

Women of Europe

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THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The "Social Affairs" Ministers of the Community who met in Council at the end of May, under the Presidency of Mr Hansenne, Belgium's Minister of Labour and opportunities for women.

There were some marked differences, however, between the text originally prepared by the European Commission, amendments proposed by the European Parliament (see account of debate under "European Parliament" below), and the text which the Ministers finally adopted.

When Ministers arrived at the Charlemagne building for their meeting they were met by protesters from the Comité de liaison des femmes and the Vrouwen Overleg Komitee, two Belgian women's organizations representing parties, trade union organizations and women's groups. Ms Lizin, Ms Hecq, Ms Van Hemeldonck and Ms Ascherman were received by Mr Hansenne, to whom they expressed their concern.

Their main fear was that equal opportunities policy would be restricted because of the budgets available in the Member States and the Community instead of being given a boost despite the economic crisis. This same fear had already been expressed by those participating at the European Colloquium of Women's Organizations in Bonn, put on by the Deutscher Frauenrat (see full account later in this issue).

The complete text of the Resolution follows. In it, Member States commit themselves to "applying on a broader basis and realizing in practice the principle of equal treatment by the promotion of equal opportunities without discriminating against women whatever the economic situation". In addition, the European Commission has been asked, when presenting its interim progress report before 1 January 1984, to include suitable proposals, where appropriate. In other words, the Council of Ministers may be willing to agree to operational proposals from the Commission, even if they do have financial implications.

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONON THE PROMOTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaties establishing the European Communities,

Having regard to the draft Resolution from the Commission,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas various actions have already been undertaken at Community level to promote equal opportunities, in particular the three Directives 75/117/EEC, 76/207/EEC and 79/7/EEC, concerning equal treatment for men and women adopted by the Council on the basis of Articles 100 and 235 of the EEC Treaty;

Whereas, moreover, all these actions, including those supported by the European Social Fund, have played an important part in improving the situation of women;

Whereas, despite the efforts so far made at both Community and national level, actual inequalities in employment persist and may well become worse under the present economic and social conditions;

Whereas, in a period of economic crisis the action undertaken at Community and national level should not only be continued but also intensified in order, in particular, to promote the achievement of equal opportunities in practice through the implementation of, inter alia, positive actions;

NOTES the Commission communication concerning a new Community action programme on the promotion of equal opportunities for women over the period 1982-1985, covering "the bringing about of equal treatment through the strengthening of individual rights" and "the achievement of equal opportunities in practice, particularly by means of positive action programmes", and WELCOMES the initiative taken by the Commission;

APPROVES the general objectives of this communication, which are the stepping up of action to ensure observance of the principle of equal treatment for men and women and the promotion of equal opportunities in practice by means of positive actions, and EXPRESSES THE WILL to implement appropriate measures to achieve them;

NOTES also the comments made on the Commission communication by the various delegations within the Council which reveal, inter alia, certain specific features of national systems and ASKS the Commission to take account of them in the initiatives which it takes within the framework of its powers;

RECALLS the efforts which have been and are still being made in this area in the Member States;

NOTES that the Commission communication defines specific objectives and joint courses of action, most of which fall within the context of the follow-up to the implementation of the Directives adopted by the Council in the field of equal treatment for men and women;

CONSIDERS that, with due regard for the courses of action proposed, these objectives should guide the actions of the Community and the Member States in their efforts to apply on a broader basis and realize in practice the principle of equal treatment by the promotion, in particular, of equal opportunities without discriminating against women whatever the economic situation;

EMPHASIZES the importance, to this end, of strengthening or setting up national bodies for the promotion of women's employment and equal opportunities and RECALLS the responsibilities also devolving upon workers' and employers organizations in the pursuit of these objectives;

CONFIRMS the need to take steps to increase public awareness and disseminate information to support the change in attitudes to sharing occupational, family and social responsibilities and ASKS the Member States to cooperate fully with the Commission in steps to increase public awareness.

REAFFIRMS the need to promote the employment of both men and women in all sectors and professions and a more balanced representation of women at different levels of responsibility at both national and Community level; CONSIDERS that the public sector, including the Community institutions and bodies, should set an example in this respect;

UNDERLINES the desirability of avoiding special protection rules concerning women on the labour market in cases where originally well-founded concern for their protection is no longer justified;

CONSIDERS that account should be taken of the equal-opportunities dimension in preparing and implementing Community policies likely to affect it;

CALLS UPON the Commission to submit an interim report by 1 January 1984 on progress and achievement under the new programme, based in particular on information obtained from the Member States, together, if appropriate, with suitable proposals.

CALLS UPON the Member States to submit a first report to the Commission by 1 January 1985 on progress accomplished at national level and NOTES the undertaking by the Commission to submit an initial survey of the action undertaken before the end of 1985.

At the same Council meeting, Ministers adopted a directive to protect about one million workers in the Community against the harmful effects of lead. Specific provisions to cover women of child-bearing capacity and young people, proposed by the Commission, were turned down, but the directive leaves it to Member States to take any national measures aimed at giving women greater protection, if appropriate.

A resolution on Community action to combat unemployment was also adopted. It mentions a number of different approaches, such as:

- the promotion of private and public productive investment, so as to strengthen the competitive capacity of undertakings, encourage economic growth and raise employment;
- paying particular attention to those regions most affected by unemployment, through effective and consistent use of the appropriate Community instruments;
- paying particular attention to employment problems when carrying out industrial restructuring programmes and encouraging geographical and occupational mobility;
- examining possibilities for promoting the development potential of small and medium-sized undertakings;
- research by the Commission on the job-creation possibilities of local initiatives and cooperatives;
- giving priority to vocational training for young people;
- continuing the dialogue with both sides of industry on the length of the working week;
- taking steps to improve the functioning and transparency of the labour market.

TERMINOLOGY

The legal instruments proposed to the European Communities' Council of Ministers by the Commission take various forms. "Regulations" are binding on all the Member States; "Decisions" are binding only on those Member States, enterprises or individuals specifically referred to; "Directives" are binding on Member States only as to the ends not the means, and it is therefore up to each of the States to make the necessary changes in its legislation to comply with the Directive.

The European Commission may also formulate "Recommendations" or "Opinions". These are not binding but they usually reflect a consensus.

"Resolutions" adopted by the Council of Ministers on a proposal from the European Commission express the determination of the Ministers who vote for them, but they are not legally binding.

Aid to refugees

Mr Poul Hartling, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees paid an official call on the Commission of the European Communities. Mr Hartling took the opportunity to stress the essentially apolitical and humanitarian nature of his activities. He said that the Community's contribution in this area ranked second in the world, at 114 million dollars for 1981 (against 138 million from the US and 52 million from Japan).

Mediterranean

The European Commission has undertaken to draw up "integrated Mediterranean Programmes", with the objective of enabling the Mediterranean regions of the Community to close the gap in economic development between them and the more prosperous regions.

The European Commission adopted the report prepared by Mr Natali, Vice-President responsible for this issue, in which a sum of 10 million units of account is earmarked in the 1983 budget for the preparation of the integrated Mediterranean Programmes. A "budget line" is also being opened for the implementation of the programmes, the amount allocated to which will be announced once plans are sufficiently advanced.

Realization that the special handicaps and potential of the Mediterranean regions have not been taken into account adequately when drawing up and applying national and community policies was the starting point for the decision to carry out these Programmes. These regions are characterized by relatively low incomes, sometimes significantly below the Community average, and unemployment rates amongst the highest in the Community. This serious unemployment situation is aggravated by underemployment in agriculture, by the arrival of large numbers of young people on the labour market, and by the reversal of traditional migrant movements.

Aiming towards "equivalence and equality", the European Commission and Council have opted for the "integrated" Programmes, so-called for two reasons: they are integrated at the level of their scope, since they will cover agriculture and fishing as well as industry, energy and research and they are integrated from the angle of financing as they will draw on various Community Funds.

The overall Mediterranean policy has nonetheless, two other important facets: the first concerns the Mediterranean countries which have applied to join the Community, the other concerns non-member countries around the Mediterranean. In a document forwarded to the Council of Ministers, the European Commission examines what could be done to avoid exacerbating the economic difficulties (and hence social and eventually, political difficulties) of a set of countries which represent very important trading partners, accounting as they do for more than 10% of our total exports and relying on the Community to provide by far their own largest export market.

What is true for the Community of Ten will also hold if Spain and Portugal join us: we therefore have a vital interest in carrying out a policy of openness and cooperation with the non-member countries round the Mediterranean in order to encourage the stability of the region.

According to the Commission the Community must accept greater responsibilities and an increased commitment.

Exchange Scheme for Young Workers

Between July 1979 and December 1981, 1 700 young workers took advantage of the exchange scheme subsidized by the European Commission. This is the second programme of this type, and offers young workers from 18 to 28 the opportunity of staying for a shorter (3 weeks to 3 months) or longer (4 to 16 months) period in a Member State other than their own. It is a way of broadening their vocational training and their cultural, linguistic and human contacts.

Thirteen organizations or groups have been accredited by the European Commission to organize the practical aspects of these exchanges which cover increasingly diverse sectors: agriculture, import-export, tourism, hotels, banks, hospitals, administration and public service, and, to a smaller extent, manufacturing and processing industries.

There are a large number of requests from young workers but for mainly budgetary reasons only about a thousand young people can take part in the scheme each year. In order to meet the demand better, the European Commission hopes to involve the governments of the Member States more closely in developing these exchanges.

The breakdown of the participants is as follows: Belgium: 72; Germany: 231; Denmark: 55; Greece: 15 (in 1981 only); France: 443; Ireland: 146; Italy: 247; Luxembourg: 2; Netherlands: 94; United Kingdom: 339.

Vocational Training and New Information Technologies

The European Commission addressed a new Communication to the Council of Ministers proposing a series of measures designed to supplement and reinforce Member States' training policies in connection with the introduction of new technologies.

The Commission has chosen a limited number of specific initiatives which it considers have priority and are of common interest, in the sectors where Community efforts might be fruitful. The following guidelines should be taken into account.

- the training should be broadly based to provide for the acquisition of a wide range of specific skills by the individuals so as to realise their full potential and to facilitate greater professional and social mobility, and also to enable workers to play a more active role in their work;
- the training in this field should be directed at the working population as a whole regardless of their previous level of education, sex or age;
- balanced systems of social and vocational training should be developed, designed to familiarise young people and adults both with the application of the new technologies and with their social consequences;
- the specific training needs of staff in managerial positions should be taken into account in the context of training programmes which should be made more widely available;
- intensified collaboration between public authorities, employers and employees should be encouraged when designing training programmes so as to draw on all available resources;
- measures in the training field should be linked with existing provisions for education and in-service training of workers;

- the employment prospects of the unemployed, especially young people should be improved incorporating new technology study units in their training programmes;
- a special effort should be made to improve the quality and numbers of the personnel responsible for the social and vocational training programmes for adults in this field.

Equal Opportunities in Banking

A conference on equal opportunities for women in banking has taken place, organised by the European Commission in collaboration with the German Marshall Fund.

The meeting was part of a pilot scheme for research and action undertaken in 1978 at the initiative of the London School of Economics. This action was carried out in four European banks (in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) and its objective was to raise the consciousness of the bankers concerned by bringing to light the characteristics of female employment in this sector.

Women represent, on average, 40% of bank personnel in the Community. Nonetheless, they are to be found mostly in the less skilled jobs and in jobs offering the least prospects.

During the seminar bankers from the banks participating in this research action shared their experience with fifty-odd of their colleagues from the ten Community Member States. Their presentations were supplemented by descriptions of positive action programmes organized in North American banks.

Cooperatives and Collectives

The Centre for Research on European Women has carried out a study on behalf of the European Commission on job-creating initiatives for women. It covers in the main cooperatives and collectives established in France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Four hundred questionnaires were sent out and a hundred or so replies were received. Even though the cooperative movement has existed for a long time, it seems that women have given it a new impetus. According to the case studies, it is clear that cooperatives and collectives have created employment for women. This way of organizing offers women greater flexibility over their working hours, understanding and help concerning childcare, and a structure which is more sociable and less hierarchical.

In France such initiatives seem to be closely connected with the feminist movement and do not seek to enter into competition with companies in the private sector. In the UK, it is no longer necessary to have at least seven members to start a cooperative and this has favoured the growth of associations of this kind. They have been given another boost because local authorities are allowed to give young cooperatives a thousand pounds to cover the start-up expenses. The cooperative movement has also developed in Italy: it is estimated that 40% of the members of recently created cooperatives and 30% of their presidents are women. Furthermore, local authorities are now using cooperatives to provide certain social services such as creches and home care.

Saving the textile industry

Having laid down the objectives of a new international agreement for the world textile trade in what is called "the multifibre arrangement", European negotiators have started talking to 28 developing countries and eight countries in the Southern Mediterranean. The outcome will be a series of voluntary agreements for restricting sales of Third World textile products on the European markets.

The European negotiators will probably take a hard line. The European textile industry is having to face several challenges: first of all, the rapid industrialisation and competitiveness of South East Asian developing countries, secondly, the United States which competes with European production in the synthetic fibres sector, and lastly, the fact that the demand for textiles in Europe has decreased because of the economic recession.

The crisis has already caused the loss of around one million jobs and the closure of some 4, 200 textile factories in Europe. In spite of these figures, the textile and clothing industries still represent nearly 8% of the manufacturing industry's contribution to the Community's Gross Domestic Product. The textile industry employs 9.5% of the workers of the whole manufacturing industry and around 30% of all women. This shows to what extent the well-being of this sector is vital for the whole of the European economy. Even today, faced with the problems caused by the crisis, the European textile industry remains the most advanced in the world judging by its exports.

The discussions between Community representatives and those from the Third World will not be easy. The Community has indicated clearly that the largest textile suppliers - Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and Macao - must renegotiate their quotas. Other countries which hoped to increase their textile exports to the Community will probably be disappointed. As for the European Commission, it has pointed out that the five year breathing space given to the textile industry by the Multifibre Arrangement should be taken advantage of, to modernise and restructure this sector.

Improved stoves

Ms Theobald Paoli, member of the European Parliament, drew the attention of the European Commission to "improved stoves". These are ovens used in West Africa which are produced by local craftsmen using local raw materials (for example, clay). They consume less wood than the primitive three-stone hearth. The use of these ovens, notes Ms Theobald-Paoli, "helps to slow down deforestation which is one of the major problems confronting West Africa".

In reply, the European Commission indicated that it "has already introduced these stoves on a trial basis in the Sahel, particularly in Upper Volta, where it has successfully financed a project to provide 1 500 stoves with a resulting saving in wood of 50-75%."

The Commission is currently studying ways of increasing the population's awareness of the existence and advantages of these "improved stoves", particularly by means of audio-visual aids. Such action should not only reduce energy consumption but also help to protect the environment of the countries concerned.

BUREAU FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT AND EQUAL TREATMENT FOR WOMEN

Odile QUINTIN has taken over from Jacqueline NONON as head of of the Bureau for questions concerning employment and equal treatment for women. Ms Quintin, an Arts graduate who went on to take her doctorate in Law, entered the European Commission in 1971. At the start of her career in the Community institutions, she was attached as an expert to the Directorate-general for Social Affairs dealing with working conditions; later, after appointment as a permanent official, she handled fishery issues (fishing rights, international conventions, the law of the sea) and external relations (North-South Dialogue, Community relations with Japan and with Eastern Europe, Conference on security and cooperation in Europe, etc.).

The Bureau for questions concerning employment and equal treatment for women - for which Ms Quintin is now responsible - was established in 1976 and has multiple objectives. In accordance with its mandate from the European Commission, the Bureau puts Community decisions into practice, ensures that they are applied and, when necessary, proposes new ones.

In other words, as far as implementation of the Community "Equality" directives is concerned, the Bureau writes reports assessing to what extent they are being applied, and prepares the infringement procedures through which the European Commission calls Member States to order. The Bureau for women's employment also carefully follows any community legislation which affects women's employment. Again, it is the Bureau which represents the European Commission whenever the ten Member States' position is being coordinated for the purpose of adopting international legal instruments relating to women's employment prepared by the International Labour Office, the United Nations Organization, or similar bodies.

In the European Commission itself, the Bureau ensures coordination between various departments for everything directly concerning women in various Community policies.

The Bureau for women's employment is currently carrying out research and studies on self-employed women, protective legislation, women's employment in Greece and in countries negotiating membership of the Communities. Complete documentation is built up in this way to serve as a basis for reflection and decision-making.

Finally, the Bureau ensures and coordinates the application of the Community Action Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Women (1982-1985), (1)

Useful Address: Commission of the European Communities
 Bureau for Questions concerning Employment and
 Equal Treatment for Women
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 1049 - Bruxelles

(1) This programme is the subject of Supplement no 9 to "Women of Europe".

"Women of Europe" is published every two months, except during the summer, in the seven official languages of the European Community.

"Supplements to Women of Europe", are also published in all the Community languages from time to time.

Titles which have appeared so far are:

- No. 1 Women and the European Social Fund
(out of print - replaced by no. 6)
- No. 2 The European Community and Work for Women
(out of print - replaced by no. 7)
- No. 3 Women and Men of Europe in 1978
- No. 4 Women in the European Parliament
- No. 5 European Women in Paid Employment
Their perception of Discrimination at work
- No. 6 Women and the European Social Fund
- No. 7 Women at Work in the European Community
50 questions - 50 answers
- No. 8 Women in Spain
- No. 9 The Community's Action Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Women 1982-1985

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

April 1982 Session

At its April Plenary session, the European Parliament had a lengthy debate on regional policy, mainly centred on the European Commission's proposals for an overhaul of the Regional Fund rules, through which it hopes to start a proper reform of regional policy. As well as looking at the report prepared by its Regional Committee, Parliament heard a preliminary report, on behalf of the Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women, by Sile De Valera (D E P, Ireland).

Ms de Valera succeeded in getting some amendments carried (though others were rejected), the aim of which was to make the effects on women of regional imbalance more apparent. Ms de Valera's speech was not to everybody's taste, some MEPs taking exception to what they considered the "feminist" turn taken in the debate following the Committee of Inquiry's intervention. One such was Mr Pearce (Conservative U.K.) who said he was "really tired of the feminist slant of the debate". In presenting her report, Sile de Valera regretted that the Commission had neglected the "women's cause" in this context. Women were the first victims of unemployment in some regions, she said. Admitting that the problem was vast and had structural origins, Ms de Valera asked Member States, when putting forward regional development programmes, to indicate their employment objectives broken down by sex and by age group. She also wanted periodic reports on the economic and social situation of the regions to contain an assessment of the effects of the Fund's rules on the situation of women in the various regions of Europe.

During the debate on the new rules for the Fund, Elise Boot, (C.D., Germany) advocated that its interventions should be concentrated on the worst-off zones. Winifred Ewing, (DEP U.K.) called for the adoption of specific criteria for the outlying regions, while Anne-Marie Lizin (Soc. Belgium) supported Ms de Valera's proposed amendments and, speaking as a Walloon parliamentarian, criticized the role of the Belgian government in the allocation of regional aid; she thought the Community's objective arbitration was preferable. Yvette Fullet (Soc. France) spoke of the need for MEPs to be able to discuss the matter with valid partners, by which she meant regional or even local authorities.

The European Parliament again turned itself to matters directly affecting the health and well-being of the Community's citizens. It came out very strongly in favour of strict limits in the use of blue asbestos, the most dangerous type. Two reports on the subject were tabled, the first by Christiane Scrivener (Lib. France) and the second by Ursula Schleicher (C.D. Germany), supported by Beate Weber (Soc. Germany); the reports advocated going even further and putting a total ban on this type of asbestos, and here, Ms Scrivener could foresee only one exception: in the manufacture of wide-gauge pipes, for which it seems that a substitute is technically impossible.

During the debate, Ms Schleicher warned against switching too quickly to substitute fibres, as these were also potentially dangerous. Ms Weber mentioned that some countries, Denmark in particular, had already banned asbestos without damaging their economy. Sylvie Leroux (Comm. France) also pleaded for stricter limits in the use of blue asbestos.

On the basis of another report by Ms Scrivener, Parliament also voted for a Community proposal confirming Member States' obligation to cut the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) in aerosols by 40% from its 1976 level. Ms Scrivener and Ms V. Squarzialupi (Comm. Italy) drew attention to the dangers of the vapours from these substances (which are in common use, especially in perfumery).

Parliament adopted the Resolution of Marcelle Lentz - Cornette (C.D. Luxembourg) on the upward harmonization of national laws on the micro-organism content of food products. The European Commission has, for the moment, brought out an outline decision, which the Parliamentary rapporteur considered a step in the right direction, especially as regards its provisions to fight salmonellosis. On the other hand, a report by Annie Krouwel-Vlam (Soc. Neth.) on the control of fresh meat was sent back to the Committee-stage. Mrs Krouwel-Vlam had certain faults to find with the Commission's proposals, particularly regarding the cost of this control; she was, on the whole in favour of the principle, however.

In April, too, the European Parliament had something to say on the Falklands crisis. It adopted a Resolution condemning the Argentine invasion, demanding the withdrawal of that country's troops, and stressing the need to take the wishes of the islands' inhabitants into account. The British Socialist, Barbara Castle, made a speech in which she emphasized the superiority of bringing economic rather than military pressures to bear.

Simone Veil, (Lib. France), rose during the session to call for a debate following the government of Pakistan's refusal to receive a Parliamentary Delegation included in which was the French MEP, Mr Gerard Israel. After Parliament's President, Mr Piet Dankert, had described this discrimination as being on "religious and philosophic" grounds, Ms Veil asked to call a spade a spade and said the discrimination was "racist", the message sent by the Pakistan Government having clearly indicated that the refusal was because of Mr Israel's "name" and "background". Maria-Antonietta Macciocchi, (Radical, Italy) supported by other MEPs, tabled a Resolution on the matter which was passed on to the Political Committee.

During a debate on the European institutions' policy with regard to premises, Raymonde Dury (Soc. Belgium) blamed the Belgian authorities' inconsistent behaviour, which was not governed by any overall plan and did not consider the demands of the people of Brussels, on the institutions' "policy of improvisation". Ms Dury wanted the Community to take the responsibility for its own policy on premises, but she insisted that the institutions remember that they were not just stuck down in the middle of virgin territory, but were in a town which had a history, an architectural heritage, and inhabitants.

Amnesty International

"The European Parliament has a duty to bring pressure to bear on the European Community to take economic measures against countries which violate Human Rights. Since the European elections in 1979, Parliament has drawn attention to 238 cases where Human Rights have been violated and adopted 49 Resolutions on the subject." These words were spoken by Mr Piet Dankert, President of the European Parliament, following Amnesty International's Conference on Political Assassinations.

Declaring that the European Parliament could sometimes make a bigger impact than national parliaments, Mr Dankert paid tribute to his predecessor, Ms Veil who "through her personal interventions with foreign ambassadors or through the Representatives of the Community's Member States, had often tried to improve the fate of individual citizens, to gather information on their situation or to obtain their freedom".

May 1982 Session

The May Parliamentary session marked an important stage in Europe's debate on the situation of women, by adopting its Committee of Inquiry's report. The Rapporteur was Ms Marie-Claude Vayssade (Soc. France) and the report dealt with the New Community Action Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for women, submitted by the European Commission. On this occasion, the Committee of Inquiry on the Situation of Women played the role of an ordinary Parliamentary Committee which does the preparatory work for the Assembly's consultative activities.

The Commission's proposed Action of Programme (which had not yet been adopted by the Council of Ministers when Parliament was discussing it) is a minimum. It does not contain enough practical measures, it should cover certain areas like education, health and maternity more fully and lastly, it puts too much faith in the willingness of the Member States... these were the main criticisms voiced during the debate.

Parliament's proceedings were paralleled by a Seminar on the situation of women in Europe in which the editors of the women's and feminist press in Europe participated. Parliament's debates on the subject were filmed and they will form part of one of the first programmes in an experimental European TV series to be broadcast in the Community from May onwards.

Women's need for information was mentioned several times during the debate particularly by Gloria Hooper (Conserv. UK), and Marijke Van Hemeldonck (Soc. Belgium).

The Resolution passed by Parliament made the following demands, inter alia:

- that the European Commission submit the legal implementing measures recommended in its programme so as to make it more binding (this amendment was proposed by Ms Maij-Weggen who, last year, was rapporteur for the debate on situation of women in the Community);
- that the problem of equality of opportunity between men and women be taken into account when implementing various Community policies;

- that women's associations be fairly represented on the national bodies to be set up for the promotion of equal opportunities for women;
- that actions to increase public awareness and information measures be developed in order to foster changes in attitudes about the sharing of occupational, family and social responsibilities by men and women.

Very few men spoke in the debate. One who did was the Netherlands MEP, Doeke Eisma, who is a member of Democractie 66, but not in one of the Parliamentary political groupings. His amendment proposing stronger terms for the points relating to women's health and medical problems was adopted.

The British Conservative, Mr Parvis, thought men had "a lot to offer and to learn". He was sorry that segregation of the sexes occurred in education and some trades. Why, he asked, were there women bookbinders but no women printers?

Mr Estgen (C.D., Luxembourg) was not in favour of "protest feminism", but did want to see more equality between men and women. Another British Conservative, Mr Forth, said he was against all "positive discrimination in favour of women," wondering what would happen if work had to be taken away from men to give it to women. To this, Ms Fullet, the French Socialist, riposted: "why doesn't Mrs Thatcher become an honorary member of the unemployed, thus freeing a plum job for a man?"

Speeches by women MEPs naturally dominated the debate. First, there was the one by Marie-Claude Vayssade, the Rapporteur, in which she congratulated the Commission of the European Communities on its initiative but regretted that too much was left to the goodwill of the Member States, seeing this as a dangerous gamble in a period of crisis. The same observation was made by the Committee of Inquiry's Chairman, Maria Cinciaro-Rodano (Comm. Italy) who nevertheless thought that the Commission's Action Programme against the background of the present impasse, represented "a kind of act of faith".

Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago-Cerretti (Chr. Dem. Italy) was disappointed that a larger part of the debate was not centred on the theme "women, peace, development" and that certain aspects, like the impact of the new technologies and electronics, had been neglected.

The Belgian Socialist Ms Lizin spoke of the series of "hard knocks" suffered by women in the labour market at the present juncture, because it was always thought that men's employment should come first. Two other Belgian MEPs, Raymonde Dury (Soc.) and Antoinette Spaak (F.D.F.) protested against the fact that in Belgium, the concept of "head of family" had led to discrimination in the area of unemployment benefits.

Marlene Lenz, spokesperson for the Christian Democrats, asked the European Commission to set a good example by providing fairer treatment for its female employees and Mechtild von Alemann, spokesperson for the Liberals, appealed to the Council of Ministers not to eliminate the Commission's proposals one by one. Like many other speakers, she insisted that education should be given priority.

Speaking on behalf of the DEP, Ms De Valera asked for the situation of women to be taken into account more in the review of the workings of the Regional Fund.

Ms Else Hammerich, a Dane who was elected for her anti-Common Market views, considered the Commission's proposals "superficial" and felt that the Action Programme was "pie in the sky". The social theories of the European Commission, she said, were very far from reality. Measures taken to assist women were not gifts, as the Commission seemed to think, but gains which had been achieved because women had joined forces for their struggle.

The German Socialist, Heidermarie Wieczorek-Zeul, called on all public bodies, even on the local level, to give the lead by showing equal treatment for men and women.

Replying on behalf of the Commission, Mr Ivor Richard, the Commissioner responsible for the Community's social policy, said he shared much of the concern expressed by parliamentarians. He was convinced that, when the 1983 budget was being discussed, Parliament would succeed in seeing to it that the necessary funds were earmarked for the Action Programme.

The debate continued with support from Ien Van den Heuvel (Soc. Netherlands) on behalf of the Socialists, for the Committee of Inquiry's demands that further study be undertaken. Ms Sylvie Leroux, (Comm. France) regretted that the Commission had submitted a catalogue of self-satisfaction rather than a programme. Employment was the main issue: women's place in it was precarious and under-qualified.

Marie-Jane Pruvot (Lib. France), pointed to the plight of women working on family farms: they did not fall under any of the existing work regimes, had no fixed hours of work, often combined two or three different jobs, received inadequate Social Security protection, could not take any time off and lastly had no access to training or re-training.

A request for working activities inside and outside the home to be viewed with the same respect whether these were carried out by a man or a woman, was entered by Alphonsine Phlix (C.D. Belgium). Konstantina Pantazi (Soc. Greece) deplored the double oppression from which women suffered: that of capitalism and that of people's attitudes.

Mr Richard took the floor again to note that the European Parliament had lent its support to the Commission's proposals, even though these were judged minimal in some quarters. Now it was necessary to convince the Council of Ministers.

The fact that there were no representatives of the Council of Ministers present during the debate was sharply criticized by Ms Vayssade. This attitude was an indication that the Council would do nothing concrete about the Commission's proposal, but would merely take note of them, she thought. Ms Wieczorek-Zeul went further, mentioning that the Council's absence was a sign of its "contempt for Parliament's views in this domain".

Summing up, Parliament asked the European Commission to come up with practical ideas, as soon as possible, in the form of the "proposals for legal implementing measures" recommended in its programme. It insisted that, during the transitional period before the Directive on Equal Treatment in Matters of Social Security comes into force, Member States refrain from any measure likely to threaten the principle of equal treatment or to strengthen any existing discrimination. Parliament also urged that the staff of the two Commission departments dealing with women should be expanded.

At the same Parliamentary session, women tabled reports on a number of other issues.

Ms Scrivener (Lib. France), drawing attention to the problem of drugs, mentioned the destruction they wreak and stressed the results which could be obtained through a much bigger information campaign on the European level. She also wanted aid to be given to countries growing the raw materials for the drug business, so that they could reconvert to other crops. Ms Scrivener also gave a warning against the type of drug abuse which was tolerated up to a certain point, from the medical point-of-view.

Vera Squarcialupi (Comm. Italy) and Marcelle Lentz-Cornette (C.D. Luxemb.) both spoke to the issue and deplored the apathy among their colleagues on this very burning topic.

The German Socialist Heinke Salisch spoke on the question of harmonizing tax arrangements for frontier workers. She wanted to see a proper economic and social policy for this type of worker; they were often subject to discrimination and lack of understanding from people in the country where they lived as well as the one where they worked, she said.

A plea for harmonization of legislation to protect the growing number of people who undergo medical examinations or treatment exposing them to ionizing radiation was made by Beate Weber (Soc. Germany). Parliament followed Ms Weber unanimously in calling for stricter controls firstly on the material used, which becomes increasingly dangerous with age, secondly on the training of the staff using it and thirdly on the frequency of this kind of examination. In addition patients themselves should be better informed about the risks and be issued with a card where all ray treatment received can be recorded.

Phili Viehoff (Soc. Netherlands) tabled an alarming report on illiteracy. The economic crisis and unemployment are aggravating the problem and it is one that affects northern Europe as well as the south. Ms Viehoff wanted Community action to include among other things the launching of a campaign for literacy, which would involve ten million Europeans.

Ms Fullet (Soc. France) presented a report advocating Commission grants for housing in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Ms Fullet, however, became involved in a controversy with Mr Giolitti, Member of the Commission responsible for the Community's regional policy, over the legal framework in which this operation should be carried out and hence on the way in which Parliament would be able to monitor it.

Speaking on the control of marine activities and fisheries, Nicole Pery (Soc. France) tabled a very "European" report in which she called, inter alia, for vessels carrying out control and supervision operations to be marked clearly with a European emblem thus showing that this was a domain which fell clearly within the competence of the Community.

As the Falkland Islands were still in the news, Ms Veil and her Danish colleague, Ms Hagerup, both spoke during the discussion of a text calling for the extension of sanctions against Argentina. On behalf of British Labour Parliamentarians, Ms Castle said that it was good to see that her country had agreed to the possibility of a UN presence in the Falklands.

Still on the same subject, Ms Leroux (Comm. France) proposed that the fighting should be halted and sanctions ended.

On international trade, Ms Pruvot (Lib. France), backed by others in her group, hoped that the European Community, while taking the special needs of the developing countries into account, would also urge the newly industrialized nations to assume their responsibilities.

The system of stabilization of export earnings (STABEX) involving the countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group came up for discussion and Raymonde Dury (Soc. Belgium) suggested that, in order to fill the gaps in the system, more should be done than simply transfer money set aside for one kind of intervention to another, like a system of communicating vessels. To do so would be to disappoint the expectations of Europe's partners in the Lome Convention.

Ms Lenz, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on energy, pleaded for diversification of energy sources especially a greater use of coal and lignite.

Dual mandates

Is it acceptable to combine the job of a Member of the European Parliament with that of a member of one of the national parliaments? Apart from the practical difficulties, there is also a question of principle at stake. The only country to have settled the issue in its electoral laws is Greece, which has forbidden dual mandates.

In practice, the number of MEPs with dual mandates is decreasing all the time: a large number of parliamentarians have been forced to choose between the calls imposed by their political life in their own country and their activities on the European level.

Thus, two Belgian MEPs out of 24 have dual mandates (8.33%); for Denmark, one out of 16 (6.25%) for France, 14 out of 81 (17.28%); for Germany, two out of 81 (2.47%); for Greece, none of its 24 MEPs; for Ireland, six out of 15 (40%); for Italy, 13 out of 81 (16.05%); for Luxembourg, four out of six (66.6%); for the Netherlands, none of the 25 (the result of a kind of self-discipline adopted by the political parties); and finally, for the UK, nine out of 81 (11.1%). This works out at a Community average of 11.52%.

June 1982 Session

Women MEPs were out in force for the most political debate of the June session, the one on Lebanon, and for the one which was the most controversial, on Hunger in the World. In addition three reports written by women were adopted during the session: Ms Gredal's on relations between the Community and the US, Ms Rabbethge's on research in the service of development and Ms Seibel-Emmerling's on information on dangerous products.

Following the debate on the Situation in Lebanon, Parliament adopted a Resolution moved by Ms Charzat (Soc. France) condemning recent assassination attempts against European diplomats and calling on the Ten to increase their diplomatic representation in Lebanon instead of reducing it, in order to show their desire for lawfulness to be respected. Raymonde Dury (Soc. Belgium) said that, as a Socialist, she had always recognized Israel's right to exist, but asked for the Palestinians, too, to be given "the State which was rightfully theirs".

"Where will the Palestinians go?" was the question worrying Luciana Castellina (PDUP, Italy). She feared that the Israeli invasion would spark off a wave of terrorism. Paola Gaiotti di Biase (C.D. Italy) wanted Europe to play an unequivocal role of mediator in the Middle East.

During the discussion of the Michel report on Hunger in the World, Katerina Focke, Spokesperson for the Socialists, criticized the Commission's proposals on the subject, saying that although they went a little way in the right direction, "the mountain had only brought forth a mouse". Ms Cassamagnago Cerretti (C.D. Italy) and Ms Pruvot (Lib. France) were not so harsh, but they both drew attention to the limited nature of the activities the European Commission was planning, even though they agreed with the approach of encouraging the recipient countries' own food strategy.

Eva Gredel (Soc. Denmark) who led the European Parliament's delegation to the US Congress, had written a report which because of amendments at the Committee-stage, no longer entirely satisfied her. She hoped indeed to see relations with the US being intensified, as the Resolution which was passed stated. However, she partly shared the views of other MEPs (among them Anne-Marie Lizin and Marijke Van Hemeldonck) that Europe's autonomy vis-à-vis the United States was not clearly enough spelled out in it. Fabrizia Baduel Gloriosa (Comm. Italy) termed the Resolution "humiliating" and Else Hammerich (Movement against Denmark's membership of the EC) singled out the reference to the Atlantic Alliance for special criticism.

Renate-Charlotte Rabbethge (C.D. Germany) in her report on the Commission's proposals for a programme of research and development, was very lukewarm about it. In her view, even if it constituted a good starting point, the aims of the programme were not clear. One of Ms Rabbethge's pleas was that research workers from the Developing Countries be associated with the schemes from the outset. Ms Dury also found the Commission document too "Euro-centred" and pointed to some inconsistencies. For example, at a time when it was proposed to restrict imports of manioc from Thailand, a research programme on manioc cultivation was being envisaged. Training was the aspect stressed by Christiane Scrivener (Lib. France), who hoped that Third World experts could come over to our agricultural and industrial undertakings for training.

In her report on Consumer information on dangerous products, Ms Seibel-Emmerling (Soc. Germany) found the Commission's proposals on the subject acceptable. These advocate setting up a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on the dangers of using certain products. One of the examples mentioned by Ms Scrivener was the gaps and inconsistencies in the information published on the case of adulterated Spanish cooking oil last year, where there had been a number of deaths. Ms Lenz-Cornette (C.D. Luxembourg) mentioned the case of car drivers who do not know whether their accidents are caused by a "hidden fault" in their cars.

Concerning the idea of a European Foundation, which the Heads of State and of Government's Summit had accepted in principle, and which is to be established in Paris, Phili Viehoff (Soc. Netherlands) was amazed to see the Council of Ministers finding the money for an intergovernmental-type institution when it could not find any for the very lines in the Community's budget earmarked for culture.

Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women in Europe

In April and May, the Committee of Inquiry's work was dominated by preparations for Parliament's debate on the Community Action Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for women.

The Belgian Minister for Social Affairs and Employment, Mr Hansenne, President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers had been expected to attend the Committee of Inquiry's meeting on the afternoon of 27 April, to discuss the Action programme. However, he was detained by his other commitments and sent apologies. The fact that he did not keep his appointment was regretted and even criticized by members of the Committee of Inquiry, the more so since there was some uncertainty surrounding the way negotiations on the Action Programme were proceeding. The Netherlands press had just revealed that the text of the Resolution which the Committee of Permanent Representatives was at that moment discussing differed from the draft scrutinized by the Committee of Inquiry, being, in fact, a kind of compromise or watered-down version of the one drafted by the Commission. In the new version, the Council of Ministers would simply be "noting" the programme and no longer making a commitment to it. The Committee of Inquiry at the very same time was advocating, in its report, that the Commission text be strengthened, believing as it did that the Action Programme was the minimum commitment that the Council of Ministers could make.

Shortly after this incident, officials from the European Commission and Council endeavoured to reassure the members of the Committee of Inquiry to the effect that the basis of the negotiations was still the Commission's draft text.

A press release was issued by the European Parliament: "In any case, the Committee of Inquiry is determined to do what is necessary to stop this Action Programme from being weakened, for now, it is no longer a matter of "noting" but of "moving on to actions", and the question being asked of the Council is clear: does it wish to act on behalf of women or not?"

The next meeting took place at a crucial time: the debate and vote in Parliament and three days before the Council of Ministers was due to meet to decide on the Action Programme.

The Committee of Inquiry's concern which had surfaced in April was proved to be well-founded. The Belgian Minister, Hansenne, did finally admit that the text of the Resolution to be put to the Council a few days later was in fact different from the one on which the European Parliament had voted at its May session in Strasbourg.

The members of the Committee of Inquiry registered their disapproval of this procedure and thought that the Council should have thrashed out the final text after receiving Parliament's opinion. What influence could Parliament bring to bear on a proposal that had been changed behind its back, Ms Cinciari-Rodano, Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry, asked.

The text had been changed to give it a better chance of being accepted unanimously, Mr Hansenne explained. "Why is a unanimous decision needed? Are there any vital interests at stake? were two of the questions asked by Committee of Inquiry members. "Agreement on the Resolution must not be reached at the expense of women," they said.

According to the Minister, the attack on the problem of unemployment had to be conducted globally. If unemployment was hitting women and young people harder "this is terrible but understandable . It is always harder to find a job if you are "under-qualified and have only just entered the job market", he continued.

Despite his views on the situation, the Council's President was ready to accept the principle and general objectives of the Action Programme. He made it clear however that given the present economic situation and the lack of money, the Council would have to take into account the heavy charge on national budgets when examining certain of the proposed schemes.

In the new draft of the resolution on the Council table, two of the amendments adopted by the European Parliament had been included. The first related to information activities and changes in attitudes and the second to the interim report the Commission was being asked to prepare before January 1984, on the results of the action taken.

"What is going to happen", asked Johanna Maij-Weggen, "to the amendment aimed at preventing Member States from taking advantage of the period given before bringing a directive into force, in order to take steps which are retrograde? You are the President of the Council and a very bad example of the application of the equal treatment principle." Here, Ms Maij-Weggen was referring to the system introduced in Belgium reducing unemployment benefits through use of the concept of head of family. To this, Mr Hansenne replied that the contents of this amendment were implicitly conveyed in the texts of the directives themselves.

Mr Thorn, President of the European Commission, who spoke to the Committee of Inquiry just before Mr Hansenne, reaffirmed the importance the Commission attached to implementing the Action Programme on Equal Opportunities. He therefore hoped to see Parliament back its political commitment to the Action Programme with money, when it became time to adopt the budget.

The Committee of Inquiry intended to do this and had, in fact, already examined a working document on budget estimates for 1983.

Ms Cinciari-Rodano then launched a pressing appeal to the Council President: "The governments of the Member States are not in the good books of European women, who are paying the heaviest price in this crisis. The 27 May "Social" Council will not go by unnoticed. Millions of women will be watching. Action has been taken and expectations have now been raised".

One of the places where these expectations were voiced was at the European Colloquium organized in Bonn on 17 and 18 May. In a recommendation adopted by the women's organizations attending the conference, the European Parliament's position was supported and the Council of Ministers was urged to adopt the draft Resolution as amended by Parliament. Both Mr Thorn and Mr Hansenne were given copies of this recommendation.

At this same meeting, the Committee of Inquiry also received a delegation from the Women's Committee of COPA (Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the EEC). The women farmers had four concerns: their legal position, social security, provisions for replacing them when they needed to take leave and professional training. On all four points, Parliament had already taken a stand in its February 1981 Resolution, but still nothing had been done.

Extract from Mr Thorn's Speech

(...) I intend to see that the promotion of equal opportunities for women does not remain within the confines of an "ad hoc" programme. Today, commitment to specific actions is still, doubtless, necessary. But that is not enough. Ensuring equal opportunities must be one of the permanent factors to which the Commission gives consideration in any Community policy-making that can affect the promotion of women. In a word, I hope that in all our actions, such consideration will become automatic."

At its June meeting, the Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women in Europe turned its full attention to information for women, on the basis of a report tabled by Gloria Hooper (Cons. U.K.)

To start off, one fact had to be recognized, said the report. Equal opportunity and equal treatment for women also extended to access to information; distribution of information for women demanded quite simply the application of the principle of equal treatment for men and women with all the back-up measures this implied, including positive action. It was especially necessary to stop women's problems being lumped together with those of the handicapped or youth. Where information was concerned, women faced different problems calling for a different set of answers.

Ms Cinciario-Rodano said that the problems confronting women ran right through society at all levels. However, this did not mean that women wanted general information in which the special nature of their problems got submerged. She added that women in the home usually read a newspaper which was brought back to the house by a male member of the family. In other words, women did not have the same access to the media, a fact which should be borne in mind when working out a strategy for women's information.

The Committee of Inquiry was considering proposing a new line in the 1983 budget especially to cover women's information.

The Committee of Inquiry appointed Marie-Claude Vayssade as rapporteur for the 1983 budget. Some comments had already been made on the effects of the budget in the following areas: information - European Social Fund - education and vocational training - employment - social welfare and health - implementation of the principle of equality - social security.

In an opinion addressed immediately to Parliament's Budget Committee the Committee of Inquiry urged that the staffing situation in the two departments in the Commission concerned with women should be considerably improved, failing which the Action Programme for Equal Opportunities could not be properly implemented.

More staff are also needed if the newly-created Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men is to run properly. This was the view of Baroness Lockwood, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, who was talking to the Committee of Inquiry on the problems confronting her Committee because of the lack of means in the European Communities' Commission to give support to its activities.

An "Intergroupe Femmes" in the European Parliament

An informal women's cross-group started in the European Parliament in response to a need that some MEPs felt for a non-official meeting place where they could discuss women's issues.

Yvette FUILLET (Soc. France), whose idea the formation of such a group was, described it like this: "You mustn't forget for a moment that the "Intergroupe" is completely unofficial. It was started last November with the idea of providing a link between women members of parliament who want to exchange ideas about European women's situation. In other words, it is not restricted by rules, like a parliamentary committee, and it can make whatever contacts it likes."

This is the spirit behind the desire of "Intergroupe" to welcome participation by anyone working for the European cause - women officials and Parliament employees as well as journalists. One recent sign of this openness came when, during a meeting of "Intergroupe", the interpreters in their booths joined in the general discussion and made their contribution to the debate.

"Intergroupe" now wants to acquaint anyone who might be interested about the subjects they are tackling. It should be noted that "Intergroupe" ONLY deals with matters that are not taken up by Parliament's Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women. The latter's brief extends, generally speaking, to monitoring the application of the Resolution passed by the European Parliament on the matter in February 1981.

To date, "Intergroupe" has been looking into the question of military service and how the various Member States stand with regard to it. It notes, for example, that women may volunteer in most countries (Italy, however put a ban on it), but that in many of the Member States women do not have access to all military careers.

Another subject "Intergroupe" has tackled is child prostitution, This is not unknown in Europe and the root cause is usually economic. "Intergroupe" has also listened to Ms Bottari, an Italian member of parliament and Chairman of the Law Committee which is currently examining eight bills - one proposed by a group of citizens - on sexual violence. On the initiative of Mr Eisma, "Intergroupe" saw the Italian film "A trial for a case of rape" in Strasbourg. This film shows, in a way which shocks for its starkness, how a victim finds herself in the position of the accused.

C O U R T O F J U S T I C E

Head of Family Allowance

The European Court of Justice has pronounced against Luxembourg for not having amended its Regulations for Public Servants to comply with the 1975 Directive on Equality. A 1963 Luxembourg law provides for a "Head of Family Allowance" for public employees. Although a married man can receive this benefit, the same does not apply to a woman unless her husband "suffers from a form of disability or serious illness which excludes him from providing for the household's expenses".

The Commission of the European Communities considered this condition was an infringement of the Directive, but the Luxembourg Government replied that a change in the Regulations would cost it 64 million Luxembourg francs. The Court of Justice's comment was that according to the established precedent, a Member State could not invoke provisions, practices or situation from its internal legal system as a reason for not fulfilling the obligations arising from Community Directives.

Women and Apartheid

The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid and the International Committee of Solidarity with the struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia organized an international conference on Women and Apartheid in Brussels from 17 to 19 May.

Why should a conference be held specifically on women, when men and women alike are victims of apartheid? "Women have to face a double discrimination, racial and sexual" explained Ms Cisse, Guinea's Social Affairs Minister and Conference Chairman. Another reason might be that in this way, the attention of women would be drawn to the seriousness of the problem of apartheid in general.

"(South African women) must perpetually struggle in order to carry out their role as workers, wives and mothers, as the odious system of apartheid has destroyed the African family unit". Under the system applied by the South African state, the men - in possession of a special permit - look for work in the large centres occupied by whites, but their wives do not have the right to accompany them. They stay behind with their children, living with the grandparents in the tribal home where malnutrition and illness are rife: black infant mortality is five times higher than white.

In the same way, women employed as maids cannot bring their husbands or children to their employers' houses. If a black woman manages to get another type of job, she is paid only half the salary of a black man, and about 8% of the salary of a white man for doing equal work.

Joyce Dipale was one of the women who testified: having been arrested and held in secret for more than 500 days, prevented from changing her clothes for three months, deprived of all contact with her family, degraded by torture, freed then harassed by the police, she finally took refuge in Botswana where she was once again the victim of a kidnapping attempt and was shot three times.

The struggle for an end to apartheid in South Africa continues to be amongst the priorities of the European Parliament, declared its President Piet Dankert during the Conference. Mr Dankert recalled that the Political Committee of the European Parliament was in the process of discussing a report on South Africa which would probably be adopted this autumn. He also pointed out that the Belgian Socialist, Anne-Marie Lizin, in her report on Women in the Third World to be presented shortly, will make a point of the particularly serious situation of black women in South Africa.

Mr Dankert mentioned the various measures the Community was using to bring pressure to bear for the abolition of apartheid, particularly the Code of Conduct for companies with South African subsidiaries, adopted in 1977. Parliament, he said, wanted to tighten up this code, feeling in particular that Member States should be able to apply sanctions to European companies not complying with it: a code of conduct without sanctions for those who ignore it was not worth the paper it was written on.

The official Conference Report will be published in the coming months.

Useful Address:

Thérèse Gastaut
Directeur du Centre d'Information et du Bureau de
Liaison des Nations Unies
rue d'Arlon 108
1040 Bruxelles

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

G E R M A N Y

In Berlin

The Landesfrauenrat Berlin e.v. (Women's Council of the Berlin Region) has now acquired official status and a line in the Berlin Regional Government's budget. It also has its own premises at 41 Bayreutherstrasse.

Chaired by Ms Johanna Lemke, of the Deutscher Statsbürgerinnenverband e.V. (a German citizens' organization) the Landesfrauenrat Berlin forms an umbrella for 27 women's associations or groups, representing more than 100 000 women.

The organization intends to step up action to help women in Berlin and will be working closely with administrative services and elected representatives of the parties.

Useful address : Landesfrauenrat Berlin e.v.
Bayreutherstrasse 41,
1000 Berlin 30 Tel. : 213.43.83

Violence

The Berliner Frauenhaus (Berlin battered women's house) has received a grant from the Federal authorities to complete a pilot scheme to help women and children who are the victims of violence. Experts who supervised the work done in Berlin submitted their report to the then Federal Minister for Youth, the Family and Health, Ms Antje Huber (see p.28).

The report says that family violence is more common than usually believed. Since the Battered Women's House was opened in Berlin in 1976, more than 120 similiar refuges have been opened in small and large towns, through women's efforts.

Battering of women by their husbands or the men they live with is a phenomenon affecting all social classes and age groups the experts say. Women who are subjected to violence are often treated unsympathetically and the social services have very limited means for helping them.

Advice and support from battered women's refuges is very important, especially from those which help victims to "help themselves". Children who have been ill-treated need special attention since their ability to react is limited and there is a risk therefore that their damaging experience will have mental and physical after-effects.

Better counselling before matters reach a crisis and stronger support afterwards are the two main areas into which future efforts will be channelled.

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

Documents

The "Documenta" exhibition, a five yearly event at Kassel, is one of contemporary arts highspots. Running from 19 June to 28 September this year, "Documenta 7" is exhibiting the work of 167 artists of whom 25 are women, says the catalogue. In giving this breakdown, the organizers are paying indirect tribute to women who, this year, have made efforts to assert themselves in the field of contemporary art through a number of events which they have organized.

Useful adress : Documenta 7
Wolfsschlunt 2
3500 Kassel

Parental leave

The Deutsches Jugendinstitut (German Youth Institute), Munich, has carried out research on parental leave as practised in Finland, Sweden, Hungary and Austria comparing it with the way it operates in the Federal Republic of Germany. In these neighbours of Germany, 90% of women remain at home for a year after giving birth to take care of their child. Mothers in the Federal Republic of Germany would apparently like to do the same, but the present system only provides for six months' leave, though women do get a maternity benefit and a guarantee that they can return to their old job when the maternity leave is over.

The study, which was commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family and Health, shows however that women have varying attitudes to this question. About one-third of them want to go back to work at all costs after a period of leave from 12 months to 18 months at the most. Another third want to remain at home for at least three years, regardless of the legislation or benefit paid. The last third have no definite opinion, preferring to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages when the time comes, according to their personal situation and current legislation.

Useful address : Deutsches Jugendinstitut
Arbeitsbereich Familiäre Sozialisation
Saarstrasse 7
8000 München 40

Government Changes

Following a re-shuffle of government posts, Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has appointed Ms Anke Fuchs to succeed Ms Antje Huber (who resigned recently) to head the Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family and Health.

Ms Anke Fuchs' previous post was Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of Employment.

B E L G I U M

Abortion and the law

By 104 votes to 97, with 4 absentions, Parliament rejected a bill introduced by Ms Leona Detiege (Flemish Soc.) to make abortion legal for a one year trial period. The text included the words "when (the abortion is) carried out by a doctor, with the patient's written agreement".

And so, with Ireland, Belgium is still the EEC country with the least liberal laws on the voluntary termination of pregnancy.

Those who would like to see an end to abortion being treated as a crime now fear two immediate results. First of all, the cases which are at present up for trial in the Brussels' Court will continue and will probably result in severe sentences. These trials are of women who have had abortions and of doctors who carried them out without any idea of gain. Both categories risk prison sentences of between two and five years.

The second effect will be on women who decide to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. They will be increasingly afraid to turn to the medical centres that carry out abortions openly. Rather than risk being caught up in the law, they will probably decide on a backstreet abortion with all the dangers that this implies.

When the vote was taken, the chamber was almost full. In voting against the bill the Flemish Liberals threw their lot in with the Social-Christians from the North and South of the Country, thus showing that this issue is not simply one which separates the Catholic parties from the others.

Since 1968, 19 proposals for a change in the law have been tabled in the Chamber and 15 in the Senate.

Rape and the law

The Chamber unanimously voted in a new law on rape, tabled by Ms Miet Smet (Flemish S.C.) and by Mr Leon Rémacle (French-speaking S.C.).

Contrary to the wording of the previous law, the determining factor in the new definition is "absence of consent by the victim" In future, then, rape victims will not have to prove that their lives were in danger, in order to obtain justice.

In addition, the plaintiff (woman or man) will be assured of anonymity if she/he wishes it. The victim may have her own doctor present during any examination which may be ordered.

Finally, rape will henceforth come into the category of crimes where there is an attack against physical persons, whether the victim is a woman or a man and whether the rape occurs in or outside of marriage. There is another slight change where rape occurs in marriage ; the case can only be taken to the courts by the wife not by the Public Prosecutor. It will therefore be possible for a victim to withdraw charges and thus halt the prosecution.

Woman Ambassador at the U.N.

It was last autumn that Ms Edmonde Dever was appointed as Belgium's Permanent Representative to the UN, at a time when the responsibilities of the post were particularly heavy since Belgium was preparing to take up the role of Presidency of the European Communities' Council of Ministers.

A graduate in philosophy and letters, with a doctorate in law, Ms Dever had already served in Vienna and Stockholm, after a spell at the UN as number two to her predecessor.

Women in the Public Service

Standing at 31.25%, the number of women working in government departments is almost at the level of the proportion of women in the working population at large. There has been a marked increase over the past ten years, for in 1970 women only accounted for 19% of the government service.

3.94% of women government servants occupy jobs in Grade 1, the highest grade, against 1.6% in 1970, but they are still far from having the same career prospects as their male colleagues, of whom 18% are in Grade 1.

In semi-public or government-sponsored Organizations, women do not do so well: 34 386 women for 167 865 men, with 4.29% of the men in top jobs against 2.09% of women. Where security of tenure is concerned, 144 681 men (or 86% of them) hold down permanent jobs whereas only 25 114 women (or 72%) of the women are permanent. Among trainees the breakdown is 1 362 women and 12 160 men.

Women's Department

The Women's Department of the Ministry for the French-speaking Community has just brought out a brochure entitled "Cette violence dont nous ne voulons plus" (The violence that we want to end). On this occasion, Ms Ghislaine Liekens, head of the department, gave a brief account of its activities.

Created in 1977, following international Women's Year, the Women's Department concentrates on the role and participation of women. It sees itself as a go-between or bridge between women's organizations and official bodies.

In addition to its contacts with other Ministries (Internal, Walloon Social Affairs, Public Health) the Department has given basic French courses for women refugees from South East Asia; it also gives moral and official support to women's organizations when they hold conferences, seminars or symposiums. In other words, the friendly support of a government department is offered to women's organizations and groups which are more concerned with their specific objectives (help for battered women, for example) than with how to make official contacts.

The booklet on violence which has just been published is not restricted to cases of physical violence. It also deals with subtle forms of violence interwoven into everyday existence and "violence we don't know - or don't want to know - about."

Useful address : Service de la Femme
 Ministère de la Communauté française
 Galerie Ravenstein 4
 1000 Bruxelles

On the political scene

Miette Pernot and Madeleine Van Raemdonck who constitute the "women's unit" in the Prime Minister's cabinet, are working on an information campaign which the government has decided to embark on in order to make women more aware of the political dimension in the run-up period to this autumn's local government elections.

The women elected in 1976 only accounted for 9.24% of the local government councillors, 6.4% of the aldermen and 2.01% of the mayors.

Useful address : Prime Minister's Cabinet,
 Rue de la Loi 6,
 1000 Brussels

Draft legislation under discussion

The Ministerial Committee on women's status has several drafts in the pipeline. One of the major ones concerns about a hundred and fifty divorced women whose children have been taken out of the country by their fathers, usually for good and all. Belgium's Ambassadors abroad are usually powerless to intervene: the child has the father's nationality, the mother has lost hers on marriage, when taking up her husband's.

A revision of the nationality law is being planned, whereby the woman would no longer lose her Belgian nationality automatically and the child of the marriage would have dual nationality.

Belgium is also taking steps so that its laws comply with the European Communities' directive on equality between men and women. The particular case concerns ending the existing discrimination in the minimum pensions of employees, in the "single person" category. At present, men receive about Bfrs 2 500 a month more than women.

Concerning registration of births, Belgium will soon be deciding whether a child's name should be composed of two elements, showing the link with both the father and the mother. The order of the two names would be freely chosen by the parents, and it would be the first of these that would be handed on by the children, whether boys or girls, to their own offspring. The first effect of this measure would be that a woman would no longer lose her name on marriage but would keep the names of her parents.

Night work

Disagreement arose between representatives of the two sides of industry when night work was being discussed in Commission du Travail des Femmes (Committee on Women's work, in the Ministry of Employment) recently.

According to the workers' representatives, night work was just as harmful to men as to women, and a general overhaul of the law was needed. The employers' representatives, on the other hand, felt that each case should be judged individually and that the derogations existing for men could be extended to women, especially as working conditions had improved greatly since the present law had come into force.

Useful address: Commission du Travail des Femmes
 rue Belliard 51 - 53
 1040 BRUSSELS

D E N M A R K

1981 Activities

The Ligestillingsrådet (Equality Council) has just published its annual report for 1981. It consists of 200-odd pages of useful information on general trends in Danish working patterns in the last few years e.g., the job market, part-time work, salary trends.

The report indicates how the number of women working outside the house has gone on increasing, passing from 861 900 in 1967 to more than 1 188 400 in 1981, while the number of men has remained relatively stable - 1 478 300 in 1967 and 1 485 900 in 1981.

Where part-time jobs are concerned, the number of men in such employment fell from 83 500 to 59 500 between 1967 and 1979, while for the same period the number of women climbed steadily from 249 100 to 501 300.

Under the heading of salaries, it appears that the authorities are having difficulty in applying the principle of equal pay if not that of equal opportunity, for the average salary of women public servants in 1970 was only 63% that of men and by 1981 had still only reached 72%.

One specially interesting chapter of the annual report deals with contacts the Ligestillingsrådet has made in the framework of the Nordisk Minister-råds (Nordic Council of Ministers). Denmark's special links with the other Scandinavian countries are very valuable, since they provide an opportunity for women in other EEC countries to learn more about changes in their dynamic society.

Exchanges of information, conferences, joint projects: these are some of the means the Scandinavian countries are using in seeking an original common approach in such areas as the job market (women's share, part-time work, immigrant women, etc.) and family policy (harmonization of social assistance).

Useful address : Ligestillingsrådet
 Frederiksgade 19 - 21
 1265 Copenhagen K

United States : a defeat for the feminist movement

Despite waging a campaign for the past ten years, partisans of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) have not achieved victory: the U.S. Constitution will not be amended so as to spell out the equality of the sexes explicitly.

To carry the amendment, 38 States would have had to ratify it before 30 June 1982. But only 35 States had voted for the ERA by that date. Of course, the 14th Amendment does specify that "all persons" are equal before the law, but this mention has so far been inadequate in preventing discrimination.

Wives of traders and craftsmen

More than 300 000 women will be affected by a new law passed in the Chamber of Deputies to provide a regime for the spouses of traders and craftsmen.

Women in this category will have to choose one of three systems, according to the part they play in the business and how the firm is run.

If they are their husband's partner in a limited company, in other words share-holders, they will have the same professional and management rights, generally speaking, as the head of the business. In addition, they will, in their own right, be entitled to cover under the social regime for non-salaried persons.

On the other hand, if they are paid a wage by their husbands, they will be eligible for benefits under employment legislation, particularly unemployment benefits in the case of divorce or bankruptcy and they will be covered by the general social security regime.

Finally, they can choose to be defined as "collaborators" of their husbands running the business and they will then be included as such in the Trade or Craft Register. They will thus be eligible to join their trade bodies and vote in them. They will be holders of a legal certificate entitling them to carry out all the management activities needed to run the business. They will thus be eligible for retirement benefits and social cover if they become pregnant.

In the case of maternity, women who choose to be "collaborators" or partners as well as any women running their own trade or craft business, will be entitled to two allowances. The first is the maternity leave allowance, which they receive even if they do not give up working and the second is the allowance for a replacement which can be paid after they have given birth, if their work in the firm is performed by someone else.

Ms Roudy, Minister for Women's Rights, emphasized how important these measures were "to guarantee social protection for women outside of the hazards of married life."

Useful address : Ministère des Droits de la Femme
 53 av. d'Iéna
 75 016 PARIS

Contraception in Marseilles

A novel and worthwhile experiment on information about contraception has been organized in Marseilles. Taking part in it are the town's information centre and the Centre de gynécologie sociale of the Michel Levy Hospital.

Audio-visual material - a 16 mm film called "letters to Amelia", based on actual experiences in the Centre de gynécologie sociale, plus a set of slides on the main stages in a woman's life - is backed up by a debate led by someone from the Centre.

To launch this idea, Marseilles' Information Centre for which Yvette Fuillet, Member of the European Parliament, is responsible ran a publicity campaign aimed individually at social workers, women's groups, local centres, nursing and social workers' schools etc.

The action was supported by the press and radio. Sessions were organized to suit the needs of any groups interested and an extra draw was the willingness of people from the Centre de gynécologie sociale to come and lead the discussions.

Useful address : Centre municipal d'information,
 Place Léon Blum
 13001 Marseille

Engineer: feminine gender

In France, there are 17 000 qualified women engineers, 80% of whom are actively employed. Although the entry of women to this profession is recent, they are making big inroads: the number of women engineers doubled in ten years (from 1960 to 1970) and there were five times as many in 1980 as there were in 1960. Despite this, women still only account for 6% of the profession.

Half-time parental leave

The organization Choisir has drafted a bill on half-time leave, which it has presented to the Committee against Sexism in the French National Assembly.

It is based on two ideas: to take into account not only the double day of working women but also the anxiety felt by fathers when the family's equilibrium rests on one paid job. The women who have drafted the bill envisage that parents would take it in turns to look after the child, which could be done day and day about, a week at a time, or even a month at a time.

The parent staying at home would only receive 80% of her/his monthly pay packet, but this drop in salary might be acceptable, given the advantage of being able to raise their child together, not having to pay a nursery or a baby-sitter, and the improvement in the quality of family life.

Replacing parents on leave by the unemployed would also represent savings in unemployment benefits.

Useful address: Choisir
 102 rue Saint Dominique
 75007 Paris

In the Academy of Science

Nicole Le Douarin is the second woman to be elected to the Academy of Science, the first one being Yvonne Choquet-Bruhat, elected to the Mechanics section in 1979. Ms Le Douarin has been made a member of the Animal and Plant Biology Section for her work on embryo morphogenesis and cell differentiation.

On the small screen

Marthe Mercadier, with special duties in Yvette Roudy's Ministry for Women's Rights, has presented a report on the place and role of women on the French TV channels.

This revealed that women only hold 34.25% of all jobs in French television, or 2 117 out of 6 180. The percentage varies from one channel to another: 554 out of 1 357 (41%) on TF1, 510 out of 1 207 (42.25%) on Antenne 2 and only 1 053 out of 3 616 (29%) on FR 3.

The screen is male-dominated - behind-the-scenes we find the women. Among the 961 journalists only 115 are women, and among 1 676 technicians only 156. On the other hand there are 300 women in production, 205 in the service sector and 1 125 in administration. More than half the women (53.14%) therefore, have an administrative job, and three women out of four have a sedentary or office job.

Some more revealing figures: 90% women and 10% men in administration; 57.5% women 42,5% men in production; 90.7% men and 9.3% women in technical departments; 88% men and 12% women among the journalists.

Turning to salaries, the report shows that taking an average of all categories, women only earn 71% of what men earn. Variations fluctuate from 67% of male earnings for blue collar grades and 85% for journalists. In the administrative grades, women manage to earn 96% of the male salary.

It is not surprising then, that sexist images and stereotypes are still rife on the small screen.

The Women's Rights Ministry has made four proposals: first - the temporary application of a quota system like the one successfully tried out by TV channels in the United States; second - an information campaign to make women aware of employment possibilities in the audio-visual area; three ensuring that all bodies, committees and so on working in the audio-visual field give at least one-third of their seats to women, with instructions to see that equal opportunities are really provided in this sector; working out, with employers and unions, plans for achieving women's entry and promotion into higher-level jobs and in areas which are still male-dominated.

Quotas for men

It is now illegal to appoint men or women, to the exclusion of the other sex, in the French government service. But exceptions to the rule still exist, so to avoid women holding all the primary teaching jobs, a quota can be reserved for men, when there are more than 65% of women teachers in a particular school.

Contraception and abortion

It seems that about one-third of all voluntary terminations of pregnancy are due to faulty contraception. The information campaign on contraception is continuing. A survey conducted in January 1982 revealed that the TV spots which were part of the Ministry for Women's Rights' recent extensive campaign were seen by almost 70% of television viewers.

G R E E C E

Six Women head regional authorities

The newly-appointed heads of regional authorities were sworn in early in spring, and for the first time ever, six out of the fifty-six new heads were women.

Even under normal circumstances, the job is a very demanding one as the head is responsible both for running all the administrative services of the county and also for representing the government in the region. In addition, this time the new officials have been given extra responsibilities linked to the policy of decentralisation.

The administrative regions allocated to the six women are amongst the most difficult ones. Three of them cover island areas, often troubled by the national problems peculiar to the Greek archipelago. The three others which are on the mainland are facing pressures caused by development and by their proximity to Athens and Thassalonica.

At the Bank of Greece

For the first time ever, a woman has been asked to sit on the Administrative Council of the Bank of Greece. This institution plays a decisive role in the Greek economy and in the application of the government's economic policy. Alice Guitopoulos-Narankopoulos, the woman in question, is a senior civil servant and a university professor.

Small businesses and handicrafts

Vasso Papandreou, an economist, has been appointed President of the Administrative Council of EOMMEX, the Greek organization for small and medium-sized businesses and handicrafts. Despite her name, the new President is not related to the Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

Reform of the Civil Code

The Minister of Justice has appointed the members of the Commission responsible for preparing the changes in the Civil Code; a number of them are university professors specializing in this field.

At the general request of women's organizations, the Commission has a majority of women. Keeping to his promise, the Minister chose the candidates from a list presented by representative women's organizations. The mandate given to the Commission allows four months for completion of its work.

It is interesting to note that this is the third Commission on this subject set up since 1975. According to the Constitution, the re-examination of the Civil Code has to take place before December 1982.

Maternity Protection

The Minister for Employment presented a draft bill to the Council of Ministers, whereby the provisions of the International Labour Organization's Convention 103 on maternity protection will be incorporated into the Greek law. This is something for which Greek women's organisations have fought for a long time.

On the same occasion, Ms Perraki, Secretary of State for Social Affairs, announced that she intends to present a bill to Parliament in the near future, which would give parents and children even better protection than that provided for under the ILO Convention.

Questioned further on this, Ms Perraki explained that the new bill is the result of the work of a specialist commission led by Professor Deligiannis. It will provide a longer period of protection and will extend to more people. Furthermore, the bill will entitle either parent to take leave.

Useful Address: Ypourgion Kinonikon Ypiression (Ministry for Social Affairs)
Aristotelous 17 - Stournara
Athens

Pension for women farmers

The amount of the pension paid to women farmers by the farmers' social security organisation (O.G.A.) has been raised and women will now receive the same pension as men.

The first step in this direction was taken in August 1981 when it was first recognised that women employed in agriculture have a right to their own pension.

I R E L A N D

Birth registration

The Dublin High Court is being asked to order the Registrar of Births to insert the name of a child's natural father - not the mother's husband at the time of birth - on a birth certificate.

The case highlights an anomaly which exists because under Irish law a woman must register her husband as the father of her child, even if he is not. In this instance the woman was separated from her husband and living with the child's father. The woman obtained a British divorce which is recognised in Ireland, and later married the child's father. However, the Irish Registrar is insisting that the child take the name of his mother's ex-husband. It is now up to the High Court to sort out this complex matter and take a decision.

Social welfare and the law

Ireland's social welfare code assumes that a man is head of the household and that, if a couple separates, the woman is expected to sue her husband for maintenance.

A woman who was separated from her husband but who did not claim any maintenance, found that, quite illogically, she had lost her right to unemployment assistance payments, even though the Irish Government has conceded the point that separated wives who are not supported are entitled to such benefits. It has even set aside £200,000 in its recent budget to meet such payments.

The case of Roisin Conroy, the woman involved, has been taken to the Irish High Court. Ms Conroy is being supported in her fight by the Women's Campaign for a Unified Social Welfare Code.

Useful address: The Woman's Campaign
 for a Unified Social Welfare Code,
 189 Gracepark Heights
 Dublin 9

I T A L Y

Azione Donna

"Azione Donna" (Women's Action) is an initiative launched by Renato Altissima, Minister for Health, to bring about improvement in relations between Public Health Services and the women using them. The final goal is to improve prevention of illness and to build up a climate where women work together with doctors and take responsibility for their own health.

The Azione Donna programme hinges on five points: information leading to responsible parenthood; making advice more readily available to the public; confinement; bringing laws on maternity welfare benefits and voluntary termination of pregnancy up to date; early diagnosis and control of cancers affecting women.

This action programme also intends to set up as an experiment, a telephone advisory in several selected Italian towns. This will provide information for women on the various aspects of the programme and give them addresses to which they may turn for help.

Useful address Ministero della Sanità
 Viale dell' Industria 20
 Rome

Women and the Army

Much talk is going on in Italy at present on two topics: military service for women and world peace.

An international meeting was held in Florence on the theme "Women in the Armed Forces". Several senior officers from other countries attended the meeting to give their first-hand experience of women in military service.

Also attending the meeting was Mr Lagorio, Minister for Defence, who had drafted a bill on women being accepted into the Italian armed forces. The Minister briefly outlined the various aspects of his bill: women's service would be voluntary: women would not be able to sign on in combat units or be sent on combat missions; they would, however, be able to rise to the highest military ranks, exactly like men and on the same terms. In other words, there would not be a special batallion for women.

During the debate, Elena Marinucci, responsible for women's affairs in the PSI (Italian Socialist Party), had this interesting comment to make: "To have the possibility of joining the military means, for a woman, obtaining one of her civil rights. However, militarism is a different thing altogether."

In Turin, in connection with some pictorial research called "woman and arms", a debate was organized by the ANDE (National Association of Women Voters), during which Ms Rangoni Machiavelli, Vice President of the Italian Council of the European Movement, said: "women are the carriers of life and they are especially aware of the values of non-violence and peace, which have always been regarded as part of the female cultural heritage. Men have always been involved in the bloody and heroic myths of war, which, in a patriarchal society, are linked with the idea of virility."

Useful address: Ministero della difesa
 Via XX Settembre 11
 Rome

Christian Democrats

The Christian Democrats held their National Council in the beginning of May and appointed 32 new members to their central team. There was not one woman among them.

The National Council, a sort of mini-parliament inside the Christian Democratic party, consists of 196 members altogether, of whom only two are women, Emanuela Savio and Tina Anselmi.

Part-time work

The new law on part-time work which the Italian Council of Ministers voted in in February this year has been, on the whole, well-received by women's organizations and the unions. Annalisa Vittore, of the CISL Union, explained to the magazine "Effe" that a few years ago, the unions were afraid that part-time work would lead to exploitation of women. Today, if this form of employment is covered by proper legislation, it can have a role to play in any global strategy for restructuring the number of hours worked.

Another woman interviewed by the magazine was Patrizia Baratto, of the UIL. She said it was now unthinkable that everyone could be employed 8 hours a day, five days of the week for 35 years. Moreover there was no answer available to the problem of 2.5 million unemployed. But it was, on the other hand, possible to envisage alternating periods of full-time work with periods of part-time work. Here, another member of the same union, Gabriella Campoizzi added that it was due to the efforts of the unions and a greater political maturity on the part of women that an acceptable bill had been submitted.

Doriana Giudici, of the CGIL, mentioned that part-time work might appeal to those just entering the job market, for example, young people, or to those on the point of leaving it, like workers approaching retirement age.

All agreed that it was time to stop part-time work from being a prelude to unemployment ; they wanted it to become an instrument by which equality of opportunity could be achieved. ("Effe", April 1982).

Useful address: Effe
 Piazza Campo Marzio 7
 Rome

A law against sexual violence

A meeting with a debate on all forms of violence was organized by the Social Services of the Province of Rome. It was attended by magistrates, lawyers, women's groups, psychologists and representatives of government departments. The meeting ended with an appeal to Parliament to amend the laws on sexual violence as soon as possible.

According to a special system in force in Italy, a "proposal for a law, on the people's initiative" (i.e, supported by a petition signed by citizens) has already been submitted, incorporating the principal demands of public opinion in the matter. These are that sexual violence be considered as an attack on a person (not on public morals as the law stands today), that resistance by the victim, or simple lack of consent, constitute grounds for a charge of rape; that, as for any other serious offence, the public prosecutor automatically start proceedings against offenders instead of only taking action if the victim files a complaint as at present; finally that the procedure should allow organizations to bring a civil action.

Franca Prisco, in charge of the health service for Rome itself, and Giuseppe Tardini, in charge of Social Services for the Province of Rome, mentioned the possibility of building a refuge for battered or sexually assaulted women. Such a scheme is already being worked out by the IPAI, the Istituto per l'assistenza all'infanzia (Institute for aid to children).

Useful address: Provincia di Roma
 Palazzo Valentini
 Rome

L U X E M B O U R G

Part-time work

As part of its advisory function to the Ministry of Labour, the Committee on Women's Employment has just produced a voluminous report for the purpose of developing "a strategy for free recourse to part-time work".

The Committee on Women's Employment fears that by setting up a special regime to cover part-time workers, people employed in this way will find themselves more marginalized than ever. The Committee has thus come up with proposals which will ensure that the system can have no negative effects on this type of employment.

The Committee feels that there should be no upper or lower limits to the number of hours part-time employees work.

The way in which workers could change from being part-time to full-time (and vice versa) has given rise to a great deal of discussion, during which it has been emphasized that it must be left to the persons themselves to choose whether or not they wanted to be employed part-time. It is also stressed that access or return to full-time should be made easy.

As far as benefits are concerned, the report recommends that employees working part-time should receive full entitlements under the law and under any collective agreements for full-time employees. To be eligible for health insurance, the Committee feels that a minimum should be fixed, in relation to the number of hours worked.

Useful address: Comite du Travail féminin,
 10 rue C M Spoo
 2910 Luxembourg

Reduction in unemployment benefits

In Luxembourg unemployment benefits only became the general rule - and thus extended to women - in 1976. The law provided for benefits amounting to about 80% of the last monthly gross salary, which could be claimed after a certain qualifying period. But unemployment benefits could not exceed four times the minimum wage for the country.

Women have just lost half of what they had gained. In an austerity package approved by Parliament at the beginning of April, unemployment benefits were cut by 40% in cases where the unemployed person lives in a "domestic community" in which there is someone else earning more than twice the minimum wage. Of course, the measure applies to men as well as to women and it is the entire "domestic community" that suffers from a fall in income, but it is unemployed women first and foremost who will be receiving reduced unemployment benefits.

Useful address: Ministère du Travail
 Boulevard de la Pétrusse
 Luxembourg

36 women welders

The Luxembourg Government, concerned about high unemployment among women under 25, has just obtained money from the European Social Fund for a scheme to assist them.

Grants from the European Social Fund are intended to support activities favouring the employment of young women up to the age of 25 who have no, or insufficient, training. First priority is given to actions designed to allow women to enter fields where they are normally absent or under-represented. Second priority goes to activities which help women who have recently lost their jobs.

With these two aims in mind, the Grand Duchy put up a project involving a welding course for women in this category and the European Social Fund approved the welding course along with two other projects. A sum of 400 000 Luxembourg francs has been allocated from the Fund, and this will enable 36 young women to be retrained as welders between March 1982 and 15 July 1984

Useful address: Ministère du Travail
 Boulevard de la Pétrusse
 Luxembourg

N E T H E R L A N D S

Women's employment

In the Netherlands, fewer married women have a paid job than in the other EEC countries (apart from Ireland). In 1980, only 20% of married women in the Netherlands were in paid employment, whereas the Community average is 40%. Almost half the female population (married or not) between 25 and 59 are members of the work force in the Community as a whole, but the level for the Netherlands is only a quarter.

This situation will not alter unless measures are taken, said Henk Vredeling, former member of the European Commission responsible for Social Affairs and now a member of the Netherlands Emancipatieraad (Emancipation Council).

Speaking to members of the Amsterdamse Kring Van Economen (a group of Amsterdam economists), Mr Vredeling estimated that 600 000 new jobs would have to be created to reverse this tendency. And most of these jobs should go to married women.

However, child-care facilities and services were sadly lacking, he said. Inside family units, too, husbands should take on more of the household chores. This was the background against which any discussion of part-time work and a general revision of hours of work should be regarded.

"Kostwinners"

The "Kostwinner" - he, or much more rarely, she - is the family's breadwinner, the one bringing in the main wage. After Belgium, where the concept of "head of household" has re-emerged and Luxembourg, where the "domestic community" has just taken on a new economic meaning, it is now the Netherlands' turn to be plunged into a debate on the concept of "Kostwinner".

Under the pressure of the worsening economic situation, thought is now being given more and more openly to a reduction in Social Security cover which would leave the "Kostwinner" alone under the protection of the system.

The question dominated the first congress held by the Vrouwenbond FNV, the sole women's union in the Netherlands. Its chairperson, Karin Adelmund stated: "There can be no turning back in our struggle for economic independence. The parties and the unions must be made to realize that a bitter campaign will be fought against the concept of "Kostwinner". This is going to be the touchstone by which we can find out if women's demands are being taken seriously".

She went on to say that at the moment, women only had rights on paper. "They are paid less than men and fired sooner. Married women's rights are threatened most of all and on top of that they they do two jobs, the one outside the home and the one inside."

The Vrouwenbond FNV wants a scheme launched to find jobs for women, since they are the real victims of the crisis. One figure amply illustrates this contention: divorced women with one child have, since 1975, lost 12.5% of their purchasing power.

Useful address: Vrouwenbond FNV
 Plein '40 - '45, no 1
 Amsterdam

Equal treatment

The Sociaal-Economische Raad (Economic and Social Council) which is the Dutch Government's major advisory body on economic and social matters, has just published a booklet entitled "(On)gelijke behandeling" which can be translated as "(Un)equal treatment". The booklet contains warnings and advice on the subject as well as the complete text of the law. It will be very useful for management as well as members of the various workers' committees in an enterprise.

It is available free of charge on request, from the Sociaal-Economische Raad.

Useful address: Sociaal-Economische Raad
 Postbus 90405
 The Hague

The Community's Action Programme for Equal Opportunities;
the Emancipatieraad's reaction

The Netherlands Government's Minister for Social Affairs did not arrive in Brussels empty-handed when he turned up for the European Community's Council of Ministers' meeting at which the Action Programme for Equal Opportunities was discussed.

This was because the Government had been presented, on 17 May, with a detailed opinion on the Commission's proposals, by the Emancipatieraad (Emancipation Council).

Good marks and bad marks had both been awarded. The good ones had gone to the Commission on several of its positions, especially on the procedure to be followed for establishing whether there has been any infringement of the principle of equal opportunity, and on the status of self-employed women.

On the other hand, the Emancipatieraad made no bones about awarding bad marks to the Commission for its proposals on the taxation of married women and for the sketchiness with which it dealt with the problem of parental leave.

The Emancipatieraad used the occasion to express its firm opposition to the concept of "Kostwinner" (main "breadwinner").

On the issue of women in the developing world, where the Commission proposed creating a special Working Party of which representatives of developing countries and non-governmental organizations would be members, the Emancipatieraad thought that the problem should also be tackled by the newly-formed Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities.

UNITED KINGDOM

Facts and figures

Women represent over 51% of the total population in Great Britain and, excluding students, account for almost two-fifths of the total labour force. Comparing the sexes, 91% of men aged between 16 and 64 are engaged in economic activity and 63% of women. A breakdown between married and "non-married" women shows that almost 60% of married women between the ages of 16 and 59 go out to work, with the percentage rising to 70 for "non-married" women. Women predominate in service industries, particularly distribution and professional and scientific services. Out of 8.7 million working women, 5.1 million have full time jobs and over 3.5 million work part-time.

These figures are taken from a handy, well-packed leaflet published by the Equal Opportunities Commission, called "The fact about women is...."

Some other depressing figures are given: out of 825 000 one-parent families, 725 000 are headed by women; among the retired, 459 000 men rely on supplementary benefit, but 1 258 000 women need this form of assistance.

In April 1981, average gross weekly earnings for men were £140 compared with £ 91 for women.

Some of the figures do however show that a little progress has been made. For example, in 1951, married women represented less than 12% of the labour force, but thirty years later, this proportion had risen to almost 26%. Again, in 1968, in households where both partners worked, only 3.5% of the women were earning more than their husbands. By 1977, this figure had risen to 8%.

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

"The law is an ass"

A woman wishing to return to work after having her baby has to give her employer seven days notice. For having made a mis-calculation and only given five days notice, Christine Lavery was sacked. An industrial tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal both backed the employer's action.

Mentioning this case, Judith Hart of the AUEW declared: "It is high time that these laws were improved and made clear so that women know where they stand and cannot be caught out on what amounts to technicalities".

Useful address: AUEW
 Onslow Hall
 Little Green
 Richmond, Surrey

Sex inequality in the Civil Service

Sex inequality in the Civil Service "is rife", with most women concentrated in low-grade and low-paid jobs. This is the conclusion of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, in its booklet "Equality - The Next Step".

Women make up almost 80 % of the lowest clerical grade, the Society's booklet says.

Useful address: Society of Civil and Public Servants
 124 - 130 Southwark Street
 London S.E.1

Adam and Eve

Advertisements which show women leading up-to-date and varied life styles are likely to sell more products than those using a traditional approach. Women particularly dislike the portrayal of the "typical housewife", showing her with few other interests than the shine on her floors or the whiteness of her husband's shirts.

Such are the findings of a study "Adam and Eve : A study of the portrayal of women in advertising, " which was carried out for the Equal Opportunities Commission by the University of Lancaster.

The study was conducted between June and October 1981 with the aim of discovering which type of advertisement is more likely to persuade consumers to buy certain products. More than 600 women were interviewed to assess their reactions to pairs of TV advertisements for three well-known household products.

The traditional advertisement tended to show a woman using the product to please her man, and in the modern one, to please herself. The modern-style advertisement caught women's attention nearly every time.

In a foreword, Baroness Lockwood, Chairman of the EOC, was pleased to see that an imaginative presentation of women had more impact than worn-out stereotypes and she concluded that the study indicated "that there need be no conflict of interest between those whose job it is to sell and those who seek further equality of opportunity in our society".

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission
 Publicity Section
 Overseas House
 Quay Street
 Manciester M3 3HN

General Elections

The date of the next general elections is inexorably approaching, and the parties have started selecting their candidates. How many seats will go to women in the next parliament? Today there are only 20 women among the 635 Members of the House of Commons.

Recently published figures don't give grounds for much optimism. By April this year, the Labour Party had picked 24 women among 418 candidates it had named, and the Conservatives 3 for the 30 seats where candidates have already been chosen.

The well-known journalist, Polly Toynbee, writing in the Guardian said "New women MPs will not materialize out of thin air. They will come from within party organizations. Unless the parties make way for them on their committees, women will never get the political experience and confidence to go on and stand for local and central government".

Useful address: The Guardian
 119 Farringdon Road
 London EC 1R 3ER

Microelectronics and women

At the request of two Government Departments, the Science Policy Research Unit of the University of Sussex has just carried out a study called "Microelectronics and Women's Employment in Britain".

The first surprise is that very few studies have been published in this field. This one is the first to examine the effects of microelectronics on women's employment in all sectors of the economy.

The study confirms that the number of women going out to work has risen steadily since the last war, but they remain stuck in unskilled or semi-skilled jobs. It is therefore women's jobs which are most threatened by the advent of microelectronics technology.

Although microelectronics destroys some jobs it creates others. Unfortunately the new jobs call for technical skills which are still largely the male prerogative. Sooner or later, the reduction in the number of jobs is going to affect all sectors apart from the press and publishing.

The study comes up with the following conclusions: microelectronics is vital if industry is to remain competitive and it cannot therefore be ignored, women's jobs are especially at risk. It is no good therefore putting the blame on the nature of microelectronics technology itself, but rather on the way in which women's access to vocational training is limited.

Young women must now be encouraged to study technical subjects and older women must be encouraged to re-train in new fields. The study includes the following warning: "Unless full employment is given a higher priority in government policy, it will be socially difficult to provide (new) opportunities for women (through the developments taking place in technology)".

Useful address: Science Policy Research Unit
 Mantell Building
 University of Sussex
 Brighton BN1 9RF

200 jobs saved

200 jobs, 40 of which were being done by women, have been saved as a result of action taken by the Equal Opportunities Commission. At the Hoover factory in Merthyr Tydfil in Wales, the women protested about their contracts, saying they were discriminatory, and against a proposed shut-down which would have affected the 200 workers, including 40 women.

After holding discussions, new contracts were signed and the people whose jobs had been threatened were reinstated. The affair stirred up a lot of publicity as a result of which a number of other firms asked the EOC to look at their contracts to see whether they infringed the principle of equality, particularly insofar as part-time work of more than 25 hours a week was concerned.

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

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

European Trade Union Confederation

The ETUC held its regular conference in the Hague and adopted a general resolution which will constitute the organization's political programme for the next three years.

The situation of women in the labour force was mentioned at the meeting several times. Their job insecurity, the threats to existing jobs through the introduction of new technologies and the way women are exploited by "temporary" employment agencies were all deplored.

Better vocational training and suitable re-training schemes are some of the specific measures the ETUC is advocating to assist women in their plight.

Useful address: European Trade Union Confederation,
 37 rue Montagne aux Herbes potagères
 1000 Brussels

"La Donna Mondo"

This year's Saint Vincent Prize "La Donna del Mondo" (Woman of the World) was presented by Italy's President Mr Pertini, to Margareta Baltscheffsky.

A biochemist, Ms Baltscheffsky is known throughout the scientific world for her contributions to the study of photosynthesis. A graduate of Finland's Turku Academy, in chemistry, physics, mathematics and biology, she received her doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Stockholm, where she has also taught.

In her extensive research work, Ms Baltscheffsky has made many new discoveries on photosynthesis. Because of her outstanding work, Sweden is trying to find ways of creating a "personal" professorship for her.

Two other candidates who were considered for the prize are Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to be named to the U.S. Supreme Court, and Evelyn Sullerot, the eminent sociologist on woman's situation. All twelve women considered for the Saint Vincent prize have led very full lives, where success has not been without some setbacks and the courage to overcome them.

For the fourth time, the Saint Vincent Prize (named after the town in Valle d'Aosta which thought up the idea and where it is awarded) has shown that there are innumerable outstanding women, even though they are not all well-known.

Useful address: Centro Culturale et Congressi Saint Vincent
 Via Simone de Saint Bon 89
 00195 Roma

"Vivre comme avant"

"Living as before": this is what many women who have been operated on for breast cancer are trying to do. In France, one woman in ten has had or will have breast cancer. Each year, 25 000 new cases are diagnosed there. Altogether about 130 000 women in France have undergone a mastectomy.

At a European conference it organized recently in Paris, the group "Vivre comme avant" stressed the importance of early diagnosis in the treatment of cancer. Modelled on the lines of a similar American group which has been in existence since 1952, "Vivre comme avant" is an organization of Volunteers who have all undergone breast-surgery themselves. They form a support group for women who have just had a mastectomy, but do not attempt to give medical advice.

The European level conference revealed that throughout Europe, efforts are being made to increase women's awareness of the risks of cancer and to soften to psychological effects of surgery.

Useful address: Vivre comme avant
 Boite postale 246
 92295 Neuilly-sur-Seine

CREW

The Centre for Research on European women (CREW), an independent research cooperative set up in Brussels in 1980, has taken the initiative for launching a Coordinating Committee for the representation of women at the European level. The goal is to provide a forum for the views of "independent" or new women's groups.

"Measures affecting women are constantly being taken at the Community level and it is essential for women to find an effective way of making their views known. This can only be done by creating a widely-based representation," say the initiators of this project.

Useful address: CREW
 22 rue de Toulouse
 1040 BRUSSELS

World Movement of Mothers

The WMM (World Movement of Mothers) is an international non-governmental organization which has advisory status with the UN, the FAO, UNESCO and UNICEF. Its goal are "to help mothers to undertake fully the responsibilities arising from their motherhood, represent mothers in national and international affairs, assert the value of the role of mothers and secure its recognition by public opinion, in legal systems and by institutions .."

The WMM is carrying out an international survey, which will be continuing throughout 1982, on the theme "Are the roles of mother and father interchangeable?". It will be conducted by means of two questionnaires, one designed for adults and the other for young people.

The results of the survey will be published in Paris next spring, during study workshops the WMM will be holding on the same theme.

Useful address: Mouvement Mondial des Mères
 56, rue de Passy
 75016 Paris

Controlling fertility

ICASC (International Campaign for Contraception, Abortion and Sterilization) held a meeting in Brussels to coordinate its international activities.

It was decided to organize a special meeting in Luxembourg this autumn for women from the Ten, Spain and Portugal. The purpose of the meeting will be to decide on what can be proposed, at the Community level, to "give women greater control over their own fertility".

Useful address: I C A S C
 374 Grays Inn Road,
 London WCl

The Exchange Report

Exchanging ideas and information about women in developing countries: this was the main activity of a very new organization called "The Exchange", during the Copenhagen Forum in the summer of 1980.

Arising from the discussions and encounters, a publication called "The Exchange Report - Women in the Third World" has been brought out. It is packed with information and attractively presented: it also recaptures very well the striking mood of the Copenhagen meeting. The booklet contains a list of the names and address of women and organizations present at the Forum, so that they can be re-contacted.

Useful address: The Exchange
 26 East 22nd Street
 New York, N.Y. 10010

G E R M A N Y

Migrant women

An important conference on the problems of migrant women was organized by the Evangelischen Kirche Deutschland (Protestant Church of Germany) in Frankfurt in September 1981. The conference was marked by the diversity and moving nature of the women's testimony. The minutes of the meeting are now available at the price of 2 DM, under the title "Ausländische Frauen". (Foreign women).

Useful address: Evangelischen Kirche Deutschland
 Kirchliches Aussenamt, Referat 6.3
 Friedrichstrasse 2
 6000 Frankfurt 1

Women students in Berlin

Contacts have been formed between individual women students, women students' groups and women teachers at Berlin's Free University. Behind this move is an organization "ZE" ("ZE" stands for Zentraleinrich-

tung Zur Förderung von Frauenstudien und Frauenforschung (Central Organization for the Advancement of Studies and Research on Women).

This has led to some strange, but not altogether surprising, facts coming to light in the various faculties. For example in the Veterinary Medicine Faculty, women have been discouraged from following the tropical medicine course on the pretext that the developing countries are not interested in women vets.

When women students checked up on this with the Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (Society for Technical Cooperation), the suggestion was firmly denied: there is nothing at all to prevent a woman veterinary from working in the tropics.

A letter written in January 1982 to the Vice Chancellor of the University explaining this situation has so far not been answered.

Useful address: ZE
 Postdammerstrasse 58
 1000 Berlin 30

Single Parents

The VAMV - Verband alleinstehender Mütter und Väter (Federation of Single Mothers and Fathers) is waging a difficult battle against the habits and indifference of government departments. Even though the well-being of three million men, women and children is at stake, the public service seems very uneasy in its dealings with single-parent families.

A recently-revealed complication has to do with health insurance for children. The accepted procedure is for the child to be covered by the insurance scheme of whichever of the parents is insured at the highest rate.

But in the case of separation without divorce, how can this be checked? Especially if, as in the case quoted, the mother lives in Berlin and the father in Bavaria. That the mother was herself insured at the highest rate, and that, in any case, rates in Bavaria are lower than in Berlin, were not, to start off with, sufficient to convince the official handling the case.

Useful address: V A M V
 Kasernenstrasse
 5300 Bonn 1

B E L G I U M

Loneliness

"From loneliness to communication": the Centre féminin de rencontres et d'échanges (Women's Contact Centre) has built up a weighty file on this subject. This is not an attempt to say that loneliness doesn't exist but to suggest ways of overcoming it, and the study makes some very practical proposals. One of them is to build "Friendship chains" in each district, and to put people who are alone but able to cope in contact with others who are facing problems.

Useful address: Centre féminin de rencontres et d'échanges
 89 rue Saint Henri
 1200 Brussels

CLASSIFYING OUR NEWS : it is becoming more and more difficult to sort out incoming news under the various headings in "Women of Europe". Items concerning unions, political parties and organizations may turn up either in the chapter "Facts, Institutions and Laws" or in the chapter "Militant activities". To a certain extent the choice is made on the following arbitrary basis: if a topic, say part-time work, abortion, protection of women at work, is discussed by an organization, it will come up under "Militant activities". But when the authorities tackle the problem officially, for example in legislation or in an Action Programme the same item will figure under "Facts, institutions and laws".

One interesting aspect of the difficulty we experience in classifying news is that, increasingly, the authorities are turning their attention to projects which women themselves have already worked on in their organizations. This indicates that the issues women themselves raise are important and that the way they tackle them is serious and effective.

Part-time work

The FGTB - ABVV (trade union) regards part-time work with some mistrust. In a recent report, the union's Women's Section said that part-time work first became popular in the 60s, when women saw it as a chance to combine family and a job, in the expectation that later on it would lead to full-time employment.

Times have changed and part-time workers today have little chance of moving into a full-time job. Women in particular are only likely to find low-paid, low-skilled occupations.

What is more, the extension of part-time work is liable, in families where men work full-time, to reverse the trend towards sharing domestic responsibilities and tasks. The FGTB is especially concerned that part-time workers will be marginalized and exploited by temporary employment agencies. The unbridled proliferation of the latter has already provoked comment from the unions.

The FGTB's own solution is the widespread introduction of variable working hours, the introduction of shared facilities for child-care and better training for women.

Useful address: FGTB - Section "Femmes"
 Ms M Hoens
 Rue Haute, 42
 1000 Bruxelles

A B V V - Afdeling "Vrouwen"
Ms M Hoornaert
Hogstraat, 42
1000 Brussel

Part-time work - Continued

The Federatie Vlaamse Vrouwengroepen (Federation of Flemish Women's Organizations) is also taking a serious look at part-time work and seeing some of the snags.

One of its objectives is that part-time work will leave women with reduced motivation and responsibilities. The teaching profession is given as an example, where it is usually full-time men who have the responsibility for running and coordinating schools. The phenomenon is already spreading into the health-care sector, where men are beginning to edge women out of jobs in clinics, for example.

The F V V can see the threat: the ideal solution would undoubtedly be a general reduction in the hours of work, with production shared out among equally-skilled people. But with vocational training for women being what it is - especially in technical fields - learning a job-skill remains almost a male privilege. Unless there is a radical change in policy to give young women adequate vocational training, work will be divided out so that men end up doing skilled jobs full-time while women perform un-skilled work on a part-time basis.

Useful address: F V V
 Bennesteeg 2
 9000 Gent

Europe - action continuing

The CNFB - F (the National Council for Belgian women, French-speaking section) organized a one-day seminar on "Europe - action for women's rights continues".

Winding up the day's work, delegates from women's associations gave their support to the Commission's New Action Programme for Equal Opportunities, as amended by the European Parliament. They called upon the Community's Council of Ministers to adopt it.

To enable the Community's Action Programme to be really effective, the CNFB-F demanded that extra money and staff be allocated to the departments in the Commission responsible for women's employment and information.

The National Council of Belgian women mentioned the desire of the European institutions to have a dialogue with women's organizations. "The form this dialogue should take has not yet been defined, but it is already obvious that if this is to be really fruitful, women's organizations should group together on the national level and provide themselves with European structures," said the CNFBF, continuing: "These should be as representative as possible, so that the views of every woman can find a voice".

Useful address: Conseil National des femmes belges
 - section francophone
 la Place Qu'ételet
 1030 Brussels

Women foot the bill

The Comité de liaison des Femmes (Women's Liaison Committee) estimates that by the end of 1982, the Belgian government will have saved some 10 300 million Belgian francs by its reductions in women's unemployment benefits.

Cuts in benefits have been introduced on the basis of the person's family situation and the length of time she/he has been unemployed. In addition, 9 446 unemployed persons have ceased receiving benefits because of "abnormally long unemployment", and 95% of those affected are women. The Comité de Liaison des Femmes has lodged a complaint with the European Commission, claiming infringement of Community law on equal treatment of men and women workers. The complaint has been entered as No 266/81 by the European Commission.

The Comité de Liaison des Femmes is made up of representatives of women's and feminists' movements and of women's committees in the unions and political parties. Some members of the Comité are there on a personal basis.

Useful address: Comité de Liaison des Femmes
 la Place Quételet
 1030 Brussels

Women in the home

The motto of the Association des Femmes au Foyer (Organization for women in the home) is "Be dedicated to your home but don't shut yourself up in it". This is what the organization has in mind in its campaign to up-grade the role of "women in the home" and more important, to promote the possibility of a real choice between working inside or outside the home, free from psychological or economic pressures in one direction or another.

The Association des Femmes au Foyer has made some useful contacts with similar organizations working in France, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Spain. It is now appealing for information about sister-organizations in Britain, Luxembourg, Denmark, Ireland and Greece. The contact person is Françoise de Bellefroid, at the following address:

Useful address: Association des Femmes au Foyer
 rue Lindthout 200
 1040 Brussels

Espérance (Hope)

This is the name given to the recently-opened refuge for battered women in Tournai, in the province of Hainaut. Such refuges are becoming more and more common in Belgium and a few telephone numbers are given below:

Brussels :	02/345.35.26
Liège Province :	041/23.71.33
Namur Province :	081/23.12.74
Hainaut Province :	069/22.63.25
Luxembourg Province ;	063/21.46.82

D E N M A R K

Women and the labour market

In Denmark, research work on women in the fields of the social and political sciences is of a very high standard. Further proof of this was provided at an international seminar held in Liseleje in October 1981, on the theme "Strategies for integrating women in the labour market."

Kirsten Hvidtfeldt, Kirsten Jørgensen and Ruth Nielsen, the women who organized the seminar, have just brought out a report on the meeting in English. It makes very stimulating reading, not only because of the interest the theoretical and research aspects hold, but also because of the dialogue which it opened up between those who did the research and the government departments responsible for finding jobs for women.

Useful address : Women's Research Centre in Social Science
 H.C. Andersen Boulevard 38
 1553 Copenhagen V

BOOKS, MAGAZINES, DOCUMENTATION

Women of Europe would very much like to receive more of these from Danish women so that it can build up its resource material and learn more about Denmark.

Thanks in advance!

F R A N C E

For non-sexist education

The Association "Pour une école non sexiste" (Association for non-sexist education) has prepared an exhibition showing how sexism is at work in school books and teaching. The panels show the major milestones in this struggle, which are sometimes forgotten : law against sexism (1975), (recent) legislation requiring schools to be mixed, (new) position of women in society. After this, come other exhibits where visitors will smile or grit their teeth at the words and pictures through which our children are being conditioned in their school books.

What can be done about it? "Pour une école non sexiste" hopes that at points where decisions about the purchase of school books are taken, reading Committees will be formed, consisting of teachers, parents, women's organizations and the authorities.

The exhibition was launched this year at the Avignon Festival and it will tour from town to town throughout the school year.

Useful address : "Pour une école non sexiste"
 59 - 61 Av. des Gobelins
 75013 Paris

The C F D T and women

At a congress of confederated unions held in Metz, the C F D T voted to promote women's access to top posts in the organization, particularly on the National Council and the National Bureau where the number of seats is to be raised from 31 to 39.

The thinking behind this measure is that it will encourage federations, regions and unions to take steps at branch level. The leaders of the confederation see this not as a sop to its militants but as making amends for past oversights.

One out of three of this union's members is a woman, but only 10 - 15% of jobs in the union go to women.

Women have had a long history in the C F D T. After the war, the Confederation (called at the time the C F T C because of its Catholic links) had some purely women's unions. The liberation brought a re-organization and women were given the choice of remaining in their own unions or joining a mixed one. For reasons of solidarity, the second option was chosen and a women's committee was created in the Confederation at the same time.

Useful address : C F D T/ Information
c/o Montholon-Services
26 rue de Montholon
75439 Paris Cedex 09

The "M L F" starts a union

The first-ever "Confederation Syndicale des Femmes" (Women's Trade Union Confederation) has just been created in France. It has been launched by the "M L F" (Movement for the Liberation of Women*) and will be known by the initials C S D F.

At the moment, there are six unions in the Confederation, representing : women having and bringing up children ; women working at home; women in health-care professions; women in the teaching profession, women in publishing; women in research.

In its booklet, the C S D F stresses that women are workers three times over and therefore exploited three times. Their "triple work", as described by the "M L F", makes a clear distinction between housework in general and the "production of children".

The C S D F takes a clear stand in its booklet against part-time work, under the title "No to part-salaries". It defends "women's right to full employment and economic independence".

Useful address : C S D F
2 rue de la Roquette
75011 Paris

* In France, the initials "MLF" describe a specific organization registered as "Le mouvement de liberation des femmes", not the women's movement in general.

Simone de Beauvoir Audiovisual Centre

Founded by Carole Roussopoulos, Delphine Seyrig and Iona Wider, the Simone de Beauvoir Audiovisual Centre is an organization to create and preserve an audiovisual record of women. It produces and stores films, cassettes, photos, slides and videocassettes.

Subsidized by the Fonds d'intervention culturel and by the Ministries for Women's Rights, Culture and National Solidarity, the public can use the centre free-of-charge. Material can be used in two different ways - firstly there is the card index, which catalogues all known documents, and secondly the documents themselves can be consulted.

In addition, the Centre will, in collaboration with other people, be producing material on the recent history of women.

Useful Address : Centre audiovisuel Simone de Beauvoir
32, rue Maurice Ripoche
75014 Paris

Welcome!

"Accueil des villes francaises" is an organization with branches in 480 French towns. Its purpose is to assist newly-arrived families to settle down and take part in the life of the town.

12 000 volunteers work in these centres, giving information, contacting the local authorities, pointing out the local organizations that might be of interest to newcomers.

At the 7th National Congress held in Nantes, the leading volunteers - they used to be women for the most part, but more and more men are volunteering - examined how this welcoming service could be improved to meet the needs of modern families and individuals and to take into account changes in the world of work and the world of leisure.

The organization's committee for international relations plays a particularly important role. As Vice-President Jacqueline Teitgen put it: "A million and a half French people live outside France and five million foreigners live in France". For all of them, special facilities have had to be provided to assist them in integrating.

Useful address : Accueil des villes françaises

Secretariat national
13 Boulevard Paul Langevin
44100 Nantes

International Relations
59 Boulevard Lannes
75016 Paris

G R E E C E

Women and Productivity

The potential contribution of Greek women to a general increase in productivity was the focus of a seminar organized jointly by ELKEPA (Greek Centre for Productivity) and Enossi Gynaikon Elladas (Greek Women's Union).

The main speaker was Ms K. Nikolaou, economist and Member of the European Parliament, who outlined the principal factors influencing the participation of women in the production process. At the end of the session, the general director of ELKEPA announced the decision to create a vocational training programme exclusively for women, in fields where there was demand in the labour market.

Useful Address : Enosis Gynekon Elladas
 8, Ainiolos St.
 Athens

Housewives

The Syllogos Ellinidas Nicokyras (Greek Housewives Association) has announced its intention of organizing its first national symposium this autumn in order to examine and publicize the special problems of housewives. Some of the themes for reflection will be: the recognition of the social and economic value of housework, social security, problems of retirement, etc.

Useful Address : Syllogos Ellinidas Nicokyras
 Fidiou 18
 Athènes T.T.142

Today and Tomorrow

"Greek Women: today's experience and tomorrow's perspectives" was the theme of a three-day conference organised by the Y.W.C.A., with the aim of plotting the broad outlines of how women's position will evolve in the two decades to come.

The meeting was open to other women's organizations and to the public; it gave specialists in various fields like sociology, economics, law, and psychology a chance to air their views.

One of the conclusions of the meeting was that it was important to keep in mind the Greek Orthodox tradition, in which contemporary Greek women whether they realize it or not have their roots, so that it may influence the future to a greater or lesser extent.

Useful Address : Y.W.C.A.
 Amerikis 11
 Athens 135

More Autonomy

More autonomy for women was a central preoccupation at the first national conference organized by the Kinisi Dimocratikon Gynekon (Movement of Democratic Women)

This three-day meeting was open to women who were not members of the association and they were given full rights to take part in the discussions and the proceedings. The participation of particularly large numbers of young women was noticeable.

A high point of the meeting was the account of a rape trial given by a local group from the north of the country. The association had given moral and legal support to the victim, and the rapist received an eight-years prison sentence from the court.

Useful Address : Kinisi Dimocratikon Gynekon
 Gennadiou 5
 Athens 142

I R E L A N D

Women at home

The Council for the status of women organized a marathon talk-in which enabled the voices of "women at home" in many towns and villages to be heard.

The fruits of these talks have just been published in a 28-page book reflecting women's problems and their recommendations on health, child-care, social welfare, the law, training, housing and so on.

The Council has sent copies of the book to all the relevant government ministers and is seeking meetings with each of them to see what, if anything, they plan to do about it.

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

AIM, ten years on

The organization AIM was set up ten years ago. It was one of the earliest to use the principle of self-help to tackle in a practical way the problem facing women every day.

In the tenth anniversary issue of its magazine "Women's Aim", the AIM editorial noted "Young wives of today are more fortunate than those of the sixties and seventies - but they would be ill-advised to feel cosy and secure under our present system."

Useful address : AIM Group
 P O Box 738
 Ballsbridge
 Dublin 4

Video Women

"Reel Women" is the clever name of a new women's collective in Dublin, formed to make videos about women, It plans to show the videos it produces to women's audiences throughout Ireland.

Useful address : Reel Women
 c/o The Women's Centre
 53 Dame Street
 Dublin 1

Limerick celebrates

The Limerick Federation of Women's Organizations, stated in 1976, has had the original idea of organizing a dinner in its own honour.

Guests included representatives of the 21 organizations affiliated to it and women prominent in the city's arts, political and business world.

Limerick is Ireland's third largest city with a population of 78 000. Since its women's groups started to work together, there has been an upsurge of activities in areas of interest to women in the city.

Useful address : Limerick Federation of Women's Organizations
 c/o Maeve Kelly
 Clonevin
 Meelick, Limerick

I T A L Y

U D I - the end of an era

L'Unione Donne Italiane (Union of Italian Women), which was started 38 years ago and now has almost 200 000 members, has decided to turn a new page. On a proposal by its outgoing leaders, the XIth congress voted by an overwhelming majority for a radical revamping of its structures.

To provide the kind of structure required by the dynamic and demanding feminism of the 80s, the UDI has abandoned its old organization (Secretary General, National Committee and a team of thirty-odd employees) and its old ways. In doing so, it hopes to give freer rein to both the individual consciousness of women and their group awareness.

As an outward sign of this new spirit, all delegates to the Congress had to pay their own expenses and the registration fee went only to pay the costs of the meeting. There is now just a "guarantee committee" with no other political power, to manage the union's funds.

"We must get back to working independently, and reject the idea of being run by a handful of "leaders" who are political "professionals". We must have a structure which accurately reflects the reality of life in our hundreds of local circles," one participant declared. Discussions as to what this structure should be is continuing in the pages of "Noi Donne" (We Women) and the next meeting will be held in mid-October.

Useful address : Noi Donne
 Via Trinita dei Pellegrini 12
 Rome

Women in the Liberal Party

Le Coordinamento nazionale Donne Liberali (national coordinating body for Liberal Party Women), carrying out the wishes of the XVIIth Party Congress held in Florence, emphasized the fact that today the Party must take up themes with a social content. It made an official request insisting that permanent representatives of Coordinamento Donne sit on all Party committees at whatever level. The body wants to be associated from the outset in any ideas or decisions which could have a bearing on women's lives.

Useful address : Coordinamento nazionale Donne Liberali
Ms Costanza Pera, National Head,
Via Frattina 89
00187 Rome

"Esistere Come Donna"

The Exhibition "Esistere Come Donna" which might be translated loosely as "Women's Lot" will take up three enormous exhibitions halls when it opens in Milan in October. Under the patronage of the local authorities, it has been assembled by a scientific committee composed of women working in different cultural fields and of varying political persuasions.

"Esistere Come Donna" wants to "give women back their history," starting from the days of the Industrial Revolution up to our own times. The titles of some of the sections give a foretaste of what the exhibition will be like: a ruined life, the era of the suffragettes, no more war, the role we want or the role they give us.

Useful address : "Esistere Come Donna"
Palazzo Reale
Milan

Women and Postage Stamps

Maria Zaniboni Rivieccio, an ardent philatelist, had a meeting with the Director General of the Italian postal services, and asked him, on behalf of the Italian Soroptimists, whose Vice-President she is, whether he would consider issuing a set of stamps on famous Italian women before the end of the UN Women's Decade in 1985.

Enrico Vieschi, the man she spoke to, has shown a keen interest in the idea. He intends to examine the "celebrities" recommended by the Soroptimists and with his colleagues, will choose the ones who seem the most representative. Some of the possible women for these mini-portraits are: Pimentel Fonseca, the first woman director of a political journal and Anna Morandi Manzolini, the first woman to have occupied - in 1770 unbelievably - the Chair of Anatomy at the University of Bologna.

Maria Zaniboni Riveccio owns a collection of more than two thousand stamps. About half of these depict famous women (the earliest woman to be portrayed on a postage stamp was Maria Washington, known for her philanthropic works as well as for being the mother of George). The other half of Rivieccio's collection show women in general situations.

Useful address : Maria Zaniboni Rivieccio
Via Adelaide Ristori, 20
00197 Roma

There is an organization in Rome called "Women and Men" (10, Piazza Albania) which is trying to raise the consciousness of postal authorities throughout the world, by sending them lists of famous women for possible portrayal on postage stamps.

"Progetto Donna"

"Progetto Donna" (Project Woman) is a new magazine run by Tina Leonzi. The members of the editorial team all represent Catholic feeling in Italy. The aim of the magazine's founders is to open up a forum for communication and expression on women's issues, inspired by the Christian faith.

The magazine is divided into a section containing essays and articles and another containing news items, true stories, interviews etc.

Useful address: Progetto Donna
Via Lattanzio Gambara 3
Brescia

An anniversary prize

La Federazione Italiana Laureate e Diplomate Istituti Superiori (Federation of Italian women graduates) was founded in 1922 with the objective of "instructing women at all levels, removing all types of discrimination in the matter and assisting women graduates to profit fully from their education and ability".

This year, in celebration of its 60th anniversary, FILDIS is awarding a prize of half a million lire to the author of the best article or series of articles on the topic "Women's organizations in today's society".

Articles (ten copies) should be sent to FILDIS before 31 December 1982.

Useful address: FILDIS
Via San Martino, 18
Pavia

Women in the home

ANDIC, Associazione Nazionale Donne Italiane Casalinghe (National Association of Italian Housewives) is a new catholic organization which, at a recent symposium asked the question "Are women in the home entering the twilight or is it only a temporary eclipse?"

Twilight is still a long way off - 13 million Italian women do not have jobs outside their homes. ANDIC, chaired by Silvana Rossi De Bono, wants housewives to have proper status, with, eventually, an allowance paid to women in the home.

Useful address: A N D I C
Via B. Cerretti 13
Rome

L U X E M B O U R G

Women in the present

Two women from Luxembourg, two from Belgium and three from France have just launched an organization in Luxembourg with the name "Femmes au present" (Women in the present). This is a group for on-going education, open to all women who wish to keep in step with the constantly-changing world.

With the objective of "insisting on personal dignity", the organization helps its members to exercise their individual and collective responsibilities in a spirit of tolerance.

Useful address: Femmes au Present
36 Boulevard de Verdun
Luxembourg

N E T H E R L A N D S

Argentina

Ever since 1979, a group of Dutch women has been supporting the action of the Argentine mothers known as the "Mad Women of the Place de Mai". The Dutch group, the SAAM Committee "Steun aan Argentijnse Moeders" (Support for the Argentine Mothers) is chaired by Liesbeth den Uyl, whose husband is the former Prime Minister and Socialist leader, Joop den Uyl. SAAM's correspondent in Belgium is Catherine Andriessen, wife of Frans Andriessen, Member of the European Commission.

The SAAM Committee viewed the recent Falkland Islands war with mixed feelings: on one hand, the fate of all the missing Argentines faded into the background but on the other, the European Community's economic sanctions proved that Europe is not without means of exerting pressure. Another result was that the dictatorial nature of the Argentine regime was brought to the public's attention.

Ien van den Heuvel, member of the European Parliament and also on the SAAM Committee, is hoping that arrangements can be made to send a European Parliamentary delegation to Argentina to find out for itself what is happening there as regards human rights.

Useful address: SAAM Committee
Voorhoutstraat 4
Haarlem

Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad

The Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad (Netherlands' Women's Council) the body which coordinates the activities of women's groups in the Netherlands, made a thorough examination of the Community's Action Programme for Equal Opportunities 1982-1985.

It pointed out to the government departments concerned and to the president-in-office of the Community's Council of Ministers certain areas calling for attention.

The chief of these were: the gradual individualization of entitlements for wives and common-law wives under social security systems; a review of income tax legislation to favour women's work; longer parental leave and leave for family reasons, coupled with an extension of child-care facilities; social protection of pregnant women, especially by totally removing discrimination in hiring and by extending social security cover to include women in the liberal professions, farmers and others.

Useful address: Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad
Laan van Meerdervoort 30
2517 AL The Hague

UNITED KINGDOM

Women in Entertainment

The organization "Women in Entertainment" has just pulled off a success: the festival "Women Live", held in May, proved that women dancers, musicians, jugglers, writers and so on, are perfectly capable of drawing large audiences.

But in entertainment, there is more than just the part on-stage. Behind the scenes, there are women lighting and decorating technicians, make-up women, producers. All these women helped to contribute to the May festivities which went on all over the country

"Our aim was good quality work and we succeeded," said Katrina Duncan, a member of women in Entertainment. "We have shown that women in the arts are more than pin-ups and their work deserves much greater recognition."

Useful address: Women in Entertainment
11 Acklam Road
London W 10

Women in Agriculture

The plight of women in agriculture and a suitable professional status for them were discussed at length by the Women's Farm and Garden Association (WFGA) at its Annual Meeting.

What constitutes a woman farmer, was one of the questions posed. It was generally agreed that the definition of a "professional woman farmer" was one who shared in the working of the farm and its organization or who had acquired the appropriate vocational skill and was adequately trained.

But the WFGA decided that before demanding a special status, more research was needed into the requirements of women farmers, including opportunities for retraining older women in agriculture.

Useful address: Women's Farm and Garden Association
Lilac Cottage
Birch Green
Colchester
Essex CO 2 ONH

Course for women shop stewards

The T U C Education Service has decided to run short courses for women who are shop stewards or who feel they might like to become more active in their union.

Previously the TUC had organized mixed courses but it was not pleasant to be the only woman among twelve or more men, or having the feeling of "being watched". The new courses will be for small groups of three or four women and the tutors are all women with a union background. Practice will be given in handling grievances, giving reports, speaking in public and drawing up motions.

Useful address: TUC Education Service
Congress House
Great Russell Street
London W C 1

Three to one

Geraldine Rees is the first woman jockey ever to take her horse past the post in the Grand National, an extremely testing steeplechase race which is very popular in Britain.

The public was so enthused about this performance that odds fell to three to one. Geraldine Rees was greeted with an ovation that paid tribute not only to the historical significance of the sporting event but also to the rider's determination. One racing expert even went so far as to say admiringly that it was the first time he'd seen a jockey cross the finishing line carrying the horse.

RESEARCH, MEETING AND BOOKS

Il quanto e il quale - la cultura del mutamento ("How much" and "what" - the culture of changes) is a new title by Carla Ravaioli, a book which focusses on the psychological factors resulting from the evolution of the industrial society on the various facets of daily life in the family, school, sex and culture. 264 pages, Lit.9000, Laterza, Bari.

Le Grand Livre du Sport Féminin, (The big book of women's sport) by Françoise and Serge Laget and Jean-Paul Mazot, traces the history of women's sports from ancient times to the present day; it catalogues each sport and gives the names of the champions and their records. In spite of all the taboos, sportswomen have done much to change the image of women and to help in their liberation. 528 pages, 470 illustrations, 52 of them in colour, Ffrs 220, Published by F.M.T. Editions, Lancie 69220, Belleville France.

Getting it right matters is a guide for parents which explains how to encourage children and guide them so that they can have the widest possible choice of careers. It also explains how children can best be prepared for work and life. EOC, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester, M3 3HN, U.K.

Non à la guerre, (No to war) by Odette Thibault attempts to debunk some of the mystery of war. This is the first book written by a woman against warfare. A complete guide to pacificism, it provides an overview of all the aspects of the problem, offers innumerable facts, and suggests ways of resisting or preventing war (for example, by education for peace, which like sex education, must begin in the cradle) Ffrs 76, orders to: Chronique Sociale, 7 rue du Plat, F 69288 Lyon Cedex 1.

Hilfen für Misshandelte Frauen (Help for Battered Women). This is a complete report of the pilot scheme for a battered women's refuge in Berlin, carried out with assistance from the Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family and Health. Published by Kolhammer on behalf of the Bundesminister für Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit, Postfach, 5300 Bonn 2.

L'Histoire d'une Parole féminine (The story of a woman's word) is written by the Tunisian, Lilia Chabbi Labidi; it is a "poem-reflection" on the position of Tunisian women set against today's background. Lilia Chabbi Labidi describes the institutional structures and how the woman adapts to these structures, as well as the reality of a woman's life, her interior thoughts, changes in family life and the many forces she comes up against. 124 pages, 14 rue de Bourgogne, Mutuelleville, Tunisia.

Nuevas perspectivas sobre la mujer (New perspectives on women) is a report on the first days of an inter-subject conference organized by the Independent University of Madrid in the framework of its research on women. There are many conclusions in this report which will make it a very useful work of reference for those interested in alternative methodologies in history, economics, sociology, and the means of communication. 300 pages, published by the Independent University of Madrid.

Life goes on, by Ruth I Johns, doesn't hand out any bouquets. In her book, Ruth Johns criticizes the attitudes and practices of the official welfare departments. She describes how welfare in its present form is inefficient and prevents people from overcoming their difficulties. She puts the bureaucratic welfare system in its place and indicates ways in which it could do its job better. According to the author, self-help needs to be encouraged. The book will be useful for anyone working in the welfare service and indispensable for the uninitiated. 184 pages, £3.75, published by Unknown Publisher, P.O. Box 66, Warwick CV 34, 4XE.

Le Travail des Femmes (Women's work) is the subject of a special issue of the *Revue Française des Affaires Sociales*. Prepared by the Committee on Women's Work under the aegis of the Ministry for Women's Rights, it surveys the Committee's work over the past ten years and reports on a Round Table discussion on the trends in women's work which its members held. The review includes a table showing how women's work has evolved since palaeolithic times: although the entry of women into the work force has always alternated with periods in which they were absent, it was in the 17th century that they suffered their greatest setback in the labour force. 282 pages, published by the Ministries for National Solidarity, Work and Health, 1 Place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris.

Je rechten als alleenstaande vrouw (Your rights as a woman on her own) is a book written by the "Federatie Vrouwen tegen Mishandeling". It provides a simple, factual and detailed description of the rights of single women. A woman who suddenly finds she is no longer living with a man has to face up to innumerable problems both serious and minor, which may be practical, legal or something else. In many cases, she doesn't know what her rights are or how she can obtain them. This guide will be a very useful aid. Women in this situation will find that it contains a wealth of information to help them in adapting to their new world. 160 pages, EPO, Lange Pastorstr. 25-27, 2600 Berchem.

La féminité neutralisée ? Les femmes cadres dans l'Entreprise (Femininity overcome ? Women in management) has been published by Flammarion in the series "Visages de l'entreprise". Its author is the noted sociologist, Jacqueline Huppert-Laufert, Doctor of Cornell University, professor in the department of human and organizational sciences of CESA. She is an expert in the field of business training and the training of men and women for management posts. This unusual book contains many interviews she has held with men and women executives. The answer to one of her questions: "Does big business still have a male image?" produced an analysis of changing attitudes and roles, and more important, broke a long silence on the place of women in organizations. 289 pages. Ffrs 75.

The Politics of the Second Electorate is a work containing a wealth of information on how and why women take part in politics in a large number of countries (Western and Eastern European, the USSR, the US, Australia, Canada and Japan). Different authors have all described similar attitudes in the various industrialized countries, which are due to the fact that women perceive themselves as firmly rooted in the family. At the same time, there are divergences owing to the historical events of our century, the level of education and the move from country to town, especially since the end of the second world war. This book will be of great interest to

sociology and political science students and any woman trying to play an active part in politics, whatever the level, will also find it useful. Women and public life. Published by Joni Lovenduski and Jill Hills.

Work and employment of Portuguese women, is a 118-page booklet prepared by the Committee for Equality in Work and Employment. It gives a valuable set of figures with brief comments from which to form an overall impression of the position of Portuguese women in terms of employment. These provide food for thought and a possible approach to further work in the field. Scientific and technical information service (SICT), Ministry of Labour, Pç de Londres 2 - 1^o 1000 Lisbon.

Il lavoro delle donne e la legge di parità (Women's Employment and Equality Legislation) is a cooperative work, co-ordinated by Cristina Cremonesi, Luciana Dondi, Paola Mosconi Bernardini, Dora Piccaluga, which was initiated by the Consulta femminile comunale (Women's Advisory Committee) of Pavia. It is a critical analysis of the way in which the working world, employment offices, colleges of further education and judicial attitudes have reacted to the new legislation. 220 pages. Lit 7500, Lavoro Publishers, via Tagliamento 39, Rome.

Vos droits sous la main (A guide to your rights) by Christiane Hannon and Chantal Vandergucht is a book written primarily for women who are in difficulties or who have been ill-treated. It is also of interest to any single woman who wants to know where she stands with current social legislation, extensive and complicated as it is. Finally, it will appeal to every woman who wishes to be mistress of her own fate, even though she may be living happily with her partner. 210 pages, Vie Ouvrière, 4 rue d'Anderlecht, 1000 Brussels or Voyelles, Bd. de Waterloo 99, B-1000, Brussels.

Your job in the Eighties: A woman's Guide to New Technology, written by Ursula Huws, offers women a fresh approach to working at home. It describes how the new technology can create new jobs for women who have to stay at home, allowing them to have a lucrative occupation which is far from boring. Published by Pluto Press.

Atti del seminario internazionale (International seminar on women's research and resource centres: experiment in organization and methods of classifying archives. It was high time that an efficient system was produced for classifying women-related material coming from many different sources and therefore hard to incorporate into archives. 155 pages. Prepared by the Centro di studi storici sul movimento di liberazione della donna in Italia, c/o Fondazione Feltrinelli, Via Romagnosi 3, Milan.

Abortion is the subject of a monograph (CH 962) by CRISP (Centre for Social and political research and information) dated 7.5.82. The various political parties' attitudes to the problem, women's reactions, the influence of religious groups, conservatives and progressives. This research was carried out by P.H. Claeys and N. Loeb-Mayer of Brussels University's Institute of Sociology. CRISP, rue du Congress 35, 1000 Brussels.

Direct elections to the European Parliament by Juliet Lodge and Valentine Herman situates the European elections in their Community context, describing the role of the European institutions before and during the campaign. The authors highlight the way in which information programmes were used to stir up the general public's awareness, particularly that of women. 322 pages, £20, published by Macmillan and the Humanities Press, London and New Haven N.J.

Donna Oggi (Woman Today) No 17/18 - 82, contains the proceedings of the 19th Congress of the PSDI (Italian Social Democrat Party) on the role and participation of women. Via S. Maria in Via, 12, Rome.

Exploring Europe: Women and Work in Europe, by Eileen Daffern, is a special issue of Exploring Europe for young people from 16 to 19. Ms Daffern has collected together a great deal of information especially about women in their places of work. Her style is easy to read and light-hearted. She feels that more changes are needed in the work-place than anywhere else. Also included in this special issue are extracts from the Equality legislation. Published by the Schools Unit, European Research Centre, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, England.

Recherches sur l'integration européenne is the thesis which Angelika Lippe defended in the Department of Political Science of the Berlin Free University in 1981. It is the first comparative study to have been undertaken on the problems of the representation of women wage-earners in the unions in France and Germany. The study brings out the political aspects of the matter. The author makes it clear that despite differences in structures, political ideas and methods of work there are striking parallels in the two countries when it comes to the representation of women and their problems.

The concentration of female employment: the example of France is a study carried out by Maryse Huet, Olivier Marchand and Robert Salais, experts at the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Research, France. The text uses statistical methods for illustrating the nature and trends in the concentration of female employment. OECD, (Organization for economic co-operation and development) 2 rue André-Pascal, F - 75775 Paris Cedex 16.

Société et procréation (Society and procreation) by the Study Group on Family Roles is a 290-page book describing the social factors which influence procreation. Two different approaches to the problem are used: firstly, the influence of various social factors in a number of different societies is analyzed, then the problem is viewed from a variety of different angles. Bfrs 590, Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles, Parc Léopold, 1040 Brussels.

Onderzoek naar beleving en beeldvorming vanen over het moeder-zijn (study on the formation of the image of motherhood). This work examines the influence of social and cultural organizations and writing for young people. It is the result of research which has been going on since 1978 in the University's Women's Centre on motherhood and men and women's roles. Dr. A De Munter, Vrouw en Opvoeding, Vesaliusstraat 2, 3000 Leuven.

La donna e i suoi problemi (women and her problems) is a report containing the results of a survey carried out among 18 000 women in Lecco, Lombardy in 1980. It describes the social and material situation of the female population of that town. Consulta femminile, Città di Lecco, Segretaria, c/o Palazzo Municipale, Piazza A. Diaz 1, 22053 Lecco.

Research Ms Jocelyne Robert, Sociology researcher, University of Liège at Sart-Tilman, Building B 31, Bld du Rectorat 7, 4000 Liège, (tel. 041/56.11.66) would like to be contacted by individuals or organizations who can help her with her research on job-sharing.

Femmes, féminisme et recherches (women, feminism and research) will be the theme of a conference to be held in Toulouse towards the end of the year. It will be financed by the Ministry for Research and it has a dual purpose: firstly to draw up an inventory and assess the research carried out by researchers in all fields; secondly, to reveal the present state of the whole question. The exact contents of the conference will be based on the proposals arising from regional workshops which were held in April and May.

Useful address: AFFER - GRIEF, Université de Toulouse-Le-Mirail
109 bis, rue Vauquelin
F 31058 Toulouse Cedex

Women at work is the theme of a seminar to be held on 13 and 14 November in Nottingham. At this seminar, facts will be given about the events and the many problems of women at work. Areas of interest and possible actions will also be identified.

Useful address: Ms Ann Barnett
Stress Research
Department of Psychology
University of Nottingham
Nottingham NG 7 2RD

Conference on female workers in the international textile industry:
this will take place in Amsterdam from 21 to 24 October 1982. Its purpose is to study the elements of the crisis besetting the textile industry.

Useful address: Transnational Institute
Paulus Potterstraat 20
Amsterdam

Women Nobel Prize Winners. In the magazine Historia, No. 282 and No. 283, Maria Zaniboni describes the women who have won the Nobel Prize. Science, literature and peace are the three areas in which women have seen their efforts rewarded in this way. Do you know who these women prize-winners are? (Answer in the next issue of Women of Europe). Via Borgogna 5, 20122 Milan. Lit 1000.

EUROPEAN COLLOQUIUM OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

BONN, 16 - 18 May 1982

At the invitation of the Deutscher Frauenrat and with the collaboration of the Commission of the European Communities - Directorate General for Information (Information for Women's organizations and press), some forty women's organizations with a total of more than thirty million members, met at Bad Godesberg, Bonn from 16 to 18 May 1982.

The meeting was focussed on the one hand on the "Community Action Programme for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Women (1982-1985)" and on the other, on ways of improving consultation and collaboration between women's organizations within the European Community.

The Deutscher Frauenrat (German Women's Council) is a federal body encompassing German women's organizations as well as women's sections of a large number of German organizations.

In 1865, the "Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein" (General Association of German Women), founded by Louise Otto Peters and Augusta Schmidt in Leipzig, had 34 members. Ten years later, there were 12 000 activists in that town.

Today, the Deutscher Frauenrat is made up of 35 organizations, with a total of more than ten million members. The diversity of member organizations is recognised and any consultation and action which takes place respects the different priorities and objectives of individual organizations.

The political and social objective of the Deutscher Frauenrat is to achieve, by democratic means, equal opportunities for women in legal and social areas.

In the conference room of the very modern Wissenschaftszentrum in Bad Godesberg, a few steps from the banks of the Rhine, Dr Helga Thieme, President of the Deutscher Frauenrat, welcomed the participants: "All are equally welcome here," she underlined, and cut short formal greetings to come straight to the point.

It was in February 1981 that the idea for a meeting of women's organizations at the European level was first conceived. Dr Thieme had come to Luxembourg to follow the European Parliament debate on the situation of women in the European Community. There were many other representatives of women's organizations present in the public galleries and in the different meetings organized on that occasion.

"A common desire to strengthen our all-too-brief contacts appeared spontaneously" said Dr Thieme. "We wanted to get to know each other better and, if possible, prepare a meeting between our organizations to look at the possibilities for closer collaboration. I expressed this wish to Ms Deshormes, responsible for information for women's associations and press, and I found her very understanding and willing to help us."

"We are conscious, of course, of the fact that the list of those invited could not be complete and the Deutscher Frauenrat itself is only represented at the conference by five delegates, to represent the 35 organizations and millions of members that make it up."

There are, of course, numerous contacts between women's organizations in Europe already, many individual initiatives and bilateral connections. However, there is, as yet, no network through which each organization can really be in touch with the others. According to Dr Thieme, the very first step must be to forge personal contacts, to meet, to discuss and to find mutual understanding.

"We do not want to set up any new organization " Dr Thieme underlined, "but we must develop a network with thousands of links."

"The other item on this meeting's agenda is the Action Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women 1982-1985," Dr Thieme continued. She herself believed there were two reasons why women's organizations should concern themselves with it: firstly, the European Commission's initiative was intended to help women, and secondly, the Action Programme would not be successful if women themselves did not participate with determination, care, perseverance and imagination.

Participants were then invited to take the floor so that they could get to know each other in the spirit expressed by Dr Thieme. Women from the ten countries of the Community spoke of the situation of women in their countries as it affected them from day to day, mentioning their current preoccupations and the structures which exist for women to make their voices heard. The debate was followed attentively by observers from Spain and Portugal.

Struggles for equality in employment, reactions to government measures and cuts affecting women, help to women who have been victims of violence, efforts to change public opinion, reactions of unions and political parties to the participation of women: there were many common points made by speakers yet with inevitable differences in strategies used and results obtained, according to national conditions and situations.

Extract from the speech of a Greek participant: "I am fascinated and excited about the way young girls and women continue their studies determinedly and launch themselves into a professional career. Especially as a number of them come from remote areas and have mothers who are often themselves illiterate."

To encourage the exchange of information, the Deutscher Frauenrat had prepared a folder for each participant in which there was a document containing the exact title of every organization taking part in the colloquium, its address, the name of its chairperson, the number of members, the founding date, its publications, the International and European organizations to which it is affiliated, as well as a brief description of its objectives and activities: a simple but effective initiative to facilitate future contacts between groups.

Ms Anke Fuchs, recently appointed federal Minister for Youth, the Family and Health, greeted the participants in the name of her government. She was warmly welcomed and thanked by Dr Thieme for the substantial aid without which the colloquium could not have been organised.

In her speech, Ms Fuchs welcomed the Deutscher Frauenrat's initiative which was aimed at fulfilling the general need for information and contact. This need for information, she underlined, runs like a leitmotif through all the programmes, at national as well as international level, for recognition that men and women are equal requires a battle against strongly entrenched prejudices.

Keen to receive information herself, Ms Fuchs appealed to the participants: "What I am really interested to know is how instruments already created in other countries are put to full use. For example, if a law on equal treatment for men and women exist in a particular country, I would like to know how it is followed up, who makes sure that women really benefit in practice."

Ms Fuchs was worried about the way laws were experienced in practice. She was afraid that if something was not working, the first move was to demand a change in the law, whereas the full possibilities of the legal text might not have been exploited and put into force.

It was not enough for a law to be written and passed. It then had to be applied in the letter and in the spirit. The role of women's organizations could be a determining one in this respect. From this viewpoint, Ms Fuchs considered that it was "important for women's organizations to obtain an audience at the European level, and to bring their experiences there. The value of such collaboration is demonstrated by the presence of members of the European Parliament in this colloquium".

"It is good that the European Commission has launched its Action Programme for Equal Opportunities at this moment in time when the crisis and the seriousness of the economic situation are already threatening everything that has been painstakingly acquired. (...) We hope that women will not let themselves be turned away from the world of work," declared Ms Fuchs.

During the discussion which followed, Ms Fuchs was questioned by various participants about some particularly interesting points in the German law such as women's social security rights in case of divorce. In reply to the two European Parliamentarians Ms Cinciari-Rodano and Ms Vayssade, Ms Fuchs tried to clarify a rather delicate point: "We shall support Community action, as long as it does not cost us any money. (...) We shall stay within the limits of the means allocated to us in the European framework. This is what we plan to do, and it would be dishonest on my part to promise you anything else".

The colloquium organized by the Deutscher Frauenrat in Bonn took place at a politically significant moment; it was after the European Parliament had given its opinion on the Action Programme for Equal Opportunities and before the Council of Ministers had taken any decision on the matter.

What was the Commission's position now that it was aware of Parliament's wishes? Mr Ivor Richard, Member of the European Commission responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Education, had been invited to speak in Bonn.

Since Mr Richard had been detained in Brussels by urgent business, Ms Karen Fogg, member of his cabinet, took the floor on his behalf.

In his speech, read by Ms Fogg, Mr Richard first of all pointed out that equal opportunities between men and women was an issue which concerned the whole of our society and not only one or other half of the population of Europe.

As far as the Commission was concerned, it found itself between two extremes. On one hand, there was the Parliament, "representing the citizens of Europe, asking for stronger action from the Commission and reproaching the Commission for its too modest Programme" On the other there was the Council of Ministers "representing the governments of Member States and finding it difficult to follow the European Commission's line, particularly in the face of apprehensions caused by the economic situation".

For Mr Richard, the question was clear: "Should equal treatment for women be pursued as a fundamental objective of democracy, regardless of the economic situation, or should it be considered as a luxury to be indulged in only when Ministers' minds are less preoccupied with balancing their budgets?"

In Mr Richards' eyes, "it is precisely because the problems of employment and the economy make life difficult for all those on the margins of the labour market that we must avoid eroding what has been obtained for women in the last ten years."

The Action Programme was then reviewed point by point and commented on for the benefit of the participants. Mr. Richard had taken the opportunity of underlining that the "positive action" envisaged would only be possible with constant support from the organizations representing the interests of women.

As regards any advice and opinions from which the European Commission could benefit, Mr Richard declared himself open to the ideas and actions of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities, whose competence and experience were of inestimable value to the European Commission.

That having been said, the European Commission did not think it was either possible or desirable to set up a body which would supposedly represent half the population of Europe. "The voice of women must be heard at the European level through the European Parliament, the trade unions, the farmers and consumers associations, the Third World aid organizations, etc."

Even if Mr Richard expressed some scepticism about a single organization which would be responsible for representing the various and sometimes conflicting interests of different groups of women, he considered it clearly desirable that women's organizations in the Member States should have the opportunity to express themselves at Community level. The whole of the European Commission had always looked favourably on independent efforts to bring about groupings at the European level.

Mr Richard's message concluded by saying that women's own experiences were particularly important in the current situation: in a culture dominated by men, women had done more than merely protest, they had also invented and developed new ways of being autonomous and of working together. "Women have an important role to play in any debate on the future shape of our society".

A large number of questions were put to Ms Fogg, reflecting not only the participants' thorough knowledge of the Action Programme on Equal Opportunities, but also their anxieties concerning the position of the Council of Ministers, how the measures would be financed, the special provisions concerning part-time work, the situation of women with regard to new technologies, or again relative to the role of women's organizations themselves.

Ms Fogg followed by Ms Quintin (recently appointed to head the European Commission's Bureau for questions concerning employment and equal treatment for women) and her colleague Ms Van Loo, gave detailed replies to questions from the floor.

Through these replies, it was confirmed that a directive on the extension of equal treatment to occupational Social Security Schemes would be appearing shortly. As far as finance for the actions proposed in the Programme for Equal Opportunities 1982-1985 was concerned, everything still had to go through the long process involved in preparing the 1983 budget, and it would be December before one could count up the losses or gains, since the European Parliament also had a voice in the matter.

Ms Fogg took the opportunity of clarifying Mr Richard's views on the role of women's organizations. In essence, she explained that it was important for the activities of women's organizations and pressure groups not to be restricted to those Community programmes with a clear "women's label". They should also express support and constructive criticism in other areas like early retirement, education and the new technologies.

Ms Cinciari-Rodano, Member of the European Parliament and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women, confirmed that the European Parliament had the last word on financing the Action Programme since it fell under non-compulsory expenditure for which the European Parliament could commit the European Community - within limits however. But above all, Ms Cinciari-Rodano warned participants to stay on the alert and to convince as many Parliamentarians as possible of the importance of this budget heading. A large number of Parliamentarians were more interested in balancing the budget than in women's problems.

Participants took the floor to ask how they could participate in the application of the Action Programme, and in reply, Ms Fausta Deshormes, responsible for information for women's organisations and press at the European Commission, outlined the big role women's organizations could play in changing attitudes.

The European Commission, for its part, would continue its activities of informing women but it was important for this work to be "relayed" in some way in the different countries. As an example, Ms Deshormes mentioned the steps taken to spread the word about the provisions favourable to women in the European Social Fund and the effects of new technologies on women's employment. In the first of these cases, it had been possible to find a better balance in the requests sent in by the various countries, partly due to the upsurge of interest in the Fund's benefits that women had shown and partly due to approaches they had made to public authorities asking for the creation of specific programmes for vocational training for women.

Coming back to the concern shown by some participants about aid to the most "marginalized" women, especially battered women, Ms Quintin remarked that there were ways of helping women practically, even where the action programme was not explicit. In the case of battered women, the European Commission could take steps to facilitate their entry or re-entry into the labour market. In Ms Quintin's view, a change in attitudes was in a way the fundamental aim of the Action Programme. It was through this evolution in mentalities that positive actions could be developed.

It was clear throughout the debate that women's organizations were determined to play an active part in carrying out the Community's Action Programme for Equal Opportunities 1982-1985.

However, one uncertainty remained: what attitude was the Community's Council of Ministers going to adopt?

It appeared that several organizations had prepared various actions by which they hoped to influence Ministers. Different texts were presented and it was agreed that the women who had drafted them should discuss them during the evening so that participants would be informed of them the following morning and could thus associate themselves with the pressure being brought to bear.

As Dr Thieme had hoped, many more personal contacts were made during the dinner on the Rhine which was given by Ms Fuchs, Federal Minister for Youth, the Family and Health.

In the early part of the second day, there was again a chance for organizations to take the floor. This time it was the turn of the European and International organizations.

During the course of this, it became clear that coordination and dialogue with European authorities could take various forms, according to the structure, experience, area of influence and resources of each organization. The Centre for Research on European Women, for example, starting out with research on the situation of women, had felt a need to create a coordinating committee for the representation of women at the European level. The European Trade Union Confederation, via its Women's Committee believed itself to be the only really representative organization as far as the problems of women workers were concerned. The YWCA has a European liaison group chaired in turn by the various national organizations. The recently created European Association of Women University Graduates (Groupement Européen des Femmes diplômées des Universités) cuts across European frontiers. The Women's Committee in COPA, one out of a number of professional agricultural organizations, has for a long time had contacts with the Community Institutions. The European Movement's Women's Committee has on several occasions made its voice heard in the highest echelons of power, including the summit of Heads of State and of Government.

On this second day, Dr Thieme handed over the presidency to Ellen Wolf, director of Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik (working group for policies in favour of women) in the Ministry for Youth, the Family and Health.

After giving a brief account of the structure and objectives of her department, Ms Wolf remarked that, during the discussion on the Action Programme for Equal Opportunities 1982-1985, most of the participants' comments had centred on measures for positive action and on changing attitudes, rather than on the more legal first part of the programme.

"I see in this a very understandable anxiety" said Ms Wolf, "as there are real fears that we shall see the current situation backtracking with women being forced out of their jobs." "We need you who are in contact with the women in your organizations and with the women in your countries," she concluded.

Ms Deshormes was another speaker who stressed the role of women's organizations in providing a "shuttle" between the woman-in-the-street and the institutions. She was giving a more detailed description on how information could work to assist cooperation between women.

"Through the information I receive, I find myself in a privileged position from which I can observe all the sectors where change is taking place," she noted. There had been many of these in recent years: women's organizations had gained in influence, the women's press had taken a new direction, and women - as individuals - had acquired self-assurance, determination, consciousness and confidence. "Women of Europe" had tried its best to reflect these changes and participate in them as much as possible.

"There is no doubt that women have learnt to make use of information," said Ms Deshormes. "Whenever issues of common concern surface, they are pointed out and shared relatively quickly. Whether it is to do with taxation of spouses or the role of women in art, single parents or part-time work, the problems are perceived and discussed in all corners of the Community, solutions are compared, and conclusions are drawn."

As one of her practical suggestions to do with information, Ms Deshormes recommended that each organization appoint a special person "to be responsible for European contacts and information". This woman could handle bilateral contacts between organizations and act as a link with the Commission and other Community institutions.

Taking up a proposal made earlier in the morning by Dr Thieme, Ms Deshormes said she was convinced that links between organizations today were such that it was possible to show solidarity and carry out specific joint actions, as and when required. An example of this had been the solidarity shown by European women towards the women in southern Italy affected by the recent earthquakes.

"During the European election campaign, one of the slogans was 'Europe - a chance for women'. It would be good if we could prove the converse: women - a chance for Europe," she said in conclusion.

Marcelle Devaud, President of the Comité français du Travail Féminin (French Commission for Women's Employment) and Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunities between Men and Women, described briefly the origins and aims of this Committee, paying tribute to the pioneering work carried out by Jacqueline Nonon, now succeeded by Odile Quintin, as head of the Bureau for Questions concerning Employment and Equal Treatment for Women.

Certain that Betty Lockwood, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, would agree with her, Ms Devaud appealed to the Women's organizations to support, make widely known and help carry out the Action Programme for Equal Opportunities.

Ms Cinciari-Rodano, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women in Europe, like her colleague Ms Vayssade, followed the two-day colloquium attentively. Taking the floor to explain the work of her Committee, Ms Cinciari-Rodano emphasized the fact that this Committee of Inquiry was the first ever set up by the European Parliament, which meant that its procedures had to be established.

While speaking about the role women's organizations could play, Ms Cinciari-Rodano took care to inform participants about the way the Community Action Programme for Equal Opportunities had been discussed and amended. As a Member of Parliament, she valued very highly any information passed on by organizations which were in direct contact with the women of the Community, even on issues which might not, at first sight, appear to relate to the Treaty of Rome.

During the exchange of views which followed, the participants confirmed their desire to continue a dialogue with Community institutions, just as they had expressed their intention to carry out the Action Programme for Equal Opportunities.

As far as the role of women's organizations at the European level was concerned, it was agreed that any representation or any pressure group should include all the tendencies in the women's movement. The need for a continuous dialogue between organizations was recognized and expressed repeatedly.

In what form should the ideas and wishes expressed during the colloquium be presented? Much attention was given to this point, especially as no two participants were in quite the same position as regards function or title in their organizations, or the constitution and traditions of the latter.

The texts adopted are given below.

Closing the meeting, Dr Thieme emphasized how important it was for free and independent organizations to learn to know each other. "I have learnt a lot from you and I thank you for it. I hope that most of you will feel the richer for the experience when you leave this room."

These sentiments were echoed by Annemarie Griesinger, Minister for European Affairs for the Land (Region) of Baden-Württemberg. In the words of Professor Hallstein, an ex-President of the European Commission who had died recently, she declared: "We do not need to create a Europe, we only need the courage to rediscover it".

The text below was adopted as a recommendation by the representatives of the women's organizations present in Bonn on May 17-18 1982

At this time of crisis when women's rights are being seriously eroded, the representatives of women's organizations, meeting on the occasion of a European colloquium in Bonn on the 17 and 18 May 1982:

- are pleased that the Commission of the European Communities has prepared a "New Community Action Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Women 1982-1985";
- note that the European Parliament adopted all the amendments proposed by the Committee of Inquiry on the situation of Women on the proposed Council Resolution on the Programme (amendments aimed at committing the Council to provide the budgetary means and personnel) and that the European Parliament itself has taken a commitment on a budget;
- demand that the Council of Ministers adopt the proposed resolution as it was amended by the Parliament;
- also invite their respective governments to commit themselves to the realisation of the new programme for whatever concerns them.

This document was handed to Mr Hansenne, current President of the Council of Ministers of the Community by Ms Van Hemeldonck and Ms Ascherman of the Vrouwen Overleg Komitee, and Ms Lizin and Ms Hecq of the Comité de Liaison des Femmes.

The following text was adopted as a recommendation by the representatives of the women's organizations, meeting in Bonn on 17 and 18 May 1982

The women's organizations meeting on the occasion of the European Colloquium in Bonn on 17 and 18 May 1982:

- undertake to take action in their respective countries in order to support the New Action Programme (dissemination of information, pressure on governmental bodies and members of Parliament)
- express the wish to organize another meeting in 1983, based on the largest possible representation of women's organizations
- consider that such a meeting should cover:
 1. an evaluation of the progress made as a result of the New Action Programme:

assessment of actions undertaken by the Commission and the Member States,

follow-up by women's organizations
 2. a debate on the joint positions of the European women's organizations in the light of the UN Conference for the Decade of Women (Nairobi 1985)

This document was presented to Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission and Lorenzo Natali, Vice-President, by Ms Cinciari-Rodano, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women.

R E S O L U T I O N

The women's organizations meeting on the occasion of the European Colloquium of Women's Organizations in Bonn-Bad-Godesberg on 17 and 18 May 1982, note with great satisfaction the creation of a committee of inquiry into the situation of women in Europe within the European Parliament, with particular responsibility for following the implementation of the European Parliament Resolution of 11 February 1981. They desire that the necessary means be made available to this committee to allow it to carry out a detailed study on the situation of women in the various Member States, in particular through contacts with women's organizations.

This text was presented to Piet Dankert, President of the European Parliament, by Ms Cinciari-Rodano, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women.

The following text was adopted as a recommendation by the representatives of women's organizations meeting in Bonn on 17 and 18 May 1982.

The women's organizations meeting at the European Colloquium in Bonn on 17 and 18 May 1982, are pleased with the Commission's initiatives towards a new dimension in its information policy.

The activities of the Directorate-General for Information aimed at women (the preparation for the European elections, campaigns in the women's press, publications, seminars, its numerous other contacts, etc.) are seen by women as a service offered by the European Commission in order that they may be better informed and have a greater European awareness and in this way, increase their political participation.

In particular, the publication of "Women of Europe" - a magazine which is unique of its kind - appears to play a major role in helping European women in getting to know each other and their common realities and problems, revealing solidarity which goes beyond frontiers and in building hopes for solutions with a European, rather than a national dimension. The network of relationships and contacts thus formed with the help of the European Commission not only assists women in their own efforts towards advancement but also fosters in them a more human, accessible and positive image of the European Community itself.

It is important for the Commission of the European Communities to confirm its interest in a permanent dialogue on all European issues with circles where women's views are voiced, and to allocate the necessary personnel and funds to the department which was created for this purpose.

In this way, the repeatedly expressed calls of the European Parliament for a better information policy for women will be satisfied.

This text was presented to Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, and to Lorenzo Natali, Vice-President responsible for Information, by Ms Cinciari-Rodano, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women.

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