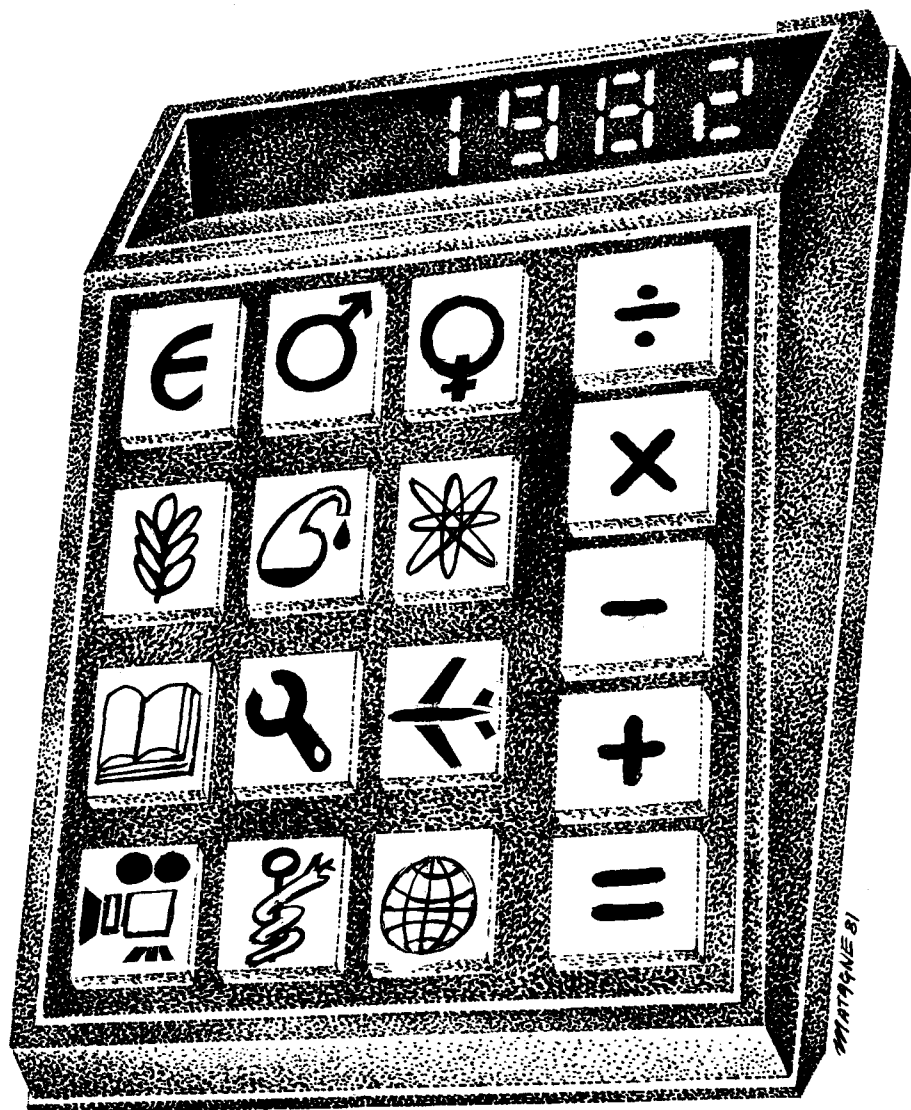


# Women of Europe

Women of Europe no. 23 - November/December 1981



NEW TECHNOLOGY - NEW SOCIETY

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N o t e   t o   o u r   r e a d e r s

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## THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

### An Equal Opportunities Programme

Commissioner Richard, who is responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Education, has introduced the Community's new action programme on promotion of equal opportunities for women (1982-1985).

Mr. Ivor Richard stressed the need to press on with the action that has already been taken at EEC level (three directives: on equal pay, equal access to employment, vocational training, promotion and working conditions; on equal treatment in matters of social security; and on Social Fund measures in favour of women), because equality of opportunity for men and women will be achieved only through sustained, long-term action. This means that the Community's role in generating momentum towards a better status for women must be reinforced not just by legal measures on equal treatment in employment and other fields but even more by the additional forms of **positive action** which will help to achieve equality of opportunity in practical terms.

Current economic difficulties are undoubtedly slowing down the underlying trend towards equal opportunities. The jobs of most working women are insecure: they tend to work in unskilled jobs and on a part-time or temporary basis, fields in which they are especially vulnerable because of growing competition. Their position is made even more critical by the cuts in public spending on social infrastructure such as day nurseries and pre-school education and by the introduction of new technology to economize on labour in, for example, secretarial work and retailing - the sectors that have traditionally employed a very large proportion of women. These and other factors have led to a situation in which almost half of the registered unemployed are women although they represent only just over a third of the working population in the Community. Even among school-leavers seeking their first jobs, more girls are unemployed than boys.

Under the new programme, action will be taken in two general directions. Eight forms of action are planned in the first direction, the general aim being to reinforce individual rights:

- 1) attentive monitoring of the way in which existing directives (especially on the subject of indirect discrimination) are being applied;
- 2) an improvement to the procedures for legal recourse to uphold the right to equal treatment;
- 3) aid to Member States in their task of overhauling protective legislation, as prescribed in the directive on equal treatment;
- 4) a new proposal on equal treatment in matters of social security, to incorporate aspects at present excluded (for example, the concept of the "head of the family");
- 5) abolition of the types of indirect discrimination that still remain in the occupational status of independent women workers and women farmers;

- 6) correction of indirect discrimination caused by tax legislation;
- 7) a fairer sharing of parental responsibility through the wider introduction of parental (not just maternity) leave and leave for family reasons;
- 8) increased protection of women during pregnancy and the immediate post-natal period, combined with attempts to overcome the factors that make employers reluctant to hire women.

The second set of measures relates to the achievement of equal opportunity in practice by "positive action" programmes to combat restrictions and mental preconceptions arising from the traditional segregation of roles in society.

The measures should help women to take on non-traditional jobs, perhaps in sectors where new technology is being introduced, with help from the Social Fund and with special emphasis on innovatory methods that will enable women to achieve this end. Additional action is needed to publicize the range of careers accessible to women.

Desegregation of employment should be encouraged, especially in the public sector. The impact of economic recession on job opportunities for women should be monitored, with special attention being paid to the problems of immigrant women. Every effort should be deployed to encourage women to play a more active part on decision-making bodies, especially those associated with the labour market. Finally, an information programme should be directed at women to make them more aware of their rights, as well as a campaign reaching the general public so that it will accept women as equals in all sectors of society and realise the benefits of this change.

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Under its 1982-85 plan of action for the promotion of equal opportunities, the European Commission has decided to set up an "Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women".

According to the European Commission, equal treatment is more likely to become the general rule if it is fostered by better cooperation and the pooling of views and experience by agencies with specific responsibility for the furtherance of equal opportunities within the Member States and by the Commission.

In particular, the European Commission feels that EEC directives on equality will be translated into practice far more quickly and in more concrete ways if support is obtained from national agencies, since they have a network of specific information at their disposal - a view expressed at the Manchester Conference held in May 1980.

The task of the Committee will be to assist the European Commission in formulating and implementing policy on the advancement of women's employment and equal opportunities, and also to arrange for the continuous exchange of information on experience and action launched in the fields in question within the Community.

The twenty Committee members are men and women representatives of national employment and/or equality committees or similar bodies. Delegates sent by the social partners (employers, unions, agricultural organizations) may attend meetings as observers.

#### Women and development aid

In talks on development cooperation early in November, the Council of Ministers of the European Community touched on women's role in development.

It was agreed that at one of its next meetings there would be a policy debate on this issue, based on a communication from the European Commission. The communication will be drawn up by the European Commission in liaison with experts from Member States, who are to meet for the first time in January 1982. For its part, the Commission will be consulting its delegates in developing countries on the part that women play there.

#### Hunger in the world

In its efforts to combat world hunger, the European Community has decided on four practical steps:

- 1) emergency aid enabling the Third World countries to procure about 250,000 tons of cereal;
- 2) a coherent food strategy that will pool the resources of Community and other donor countries;
- 3) regional measures to combat soil erosion and desertification, promote more rational use of timber as an energy source, reconstitute wooded areas and encourage the type of farming that meets essential needs.
- 4) higher contributions from the Ten to international projects designed to improve the food situation in developing nations, particularly the poorest among them.

An audio-visual pack

To show in simple terms how the European Community works and to explain the problems now being met in building the Community, an audio-visual pack has been produced by the Directorate General for Information in the European Commission. Pierre Servoz, who designed the pack, has put together 80 slides and a "presenter's guide" which will help with the arrangement of discussion evenings or seminars.

The pack can be obtained from your nearest European Community Press and Information Bureau, in the list on the last page of "Women of Europe".

The social integration of the handicapped

In 1980, more than 100,000 handicapped people benefited from aid out of the European Social Fund, which paid out more than 70 million units of account towards their vocational rehabilitation (1 UA = approximately US \$1.1). In 1981, the amount of aid was increased to over 90 million UA.

The European Community does not intend to confine its aid to the vocational training of the handicapped. For social integration to be successful, many factors must be coordinated: health, employment, education, training, housing, transport, public information, etc.

The emphasis will be on coordinating action at local level, since services for the handicapped are usually run by the local authorities. As stated by Mr. Ivor Richard, the member of the European Commission responsible for the affairs of the handicapped, the intention is to set up a network of district development projects which will serve as models to the Community as a whole of how we can achieve the social integration of every single handicapped person in a given district.

This plan is part of a five year programme being launched by the Community. The first year (1982) will be one of preparation; it will be followed by four years devoted entirely to the implementation of the programme (1983-86). Under the overall programme, about 25 million UA will be deployed.

According to the most conservative estimates, there are no fewer than 13 million handicapped people in the European Community.

### A student's guide

The first edition of the Student's Guide was printed in 20,000 copies in 1977; the print run for the current third edition is 56,000. One out of every 200 students in the European Community is engaged on further studies in a country other than his or her own.

Conditions of acceptance, enrolment dues and procedures, grants and scholarships, accommodation and social services: the Student's Guide is a remarkable work of reference. It can be purchased from the Office for Official Publications of the European Community (see list on last page of "Women of Europe").

### The European Community as a publisher

Publications brought out by Community institutions and agencies are listed in a multilingual annual catalogue and regular revisions are printed in the monthly journal, "Bulletin of the European Communities". These two lists are available from the Office for Official Publications and from the sales offices in each EEC Member State (see back cover of "Women of Europe").

There is, however, an abridged version, entitled "La Communauté européenne éditeur". In almost 100 pages, this booklet lists the main official publications appearing between 1977 and 1981 and also gives a guide to leading general information and popular publications.

Community press and information offices in Member States and a few non-EEC countries also stock publications and documentary material and are happy to answer any enquiries from the public on European Community activities.

### The environment, 1982-86

The European Commission has been reshaping its environment policy to pave the way for its third five-year programme.

EEC action on the environment, launched by the Heads of State and Government in October 1972, has achieved substantial results within a relatively short time despite growing economic difficulties. In the early stages, Community action was essentially directed against pollution, but it has gradually been evolving towards an overall preventive policy, the aim being to integrate environment policy with general policy and policies for individual sectors.

To summarize, action between 1972 and 1981 could be described as fairly "defensive". The European Commission would now like to develop a "preventive" environmental policy. According to the Commission, the preventive approach could help to reduce the overall economic cost considerably and might also lead to positive support measures and action to boost economic development.

The European Commission believes that environmental policy should be a structural policy to be pursued regardless of short term economic contingencies, the aims being to safeguard future development potential and prevent the grave deterioration of natural resources. The Commission also feels that the environment policy may create new jobs by promoting and incentivating advanced technology industries. The policy is an important factor in industrial innovation and may make the economy of the European Community more competitive.

In this spirit the European Commission has mapped out four main priorities:

- rational management of space;
- conservation of fauna and flora;
- rational management of water resources;
- management of waste.

#### A new departure for the European Social Fund

In an application to the European Social Fund for finance, the East Leeds Women's Workshops included a request for the salary of a nursery nurse to care for the children of women on a training project. This was the first time that a request of this nature has been made to the European Social Fund, and it has given its consent.

Women's organizations have often stressed the point that many women are unable to go on training courses because of their family responsibilities. European Parliament has also recommended specific measures to help mothers.

The fact that the cost of day care for children is viewed as a normal item in overheads is an important precedent for the European Social Fund and for the women's associations that arrange vocational training courses.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

October session

Opening the October session of European Parliament, its president, **Simone Veil**, paid tribute to the memory of Anwar Sadat, who had been assassinated. She had just returned from the funeral of the Egyptian President and spoke of his visit to the special session of European Parliament in February 1981.

**Gloria Hooper** (UK, Conservative) tabled a motion on the introduction of a European health card that might be carried by EC citizens on a voluntary basis, with due respect for medical confidentiality and the patient's private life. A card of this kind, intended in particular for people with serious or chronic conditions, has already proved its worth in Germany and Luxembourg. In the course of the debate **Ursula Schleicher** (Germany, Christian Democrat) asked the Commission when the next Council of Health Ministers would take place (as of this time, only two meetings have been held). The Commission expressed the hope of a meeting in the first half of 1982.

In a broad-ranging debate on national aid to crisis sectors in industry and respect for competition, **Christiane Scrivener** (France, Liberal) deplored the distortion of competition by differing interest rates in some countries. She wondered whether indirect or direct aid following the enlargement of the public sector (a reference to planned nationalization in France) would be compatible with EEC regulations on competition, warning of the risk of monopoly. During the debate on nationalization, **Marie-Claude Vayssade** defended her Government's policy and denied that nationalization would restrict free movement of capital (there is as yet no true European capital market) or would create monopolies; the critics, she said, were prejudging events.

Parliament debated at length a report by **Luciana Castellina** (Italy, PdUP) on breast milk substitutes, calling for a European directive to ensure that the World Health Organization international code on the marketing and advertising of baby foods is implemented. Although they did not wholly share the views expressed in the report, many Christian Democrat MEPs agreed as to the basic issue, as in the case of **Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago-Cerretti** from Italy who attacked the aggressive advertising of baby foods, **Johanna Maij-Weggen**, who suggested that there should be cooperation with the manufacturers to solve the problems, **Renate-Charlotte Rabbethge** from Germany, who felt that more clear-cut suggestions should be made on improving the health of mothers. **Vera Squarcialupi**, in turn, argued that to export many of our food habits to developing nations does them more harm than good. The European Commission confirmed that a directive would be put forward.

**Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago-Cerretti** also presented a motion calling for a range of priorities for the Community's social policy in the fields of employment, more coordinated use of existing financial instruments, training and social protection, with special stress on equality between men and women.

**Christiane Scrivener** also tabled an emergency motion on the dangers of certain products to health, starting with the case of adulterated oil in Spain. The original wording of the resolution was very tough in that it called for a quick decision on withdrawing this type of product from EEC markets. Finally, though, in deference to the Spanish people ("our friends, and soon our partners in the Community"), Christiane Scrivener merely asked for thought to be given to a ban in the future, with **Vera Squarcialupi** (Italy, Communist) supporting her in this suggestion.

European Parliament suggested that, to prevent political and commercial speculation, the Olympic games should be held permanently in Greece. MEPs were not unanimous: some, including **Phili Viehoff** (Neth, Socialist), thought that the very principle of the games should be questioned, while **Sylvie Leroux** (France, Communist) suggested that the games be held in Africa as well or in other countries which had never been their host.

**Marie-Jane Pruvot** (France, Liberal) tabled a motion calling for a joint EEC/Thailand committee to consider the transfer of young Europeans jailed in Thailand for the possession of drugs to European prisons; there was some opposition from British Conservatives, including **Baroness Elles**.

Finally, there was a major debate on the creation of a Community charter for regional languages and cultures; some of the numerous MEPs who spoke did so in their "regional" languages. **Paola Gaiotti di Biase** (Italy, Christian Democrat) put a forceful case for the right of different cultures to protection, while her Radical compatriot **Emma Bonino** took up the cudgels on behalf of people who are now in the minority in regions where the minority has become the majority (as in the case of non-German speaking Italians in the Italian Tyrol). **Ann Clwyd** (UK, Socialist) widened the debate by declaring that unemployment also helps to kill off languages and cultures. **Nicole Péry** (France, Socialist) succeeded in having a number of amendments incorporated to reinforce the original wording of the resolution as drafted by the Italian Socialist, **Gaetano Arfé**.

Education and women: **Mechtild von Alemann** wanted to know what plans the European Commission has to allay the concern of EEC Education Ministers about specific measures to help the wives and daughters of immigrant workers. The Commission replied that it is considering proposals. Two courses of action are emerging: guidance for the adolescent daughters of immigrants should be improved and there should be better training for women immigrants, especially language learning, to help them integrate in society.

#### The "Crocodile Club"

This is a club for MEPs who want to see an institutional revival of the European Community. For better liaison with public opinion, "Crocodile Clubs" are gradually being set up in the Community countries. In Belgium, for instance, one has been founded by Anne-Marie Lizin, Lucien Radoux and Karel van Miert.

Greek Parliamentarians

At the national elections held on 18 October, Greek voters were also asked to decide on their representatives in European Parliament. Two of the 24 new MEPs are women: Konstantina Pantazi and Calliopi Nikolaou, both members of PASOK.

1980: a few facts and figures

In 1980, European Parliament sat for 64 days and its debates lasted a total of 430 hours, during which MEPs aired their views on 152 directives, regulations and decisions proposed by the European Commission. In addition, it passed 179 resolutions on the issues it had raised on its own initiative.

European Parliamentarians submitted 2,312 written questions to the other Community institutions.

The position of women within the Community

The debate on women in the European Community by European Parliament in February 1981 is the subject of a SPECIAL ISSUE of "Women of Europe" (19/81).

It contains the full text of the debate and the resolution as passed by Parliament, as well as a breakdown of how MEPs voted.

The report can be obtained free of charge from:

"Women of Europe"

Commission of the European Communities

200 Rue de la Loi

1049 Brussels

The November session of European Parliament was dominated by political issues. Two Foreign Ministers came to address Parliament: Mr Genscher from Germany and Mr Colombo from Italy, both of whom discussed political cooperation and ways of improving it at length. During the debate, **Baroness Elles**, who had presented a report on political cooperation in July, expressed satisfaction at the progress that had been made since then, due in particular to problems of security having been raised as part of political cooperation. She hoped that the Community would evolve a foreign policy in line with its economic strength; she felt that the European Commission should be more closely involved in the political cooperation arrangements (and in fact the trend is in this direction).

Still in the political field, Parliament passed a motion that had been deferred from one session to the next since May 1980. It concerned the protection of shipping routes used for the shipment of energy and strategic materials to the EEC countries. The resolution (which was passed by only a small majority) recommended coordinating the missions of the fleets of the Ten countries outside the NATO area. Mr **Charzat** (France, Socialist) said that the report was indefensible: instead of resorting to this "gunboat policy", thought should have been given in good time to developing sources of energy as an alternative to oil and to establishing free and balanced trade with Third World countries. **Else Hammerich**, of the Front against Danish Membership of the EEC, deplored the tendency for Europe to set itself up as an industrial and military grouping.

Based on a report by **William Hopper**, Parliament discussed the "mandate of 30 May 1980" to the Commission to suggest how the Community could be overhauled and work better. As of this time, Parliament had received only an interim report from the Commission. Mr Hopper felt that there was agreement as to the objectives stated in the report - greater convergence of economies and rejection of the concept of retrenchment - but it was too vaguely worded, a criticism repeated by **Hanna Walz** (Germany, Christian Democrat), the Chairman of the Energy Committee, who called for a true energy policy to be proposed at last. **Henriette Poirier** (France, Communist) criticized other aspects of the report, seeing the section on enlargement and the co-responsibility system in particular as a campaign against small farmers.

The coordination of economic policies was also debated, based on a report by the French Liberal, Mr Delorozoy. The Socialist Group spokesman, **Marie Desouches** (speaking for the first time in Parliament) pointed out that, in times of crisis, it would not be possible to restore a balance and overhaul the Community if the free play of market forces is allowed. To combat unemployment, "voluntarist" policies are needed. The policies of individual Member States cannot be identical all points, but she felt that more stringent competition policy should be introduced to avoid the "partitioning" of economies.

Another subject that featured prominently in the November session was the environment, with reports and questions on the pollution of the Rhine, endangered species and the European Commission's environment programme.

In the common debate on these points, **Hanna Maij-Weggen** (Neth, CD) said that France's decision to comply with at least some of its obligations arising from the 1976 convention on the protection of the Rhine against salt pollution is a step in the right direction, but she stressed the harmful economic and psychological effects of ignoring this convention.

A Luxembourg MEP from the same group, **Marcelle Lentz-Cornette**, said that pollution is a supranational problem and its effects are felt beyond national borders. Common regulations must be formulated. She did not believe that environmental conservation causes jobs to be lost; on the contrary, it may give rise to innovation. This view was shared by **Vera Squarcialupi** (Italy, Communist), who felt strongly that environmental conservation is a productivity factor and does not lead to a loss of profit. The French Communist, **Henriette Poirier** defended nature but she saw the problem in quite a different way: environmental conservation is a matter to be left to each state, and she was annoyed at the obsessive way some people are trying to abolish hunting, a sport popular in France.

The slowness of negotiations on the enlargement of the Community has been worrying European Parliament for a long time, and it was by a large majority that it voted in favour of keeping to the deadlines specified for the accession of Spain and Portugal (early in 1984). The British Socialist, **Ann Clwyd**, for instance, called on the EEC countries not to cut themselves off in a "rich men's club" but to try to realise the contribution the applicant countries can make to the Community.

She also deplored the efforts of certain Governments in intentionally slowing down negotiations. The German Liberal, **Mechtild von Alemann**, said that now is the time to tackle real political decisions rather than haggling about details. Another note was struck by **Henriette Poirier**, who felt that enlargement would cause insoluble problems for agriculture in the Mediterranean (especially in southwestern France) and also for workers in the applicant countries.

The MEPs who had gone on an official visit to Cambodia in the spring called for continuing European aid to that country. **Maria Antonietta Macciocchi** (Italy, Radical), who had been a member of the visiting group, thought that this aid had helped to end genocide. This people now had to be saved from death, even though the new occupiers, the Vietnam who took over from the Pol Pot regime, govern by fear. **Maria Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso** (Italy, Communist) agreed that human lives must be saved without worrying about whether people know who are their saviours - an egoistic and Euro-centred view.

### New Year Moves

Marijke van Hameldonck is taking over from Marcel Colla, one of the Belgian members of the European Parliament Socialist group, on 1 January 1982. The new arrival has not only been an active member of the European Movement's women's committee but has also represented Belgium in the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

### Guinea

**Marie-Jane Pruvot** (Liberal, France), a member of European Parliament, has recently visited Guinea at the invitation of President Sekou Touré. During the visit, she was struck by the efforts being made to promote agriculture and equality between men and women. On her return, she described the important role being played by women in different sectors of the economy: market gardening, fisheries, livestock farming, crafts, trade, small industry, etc.

### Spain

The joint committee of representatives of European Parliament and the Spanish Cortes has met in London, when it restated the need for Spain to join the European Community by 1 January 1984.

Following a ministerial reshuffle early in December, Ms Soledad Becerril has become a member of the Government team and is no longer the Minister for the Arts.

### Thinking about peace

Winding up a debate in Milan on the theme of "women, Europe and peace", **Elise Boot, Heinke Salish, Vera Squarcialupi** and **Marie-Claude Vayssade** have launched an appeal to European citizens to "think about the dangers of nuclear war, the possibility of cutting down on weapons and the urgent need to solve the problems of underdevelopment so that a culture founded on peace can be evolved".

### Argentine mothers

In Strasbourg, Argentine mothers representing the "Plaza de Mayo mothers" spoke to European Parliamentarians on the fate of the children who have disappeared since 1976 (see "Women of Europe" n° 21/81).

**Yvette Fullet** recalled that the aim had been to send a European Parliament committee of enquiry to the Argentine. The former chairman of the "human rights" sub-committee of the Political Affairs Committee, **Ien van den Heuvel**, together with **Anne-Marie Lizin, Marie-Claude Vayssade**, the chairman of the committee of enquiry on the position of women, and **Maria Antonietta Macciocchi** pointed out the references to the "moral values of Europe" which had been made in the debate on the future of the European Union.

Committee of enquiry on the position of women in Europe

The very first "committee of enquiry" to be set up by European Parliament is to look into the position of women in Europe today. The committee's terms of reference have been described by Ien van den Heuvel as "to see whether what has been done on paper has actually been done in practice and, if not, what obstacles are being met".

Chaired by Marie-Claude Vayssade (France, Socialist), the committee of enquiry has decided on its priorities for consideration and has shared out the responsibilities for each issue among its members. Konstantina Pantazi, a Greek member who was elected to Parliament after the committee of enquiry had been formed, insisted on being involved in the work immediately on her arrival.

This is the list of the subjects to be tackled and the committee members with responsibility for each one:

- social security directive - Ien van den Heuvel (Neth, S)
- changes in working hours - Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul (Ger, S)
- women in the Third World - Anne-Marie Lizin (Bel, S)
- women in Greece - Konstantina Pantazi (Greece, S)
- application of directives on equal pay and treatment - Paola Gaiotti di Biase (Italy, EPP)
- the European Social Fund - Johanna Maij-Weggen (Neth, PPE)
- women in Community institutions - Marlene Lenz (Germany, PPE)
- education - Nicolas Estgen (Lux, PPE)
- tax - Dame Shelagh Roberts (UK, ED)
- information - Gloria Hooper (UK, ED)
- women immigrants - Maria Cinciari Rodano (Italy, Com)
- parental leave and social infrastructure - Sylvie Le Roux (France, Com)
- vocational training - Mechtild von Alemann (Ger, Lib)
- disadvantaged women, women in agriculture and in family businesses - Simone Martin (France, Lib)
- new technology - Antoinette Spaak (Bel, NI)
- health - Doeke Eisma (Neth, NI)
- women in disadvantaged regions - Sile de Valera (Ireland, DEP)

The committee of enquiry has met Mr Ivor Richard, the member of the Commission with special responsibility for Social Affairs, Education and Employment, who has outlined the new five-year programme for the promotion of equal opportunities (1982-85).

The response to this programme will depend a good deal on women themselves, Mr Richard said. They should be encouraged to play a part on all consultative and decision-making bodies within Member States and the Community. As an example, Mr Richard cited the fact that so few women were represented on the various committees consulted by the European Commission in the field of social affairs alone: only 15 women out of the 240 representatives of employers, unions and governments.

In the presence of the committee of enquiry, the question of the membership of the equal opportunities committee being formed by the European Commission was debated. MEPs stated their regret at the absence of women's associations and said that a European grouping of women's associations should be encouraged and supported by the European Commission, for instance along the lines of the European Youth Forum. Mr Richard hinted that the Commission would look at any initiative from women's groups themselves "with a favourable eye".

Marie-Claude Vayssade, chairman of the committee of enquiry, wants to see the European Commission taking the "women's viewpoint" into account in every field - something she has not found in, for instance, the report on the "30th May Mandate" or in the fifth medium-term policy programme.



FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

BELGIUM

Elections

Following the national elections early in November, women candidates won 12 of the 212 seats. Nine of these women were standing in the Dutch-speaking part of the country (6 in the Social Christian Party, 2 Liberals and 1 Socialist), and three were candidates in the French-speaking part (2 from the Front des francophones-Rassemblement wallon, 1 Socialist). In the previous legislature there were 16 women in the Lower House.

In the Upper House - the Senate - 14 of the 106 successful candidates were women: 7 elected in the Dutch-speaking area (3 Social Christians, 1 Socialist and 1 "ecologist") and seven in the French-speaking area (2 Social Christians, 21 Liberals, 2 Socialists and 1 "ecologist").

Under a special procedure, 50 senators are elected by provincial councils, and 5 women have been voted to the Senate through this channel: 2 French-speaking Socialists, 1 French-speaking Social Christian, 1 Dutch-speaking Socialist and 1 Dutch-speaking Social Christian.

At the time of the national elections, many organizations campaigned for women candidates to be supported by women voters. Porte Ouverte, the Nationale Vrouwenraad van Belgie, the Conseil National des Femmes Belges and the Comité de Liaison et de Solidarité des Femmes, for instance, all worked to achieve the same end. Although the end result was disappointing, remarkable numbers of "preference votes" were cast for women. The reason why the number of women elected did not reflect the emerging trend was the low ranking of women candidates in party lists.

Health and information in Liège

The "Quality of Life" department in the city of Liège has embarked upon a systematic campaign to inform women about health matters. Detailed booklets are being distributed on four vital issues: the prevention of breast and cervical cancer, contraception and the harmful effects of smoking during pregnancy.

Useful address      Echevinat du Logement et de la Qualité de la Vie  
                         Mr Petir, Echevin  
                         La Batte, 10  
                         4000 Liège

An employment mart

At a "job mart" arranged by the Secretariat of State for the Brussels Region, 2,000 jobs were offered by over a hundred employers to the 20,958 visitors, 7,800 of whom - 37% of the total - were women. This high percentage of women was seen as an encouraging sign by the organizers, who would like to humanize contact between job seekers and those with jobs to offer.

More breakthroughs for women.

**Danielle Dierkens** is the first woman to have been appointed Royal Procurator - public prosecutor - in Belgium. Joining the Brussels Bar in 1966, Danielle Dierkens has been a judge in the industrial tribunal and now sits on the bench of the Tournai country court.

**Liliane Martens**, aged 21, is the first woman to have been appointed professor of engineering, a post she holds in Deurne Technical Institute near Antwerp.

**Ms Desmet-Huybrechts** is the first professional woman jockey in Belgium.

Journalism award

The French Community Council has awarded its journalism prize to Monique Bosman for a series of articles on children's theatre in a weekly magazine, "Femmes d'aujourd'hui".

FRANCE

Contraception

Yvette Roudy, Minister for Women's Rights, has launched a campaign on contraception which will include television programmes, meetings, discussions, booklets, etc.

It is apparent that women still know little about the contraceptive methods available to them. All too often the most ill informed are very young girls and women over 40, the two groups of women for whom pregnancy is the most undesirable. It is common for a woman to feel she "knows all about it", even though her information has come from a girlfriend and not from a doctor or a family planning centre.

Useful address      Campagne d'information sur la contraception  
Boîte Postale 1000  
75322 Paris Cedex 07

Women's rights budget

The 1982 budget for the Ministry for Women's Rights deserves special note, since the funds made available are ten times greater than last year: Fr.96,347,000.

The credits for departmental running costs (Fr.18,609,000) are enough for a team of 35 in 1982 plus 22 full-time regional delegates. This will mean that the Ministry can make its voice heard whenever the Government is involved in major debates, research, preparatory work or decision-making.

The Ministry's action funds have been increased to Fr.77,738,000, from which the Women's Information Centre will receive Fr.3,238,205, with Fr.14,500,000 being set aside for the creation of 300 jobs in the public sector. The balance of the funds, about Fr.60,000,000, will be divided into three roughly equal parts and used to further the three priorities suggested by Yvette Roudy, the Minister: training, information and specific help for women in difficulty and women in the arts.

Useful address      Ministère des Droits des Femmes  
                            25 Avenue Charles Floquet  
                            75700 Paris

**G E R M A N Y**

An anti-discrimination law?

Should there be a special law against discrimination to supplement the "basic law" (roughly the same as a Constitution)? The Government is considering the question, and a public hearing in January 1982 will provide an opportunity to find out what women's groups and experts think.

If a law of this kind is passed (Christian Democrat Party women members feel that the basic law is adequate), what can be done to ensure that it is implemented? Women members of the Free Democrat Party (FDP) would like to see a commission responsible for monitoring and arbitration, but the SPD (Social Democrats) and the GDB (general trades union) do not agree. Liberals, Socialists and unionists are, however, united in their belief that positive discrimination would help narrow the gap between men and women in matters of pay and opportunities for advancement in their careers.

Useful addresses	CDU Konrad-Adenauer-Haus <u>5300 Bonn 1</u>	DGB-Frauen Hans-Bockler Haus <u>4000 Dusseldorf</u>
	FDP Baumscheidtstr. 15 <u>5300 Bonn 1</u>	SPD Ollenhauerstr. 1 <u>5300 Bonn 1</u>

### Education

In a recent report on the position of girls in education, the Federal Ministry for Education and Science has pointed out that more girls than boys complete their elementary education but more boys go on to the end of the period of schooling that leads to university and other higher education. In the same way, more young men than young women finish their vocational training or advanced studies.

One encouraging trend is emerging: the number of girls in secondary education is the same as - sometimes more than - the number of boys.

The most worrying discrepancy becomes apparent during the transition from general education to job-related training. Fewer girls than boys learn a trade, which means that girls are less likely to have any special skills to offer potential employers and more likely to find themselves on the dole.

Useful address      Bundesministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft  
                                 Postfach  
                                 5300 Bonn 2

### Decoration

The President of the Republic has awarded Irmgard von Meibom the "Grosse Bundesverdienstkreuz" (grand cross for services to the Federal Republic) in recognition of her work for women, especially during the time when she was the president of the Deutsche Frauenrat (German Women's Council).

### Equality and insurance

Anke Martiny, a member of the Bundestag (Federal Parliament) for the SDP party, has launched a campaign against the practice of health insurance funds of making women pay a higher contribution than men; it appears that the same is true of life assurance.

Useful address      Dr Anke Martiny  
                                 Bundeshaus  
                                 5300 Bonn 1

### Works councils

More and more women are standing as candidates for seats on works councils. From 1978 to 1981, for instance, the percentage of women elected rose from 10.4% to 11.5% in the steel and metallurgy industry, although the increase still does not reflect the percentage of women working in the industry (21.6%).

Useful address      I-G Metall  
                                 Wilhelm-Leuschner-Str. 79-85  
                                 6000 Frankfurt

### Equal pay

According to the latest figures, equal pay has not yet arrived in practice. In industry and trade, the average weekly wage for men is DM.596 but only DM.412 for women. Male office workers earn DM.3,492 a month; their female counterparts earn an average of DM.2,260. The working week also varies: men work 41.2 hours a week, compared with 39.3 hours in the case of women.

Useful address      Stätistisches Bundesamt  
                         Pressestelle  
                         Wiesbaden

### A woman in the Church

Heidi Sörensen, a pastor in Reutlingen, is the first women to be a member of the Oberkirchenrat - the highest governing body - of the Baden-Württemberg Evangelical Church.

### Divorce in the family

According to the revised family law, a divorced couple has a mutual right to half the annuities and pensions of the former spouse as of the date of the divorce. This improves the position of women who have stayed at home to care for the children and have not been able to contribute to a social security scheme.

The law states that a couple may give up this right at the time of drawing up the contract of marriage before the notary, but the Minister, Antje Huber, has advised women not to renounce such a hard won right.

### Job-sharing

Birgit Breuel, Economic Affairs Ministers in the Regional Government of Lower Saxony, would like to encourage job-sharing as it helps to reconcile work and family life. Under job-sharing arrangements, two - or more - people can hold the same job and share the pay, social security and of course the work.

The unions and the SPD party have expressed their misgivings about this policy. They fear that in the long run social security coverage will prove inadequate, that two people rather than one will be on the dole in the event of redundancy and that the system will detract from the solidarity of workers.

Useful address      Birgit Breuel  
                         Niedersächsisches Wirtschaftsministerium  
                         5000 Hanover

### Women and the budget

There is growing protest against the way in which the authorities are cutting expenditure. Women are particularly affected by the cuts in social services. The last to benefit from any grants for vocational training, women are also the first to forfeit its benefits.

G R E E C E

In regions with a reasonably large electorate, men and women vote separately in Greece; in the sparsely populated regions, on the other hand, they go to the same stations to cast their votes. This special feature of the Greek electoral system makes it easy to compare men's and women's voting patterns. In fact, it appears that men and women vote in very similar ways: 33.7% and 36.3% respectively opted for the New Democracy Party, 48.8% and 47.1% for PASOK and 12.1% and 11.3% for the Communist Party, etc.

The following were elected: for **PASOK**, Melina Mercouri (actress), Amalia Fleming (doctor), Rula Kaklamanaki (lawyer), Maria Perraki-Kipriotaki (doctor), Irini Lambraki (lawyer), Sylvia Akrita, Nora Katseli (actress) and Lila Christoforidou (lawyer), the latter being a "State Deputy", i.e. an MP appointed by her own party under a special system; for **New Democracy**, Anne Synodiou (actress, Under-Secretary for State in the Ministry for Social Services from 1977 to 1979), Frosso Spetzari (the only woman to have been elected in a rural constituency) and Anna Psarouda-Benaki (professor in the University of Athens Faculty of Law, and a State Deputy); and for the **Communist Party**, Emilia Ipsilanti (actress) and Maria Damanaki (engineer).

During the campaign, special attention was devoted to issues of concern to women. Each party took care to feature promises as to equality and emancipation in its election manifesto. Even during the closing political speeches in the campaign there were many references to women voters.

Two subjects were the focus of debate: the reform of the civil code to do away with all forms of discrimination on the grounds of sex, and the creation of an advisory body to be consulted by the Government on all matters relating to women.

Over the past few years a growing percentage of women MPs has been elected, rising from 2.3% in 1975 to 3.3% in 1977 and 4.3% in 1981. In Parliament itself, women have now been appointed to several senior positions. Silvia Akrita and Nora Katseli of PASOK, for instance, and Maria Damanaki (Communist Party) are assistants to the President of the Lower House.

Women won the vote in Greece in 1952; only two years later, Lina Tsaldari became the Minister for Social Affairs, the first woman minister in the history of Greek democracy. It was a sad coincidence that Lina Tsaldari died on the eve of the recent elections.

#### Women in Government

In the Government formed by Mr Andreas Papandreou, Melina Mercouri is the Minister for Science and the Arts, while Rula Kaklamanaki and Maria Perraki-Kipriotaki are Under-Secretaries of State in the Ministry for Social Services.

Family Law

Work on revising the code of family law has been going on for many years but it proved impossible to enact the law during the last legislature because the bill was presented to Parliament too late for a debate.

Women's groups are unanimous in stressing the urgent need for reform. The political parties, too, have confirmed their intention during the election campaign of pushing through the reform, although they differ as to the extent and nature of the changes needed. However that may be, the family code will be a priority for the new Parliament.

I R E L A N D

Making ends meet

The Employment Equality Agency has reported on its budget problems to Liam Kavanagh, the Minister of Labour. Up to now, the Agency has been subsidized by the Department of Labour, though it would prefer to come under the Department of Public Services direct and be judged on its own merits.

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

School age

Mr John Boland, the Education Minister, has decided to raise the age at which children enter primary school from 4 to 4½ - a decision that has sparked off a good deal of criticism. The Irish National Teachers' Organization is worried about the number of teaching posts that will be done away with. The opposition feels that the reasons for the measure are more financial than educational.

If children do not go to primary school their parents will have to look to pre-school units and kindergartens. This gives the problem a political dimension, as almost all pre-school education is in the hands of private bodies. The Government has no control over the enrolment of children, staff qualifications or the standard of facilities provided.

Useful address      Irish National Teachers' Organization      Dept. of Education  
                            35 Parnell Square                                      Marlborough Street  
                            Dublin    Dublin

Equality at School

The Employment Equality Agency, in liaison with the Department of Education, has held a four-day seminar for teachers and the heads of schools to discuss equality of opportunity and the role they themselves can play in achieving that equality.

Alerting employers

Forty or so of the leading Irish companies in both the public and the private sector were represented at a seminar on equal opportunities held in Dublin in November. The organizers were the Employment Equality Agency, AnCO - The Industrial Training Authority and the Industrial Development Authority. A review of practical experience carried out in the seminar showed how women occupy the most junior positions and only rarely have an opportunity for promotion.

Useful addresses    AnCO-The Industrial Training Authority  
27/33 Upper Baggot Street  
Dublin 4

Industrial Development Authority  
Lansdowne House, Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4

I T A L Y

In the United Nations

Paola Gaiotti De Biase, Christian Democrat Member of European Parliament, has been appointed by the Italian Government as its representative to the Commission on Women's Rights in the U.N. Economic and Social Committee.

Women's work

According to the economist Franco Modigliani, in Italy there are two main reasons for the difficulty that women are meeting in finding jobs. On the one hand women cost employers more because of the legislation protecting women in the workplace; on the other, the attitudes of employers (most of whom are men) are influenced by what Franco Modigliani calls "anti-equality" social values.

These views were expressed in a discussion arranged by the magazine "Grazia" on "women in the 80s and the role of the women's press".

Increasing the penalties for rape

In the Chamber of Deputies, the Justice Committee is considering whether the penalties for rape should be increased: group violence may lead to a sentence of 5 to 12 years' imprisonment, as would rape combined with kidnapping. The accumulation of aggravating circumstances might increase the penalty to a minimum of six years and a maximum of 15 years imprisonment. The bill being considered by the Justice Committee states that trials for such crimes would be conducted in camera, and proceedings would no longer be dependent solely on a complaint being laid by the victim.



Military service

A bill on women's military service - proposing voluntary service for women, who would not be posted to fighting units - presented to the Council of Ministers by the Defence Ministers has sparked off widely differing reactions.

According to the Unione Donne Italiane - the Italian Women's Union - the bill discriminates in two ways. Other feminist movements reject the bill on the grounds that "there is a crisis in the army if they have to beat the drum to bring women into the barracks".

The Italian Liberal Party's women's coordination committee also deplores the discrimination against women, arguing that it would be fairer to have an eight month period of compulsory military service for all.

L U X E M B O U R G

City of Luxembourg

Lydie Wurth-Polfer, a member of the Liberal Party, has been appointed to the head of the Luxembourg local authority. A 29-year old law graduate, she won the second largest number of votes in the local elections. She will take office on 1 January 1982, taking over from her father who is retiring on health reasons.

Prostitution and procuring

A 1968 law lays down a penalty of 6 months to three years imprisonment for those found guilty of procurement for immoral purposes, the managers and proprietors of houses of ill repute and any person who knowingly aids or abets the prostitution of others or procurement with a view to prostitution.

Despite the law, 74 places of prostitution have been counted in the country (with its population of 360,000), each with two or three prostitutes. Checks are all the more difficult since they tend to come from France for a few months at a time. It appears that the organisers of these trips have links with Bordeaux.

Dr. Molitor-Peffer, who is responsible for family planning in Luxembourg, has stressed the influence of the procurers and the difficulty of getting a prostitute away from their control.

The President of the Chamber of Deputies has been sent a letter signed by several women's groups that are indignant about the laxity of the authorities faced with prostitution and procurement. The Christian-Social Women, Socialist Women, Women's Liberation Movement and the women's section of the Luxembourg trade union federation declare that they "will no longer accept this curious tolerance of a commerce which is in fact the exploitation and scandalous degradation of women".

NETHERLANDS

Government statement

Emancipation policy will no longer be restricted to policy on employment and income but will be extended to all other fields of Government action, according to Dries van Agt, the new Dutch Premier, in his manifesto.

Hedy d'Ancona, Secretary of State for Emancipation, is no longer attached to the Ministry of the Arts but to the Ministry for Social Affairs, where it will be easier to conduct a broad-ranging campaign.

The Prime Minister has stated that before the summer proposals will be made as to ways of ensuring that equal pay legislation is properly applied. The new Government hopes for a fairer distribution of time worked in the job and at home fairly and will ensure that child care facilities are improved and the opening hours of shops and public services rearranged to meet the needs of working mothers.

The new Government's implementation of the proposals will allay many of the concerns expressed by the Emancipatieraad (Emancipation Council). Incidentally, two men are members of the Council: Henk Vredeling and Harry van der Kamp (see "Women of Europe 21/81).

Useful addresses Staatsecretaris voor  
Emancipatiezaken  
Zeestraat 73  
The Hague

Emancipatieraad  
Sir Winston Churchilllaan  
366-368  
2285 SJ Rijswijk

Equal treatment

The Government plans to table a bill on equal treatment before the summer. A draft has been published on which comments and suggestions may be made up to 1 February 1982. It bans any discrimination on grounds of sex, marital status and homosexuality. A committee will monitor the application of the law, but no criminal sanctions are laid down. Laws and regulations still containing discriminations will gradually be reviewed - as prescribed, moreover, by European regulations.

The draft bill also covers advertising. Neither men nor women may be described in a disparaging way. Job de Ruiter, the Justice Minister, explains that an advertisement such as the one that says "this camera is so simple that even your wife could use it" would no longer be tolerated. In such a case, the "Reclamecodecommissie" (code of advertising board) would step in.

Useful address Ministerie van Justitie  
Schedeldoekshaven 100  
The Hague

Solidarity among elected women

For the first time in the history of the Netherlands Parliament, the (43) women elected to the two Houses - the Senate and Chamber of Deputies - agreed to meet every time matters of specific concern to women are raised.

Useful address      Tweede Kamer  
                            1a Binnenhof  
                            The Hague

Women and development - a check list

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs is reviewing the part played by women in its development cooperation programmes. It has systematically analysed each project, based on a check list whose usefulness has been confirmed by the Minister for Cooperation.

It was during the International Women's Year that the problem became apparent: the process of industrialization in the Third World sometimes has adverse effects on the position of women in developing nations. A watchful eye must be kept on events and care taken in formulating targets. Certain African countries, for example, encourage intensive growing of products for world markets without thinking about the small-scale farming that provides a daily living for families. According to a report (Boserup, 1970) that has not been denied, women make up 60% to 80% of the labour force on the land in Africa.

The check list used by the Dutch Government puts some basic questions under seven main headings. To quote some of them:

- What direct results can women expect from this project?
- How does the project promote access to decision-making bodies for women?
- What part is being played by women in preparing for this project in the country where it is to be implemented?
- What part is being played by women in preparing for this project in the Netherlands?
- Do women have an opportunity to influence the project during its implementation?
- Are the activities arranged under the project equally accessible to men and women? If not, what steps are planned to remedy the situation?

The 31 questions leave no scope for evasive answers. The check list could well be used for some of the decisions being taken by the authorities in our own countries.

UNITED KINGDOM

Pensionable age

The Equal Opportunities Commission has taken advantage of its right to conduct a formal enquiry for the first time and has been taking a detailed look at the British Steel Corporation's pension scheme

The current system was found to favour men over women between the ages of 50 and 54, especially in the case of early retirement: for example, a pre-pension is paid to women up to the age of 60, but to men up to 65.

According to the EOC, there is an urgent need for equality of treatment between men and women in pension matters. The factors that in the past justified the discrepancies no longer apply and it is urging the Department of Health and Social Security to take its survey findings into account.

In the course of its investigations, the EOC unearthed other anomalies, in particular in the payment of unemployment benefits. Men and women, for instance, are on an equal footing if they are aged under 39 or over 55; between the ages of 39 and 50, women are generally better placed than men, whereas the contrary is true between 50 and 54. Since the British Steel Corporation is a nationalized concern, the Department of Industry has been alerted to the need to remedy this state of affairs.

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

Cross-frontier information

In organizing solidarity and conveying the benefit of experience, information must be made to flow even more easily, for it is one more tool that we have to learn how to handle. A few tips:

- In every public document, even if it is no more than a single page, don't forget to state the name and address of the originators.
- Don't assume that everyone knows who you are. "Meeting on Sunday next at 3 p.m. at the Exhibition Hall" means nothing. There may be a dozen or so "exhibition halls" in every country.
- Another point: don't forget to put the date, including the year - it is important in filing and to historians!
- Avoid writing "in code": a wink and a nod may make militants feel good but will go over the heads of the recipient of a petition or leaflet;
- Don't delay in answering letters, especially letters from other countries. A simple acknowledgement of receipt followed by a longer letter at your leisure is better than absent-minded (or, even worse, indifferent) silence.

Thanks to you all - "Women of Europe"

**MILITANT ACTIVITIES**

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Women's World Banking

Women's World Banking is, according to its statutes, an independent financial institution whose objects are to furnish banks and other financial bodies guarantees for loans (to women), facilitate technical and other advice and assist with the guidance of beneficiaries of its guarantees.

For the wherewithal to finance its ambitions, Women's World Banking has decided to issue bonds to the value of \$10 million. Specific aid programmes are planned in Kenya, Ghana and the Ivory Coast and others are already under way in India and Colombia. The principle of Women's World Banking is to guarantee up to 50% of loans obtained by the women calling on its services.

Useful address      Women's World Banking  
P.O. Box 1691, Grand Central Station  
New York, N.Y. 10017

European Union Confederation

The committee responsible for women's affairs within the European Trade Union Confederation has been questioning member groups about the position of women in affiliated union bodies.

Female unionization varies greatly from one country to the next. For instance, 31%-32% of the members of CFDT in France are women, about 30% of TUC members in Great Britain, the same percentage as the female membership of ICTU in Ireland, 33% of CGIL in Italy, 40% of LO in Denmark, 27%-30% of CSC in Belgium, but only 19.7% of DGB in Germany, 12.6% of CNV and 11.7% of FNV in the Netherlands.

The percentage of women on decision-making bodies within the unions is consistently lower than the proportion of members on the shop floor. Out of the 17 unions that replied to the questionnaire, 4 have no women on their governing bodies, 8 have less than 10% women members and 5 have more than 10%.

The best record is to be found in Finland, where 30% of members of the TVK executive committee are women. In the European Community countries, the member unions of the Confederation that have not a single woman on their executives are those in Ireland and the Netherlands.

Useful address      Confédération européenne des syndicats  
Rue Montagne aux Herbes Potagères  
1000 Brussels

Journalism award

The European Journalists Association has awarded the 1981 European Journalism Prize to Clara Meijers from the Netherlands, who works on the "Financieele Dagblad".

Algemeen-Nederlands

Since 1849 the Algemeen-Nederlands association has been promoting contact between Dutch-speaking countries and regions. At its annual congress, this year held in Brussels, a "women's movement and emancipation" committee compared findings in the Netherlands and Belgium and considered what joint action the two countries might take within the European Community and the Council of Europe.

During its discussions, delegates from the Netherlands said that Belgian women had been more successful in tackling and solving the problems of pre-school education and women's employment; the Belgian women returned the compliment by saying that more progress had been made in the Netherlands in emancipation of the sexes and general enlightenment of attitudes.

University bodies on both sides of the frontier are about to conduct joint research on health at work, social law, vocational training and emancipation.

Useful address      Algemeen-Nederlands  
                            80 Gallaitstraat  
                            1030 Brussels

European Union of Women : the quality of life

The fourteenth general assembly of the European Union of Women held in Interlaken last September took as its focal theme the "quality of life - the individual and society". The 250 delegates who poured in from 14 countries launched an appeal to all men and women of Europe to labour for the improvement of East-West relations.

Simone Veil, the guest of honour, stressed the need for Europeans to tackle problems beyond their own frontiers. Ingrid Diesen from Sweden, who was re-elected President, said that her organization had obtained advisory status with the U.N. Economic and Social Committee. During the assembly, new vice presidents were elected: Maria-Theresa Costa-Macedo (Secretary of State in the Portuguese Government) and Ursula Schleicher, a German Member of European Parliament.

Useful address      Annemarie Sandberg  
                            Secretary General - Swedish Parliament  
                            Riksdagen 112  
                            Stockholm 46

Blind women

"Blind women" was the central theme of an international conference organized in Sicily by the European Committee for the Blind.

A remarkable talk was given there by Else M. Haugann on the subject of marriage between blind people. Having little vision herself and with a blind husband, she spoke from her own experience as well as drawing on the thoughts of the sightless women she knew.

According to Mrs Haugann, the first thing to guard against is attributing all the problems in a marriage to sightlessness. As with seeing people, difficulties arise from a couple's character, behaviour and so on. In other words, a blind wife has all the problems of any other wife plus the problems of a blind person.

It might be thought more "sensible" for a blind person to marry someone who is sighted, but Mrs Haugann warned against thinking along these lines. A marriage is above all a matter of love, affection and attachment, whether the partners are sighted or non-sighted.

When a blind person marries, he or she must very often re-explore the space in which life is spent: the furniture will be arranged differently, the doors and equipment will change, etc.

In married life, the assumption is that children will arrive. Very special problems with then arise, particularly if both parents are blind. A child of one to three will delightedly be here, there and everywhere, he will leave his toys lying around and he will be under his parents' feet all the time.

In ending her talk, Else Haugann said that the most serious difficulty for two blind people living together is lack of time and the problem of transportation, but couples who can cope with the host of minor difficulties of everyday life will be very well equipped to face up to the major problems.

Useful addresses    Comité européen des Aveugles -  
Jean-Paul Herbecq  
Avenue des Dames Blanches 63  
1150 Brussels

Else Momrak Haugann  
Nordraaks Veg 39  
1324 Lysaker

FIOM - an equal opportunities programme

The international federation of metallurgical workers' organizations (known by its abbreviation of FIOM) has held a world conference on the position of women workers in a changing world economy. A report drawn up for the conference gives a detailed description of the changes taking place in the employment of women in the metallurgy industry from 1975 to 1979. We learn, for instance, that women make up about 20% to 25% of the total work force in the industry, ranging from a minimum of 16% in Belgium and Canada to a maximum of 29% in Austria and Korea; these proportions have not altered greatly in the period under review.

Ilda Simona, who heads the Women's Department in FIOM, pointed out that in general there has been considerable progress with the unionization of women over the past ten years. Women are increasingly aware of discrimination and the need to improve their living and working conditions.

Useful address      Ilda Simona  
                            FIOM  
                            54 bis, Route des Acacias 63  
                            1227 Geneva

European education union committee on education

The newly created European education union committee has about two million members who work in education in 17 European countries. In the near future, the new organization will apply for recognition by the European union confederation.

According to the committee, education and the economic growth of society are closely linked and it opposes any budget cuts in the field of education. It has also drawn up a programme which includes the abolition of discrimination between sexes, both in school and in teachers' working lives.

Mr Guy Georges (France) has been elected chairman, and Mr Aloyse Schmitz (Luxembourg) is the secretary general.

Useful address      Comité syndical européen de l'Éducation  
                            18 Rue Auguste Lumière  
                            Luxembourg



B E L G I U M

Women's Day

In Belgium, Women's Day has traditionally been held on 11 November, providing an opportunity for women to get to know the movements battling on their behalf, with the stress on topical issues. Once again, the Day was a great success. There was a record turnout for the meeting in Antwerp, where the subject that aroused most interest was the apportionment of work. The women's groups coming to Antwerp declared that they would like to see men and women sharing working hours more fairly rather than relegating women to part-time employment. They were also opposed to the system of paying different rates of unemployment benefit depending on a woman's marital status.

Both in French- and in Dutch-speaking parts of the country, 11 November was the day chosen to call for the halting of legal proceedings against women who had had an abortion and the doctors who had helped them.

"Putting one's foot in it...."

....is the translation of "Les pieds dans le plat", a feminist liaison and news monthly, whose main aim is practical coordination among women's groups inside and outside Belgium and between organizations and women on their own. With its lively layout and a wide variety of news and views, the magazine is available for an annual subscription of BFr.500, to be paid into account 068-875300-96.

Useful address      Marie Blanckaert  
                            83 Rue J. Van Elewijck  
                            1820 Strombeek-Grimbergen

A creche in the courts

The Brussels Bar has set up a nursery for the children of lawyers working in the Law Courts. Annie-Marie Storrer, who converted a dream into reality, is already thinking of opening a day nursery for the children of magistrates and even for the children of plaintiffs and defendants.

In 1919, the first woman law graduate was prevented from taking her oath, her very existence being seen as unfair competition by many other lawyers. We have come a long way since then.

Useful address      Madame Anne-Marie Storrer  
                            154 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt  
                            1050 Brussels

Management courses

The Centre Féminin d'Education Permanente - the women's centre for continuing education - is arranging management courses for women, with the help of the European Social Fund. The 150-hour courses, spread out over four months, are for women who hope to make their careers in small industry, trade, the service sector, etc.

Useful address      C.F.E.P.  
Place Quetelet 1a  
1030 Brussels

Fund-raising for the Third World

A scheme called "11.11.11" set up to raise funds for developing nations has this year adopted the theme of "being a woman in the Third World". Four sets of three postcards were sold over a whole weekend as part of a lottery in which one person in each province will win a visit to one of the countries where the money collected is to be used.

Useful address      11.11.11. - N.C.O.S. - C.N.C.D.  
76 Rue de Laeken  
1000 Brussels

Congratulations to ...

...Marlyse Ernst-Henrion, honorary president of the Belgian association of women jurists, was recently awarded the Cross of Chevalier of the Order of Leopold in recognition of her work in promoting the role of women in today's society.

For widows

A new group called "Projet" has been formed to open out new horizons for widows from 35 to 55. It will be arranging friendly discussion meetings in the afternoons or evenings, depending on when the members are free, a workshop for potential organizers of reading groups, lectures and discussions and group visits.

Useful address      Accueil et Prévoyance  
58 Rue de la Prévoyance  
1000 Brussels

#### Full participation by women

"Vrouwen Overleg-Komitee" - a women's think-tank - is an association set up by a group of several different women's organizations actively working for emancipation. Its central theme is how to encourage women to play a greater part in social, cultural and working life.

A guidance and training service is already in operation and, with financial support from the European Social Fund and the Dutch Ministry for the Arts, it has launched special courses to help women return to the world of work. They include a period in which individual skills are encouraged and the self-confidence of trainees restored. Information is provided on the labour market and the range of training opportunities, drawing attention to the new careers now open to both sexes and jobs that have traditionally been the preserve of men. Finally, women are helped to acquire on-the-job experience in their chosen work.

Useful address      Vrouwen Overleg-Komitee  
                            Van Putlei 13  
                            2000 Antwerp

#### Job advertisements and discrimination

Whatever happened to the law enacted on 4 August 1978 which banned the practice of discriminating against women right from the start by specifying "men only" in job advertisements? The women's committee of the ABVV trade union has tried to answer the question in a well documented booklet with a wealth of examples, many taken from the small ads columns.

It seems that certain careers are still offered almost exclusively to men. According to the statistics, for instance, out of 150 electricians, only 11 are women (7%). On the other hand, in a group of house painters 72 are men and 41 are women (at 26%, the largest percentage).

In the wording of job advertisements, the practice is still to pay no more than lip service to the law: over 50% fail to observe the principle of non-discrimination.

Useful address      "Zwartboek": Wat schort eraan?  
                            c/o Vrouwenkommissie ABVV  
                            Mevr. Marina Hoornaert, Hoogstraat 42  
                            1000 Brussels

The duration of work

The Danish Women's Council has held a conference on the problems associated with part-time employment and the prospects for a general cut in working hours for both men and women.

In her opening speech, the president of the Council, Karen Ytting, outlined the historical background and reviewed the current situation, saying that, from the woman's viewpoint, the issue of part-time work is now highly controversial.

There are conflicting opinions as to the advantages and disadvantages of part-time work; for many years, women's groups have advocated part-time employment for both sexes, but it must be admitted that the idea has made little headway with men and they rarely opt for such an arrangement.

The role of the sexes, especially the issue of how parents should share the responsibility for bringing up their children, is closely linked with the problem. The number of people calling for a general reduction of the working day to, for example, six hours, is slowly growing, although such a solution would in turn raise serious problems such as pay and the possibility of working shorter hours without a smaller pay packet.

Part-time work - the historical context

Describing the historical background to the introduction of part-time working, Karen Ytting said that when women's status on the labour market was discussed in the 1930s the debate centred on whether women should be competing against men for jobs at a time of such massive unemployment.

In the late 1940s, with the post-war labour shortage the burning issue became the way in which women could be attracted to the labour market, one of the solutions suggested being part-time employment.

In 1949, the Danish Women's Council published a list of claims, featuring a demand for "wider availability of part-time jobs".

In 1950, in response to pressure from women's groups, a committee was set up to give its views on part-time working. Its report showed that only 5% of office workers and 1% of the industrial labour force worked part-time. The women's groups represented on the committee called for more general access to part-time employment whereas the employers and unions were openly hostile to the suggestion.

In the 1950s, once again there was large-scale unemployment and the debate on ways of integrating women on the labour market - starting with part-time working - died down.

#### Further thought needed

With the economic revival of the 1960s and the 1970s, women soon made their presence felt on the labour market, but it is now obvious that four fifths of the increase in the number of women workers was in the field of part-time employment.

Part-time work has been a way of mobilizing reserves of labour. Since the mid-1960s women's groups have been recommending it for both men and women but without success: in 1979 only 4% of men opted for this arrangement whereas 54.4% of married women and 23.1% of unmarried women had part-time jobs.

Karen Ytting drew the following conclusions: women have been and will always be considered as a reserve supply of labour. Part-time work is on the whole what women would like and what they can do, since they still bear the responsibility for running the home and caring for the children in almost every case; up to now, family life and child care has always been seen by society and by the labour market as matters that should be dealt with within the family.

#### Unemployment and equal treatment

We are now going through a period of high unemployment, especially female unemployment, a time in which there is special concern for equality between men and women in family, working and public life. It is also a time of technological change, which will reduce the need even for male labour in the future.

This is why we feel it so important that women's groups should revive the debate on part-time versus full-time work, concluded Karen Ytting

The conference began with the presentation of a number of papers looking at the problem from various angles.

#### Effect of part-time working on women's pay and working conditions

Sanne Ipsen, co-author of a publication entitled "Deltid - Kvindetid" (part-time - women's time") stressed that even though half a million women have come onto the labour market over the past 15 years there is still no true equality of treatment there, because:

1. Women easily outnumber men in the lower, poorly paid echelons, and tend to be employed on routine and physically and mentally wearing tasks.
2. Far more women than men work in sectors of the economy that are sensitive to economic fluctuations - the reason why women are more seriously affected by the crisis.
3. Because they work part-time and earn less, women have always been financially dependent on others - a husband, perhaps, or the community.

#### The effect of part-time work: perpetuating inequality

Speaking of the advantages and disadvantages of part-time work, Sanne Ipsen pointed out that for many women it has been - and still is - the only way of earning money and that it has become increasingly necessary for married women as well.

There are two basic reasons why part-time jobs are the only answer for many women. On the one hand, it is the one way they can combine paid employment with their family responsibilities, which still fall almost entirely on them. There is another reason linked with employment policy: it is obviously to the advantage of employers to employ women part-time on routine tasks or on those that have to be done at faster rates. This is why it is becoming almost impossible to obtain full-time work in many of the jobs usually done by women, such as cleaning and public services.

Quite apart from the more convenient working hours, part-time work is a vital need for a growing number of women - but it has a negative effect in that it makes them over-dependent on employers, they retain only a loose link with the labour market and they are relegated to a few repetitive, poorly paid jobs; finally, they continue to suffer from basic inequality in the home in that women take on more than their share of the household chores and child care.

#### Shorter working hours - a solution?

Sanne Ipsen declared that the only way in which women can overcome this discrimination is to fight for shorter working hours for all. If everyone works six hours a day, both men and women, both sexes may have full-time jobs which will enable them to become financially independent. At the same time, men and women who live together may share responsibility for the home and the children, as each partner will work the same length of time outside the home.

Before introducing the same hours for both sexes, however, many measures are needed in the social and training fields to bring about a radical change in the position of men and women as regards equality.

#### Part-time work slows down progress to shorter working hours

This, at least, is the view of Jorgen Eckerth, the National Federation's economist, who also gave a paper at the conference.

He said that, in his own personal view, the many women who had taken part-time jobs during the 1960s had placed a direct obstacle on the path to shorter working hours. Half a million people working part-time only reduced the pressure that would otherwise have been brought to bear for a shorter working week.

The desirability of a cut in working hours is of course another matter.

A representative of an employers' association asserted that the economy is not strong enough today to allow working hours to be reduced without a corresponding reduction in pay. He felt it would make companies less able to compete and cause cash flow problems. Others reacted to the objections by suggesting that thought be given to new economic courses of action, for example the creation of a public manufacturing sector.

#### Shorter working hours for families with small children

There has been a growing realization in ministerial departments that the working day is too long and causes special hardship for couples with small children. In 1975, the Minister for Social Affairs set up a Commission on Children to consider the financial position and working conditions of families with dependent children.

The Commission has recently reported to Danish Parliament, the Folketing, coming out in favour of a general cut in the working day for all. It has proposed that the first step should be to reduce the working day of parents with small children to six hours without loss of pay. A good deal of doubt has been expressed on the grounds that the parents of young children would be even more vulnerable on the labour market: they might be made redundant in preference to others, they might be discriminated against by being given the less challenging tasks and they might be passed over for promotion.

### For or against part-time working

Those attending the conference discussed the stand that women's groups should be taking in the light of the various points that had been made by the speaker; naturally, it proved impossible to reach overall agreement.

Many people thought that, despite all its many drawbacks, part-time work has so many advantages for women that no attempt should be made to abolish or restrict it; what should be done is to make access to part-time jobs easier and also to encourage men to take this kind of work. In this way, it will always be possible for women wishing to do so to devote most of their time to the home and children and for the family still to have a large enough income for its needs.

Other people considered that the effect of part-time work is to prolong the discrepancies between the sexes on the labour market. With this system, women are forced to take low paid or dull, routine work, progress towards a general reduction in working hours is hampered and, in the current economic climate, women needing full-time employment are forced to accept part-time jobs.

The supporters of this view thought the aim should be to restrict rather than extend part-time employment and to reduce working hours for all.

The problems were stated, analysed and debated in depth and discussions will be continued along these lines when the representatives go back to report to their women's groups.

Useful address      Danske Kvinders Nationalrad  
                             Niels Hemmingsensgade 20  
                             1153 Copenhagen K

### Sociological research

NYCK is the abbreviation commonly used for a centre for sociological research on women, Nydhesbrev fra Center Samfundsvidenskabelig Kvindeforskning. It is now publishing a short information bulletin in english called Research Newsletter, designed to promote contact with other research centres working in the same fields. The theme of its first issue is women on the labour market.

Useful address      NYCK  
                             H.C. Andersens Boulevard, 38  
                             1553 Copenhagen V



F R A N C E

Women in the trade unions

The French trades union confederation, CFDT, has drawn up a "report on the joint composition of structures" for the benefit of its national council. For over 15 years the confederation, especially its women's committee, has been questioning the position and role of women in union life. The debate has not always been as free of prejudice as it is today: union militants long used passive resistance to oppose any attempt by women at participation.

Times have changed and the record of women's struggle to improve their working conditions has shown them to be valiant partners in union efforts - not just junior partners, since no coherent union action can be taken without their contribution.

What needs to be done is to reflect the ideas into practical terms within union bodies. Detailed proposals are being discussed and are to be submitted to the 39th congress of the CFDT in 1982.

Useful address      Nouvelles CFDT  
                            5 Rue Cadet  
                            75439 Paris Cedex 09

Population research

The Association pour la recherche et l'information démographique (A.P.R.D.) has set up a women's committee chaired by Chantal Kubich-Gerbaud.

The aim of the newly created committee is to conduct research and produce reports on the relations between demography, women and employment. The committee also intends to propose ways in which institutions can take the specific nature of women's status into practical account when reaching their decisions.

Useful address      Commission féminine de l'A.P.R.D.  
                            Mme Chantal Kubich-Gerbaud  
                            41 Rue V. Rogelet  
                            51000 Rheims

"The intellectual aristocracy in France"

A book by Hervé Hamon and Patrick Rotman, "Les intellocrates" (published by Ramsay) dissects the workings of intellectual power in Paris. In the authors' words, "women are dedicated to obtaining their fair share . . . (but) . . . the positions of power are in the hands of men". To cite a few figures: "only three women have managed to infiltrate the senior ranks of the 78 directors of studies at the college of advanced social science studies, although there is a plethora of women in the lower rank of lecturers". Another figure: only one of the 52 chairs in the prestigious Collège de France is held by a woman.

Housewives and businessmen

The association called "Pour une école non sexiste" (towards non-sexist schools) and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (national scientific research centre) have come together to produce a 45-minute colour video film entitled "Femme de ménage et homme d'affaire" (housewife and businessman). Presented by Catherine Valabrègue, the film attacks sexism in school textbooks and brings in publishers, teachers, children and specialists. To rent or buy a copy, write to the audiovisual material distribution department, SERDAV, within the national scientific research centre.

Useful address      SERDAV-CNRS  
                            27 Rue Paul Bert  
                            94204 Ivry sur Seine Cedex

The prostitute and her client

Issue 55/81 of "Femmes et Mondes", the journal of "Le Nid" movement, has a feature on a subject rarely tackled: the client, the accomplice to the form of injustice going under the name of prostitution. "Do away with clients and you end prostitution at one blow": this simplistic idea does more harm than good. The causes of prostitution are many and varied, and one has to understand the background to the problem. Two conclusions are drawn in the article: the great difficulty that many men encounter in leading a full and satisfying sex life, and the profound equality that still exists between the sexes. "The differences, which ought to be a source of enrichment, are taken as a pretext for a relationship of force, a relationship of domination and subjection".

Useful address      Femmes et Mondes - Le Nid  
                            7 Rue du Landy  
                            92110 Clichy

Promotion of women

"Promo-Femmes" is the shortened version of "Mouvement pour la promotion de l'image professionnelle de la femme" - a movement whose aim is to promote the professional image of women by informing and supporting women officials in the Post Office administration. Founded in 1980, the association is non-political and exists for the benefit of women at every echelon of the Post Office. It is not to be confused with a trade union.

In its own words, Promo-Femmes has the prime aim of being a "centre for thought and action on the professional problems of women officials", informing both the people concerned and their families on the consequences of decisions by women on their work (competitive examinations for jobs, half-time working, temporary release from employment and resignations).

The benefits and drawbacks of flexible working hours, the causes of female absenteeism, the role of women in senior posts and positions traditionally held by men: Promo-Femmes tackles many practical problems head on.

Useful address      Promo-Femmes  
                            BP 10907  
                            75326 Paris Cedex 07



Women and the media

Hamburg in November was the venue for 370 women working in the media, who met to discuss the topic of "women's work - women's pay". The debate centred on ways of improving working conditions and access for women to every position within the media. A woman behind a camera should no longer be the exception to the rule, and the idea of a women's press agency has also made headway.

A "Saure Gurke" (pickled gherkin) prize was awarded to a political programme presented by Johannes Gross, "Bonner Runde" (the Bonn round), in which women seem to have no place at all.

Useful address      Aktion Klartext  
                         Am Ehrenkamp 15  
                         4800 Bielefeld 12

The handicapped in the country

To mark the International Year of Disabled People, the German country-women's association - Deutscher Landfrauenverband - has been paying special attention to the lot of handicapped people in country areas.

The problem of distance and communications and the scarcity of social services in rural areas mean that women take over much of the responsibility of helping the handicapped. The association wants to ensure that the years spent caring for a handicapped person should be taken into account for the purpose of pension and benefit entitlements. It would also like to see better coordination between individuals and institutions, a fairer share of the work involved and help for handicapped people in integrating in country communities.

Useful address      Deutscher Landfrauenverband  
                         Godesberger Allee 142-148  
                         5300 Bonn 2

A women's party

The first federal congress of the Frauen-Partei (women's party) is to be in Bonn in 1982 on Father's Day - a logical decision in the light of the manifesto of this party, which is irritated by the male domination of language. Why do we always talk about brotherhood, never about sisterhood? Even the Hymn to Joy runs "all men are brothers", declares Karin Glaser.

Among the Party's plans are to set up a women's press agency, something that Alice Schwarzer - the editor of the magazine "Emma" - feels is needed now more than ever.

Useful address      Frauen-Partei  
                         Hasselkamp 26  
                         2300 Kiel 1

Science and technology

The journal of Deutscher Frauenrat (the German Women's Council), "Informationen für die Frau" contains an interesting article in its October 1981 issue on the place of women in scientific and technical education and professions in Germany. Significantly, girls account for more than half of the student body reading humanities, but only 33% of medical and natural science students and 6% to 8% of the students in the universities and colleges that produce engineers.

Not without a touch of malice, Ellen Sessar-Karpp wonders whether women's brains are built differently in Eastern Europe. In the USSR, 40% of all engineers are women. Part of the difference is no doubt attributable to the attitude of teachers and professors in Western Europe, where it is not unusual for a lecture to begin with a polite but not very scientific "good morning, gentlemen".

In her conclusions, Ellen Sessar-Karpp recommends "positive discrimination", possibly in the form of a quota; this should not be restricted to higher education but should also apply to the staff of companies.

Useful address	Information für die Frau Deutscher Frauenrat Augustastr. 42 <u>5300 Bonn 2</u>	Ellen-Sessar-Karpp Gottenheimerstrasse 8 <u>7801 Umkirch</u>
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G R E E C E

Before the elections

The Greek election campaign was relatively short but, in compensation, it was intensive. Whatever party they favoured, once again Greek women battled for more women candidates. This time, women accounted for 8.3% of all candidates, although the proportion varied considerably from one party to the next. In the case of PASOK, 6% of the candidates were women; in the case of New Democracy it was 3%, while up to 12% of the candidates put up by the smaller parties were women.

Within each party, women's sections arranged meetings at local and regional level so that the voters and their candidates could tell each other about their views. The most impressive meeting was the one organized in the Sporting Club stadium by "Enosi Gynekon Helladas" (Greek Women's Union), the women's branch of PASOK (the Panhellenic Socialist Party). The president of the party, Mr. Papandreou, made a speech outlining his party's programme for women; today he leads the new Greek Government.

In the run-up to the elections, a few women's groups, true to the principle of non-discrimination, recommended that their members support the candidate - man or woman - who takes what they feel is the soundest line on matters of importance to women.

Two weeks before the date of the elections, Syndesmos gia ta dikeomata tis gynekas (the league for women's rights) held a meeting in the city of Athens arts centre, where women candidates outlined their ideas to an audience that did not consist entirely of women.

In the press, two well known women's magazines came out in direct support of women: "Pantheon" featured two thirds of all the women candidates in the country in an issue published in the week of the elections; and, in its October issue, "Gyneka" printed the views of each political party on six topics of special concern to women: equality, motherhood, unemployment, women in rural areas, information and the European Community.

## I R E L A N D

### Women and the Unions

The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, the biggest in the country, has set up a working group of militant women members and union officials to plan for a body to advise the Union on women's issues.

The plan is to be considered by senior Union officials in February 1982 and the "Women's Advisory Committee" may then become operational immediately.

Useful address      Irish Transport and General Workers' Union  
Liberty Hall  
Dublin 1

### A marathon

About 500 women took part in a Dublin marathon arranged by Irish radio, out of a total of 8,000 runners, who covered a distance of 26.2 miles.

### Battered wives' hostel

The Women's Aid Organization - a body that helps women and their children who are the victims of violence, is seeking Government aid for the purchase of a new house. Following a fire at its hostel in Harcourt Terrace, its other hostel is disastrously overcrowded. Twenty women and children have to sleep in temporary shelter that the local authority normally uses for vagrants; every morning, they are bundled out at 9 o'clock and have to go right across the town to take their children to day care units.

A suitable house has been found, at a cost of £200,000. Eileen Desmond, the Health Minister, has promised help, but officialdom works slowly.

Useful address      Women's Aid  
P.O. Box 791  
Dublin

I T A L Y

Women in the home

Italy now has its own national housewives' union: the Associazione Nazionale Donne Italiane Casalinghe (ANDIC), a Christian movement. Its president is Silvana Rossi De Bono, a Roman housewife who has devoted great thought to the position of Italy's 13 million housewives. The vice president is Tina Leonzi, a journalist and the author of many books on women's status.

The association first saw the light of day in Brescia during a seminar sponsored by the magazine "Madre". The seminar reviewed the cultural, economic and legal aspects of housewives' status and mapped out a course of action for ANDIC.

Useful address      ANDIC  
                         Condominio Globo, Piazzale Stazione 63  
                         B r e s c i a

A newspaper for women

Quotidiano Donna ("woman's daily") has - despite its title - been appearing every week since May 1978, but it may soon be a real daily newspaper. Emmanuela Boroli, the editor, does not seem to be too abashed by the prospect of producing a paper with the limited funds available.

A good deal of encouragement was given at a conference on the topic of "feminism in Europe seen through the press". Many women journalists are to cooperate in the venture: 14 in Rome, led by Grazia Centola, 4 in Milan and a few in other places.

Useful address      Quotidiano Donna  
                         Via del Governo Vecchio  
                         R o m e

After the operation

The removal of a breast is an operation which often leaves more durable psychological than medical scars. To support women who have had a mastectomy, many groups have been set up. The regional centre for the rehabilitation of women after mastectomy - Centro Regionale Riabilitazione Mastectomizzate - is a dynamic association operating in this field, which now publishes an information leaflet entitled "La Voce" - a liaison and information bulletin whose name means "the voice".

Useful address      La Voce  
                         Via Galileo Ferraris 2  
                         T r i e s t e

### Women in Calabria

An invaluable meeting took place in Reggio Calabria in November on the subject of "women's employment in Calabria and the European Social Fund", one of a series of meetings arranged by the "Consiglio Nazionale delle Donne Italiane" (Italian women's council) to make women aware of the benefits of the European Social Fund.

The seminar was hosted by the "consulta femminile" - a council representing women's associations that acts in an advisory status to the local authority, in this case Reggio Calabria - in the European advanced institute of political studies. The women who took part debated the special position of Calabrian women and heard about the help the European Social Fund can give with women's vocational training. From a report on recent pilot projects given by a representative from the Ministry of Employment and Social Security, those present gained a very comprehensive idea of the direct and indirect advantages of the European Social Fund.

Useful address     Istituto Superiore Europeo di Studi Politici  
                         Via Torrione 101, F  
                         Reggio Calabria

### Towards a European culture

The Italian women's council, representing more than thirty women's organizations, has held a conference in Naples on "European culture - its historic origins and new development factors".

Maria Sofia Lanza Spagnoletti, the national president of the "Consiglio Nazionale Donne Italiane", stressed that a choice had to be made among the many issues with which women are concerned; the meeting opted for the relations between women and work and the relations between women and politics, a choice whose wisdom is confirmed by every day's events.

It is not unusual to combine very practical problems and cultural themes: in both cases, women feel that it is better to work for a change in individual behaviour rather than in the attitudes of institutions.

Paola Gaiotti De Biase, a Member of European Parliament, pointed out that "on the cultural level, the process of integration has been achieved more through spontaneous and unregulated initiative than through political measures". There has been far more rapid progress in travel, consumer habits and exchange visits between young people than in the harmonization of education policies.

Useful address     C.N.D.I.  
                         Via E. Quirino Visconti 55  
                         00193 R o m e



L U X E M B O U R G

Keeping women informed

The "Association des femmes sociales-chrétiennes au Luxembourg" - association of Social-Christian women in Luxembourg - has brought out a booklet entitled "Mieux informer les femmes" - better information for women - which gives invaluable guidance on such subjects as social legislation, family allowances, protection for pregnant women, how to go about getting a housebuilding grant, etc. All the practical needs that arise in daily life, both great and small, are covered.

Useful address      C.S.F.  
                            38 Rue du Curé  
                            Luxembourg

A sit-in in the Women's Centre

The Women's Liberation Movement has had a token sit-in in the Women's Centre in Luxembourg. The reason: the landlord is taking legal action to terminate the lease.

The Women's Centre is in fact a flat. According to the landlord, "notwithstanding the purpose for which the lease was given, a shelter for women in distress was set up on the premises and the maximum number of beds possible have been set up in every room of the flat".

Leased in March 1979, the flat serves as a meeting place for lectures and discussion evenings arranged by various groups. The telephone is manned round the clock so that advice can be given to women with unwanted pregnancies. The feminist militants are calling on the Luxembourg local authority to make premises available to them for a women's centre. "We want funds for a women's hostel because it meets the need of women of all social classes and it is therefore in the public interest".

Useful address      "Maison des Femmes"  
                            17 Avenue Monterey  
                            Luxembourg

Women and painting

Villa Vauban in Luxembourg has been chosen for an exhibition with the theme of "women in Luxembourg painting". Out of the 64 artists whose work is being shown, 9 are women.

Covering several centuries, the exhibition reflects the position of women over the years: mythological personage, a dignitary's wife, head of state, a middle class mother, a striker's wife, a worker in her own right. A history of a country's art and at the same time of its society, the exhibition makes a worthwhile contribution.

Useful address      Villa Vauban  
                            Luxembourg

NETHERLANDS

A women's union federation

The "Vrouwenbond" (women's federation) has been accepted as a union federation in its own right within the "Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging" - the Dutch trade union confederation. FNV itself is a confederation of two union federations, NVV and NKV. To the best of our knowledge, this places the Vrouwenbond in a unique position.

With about 12,000 women members, the Vrouwenbond essentially represents women working at home or engaged on voluntary work. It will be battling for recognition of the unpaid and the "invisible" work done by women. The Vrouwenbond notes that the law covering the subject of women working in their homes dates back to 1933 and that their position has improved little since the turn of the century, especially in the textiles sector. Karen Adelmund, the president of Vrouwenbond, has declared that her organization intends to campaign for a reform of the law.

Useful address      Vrouwenbond FNV  
Plein '40-'45 n° 1  
Amsterdam

Finding work again

"Arbeidshulpverlening voor vrouwen in de wijk" - an association providing help with women's vocational training within the local community - has been set up by women to help other women who want to go back to work again.

Part-funded by the Dutch Government under a special emancipation aid programme, the association is particularly active in under-privileged districts and on behalf of middle-aged women.

It takes special account of the experience already acquired by the women who call on its help, the aim being to find the type of work that fits in best with their family position, their characters, what they have already achieved, etc.

Mirjam de Vries, one of the programme leaders, would welcome contact with other groups within the European Community pursuing the same goals. Any information they can provide - how they are funded, their training methods, the creation of cooperatives and the specific problems that arise in refresher training - is of great interest, and friendly visits might well be made to some of the more interesting projects.

Useful address      Arbeidshulpverlening voor vrouwen in de wijk  
Keizersgracht 145  
1015 CK Amsterdam

Working for peace

Set up by a group of about twenty people only two years ago, the "Vrouwen voor Vrede" (women for peace) movement now has more than 3,000 members and has become a very active member of pacifist organizations in the Netherlands. It has arranged a demonstration at the International Court of the Hague to mark the anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The movement has also held successful discussion meetings, many of which have resulted in the creation of local groups.

Useful address      Vrouwen voor Vrede  
                            Postbus 963  
                            Amersfoort

UNITED KINGDOM

Against racialism

Relations among ethnic groups are causing great concern in British society. Large minorities, often concentrated in underprivileged districts, are particularly hard hit in this time of economic crisis. A women's group, "Housewives in Dialogue", has asked for a hearing for its views through a parliamentary sub-committee that is now considering race relations and immigration problems.

An outstanding piece of documentary material has been produced by women of different races and origins. Entitled "The Invisibility of Black Housewives", it explains how black, white and immigrant women are working together without racial discrimination and describes the basis for their joint action - an invaluable gesture in a context of racial tension.

"The poorest women of all are those who suffer from two-fold discrimination on grounds of sex and race, of sex and the language barrier".

Useful address      Housewives in Dialogue  
                            Women's Centre, P.O. Box 287  
                            London NW6 5QU

Judo referee

Belinda Petty will have the right to act as referee in national judo championships. She had to fight for that right: the British Judo Association refused to let her referee matches between men. The Industrial Tribunal Court of Appeal has now found in her favour.

Women in Entertainment

This is the name of an organization concerned with the status of women in the illusion-creating business: out of 45,000 union musicians, 4,980 are women; out of 237 producers, 32 are women; out of 74 regional theatre directors, 4 are women; and the list goes on.

Actresses and behind-the-scenes workers, women musicians and dancers, cloak-room attendants and playwrights: every woman who works in entertainment was invited to a meeting in mid-November to prepare for an event to be known as "Women Live May '82". Women have decided to stage their own revolution: films, theatre, music and dance will be put on in turn to show work by women for women. The ambition is to organize a sort of festival that would not just be a London event but would be held anywhere, from parish halls to on the TV.

Nancy Roberts, Maggie Steed and Michelene Wandor, the linchpins of the organization, do not intend to confine their work to this giant show, however exciting. They want "Women Live May '82" to be the springboard for systematic efforts to improve the position of women in the world of entertainment.

Useful address      Women in Entertainment  
                            11 Acklam Road  
                            London W10

Chiswick Family Rescue

Ten years ago, Erin Shapiro-Pizzey persuaded the local authority in Chiswick to provide a house where women in distress could find refuge. Together with Anne Ashby, who joined her at an early stage, Erin helped thousands of women and ensured that violence in the family was a problem that could no longer be ignored. Battered wives' hostels have sprung up throughout the world and "Refuge" is now an international organization.

The "Chiswick Family Rescue Ltd" has also arranged for special help for violent men. Erin Pizzey is still the association's adviser but will now be concentrating on research, whereas Anne Ashby is to be the director of C.F.R. Ltd.

Useful address      Chiswick Family Rescue Ltd  
                            369 Chiswick High Road  
                            London W4

RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

**Lohnleichheit - Zur Rechtsprechung bei geschlechtsspezifischer Entgeltdiskriminierung** - "equal pay - court judgements on cases of pay discrimination" - is a report drawn up by Heide Pfarr and Klaus Bertelsmann containing a wealth of information on court decisions in the field of equal pay. It discusses the legal developments following the judgements, and analyses and explains the forms that such discrimination may take. We do not know the publisher, but for more information write to Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik, Kennedyallee 105-107, 5300 Bonn 1.

**Irish Women's Diary and Guide Book 1982** is the result of a bright idea on the part of the Irish Feminist Information. A 224-page diary for everyday use plus a section providing practical information which will also come in handy every day, it has been printed in 7,000 copies, twice the first year's print run (1980). Available at £2.41 (including VAT) from Irish Feminist Information, c/o Books Upstairs 25, Market Arcade, Dublin 2.

**10 Jahre Fraubewegung.** The title of this book - "ten years of the women's movement" - speaks for itself. Written by feminists and published by the magazine Emma, it is both a review and a look at the future. Obtainable for DM.16.80 from Emma, Kolpingplatz 1a, 5000 Cologne 1.

**Impegno delle Associazioni Femminili per la ricostruzione** (women's associations: their rebuilding efforts) is the report of a special meeting on the subject in May 1981. The earthquake that devastated Southern Italy shook the whole of Italian society to its roots. Women want to play an active part both in clearing up the damage and in reconstruction. Published by the "Federazione Italiana Donne Arti Professioni Affari", a federation of women in the arts, the professions and business. Via Vittorio Veneto 146, 38100 Trento.

**100 Questions sur le Viol** - a hundred questions on rape - is the theme of an investigation launched in Belgium by the association named "S.O.S.-Viol". The women who promoted the research felt that a clearer understanding of rape may help to change the attitudes of the attackers, victims, police and judiciary. Any specific information from other countries will be welcomed by S.O.S.-Viol, Place Quetelet 1a, 1030 Brussels.

**Strijd tegen vrouwenmishandeling, een politieke keuze** (the struggle against the physical victimization of women - a political choice) is a 168-page book which reviews the situation following the first international conference held to coordinate the efforts and pool the experience of associations set up to protect battered women. Published by Federatie Vrouwen tegen mishandeling, Justus Lipsiusstraat 57, 3000 Leuven, Netherlands.

**U-landskvindens forpligtelser i familie og arbejde** (the responsibilities of women in the family and at work in the developing nations). A report on a seminar that took place in Sweden in June 1980. Price 25 kroner from Kvindernes U-landsudvalg, 67 Købmagergade, 1150 Copenhagen.

**Who makes the decisions?** is a revised edition of a book describing the position of women in the decision-making bodies of State-controlled companies and agencies in Ireland. Jean Tansey, the author of the report, notes with bitterness that no significant progress has been made. The decision-making centres of 49 out of the 90 bodies reviewed include no women. Published by the Council for the Status of Women, 54 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

**Vrouwenbeweging in Nederland en Vlaanderen** - "the women's movement in the Netherlands and Flanders" - is an interesting comparative study published by Algemeen-Nederlands Congres, from which it can be obtained at a price of 4 guilders or 60 Belgian francs (ref. Archief), 80 Gallaitstraat, 1030 Brussels.

**Women Speaking and Learning for Ourselves** is a report by the International Council of Adult Education on a women's action programme. In 14 articles, the women's own ideas and the progress they have made are presented in simple terms. Part of the "Convergence" series, Volume XIII, 1-2/1980, ICAE, P.O. Box 250, Station F, Toronto, Canada M4Y 2L5.

#### Women's films

The fifth international women's film festival is to take place some time in October 1982. Evelyne Paul, the general festival representative, is looking for interesting short-, medium- or full-length films, 16 or 35 mm, for the event, at which a "press award" and a "public award" will be given.

Useful address      La Femme dans le Cinéma (a.s.b.l.)  
                            99 Rue Camille Lemonnier  
                            1060 Brussels

The International Federation for Parents' Education, in association with the World Organization for Pre-school Education and with the support of UNESCO, is arranging a conference on the theme of the little girl ... towards womanhood on 18, 19 and 20 March 1982.

The event will be held at the Centre International d'Études Pédagogiques at 1 Avenue Léon Journault, 92310 Sèvres, France. It will be preceded by a three-day seminar at which twenty or so experts, representing various regions in the world and different cultures, will prepare summary papers as a basis for discussions in the conference.

Useful address     F.I.E.P.  
                          1 Avenue Léon Journault  
                          92310 Sèvres

50 questions - 50 answers

Supplement n° 7 to "Women of Europe" is entitled "Women at Work in the European Community - 50 questions - 50 answers".

What do "Community directives" say; indeed, what is a directive? How does CEDEFOP work? And what does the European Social Fund do? Both questions and answers are clearly stated, helping to show what still needs to be done.

"Women of Europe" and its supplements are sent regularly to anyone asking to be put on the mailing list. Please specify your special interest (leader of a women's group, trade unionist, journalist, library, research centre, government departments, etc.).

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

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