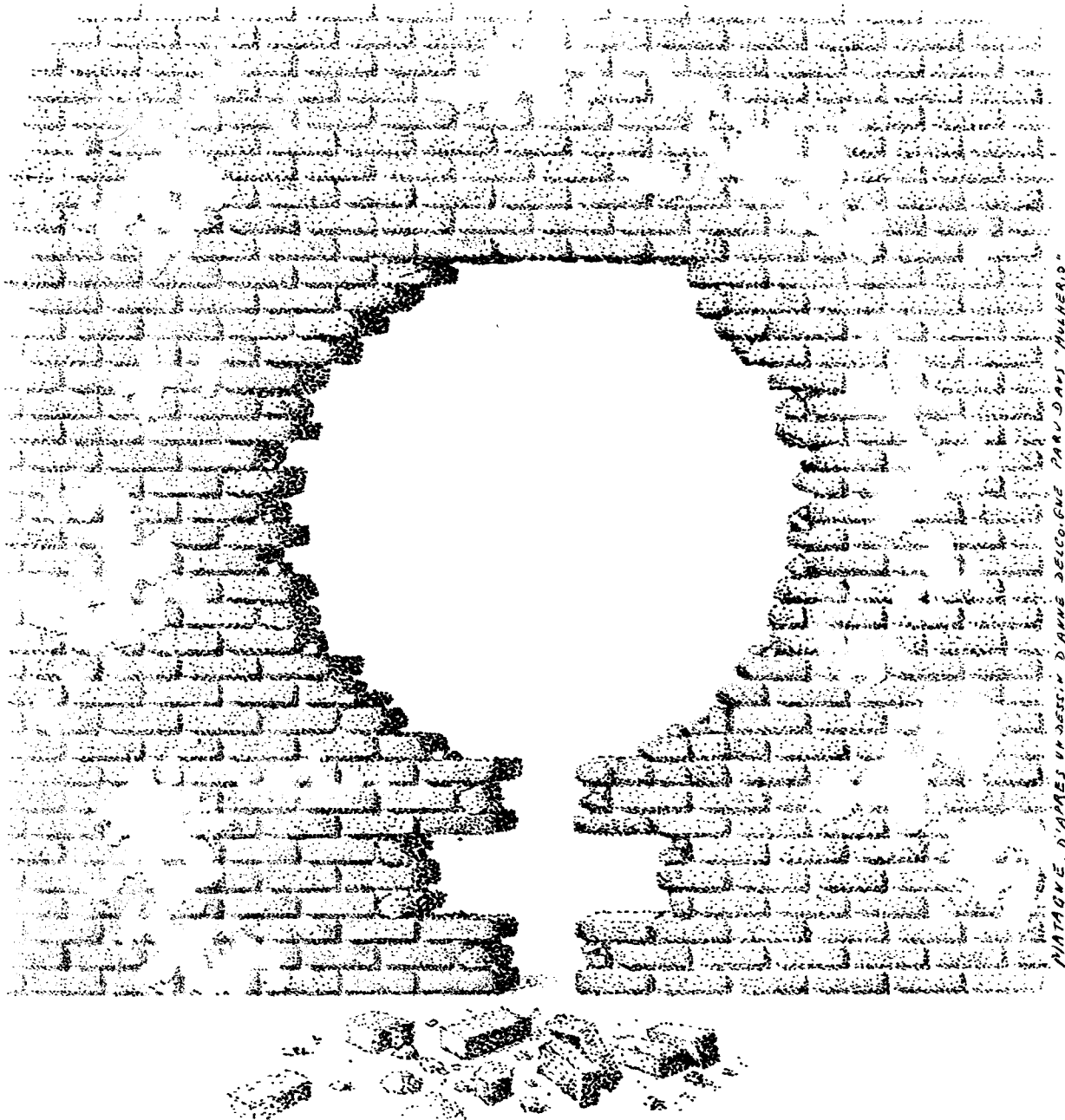


Women of Europe

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OUR CORRESPONDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY.

Belgium	: Nanette Nannan, 33 rue E. Bouillot, Boîte 9, 1060 Brussels
Denmark	: Danske Kvinders Nationalraad, N. Hemmingsensgade 8, 1153, Copenhagen
France	: Jeanne Chaton, 43 Avenue Ernest Reyer, 75014 Paris
Germany	: Christa Ranzio-Plath, Hadermanns Weg 23, 2 Hamburg 61
Greece	: Effi Kalliga-Kanonidou, 10 Neofytou Douka St., Athens TT 138
Ireland	: Janet Martin, 2 Claremont Close, Glasvenin, Dublin 11
Italy	: Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, Piazza di Spagna 51, 00187 Rome
Luxembourg	: Alix Wagner, 7 rue Henri Frommes, 1545 Luxembourg
Netherlands	: Marjolijn Uitzinger, Fivelingo 207, Zoetermeer
United Kingdom	: Peggy Crane, 12 Grove Park Road, Chiswick W 4
European Parliament	: Lydia Gazzo, 17 avenue de Tourville, 75007 Paris
Production	: J.A. Pirlot
Editor	: Fausta Deshormes Information for women's associations and press 200, rue de la Loi <u>1049 Brussels</u>

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THE CHANGING EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY

Community Equality Directives, the Women's Decade, changes here and there in family law : women's increasing participation in political, economic, social and cultural life often has to pass through the stages of officialdom.

But we shouldn't let the legal or administrative aspects of these changes mask something that is much more significant : women are leaving their mark on all sorts of other areas with gathering confidence. In the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the Situation of Women in Europe, this was described in striking terms : women "as the bearers of new values", "with different criteria for interpreting life", are seen as an emerging social group with its own way of transforming the world around us.

In times that are difficult economically, socially and politically, this freshness, imagination and creativeness are valuable assets indeed.

Women of Europe

About dates : We have previously been indicating on the cover and each page of Women of Europe the period covered by our news. For example, this number would normally have been marked "May/June/July". But we have been requested by the Belgian Postal Authorities to conform in future with their regulations, which means that each number must indicate the dates relating to its periodicity rather than the news contained in it.

So if you think that you have missed a number, have no fears! Even though N° 30 is marked "March/April" and N° 31 "15 July/15 September", the pages of this copy of Women of Europe contain news on everything that has happened between 1 May and 15 July.

We do hope you will understand.

Environmental protection

Mr Karl-Heinz Narjes, member of the European Commission, one of whose portfolios is environmental matters, recently reviewed ten years of Community action in this field.

There have been more than sixty sets of Community regulations ranging from atmospheric pollution, water pollution and the treatment of wastes, to anti-noise measures and the protection of natural resources. It is worth noting that in its actions over the years, the European Community has been shifting its emphasis from repairing the damage caused to the environment to measures intended to prevent such damage in the first place. Indicative of this change of direction are the evaluations of environmental implications, incentives for non-polluting techniques, rational research and policy on the environment; this new approach offers definite advantages not only from the ecological point of view, but from the economic one too.

However, noted Mr Narjes, with so many urgent problems still needing attention, the progress achieved so far was not enough. There was far too little money available, given the size of the programmes to be carried out. The case of dioxin was only one of many. Another drawback was the slowness of the decision-making process, particularly in the Community's Council of Ministers.

Mr Narjes explained, in this perspective, the Third Programme on the Environment, put forward at the end of 1981; this was intended to develop overall strategy for protecting the environment, based mainly on the principle of prior evaluation. In this regard, Mr Narjes stressed the importance of the proposal for a directive on the evaluation of environmental implications, the adoption of which would be a decisive step towards a rational preventive policy designed to preserve resources.

Regarding the frequently-quoted conflict between the economy and ecology, Mr Narjes denied that the two interests were incompatible. He claimed that ecology was merely properly-designed long-term economics and went on to defend the view that environmental policy was a very important element in any structural policy. A short-term change in framework data would lead to uncertainty and would compromise investment plans and decisions, he said. Mr Narjes emphasized the importance of the principle "the polluter pays", a tenet which needed to be strengthened by measures that fitted in with the economy of the market.

Among the current problems, Mr Narjes felt that "acid rain" was one that was specially important. Full-scale research would have to be carried out, since there was uncertainty over the exact causes of the phenomenon. There was little doubt however that our forests were being suffocated because of atmospheric pollution caused by sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxide. The cost of this damage was already running into thousands of millions. The European Commission will be holding a scientific symposium in September on this important issue.

Taking just one example, there were about 700 thousand jobs in the Federal Republic of Germany connected with the wood industry. The social and economic costs of atmospheric pollution would far outstrip the cost of introducing measures to ensure a better quality of air.

Concerning the disposal of wastes, recently highlighted by the affair of the dioxin drums containing wastes from Seveso, Mr Narjes stressed that this event illustrated the need for forceful European regulations and the importance of scrupulous compliance with Community Directives.

In order to see that proper regulations existed once and for all for the transport of toxic wastes, the European Commission had, at the beginning of the year (before the dioxin affair had come to light, in other words) put forward a proposal for a directive. Mr Narjes expressed the hope that recent events would encourage the setting up, before the end of the year, of a rigorous system of control over the transport of hazardous wastes.

Useful address : European Commission
rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

Small and medium-sized enterprises

At the initiative of the European Parliament, 1983 has been designated as the "European Year of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises", and the European Community has marked the occasion by publishing a booklet called "Small and medium-sized enterprises and Craft Industries in the European Economic Community". Some striking figures are revealed, for example, SMEs employing less than 500 workers today represent more than 95% of all Community industries, with this figure rising to as high as 99.9% in the Italian manufacturing industry.

Looking at the industrialized world as a whole, it appears that small firms are the ones that can adapt most readily and effectively to the effects of today's crisis. To give an example, in the US, for the period 1969-1976, firms with less than 20 people in all on their payroll created 66% of the net increase in new jobs. The same tendency may be seen in Japan, where new jobs are being created in small units, firms employing between 20 and 100 workers are standing still, and firms with over 100 employees are in decline. The same tendency has been confirmed by Mr Storey of the University of Durham, United Kingdom.

According to this researcher, in the Cleveland region between 1965 and 1976, employment increased by 54.5% in firms employing between 1 and 9 people and by 11.6% in those with between 10 and 49 employees. In contrast, firms employing between 500 and 999 people witnessed a 34.6% job loss and those with more than 2 000 employees a 23% job loss.

The European Commission has also published a handbook on behalf of the Permanent Conference of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Communities, entitled "Les actions de la Communauté européenne intéressant les petites et moyennes entreprises" (Community action in support of small and medium-sized enterprises).

In straightforward language, the authors describe all the ways in which the Community can intervene: aid and subsidies, loans and support, industrial cooperation, scholarships, courses, exchanges. The handbook is a very useful tool for those wishing to take full advantage of what the European Community can offer.

Useful address : European Commission
Directorate General for the Internal Market
and Industrial Affairs
rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

Education and Social Affairs

Educational and Social Affairs policy were closely linked at a recent meeting of the Community's Council of Ministers. For the first time in the history of the Community, Education Ministers held a joint meeting with Social Affairs Ministers.

The Education Ministers had earlier adopted a three-point plan intended to make it easier for staff and students in higher education to move round the 10 Community Member States.

To this end, it had been agreed to strengthen the joint study programmes financed by the European Commission which enable links to be established - usually in the form of exchanges between teachers or students - in various higher education institutions. During the first experimental phase, more than 270 joint programmes were launched involving more than 400 establishments throughout the 10 Community countries. There is more and more interest in these scholarships all the time, 500 enquiries having already been received by the Commission so far this year.

Concerning academic recognition of periods of study, Ministers agreed to make the rules more flexible. In particular, one priority will be to make detailed information on all matters relating to this academic recognition available more quickly.

With regard to scholarships and other help for students, the Ministers agreed that in future, scholarships and loans to students granted by one Member State could, generally speaking, also be used for a period of study in another Community country.

When welcoming the Education Ministers and their colleagues for Social Affairs and Employment, at the start of the meeting, Mr Ivor Richard, Member of the Commission for Employment, Social Affairs and Education stressed that a separation between educational policy and labour policy could no longer be accepted. He went on to say that the transition from school to adult and working life and the development of vocational training programmes in general could no longer solely be dictated either by the immediate needs of the labour market or by the desire for personal growth and satisfaction.

Mr Richard emphasized the vital need for new solidarity and strict cooperation between all those responsible for education, vocational guidance and training, employment services, etc.

At the end of the meeting, Ministers adopted a resolution on the development of vocational training policies for the 80s. It contains a solemn political commitment to the idea of the "social guarantee" of training for young people. In addition, it establishes a 5-year Community action programme, designed to improve the provisions on training, not only for youth but for the long-term unemployed and for women. This action programme lays stress on the part played by training in creating jobs on the local level.

At the same meeting, the Ministers for Education and for Social Affairs also had a look at the results of the first programme of pilot schemes to help young people prepare for work and to ease their transition from school to working life. Mr Richard expressed satisfaction at the wide and diverse range of ideas contained in the final report, which is now available in all the Community languages.

Thirty new projects will now be launched. They focus on areas of high youth unemployment and pay particular attention to the problems of young immigrants and girls. The Community will contribute 5.3 million ECU during the first year to this new 4-year programme.

The promotion of youth employment

The same Ministers were also presented with a Communication from the European Commission on the promotion of youth employment.

This document reveals the fact that to cut youth unemployment down to the average rate of unemployment (currently running at around 11%), two and a half million new jobs are needed. This calls for a substantial job-creation effort in both the public and private sectors, by means of a whole set of measures relating to the reduction of working time, subsidies for creating new jobs, help to young people starting upon their own, among others.

Some figures : out of the 12 million people out of work in the Community, 4.5 million are young people under 25. Although young people only make up 20% of the total working population in the Community, they represent 40% of the registered jobless. At the present moment, there are more than two million young people who have been unemployed for more than six months and almost 1.5 million who have been out of work for more than a year.

The European Commission believes that, if the Community wishes to adhere to the political priorities it has set itself, it will be necessary to improve the overall strategy for tackling unemployment, to take up the specific and particularly acute challenge of youth unemployment and to develop a programme of specific National and Community measures aimed at fighting youth unemployment.

The European Commission has identified five types of action : 1.- giving priority to young people when allocating new job opportunities arising out of the reorganization and reduction of working time; 2.- encouraging private sector employers to create new jobs and to take on more young people, by, for example, offering job creation bonuses; 3.- helping young people to start up new enterprises; 4.- expanding employment outside of the market sector of the economy, by recruiting young people in particular and providing employment for long-term unemployed youth (in schemes designed to create special temporary employment in the public sector or by providing job quotas for youth; 5.- helping young people to cultivate their vocational aptitudes and interests outside their jobs, by providing them with suitable structures and leaders.

European Social Fund Action

Social Affairs Ministers have been looking at the ways in which the European Social Fund will be used in the coming years. Attentive to the particular situation of the young, the Council of Ministers reached an agreement under which the Fund will first and foremost be used to promote employment opportunities for the under-25s. At least 75% of the resources will be allocated for this purpose.

The jobless, particularly long-term unemployed, women seeking to re-enter the work force, the handicapped, migrant workers, people working in small and medium-sized enterprises and career advisors will all also benefit from the Fund.

40% of the money available for actions in the framework of the Member States' labour market policy, which is the main area for the Fund's interventions, will go to schemes for developing employment in Greenland, Greece, the French Overseas Departments, Ireland, Italy's Mezzogiorno and Northern Ireland. These regions will continue to benefit from a rate of intervention increased by 10%.

The remainder of the resources will be used for measures to encourage employment in other areas of high and chronic unemployment and/or on industrial and sectoral restructuring.

The Council of Ministers also agreed that money from the Fund could be used for specific actions to implement projects with a new slant to them or to assess the effectiveness of projects. Here, the Commission confirmed its readiness to continue promoting measures related to the reorganization and reduction of working time.

Each year, the Commission will draw up guidelines describing how the Fund will be used, which will ensure that the actions benefitting from this aid meet Community priorities as defined by the Council.

The agreements threshed out by the Council of Ministers represent their joint proposals. These will be conveyed to the European Parliament with a view to possible consultations on the subject. Finally, the Council will adopt the texts officially.

THE 1982 INDEX IS OUT

The index of the information published in Women of Europe in 1982 is now available. For technical reasons, this index is only available in French.

Indexes relating to earlier years, from N° 0, which appeared in 1977, are also available.

Eurobarometer

Public opinion surveys which are published under the title "Eurobarometer" have been carried out on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities every spring and autumn since 1973. Greece has been included in the surveys since the autumn of 1980.

A decade is a long time to have been following changes in mentalities regarding what it is to be a European, the way the Community works and the construction of Europe. Twelve months before the next elections for the European Parliament, the indications these surveys provide are especially significant.

One of the questions that the people interviewed were asked was whether they ever thought of themselves as European citizens. The question is particularly useful for measuring attitudes towards next year's elections, during the run-up period. In fact, replies this time were hardly different from a year ago, with one person out of two saying that they did think of themselves in this way, 16% saying that this happened "often" and 34% saying it happened "sometimes". Greeks and Luxembourgers replied in the affirmative most often, and British and Irish least often. 74% of the British and 66% of the Irish "never" saw themselves as Europeans.

The attitude towards the unification of Western Europe is still largely in favour in all countries other than Denmark. There is even some improvement in the climate, compared with the two previous 6-month periods, particularly in Belgium and Germany. This attitude is more pronounced among opinion leaders than the public at large. Over the past ten years (1973-1983) the idea of a unified Europe has been losing ground, but the trend seems to slow down whenever the general economic conditions have a tendency to improve.

The same attitudes underlie people's judgement concerning their country's membership of the European Community. The majority of those interviewed - with the exception of the United Kingdom - still felt, in the spring of 1983, that it was a "good thing" to belong to the Community : 74% in the Netherlands, 72% in Luxembourg, 64% in Italy, 57% in France, 51% in Germany, etc.

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

University research scholarships

Since 1970, 230 scholarships have been awarded to teachers and university researchers for studies on European integration. Among the 24 1983/84 winners, there are four women : Joan Freese (University of Central Florida) for a study called "National Policy versus European Community Policy : the Case of Nuclear Power"; Danielle Le Bihan (Université de Rennes I) for "Les Objectifs de la Politique Agricole Commune" (Objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy); Elizabeth Vallance (University of London) for "Equality in the European Community : the relationship between Community policy on equal treatment and national legislation on the rights and status of women", and Elizabeth Zoller (Université d'Angers) for "Les contre-mesures communautaires" (Community counter-measures).

THE COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, and Piet Dankert, President of the European Parliament, were among the distinguished people present at the ceremony to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Community's Economic and Social Committee (E.S.C.)

The main theme of the session was the position and role of the socio-professional circles in the Community's development. The Economic and Social Committee has 156 members representing the social partners of the Member States. It has to be consulted before many decisions are taken by the Community and can also issue opinions, on its own initiative.

"We represent continuity in social and economic life and in its concrete demands", said François Ceyrac, President of the Economic and Social Committee. He went on to observe that the authors of the Treaty of Rome had created the Committee with the desire to associate economic and social forces in the life of the Community; this, he observed, had been achieved.

In 1982, the E.S.C. prepared 88 opinions, studies or reports relating to all aspects of the life of the Community for example, agricultural policy, transport, social policy, equal opportunities for women, competition and company law.

Mentioning the value of dialogue, Mr Ceyrac said that outside of Institutional Europe proper, the habit of working together had contributed to the gradual introduction of a Europe of realities.

Young people and European awareness

At its plenary session, the Economic and Social Committee discussed an "own initiative" opinion on young people and their role in the development of the European Community. The starting point for the opinion was the observation that too few young people have any sense of being Europeans and that they are not interested - or feel powerless - when given the opportunity to participate actively in the achievements of earlier generations.

In a report prepared by Mr de Bruyn (Belgium, member of the Various Interests Group), it is suggested that actions need to be developed in the following areas : basic and on-going training for teachers, who are the vital link in any action towards young people; the introduction of the European dimension in the teaching curriculum; study trips, contacts and exchanges between young people in the various countries; better language teaching; dissemination of information on the European Community. In addition, the report recommends paying particular attention to the problems of the children of migrant workers and young migrant workers themselves.

Useful address : Economic and Social Committee
rue Ravenstein 2
1000 Brussels

THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

Once again, it is a German Court that is asking the Court of Justice for its advice. The subject ? - What should be done when it has been established that a woman has suffered discrimination in job selection. There are several other issues behind this question (see Women of Europe, N° 30/83).

Dorit Harz was happy : with her commercial engineer's diploma she thought she had a good chance of finding a job. So when she saw an advertisement for a post with the firm Deutsche Tradax GmbH in the paper on 24 January 1981, which was described as a springboard towards a career in management and for which she had just the right qualifications, Dorit Harz replied immediately. The firm's answer came back just as quickly - applications for the job were only being considered from men.

Ms Harz informed the "Gleichstellung der Frau" (Equality for Women) Service in Hamburg, who took the matter up with the firm. Its reply was unequivocal: Ms Harz's application had been turned down solely because she was a woman. At no time at all in the correspondence were Ms Harz's professional qualifications questioned.

On 26 February 1981, Dorit Harz wrote to the Deutsche Tradax GmbH asking them to hire her at once or pay her damages amounting DM 12 000. As a side issue, she made another claim for damages of DM 2.31.

The company then suggested a meeting with Dorit Harz to discuss an appointment. A second interview took place in Geneva at the Company's European headquarters. But the result was negative. All things considered, Deutsche Tradax GmbH decided not to enrol Ms Harz in its training programme as it was looking for men to represent it in the Middle East.

The Arbeitsgericht (Employment Tribunal) of Hamburg has decided that in this case, there has been discrimination against Doris Harz in the recruitment procedure. To ensure equal treatment in access to jobs, the sanctions that could be carried out are automatic appointment of the person discriminated against or the payment of damages. The latter would have to represent a substantial economic sanction, in order to force employers to respect the law. The Hamburg Employment Tribunal has sought advice from the European Court of Justice and has asked a series of fundamental questions. To sum them up :

- *To comply with the principle of equal treatment as laid down in the Community Directive on access to employment, does a woman who has been discriminated against have an automatic right to an employment contract ?*
- *If the answer is in the affirmative, is this given only if she is the best qualified of all the applicants, male and female ? Or is she also entitled to the job if the male applicant was chosen for his qualifications ?*
- *If the answer to these three questions is negative, what should be done ? Should the plaintiff be awarded the equivalent of six months' salary as compensation ? And/or should the State make the firm pay a fine ?*
- *Are the damages due only when the woman is the best applicant, or can she be awarded them if a male applicant has the best qualifications ?*

The decision of the Court of Justice is now awaited.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

May 1983 Session

The two main topics under discussion in the European Parliament at its session from 16 to 20 May 1983 were Human Rights and the future financing of the European Community. Among a number of reports the Parliament adopted were ones on social policy, regional policy and the steel industry.

From the debate on Human Rights in the world it emerged that, according to most of the political groups, the European Parliament, while not attempting to set itself up as an "International Tribunal", should see to it that the European Community really defines its Human Rights policy. The Community should ask its partners for an assurance that certain fundamental rights will be respected: the right to life, to the physical and moral integrity of the person and to be judged by an independent court at a fair trial.

This, according to the rapporteur Gérard Israel (France, EPD) was an indispensable minimum. Parliament went along with the report by a wide majority, with a few votes against and a few abstentions - from the left of the House in particular - because some of the amendments, these MPs thought, had "un-balanced" the final Resolution.

Mr Israel had attempted to denounce violations of human rights regardless of the political system in force, wherever in the world they occurred, but an amendment by the right cutting out the reference to certain non-Communist countries in Asia was carried. Some Euro-MPs, like the French Communist Jacques Denis, also declared that if the Parliament was condemning violations of human rights worldwide, it should not ignore what was happening inside the Community itself.

Simone Veil, speaking on behalf of the Liberals, criticized the Israel report for its omissions, simplifications and generalizations. She asked what the Community was ready to do, in concrete terms to defend human rights. "Are we ready to go to war for Poland?" she asked. She concluded that we were all condemned to live together, which did not mean that Parliament should follow a "Realpolitik", which was an act of governments. Instead, she said, Parliament should never stop intervening whenever this might bring results.

In the view of Ien van den Heuvel, spokeswoman for the Socialist group, it was exactly in replying to the innumerable appeals that reached it from all over the world that the European Parliament had been able to advance the cause of human rights. She mentioned that out of 26 Asian countries on which she had done a special study, there were very few that had a good human rights record : she singled out Malaysia and Eastern Timor in particular.

Speaking for the Christian Democrats, Marlene Lenz said that it was a pity that so many countries which, on paper, had committed themselves to respecting human rights, in fact violated these rights constantly.

The European Parliament also adopted the report submitted by Lord Bethell (U.K., Cons.) on Human Rights in the U.S.S.R. Here again, the report was adopted by a clear majority, but with the Communists voting against. Their spokesman, the Italian Sergio Segre, described the report as too "peremptory" and considered it untimely, just when Eastern and Western European countries were attempting in Madrid to discuss the follow-up to the Helsinki Final Act on European security and cooperation and to work out a substantive final document that all could accept. Marijke Van Hemeldonck (Belg. Soc.) took the floor during the debate to mention the repression of the feminist movement that was taking place in the Soviet Union.

The other burning issue during the May session was the issue of the Community's own resources. While awaiting the positions to be adopted by the Heads of State and of Government at their meeting in Stuttgart in June, Parliament voted on the European Commission's proposals.

Its Commissioner, Gaston Thorn and the Budget Commissioner, Christopher Tugendhat, spoke to Parliament about the possible exhaustion of the Community's financial resources, insisting that at the Stuttgart summit, European leaders would have to take a decision if they did not wish to see the Community plunged into one of the most dangerous crises in its history.

Parliament's reaction to removing the 1% ceiling on VAT (which is one of the sources of the Community's funds) was favourable. But the Assembly was more guarded about the idea of generating new resources by introducing an "agricultural indicator". Nevertheless, many Euro-MPs (with the exception of the French and the Irish) raised the problem of agricultural expenditure, considering that it represented too high a proportion of the EC budget. Carla Barbarella (It.Comm.) insisted that the Commission should make proposals for an all-out attack on this problem, saying that its latest ideas constituted "healthy provocation".

Speaking for the Liberals, Christiane Scrivener thought that the Commission had at last come up with a draft that made it possible to contemplate the future, and which took account of the need to balance the advantages and sacrifices among the Member States.

While Neil Balfour, on behalf of the Conservative group (almost entirely made up of British members), heaped praise on the European Commission, another Briton, Barbara Castle (Labour) brought up the problem of repayments to the UK. Other parliamentarians, particularly the French, however, insisted once again that a stop be put to the transitional solutions that had to be worked out year after year to solve the British budget problem.

In adopting the report of Giovanni Barbagli (It. Chr. Dem.), on the Commission's proposed revision of the European Social Fund, and despite introducing some changes, there was again wide support for the Commission. Parliament was glad to see a willingness to adapt this instrument to the evolution of the employment market. A number of MPs took the floor to stress that women and youth be given priority in the Fund's operations.

(For details of the new guidelines for the European Social Fund, see page 8).

Johanna Maij-Weggen (NL, Chr. Dem.), speaking on behalf of the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry on the situation of women, asked for the Fund's resources to be shared out more fairly between women and men, without insisting on complete parity. Among the speakers who reproached the Council of Ministers for its lax attitude were Heinke Salisch (German, Soc.) and Ann Clwyd (UK, Soc.). Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago Cerretti (It., Chr. Dem.), along with other members, wanted to see the new actions of the Social Fund linked with productive investments so that the Fund's role was not limited to simple "welfare".

Ivor Richard, member of the European Commission for Social Affairs, defended his proposals for reforming the Fund, saying that he fully agreed with Parliament's view that there was a need to considerably increase the amount of funding available. The French Communists voted against the reform believing that it was too modest and inadequate.

The same session of Parliament adopted some other resolutions with a social bearing, particularly one on vocational training and new technologies tabled by Tove Nielsen (Denmark, Lib.). Parliament as a whole shared Ms Nielsen's optimism that the introduction of the new technologies would probably create more jobs than they destroyed. This was the hope expressed by Ms Duport (France, Soc.) who stressed that the gamble would not pay off unless as many people as possible were given access to the new technological tools, by means of special training.

On behalf of the Committee of Inquiry, Mechthild von Alemann also stressed the role of training and information in opening up the new technologies to women. Vera Squarcialupi (It., Comm.) renewed her proposal for starting a "European observatory" which would assist in making the needs of the job market everywhere in Europe better known. Sile De Valera, (Ireland) speaking for the EPD group, stressed that training must be geared to the creation of permanent jobs.

THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

It is now official that the second European elections will be held from 14 to 17 June 1984.

The dates proposed by the European Parliament have been accepted by the Community's Council of Ministers.

It has not been possible for the Ministers to agree on a uniform electoral procedure but they have undertaken to establish this for the 1989 elections.

Experts have estimated that almost all European citizens will be able to vote next year, with 120 000 people at the most not covered by national electoral laws. Between now and June 1984, appropriate measures could be taken to see that even these 120 000 citizens can vote either in their country of residence or in the one from which they originate.

June 1983 Session

In June, the European Parliament turned its attention to a matter that it had hardly touched on hitherto : family policy in the European Community. Usually Parliament takes up a subject for debate when asked for an opinion by the Council of Ministers, but this time the matter was brought up on Parliament's own initiative. The introductory report was proposed by the Italian Christian Democrat, Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago Cerretti.

Parliament was almost unanimous in backing the Rapporteur and asking the Community to launch an action programme for the family in the period 1983-1988. The first area of concern in any programme would be those who are at the greatest disadvantage : families looking after someone handicapped, migrant families, single-parent families, families comprising elderly persons etc.

Ms Cassanmagnago insisted on the fact that there should be no discrimination against unmarried couples with regard to social security and taxation. During the vote, however, Parliament did not entirely go along with Ms Duport (French, Soc.) or Mr Eisma (Neth., D'66), who wanted to see family policy extended to other forms of family life than the traditional family, but it did agree to recommending that a study be carried out on these new-style "social units".

Vera Squarcialupi (It., Comm.) got an amendment carried calling for a gradual reduction of working time so that both parents could devote more time to their children. In her speech, she also evoked the special problem of battered children.

Parliament also voted in amendments introduced by Sile De Valera (Ireland, EPD) calling for a study to be carried out on the effects of unemployment on family stability and on the causes and effects of marital breakdown. Parliament also went along with Alphonsine Phlix (Belg., Chr. Dem.) in supporting the idea of extending social security to cover unpaid housework.

The need for consideration to be given to new forms of the family unit was supported by Raymonde Dury (Belg., Soc.) while Simone Veil (Fr., Lib.) was firmly in favour of the family. She warned, however, that any rational family policy should respect the rights of women. According to Ms Veil, demographic policy should not be based on economic considerations (such as the number of people paying for social security in 25 years' time), but should be geared to "the happiness of having children".

In a similar way, yet insisting that individuals be free to choose what kind of social unit they wished to construct, Antoinette Spaak (Belg., non-assoc., member of F.D.F.) believed that a society without children was a dying society. Nicolas Estgen (Lux., Chr. Dem.) talked about one particular aspect of family policy - housing. He also mentioned the possibility of each family, as such, being given a minimum legal guarantee.

Euro-MPs were among the first to condemn the Seveso dioxin waste affair. Special attention was therefore brought to bear when a Community Directive on the control of transfrontier shipments of hazardous waste came up on the agenda. Virtually unanimous in its approval of the report on the issue tabled by Marijke Van Hemeldonck (Belg., Soc.), Parliament asked the Council of Ministers for a regulation rather than a less effective simple directive.

On the other hand, Parliament did not in the end agree that the regulation should cover dangerous substances as well as waste, which had been the intention of Marijke Van Hemeldonck, supported by several parliamentarians from her group, among them Alain Bombard (France). Ms Van Hemeldonck declared that she was shocked by this rejection and also by the rejection of the idea of providing prison sentences for those responsible for infringements of the regulation.

An amendment put down by two Christian Democrats, Ursula Schleicher (Germany) and Marcelle Lentz-Cornette (Lux.), asking the European Commission to submit a proposal for a uniform Regulation to be applied in the Community for all dangerous substances, was carried.

Mechthild von Alemann (Germany, Lib.) asked for the new regulation to be brought in within six months, not the twelve originally provided for. Vera Squarziali (It., Comm.) and Sylvie Leroux (France, Comm.) insisted on preventive measures. Georges Donnez (France, Lib.), who abstained in the vote, could not agree himself with the request to bring in a Regulation. On behalf of the European Commission, Mr Narjes said that he was prepared to change the Directive into a Regulation, as suggested by the Parliament, and he also reacted positively to some of the other proposals, for example, on sanctions and notification. However, it did not seem possible to him to include all dangerous substances at present. To do so would, he thought, put back the entry into force of any Regulation by at least a year.

Lead in petrol was another issue connected with health that Parliament discussed in June. Recommended by the Rapporteur, Domenico Ceravolo (It., Comm.), stricter measures on maximum lead content were adopted by the Assembly. Nevertheless, there were some like Andrew Pearce and Ben Patterson (UK, Cons.) and Robert Gauthier (France, Gaullist) who believed that the harmful effects of lead had not been properly proved. Other members of their own groups, however, did not go along with them.

Diadora Bussani's case in the European Parliament

The case of Diadora Bussani, the young Italian woman who was turned down by the authorities of the Leghorn Naval Academy when she applied to enter their establishment is well-known to our readers. This refusal was overturned by Tuscany's Administrative Tribunal, then again established, when the Council of State over-ruled the Administrative Tribunal's decision.

In reply to a written question by Manlio Cecovini, (It., Lib.) the European Commission indicated that steps were being taken against Italy for non-compliance with some of the provisions of the Directive on equal access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions. In Diadora Bussani's case, the Commission said it had asked the Italian authorities for full information, especially on the reversal of the decision and the wording of the Council of State's decision.

After hearing the report by James Jansen van Raay (NL, Chr. Dem.), Parliament took note of the effects of the referendum whereby Greenland decided to withdraw from the Community and asked to be given associated country status. Like other parliamentarians, Mr Finn Lynge, a socialist MP representing Greenland, who will now be leaving the Parliament, said that he was in favour of a model cooperation with the Community.

The most difficult part of the Greenland issue was fishing. This was still causing serious differences within the Council of Ministers. According to the Rapporteur, Greenland's case should not create a precedent. Most Euro-MPs stressed the democratic nature of Greenland's choice, but were sorry that the country wished to withdraw. In Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee, there was only a very small minority which did not want Greenland to be granted special status.

Parliament also had a far-reaching discussion of international political and economic affairs and went over the results of the Williamsburg Summit attended by leaders of the major Western industrial powers. Parliamentarians' comments revealed some scepticism, seeing the lack of any deep analysis, too much insistence on security matters and not enough on the economy, no influence from the talks on the level of the dollar or interest rates. The President of the European Commission, Gaston Thorn, who attended the Summit, felt that the results had been better than anticipated, particularly as the European participants had demonstrated unity.

In preparation for the imminent Stuttgart Summit, Parliament appealed to European leaders to make some measurable progress on the political level, on the realization of the internal market and on the abolition of checks at the internal frontiers of the Community. Parliamentarians agreed to meet again at the end of June in special session to examine the results of the Stuttgart meeting.

On the basis of a report prepared by Reinhold Bocklet (Germany, EPP), Parliament adopted a Resolution aimed at promoting youth exchanges in order to foster European awareness. Commissioner Richard recognized the importance of youth exchanges but did not want them to degenerate into mere tourism.

The right of citizens of Member States residing in another Member State to vote in local elections was the subject of a report by Maria Antonietta Macciocchi (Italy, Soc. Group). Most of Parliament supported her motion but some expressed reservations. One of these was Daniel Vié (France, Gaullist), who believed that it would be quite impossible to introduce this law in France. On the other hand, Simone Veil (France, Lib.) and Marie-Claude Vayssade (France, Soc.) called for all the existing legal barriers to be lifted. Speaking on behalf of the Commission, Mr Narjes thought that caution should be used and that the Member States should not be rushed into considering a proposal submitted at an inappropriate moment.

June 1983 Special Session

At the end of June, the European Parliament held a special session to review the six months of Germany's Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the "European Council" held in Stuttgart.

(*Reminder : each Community country, in rotation and by alphabetical order, presides over the Council of Foreign Ministers and the specialized Councils - agriculture, finance, industry, social affairs etc. Whichever country is the current president also presides over any "Summit" meetings of the countries' leaders.)*

It was Germany's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Genscher, who gave an account of his country's presidency and highlighted some of the positive results : the start of the European Social Fund reform, realignment of monetary values within the European monetary system, a search for ways of improving and strengthening the internal market, the struggle to protect the environment (in particular, the adoption of the important Directive on the protection of forests).

These successes, he said, had been coupled with disappointments and shortcomings : in relations with the United States, for example, where problems concerning trade still existed, and in relations with Japan as well. The fight against unemployment still had a long way to go.

Concerning East-West relations, the President-in-office of the Council was careful to observe that the Soviets had made overtures at the Madrid Conference on security and this was an opportunity which should not be missed.

Mr Genscher was not able to be so positive when summing up what had been achieved at the Stuttgart summit. The declaration on European Union (inspired by Mr Genscher and Italy's Foreign Minister Mr Colombo) constituted the realization of "that which is possible" (with a number of reservations still existing, particularly as regards the procedure for decisions within the Council of Ministers and the possibility of a veto by one or more countries).

Despite there being no mention of a date in the final communiqué concerning Spain's and Portugal's membership, Mr Genscher thought that the negotiations could be speeded up as a result of the link that had been made between Community enlargement and restructuring of the Community's budget.
(Proposals on budgetary matters have to be submitted to the next meeting of Heads of State and of Government, due to be held in Athens on 6 December).

Chancellor Kohl, on the other hand, attempted a positive assessment of the Stuttgart summit. On several occasions, he stressed that the German presidency had wanted to go further, but had been restrained by the reluctance of some of the other countries.

Regarding the European Parliament, Mr Kohl believed that it could fulfil an "educational" role vis-à-vis national governments and parliaments, in order to get them to agree to giving it greater power. On the question of Britain's repayments, Mr Kohl spoke of a "political offer" which would enable a real solution to be reached.

However, a lasting solution would only be possible if the Community's financing was thoroughly revised on a long-term basis.

There was no way of escaping from Community logic, concluded Mr Kohl, least of all for Germany. He said that it was a divided country and if unification was desired, this would only be brought about under a European "roof".

Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, openly declared his disappointment at the inadequate development of new Community policy, insisting once more on the need to adjust and control agricultural expenditure.

In the debate, Mr Glinne (Belg. Soc.), President of the Socialist Group, criticized the Council of Ministers' annoying habit of postponing decisions from one of its sessions to the next. He condemned the lack of progress in combatting unemployment. Ms Nebout (France), speaking for the European Progressive Democrats, emphasized that the Stuttgart outcome had been ambiguous. Mr Bangemann, the Liberal spokesman, more or less agreed but was a little more hopeful. At Stuttgart, he said, the seeds had been sown, and at Athens, they would be reaped. Lady Elles (UK, Cons.) criticized the Council on a specific point - its attitude towards Parliament. "You do not give us the powers we need to function effectively, yet you know that parliamentarians do not wait to receive these powers : they take them", she said.

Following this discussion, Parliament adopted a compromise resolution which echoed both the criticisms and the hopes expressed. The voting was 115 in favour, with 17 against and 23 abstentions.

July 1983 Session

While the late June session provided the opportunity to review the six months of Germany's presidency, July's session gave Greece's Government a chance to outline its plans for the six coming months.

Mr Harlambopoulos, the country's Minister for Foreign Affairs, announced that he believed it was essential to settle the future financing of the Community. According to the Greek Government, this would mean increasing the Community's own resources - a point that had been under prolonged discussion in Stuttgart. A reform of Community financing would also mean a reform of its agricultural policy, especially to accommodate the effects of the future enlargement.

The Greek Government also put much store by the reform of the Regional Fund and the convergence of economies. Another of its concerns was to fight against hunger in the world. Concerning the problems of external policy, the Middle East was naturally prominent among its worries, but East-West relations were also important and here, every opportunity for agreement should be seized. Over the problem of Cyprus, Greece was attempting to find a solution; it counted on the understanding of its European partners.

During the July session, Parliament held a lengthy debate on the Community's steel policy, following the Commission's decision to fix production quotas for some finished products and in preparation for the forthcoming Council of Ministers' (end of July) meeting on the topic. Several members of parliament were strongly opposed to a policy they considered "Malthusian" or "fatalist". This was the view of the French Communists and their Socialist compatriots, who believed that the steel industry had already suffered enough.

Others, in particular Mr Pedini (Italy, Chr. Dem.) and Mr Carossino (Italy, Comm.) stressed that the temptation to abandon Community logic must be resisted, but they wondered whether the Commission had properly assessed the social impact of the decisions they had taken. The text of the Resolution adopted asked the Commission to check up on its decisions.

There was, in the end, success for the Commission, which had tried, in the person of Commissioners Davignon and Andriessen, to reassure Parliament that it was not the intention of Community policy to reduce production, but to ensure that a healthy, competitive and profitable steel industry was able to survive.

Mr Davignon explained that every possible way of finding an extra tonne would be grasped, but that there was surplus capacity exceeding 50 million tonnes and that the steel industry had to be told the truth. He warned that otherwise, not only would the steel industry be lost, but with it would go European industry in general. The two European Commissioners recognized the need to implement adequate social measures and to submit proposals concerning substitution activities in the regions most badly hit.

The European Parliament gave its attention to a report prepared by Mr Patterson (UK, Cons.) on the sensitive issue of temporary work. The final text was rejected by several members of the Conservative Group, particularly as some amendments were carried providing for consultations with workers and unions in the enterprise before temporary staff were hired. The Socialist Group declared its general opposition to temporary work, but said that since it did exist, it should be properly regulated. Heidi Wieczorek-Zeul (Germany, Soc.) gave her opinion that temporary work concerned women almost exclusively, and that women should be properly integrated into the economy just as men were. Ms Duport (France, Soc.) considered temporary work was harmful and full of danger for the worker involved. Ms Spaak (Belg., FDF) insisted on a search for a fair balance between the protection of temporary employees and flexibility in the job market.

The fight against poverty was the subject of a debate and a motion, on the basis of a report prepared by Roland Boyes (UK, Soc.). Several MPs saw the fight against poverty as the same thing as the fight against unemployment. This was the view of Ms Clwyd (UK, Soc.), Mr Estgens (Lux., Chr. Dem.), Ms Pruvot (France, Lib.) and Ms Fullet (France, Soc.). The point was made by Ms Squarcialupi (Italy, Comm.) that the poor were often foreigners who were also the victims of racial hatred.

There was virtually unanimous support for the report tabled by Mr Papapietro (Italy, Comm.) on the European Schools. However, the Rapporteur's proposal to replace history and geography teaching by human sciences fell. Speaking for the Commission, Mr Burke admitted that there were certain drawbacks to the European Schools and that they should be made accessible to children whose parents were not European officials.

Following its recent debate of the dioxin waste affair, the European Parliament decided to set up a Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry on dioxin, to consist of nine members.

PARLIAMENT'S COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY ON THE SITUATION OF WOMEN

The European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women continued its work with Ms Cinciari-Rodano (It., Comm.) in the chair.

At its end-of-May meeting in Brussels, the Committee met a delegation of mothers of political prisoners in Uruguay, which had three requests to make of the European Parliament : one, that it help relatives of people arrested or missing in Uruguay to draw up a complete list of all political prisoners in the country; two, that it pass a Resolution on political imprisonment in Uruguay; and three, that it send a delegation there to write an objective report on the situation of political prisoners.

Ms Gloria Hooper (UK, Cons.) proposed that the subject be brought up during the meeting about to take place in Brussels between the European Parliament and Latin-American parliamentarians.

Ms Sile De Valera (Ireland, member of the EPD Group) presented the Committee of Inquiry with her report on the situation of women in the less-favoured regions of the Community. In it, Ms De Valera suggested that the "woman" factor should be included in all the activities and all the reports concerning these regions. She also urged the Council of Ministers and the national governments to take this problem into account when developing the Community's regional policy and that of individual members.

Ms Johanna Maij-Weggen (NL, member of EPP Group) suggested that the De Valera report should be completed with a check-list so that sums allocated for activities to help women in the less-favoured regions could be checked before and after. The Committee of Inquiry agreed with this proposal and the De Valera report was amended accordingly.

Ms Simone Martin (France, Lib.) tabled a report on equal treatment of self-employed men and women, particularly in agriculture, commerce and the crafts, which was adopted by the Committee of Inquiry.

When examining the situation in the various EC countries, Ms Martin had noted a number of anomalies. For example, women farmers in Luxembourg were not entitled to any sickness benefits. In the Netherlands, they came under the same social security regulations as non-wage earning women. In Greece, no agricultural workers received child allowances and in Ireland self-employed workers (75% of whom worked in agriculture) did not make social security contributions and hence were not covered for sickness, occupational accidents or maternity. In Belgium, a woman who worked with her husband was considered simply as a housewife and could not make social security contributions in her own name. In Germany, there was no paid maternity leave for women working on farms on a self-employed basis or as non-salaried housewives.

Ms Martin's report called for :

- the abolition of any legal provision which contravenes sex equality;
- a special occupational status for women who work with their husbands;
- individual social security rights;
- a specific budget line in the "guidance" part of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund and in the European Social Fund to provide opportunities for training and re-training for women;
- the development of "home help", so that women can be more available.

In connection with the last point, Ms Martin distinguished between family businesses, where replacement by an outsider might be awkward (in which case, an allowance should be provided) and farms, where relief services were essential and should therefore be properly organized through a special department.

Tabled by Ms Gloria Hooper (UK, Cons.), the report on Information Policy and Women pointed out that as the majority of women were engaged in household tasks and had no access to the kind of information more readily available to other women in their place of work, a vicious circle was set up. Well-informed women picked up new information as it came out and women who were ill-informed as to their rights and responsibilities often did not even know where to find this information.

At the end of a study which mentioned the information situation in each of the Member States, the European institutions' information policy, the way in which the media portray women and finally the employment of women by the media, Gloria Hooper noted that women have specific needs where information is concerned.

Parliament's Committee of Inquiry was wholeheartedly in favour of the recommendations in Ms Hooper's report. She insisted on greater use of radio and television to promote women's rights actively. Another proposal was that the Community institutions should intensify their contacts with voluntary women's organizations as these represented a vital means of relaying information.

The Committee then listened to Ms Fausta Deshormes, who heads the European Commission's department for women's associations and press. Her intervention was followed by a discussion in which all the speakers applauded the work she has accomplished, stressed the need for employing more people in this department and hoped that it could figure as a specific department in the European Commission's organization chart.

Vera Squarcialupi (It., Comm.) spoke in the debate to stress the need for specific channels of information, on quantitative grounds (women comprise more than half of the Community's population) and on qualitative grounds (women are a social group with a recognized importance and a bearer of new values).

Marisa Cinciari-Rodano (Chair of the Committee of Inquiry) spoke on the same lines. She pointed to the significance of the political events that women had sparked off in recent years : the UN Decade for Women, the European Community's Equality Directives, the new family law passed in several EC countries, women's active role in the first European parliamentary elections, etc.

A plenary session for women

The report by the Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women in Europe will be presented and discussed by the European Parliament at its 14-18 November 1983 session.

It is not without significance that this debate will be held about a month before the debate on the Community's 1984 budget.

When it met on 16 and 17 June, Parliament's Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women had a look at the outline of the Community's 1984 budget. Present on that occasion was Christiane Scrivener (France, Lib.) who is rapporteur of Parliament's Budget Committee. Marlene Lenz (Germany, EPP) who was the Committee of Inquiry's rapporteur on the subject brought out that the preliminary draft budget made no specific provisions for women. Two concerns were voiced, both noted by Ms Scrivener. The first was that there should be an increase in the Commission's staff available for dealing with women's affairs and the second was that the 1984 budget should repeat the 1983 figure where women's information was concerned, particularly in the perspective of the Action Programme for Equal Opportunities.

At the same meeting, which was chaired by Marie-Claude Vayssade (France, Soc.) the Parliamentary Committee held an exchange of views with Richard Burke, Member of the Commission in charge of personnel matters, concerning the place of women in the European institutions.

Mr Burke assured the Committee of Inquiry of the Commission's willingness to implement the recommendations in the matter included in the Equal Opportunities Action Programme. But he pointed out certain budgetary difficulties. For example, a job-sharing scheme (where two half-time people occupy one job) would cost the institution two times 60% of one salary. Mr Burke asked Parliament to support the Commission's initiatives if the measures to be taken had a financial impact.

A resolution proposed by Marlene Lenz on the promotion of equal opportunities for women in the European institutions will be submitted to Parliament at its September session by the Committee of Inquiry.

Mr Burke, for his part, promised to send a first report on the situation and the European Commission's immediate proposals in the matter to the Committee of Inquiry.

Ien van den Heuvel (NL, Soc.) presented her report on the application of the Directive relating to the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security. After mentioning the difficulties she had encountered in obtaining replies to the questionnaire she had sent to all the Member States, Ms van den Heuvel said she was concerned about two specific points : firstly, the diversity of national legislations (proving that harmonization was still a long way off) and secondly, the deterioration of the situation in two countries, Belgium and the Netherlands.

In Belgium, full unemployment benefits were only paid to the "head of household", a title only 5% of women could claim. The "Comité de Liaison des femmes belges" (Belgian Women's Liaison Committee) had sent a complaint against the Belgian government to the European Commission. In a similar case, two Netherlands women were charging the Dutch Government with the same kind of discrimination.

Various kinds of discrimination still existed : in some countries, unemployment benefits were based on the partner's salary. In Germany, a woman's pension was less than a man's, for the same number of years' work.

In the ensuing debate, one of the points raised by several members of the Committee of Inquiry, among them Alphonsine Phlix (Belg. EPP), was the possibility of a salary for housewives. According to Ms Phlix, the entitlements that a paid job brought (sickness/disability insurance, unemployment benefits, pension) were such that women did not have a real choice between working outside the home and life as a housewife.

While the van den Heuvel report on social security was being discussed, the question of "indirect discrimination" again came to the fore. Precisely because it is indirect, it is hard to analyze or define this type of discrimination. Anne-Marie Lizin (Belg., Soc.) had drafted a proposal for a resolution to prevent the erosion of women's rights as provided for in the European Community's Directives through increases in indirect discrimination. Parliament's Committee on Social Affairs and Employment had come out in favour of the resolution, noting that it was essential for the legal concept of indirect discrimination to be defined as soon as possible.

Discrimination that affects women specifically yet hides the fact that it is directed against women is considered "indirect". What is at stake, therefore, is to prove the intention and to discover the causes.

The Committee of Inquiry met a delegation from the C.N.D.I. (Italy's National Council of Women) and was thus able to exchange information on the latest developments in favour of Italian women.

(The C.N.D.I. was on a visit to Brussels at the invitation of the European Commission and took advantage of the dates coinciding with the Committee of Inquiry's meeting to hold this unscheduled meeting.)

Meeting again on 21 and 22 June, the Committee of Inquiry gave a first reading to the report on "Migrant women and the wives of migrants", prepared by Vera Squarcialupi (It., Comm.).

The paper started by emphasizing the social and cultural isolation of migrant women, which acts a serious impediment to any scheme for improving their living and working conditions. The European Commission was therefore asked to plan specific basic educational activities which would help migrant women to be more aware of social solidarity. In other words, they needed to be conscious of the role they played in the economic and social life of their host country and their own country, so that they could become real partners in action taken to help them, whether in matters of education, training, health or others.

Ms Squarcialupi's text also asked the European Commission to ensure by means of a Community Directive that the social aid proposed for women and children was really given to the beneficiaries even when, due to separation or divorce, a migrant worker failed to fulfil his obligations to his family.

Language instruction, housing, equal opportunities for women, a better use of the European Social Fund were all reviewed. To finish the list, there was a renewal of the plea for the introduction of a "Statute for Migrant Workers".

In her explanation, Ms Squarcialupi dwelt heavily on outbreaks of racism and xenophobia. Many shocking examples were listed and the words of Mr Blum, Germany's Social Affairs Minister, when he was President of the Council of Ministers, were quoted. It was Mr Blum who suggested that the European Parliament should take the initiative for a campaign to back up the anti-racist measures already adopted on the national level.

At the same meeting, another report to get a first reading was that of Heidemarie Wieckzorek-Zeul (Germ. Soc.), on "the re-arrangement of working time". The report is confined to a reduction in daily or weekly working time (and does not go into other possibilities such as a shorter working year or working career). The rapporteur insisted on these two kinds of working time reduction since they would provide a means of relieving working women of the double or triple load on them, and would also help to combat unemployment.

The report contained some significant statistics : in 1960, in the Community, there were still 68.6 live births per thousand women over 35. By 1978, the figure had already fallen to 24.5, indicating that women are ready to re-enter the job market at an earlier age.

To avoid an imbalance, the rapporteur recommended that a limit be set on overtime, otherwise the effects of any reduction in working time will be totally counteracted.

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

BELGIUM

Abortion : Appeal Court overturns sentences

In a surprise decision, the 8th Chamber of the Brussels Court of Appeal acquitted all those sentenced earlier this year for various offences connected with abortion, thus bringing the affair to an end. The Court's ruling was based on one of the defence's arguments - that the right of all citizens to equality before the law had not been respected, since the 1867 law making abortion a punishable offence was only being invoked in prosecutions coming up in the Brussels' Courts. Everywhere else in Belgium, Public Prosecutors had stopped charging doctors and their patients with the offence.

According to the Appeal Court judges, this unfair situation had caused those prosecuted to commit the offences while acting in good faith. The situation has certainly been very confusing for lay people. For example, during the original trials, two university professors both said exactly the same about abortion under oath : one of them, from Liège, went scot-free, while the other, practising abortions in Brussels, was sentenced and has now been acquitted.

The ball is now back in Parliament's court. Sooner or later, it will have to amend the 1867 law. Meanwhile, the situation in Belgium is similar to what prevailed for a number of years in the Netherlands, with Justice closing her eyes, losing interest again and putting all the responsibility onto the doctors.

Women and postage stamps

Mrs D'Hondt, Secretary of State with responsibility for the postal services, has recently brought out a set of three postage stamps showing women at work, in the home and running a business. The print-order for the colourful series was 5.4 million for the first category, 9 million for the second and 2.5 million for the third.

"Women at work" were portrayed on stamps worth 8 francs, "women in the home" on stamps worth 11 francs and "women as business managers" on the 20 francs version.

Widows and orphans pension scheme

The state is again being sued in what has become known as the Widows and Orphans Pension Fund affair. This time, the plaintiff is Mrs A. Leroy, a musician with the RTBF (the French-language official radio and television station). Mrs Leroy is accusing the State of unlawfully getting rich at her expense by withholding part of her salary (about 7%) throughout her working life, to build up a fund which will never pay a pension to her family.

Two hundred thousand women employees of the State have to contribute to the Widows and Orphans Fund. This represents a pure loss of income as the Fund only pays out benefits to the survivors of male employees.

In a similar case brought by Mrs Nadine Plateau, a teacher, the Court's reply was, in effect "the law is sexist, but it's the law". Mrs Plateau is appealing against the decision.

The association "Solidarité - Femmes - Emploi" (Solidarity - Women - Work) has been backing the legal actions brought by Mrs Plateau and Mrs Leroy, in addition to those brought by two men who are widowers of women public servants.

Useful address : Solidarité - Femmes - Emploi asbl
1^{er} Place Quételet
1030 Brussels

Child snatching

The Women's Affairs department of the Ministry for the French-speaking Community has just published a booklet entitled "Rapt d'enfants Guerre des coeurs et des couples" (Child snatching a battle of love and of couples). In it, useful and clear details are given about the child's legal position, custody and access rights, and recourse in cases of conflict. It also looks at the causes of this kind of family drama and makes suggestions for how to deal with them, with or without changing the law.

The hardest and commonest case is where the mother is Belgian and has custody of the child and the husband is non-Belgian with right of access. If he takes the child away to his own country, the mother cannot get her child back, the legal procedure merely acting as just one more obstacle.

Useful address : Ministère de la Communauté française
Service de la Femme - Mrs Ghislaine Liekens
Galerie Ravenstein 78
1000 Brussels

Women and political power

Out of the 25 members of the Martens government, there are four women, all of whom have the junior rank of Secretary of State, which means that they do not have ministerial powers. The Vlaamse Executieve (the Flemish Executive, a kind of regional government) has nine members, one of whom is a woman. The body responsible for cultural affairs in the French-speaking community has three members, all men. The Exécutif régional wallon (the Walloon [French-speaking] Executive) has six members, only one of whom, recently-elected Jacqueline Mayence, is a woman.

In giving these statistics, the PVV Vrouwen (the women's wing of the Party for Liberty and Progress) point out that women still do not occupy their rightful place in Belgian political life. The group is reacting against this state of affairs by demanding that a Women's Rights Ministry be created and by waging a campaign to improve the situation of women in the "arrondissements" (the administrative and political level midway between local and county councils).

Useful address : PVV Vrouwen
Jeannine Leduc
Regentlaan 47/48, Box 2
1000 Brussels

DENMARK

Women and employment

The Danish Ministry for Finance has calculated that the number of people looking for work will have increased by 200 000 by 1990. 80% of these will be women. This preponderance of women is because more and more of them wish to continue working outside the home after they marry or have had their children.

There are already 300 000 unemployed in Denmark. In other words, by 1990, 500 000 new jobs will have to be created if unemployment is to be eliminated.

As women are already harder hit than men by unemployment, greater efforts will be needed to find work for them. For this reason, thinks Mrs Else Marie Kjerkegaard, of the Danish Employment Office, women will have to choose jobs outside the twenty-odd varieties they work in at present. In the sectors women traditionally enter, in fact, there will be far fewer opportunities than at present, both because of the introduction of new technologies and owing to the tightening of the budget that is affecting the public sector.

To encourage women to enter non-traditional occupations, the authorities should provide support measures for those who want to take up what are thought of as male jobs. At present, it is only on the local level that equality counsellors are attempting to set up introductory and practical courses for women in non-traditional skills. The idea of having a quota of women in certain occupations has been rejected by the Folketing (Parliament).

Useful address : Danske Kvinders Nationalrad
Niels Hemmingsensgade 10
1153 Copenhagen K

On the good ship "Danmark"

The training ship "Danmark" has started accepting female trainees. Innumerable objections to the idea had been raised by officers and male trainees alike: girls were not as strong as boys, officers would treat girls differently, the conversation would have to be more polite, there were problems about showers and toilets, and so on.

Since 1978, the year when the equal opportunities law was passed, applications from girl candidates should have been accepted. But all of these met with the same refusal, the main reason being the inadequacy of the sanitary arrangements.

However, one day a candidate who had been turned down approached the Ligestillingsradet (the Equal Opportunities Council) : now, the ship has been given money for improving the sanitary installations and on 19 June 1983, the "Danmark" set sail with 4 girl and 76 boy trainees on board.

Equal Opportunities - a review

The Ligestillingsradet (Equal Opportunities Council) has recently published its report for 1982, accompanied by a summary in English and various tables relating to the job market, education, salary levels, etc.

Among the subjects to which the Council turned its attention in 1982 were the reorganization of working time, the choice by women of non-traditional occupations, salary differences, the decision-making process, various aspects of maternity leave and positive discrimination.

As an introduction to the non-traditional occupations, the Ligestillingsradet has brought out two pamphlets, one on electrical engineering and the other on furniture-making. They describe the required educational qualifications, the length of training and the economical aspects of the job. The booklets also include an interview with one young woman who has already chosen the occupation in question.

The Danish Equality Council considers that it is essential for women to play a role in the decision-making process. In conjunction with the Prime Minister's office, it will soon be examining the entire central government system to ensure that women are better represented on the various consultative councils and committees.

The Council realizes that many women would like to work shorter hours but some women are afraid about the spread of part-time work and the way it predominates in some occupations. Part-time working by women is liable to perpetuate the unfair division of domestic duties and family responsibilities and to reinforce traditional roles.

The Council is receiving more and more individual complaints about breaches of the law on equal treatment for men and women. In 1982, it received 600 complaints, a 50% increase over the previous year.

Useful address : Ligestillingsradet
Frederiksgade 21,1
1265 Copenhagen K

FRANCE

Death of LOUISE WEISS

Louise Weiss died on 26 May 1983 at the age of 90. Born into a wealthy family, her life was intimately linked with the history of our century. Immediately after the First World War, she started campaigning for a "New Europe", and founded a magazine "Europe Nouvelle", to this end.

Europe, women, peace : these were the three themes that dominated Louise Weiss's ceaseless activities. In her book, published by Albin Michel, "Les Mémoires d'une Européenne", she describes with wit and perception the first steps towards European unity, taken by Aristide Briand in the League of Nations.

Following on the heels of Séverine, Jeanne Deroin and others, Louise Weiss worked for women's right to vote and stand for election. She started an association known as "Femme nouvelle" (New Woman). Together with Gaston Bouthoul, after the Second World War she founded the Institut de Polémologie (Institute for the study of war).

She worked untiringly and stood for the first elected European Parliament. She won her seat and as the Assembly's oldest member chaired the opening session.

"The world-wide recognition of a civil status for women, identical to that enjoyed by men, is undoubtedly the most important social phenomenon of the first half of this century. We do not yet know what all its effects will be, but I am happy to have played my part in it", she wrote. Today, it is still too early to describe all the effects of Louise Weiss's work. It will bear fruit for a long time to come and we shall often in the future feel stirred as we recall this "sower of ideas".

Women voters

Women account for 53% of France's registered electors. (Under the system in France, citizens must apply to be registered as voters). As women have a longer life expectancy than men, the median age of potential women voters is 45.5, that of men voters 43.9.

12.8% of registered men voters and 11.2% of women voters are under 25, with 17% of men and 22.8% of women being 65 or over. For both sexes, the rate of registration increases with the level of education : 4.5% of those with a degree and 10.1% of those without any qualifications have not bothered to register.

Agence Femmes Information, who provided us with these figures, indicated that more young women in the 20-24 age group register than their male counterparts : 82.5% for women and 81.3% for men. Thereafter, the sexes register at roughly the same rate, the average rate being 88.6% for men and 88.8% for women.

Useful address : Agence Femmes Information
21 rue des Jeûneurs
75002 Paris

Law on equality at work

The Assemblée Nationale (French Parliament) has adopted the bill on equal rights for men and women in employment, introduced by Yvette Roudy, Women's Rights Minister.

There are three main planks to the new law. It guarantees equal rights, it sets up conditions for equal opportunities and it creates a permanent link for consultations.

Concerning the first of these points, it is no longer legal to practise discrimination on the grounds of sex. It will be possible for a union to take legal action on behalf of a woman worker whose rights have been affected. If a woman has been fired because of taking her employer to court, she must be re-instated. The 1972 law on equal pay is tightened up : the burden of proof will lie with the employer and not the employee, and a definition of work of equal value is proposed. It will also be possible to compare the salaries paid by different branches of the same enterprise.

On the second point, the law sets out the conditions for equal opportunities by authorizing temporary measures in favour of women which will allow them to make up for gaps in their career.

To this end, firms must report annually giving a comparison of the situation for men and women. Such reports should lead up to a scheme for equality negotiated between management and employees, when specific measures for the employment and work of women are defined. Financial help will be made available to carry out suitable schemes.

On the third point, permanent consultations, a new body the "Conseil Supérieur de l'égalité professionnelle" (Occupational Equality Board) has been created by the law. This body will take part when policy in matters of equality at work is being defined. It will be composed of workers' and employers' representatives.

Addressing herself to members of parliament, Ms Roudy stressed that their vote was doubly significant. She said that first of all, it brought to an end a long period in France's social history during which, despite their constant efforts to achieve equality in work, women had not managed to see their legitimate hopes transposed into laws and social relations. This recognition had now been given them, she said.

Continuing, she explained that the new law took account of the fact that women's work ran into particular barriers, by providing for temporary measures allowing them to catch up for their lost time. In doing so, the law was opening up new horizons. In future, she said, France's legislation would include equal rights' clauses and practical means for these to be exercised. France would have new means for achieving equality of opportunity, based on collective bargaining.

Speaking next to the enterprises themselves, Ms Roudy remarked that at a time when it was necessary to mobilize all our energy and talents, it would be absurd not to ensure that women were given new opportunities. On the contrary, initiative should be used and this irreversible trend should be welcomed enthusiastically, as it provided a way of facing the future with the maximum possible resources on hand.

A guide for women living alone

In France, there are 8 million women over 18 who are not married. Out of these, 4 million live on their own with no other adult and 700 000 of them also have one or more children to bring up. One family in ten is supported by the mother alone and this represents more than a million children.

The proportion is rising steadily. In 1981, there were 132 748 single mothers (an increase of 84% over 1975) and 352 289 divorced mothers (up 140% on 1975). The decline in the number of widowed mothers (173 742) and separated mothers (72 675) is not enough to reverse this trend.

Whether single, divorced, separated or widowed, however, most women living on their own are lacking in information. Even when they are not actually living below the poverty line, they are marginalized. It is to help them that Ms Roudy, Minister for Women's Rights has brought out the "Guide des femmes seules" (Guide for women living alone). Containing 144 pages, the booklet consists of a series of 243 questions and answers.

Legal status, employment, education, social security, housing, divorce, widowhood - these are a few of the 19 different section headings covering all aspects of daily life that the booklet treats in clear and simple terms. There is nothing

heavy and legalistic about the contents. Each time that special steps need to be taken, the Guide indicates which organizations women can turn to in order to sort out the most complicated situations.

Useful address : Ministère des Droits de la femme
53 avenue d'Iéna
F-75016 Paris

Public servants

At the request of Mr Anicet Le Pors, Minister of the Public Service, Ms Annick Davaisse has prepared a report on "women in the public service".

The paper begins with some statistics that are not widely known : almost a million women, in other words one out of six female wage earners, work for one or other of the government departments. Taking the whole of the civil service (central and local government), over two million of the four million employees today are women. Between 1975 and 1981, there has been an increase of 414 000 women and 184 000 men.

Women represent 42.5% of all government employees and 48.1% of all civil servants. As a comparison, in 1975, women only represented 36.6% of the work force in the private sector and 39.4% of the total work force in employment.

Three ministries alone account for 85% of all women public servants : education - 597 889; the PTT (Telecom) - 168 164; and the Treasury - 109 140.

While women account for 99.5% of the shorthand typists, 96.8% of other office workers and 80.5% of clerks, they are rare at the higher levels. On 1 December 1982, there were no women among the 193 "prefects" (top administrators in the provincial government), only 3 women out of 152 ambassadors, 3 women out of 28 university rectors and 10 women out of 164 directors of central administrations).

In 1981, the average annual wage was FF 64 500 for women and FF 74 900 for men. This difference was not caused by a breach of the principle of equal pay for equal work but by the fact that women were more heavily concentrated in the lower grades.

In her conclusion, Ms Annick Davaisse makes various suggestions that come under five broad headings :

- encouraging equal numbers of appointments for men and women;
- continuing activities which foster women's advancement and monitoring the results;
- improving the provisions for maternity, birth and parental leave;
- paying more attention to family considerations by developing social actions of special interest to women;
- encouraging the application of measures to assist women by presenting regular reviews of the situation to joint bodies.

In this context, Ms Davisse had a number of concrete measures to propose. One of these was to carry out a special study on the number of candidates, their educational background and the results they obtain in the entry examinations for the Ecole nationale d'administration (the prestigious college which prepares people for top-level civil service posts).

Useful address : Ministère de la Fonction publique et
des Réformes administratives
32 rue de Babylone
F-75700 Paris

In the navy

658 women are on the "active" list in the files of the Administrative Centre for Maritime Affairs. 389 of these have a job directly connected with a maritime occupation : 82 are in the merchant navy (11 as officers and 18 as petty officers), 242 are in fishing (65 of them as officers), one in the tug sector and one in the pleasure boat sector. Out of all the posts occupied, there are 272 women in deck jobs, 8 in the engine room, 38 in general services, 4 radio officers and one who combines several kinds of duty. The number is made up by 2 with desk jobs and 61 on ordinary or sick leave.

Trends in female employment

The Centre d'Etudes de l'Emploi (the Centre for Employment Studies) has done research into the development of the working population, between 1900 and 1975, with special emphasis on women's employment.

It reveals that whereas 43% of women were employed in agriculture in 1906, by 1975, the proportion had fallen to 8%. During the same period, their proportion in the tertiary sector rose from 30% to 66%. In 1906, only 46% of working women earned a wage, compared with 83% in 1975. Most of the growth in female activity is attributable to women continuing to work after marriage. The proportion of married women with a job was 40.3% in 1975, while after 1921 it fell steadily, to reach a low of 34.2% in 1968.

Useful address : Centre d'Etudes de l'Emploi
51 chaussée d'Antin
F-75009 Paris

GERMANY

How to redress the balance ?

Dr Heiner Geissler, Federal Minister for Youth, Family and Health, has launched a research-programme to find out how to improve women's employment opportunities.

Dr Geissler is aiming at direct collaboration with enterprises in carrying out an employment policy that is more favourable to women, along the lines of similar initiatives in the United States, Canada, Sweden and so on. In Germany, various enterprises have held exploratory talks with the Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik (Federal Department responsible for actions to assist women) and some specific measures have been taken.

The government department will continue its consultations with these firms, and others wishing to join them - on the basis of the facts and the current situation. As this varies from one enterprise to another, the Minister is not planning to impose a pattern, but to propose solutions and policies based on successful experiments.

One fact is of particular concern to Dr Geissler : although more and more women are obtaining the right occupational training, they still have fewer opportunities than men, whether it is in their career pattern, promotion chances or salary. What is needed is to search out the hidden barriers.

The research which will continue up to 1984, will be conducted by experts in the field. They will also evaluate the results and will make any necessary comparisons between the different kinds of measures employed by various enterprises.

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

Parental leave

When proposing the Federal Budget for 1984, Dr Norbert Blüm, Minister for Employment and Social Affairs announced a change in maternity leave regulations. Instead of the former four months' maternity leave given to mothers, they will now receive eight weeks, followed by a further period of three months which can be shared with the father.

Dr Blüm also planned to cut the daily allowance from DM 25 to DM 20 during these three months, and not to count this period when calculating social security benefits (for pensions, etc.)

Concerning family allowances, the sums provided for the second and third child will also be cut in certain circumstances.

Feminist organizations have expressed concern over the Government's intentions. For example, the Deutscher Frauenrat (Germany's Women's Council) published an open letter to the Federal Chancellor and the Minister for Employment and Social Affairs. Written by Irmgard Blättel, member of the federal executive of the DGB (Trade Union Confederation), it urged against ratifying these proposals.

The Confederation of Public Servants' Unions, the Deutscher Beamtenbund, was favourable to maternity leave being changed into parental leave and hoped that the parents themselves would be able to choose freely which of them would take the leave. However, it also protested against the cut in the daily allowance and dropping this period of leave from social security calculations. The measure turned working women into "second-class citizens", said the DBB.

The Deutscher Hausfrauenbund (German housewives federation) stressed that the proposed measures reinforced the idea that there were two categories of mothers - those who worked and those who did not.

Useful address : Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung
5300 Bonn

In case of pregnancy

Dr Fritz Pirkl, the Bavarian Land's Minister for Employment and Social Affairs believes that good counselling serves better than repressive abortion legislation in protecting the life of children. Six years after the changes in Federal abortion legislation, it is still of paramount importance to see that couples can obtain correct information.

In support of his argument, Dr Pirkl mentions that in 1981, 27 000 women and 3 500 men contacted one of the 30 officially-recognized centres or of the 74 official Bavarian health centres. 50% of the recognized centres' funding comes from the regional authority, which represented 3.3 million DM in the Land's last budget.

Useful address : Bayerische Staatsministerium für Arbeit
und Sozialordnung,
Schellingstrasse 155,
8000 Munich 40

A report on Equal Opportunities

Complying with a request from the Bundestag (Federal Parliament) made in June 1980, the German Government has just brought out a report (ref. Drucksache 10/14) on the situation regarding equal opportunities in employment, following the changes in the law required by the European Communities' Equal Treatment directive (on access to employment and to vocational training and promotion and working conditions).

A 30-page affair, the report contains the comments of 20 or more organizations and is full of facts and figures. For example, in the chapter on the media, it reveals that there are only five women among the 84 members of the 11 governing bodies of the broadcasting networks.

As one sector after another is analysed in this way, an inescapable conclusion emerges : a change of attitude is now needed as a complement to the changes brought about in the law.

Useful address : Verlag Dr Hans Heger
Postfach 20 08 21
Herderstrasse 56
5300 Bonn 2

Women getting schools to change

"Frauen bewegen die Schule" (Women getting schools to change) was the title of a seminar organized by an interdisciplinary women's research group at the University of Bielefeld, in conjunction with "Frauen und Schule" (Women and School), from Cologne. The initiative had the support of the Regional Minister for Employment, Health and Social Affairs of North Rhineland-Westphalia.

180 women discussed and compared their own problems and their common concerns as teachers, mothers, pupils, social scientists and students. Sexism in school textbooks was illustrated by a slide show, conflicts between boys and girls by personal stories and the various roles of education were mentioned.

The conclusion was that women's acceptance as a complete social partner must start at and in school.

Useful address : Universität Bielefeld
 Interdisziplinäre Forschungsgruppe Frauenforschung
 Postfach 8640
 4800 Bielefeld 1

Bavaria takes stock

The "Leitstelle für die Gleichstellung der Frauen" (Women's Equality Bureau), set up by the Bavarian Regional Minister for Employment and Social Affairs has recently published its first annual report covering its activities from October 1981 to the end of November 1982.

The Bavarian regional government pointed out that women's equality implied a free choice between going out to work or remaining in the home or any combination of the two. This was the perspective in which the Bureau was created and against which one must assess the work it has accomplished.

Two figures suffice to show the scope of the work : in 20 years, the number of Bavarian women working in the public service has leapt from 115 100 to 205 000. Women's organizations in the region have a total of more than a million and a half members.

Useful address : Leitstelle für die Gleichstellung der Frauen
 Postfach 132
 8000 Munich 43

Boys and girls starting out in jobs

Although girls have a better grounding when seeking apprenticeships nowadays, they are still turned down twice as often as boys. This state of affairs is causing the Federal Employment Office in Nuremberg to take action.

According to a study by Hermine Kraft and Gerhard Engelbrech, girls try harder than boys to find a good opening, they apply for jobs more frequently, they are ready to accommodate themselves to certain conditions more readily ("inclined to be flexible" the study says) and they are more willing to take the jobs that Job Centres indicate. In addition, they generally obtain better marks and have a better standard of education.

Despite these advantages - which are based on more than chance - girls do not manage to find the kind of apprenticeships they deserve. It is boys who find the places, regardless of their level of education. A quarter of all girls with primary school qualifications seeking training in firms are turned away: twice as many as boys in the same situation. For those with middle school qualifications, 22% of girls are refused places against 13% of boys.

The family background undoubtedly plays a role here. It should be explained that half the boys who leave school with primary certificates manage to find openings through parents, friends and acquaintances, but only a third of the girls receive this kind of support in finding a job.

GREECE

Revision of family law

The Committee presided over by Prof. A. Manassis, which was charged with revising the Civil Code in order to eliminate all discrimination on the grounds of sex has been given a new task. The Minister for Justice has asked it to continue working and to look at all the provisions concerning family law which it considers are out-of-date. This updating will concern men as well as women and will affect the life of the entire family in many cases.

The Committee is currently working on the clauses relating to guardianship. Next will come a revision of the rules on adoption to bring them more into line with the demands of today's society.

It is worth noting that the Committee still has its original composition in which a number of Greek women's organizations were represented.

Preparation of Five-Year Plan

The recently appointed Women's Equality Council has written to all Greek women's organizations asking for their views on the current problems facing women in Greece. In its letter, the Council is asking organizations what political measures they recommend in the framework of the Government's Development Plan for 1983-1987, which is currently being prepared.

The Equality Council is particularly calling for proposals and suggestions for the most urgent changes that are needed in the areas of social security, health and education.

The replies from the women's organizations are not yet known, but the Council has to present concrete proposals very soon : the debate on the 1983-1987 Plan is due to be held during Parliament's summer session.

IRELAND

Law Reform

Ireland's Minister for Women's Affairs and the Family, Nuala Fennell, has established a Government interdepartmental committee to review law reform in relation to women's and family issues. She has announced that the Government has already agreed to change the law so that married couples will have equal rights of ownership to the family home and contents. Already under the 1976 Act, one spouse could not sell the family home without the permission of the other.

Useful address : Nuala Fennell TD, Minister of State,
Department of the Taoiseach,
Dublin 2

Minijobs ?

The Employment Equality Agency has been stepping in more and more often over discriminatory job advertisements. A recent case where the Equality Agency intervened was over job vacancies for cabin crew on a local airline which were advertised as being restricted to women under five feet two inches.

As the reason had nothing to do with the dimensions of the plane, the Equality Agency has asked the airline to revise its recruitment policy and advertise the jobs again properly.

Useful address : Employment Equality Agency
36 Upper Mount Street
Dublin 2

Sex bias in schools

"Schooling and sex roles" is the title of a major study carried out by the Economic and Social Research Institute on behalf of the Employment Equality Agency.

It reveals that girls are seriously handicapped by the range of subjects available to them and, as a result, their career options are limited. Too few girls take maths and science subjects and they are over-represented in art, modern languages, music and home economics. The report also calls for the removal of all examples of sex bias and sex-role stereotyping from school textbooks.

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

ITALY

General elections

<u>Party</u>	<u>Women candidates</u>	<u>Seats won</u>	<u>Women elected</u>	<u>as % of total</u>	<u>Elected in 1979</u>
DC	45	345	12	3.5	12
PCI	125	305	44	14.5	42
PSI	70	111	2	1.8	2
PRI	63	39	1	2.6	1
PLI	45	22	-	-	-
PSDI	Not communicated	31	-	-	-
PR	134	12	3	25	5
MSI	Not communicated	60	3	5	-

These are the figures for the Chamber and Senate combined. They were published in "Il Messaggero" of 3 July 1983 in an article on the behaviour of women voters.

More on the general elections

Urged by the Committee "Donne al Parlamento" (Women in Parliament) a large number of well-known Italians (women only) launched an appeal to women to turn out in force for the elections, to hand in valid ballot papers and to choose a woman when possible. There are 23 million women voters in Italy, two million more than the number of male voters.

In the Chamber of Deputies, Nilde Iotti was re-elected as President, with 480 votes - 47 more than she obtained in 1979. Only the MSI (the Neo-Fascist party) withheld its votes from Ms Iotti.

In the Senate, the inaugural session was presided by Camilla Ravera, who is 94 years old. Like Ms Iotti, a member of the PCI, Ms Ravera is also known as "Silvia", the pseudonym by which she was known in her work with the underground resistance. She is the first woman ever to be made a life-member of the Senate.

The first woman member of the Republican Party to obtain a seat in the Senate in 120 years of history, Susanna Agnelli, has sent some money to the Mayor of Turin to clean up the walls of the city after the election campaign.

The general political situation for women, however, is far from rosy. Sandra Codazzi, a Christian Democrat senator, declared that there was serious resistance in her party to putting women up as candidates - serious, because it showed a lack of awareness of the movements taking place in our society.

A woman running Palermo

Elda Pucci, a pediatrician, was elected mayor of Palermo, standing as a Christian Democrat. "As a doctor", she declared, "I am in constant doubt and fear of making a mistake when taking decisions that affect the lives of others. I think that this is a healthy attitude to have when you are running a city".

In the week before her election, in two days alone there were twelve assassinations. It is a city where the Mafia is a constant reality but where criminality is also rampant. But according to Ms Pucci, Palermo's worst problems are social ones : "Unemployment, that is what is ruining our society, ... that and health. The next priority is safeguarding the historical centre, one of the most important in Europe. After that comes the Mafia, which forces honest citizens to live with crime that becomes more cruel every day".

Speaking of the Mafia, Elda Pucci stressed that it could only be fought on the national level. "Exceptional means are needed", she said. "The mayor is neither a magistrate nor the chief of police. The only authority my job gives me is to ensure that the administration is honest, especially in connection with tenders. I shall fight to see that the law is respected".

Widowers' benefits

In a judgement that should serve as an example in other European countries, Giovanni Russo, judge in the Genoa court, has ruled in favour of Umberto Mezzone, the widower of a woman who worked for the Genoa municipal council from 1951. Mezzone was claiming his rights to a survivor's pension which until now has been restricted to the widows of public servants who have been contributing.

As women public servants also have to make pension contributions from their salaries, Judge Russo decided that it was only fair to let their survivors benefit as well.

Signs of a long history

"Esistere come donna" (Existing as a woman) is the title of a very successful exhibition put on by Rachele Farina and a team of twenty other women, under the auspices of Milan's municipal authorities. The idea behind the exhibition was to show the origins of female protest and how it has developed over the centuries.

It took the team more than five years to assemble all the books, objects, pictures, photos and newspapers that reflect everything that has been said, written or proclaimed by European women up to our own times.

Says Rachele Farina : "The Exhibition tells us about the women who, in salons, universities and assemblies, drew attention to the contradictions between women's position outside of society and the great principles of liberty and equality being vaunted by philosophers and politicians. It illustrates the actions and reflections of women in public debates, on strikes, in anti-war protests, and the armed struggle against nazism and fascism".

There are plans to tour the European capitals with this exhibition, the first of its kind.

Useful address : Comune di Milano
20100 Milan

"Donnateca"

More than three thousand photos and a thousand documents have been put into a "Donnateca", in Venice, by the Women's Centre there. They illustrate ten years of the women's liberation in Venice and the surrounding province, Veneto.

The group "donna-archivio" (woman - archive), who were behind the idea, wanted to safeguard for our collective memory documents which would gradually have been dispersed with the passage of time. By restricting themselves solely to local feminist history, the women running the "Donnateca" have tried to show how rich and complex the women's movement in the Veneto is.

Useful address : Centro Donna
Comune di Venezia
Piazza Ferretto, 124
30174 Mestre Venezia

Men as kindergarten teachers

The Constitutional Court has removed any discrimination against men wanting to train and work as kindergarten teachers, thus bringing to an end women's monopoly in the world of pre-school teaching.

The Court's decision not only refers to the 1977 law on equal treatment for men and women in access to employment but also adds the following comment: *"The presence of a male element among the staff of the kindergarten school may be beneficial by contributing to more varied educative resources and by opening up the teaching activities to social reality"*.

LUXEMBOURG

Equal treatment for public servants

When Bill 2375 was passed into law recently by the Luxembourg Parliament, it put an end to a discriminatory practice against female government servants. What had been happening before was that the so-called "Head of family" allowance was restricted to men, women employees of the State being ineligible to receive it. The Commission of the European Communities intervened with the Luxembourg Government in the matter.

Under the new law, the head of family allowance has been changed into a family allowance, to be paid to public employees regardless of their sex. Curiously, the only place where the concept of head of family still existed was in the old law that has just been repealed. It was removed from the Civil Code for example as early as 1962.

The reform, which is going to cost the Government between 76 and 100 million Luxembourg francs, it is estimated, will not please everybody. The Government has included a clause to prevent aggregation of the benefit, which states that where both marriage partners are public servants, only one family allowance per household will be paid, to be calculated on the basis of the higher salary.

This clause also specifies that when the spouse of a public employee has a paid job outside the public service entitling him or her to the same or a similar allowance in respect of the family, the amount of this will be deducted from the allowance paid to the public employee.

During the parliamentary debate, the Socialists tried unsuccessfully to pass an amendment removing this provision.

NETHERLANDS

A complaint to the European Commission

Two members of the Emancipatieraad (Equality Council), a consultative body to the Netherlands Government, have made a complaint, on a personal basis, to the European Commission, about their government's policy.

Anneke Krijnen and Jophien van Vaalen are claiming that the Netherlands social security policy contravenes the principle of equal treatment for men and women. Backed by the entire Emancipatieraad, the two women have asked Ivor Richard, Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner, to remind the Netherlands Government of its obligations.

The complaint is concerned with some of the changes introduced recently into Dutch social security legislation. In the system for payment of unemployment benefits, changes have been introduced for budgetary reasons, which according to Anneke Krijnen and Jophien van Vaalen hit married women in paid employment particularly hard.

The women point out that the changes contravene the European Community's third directive relating to equal treatment of men and women in matters of social security. The directive was adopted in 1978, with Member States having until the end of 1984 to put it into effect. This is what is causing the complication.

The plaintiffs claim that in the transitional period leading up to 1984, it is illegal to introduce any retrograde measures. Ms Krijnen and Ms Van Vaalen believe that a recent ruling of the European Court of Justice supports this claim.

Useful address : Mevr. A. Krijnen and Mevr. J. van Vaalen
c/o Emancipatieraad
Lutherse Burgwal 10
The Hague

How to find a job

"Hoe vinden vrouwen nu nog werk ?" (How do women find a job now?) is the title of a booklet published by the department of Annelien Kappelijne van de Coppello, Secretary of State for Equality.

40 000 copies have been printed and distributed widely in Job Centres and to women's organizations. The booklet is designed to encourage women to register as job seekers. With the same end in view, a campaign has been launched to get public employment offices to receive women in a more friendly way and listen to their worries.

To encourage this change in attitude, Ms Kappelijne van de Coppello has decided that, starting early next year, discussions will be held in Job Centres, with women participating, to tackle the problem of better relations between public employees and women job seekers.

In introducing the booklet, the Secretary of State appealed to public employees not to succumb to a feeling of helplessness at a time when there are so many looking for work. Indifference on the part of the authorities is likely to rub off on women, which would not be a good thing, she said.

"Job Centre staff", Ms Kappelijne van de Coppello concluded, "should listen with equal attention to men and women, single and married people, heterosexuals and homosexuals".

During the summer, a survey will be carried out to find out what problems women run into when registering as job seekers. A list of complaints will be drawn up, which will furnish a basis for reflection for any groups of women interested in the matter. When all the comments are in, it is planned to introduce new guidelines and measures.

Useful address : Ministerie van Sociale Zaken
Zeestraat 73
The Hague

Equality in the upper echelons

"Women are still clearly under-represented in government bodies and the civil service. Their number is only increasing slowly. Exceptional measures are therefore needed to encourage women's participation in these sectors".

These were the words of Koos Rietkerk, the Netherlands Home Affairs Minister, when he unveiled his "Equality Plan" designed to remove the barriers women encounter in reaching the highest posts in the civil service, or sitting on consultative bodies, committees or councils under Government authority. The Minister also referred to recent changes in the Netherlands Constitution making it illegal to discriminate against people on grounds of sex, sexual tendency or marital and family situation.

The Government, the country's largest employer, is giving women more opportunities for finding part-time jobs in the public service. This move has been under way for several years, but is being given a boost by the "Equality Plan". Government officials will be specially assigned to implement the new guidelines.

The Government would also like to see more women in political and decision-making bodies and an enquiry will be carried out to find what is hindering this process. At the end of the year, the Ministry for Home Affairs will organize a one-day seminar on the theme of women in the public service, the results of which will be used to clarify the debate.

Under the Dutch system, burgemeesters (mayors) are Government appointees who have to be approved by those elected in the local government elections. Out of 700 burgemeesters, there are only 25 women, so a special effort will be made to appoint more women. If candidates have equivalent qualifications for the job, preference will be given to a woman. This system will be extended later on to all grades in the government services.

In the police force, women are also in a minority. There is a gap to be filled, said Koos Rietkerk, in the junior grades as well as at the top level. Another seminar will be organized on this theme and starting this summer, new measures will be taken to encourage part-time work in the police force.

Useful address : Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken
Schedeldoekshaven 200
The Hague

Girls, science and technology

Eindhoven's University of Technology is taking a very hard look at the way women relate to science and technology. Why do so few women take technical subjects? How can their interest in science be kept up? These questions will be at the heart of the discussions at the second "Girls and Science and Technology" Conference, to be held in Oslo in the autumn on the initiative of Prof. J.H. Raat of Eindhoven.

Useful address : Prof. dr. J.H. Raat
NA 2.38
University of Technology
5600 MB Eindhoven

UNITED KINGDOM

The general elections

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the outgoing Prime Minister, led her Conservative Party to a landslide victory in the General Election on 9 June, with an overall majority of 144 seats in the House of Commons. But other women candidates did not do so well. Two well known personalities, Mrs Shirley Williams of the Social Democratic Party and Ms Jean Lester, Labour Opposition spokeswoman on Women's Affairs, lost their seats.

Excluding Northern Ireland, the major political parties put up 189 women candidates: the Conservatives 38, Labour 77, and the Liberal/SDP Alliance 74. Only 23 won their seats, 13 for the Conservatives and 10 for Labour. Thus, though they represented 29 per cent of the candidates, women account for only 3.5 per cent of the 650-member House of Commons.

Apart from Mrs Thatcher herself, there are only two women MPs in the government, Mrs Peggy Fenner and Mrs Lynda Chalker, both junior ministers. Lady Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, is a member of the House of Lords, and did not therefore have to be elected.

Only the Labour Party manifesto included a specific section on women, offering 22 examples of the action it would take as a government, ranging from increasing the maternity grant, through strengthening the Sex Discrimination Act, to introducing Family Courts. The Conservative and SDP/Liberal Alliance manifestoes instead emphasised their general party policies affecting family life and the social services.

In the event more women of all ages voted Conservative (43%), with Labour taking 28% of the women's vote, and the Alliance 28%.

Equal pay for equal work

Three women working in the poultry unit of the Agricultural Research Institute at Hillsborough, Northern Ireland, have been awarded equal pay with a male technician working in the pig unit.

Elizabeth Apsley, Anne Henning and Lavinia Lester were called on as poultry assistants to measure food and give it to the birds, weigh them, record and weigh egg yields, blood-test, and various other duties. They compared their work with that of Mr Hunter, a male technician who worked in the pig unit and concluded that their work with poultry was broadly similar to his with pigs and deserved to be paid the same.

The Institute claimed that Mr Hunter had to undertake some calculations which the women did not, and that work with pigs was much heavier. When, backed by the N.I. Equal Opportunities Commission, the women took the case to an Industrial Tribunal, the court concluded that the differences were minimal, and that looking after poultry was "like work" to looking after pigs.

The women were upgraded to Senior Scientific Assistant level, with a hefty hoist in pay of £ 1 700 per year.

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

Management diploma for mothers

In Britain only one in 40 of top earners are women and only 9% of managers are women. One obstacle is the break many women take in their careers to have a family.

Now the Central London Polytechnic has thought up a novel idea to enable women to train as managers despite home commitments. They have started a course, requiring attendance only three mornings a week over two years, leading to the Diploma of Management Studies which is a nationally recognised general management qualification for middle managers.

The course syllabus is exactly the same as the normal DMS course, apart from additional case studies about women's options and what they should do. Before students leave they will have had sessions on how to communicate, how to apply for jobs, and how to present themselves in the best light.

The Course Director, Carol Blackman, says that women's common sense comes clearly across in their written papers. "During the years they have spent handling a family they have definitely developed a 'handling people skill'. It is an asset we are putting into management terms", she says.

Useful address : School of Management Studies
Polytechnic of Central London
35 Marylebone Road
London NW1 5LS

Retirement age

Two out of three people want both men and women in Britain to retire at 60 and one out of five want retirement at 55. At present only women are eligible for state pension at 60 and men have to wait until 65.

To introduce male eligibility at 60 would cost about £ 2.5 billion a year, but most people would be prepared to raise their contributions so that this could be done without bankrupting the government.

This is the finding of an Equal Opportunities Commission research project.

The survey also reveals that most people wanted greater flexibility in the pension system so that people could retire earlier on a lower pension or later on a higher one. More than half thought that there should be flexibility on both sides of a central, common pension age. Less than 1% of all those interviewed wanted to retain the existing differential in pension ages.

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

Charter for women

The Women's Liberal Federation and the Women for Social Democracy have worked together to draw up an Alliance ten-point programme to protect and advance women's rights in the 1980's.

Women's abilities are under-used in all areas of public life and men's abilities are under-used in the home and family life, they say, pointing out that British conditions of employment still presume that an unencumbered male is the normal employee and make far fewer concessions to either fatherhood or motherhood than are now being made by most other members of the European Community.

The Charter includes demands for equality in Nationality and Citizenship, Employment Opportunities and Taxation, and better provision for child care.

Useful addresses :	Women for Social Democracy	Women's Liberal Federation
	4 Cowley Street	1 Whitehall Place
	<u>London SW1P 3NB</u>	<u>London SW1A 2HE</u>

Sport favours men

London barrister, David Pannick, has written a report on women's part in sport, for the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Women face systematic sex discrimination at all levels of sport, Mr Pannick finds. They have fewer opportunities to compete and smaller rewards for success than men. Britain's Sex Discrimination Act does not cover sport, allowing the rules to be based on the supposed characteristics of the "average" man or woman.

In Mr Pannick's view, if an individual sportswoman is good enough to play against a man, whether in tennis, cricket or football, she should be entitled to do so. The chivalrous idea that women are physically disadvantaged compared with males in sport is inconsistent with sex equality, he declares, and prevents individual women competing for the most prestigious and highly paid honours.

Women on the Greater London Council

The Women's Committee of the Greater London Council plans to publish a Programme for Action for Women in London this summer, based on consultation with a wide variety of women's organizations in the capital. With a budget of £ 7 million the Committee intends to carry out policy which will give women a new place in the Council's deliberations and decisions.

Chaired by Valerie Wise and with representatives of the three political parties on it, the Committee is authorised to look at any matter falling within the competence of the Council, call for papers from any Committee, and make recommendations from the woman's point of view. It has already submitted a report on "Women and Transport" urging more reliable services and better designed trains, buses and tubes (metro) to provide space and facilities for women encumbered with shopping baskets and children, and is preparing to tackle London Transport on sexist advertising on London buses.

It has published and arranged distribution of some 300 000 leaflets informing women of their rights to unemployment benefit.

One of Valerie Wise's most cherished ambitions is to see a Women's Centre, providing a meeting place and advisory centre, in all the London Boroughs.

Conscious of the question of racialism affecting London, the Women's Committee, in conjunction with the Ethnic Minorities' Committee, organized a two-day conference on the special problems of women in the ethnic minorities. The preparatory documents for the meeting were written in Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi, Hindi, Gujerati, Spanish and Chinese.

Valerie Wise quotes some figures to give an idea of the size of the problem: about 25% of the population of Lambeth is black, with a large proportion of women among them. In London there are 25 000 Latin-American women, mostly concentrated in Paddington and Lambeth.

Useful address : Valerie Wise
Women's Committee
Greater London Council
Country Hall
London SE1 7PB

A re-entry scheme

The National Westminster Bank is the first firm in the private sector to set up a re-entry scheme to encourage women to return to their careers after abandoning them for some while for family reasons.

The scheme emerged from an action research project, partially funded by money from the Equal Opportunities Commission and the European Commission whereby over 1 000 former employees of the Bank were asked if they were prepared to be interviewed. Ultimately only 8 women restarted at the Bank, but the results were positive enough to encourage development of the scheme and with it a considerable change in managerial attitudes towards re-entry.

It has been found that older women are very conscientious workers, they adapt readily to new situations and have a highly developed sense of responsibility.

MILITANT ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Political prisoners

M L F International (a French women's liberation group) has launched an appeal for the worldwide release of all female political prisoners. It has brought out a poster to carry its message, which says that throughout the world there are women in prison because they are born women, because they want freedom of movement, because they consider their bodies are their own, to do with as they please, because they read, write, think, because they defend their rights as women workers and citizens. From Iran to Poland, from Thailand to Paraguay, from China to Haiti, from the Soviet Union to El Salvador, women are being arrested, tortured, raped, and are disappearing.

The first list of over 500 women prisoners indicates that women are capable of engaging in political struggles and are prepared to risk their freedom or even their lives.

Useful address : M L F International
12 rue de la Chaise
75007 Paris

Women running businesses

The 31st Congress of the organization "Femmes Chefs d'entreprises mondiales" (Women heads of world businesses) was held in Brussels with the theme "Communication - the essential element in economic and social development". After opening speeches by well-known personalities, the 460 delegates, representing 27 000 members in 18 countries in Europe, America, and Asia, broke up into nine different discussion groups.

At the end of the conference, the women heads of businesses concluded that communication is an experience that is enriching on the cultural, economic and social levels. In their roles as managers, they had been well-placed to observe the important possibilities offered by communication in building a harmonious social climate between employers and employees, provided that both sides give their full cooperation. The participants believed that the role of firms is no longer production and marketing but now extends to providing a place for a continual dialogue for the people working there, leading to greater personal fulfilment for individuals and a more integrated society. The women business leaders hoped to encourage the development, within the enterprise, between different enterprises and with governments, of effective ways and means of communication, capable of leading to the spread of useful knowledge and information adapted to the needs of our time.

The out-going chairperson of the association, Ms T.C. Dutry, was re-elected for another term-of-office.

Useful address : Les Femmes Chefs d'entreprises mondiales
Boulevard Général Wahis 15
1030 Brussels

Women and new technologies

A recent report published by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (I C F T U) on New Technologies and Women's Employment gives cause for alarm. Women's employment in the industrialized world, working conditions, women's employment in the developing world, the effects on health - all the main implications are reviewed, with a wealth of facts and figures to support them.

To quote some of these : there are an estimated 300 000 women working in electronics in South East Asia, 50 000 of them alone in Malaysia and Singapore. The women doing assembly work are usually the latest arrivals on the job market. In Mexico, for example, near the U.S. border, 85% of the workers in the electronics industry are between 17 and 23. In South Korea, 80% of the female workers are young women between 14 and 24.

The I C F T U report draws the conclusion that women are particularly threatened. Jobs that will be affected earliest by new technology are those consisting of simple and repetitive tasks where only minimal qualifications are required. The report adds that the new technologies will halt or even reverse the expansion in women's employment that we have seen since the Second World War.

Useful address : International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
rue Montagne aux Herbes Potagères 37-41
1000 Brussels

Meeting by telephone

To mark the World Communications Year, the executive committee of the A I J P F (international association of journalists of the women's and family press) held its half-yearly meeting by phone. For one and a half hours, the six-member committee and the Secretary General were in telephonic communication across four continents thus avoiding 16 000 kms of travel between them.

The call was placed by the President, Lily Tasso, in Montreal, and she linked up with the Vice Presidents, Kate Abbam in Accra, Anna Földes in Budapest and Tehila Ofer in Tel Aviv. Then came links with Ruth Elliott, the Association's Secretary General, in London, and the Treasurer, Isa Liebaers, and Secretary, Jeannine Deru, in Brussels.

Useful address : A I J P F
Boulevard Charlemagne 1, box 54
1040 Brussels

Money and morality

The World YWCA has severed its connections with the Swiss bank looking after its business, on learning that the Bank was lending money to the Government of South Africa. Given the YWCA's well-known views on apartheid, the move was an inevitable result.

Useful address : World YWCA
Quai Wilson 37
CH-1201 Geneva

BELGIUM

Women and housing

A working group called "Vrouwen en wonen" (women and housing) has decided to tackle the question of construction and housing from a feminist perspective. Starting out from the observation that housing reflects the traditional separation of roles in the family and the idea that interior and exterior architecture have an influence on behaviour, the women in the group want to collect up source material, give more thought to the matter and see that women's views are incorporated into housing design.

The construction sector is dominated by men. How can women's concerns be put across to them? A way must be found because "wonen doen we allemaal" (living somewhere is a thing all of us do).

Useful address : Werkgroep "Vrouwen en wonen"
 Schreursvest 49
 3030 Heverlee

Ten months to go to the elections

The Conseil national des Femmes Belges (section francophone) (the Belgian National Council of Women - French-speaking section), has started work on its campaign for informing women about next year's elections for the European Parliament. A "Women's Platform for Europe" will be threshed out with the participation of women's organizations. The CNFB will also provide women's support for women candidates.

The first stage of its campaign, says the CNFB Chairwoman, Fanny Fuks, will be a letter to the leaders of the political parties, calling for more women to be included on their lists of candidates.

Useful address : Conseil national des Femmes Belges
 (section francophone)
 Place Quételet 1^a
 1030 Brussels

The new poor

"De nieuwe armoede" (New Poverty) is the theme that has been chosen for the next Belgian Women's Day, on 11 November. The organizations in the "Vrouwen overleg Komitee" (Women's liaison committee) are saying that there are new groups of the population (women, young people, immigrants) who are today feeling the effects of a new kind of poverty, less obvious than in the past, more generalized, and hence more difficult to overcome.

The first visible effects are an exclusion of some women from the mainstream of society, a widening gap between the rich and the poor, a weakening of solidarity between women themselves. These various aspects of the problem will be the

theme for Women's Day, which will this year be organized in Hasselt, Limbourg.

Useful address : Vrouwen overleg Komitee
Ambtmanstraat 7
2000 Antwerp

Fifty years old

The magazine "Het Rijk der Vrouw" (woman's world) has celebrated its fiftieth birthday, the first issue of this women's Dutch-language review having come out in 1933. Printed in the suburbs of Brussels, the magazine is the twin sister of "Femmes d'aujourd'hui", a French-language weekly.

Useful address : Het Rijk der Vrouw,
L.Lucas-Schepmans, Editor,
Frans Van Kalkenlaan 9,
1070 Brussels

Living as before

The Association "Vivre comme avant", which helps women after a mastectomy, has a sister-organization for Dutch-speaking women, "Leven zoals voorheen". Naturally, it was both branches of the organization which were recently honoured by having one of their founder-members, Claudine Alaerts, among the finalists for the Woman of the Year Prize.

Dutch-speaking women will be greeted with all the warmth and simplicity which characterize the Association, if they contact Luisa Marsé, National Vice-President and leader of the Dutch-speaking section.

Useful address : Leven zoals voorheen v.z.w.
c/o Luisa Marsé
Groenstraat 39
3078 Kortenberg tel.: 02/759.86.56

FRANCE

The heiresses of Séverine

Through a recent book of Evelyne Le Garrec, French women are rediscovering the amazing personality of Séverine, a polemist and a stalwart woman. At the end of the last century she was the first woman - and first journalist - to go to the bottom of a coal mine, where there had just been an explosion. Her articles were a fascinating mixture of passion and great dignity.

Inspired by what they know of her, some women journalists in the north of France have started an association called "Les héritières de Séverine". They want to attract more journalists firstly for the pleasure of each other's company, but also to study the problems affecting them professionally, to try and reintroduce an ethical code into journalism and to mobilise on certain issues.

Chaired by Geneviève Dermech, leading journalist on the paper La Voix du Nord, "Les héritières de Séverine" intend to remain independent of any political or ideological influence and to retain their own identity.

Useful address : Les Héritières de Séverine
c/o Huguette Vandevyvere
9 rue Gosselet
Lille

Prisoners

On 1 July 1983, out of 32 829 people being detained, 1 114 were women. 697 of these women (i.e., 62.6%) were remanded in custody, waiting for their trials to come up, and the other 37.4% had already been sentenced. These women prisoners were generally on the young side : 64.8% of those remanded in custody and 52.9% of those already serving time were under 30. The large majority (88.4%) of the women had not got beyond the level of obtaining their primary school certificates.

These statistics are extracted from an article by Catherine Pauchet, in the Mouvement du Nid's review "Femmes et Monde" (Women and the World). The Mouvement du Nid (the Nest Movement), an organization set up to fight prostitution, is experiencing serious financial problems and is appealing to those sympathetic to its cause to help it in finding fresh resources.

Useful address : Mouvement du Nid
7 rue du Landy
92110 Clichy

50/50

Led by Evelyne Serdjenian, the "50/50" association sets out to be a movement for demanding equal social rights for women and men.

In introducing her ideas, Evelyne Serdjenian points out that on one hand women have proved that their intelligence and ability is on a par with men's and on the other, the state entices women away from work by giving them some automatic rights provided that they live with a man and that they do not earn a wage.

"50/50" will fight to obtain neutral laws and regulations, seeing this as a precondition for putting an end to women's subordinate position vis-à-vis men. It is a mixed group, where men who agree with these claims will be able to take part in the process of change.

"50/50" is proposing various measures including individual tax returns and separate taxation, to give married women the same "tax capacity" as men and single women, without penalizing the second income. In addition, "50/50" suggests that men and women, with no personal income, whether married or not, should, if they pay contributions, have individual rights to social security and retirement benefits, and that rights that spouses enjoy without payment of contributions should be cancelled.

Other practical measures are : use by the authorities of one surname only for women, regardless of their family situation, as is done for men (e.g., on driving licenses, bank accounts). As a corollary, there should be no mention of family situation on administrative papers and files other than when this is the direct subject of the paper or file in question.

Logically and with some courage, "50/50" is taking a new look at divorce. It has this to say on the subject : "Once work is socially accepted for women in the same way as for men, there will be no reason to make it compulsory for one of the spouses to support the other when the marriage breaks down. By doing away with alimony payments, divorce would no longer be stigmatized as failure or guilt, much of the conflict would be removed and the procedure would be simplified". On the question of military service, and without tackling the subject of war and peace, "50/50" notes that it is important not to exclude women from any activity considered as of vital interest to the country.

Useful address : 50/50 - Evelyne Serdjenian
7 rue des Dames
75017 Paris

French Moslem women

Marthe Mercadier, a well-known actress and former member of Yvette Roudy (Minister for Women's Rights)'s cabinet, is now chairing the Association I.F.P.P.F., (Information - formation - promotion professionnelle des femmes = Information - training - job promotion for women). This organization is planning to open a Centre for French Moslem women in difficulty.

The idea for this emerged after realizing the specific difficulties encountered by French Moslem women : problems for the "first generation" - with an illiteracy rate of 80% - or for the "second generation", who have generally been to school but who are shut up at home and taught "the woman's role" by their mothers. Frequently, dialogue breaks down between mothers and their daughters ending with a number of girls running away from home. Wherever girls come in their families, they have little defence against the aggression they encounter in the world outside.

The Centre will have two purposes. Firstly, it will offer shelter to French Moslem women of all ages, with or without children, who are in difficulty. Secondly it will help them to find a niche in society, taking into account the Moslem culture.

Another scheme which Marthe Mercadier is starting, in collaboration with the A.S.A.H. (a group dedicated to carrying out humanitarian actions), is collecting obsolete medical supplies in France and offering them to hospitals in developing countries, in return for which the hospitals are asked to provide a place where women in difficulty can go.

Useful addresses : I.F.P.P.F.
12 rue Aubriot
75004 Paris

A.S.A.H. - mr Guy Lenclude
12 rue Aubriot
75004 Paris

Association des Femmes démocrates

The women members of the Social Democrat's Centre, a political group led by Mr Jean Lecanuet, formed themselves, some time ago, into an Association of Women Democrats.

This association constitutes the French section of the Women's Union of the European People's Party (EPP) and as such, took part in the EPP's Congress on Peace.

For the recent local government elections, the association produced a booklet for its members called "The Local Council, mayors, their assistants", in a campaign to get women to stand in the elections. The campaign reflected a general tendency in France to see more women putting up for election that resulted, on election night, in a jump in the number of women elected from 38 859 to 70 854.

The Association des Femmes démocrates has already started preparing for next year's elections to the European Parliament. Monique Badenes, its Secretary General is determined that there will be more women candidates in the elections, and that they will win more seats.

Useful address : Association des Femmes démocrates
205 Boulevard Saint-Germain
75007 Paris

GERMANY

Promotion of women in businesses

The Deutscher Akademikerinnenbund (German Association of University Women), DAB for short, has decided to take positive steps to help women to better jobs in business.

The move is a result of the DAB asking why it was that so few women had management jobs in enterprises. Although women account for about 40% of the work force, they only occupy about 3 or 4% of management posts. According to the DAB, this means that a lot of society's potential is being lost. Why is there this wastage?

The DAB sees the reasons as being of four kinds : first and foremost, not surprisingly, are the prejudices about traditional roles. Then comes the corollary to this : employers are still not confident that women are able to lead, to be available and mobile, to commit themselves wholeheartedly to their work - in short have the right mentality for management. Next comes protective legislation, which fosters the impression that women are "frail". Finally there is the idea that "investing" in promoting women is not worthwhile, as women may wish to leave their jobs for family reasons.

Tackling these problems one by one, the DAB is attempting to convince employers of the mutual interest there is for women and businesses to work together confidently.

It is necessary for women to be closely associated, says the DAB, in all promotion, training, selection and planning activities where they themselves are involved. For the employers' part, they should get into the habit of looking round the enterprise to see whether there is a woman capable of filling a responsible post whenever one becomes available. Another point is to ensure that any positive action to help women is clearly explained to male employees, whatever their level or department. It is not only the personnel department that should ensure that more women are given a chance: the general management and the production departments are also important partners if such a programme is to succeed.

The members of the DAB have already contacted representative employers' organizations in Hamburg. Such meetings will be continued in other parts of Germany.

Useful address : Frau Dr Ursula Huffmann
President of the DAB
Werderstrasse 68
2000 Hamburg 13

Women artists

GEDOK is one of the largest associations of women artists in Germany. It has an interesting history.

It was founded in 1926 by Ida Dehmel, a writer's wife and a talented artist herself. The initials stand for "Gemeinschaft deutscher und österreichischer Künstlerinnen und Kunstfreunde" (Germano-Austrian association of women artists and artists' friends), a reflection of the common cultural heritage of Germany and Austria.

Unattached to any political party or religion, GEDOK is an association of musicians, writers, painters, sculptors, etc., who are encouraged to give concerts, hold exhibitions, etc., by the separate group, the artists' friends.

To encourage women to write, GEDOK created the "Ida Dehmel" Prize and this was won for the first time, by Hilde Domin, in 1968.

With 4 000-odd members, GEDOK organizes excellent exhibitions in many towns where it has a branch. In addition, it arranges concerts for young musicians to whom it has awarded its scholarships.

Useful addresses : GEDOK - Berlin
Ersteinerstrasse 41
1000 Berlin 37

GEDOK
Ole Hoop 3
2000 Hamburg 55

Amnesty for Women

The Association "Amnesty for Women", which was originally started in Vienna, is now in operation in Germany too. It has a simple but far-reaching platform: to engage in a worldwide struggle against the threats and cruelty that women are subject to just because they are women.

Unfortunately, there are innumerable cases where help is needed. For example, there are millions of Afghan refugees settled precariously in Pakistan, for whom international aid agencies, while doing their best, seriously under-estimate the specific plight of women when they do not ignore it altogether. Afghan women have to live under very particular conditions - they can only be examined by a woman doctor for example when they are sick, so help often comes too late. There are many similar examples.

In China, official demographic policy recommends one child per family. According to Chinese tradition, boy children are looked on more favourably than girl children, so the detestable act of murdering baby girls, practised in Imperial days, has started to reappear.

In India, if a young woman's dowry is insufficient, she becomes the drudge in her husband's family, a virtual slave who has to put up with all kinds of torment which may even go as far as death. In the New Delhi region alone, the official statistics mention 500 deaths a year, with unofficial sources quoting 7 000 victims a year in this region alone.

The ambition of "Amnesty for Women" is to help women, whenever it is possible, to help themselves. In India, for example, there is a plan for opening a women's house, which would be run entirely by Indian women.

Useful addresses: "Amnesty for Women" "Amnesty for Women"
Frau Asha Craemer-Kachru c/o Cheryl Benard
Ermekeilstrasse 15 D'Orsaygasse 1/14
D-53000 Bonn 1 A-1090 Wien

GREECE

Parents' Day

For the seventh year running, the Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas (League for Women's Rights) decided to turn "Mothers' Day" into "Parents' Day". The League's idea was to emphasize the changing roles of mothers and fathers in the family. A round-table discussion on "the roles of fathers and mothers in the new Family Code" highlighted these new directions.

During the discussion it emerged that changes in family law would lead society forward in three main ways :

- parents would share the responsibility for their children equally, in the areas of taking care of them, bringing them up and looking after their property;
- parents would need to cooperate closely in order to carry out these responsibilities and this would extend into the psychological area (the couple's harmony, mutual respect, agreement on educational problems, etc.);
- the concept of "motherhood" would lose its "sacred" aspect, thus freeing women for other roles than that of the mother. The accent could thus be placed on the importance of all women's other responsibilities and rights and personal growth would be fostered.

Useful address : Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas
26, Asklipiou St.
Athens T. 144

Mediterranean women

Arising out of a Conference of Mediterranean Women organized by the Enossi Gynekon Elladas (Greek Women's Union) in 1980, an Institute for Mediterranean women's studies, the Kentro Erevnon gia tis Gynekes tis Mesogiou, has been opened recently.

As its name implies, the new institute's main object will be to produce, collect and disseminate information on Mediterranean women. Another purpose will be to draw attention to their position in society and to encourage actions to improve it.

Seminars, conferences, working groups, exchanges are all being planned. But the first step must be to start a research department that will look at the various cultures and countries and identify women's specific problems. This department's first task is to be a study on Mediterranean women in development, as migrants and when they return home afterwards.

The institute is anxious to collaborate with research centres or groups having similar interests. Publications, articles and reports will be specially welcome to help the Centre build up its new library.

Useful address: Kentro Erevnon gia tis Gynekes tis Mesogiou
 (Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute)
 192 b Leoforos Alexandras
 Athens T. 602

Local job creation

Greece's YWCA has just broken new ground, as a result of the seminar held in Corfu on "Women and employment : new trends and developments". As part of a joint action taken by the European Community and the OECD on local job creation, and acting on behalf of the Centre for Employment Initiatives, the coordinators of the action, the YWCA has held two seminars on the subject.

The work was done in small groups and participants exchanged information and experience. One of the groups consisted of women who were all in different situations : young women who had just left school or university looking for their first job, women working at home in their own businesses or professions, women wanting to re-enter the job market, etc.

The YWCA used the opportunity of distributing information on some of the new possibilities for women such as forming cooperatives and entering traditionally male sectors.

Useful address : Y.W.C.A.
 17 Amerikis Str.
 Athens T. 136

IRELAND

A new team

Margaret Walsh has just been elected Chairwoman of the Council for the Status of Women. A secondary school teacher by profession, Margaret Walsh is also President of the Association of Secondary Teachers.

The new team running the Council for the Status of Women intends to take a more radical attitude towards women's affairs. The Council's members are representatives of women's organizations that are very anxious to see Ireland's laws revised in line with a more feminist policy. Numbering 41 member organizations already, the Council is not opposed to very small women's groups joining it. It also hopes to decentralize and touch the rural areas. One of the Council's immediate objectives is to obtain a grant from the Government that will not be cut by 18% as at present.

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

Rape

Recent figures of Dublin's Rape Crisis Centre show that 151 rape victims asked for the Centre's help in 1982 compared with 132 in 1981. Twelve per cent of the victims were under 15 years of age; more than half of the total were raped by someone they knew; 32 had been assaulted in their own homes. The Rape Crisis Centre is dissatisfied with the outcome of court proceedings and is considering advising women not to report rape. In fact, only 57 cases were reported to the police last year.

Useful address : Rape Crisis Centre
2 Lower Pembroke Street
Dublin 2

ITALY

Production and reproduction

This was the title of a 3-day conference in Turin attended by 650 women and organized through the women members of three unions, the CGIL, the CISL and the UIL, together with the UDI (Union of Italian women) and other feminists.

The participants, who came from a number of industrialized countries, worked in ten or so different committees and studied the various forms women's work takes as wage-earners, managing their own firms, independent or housewives; new technologies; the public service; sexism at work; the relationship between family and work, and between feminism and power; the appearance of new cultures, etc.

There are no simple answers to questions such as "How can we share power yet avoid becoming "Little chiefs"? "Which does a woman who wants to have a child need more - a husband or a job?", "How can working hours be reduced at the same time as household chores are being redistributed?", "Do the words 'having a career' mean different things for men and women?"

A number of ideas emerged from the discussions : publishing an international feminist bulletin, starting a worldwide news agency for women, coordinating women's independent undertakings, creating a network of women working in the new technologies (in conjunction with the British group WATCH), opening an international documentation centre on women's work, and holding an international tribunal where States and enterprises that discriminate against women would be put "on trial".

The conference report will be published by the Casa delle donne (Women's House) in Turin.

Useful address : Casa delle donne
via G. Fiocchetto 13
10152 Turin

Women in the Sahel

The "Donne e Sviluppo" (Women and development) Committee in the Istituto Italo-African (Italo-African Institute) organized a seminar on the subject "Reflections on the situation of women in the present development policy for the Sahel - future outlook".

Under the aegis of the Italian Foreign Ministry, the seminar provided an opportunity for African women who are experts or have taken part in development activities in Senegambia, Upper Volta, Mali and Niger to take the floor.

The exchanging of experience revealed just how important the role of women is if development actions are to be successful. It also highlighted the need for their close collaboration from the very outset when development activities are being proposed.

Useful address : Comitato Donne e Sviluppo
Istituto Italo Africano
via U. Aldrovandi 16
00197 Roma

Economic and social life

The CNDI (Italy's National Council of Women) and the AIDDA (Association of Independent Business Women and Heads of Enterprises) were the joint organizers of a round-table discussion on the role of women in economic and social life and European Community action, held in Perugia.

Insights into the interaction between women's growing participation in the management of the economy, the increase in the number of women looking for work and the effects of the crisis in the public and private sectors were some of the points that emerged clearly in the discussions. As more and more women enter the work force and as more and more women take part in political decisions, changes in the direction taken in economic and social planning will be inevitable.

Useful addresses : C.N.D.I.
via Fabio Massimo 88
00192 Roma

A.I.D.D.A.
via Vittadini 3
20134 Milano

Women and development

AIDoS (Italian Association of women for development) held a seminar in Rome called "The 'woman' factor in development cooperation policy". Under the UN Decade for Women's slogan, Equality, Development, Peace, the debate highlighted the special nature of the problems of Third World women.

The conclusion was drawn that Third World women, as well as being victims of a society that is all too often based on women's inferiority, are also marginalized by the process of modernization and industrialization that is taking place.

National and international aid organizations were urged to look closely at the effects development will have on the position of women in Third World countries that are aided.

Useful address : A.I.D.o.S.
Piazza Capranica 95 - int. 4
00186 Rome

LUXEMBOURG

Hell "on the job"

Planning familial (Family planning) has added its voice to the many women's organizations that condemn procuring and prostitution in Luxembourg. Asked to give her testimony on the hell of a prostitute's life, Agnès Laury, a French ex-prostitute said "Being a prostitute is like serving a life-sentence".

Talking of pimps, Ms Laury did not mince her words, describing them as "mad men, paranoiacs and torturers". As for the prostitutes themselves, the speaker pointed out that they had not generally had much schooling and that they faced enormous difficulties if they tried to lead a normal life and find another kind of job. At the end of the conference, Planning familial appealed to the authorities to put a stop to prostitution and to pass heavy sentences on procurers.

Useful address : Planning familial
rue Glesener
Luxembourg

NETHERLANDS

Amazone

Set up in 1977, the Stichting Amazone (Amazon Foundation) has been trying to help women to become independent in society. As there is a wealth of courses and training available in the Netherlands, the Foundation has decided to concentrate its activities on women artists and art education.

The recently-opened Studio Amazone enables women artists to exhibit their works to a mixed public. The Studio is the latest venture of the Foundation and complements its information centre, videotheque, library, legal consultations and "Thursday evenings for cultural and political affairs", where men and women come together for open discussions of women's problems.

Useful address : Stichting Amazone
Keizersgracht 678
Amsterdam

Vietnam

The Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad (Netherlands Council of Women), uniting 40-odd women's organizations, has just published a booklet called "Tu doi sông Viet-Nam dên doi sông Hoà-Lan", meaning "Living in Vietnam then living in Holland".

The booklet is intended as an aid for the many Vietnamese families now living in the Netherlands, who sometimes find it hard to come to terms with the culture and way of life in their new home. Recipes, St Nicholas's Day, pets, coffee invitations, public holidays, all these and many other aspects of life in Holland are described sensibly and sensitively.

Useful address : Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad
Laan van Meerdervoort 30
2157 AL The Hague

UNITED KINGDOM

WATCH

This is the acronym for Women and Technical Change, a new data base on

women and the new technologies, being set up in the University of Sussex with funding from the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Felicity Henwood and Christine Zmroczek, the women in charge of the project, would be grateful for all available information. They will draw conclusions from it as to the implications of new technology for women and will make their results accessible to other researchers, unions, the authorities, employers and women's groups.

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

A magazine on tape

Some 75 blind members of the Women's Institute in Great Britain are now able to enjoy their monthly journal Home and Country. Dorothy Rose took up the idea put forward originally by a blind member in Glamorgan, Wales, and with a team of voluntary helpers, now tapes the main stories every month and sends them to the Kent Association for the Blind to be recorded, copied and distributed to subscribers.

The magazine is not simply read into a tape recorder as it stands; articles are carefully selected, edited and turned into a suitable script. Dorothy and her helpers have received many letters of appreciation from blind subscribers. The subscription is £ 5.00 a year.

Useful address : Dorothy Rose
9 Strettit Gardens
East Peckham, Kent, England.

Cooperatives

Queen Elizabeth recently attended the celebrations organized by the Co-operative Women's Guild to mark its centenary. The Guild has a distinguished history of struggle for economic and social justice for women.

To mark the event, it also organized a one-day conference on "Women's Lives 1983", at which Frances Morrell, Chair of the Inner London Education Authority, noted that surveys had shown that women teachers did not apply for promotions as often as men. "Women must take power", she said. "Men cannot liberate women - they must do it themselves".

Useful address : General Secretary
Cooperative Women's Guild
342 Hoe Street
London E 17

Women's Rights and the EEC

The Rights of Women Europe Group, a collective of feminists interested in legal and educational work, has published a useful guide for women in the UK, "Women's Rights and the EEC". The guide costs £ 3.00 and it explains how to get help from the European Social Fund, how the European Court's rulings have extended women's rights in Britain, and what must be changed in British legislation before 1984 to bring it into line with the Community Social Security Directive. The book also includes a list of addresses of feminist contacts in other Community countries.

Useful address : Rights of Women Europe Group
374 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1

Job sharing

Penny Wightwick is one of the coordinators of the voluntary organization "New Ways to Work". She and her group has set up a computerized Job Sharers Register to help people looking for a suitable partner for job sharing. The Register should

be especially useful to women at home with children, who tend to lose their contacts with the working world.

Useful address : New Ways to Work - Job Sharing Project
347a Upper Street
London N1 0PD

RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

Women only is a periodical newsletter issued by the Women's Employment Project Group, which provides information and articles about women's training courses and job opportunities. 'Women's education reaches the parts men don't bother with', is its cheerful slogan. WEPG, c/o 2A Brabant Road, London N.22.

Day Release for Girls is an investigation by Yves Benett and Dawn Carter into why so few girls receive time off work for part-time study. They find that inadequate careers guidance and the discouraging attitude of employers prevent many girls from training for skilled jobs in industry. Even in industries where female employees are in the majority, substantially more boys than girls are granted day release. Available from the Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN.

Les femmes et les enfants d'abord (Women and children first) is not an indictment. In this, her second book, Elena Gianini Belotti simply points out what is still discriminatory about people's behaviour, even today after 10 years of Italian women's militancy. Deeply-rooted stereotypes still abound. The author has wandered and looked around at society and recorded what she sees there. Her little tales of daily life reveal that there is one law for the men and one for the women when analyses and judgements are being made on the behaviour of the two sexes. This is the cause of needless injustice. Editions du Seuil, "Libre à elles" series, 223 pages. 69 FF, translated from Italian.

Küche und Parlament (Cooking and Parliament) is the manifesto of the Frauenpartei (Women's Party) edited by Eva Rath. It analyses women's place in politics and attempts to define the various obstacles preventing women from having a complete role in the political scene. 158 pages, DM 12. Published by Morgenroth Verlag OHG, Hasselkamp 26, 2300 Kronshagen, FRG.

Democrazia e Femminismo (Democracy and Feminism) by Vittorio Parmentola and Bianca Rosa contains portraits of 15 women who, throughout Europe, made contact with Mazzini and the Italian Republicans in the middle of the 19th century. The book provides a glimpse of the origins of democracy and feminism. Published by Specimen, Turin, 1982.

"De Werkende Vrouw" and "Le Travail des femmes" (women's work) are the names of the Dutch and French versions of a booklet published by the Women's Committee of the ABVV/FGTB, the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking wings of the Belgian General Federation of Workers. The present crisis, states the booklet, must not be used as a pretext for discrimination and a halt on women's liberation, which must still be forcefully pursued. 89 pages. Commission des femmes de la FGTB, 42 rue Haute, 1000 Brussels. Vrouwenkommissie - ABVV, Hoogstraat 42, 1000 Brussels.

Terre des Femmes (Women's Earth) leads us, in its 450 pages, through 165 countries of the world. A long list of women collaborated on the book with Elisabeth Paquot, whose original idea it was. A panorama of the situation of women in the world, it describes the specific circumstances, the changes taking place and how the various problems interact in each of the countries described.

The chapters end with a bibliography on the theme covered. There are a thousand useful addresses and a list of films. It is likely to prove an outstanding reference work. Published jointly by Maspero (La Découverte Series) and Boreal Express.

Women in Society. This is the title of a new feminist list announced by Macmillan. The series is edited by Jo Campling, of Hillcroft College, a centre of higher education for women. The books aim to consolidate and advance feminist research and debate in a wide range of subject areas. Early titles will include Women's History and Women's Work, Women and Sport, and Women and Crime. Jo Campling has also introduced a series of meetings concerned with women's writing as poet, novelist and dramatist at Hillcroft College. Further information from Jo Campling, Hillcroft College, South Bank, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6DF, England.

La posizione sociale della donna : prospettive per il futuro (The social position of women : prospects for the future). This is the report of the conference held in Rome in 1980, under the auspices of the U.F.I.S.A.S. (International women's union for study and social action) and led by Gaetana Cazora Russo, its General Secretary. U.F.I.S.A.S., Via Lago di Lesina 20, Rome.

Frauenforschung (Research on women), the first bulletin of the Institut Frau und Gesellschaft (Institute for Studies on Women and Society), sets out the Institute's objectives and the work in progress. Goethestrasse 29, 3000 Hannover I, FRG.

Current Sociology has brought out its issue N° 31, with the general title "Multinationals and Inequalities". The two chapter headings speak for themselves: "Multinationals and Class and Sex Inequalities", by Andrée Michel, Director of Research at the C.N.R.S. (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) and "Monetarism and sex roles - the example of Turkey", by Deniz Kandiyoti, the current Chairwoman of the Research Committee "Women and Society" of the International Sociological Association. 228 pages, SAGE Publications, 28 Banner Street, London EC1Y8QE, England.

The abuse of women in the media is a booklet published by the Consumers' Association of Penang. It shows how the image of women is used in advertising. After giving illustrations of how women currently are portrayed in all the media, the booklet sets out to study and define a new image of women, more suitable to the present development of women in Malaysia. \$3, The Consumers' Association of Penang, 27 Kelawei Road, Penang, Malaysia.

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BELGIQUE — BELGIË

Bruxelles

Rue Archimède 73, 1040 Bruxelles
Tél.: 235 11 11
Télex 26657 COMINF B

DANMARK

København

Højbrohus
Østergade 61
Postbox 144
1004 København K
Tél.: 14 41 40
Télex 16402 COMEUR DK

BR DEUTSCHLAND

Zitelmannstraße 22
5300 Bonn
Tél.: 23 80 41

Kurfürstendamm 102
1000 Berlin 31
Tél.: 8 92 40 28

ΕΛΛΑΣ

Οδός Βασιλίσσης Σοφίας
Και Ηρώδου Αττικού
Αθήνα 134
τηλ.: 743 982/743 983/743 984

FRANCE

61, rue des Belles Feuilles
75782 Paris Cedex 16
Tél.: 501 58 85

IRELAND

39 Molesworth Street
Dublin 2
Tél.: 71 22 44

ITALIA

Via Poli, 29
00187 Roma
Tél.: 678 97 22

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Centre européen
Bâtiment Jean Monnet B/O
1615 Luxembourg — Kirchberg
Tél.: 43011

NEDERLAND

Lange Voorhout 29
Den Haag
Tél.: 46 93 26

UNITED KINGDOM

Abby Building
8, Storey' Gate
Westminster
LONDON — SW1. 3 AT
Tél.: 222 81 22

Windsor House
9/15 Bedford Street
Belfast
Tél.: 40708

4 Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF1 9SG
Tél.: 37 16 31

7 Alva Street
Edinburgh EH2 4PH
Tél.: 225 2058

ESPAÑA

Calle de Serrano 41
5A Planta-Madrid 1
Tél.: 474 11 87

PORTUGAL

35, rua do Sacramento à Lapa
1200 Lisboa
Tél.: 66 75 96

TÜRKIYE

13, Bogaz Sokak
Kavklidere
Ankara
Tél.: 27 61 45/27 61 46

SCHWEIZ - SUISSE - SVIZZERA

Case postale 195
37-39, rue de Vermont
1211 Genève 20
Tél.: 34 97 50

UNITED STATES

2100 M Street, NW
Suite 707
Washington, DC 20037
Tél.: 862 95 00

1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
245 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
Tél.: 371 38 04

CANADA

Inn of the Provinces
Office Tower
Suite 1110
Sparks' Street 350
Ottawa, Ont. K1R 7S8
Tél.: 238 64 64

AMERICA LATINA

Avda Ricardo Lyon 1177
Santiago de Chile 9
Chile
Adresse postale: Casilla 10093
Tél.: 25 05 55

Quinta Bienvenida
Valle Arriba
Calle Colibri
Distrito Sucre
Caracas
Venezuela
Tél.: 91 47 07

NIPPON

Kowa 25 Building
8-7 Sanbancho
Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 102
Tél.: 239 04 41

ASIA

Thai Military Bank Building
34 Phya Thai Road
Bangkok
Thailand
Tél.: 282 14 52

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