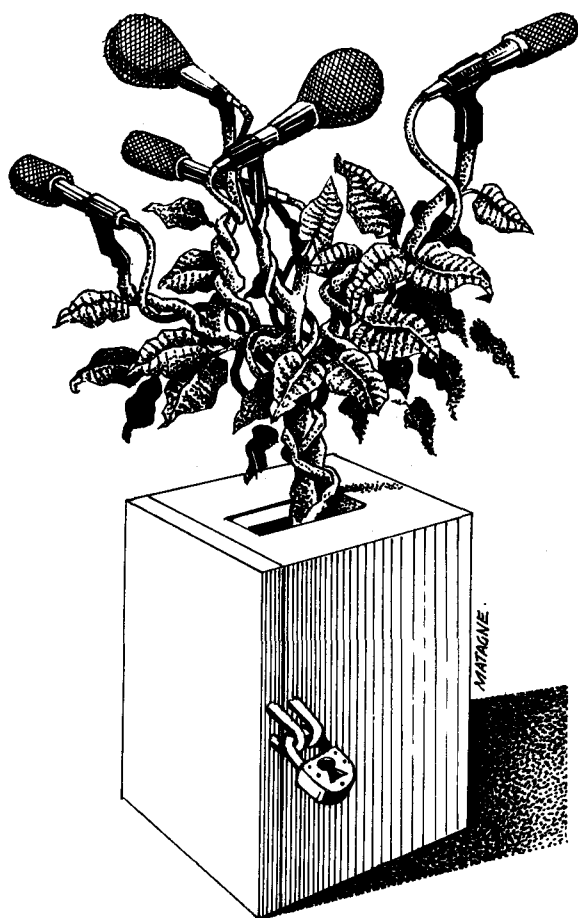


# Women of Europe

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**THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

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*UNPROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION?*

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*Since the world conference for the United Nations decade of women in 1980, women have been taking a growing part in politics and public life in both centralized and market economies. Nevertheless, 1980 also marked the start of a period of grave economic crisis affecting women throughout the world, and adequate solutions have still not been found to problems such as the representation of women at all levels of the economy and society, especially those at which decisions are taken.*

*Of all the European Community Member States, Denmark is in the lead in terms of the representation of women in national parliaments. In Denmark, 23% of parliamentary seats are held by women compared with 3%, for example, in the United Kingdom and 17% in European Parliament, despite the fact that women account for over 50% of the total population.*

*The experts agree that, as things now stand, when a candidate is chosen or when the relative position of women on a party's list of candidates is decided, the selectors argue that voters are less favourably disposed to women. For the parties concerned, this represents a loss of political impetus and a dissipation of resources.*

*It goes without saying that attitudes will not change of their own accord but as a result of underlying social structures. One such structure is the electoral system which, over the long term, may promote or delay equal opportunities policy.*

*15 June is the day for facing up to the challenge.*

Women. employment and unemployment in the Community

On the eve of the first EEC ministerial meeting on the problems of women, called by French Minister for Women's Rights, Yvette Roudy, in Paris on 8 March 1984, the Community's Statistical Office has issued a memorandum on the position of women with regard to employment and unemployment. It points out that:

the proportion of women on the labour market has continued to rise. In the Community the proportion of the female population aged 15 to 64 working or actively seeking work has climbed from 44% in 1970 to 50% in 1982 (the corresponding proportion of men, on the other hand, has fallen back from 90% to 84%);

at 15%, the rate of unemployment among women is still considerably higher than among men (10%).

For the first time, ten European ministers have met to pool their views on the question of female unemployment and employment in the Community and the promotion of positive measures designed to abolish inequality in practice. The legislative measures enacted since 1975, combined with the practical steps to which they have given rise in every EEC Member State, especially in the field of positive action, now form a consistent body of established law and practice within the Community.

The extent of unemployment among women in Europe (5 million) and the inequalities from which they still suffer in employment are a matter of concern to every Member State and the Commission.

In spite of the crisis, the number of women working or wanting to work has been rising steadily in every country except, since 1981, the United Kingdom.

This expression of women's desire for a full and satisfying working life has added to their economic weight, since they now account for 37.2% of the European labour force; the percentage is even higher in countries such as France (41.98% in 1983). In the very near future, about one European worker in two will be a woman.

In the current recession, the position of women on the labour market is going from bad to worse. Factories are closing down, people are being made redundant, there are swingeing cuts in public spending and the introduction of new technology is affecting women far more than men. At the same time, there has been a manifest swing back to the old traditional anti-women attitudes and people have been more prepared to lend an ear to the advocates of keeping women in their homes.

It is vital, then, that all the social forces should mobilize against this trend and press on with the campaign for equality.

In half the Member States, women make up half of the unemployed. In the Community as a whole, an average of 41.3% of the unemployed are women. Over the past year, while there has been a slight fall in the number of men unemployed (-0.3%), female unemployment has been rising (+7.3%), the rate being particularly high in five of the European Community Countries (Ireland, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and the Netherlands).

France is an exception to the general rule: unemployment has levelled out there since 1982 and, although the percentage of female unemployment by comparison with the total is still very high (48.2%), it is lower than before.

In essence, unemployed women tend to be young:

48.1% of young unemployed people in the Community are girls; the figure is higher in half of the Member States, including France where it stands at 54%;

more than half of unemployed women are under 25, except in Denmark and Germany where older women are in the majority.

The majority of jobs done by working women are in the lower grades, relatively unskilled and lower paid than those done by men. They are more precarious, often part-time and in fewer occupations and fields of work, with the range of jobs done by women in every country being only a tenth of the range of men's jobs. The introduction of shorter working hours is an important way of maintaining employment and creating new jobs, and a significant cut in the working week in the near future will undoubtedly have a beneficial effect on women's employment provided that a deliberate effort is made to ensure that women do not suffer.

The current threat to the industrial sectors traditionally employing a large female labour force (textiles, leather, etc.) and the potential threat due to new technology in the service sector have led to a Community consensus as to the need to diversify the training and employment to which girls and women have access and, more generally, to promote equality for men and women in employment, vocational guidance, new pilot schemes and every field in which women's jobs are jeopardized by technological advances.

Infrastructure, too, plays a decisive role in determining whether women can enter the labour market. The quality of job recruitment agencies, child care facilities and public transport is an important factor in making working women's lives easier. Unfortunately, massive cuts in public spending seem to be whittling away at such services. The need for public money to improve this infrastructure for the benefit of working women was stressed.

In the course of the meeting, the ministerial group (except for the British Secretary of State for Employment, who was unwilling to place preferential emphasis on matters of women's employment) said that the obstacles in the way of women called for fresh effort from the Community. It argued for the drafting of specific legislation at Community level, paving the way for a common employment policy to meet the challenges of today's world and respond to the equitable demands of one half of the population.

Several countries - Ireland, Belgium and Germany in particular - pointed to the pressing need for job creation to combat unemployment in general and overcome the structural obstacles to women's employment in particular.

The ministers stressed the value of a concerted reduction in working hours, along the lines of the European Commission recommendation on the reduction and reorganization of working time. Only if the Ten adopt a common, voluntarist attitude can women overcome the obstacles confronting them, arising from the existence of a twofold jobs market and leading to a disproportionate figure for female unemployment by comparison with the total.

Finally, Belgium and Greece came out in favour of adopting the draft directive on part-time working now being negotiated. These countries expressed the hope that the draft directive on parental and family leave would be discussed in the near future.

In the light of the conclusions of a seminar held in Athens in September 1983, there was broad consensus for the idea of the Council recommendation which the Commission is about to propose to encourage such positive action. In this field, not enough has yet been done at European level and the achievements are widely disparate. The countries agreed that we should be making far more systematic headway from now on, learning as much as we can from each country's experience and making more use of the European Social Fund.

It was also thought that the emergence of new skills and jobs linked with advanced technologies might open out fresh opportunities for women by offering them access to different fields of employment and skilled jobs. Following the example set by France, which introduced a law on equality at work on 13 July 1983, it was agreed to promote positive action on a far broader scale - for instance, by employers and recruitment agencies, as is now the case in Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands. The Commission of the European Communities should also make a recommendation along these lines to the Member States.

The ministers saw this meeting as extremely useful and expressed the wish for regular meetings to review the subject. The Member States explained their positions and acknowledged that women's employment is essentially a social issue. Courses of action for the Community were defined, which should lead to the drafting of texts of political scope, i.e.

- a resolution on women's unemployment;
- a recommendation on positive action.

Whether or not positive results are achieved will undoubtedly depend above all on the energy and effort deployed by those having special responsibility: the authorities and governments.

To achieve equal opportunities for women, every effort must be brought to bear, regardless of the economic situation. A meeting of this kind is a real step in the right direction and, in this context, Community action in favour of women's employment would be an important phase in the medium-term social plan proposed by France.

IN 1983, FIVE MILLION WOMEN WERE UNEMPLOYED  
BY COMPARISON WITH SEVEN MILLION MEN

Over the past year, unemployment has been rising slightly faster among women than among men in the Community (+7.3% and +6% respectively).

In this general context, the growth in female unemployment has been:

particularly high in Luxembourg and Ireland (+18.9% and +18%) where there has also been a sharp rise in male unemployment;

considerably higher for women than for men in Denmark (+14.2% compared with -3.5%) and the United Kingdom (+10.1% and +2.3%);

high, as it has been for men, in the Netherlands (13.1% and 11.4%);

slightly higher than for men and at about the average Community level in Greece (+6.7% and +5.7%) and West Germany (+6.6% and +4.9%), as well as being a little higher than for men in Italy (+9.8% and +9.5%);

low, as well as being lower than the rise in male unemployment, in Belgium (+3.3% and +6%), an even more marked trend in France (+1.3% and +7.7%).

Women accounted for 41.3% of the registered unemployed in December 1983, compared with 41% in December 1982. There has been a general rise in the proportion of women unemployed by comparison with the total except in Belgium, where it fell back a little in 1983.

Nevertheless, a distinction should be made between three groups of countries based on the percentage of women in the total number of jobless:

countries where women make up less than one third of the unemployed, as in the Netherlands (31.2%), United Kingdom (29.6%) and Ireland (25.4%). It is to be feared that these countries may not feel politically involved in the problem and may not embark on vigorous action;

countries where women are in the majority among the jobless (as in Belgium, with 53.1%) or nearly so (48.2% in France, 48.2% in Italy, 47.4% in Luxembourg and 48.1% in Denmark). The urgent need to deal with this problem must be clearly apparent to their governments.

countries in which female employment is an important but perhaps less decisive issue, as in Germany (42.8%) and Greece (41.6%).

The percentage of unemployment in the working population as a whole has been rising in 1983, reaching 11.2% in the Ten (compared with 10% in 1982). It is still lower than 1 in 10 among men, although there has been a marked rise in male unemployment.

In only three countries (Netherlands, UK and Ireland) is the rate of female unemployment lower than for men. Women in Europe as a whole, then, are at greater risk of unemployment, although the level varies considerably from country to country:

in the first group, the rate of unemployment is lower than the Community average (8.6% in the UK, 9.4% in Germany and 9.8% in Denmark), slightly lower (10.9% in France) or very much lower (2.2% in Luxembourg and 2.1% in Greece);

*in the second group, the rate of female unemployment is a little higher than the EEC average. as in the Netherlands (13.2%) and Ireland (13.1%), where male unemployment has been even more acute;*

*in the third group, the rate of unemployment, particularly among women. is very high. as in Italy (16.6%) and Belgium (19.85%).*

*In five countries (France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark) most of the young jobless are girls; in every country, the proportion of girls out of work in the jobless in their age group is greater than the proportion of female unemployment by comparison with unemployment as a whole.*

*The general pattern of female unemployment, indeed, is one of youth unemployment.*

*The position is a little less acute in Ireland (44.%) and Belgium (39.6%).*

*The breakdown of female unemployment by age group in Denmark (32.3%) and Germany (25.8%) is very different from that in other countries, although the same could be said of unemployment among men in Denmark and Germany.*

#### Positive action in favour of women

At the initiative of Ivor Richard, the European Commission has approved a draft recommendation for submission to the Council of Ministers regarding positive action in favour of women. Its main purpose is to promote the establishment of a legal and political framework at national level to foster measures designed to bring about equality of opportunities for women.

This recommendation comes within the framework of the Community's Programme of Action for the promotion of equal opportunities for women in 1982/85, adopted by the Commission in December 1981.

The Commission proposes that Member States adopt a specific strategy of positive action designed to eliminate the discrimination from which women suffer in practice in their working lives. The aims are to:

abolish or compensate for the adverse effects to working women and women jobseekers of social attitudes, structures and behaviour patterns rooted in the idea of a differentiation in the roles of men and women in society;

encourage women to take part in every activity in all sectors of working life where they are underrepresented at present, and to make their voices heard at every level of responsibility.

In the draft recommendation, Member States are urged to ensure that these measures are taken in the public sector and by all bodies concerned with vocational guidance, job training and recruitment. At the same time, they should encourage the private sector to take similar steps and make sure that women and the general public are well informed of their existence.



Elected women officials at local and regional level:  
the Council of European Municipalities

The Fifteenth States General of European Municipalities has met to discuss themes of concern to women in elected office in Europe, press for their closer integration into the life of the European Community and press home the expectations of women in Europe. It has asked the Council of European Municipalities to

conduct a survey in each national section to determine the extent of women's representation on the elected bodies of local and regional authorities;

make local and regional bodies aware of the need for the adequate involvement of women in delegations attending European-level meetings arranged by the Council of European Municipalities;

ensure by every means that local and regional women officials make their voices heard at council meetings;

take realistic account of the position of women when tackling and working on certain issues.

The Council was also urged to hold a second meeting of European local and regional women officials, following the 1983 conference in Pisa.

An all-party group of Italian local women administrators has drafted a questionnaire and has asked for comments from all the delegations at the 15th States General. It hopes to draw a standardized text for distribution to every woman in elected office in Europe.

The Italian section has also been conducting a statistical survey on women in its country's local authorities; it has called on other national sections to do the same.

Useful address: Council of European Municipalities  
41 Quai d'Orsay  
75007 Paris

Viewdata

In April, three consumers' organizations informed representatives of the Commission, national ministries and other consumer bodies within European Member States of the results of a jointly organized Viewdata consumer information pilot scheme. The project had received financial support from the Community under its multiannual information technology programme.

The three consumer organizations are: Stiftung Warentest (Germany), Association des Consommateurs/Verbruikers Unie (Belgium) and the Consumers' Association (UK).

The practical outcome of this cooperation has been their publication of a "beginner's guide to Viewdata", a handbook for other consumer bodies wanting to test Viewdata as a means of offering their members new services.

Women in the Minority

The European Commission has reviewed the position of its officials and employees by category and sex and has found that only 230 of the 2.695 category A staff are women (8.5%).

Equal treatment for self-employed women

A directive on the application of the principle of equal treatment for men and women to the self-employed has been drafted by the Commission. This draft is the final piece in the mosaic of European legislation on equal treatment on which the Commission embarked in the mid-1970s.

In 1981 the Commission undertook to put forward a number of new legal instruments to promote equality through the strengthening of individual rights. The aim of this last directive in the series is to offer every woman access to an occupational status (perhaps as her husband's employee or partner) and to give every wife working on her own account the right to social security, vocational training, etc.

The proposal, presented under the auspices of Commissioner for Social Affairs Ivor Richard in association with Poul Dalsager, Commissioner for Agriculture, is of special importance to women married to self-employed men in, for example, agriculture, who do not enjoy an occupational status in their own right even though they play take an active part in the family business. This directive would place Member States under an obligation to eliminate any obstacle preventing such women - if they so desire - from acquiring full occupational status.

The Commission has also called on Member States to make sure that the two categories - the wives of self-employed men and women who are themselves self-employed - forfeit as few benefits as possible in pregnancy and motherhood. These benefits, declares the Commission, should include the right to call in a replacement service and the right to social security cover during pregnancy and maternity leave.

The Birth Rate

An informal meeting of Ministers of Social Affairs and Employment in the EEC, held in Paris in April, was devoted partly to the grave demographic problems confronting Europe.

The Council is currently presided by France. The presidency felt that these problems should be discussed at European Community level and had prepared a document on family and population policy suggesting that the average birth rate of 2.1 per woman should be the goal in the Community, as this would maintain the population at a stable level.

The overall birth rate in Europe of the Ten has been falling steadily since the "bulge" of 1960-65: from 1.79 in 1964 to 2.61 in 1967, 2.46 in 1969, 2.35 in 1970, 2.05 in 1973, 1.85 in 1975, 1.75 in 1980 and 1.68 in 1982.

To bring the birth rate up to 2.1 children per woman, various measures should be considered, argued the presidency:

information campaigns should be launched, tailor-made for each country, to encourage couples to have more children;

research and analysis should be conducted at Community level to consider the factors that influence the birth rate, one of the aims being to draft better social protection and employment policies.

A propitious environment for the family and child should also be created, for example by giving more financial support for young children and large families, trying to reconcile work and family life and improving the everyday living environment of families, especially by putting more effort into accommodation in towns, where housing is often old and unsuitable.

### ESPRIT

With the launching of the ESPRIT programme (its budget is 1,500 million ECU), Europe has gained its second wind. Etienne Davignon, Vice President of the European Commission, has gone on record to the effect that this is "the first optimistic decision" taken by the Community for a long time.

ESPRIT - the European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technology - is an unprecedented example of cooperation.

Its aim: to help Europe catch up in this field over the next ten years.

Its original feature: it pools the research efforts of industrial concerns, laboratories and universities and disseminates the benefits of those efforts throughout the Community.

In consultation with the industries concerned, five key sectors have been selected for research under the ESPRIT programme: advanced micro-electronics, advanced information processing, software technology, office automation and computer control in manufacturing.

The ESPRIT project is the result of spontaneous enthusiasm, channelled by the coherent programme formulated by the European Commission. It was high time something was done: Europe accounts for 30% of the world market for high technology, but its industry has only a 10% share; even on its own ground, it has won barely one third of the European market.

### The status of European nationals married to non-nationals

The Commission has proposed a directive under which any European Community national would be entitled to enter and live in any Member State, not just by virtue of the work he does but as a citizen of that State. A national of a non-EEC State who is married to a Member State national would be granted the same rights as his or her spouse.

The proposal is now being considered by the Council of Ministers.

#### **A WORD OF WARNING!**

To avoid duplication and wasting precious paper, the European Commission has decided to review the distribution lists for all its publications.

**DON'T FORGET TO FILL IN AND RETURN THE FORM YOU  
WILL BE RECEIVING - OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT NOT RECEIVE  
YOUR COPY OF "WOMEN OF EUROPE"!**

A European Consumers Council

Following the setback of the Athens summit meeting in late 1983, there was an urgent need for the representatives of European consumers to find common ground. This was done on 12 December in Brussels, where the first meeting of the European Consumers Council was chaired by T. Pangalos, the Greek deputy Minister for Trade.

Four proposals for directives were on the agenda:

- (1) a proposal on dangerous products, presented in December 1979, was that lightweight administrative machinery be set up to provide an early warning to all Member States of the introduction of any product on any market creating a hazard to the health or safety of its users.

The Council of Ministers has now given its consent to the proposed directive introducing a Community system for the rapid exchange of information. Once it has been adopted, national Governments will be able to set up their own structures for implementing the decision.

- (2) In 1976 the Commission put forward preliminary proposals with a view to the adoption of a directive making manufacturers liable if any of their products cause injury to the user. It is not altogether unknown, for instance, for death or irreversible disability to be caused by medical drugs. Discouraged by the industrial lobbyists and their arguments that the cost in terms of insurance premiums and compensation would be enormous if the directive were to be adopted, Member States backtracked and have been unable to make up their minds since then.

In Brussels, nothing concrete has been decided. The Council of Ministers has pressed on with its work and has asked the committee of consumer representatives to seek an early compromise solution which would be acceptable to all.

- (3) First brought out in 1978 and twice amended in 1979, the European directive on misleading advertising aims to protect the consumer against inaccurate information by giving him the wherewithal to take low-cost, effective action against untruthful advertising.

The Council has had a searching exchange of views as to the field of application and certain problems associated with the administrative and legal protection of consumers, but it has been unable to obtain a firm decision from the ten representatives. Work is continuing.

- (4) Doorstep sales agreements must be in writing and buyers must have seven days to reconsider their decision, recommends a proposal drawn up in January 1977.

After over 40 meetings, Government experts have been unable to hammer out an agreement applicable in every Member State, despite the fact that most of them are already applying the regulation in their own territory.

Paris is to be the venue for a second meeting on all these problems in the near future.

Socio-economic progress of regions within the Community

The Commission has adopted the second periodical report on the socio-economic position and development of European Community regions, presented by Mr. Giolitti.

This second report outlines the position of regions in the early 1980s and describes trends since 1973, the year in which the oil crisis first erupted, triggering off the recession. It also takes a dynamic view in that it considers the prospects for growth on regional labour markets in the 1980s and the implications to the regions of the enlargement of the Community from ten to twelve Member States.

The essential conclusion to be drawn from the report is as follows: the gravity of the situation for regions which are geographically on the outskirts of the Community and whose development has lagged behind others has become more acute in the current crisis. At the same time, fresh problems associated with that crisis have emerged and are affecting more highly industrialized and geographically central regions.

The right to education

"Because of their social status and language and cultural difficulties, the children of migrant workers are more exposed than other children to scholastic failure and unemployment," said Ivor Richard, European Commissioner with responsibility for social affairs. With the introduction of a Community directive in July 1981, however, equal opportunities have come more of a reality.

As of this time, schools in EEC Member States take in about 2.5 million children of migrants from other Member States or outside the Community. All of them must be given the same privileges as children from their host country, since the "right to education is a child's fundamental right".

With this in mind, the Community directive set Member States three main goals: the children concerned should receive appropriate instruction in the language of their host country; basic and refresher training should be given to teaching staff; and encouragement should be given for teaching the children their own language and about their own culture.

Despite progress since the introduction of this directive, the situation still varies from country to country and not all children of immigrants as yet benefit from the same advantages as are given to nationals. The Commission is firmly bent on calling to order any Member State which has not been making determined headway towards embodying the European principles into their national education system.

Men and women in 1983

Research on men and women in 1983, the status of women, their work and political involvement has been conducted in the ten European Community countries, under the auspices of the European Commission.

The same questionnaire was put to representative population samples aged 15 and over, a total of 7.970 people, in March/April 1983. The general coordinator for the survey was H  l  ne Riffault.

In 1975. Women's Year, the Commission of the European Communities decided to carry out a sample survey in the nine (at that time) EEC Member States to find out more about men's and women's attitudes to certain issues in our society. It was the first research of its kind on a European scale. In May 1975, 9,500 people aged 15 or over were interviewed and the findings were written up in a report published in December 1975.

The report aroused such general interest that, in 1977, the Commission embarked on further research, the findings being published in February 1979. In the spring of 1983, the Commission decided on the next step in its programme. It commissioned a third opinion poll, the purpose this time being to produce a comparative study of men's and women's behaviour patterns in the face of certain problems, especially their attitudes to Europe in the run-up to the elections for the European Parliament.

From that survey, it now appears that about two thirds of European women aged over 15 are married or cohabit, the remaining third being unmarried, divorced, separated or widowed. Women in paid employment account for about one third of the total of European women. The husbands of roughly 75% of the married women in the Community are in gainful employment.

Eight people out of ten approve of equal opportunities in working life; a very large majority know nothing at all about the activities of the Community institutions; among those who know a little more, there is a fairly widespread feeling of scepticism as to the effectiveness of its work.

It also seems that any differences in opinion and socio-political attitudes between the sexes that do exist are slight and do not bring them into conflict. Men and women make up a single coherent whole: there are differences of course, but they react in a similar way to events over a period of time and the changes that occur affect both sexes alike.

It is also of interest that men are almost as concerned about women's status as women are themselves. There is one difference: there is always a slightly more marked tendency for women to share the aims or support the ideas of feminists.

The citizens of the Community now attach less importance to the problem of women's role in society. This fact should be interpreted as a sign of changing times, opine the authors of the report, rather than hardening attitudes. This view is borne out by the fact that fewer people have preconceived ideas as to the separate roles of men and women and that discriminatory attitudes have become uncommon.

The traditional concept of the family as a unit in which the husband has a job and the wife stays at home and does the housework is no longer the ideal: fewer than 3 people out of 10 (26% of women and 29% of men) see this as the optimum, and the level is even lower among young people (2 out of 10).

The idea that "politics is man's business" is apparently quite unacceptable to more than 70% of Europeans, with men and women replying in the same ways.

Attitudes to women's or feminist movements have changed little over the past few years. A two thirds majority approves of women's aspirations for equality and 45% (47% of women, 42% of men) say they are very much in favour. Nevertheless, 33% of women and 41% of men disapprove. Among women, one in a hundred says she is a member of such a movement, and one in ten thinks she might join; all the others state categorically that they would not do so.

A remarkable fact is that a large majority of men and women in Europe agree with the view that, during a period of high unemployment, a man is more entitled to work than a woman (59% of women and 61% of men). Among young people of both sexes and more highly educated women, however, this view is held by a smaller number.

For the past ten years or so, the proportion of women who work has been rising fast in all Community countries, i.e. from 27.7% in 1970 to 32.6% in 1983. In other words, the percentage now stands at one third of the women in question, whereas the proportion of men of working age who are employed has fallen slightly.

When asked about their own preferences, women are unequivocal: 63% say they would prefer to have a job. This figure is interesting in view of the fact that only 33% of women are in fact employed.

Questions eliciting men's preferences showed that, when it comes to their own households, a far higher percentage (52%) would prefer their own wives not to have a job. In other words, there is a wide gap between what men believe in theory and what they feel in their personal lives.

Part-time employment, an almost exclusively female domain, is very unevenly distributed through the Community. Of 10 European women with a job, about 4 work part-time; 78% of part-timers feel that the arrangement works well.

Women are less well placed than men in terms of wages, promotion prospects and the number and range of jobs open to them. They also have less job security and more restricted access to further vocational training.

It is the general view that women have just as much in politics as men. Even so, they take less part in political affairs. Another point is that women, especially younger women, are taking more interest in the major topics of debate in society. The ways in which they express their interest in "current affairs" are also a departure from the traditional patterns of political involvement.

Research on the extent of participation in groups and associations by women showed that they are as active as men except in sports clubs and groups.

Committed involvement in an association is slightly less common among women who are in employment.

Women feel strongly that they should exercise their right to vote, and the percentage of women voting in national elections is very close to that of men. In the period leading up to the European elections, as many women as men said they firmly intended to vote.

Changing mentalities, morals and ways of life over the past few decades do not seem to have narrowed the small gap between the behaviour and attitudes of men and women. Even so, these appear to be merging at several points among the younger generation.

"There is as yet no way of measuring the respective influence of structural, cultural and historic factors, for example, on women's condition and general attitudes and opinions. But the three surveys on the subject highlight the facts that mentalities are evolving in every European country and that there is ever broader recognition of equal rights for men and women."

**AT THE COURT OF JUSTICE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

A pension granted to the widower of a European civil servant

The widower of a European civil servant has demanded and obtained a survivor's pension on his wife's death after this was refused by her employer, the European Commission.

The judges in the European Court of Justice have delivered their judgment on this affair, which will fuel the debate as to Belgian women civil servants who are paying contributions to a widows' and orphans' pension fund without the prospect of any benefit in return.

The Court of Justice has also declared that the provisions of the staff regulations for the European Communities, granting a pension to officials' widows whereas widowers may claim a survivor's pension only in exceptional cases, "conflict with a fundamental right and are therefore inapplicable". Two such widowers had taken legal action. One man's appeal was dismissed because he had not submitted his claim in time. The other had asked the Court to nullify the Commission's decision to reject his claim for a survivor's pension on the grounds that the staff regulations made provision for widower's pension only in specific cases. The Court noted that the regulations cover two survivor's pension schemes which differ fundamentally depending on whether the deceased official is of "the male or female sex". "The plaintiff," said the Court, "was right in arguing that these provisions are in breach of the principle of equal treatment for the two sexes."

Until such time as the Council amends the regulations, the Court said, the rules on widows should also apply to widowers.



Jurisprudence

At a solemn session of the Court of Justice in April for the inauguration of the new Belgian judge (R. Joliet) and its new President (Lord MacKenzie Stuart), the outgoing President (M. Mertens de Wilmars) stressed the importance of the authority of the Court's decided cases, which had helped to "clarify the essentials of an autonomous Community system of law founded on respect for fundamental rights and freedoms". Nevertheless, he said, he could not conceal his "anguished concern at the storms by which the Community is being shaken, threatening to its very foundations the most positive of all those enterprises to which European peoples and nations have devoted their efforts in the course of this troubled century".

A recent publication:

"THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN EUROPE"

The resolution on the position of women in Europe adopted by European Parliament on 17 January 1984, together with summaries of the 18 reports of the Committee of Inquiry

Useful addresses: European Parliament Information Offices

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Education

The Irish Secretary of State for Education, Gemma Hussey, who is to be the next President of the Council of Education Ministers, has visited the Commission to discuss plans for the Irish presidency (July to December 1984).

One of the points she stressed was the importance she attaches to the education and training of girls and young women.

European views on Development Aid

Eight Europeans out of ten feel that there should be more aid for the Third World, but this proportion is far less (42%) when such aid is viewed against the background of economic recession. Furthermore, 40% think that aid should be reduced, while 11% believe that no further aid should be given at all.

These are the findings of a survey conducted by the European consortium for agricultural development on the attitudes of Europeans to the Third World.

The survey shows that 82% of the Europeans interviewed are in favour of the aid given by their own country to the Third World: 27% are very strongly favour and 55% are in favour but without very strong convictions. It was also found that the public often underestimates the role played by the European Community. In investigating the image of the Third World in the eyes of Europeans, the survey showed that the main concern in Europe is the population explosion in developing countries.

The priorities for cooperation with the Third World should, in the opinion of 56% of those questioned, be more training and equipment to help satisfy basic needs; 46% saw the priority as the promotion of small projects with a direct impact on the life of the people concerned, and 36% felt that aid to the poorest populations was most pressing.

Seven people out of ten also said that they had recently heard discussions of the problems of the Third World.

The survey was conducted on a sample of 9,719 people in the 10 Community countries.

Useful address: The European Omnibus Survey  
Rue des Colonies 54, boîte 3  
1000 Brussels

**E R R A T U M**

Women of Europe no. 32 -(15 September/15 November 1983)

Page 52: the useful address should read:

Clara Clark, "Cartref", Newtonpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, or  
Eileen Evason, New University, Coleraine, Northern Ireland

Women's associations: change of address

Anne-Sophie Van Neste, Vrouwen Overleg Comitee, Breughelstraat 31-33,  
2019 Antwerp

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

March 1984 Session

The agenda for this month was particularly full, especially as Parliament had to give its verdict on proposed agricultural prices for the 1984/85 year; as a result, there were two parliamentary sessions.

The first came between two meetings of the European Agriculture Ministers and before the European Council meeting on 19 and 20 March. It gave Parliament an opportunity to make its position known on the agricultural package (prices and associated measures), even though several MEPs felt that they were not in a position to give a really useful opinion on the subject.

At the time of the plenary vote, agreement by the Council of Agriculture Ministers was simply "conditional" and was to be confirmed, in the course of a second agricultural meeting at the highest political level, by Heads of State and Government within the European Council. Decisions on agriculture (economies, reform, milk production) were part of the package for that Council.

Mr. Rocard, the French Minister of Agriculture and President of the Council of Agricultural Ministers, came to European Parliament in person to explain the details of the "conditional" agreement reached during the agricultural marathon on 12/13 March. He told Parliament that agriculture is the "true cement" of the Community, the basic element in the current crisis but at the same time its greatest success.

The crisis has many causes, but we should resist the temptation to "renationalize" agricultural policy - the thing that European farmers most fear.

The main items in the conditional agreement relate to:

- prices, with a review under which the prices of certain products would be frozen while other price increases are kept down to a more moderate level;
- monetary compensatory amounts, the objective being a gradual phasing out of this measure, which is leading to a distortion of the Common Market;
- milk and dairy products, with the aim of cutting surplus production (since unfortunately these products tend to be consumed almost entirely in countries with a more temperate climate) on certain conditions, with due regard for particularly difficult situations such as in Ireland, where most milk producers are very small farmers).

Speaking more generally, Mr. Rocard did not conceal the gravity of the situation and was listened to by MEPs with the greatest attention. He felt there had been a "collective lack of responsibility" in waiting for resources to be exhausted before embarking on a reform of common agricultural policy.

Finally, while acknowledging that the European Commission proposals imposed sacrifices on farmers, Parliament came out in favour of price increases not exceeding those suggested by the Commission. Voting was far from unanimous, since only 75 MEPs voted in favour of the motion and 58 against, with 54 abstaining.

Those voting against the motion included all French MEPs, Greek Communists and most of the Irish (even though the final resolution alluded several times to the need to give special consideration to the grave problems arising in Ireland).

Among the other recommendations addressed to various institutions such as the European Commission was one calling for a firmer stand against the American authorities' offensive on agricultural markets.

Two weeks later, the President of the Council, Mr. Cheysson, came to Parliament to present a broadly negative review of the work of this European Council. While deploring Great Britain's responsibility in this respect (the final breakdown occurred because of British insistence on "reasoning in terms of the net balance"), Mr. Cheysson felt that "instances of incompatibility should not lead to the reaction of rejection". Refusing to be downcast, he called for "serious thinking" on the divergences between founding countries and the others which (to my regret," he added) have crept into the Community in more recent times.

The President of the European Commission, Mr. Thorn, was more pessimistic. He spoke of a "process of splitting and breakdown" and expressed the fear that the conditional agreement on agricultural policy would not hold up. [Editor's note: the meeting of the Council of Agricultural Ministers held in the following week in March helped to allay the fears expressed by the President and several MEPs.]

Mr. Thorn's review was also very negative with regard to the setting of a revised ceiling for the Community's own resources (by setting it too low, further problems will inevitably arise in a few years' time) and to proposals regarding budgetary constraints.

In the course of the debate, the summit meeting was criticized by all MEPs, most of them taking up the cudgels to defend their countries - with the obvious exception of MEPs on the opposition benches in their own countries, such as the Gaullists and other centre or right-wing parties in France and the Socialists in Great Britain, the latter group disputing British negotiating techniques rather than the rightness of British claims. Mrs Thatcher had negotiated like a cruise missile, said British Labour MEP Kenneth Collins. Doeke Eisma (D'66, Netherlands) wondered whether the British Premier knew that the New York subway system spent more per day than the annual repayments she was claiming from the Community per year.

For his part, Lord Douro pointed out that his country was making substantial concessions and that it is firm in its intention to continue its membership of the European Community.

Finally, at the time of voting on a whole series of motions winding up the debate (with each one stressing different points: agricultural policy, budget constraints, the need for economic revival in Europe), the desire not to isolate the United Kingdom by making it the scapegoat for the failure prevailed; more openly critical allusions to Mrs Thatcher were deleted from the text. The resolution tabled by Christian de la Malène on behalf of the European Progressive Democrats, severely criticizing Great Britain, was rejected outright.

During the same March session, European MPs also heard another French Minister and President of the Council of Transport Ministers, Mr Fiterman. His presence a few days after the grave problems on European roads was particularly significant.

The Minister said that, apart from the immediate steps that had been taken to end these incidents, durable arrangements were needed to eliminate delays in passing frontiers (for example, earlier implementation of the EEC directive facilitating the crossing of frontiers).

We should go even further, he said, and pave the way for a fully fledged common transport policy. This should include a whole range of actions on the same front: an infrastructure programme, possibly drawing on what Mr Fiterman defined as "original funding", and cooperation between rail, air and road transport. Discussing road transport, Mr Fiterman suggested that 1985 should be road safety year.

During this session, Parliament also adopted the main recommendations in Pierre Baudis's report on road safety, expressing its deep concern at the growing number of fatal accidents on European roads. It also agreed to recommendations on the crossing of frontiers and steps towards a true Common Market.

Another subject considered by Parliament in this session was education. It dealt first with higher education: with only a few detailed amendments, it accepted the recommendations of a report presented by French Socialist Nicole Péry, who pressed for more European cooperation in this field and greater equality in access to higher education.

The second report, presented by German Christian Democrat Rudolf Luster, sparked off a livelier debate. His subject, freedom of education, was a burning issue in France and the most vocal MEPs in the debate were French. Daniel Vié of the European Progressive Democrats, for example, deplored the overbearing behaviour of a government that tramples on the individual's freedom of educational choice. According to Simone Veil of the Liberal group, freedom of education is a basic human right. Her point was not disputed by French Communists, but they were annoyed at the procedural arrangements (the report had been presented in great haste), feeling that there had been an attempt to make political capital out of the issue at their expense during the election campaign; as a result they voted against the report. Italian Christian Democrat Paola Gaiotti di Biase told her colleagues that they should not view the issue as relevant to France alone. The Italian situation is hardly exemplary, she stressed, pointing to Belgium - where the "schooling pact" is respected - as a model to be emulated.

Another question affecting human rights was discussed by Parliament: sexual discrimination in the workplace. In this case the discrimination is against homosexuals, not against women. A very large majority in Parliament (the minority included some of the Irish MEPs, who saw the resolution as unwarranted interference in their national affairs) called on the European Commission to draw up proposals banning discrimination against homosexuals in the workplace on the grounds of their homosexuality. In this they expressed their agreement with the author of the report, Vera Squarcialupi (Italian, a member of the Communist group).

Speaking on behalf of the European Commission, Ivor Richard said he was in sympathy with the spirit of the report but, for the time being, felt that the body that could most appropriately respond to Parliament's concerns (and produce the comparative research requested on this type of discrimination) would be the Council of Europe.

In adopting a motion tabled by British Conservative Lord Bethell, Parliament called on European Community countries to caution the USSR against the adverse effects of its attempts at destabilization (the spreading of false and carefully doctored news, the illegal activities of journalists and diplomats and its tolerance of terrorism by other Eastern bloc countries). The majority of MEPs agreed with the report, but some protested vigorously against its content and lack of serious intent. It reads like a cheap thriller, said Vera Squarcialupi for example; British Socialist Allan Rogers, in a politically charged intervention, pointed out that spies in his country tend to come from the public schools and upper classes rather than from among workers such as miners.

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During the session in late March, Parliament tackled a tricky problem, one that certain MEPs (particularly Conservatives from Britain and Northern Ireland) would have preferred not to see on the agenda: the situation in Northern Ireland and, more specifically, what the European Community could do to help. The resolution tabled by Danish Liberal Niels Haagerup failed to win a majority, but a spokesman for the British Government distributed a paper at the end of the debate expressing approval of the fact that no attempt had been made to interfere in constitutional issues and that terrorism and those who tolerate terrorism had been condemned. In presenting his report, Mr Haagerup had clearly explained that he was far from seeing himself as a "political mediator"; his aim was essentially to find out whether appropriate Community aid might improve the country's social and economic position. The reply was positive, and such action might indirectly ease the political climate.

Although in practice British MEPs stressed the soundness of the report, all but one (Lord Bethell) abstained when it came to the final vote. One of them, Sir Fred Catherwood, whose family had lived in both parts of Ireland for several generations, went so far as to recommend that his colleagues vote for the report even though he himself abstained.

Speakers from Ireland struck an impassioned note. Ian Paisley, Ulster Unionist, saw the report as pure propaganda. Among speakers from the Irish Republic, Liberal Thomas Maher accused it of serving the cause of extremists by adopting such an intransigent stance. Paddy Lalor (Fianna Fail) felt there could be no peace without a united Ireland, and Neil Blaney (Independent) told European Parliament not to meddle in other people's affairs.

The final resolution was adopted by 128 votes in favour, with 3 against and 63 absentions. The rapporteur himself amended a paragraph recognizing that the rights of the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland had been infringed, while acknowledging the efforts that had been made by the British Government to bring about a satisfactory solution.

During the same session, Parliament debated and adopted a series of resolutions on economic topics. There were motions of a general nature (economic prospects, a convergence of the economies of the Ten, investment, cooperation among groups of companies), motions on industries going through a period of crisis (textiles and shipbuilding) and high technology sectors (telecommunications) and motions on the car industry and the machine tool industry. In every case, Parliament recommended a more resolutely European approach and called for efforts to make the Community more competitive again in the face of outside competition.

The same applied to debates on EEC trade relations, especially with newly industrialized countries such as countries in the Pacific, Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea.

Parliament also gave its opinion on an important aspect of Community policy, the launching of "integrated Mediterranean programmes", for which Lorenzo Natali argued on behalf of the European Commission of which he is Vice-President. Some of the Greek and Southern Italian MEPs felt that the Commission proposals did not go far enough and argued against the exclusion of industry. Some British Conservatives, on the other hand, would have liked to narrow its scope. Parliament's final verdict, however, was a forthright "yes" to the European Commission's proposal.

Turning to another theme, Parliament asked the Commission to report on the terms of nationalization in France. A motion tabled by Robert Delorozoy (French Liberal) was passed by 136 votes for, 89 against (cast by the Communists and Socialists, mainly French).

The debate could have been all-French affair, giving the majority and opposition parties from France a forum to argue their respective cases, but in fact it provoked very vigorous contributions from British Conservatives (including John Purvis and Michael Welsh, who pleaded for more economic flexibility) and from German Christian Democrats and Liberals.

#### Dangerous drugs

Two drugs used to treat the inflammation of joints in rheumatism have undesirable side effects which might even be fatal. They are phenylbutazone and oxyphenbutazone, marketed by Ciba-Geigy under the names of Butazolidin and Tanderil.

The firm published a confidential report at the end of December noting that 1,182 deaths may have been linked with Butazolidin or Tanderil. This figure related only to the incidents throughout the world between 1952 and 1981 that had been brought to Ciba-Gegy's notice; the true figure is undoubtedly far higher.

Following action by Raymonde Dury, Belgian Socialist MEP, and reports in the media, the manufacturer has decided to restrict its marketing and to recommend caution in its use in the leaflets in the packaging.

April 1984 Session

In the April session of European Parliament, Poul Dalsager, European Commissioner with responsibility for agriculture, reported on the latest agricultural Council, which had taken its first step towards overhauling the common agricultural policy and avoiding surplus production without losing sight of farmers' problems. Mr Dalsager was very encouraged and even complimentary about the "European" line taken by the Agriculture Ministers, but MEPs expressed a rather more varied range of opinions. The most critical were the French opposition MEPs, who did not like the "budgetary and bureaucratic" solutions reached by the Council. Irish Parliamentarians, too, despite special measures in favour of their dairy produce, saw the solutions as shaky. British Conservative David Curry, chairman of the Parliamentary Agriculture Committee, recognized the merits of the decisions but questioned the Commission's and Council's future agricultural policy. It was essential, as had been pointed out by many MEPs, to know where we were going, by what means and at what price. If farmers were to respond to the changes about to be made, they should be aware in advance of their scope, consequences and any risks. The Agricultural Committee called for a true forward plan from the other European institutions.

Most of the April session, however, was devoted to matters of external policy; security, relations with the United States, relations with certain African countries (as well as in Northern Europe, in the free trade area), and methods of encouraging a return to democracy in Chile and Central America.

Security is no longer a taboo subject for European Parliament, despite the protests of a few MEPs, especially the French Communists and Irish Members of all parties; in the latter case, the reason is that the Irish are afraid of forfeiting their neutrality if the European Community is over-concerned with defence matters.

Parliament voted overwhelmingly (157 votes to 67, with 8 abstentions) for the gist of the recommendations set out in the report introduced by Egon Klepsch (Germany, European People's Party), who called for a definition of a European concept of security and the setting up of a sub-committee on security within Parliament after the June elections.

Security also involves relations with the United States, the most powerful ally within the Atlantic Alliance. The theme was tackled by Parliament in a broad-ranging debate that included a review of Europe's relations with the US: political, economic and in a problematical sector, the steel industry.

Three resolutions were adopted at the end of these discussions. The first, tabled by Klaus Hänsch, German Socialist, was an amalgam of both adverse and positive comments and was later amended in a more pro-American sense. The second, put forward by his fellow Socialist from Germany, Helmut Rieger, called on the US to think about the potential effects of some of its economic decisions - guided by considerations of domestic policy - on relations with Europe (for example, its excessively high interest rates). The third resolution was from Tom Spencer, British Conservative, who expressed approval of the line adopted by the European Commission on the dispute between Europe and America as to steel (the Commission had opted for the path of negotiation in accordance with the rules of international trade).



Right-wing and centre parties stressed the importance of the US to European security and prosperity, something that was acknowledged by many left-wing members although they placed greater emphasis on Europe's independence. We are in a perverse situation, said German Socialist Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul. We are linked by defence agreements with a country that is our bitter rival for foreign markets. Even the British Conservative Sir Fred Catherwood deplored the "megaphone diplomacy" all too often conducted by the United States.

Wilhelm Haferkamp, for his part, reassured Parliament on behalf of the European Commission that there would be no trade war with the US; all things considered, he said, the American Government had stood up reasonably well to pressure from economic circles for protectionist measures.

Parliament also adopted resolutions on certain non-EEC countries facing both economic and political difficulties: Zimbabwe (the rapporteur, UK Conservative Sir James Scott-Hopkins, pointed to the aid that the Community could offer); the Horn of Africa, with its anguished problem of refugees; and Chile.

Both Carlo Ripa di Meana (Italian Socialist, who presented the resolution on the Horn of Africa, and Gérard Israël (French, European Progressive Democrats), encountered difficulties in drawing up their reports. Pressure had been exerted by the Ethiopian Government at several levels to prevent Mr Ripa's report being presented, and the Chilean Government had refused to let Mr. Israël visit the country on a fact-finding mission on the economic situation and respect for human liberties in Chile.

The Parliamentary investigative committee on the application of the "Seveso directive", as it has been called since the dioxin affair, had completed its work and Marie-Jane Pruvot (Fr, Liberal) reported to Parliament. The committee censured the Council and Member States, but it also reminded the European Commission of its responsibilities. At the same time, Parliament expressed the wish that the Commission be given powers to make effective checks on the application of directives. On behalf of the Commission, Karl-Heinz Narjes spoke of the vital need for on-the-spot monitoring, the principle that the polluter should pay and the broader need to reconcile economic and ecological concerns in everybody's interests.

Francis Wurtz spoke vigorously for French Communists against the "wall of silence" erected by the multinationals, the major culprits in this respect.

Concerned as to the falling birth rate in most EEC Member States (with the exception of Ireland), Parliament accepted the resolution put forward by Belgian Christian Democrat Lambert Croux calling for a review of the population problem and asking for suggestions from the Commission.

Paola Gaiotti de Biase (Italy, Christian Democrat) asked Parliament to approve representation of the Community as such at the UN conference in Nairobi in July 1985 to mark the close of the Decade for Women. Ivor Richard was unable as yet to convey the Commission's approval but said he was in full agreement with Parliament.

European Parliament also adopted two new reports on the principle of equality for men and women; one by Dutch Christian Democrat Johanna Maij-Weggen on equal treatment for widowers and widows, calling on the Commission to introduce equal pension rights. Most Member States today do not provide for any pension for surviving widowers.

During the debate, Dutch Socialist Ien van den Heuvel expressed her pleasure that the European Commission was continuing to make proposals on equality for men and women despite the crisis.

The second report, by German Social Democrat Johannes Peters, approved the Commission proposals on equality for men and women in occupational social security schemes but suggested a few improvements, such as its extension to part-time and domestic workers.

Parliament also approved a report by Dame Shelagh Roberts (Conservative), supporting the Commission's plan for reviewing prospects for local job creation schemes. Parliament accepted amendments suggested by Italian Christian Democrat Paola Gaiotti de Biase, one of which was on the importance of local schemes to women's employment.

#### May 1984 Session

In May, European Parliament held the final session in its first legislature. Members were then to go back to their own countries for the election campaign and were to come together again in Strasbourg for the inaugural session of the second legislature late in July. A number of MEPs were not standing again and others might not be elected. This meant that the Parliament resulting from the 17th June elections would in part be a "new" body.

The agenda for the final session was very full. Parliament had to reach decisions on a whole series of questions referred by the Commission and Council, and these would not automatically be raised again in the next legislature. As a result, most of the session was spent voting, although one feature was the eagerly awaited speech by President Mitterand, who had come to address Parliament as President of the European Council.

François Mitterand was very well received by the Members. He did not merely give the traditional overall review of the French presidency of the Council but speculated boldly as to the future, in particular European unification. Furthermore, he pointed out that the draft treaty (the "Spinelli project") accepted by European Parliament by a very large majority might serve as a basis for discussions paving the way for a conference of Member States interested in pressing ahead along the path to integration.

In so doing, he confirmed and broadened a suggestion he had already made in the deadlock arising from, among other factors, the British stand, to the effect that a core of "more European Europeans" could go ahead and not be held back by the more reluctant members.

Mr Mitterand pointed out that this action should supplement rather than replace steps being taken under existing treaties. Such sentiments were echoed by many MEPs and some expressed the hope that his words would be translated into reality.

When Mr Mitterand had gone, one of the first to respond was the French Minister for foreign relations and President of the Council of Ministers of the Community, Claude Cheysson, who said "lengthy thought has gone into this declaration, and France is committed by it".

During the same session in May, Parliament once again aired its views on a series of issues associated with human rights. First of all, it approved the report by Lord Bethell suggesting ways of linking Community aid with a guarantee of respect for certain human rights. It then dealt with a topical problem: the Sakharov case. In adopting a resolution put forward by the Christian Democrats, Parliament asked the USSR to authorize Mr and Mrs Sakharov to leave the Soviet Union. The foreign ministers of the Ten were, in turn, asked to find out about the couple's state of health.

Parliament also discussed a question of concern to many European citizens, the activities of many religious sects. Some MEPs, including the rapporteur Richard Cottrell, would have liked the Commission to turn its attention to this matter. In the end, it was the Member States who were called on to take action, to include a review of the international ramifications of "new religious movements".

Among other topical issues debated by Parliament was the USSR boycott of the Olympic Games ("we deplore it, just as we deplored the American boycott" declared the French and Italian Communist spokesmen). Parliament said that the commercialization of the Olympic Games should be ended by holding them in Greece from now on, as had been suggested by the Greek Government itself.

Parliament took a stand on a draft resolution presented by the Commission on ways of counteracting women's unemployment. The author of the report was German Socialist Heinke Salisch; she was very critical of European institutions (mainly the Council of Ministers, although the Commission was apportioned its share of the blame) and Member States. The shining exception was France, whose efforts in favour of women she cited.

The resolution as adopted approved the Commission's proposal but suggested that certain points be phrased more forcefully, especially measures to promote a redistribution of work, part-time working where this is preferred (Johanna Maij-Wedggen and Marlene Lenz argued for an amendment to the effect that part-time jobs should be encouraged for men as much as for women) and the broadening and intensification of information for women.

During the debate, Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano - speaking for the Communists - pressed for checks that the regulations on equal opportunities are in fact being observed at the time of recruitment.

Danish Liberal Tove Nielsen said that boys and girls should receive the same education and learn the same things so as to end the division of labour between men and women.

Speaking for the Commission, Ivor Richard, who is responsible for employment and social affairs, said that the Commission is committed to the principle of equality and is constantly concerned for unemployment in general and in particular for unemployment among the young of both sexes. Youth unemployment is becoming "a commonplace", he pointed out, and is no longer attracting the concern it deserves. He hoped that progress would be possible at the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs in June.

During the final session of its legislature, Parliament expressed its support yet again for effective equality of treatment for men and women, on this occasion for the self-employed and those working on the land. It adopted a resolution contained in the report by Johanna Maij-Weggen (Netherlands, EPP), who welcomed the directive being proposed by the Commission. Parliament expressed the hope that this directive would not prevent Member States wishing to apply more favourable measures from doing so.

The resolution states that the directive should guarantee a range of rights to self-employed women as well as women doing unpaid work in family businesses. These rights are: no direct or indirect discrimination; an income in their own right and individual treatment in matters of taxation and social security; access to all forms of education and training; special protection during pregnancy and maternity on a par with other women workers.

Parliament would also like this directive to be an incentive to improve the management of small and medium-sized enterprise in the agricultural sector.

Parliament passed a series of amendments put forward by the Committee of Inquiry on the situation of women supplementing and reinforcing the text, in particular the introduction of the principle of continuity of a business by giving the surviving spouse preferential rights.

George Patterson (British Conservative) announced that the European Democrats could not vote for the resolution, since Parliament had rejected the group's amendment to the effect that the legislation in question should not counteract private arrangements.

#### The Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the Situation of Women

Under the chairmanship of Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano (Italian Communist), the Committee of Inquiry has held several meetings, mainly for the purpose of preparing for the Parliamentary debates reported above.

In other words, the Committee of Inquiry has influenced European Parliament right up to the end of the legislative session, covering all the issues of concern to women such as parental leave, social security, self-employment and unemployment.

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

BELGIUM

Marriage and the family, 1962-77

A Walloon survey on "Marriage and the Family - fifteen years after" is of particular interest in that couples who had been married since 1962 were interviewed in both 1965 and 1976 and asked the same set of questions.

The survey showed that the average number of children by the end of a child-bearing period extending over more than 15 years is 2.33. After 14 years of married life, the couples interviewed had an average of 2.20 children.

In reply to a question as to the kind of help their children give with the housework, the couples said that they tend to ask their daughters rather than their sons to do household chores, since these are still seen as "girls' work", whereas boys are asked to help with the gardening or looking after the car.

Even so, families in which only the girls do housework are less common; more than 40% of boys do such work, a step towards an end to the concept of typically male and female roles.

Parents do not differentiate between their sons and daughters when it comes to the choice of education. Despite this, boys tend to be directed towards technical education (about 65%) and girls towards general education (approximately 85%) and vocational education (about 56%). Studies leading to work as engineering technicians are seen as suited only to boys, whereas girls tend to take up studies leading to careers in teaching, hospital work and secretarial work.

There have been two marked changes in matters of contraception. The percentage of couples not using contraceptives has dropped from 19.4% to 10%. More than 60% of the couples believe that over 75% of married people have had sexual relations before marriage (34.4% in 1965).

Although a majority disapproves of unmarried couples living together, divorce by a couple without children is no longer disapproved (55%). On the other hand, 60% do not like the idea of a couple divorcing if there are children.

Between 1965 and 1976, there was a considerable decline in active membership of a church: 38% of women (compared with 62% in 1965) and 34% of men (56% in 1965).

The findings show that whether a married woman with children is committed to a career is far more closely linked with family considerations than in the case of her husband. Ninety per cent of men said they had worked throughout the first 14 years of their marriage, whereas 24% of women said they had never had a job and only 36% that they had a career.

Useful address: Edmond Lambrechts and Ada Garcia  
Centre de Recherches Sociologiques  
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1384 Louvain-la-Neuve

### Abortion

In Belgium, an abortion law enacted in 1867 is still in force.

This has been brought home by a judgment delivered in March by the (Dutch-speaking) Court of Appeal in Brussels, which upheld the decision of a lower court. Professor Jean-Jacques Amy of the Brussels Free University was given a suspended sentence of two months' imprisonment for having carried out abortions.

It is feared that the Belgian courts will enforce the 1867 law - prohibiting abortion except when the mother's life is in danger - even more stringently than before, at least in (Dutch-speaking) Flanders. In 1983, the French-speaking section of the Brussels Court of Appeal dismissed cases against several doctors, including Professor Amy.

For five years, Belgian courts refrained from enforcing the 1867 law to give Parliament an opportunity to amend and liberalize abortion law along the lines adopted by most Western European countries. In 1982, the Socialists introduced a bill in an effort to end the system under which abortion is a criminal offence for a trial period; this was thrown out by a parliamentary majority, the reason for the Court's decision on the appeal.

### Public sector employees

Women are accounting for a growing percentage of public sector personnel. In education and the local authorities, 54% and 48% of staff are women. Between 1971 and 1981, the number of women employees has been rising by an average of 5.5% a year (compared with 1.71% in the case of men).

## D E N M A R K

### Danish Parliament

The elections for the Folketing on 10 January 1984 have increased the percentage of women in Parliament to the record level of 26%. Out of a total of 179 MPs, 46 are women (there were 42 in the previous Parliament). Of the 1,139 candidates standing for election, 299 were women - the highest ever recorded. They won more preferential votes than men, 1,519 compared with 1,337.

This is a breakdown of the women MPs by party affiliation:

Social Democrats	10 of the 57 elected party members
Socio-Liberals	2 out of 10
Conservatives	13 out of 42
People's Socialist Party	9 out of 21
Democratic Centre Party	3 out of 8
People's Christian Party	1 out of 5
Liberals	6 out of 23
Leftwing Socialists	2 out of 5
Progress Party	none of the 6 MPs were women; one male MP elected for Greenland

Useful address: Ligestillingsrådet  
Frederiksgade 19-21  
1265 Copenhagen

Feminist studies at the University

A plan to introduce feminist studies - a novelty in Denmark - into the curriculum of Aalborg University Centre is well in hand.

This new specialist subject will not only be theoretical but will entail periods of work experience with private and public sector employers and in education.

It is hoped that the specialists of the future will help to put the women's viewpoint in research and education and improve women's opportunities on the labour market.

Equal opportunities

In November 1983, the Equal Opportunities Council held a conference on the problem of unemployment among young people, especially girls.

Those taking part questioned the reasons why girls derive less benefit from the prospects available in today's society.

The stress was on the importance of guiding girls towards non-traditional careers even in the early days of their education.

Useful address: Ligestillingsrådet  
Frederiksgade 19-21  
1265 Copenhagen

FRANCE

Men and the feminist revolution

Seventy per cent of men believe that their role in society has not changed, according to a survey conducted by Gallup-Faits et Opinions for the magazine L'Express.

Over the past 15 years, however, the barriers to places which have traditionally been the preserve of men have been breached. Prestigious colleges have now opened their portals to women, the latest being the military academy, Saint-Cyr, which has been attended by two girls since September 1983. Now that women have risen to positions of responsibility in the working world, they are challenging male prerogatives. Legalized contraception and abortion have dispossessed men of an implicit power. It is a time when 34% of men help with the washing up and when it is more often the wife who asks for a divorce.

Nevertheless, 39% of men still say that life is still easier for a man than a woman. When asked "is women's liberation a good thing?" 72% of the men interviewed by Aesop market researchers replied - even in 1982 - with a resounding "yes".

In the survey, 70% said that their sexual relationships had changed neither for the better nor for the worse; 19% said they had changed for the better and 30% said that their own relationships had improved.

Men now accept that a woman might earn more than her husband (79%), but they have in no way renounced the old-fashioned values: in the home, they say (or 56% of them do), they are still the boss, according to the survey.

Research: women and feminism

As a result of a joint decision by the Ministry for Women's Rights and the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS - the national scientific research centre), "programmed thematic action" was recently launched in the field of "research on women and feminist research". Official blessing has thus been given, for the first time in France, to research on themes such as the history of women and feminism, women's social representation, women's fiction and women and the law.

Maurice Godelier (CNRS) has called on women's associations and groups already active in the field for many years to tender for research projects. "Research is no longer the prerogative of a group of intellectuals," he declares. It has also been announced that an interdisciplinary research programme on technology, work, employment and ways of living is being set up.

It is of interest that 6,358 (44%) of the 9,107 researchers working for CNRS on 31.12.1982 were women, as were 53.3% of its press officers and 15.7% of its research directors. Over 90% of its administrative staff were female (AFI figures).

Useful	Ministère des Droits de la Femme	CNRS
addresses:	53, avenue d'Iéna	54, boulevard Raspail
	<u>75016 Paris</u>	<u>Paris</u>

A top civil servant

In 1974 Nicole Briot was the first woman to be appointed an inspector of finance; now she has been promoted to the chairmanship of a new committee on futures markets for commodities. Her job will be to supervise and regulate the market and to promote Paris as a force on world markets. She will be responsible for setting up this completely new body from scratch. She has moved to the job from the Ministry for Cooperation where, as a member of the development policies department, she was responsible for relaunching the national audiovisual institute.

Women in the army

In 1983, there were 5 or 6 applications from girls for every post as national service volunteer, as well as 4,797 applications from young women for 850 new positions created by the budget in 1983. The French armed forces employ 17,052 women.

In the army, the number of women officers rose by about 13% between 1982 and 1983 and, in the navy, by 16%. In the air force, 4 women have been selected as trainee military transport pilots.

Equality at work

A booklet on equality between men and women at work has been published. It has been designed as a handbook to the law of 13 July 1983 on equality in the workplace and as a clear, simple source of information for the reader.

The booklet, distributed free of charge, is intended for works committees, the representatives of trade unions and employers' associations, regional ministerial delegations and regional departments of employment.



Women with problems

It has been estimated that there were about 5,000 cases of women in difficulty and even distress in the region of Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur in 1982, out of a population which the 1982 census numbered as 2,029,268 women.

The acuteness of these problems has been formally noted by the Regional Council, which has asked GRAIF to conduct "action-research" on the position of such women in the region.

Useful address: GRAIF  
300. avenue du Prado  
13008 Marseilles

No discrimination in career planning

An information campaign on vocational guidance for girls has been launched by the Ministry for Women's Rights to ensure that the law on equality at work of 13 July 1983 makes a more forceful impact on everyday life.

Aimed at girls, their parents and their teachers. the campaign has included a hundred or so publicity spots on the three French television channels at peak viewing times, in the hope that it will arouse discussion in the family.

For a month and a half from mid-April, the message was put over in magazines read by young people and publications for teachers. A new form of publicity has been the broadcasting of information over 16 independent local radios, which have also arranged discussion programmes on the subject.

Useful address: Ministère des Droits de la Femme  
53, avenue d'Iéna  
75016 Paris

On your bikes

The organizers of the gruelling cycle race, the Tour de France, and the French cycling federation have launched the first women's Tour de France, to be held from 30 June to 22 July. There will be twelve national teams competing and 72 women will take part. Their route will be the same as for men but they will have one hour's start and less distance to cover: 991 kilometres (the men do 3.700) in 18 stages of about 60 kilometres.

Edwige Alice, minister with responsibility for leisure, youth and sport, will be the godmother for this first event. Elsewhere, women's cycling has won recognition as an Olympic sport for the first time and women cyclists will be competing in a road race in Los Angeles (Source: Infos AFI).

The feminine version

"On peut s'intituler conseillère conjugale, mais pas conseillère municipale. Le féminin au lit, soit, mais pas à la mairie." In other words, in French there is a feminine word for "councillor", and it is perfectly apt when applied to a marriage guidance councillor but sounds ridiculous when used for a town councillor. Feminine versions of words are fine in the bed, but not in the town hall, according to author Benoîte Groult. She quoted this and many other examples of misogyny in the French language when she chaired the first meeting of a new "terminological committee on the vocabulary of women's activities".

The aim of this committee is to bring order into the total grammatical cacophony that reigns in words used for women's titles and jobs. Will the committee's recommendations be reflected in dictionaries? "Yes, so long as the new words come into current usage," replied Josette Rey-Debove, lexicographer for the Robert dictionary and a member of the committee.

Useful address: Commission de Terminologie relative au Vocabulaire  
concernant les activités des Femmes  
Ministère des Droits de la Femme  
53, avenue d'Iéna  
75016 Paris

**G E R M A N Y**

Opportunities for girls

The sixth report on promoting equal opportunities for girls in the Federal German Republic is far from optimistic. It notes that the patriarchal view of the world, whose basic tenet is that the male dominates woman and nature, makes equality of opportunity for girls impossible. Woman's role is still seen as that of housewife and mother even though one marriage in three today ends in divorce. Most young working women are still in the kind of jobs that have conventionally been done by women.

The report concludes that it is just as important that women change their attitudes as it is for men. It proposes measures in response to several problems in society, from rape to women's working and social lives.

Useful address: Pressestelle Bundeshaus Bundestagsdrucksache  
10/1007  
Bundeshaus 1  
53 Bonn 1

Debate in the Bundestag

For a whole day, women were the focus of debate in German Parliament. Of the 40 speakers, only three were men. A new procedure was introduced for the occasion under which each speaker was allowed only 10 minutes to put over his or her points, something that three of them found difficult. A point forcefully raised in this as in other debates was the under-representation of women in Parliament. Women speakers deplored the fact that a minority of the public has still not yet accepted that women have equal rights. From the debate it emerged that the two major problems affecting women are discrimination at every level of society and female unemployment. One point on which every party agreed was that girls' vocational training lags behind that of boys. Some of the women MPs who spoke even accused their male counterparts of profiting from the exploitation of women.

Despite unanimous agreement that women are discriminated against in general, the solutions proposed by the various parties differed considerably. The Green Party and the Social Democrats argued that women's status should be improved by social measures, legislation and programmes for the advancement of women in matters of employment and pensions. Chancellor Helmut Kohl deplored the state of affairs and spoke of the important role of women within the family, pleading for part-time work for women. At the end of the debate, he also expressed his deep regret that women should be so poorly represented in politics, an opinion shared by every party.

Useful address: Bundestag-Pressestelle-Stichwort-Frauendebatte  
Bundeshaus 1  
53 Bonn 1

Women and justice

The higher administrative tribunal of Münster has given a judgment as to the principle of an issue and has stated that women are entitled to take up vocational training in the building industry, even though regulations for the protection of workers prohibited their access to such training. According to the Court, the regulations are in breach of a fundamental freedom in matters of work and are not justified by such employment being harmful to women's health.

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The Federal Supreme Court has ruled that life does not exist, in the legal sense of the term, until the onset of labour pains.

In so doing, the Court makes it clear that abortion is not deemed to be murder during the first three months of pregnancy.

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The Supreme Court arbitrating on disputes of a social nature has upheld a judgment that fathers are not entitled to parental leave after their wives have given birth, even if the mothers waive their right to take such leave.

Useful addresses: Oberverwaltungsgericht Münster Bundesgerichtshof  
Az 4a 1101/82 Pressestelle  
44 Münster 75 Karlsruhe

Bundessozialgericht - Pressestelle  
Az 3 RK 19/82  
35 Kassel

### Victims

More and more women are at the receiving end of violence. In 1982, 54.4% of murder victims were women, compared with 46.3% in 1972. According to the experts, this increase is due to the emancipation of women and the fact that they are more likely to live on their own, away from their families.

### New technology

The current crisis on the jobs market is causing women great concern. They account for 37% of the working population but 44%-48% of the unemployed. Among unemployed women, 33% are under 25. Two thirds of young people seeking vocational training are girls.

A seminar for women members of the Social Democrat Party has highlighted the major impact on women's employment made by the introduction of microchip technology. The Government considers that education and vocational training are the two keys to improving women's chances on the labour market, although flexible working hours and part-time employment will also help. It was pointed out that many women work in their own homes; the unions see this as a trend that will expand as further advances are made in new technology. The unions have warned against the dangers to women to which this practice gives rise: isolation, exploitation and low wages. The labour inspectorate in Lower Saxony, for example, has been reviewing many contracts of employment for outworkers and several employers have already been ordered to pay compensation to a total amount of 35,000 DM.

A booklet on working in the home can be obtained free of charge from the Inspectorate of Labour, Staatliche Gewerbeaufsicht.

Useful address: Staatliche Gewerbeaufsicht  
Flisterstrasse 17a  
3000 Hanover 92

### More resources for women

The regional parliament for Hesse has increased its budget for projects set up by women, despite current economy measures. Out of this budget, 3 million Deutschmark has been allocated to hostels for battered women, 1.8 million towards the integration of women into working life and 500,000 to lifelong education, plus a million Deutschmark grant for adult education outside the institutional framework.

Useful address: Bundestag-Pressestelle-Stichwort-Frauendebatte  
Bundeshaus 1  
53 Bonn 1

### Women and the army

A survey conducted by the Allensbach Institute has shown that 51% women would not be willing to join the army, either as serving soldiers or as non-uniformed military employees, and that 75% of both men and women frown on the idea of "women soldiers".

### Appointments

Barbara Schäfer, a Member of Parliament in the Christian Democrat Party that that has emerged as the leader in the Baden Württemberg elections, is now minister of social affairs. She takes the place of Annemarie Griesinger, a former minister of federal affairs. Barbara Schäfer is the only woman in the nine-member cabinet.

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Herta Däubler-Gmelin, Anke Fuchs and Heide Simonis have been elected by their group to the executive committee of the Social Democrat party in the Bundestag.

### Christian Democrats

The women members of the CDU - the Christian Democrat Party - have brought out a free booklet setting out their views on women's issues.

Useful address: Frauenvereinigung der CDU  
Adenauer-Haus  
53 Bonn

### A new institution

Since the Berlin regional parliament refused to set up an internal department with special responsibility for women's equality, the Social Democrat group in that city has decided to follow the example set by its counterparts in Schleswig-Holstein and the Saar. It has established an advisory board for the improvement of women's status, headed by regional MP Helga Korthaase.

Useful address: Helga Korhaase  
c/o SPD-Fraktion  
Rathaus Schöneberg  
53 Bonn 1

### The Environment

Throughout Germany babies and small children are dying for no apparent reason. According to certain women and political parties, the cause is pollution, especially atmospheric pollution. Just as in Seveso in Northern Italy, dioxin has been discovered in mother's milk.

The Minister for Youth, the Family and Health, H. Geissler, has promised that any mother can obtain an analysis of her milk free of charge. Despite this discovery, ministries and doctors advise mothers to continue to breastfeed their babies.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Familie, Jugend und Gesundheit  
Kennedyallee 101-1  
53 Bonn 2

Reforming a reform

The German Government plans to amend a divorce law that came into force in 1977, notably its sections on alimony. Under the law, the partner with fewer financial resources is entitled to an allowance, both in marriage and after a divorce. This has helped more women to gain a foothold in the world of work despite the difficulties caused by the economic recession.

In reforming the 1977 law, the aim is to restrict a woman's right to such an allowance to the period of marriage, on the grounds that it is society which must look for solutions to structural problems such as unemployment. But according to the vice president of the Socialist group in the Bundestag, Herta Däubler-Gmelin, alimony paid to older women or sick women who have to care for their children should not be reduced or ended.

Useful	Bundesjustizministerium	Bundestagsfraktionen CDU/CSU
addresses:	Pressereferat	SPD/FDP/Die Grünen
	Postfach	Bundeshaus 1
	<u>53 Bonn 1</u>	<u>53 Bonn 1</u>

An exhibition

The Regional Government of Baden-Württemberg has put on an exhibition on domestic economy and its social role - an all-important factor in the economy and private and social life, environmental protection, health and child care.

An appeal to young people has been launched by 24 associations that are active in the field. Boys, they say, are ill prepared for managing a family and household. Learning to be partners must begin in the home and with household tasks.

Useful address: Arbeitsgemeinschaft Hauswirtschaft e.V.  
Poppelsdorfer Allee 15  
53 Bonn 1

The family and hours of work

A survey by the Ministry for the Family, Youth and Health has shed fresh light on an all too familiar problem: the difficulty of reconciling the demands of family and work. More than 90% of part-time jobs are taken by women. The Ministry survey shows that many couples advocate a new pattern of working life, with part-time working for couples with small children, a shorter working day and the introduction of a 35-hour week.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Familie, Jugend und Gesundheit  
(Band 135 der Schriftenreihe: Familienfreundliche  
Gestaltung des Arbeitslebens)  
Kennedyallee  
53 Bonn 2

G R E E C E

Women's Status

Late in March, a bill amending the Civil Code in such a way as to eliminate all remaining traces of sex discrimination was introduced into Parliament. If accepted, it will incorporate recent changes to family law into the Code. It is worded to reflect the clauses of Laws 1329/73 (Reform of the Civil Code) and Law 1250/82 (civic marriage). The bill is to be debated by Parliament before its summer recess.

The Justice Minister has announced his intention of presenting new legislation to Parliament to legalize abortion. Women's associations have expressed their interest and have asked for an opportunity to consider the bill beforehand so that they can suggest any amendments to the law on a question of direct concern and of vital importance to women.

Official opening

The new head office for the Women's Equality Council in Plaka (in the centre of Athens) has recently been inaugurated in the presence of the Premier and numerous representatives of the Government and political parties. Few women's groups or associations attended the ceremony.

In her speech, the President of the Equality Council reviewed the progress achieved by the present Government towards improving the condition and legal status of women. Speaking to the members of the Council, the Premier once again stressed the concern his party feels for the advancement of Greek women and for helping them to solve their specific problems.

Useful address: Symvoulío Isotitas ton dio Filon  
Mousseou 2, Plaka  
105 55 Athens

A Secretary General

For the first time in the history of Greek Government administration, a woman has been appointed Secretary General to the Minister of Health and Social Welfare. She is Evdokia Serelli, an economist and specialist in the subject of regional development, who is to shoulder the heavy administrative burden of an important strategic subject.

True to her own principles, she refused to be photographed and would make no statement on her appointment, pointing up the difference between herself and her male colleagues.

Although women have occupied many senior positions in the Government hierarchy, no woman has been appointed as Secretary General before now.

### Regional offices

In accordance with Law 1414/84 on equality at work, recently enacted by Greek Parliament, the Minister of Labour has embarked on the work of setting up regional agencies for equal opportunities at the administrative level of the "nomos" (prefecture). The first two heads of agencies have already been appointed.

The bodies have a twofold role; to highlight any cases of discrimination against women at work and to take legal action either in the light of information passed on by the parties concerned or on their own initiative.

In the preliminary phase, the priority will be to provide information to both men and women on the changes to the law and on their obligations. A special effort will be made in the provinces, where little or nothing is known about the subject as yet.

In the meanwhile, the Equality Committee in the Attica prefecture has announced that it is prepared to take up any case of discrimination in the workplace on the grounds of sex. It has asked all those women who feel they have been discriminated against to come forward and make themselves known, whether they work for private employers or in the public sector.

Under the new law, the Committee is required to take discreet action and to ensure that justice is done.

### Post Office Administration

The Greek Post Office employs many women, but on the whole they do counter work. For the first time, three postwomen have been recruited for house-to-house mail deliveries five days a week.

When asked about their jobs, they said they had had no special difficulty in adjusting. The general public and their fellow postmen had reacted well in general. This is only a limited venture, however, as the three were taken on only temporarily.

## I R E L A N D

### New equality Code

The Employment Equality Agency has recently published a practical guide to equal opportunities in employment. The aim is to offer employers, workers, unions and employment agencies instructions, advice and information on vocational guidance and placement with a view to eliminating existing discrimination and preventing its reappearance.

Ruairi Quinn, the Secretary of State for Labour, has said that the advancement of equality in employment is a priority in employment policy; where new job categories are created, care should be taken that this does not introduce new forms of discrimination, confining women to low-wage sectors and subordinate jobs.



The Employment Equality Agency has also applauded the Youth Employment Agency's adoption of new important measures on equal opportunities in its own internal management under the code. EEA sees this as confirming YEA's commitment to the provisions of that code.

The Agency realises that declarations of principle are not enough in themselves to change attitudes, but it hopes that an understanding of existing legislation will help to "correct" certain modes of behaviour.

EEA feels that the Youth Employment Agency's action will be one step towards ensuring that any girl (or boy) wishing to take up a non-traditional career will succeed. This can be done only if the spirit of segregation on the labour market is abolished; the old-fashioned attitudes that prevail in the field of recruitment must be discarded and an effort made to promote freedom of choice.

The key factors that will promote the same opportunities for girls as for boys will be to train and brief the staff of recruitment agencies, training bodies and all the organizations concerned.

Useful address: Eileen Gleeson  
Public Relations of Ireland  
31 Lower Mount Street  
Dublin 2

#### A contested dismissal

A woman teacher has appealed against her dismissal by a religious school in the County of Wexford.

One court had already ruled that the Holy Faith Convent was entitled to dispense with her services because "her attitude and behaviour did not conform to Catholic standards". Eileen Flynn lives with a married man, and she was given the sack two years ago, shortly after giving birth to his child.

Throughout the earlier hearing, her ex-employers maintained that these facts had nothing to do with the case. Now, however, the industrial court of appeal, in the person of its president, has ruled to the contrary.

Eileen Flynn has had the backing of her union (INTO) and the Trade Union Women's Forum.

A second appeal is to be heard in July.

#### Breastfeeding and working

The Irish Department of Labour has been considering a Parliamentary question raised by Maire Geoghegan-Quinn (Fianna Fail). Can a woman who decides to go on breastfeeding her baby after the regulation six weeks' post-natal leave apply for a job and, if she does not find one, is she entitled to unemployment benefit? In practice, in the absence of a creche at the workplace, it is impossible for a woman to work and continue to feed her child.

Useful address: Department of Labour  
Mespil Road  
Dublin 4

I T A L Y

Setting a good example

A school in Rome, the Mamiani Lycée, has taken the initiative of including a debate on the "social status of women" in its general educational programme, as suggested by a member of its teaching staff, Anna Tressalti.

The debate, introduced by Gaetana Cazora Russo, a sociologist well known for her research in the field, aroused great interest among the pupils.

One interpretation of the law on equality

Judge Alberto Haupt in Genoa has given judgment against Alberto Teardo, former President of the Region of Liguria, and eight of his department heads for infringing the law on equal treatment for men and women. The judge imposed fines averaging 300,000 lire - and a fine of half a million lire on Giacomo Gualco, the man in charge of vocational training.

The ex-President and his department heads had organized four vocational training courses (mainly on management and information technology) for women only, financed jointly by the Region of Liguria and the European Social Fund.

The Silver Mimosa Prize

Created in March 1983 by the Consulta Femminile (women's advisory committee) for the Province of Rome, the Silver Mimosa Prize is intended to honour women distinguishing themselves through their work in advancing the cause of women.

The mimosa, a spring flower, is a symbol of the women's movement in Italy.

This year, the Consulta has awarded the prize to Clara Di Meglio, a journalist working with the GR2 television channel, Adolfa Spanicciati, the first woman to receive a pension in the province in 1984, and Fausta Deshormes La Valle, the head of information for women's associations and the press in the European Commission.

In the words of Ninni Martinucci Palmucci, President of the Consulta, Fausta Deshormes has fulfilled her task with "ardour, passion and competence".

In her acceptance speech, Fausta Deshormes said that in awarding the Silver Mimosa to her the Consulta was honouring the European Commission, the only Community institution to conduct a policy of providing information specifically for women. The main reason for the success of "Women of Europe", she added, is that the information it furnishes reflects the creativity, initiative and imagination of women and their associations.

Useful address: Consulta Femminile Provinciale di Roma  
Via S. Eufemia, 19  
00187 Rome

L U X E M B O U R G

The Army and the Police

Five years ago, women first joined the Luxembourg army and police force.

At the time, about twenty girls (aged 17 to 20) were selected for attachment to the Herrenberg military camp in Diekirch.

Since then, the women in both the regular police force and in the gendarmerie, the police force coming under the Defence Ministry, have an exemplary reputation for conscientiousness in their work.

Even so, there are certain conditions for their enlistment. The least favorable combination - one that may even prevent a woman from being taken on - is that she should be small in stature and married.

A Grand Duchy regulation of 9 April 1984 has amended internal regulations on policewomen and women NCOs as well as their equivalents in the gendarmerie.

For example, before they can be considered for selection tests, women applicants must "be of Luxembourg nationality, be unmarried, have successfully completed at least three years' secondary education, have the physical, moral and intellectual aptitudes required in the service, be at least 5'5" tall and be of sound constitution without disabilities".

Useful address: Ministère de la Force Publique  
Plateau du St-Esprit  
Luxembourg

N E T H E R L A N D S

A social atlas

It is obvious that women have become more aggressive in their desire for emancipation. The ideas and concepts advanced by the women's liberation movement have had their effect on more traditional women's groups, men, political parties, the authorities and the union movement.

The second wave of feminism has gathered more momentum than the first. This is one of the conclusions of the "women's social atlas for 1983" by Corrine Oudijk, published by the "Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau" (bureau for the social and cultural plan). The social atlas provides a sweeping view of changes in women's status in many fields.

It is the second of its kind. The first atlas appeared in 1977 and highlighted the acquisition of social awareness, the roles assigned to men and women in society and their choice of partners.

Useful address: Staatsuitgeverij  
The Hague

### Health policy reviewed

Health policy is based mainly on outmoded ways of thinking and acting as far as women are concerned.

This is the contention in a debate inaugurated in Utrecht this spring by representatives of the Emancipatieraad (Emancipation Council) and the health world. In its report entitled "Gezondheidszorg en Vrouwen" (health care and women), the Council argues that radical changes to health policy within existing organizations are vital in women's interests.

Useful address: Emancipatieraad  
Lutherse Burgwal 10  
2512 The Hague

### Women doctors

Corrie Hermann, the director of the Districts Gezondheidsdienst Midden-Kennermeland (regional health service) for Velsen, has completed a research project on women doctors in the Netherlands, covering their training and professional activities between 1945 and 1975. No fewer than 75% of the women contacted by Corrie Hermann responded. Most of them were in part- or full-time practice. Although 30% of women doctors said they suffer from a good deal of professional insecurity, they all agreed that they had taken up the career wholeheartedly.

The women doctors questioned felt that having children is usually an obstacle in a career - but not in their own.

Half of them considered that women are discriminated against, but many others said they had never suffered from discrimination.

According to Corrie Hermann, women doctors refuse to face up to the problems of their profession. She concludes: "there was a time when women doctors were the pioneers of the women's movement, but now they are in the rearguard".

### Careers

The Dutch Government has recently made a 491,000 guilder grant to help women and girls increase their chances of access to technical and craft careers.

The announcement has been made by Ambachten ("trades"), an organization which has a list of 150 trades qualifying under the scheme: carpentry, plumbing, the making of musical instruments and so on.

Useful address: Ambachten  
Badhuisweg 108  
The Hague

UNITED KINGDOM

Sexual harrassment

Julie Mortiboys, who worked as an apprentice mechanic in a garage, has won the first case ever to have been brought in Northern Ireland on the grounds of sexual harrassment. An industrial tribunal has awarded her £1,000 damages.

In the proceedings Julie Mortiboys was supported by the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission. She complained of being mistreated, insulted and mauled by her male colleagues, even receiving blows and injuries so severe that she had her arm in a sling for two weeks. She also said that she had not been given adequate technical training even after working in the garage for more than a year.

The tribunal ruled that Julie Mortiboys had been treated less favorably than a male apprentice would have been and that, to a great extent, the men's behaviour towards her was due to their prejudice against a young woman working alongside them as a mechanic. It also considered that her employer himself had no intention of discriminating against Julie, but even so his inability to prevent his employees from mistreating her constituted unlawful sexual discrimination.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission of Northern Ireland  
Chamber of Commerce House  
22 Great Victoria Street  
Belfast BT2 7LX

Women in Banking

Women who want to take up a career in banking have a better chance of promotion in the United States and France than in the United Kingdom, Belgium or the Netherlands. This is the finding of a research project covering the five countries in question, financed by the European Community and other bodies.

In an article in the Financial Times, Margery Povall and Nancy Seear, who were responsible for the British side of the research, pointed out that the successes recorded in the US were due mainly to positive discrimination programmes under which women are encouraged to apply for more senior positions in the banking world. In France, social attitudes and the social infrastructure - creches, for example - make it easier for women to combine motherhood and a career.

Nevertheless, British banks are now trying to improve the situation. At National Westminster Bank, for example, women are entitled to return after a break of up to five years and may have a job in the same grade as before.

Useful address: Margery Povall and Baroness Seear  
c/o City University Business School  
Block V, Frobisher Crescent  
Barbican, London EC2

Extra tax

Women's organizations have reacted angrily to the decision by the Inland Revenue to tax employer-subsidized creches just as if they were part of the parents' earnings. In some cases, this measure would mean that parents have to pay several years' back tax, and in any case poorer families would be those most affected.

The Equal Opportunities Commission has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking him not to penalize parents in this way. The EOC is particularly worried about the effects of such action on single-parent families. It has also argued that it would lead to the closure of creches, which are highly necessary as parents would no longer be able to bear the additional cost.

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

A plan of action

In Great Britain, the civil service has the reputation of being a good employer. In spite of this, it has a poor record in terms of the percentage of women promoted to more senior positions.

In response to pressure from the Civil Service Union, the Government has recently introduced an action programme to remedy this state of affairs. It is based on a survey conducted by a review body, and it encourages the various Government departments to extend the scope for part-time working and formulate plans for job-sharing and flexible working hours. This will help women to reconcile the demands of work and home and improve their promotion prospects.

There has also been an improvement in terms of returning to work after a period of bringing up a child. Anybody who goes back to work and is given a position in a lower grade has the right, for three years thereafter, to apply for a post in the same grade as before or higher.

Jean Thomason, deputy secretary to the Council of Civil Service Unions, considers that the most satisfactory part of the plan of action is its recognition of the need to allow for women's way of life while still giving them opportunities for promotion.

Useful address: Jean Thomason  
Council of Civil Service Unions  
St. Andrew's House, 40 Broadway  
London SW1

8 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day commemorates four demonstrations by women workers. The first was in 1857: a protest by hundreds of garment-workers in New York against their twelve-hour day, low wages and poor living conditions was charged by mounted police.

This year, the day was celebrated by the European Community in its own way. It was the day chosen by Yvette Roudy, the French Minister for Women's Rights, to convene Employment Ministers from the EEC Member States to an informal meeting where they discussed the lot of the five million jobless women within the Community.

Belgium. The informality of this meeting, which was not even graced with the official title of a "council of ministers", was sharply criticized by women members of the Socialist Party and the Belgian trades union congress (FGTB), who made the point that the ideas discussed in Paris on 8 March would be followed up only if its conclusions were adopted as binding resolutions by a council of employment ministers - a body at which Yvette Roudy would not be present.

Anne-Marie Lizin, an MEP, Annie Massay and Marcelle Hoens, on behalf of the FGTB, and Marie-Thérèse Martin for Socialist women, signed an open letter expressing their concern that unemployed Belgian women were being represented by Employment Minister Hansenne, "who encourages action so prejudicial to women, including the extension of part-time employment".

Like the Socialist women, "Solidarité et Participation" (SeP) criticized a regulation which, since 1981, has excluded 30,000 women from the dole if they are unemployed for an unduly long period, "a concept which, in a time of crisis, has paved the way for total subjectivity". SeP opposes part-time working when it is forced upon people. To counteract unemployment, it proposes a drastic cut in everybody's working hours.

France. Women compositors on the newspaper "Le Républicain Lorrain" downed tools to support their claim for a higher job classification. Salesgirls in the Prisunic department store in Valence and Bordeaux organized a sit-down strike for higher wages. At Pantin in the Paris suburbs, local authority women employees debated a film by Norma Rae and, in Troyes, women textile workers demonstrated in front of the employers' association. The trade union Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT) suggested the slogan "Women want a trade and a life of equality and dignity". Led by Jacqueline Léonard, Secretary General of the CGT, a delegation went to the headquarters of the French national employers' council but did not obtain the interview it sought.

In Paris, Women's Day celebrations were hampered by a civil servants' strike. Taking advantage of the presence of the European ministers, however, Agence Femmes Information organized a televised press conference which was a "first" in that a teleconferencing (multiplex) system was set up to link the ministers with journalists in London, Bonn, Rome and Paris. Led by Claire Poinsignon, the director of AFI, this TV debate brought together Ivor Richard, European Commissioner, and Ministers J.F. Conti-Pertini (Italy), W. Vogt (Germany), E. Yiannopoulos (Greece) and Yvette Roudy (France).

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In the world of the cinema, a series of twelve 45-minute films produced by German television channel 1, ARD, was shown in France by the Iskra group to celebrate Women's Day. From 7 to 13 March, at the Simone de Beauvoir Audio-visual Centre festival, under the title of "Bandes de Femmes" the day was commemorated by 50 documentaries, 3 feature films and two debates on women, sport and society, as well as visits by women TV programme producers.

On 9 March, the President of the Republic received a delegation of women headed by Yvette Roudy. The group included: singers Marie-Paule Belle, Nicoletta, Sapho and Maria Farandouri; Anne Zelinsky of the Women's Law League; Françoise Pasquier of the Centre for feminist research, thought and information; Claire Poinignon of AFI; and Christiane Doré, chairman and general manager of the Sofinco bank. In the evening two literary prizes were awarded for the first time: the George Sand Prize went to Elvire Murail for her book entitled "Escalier C", and the Alice Prize, was given to Hélène Ray for "Je m'appelle Juliette".

Greece. The media gave far less coverage to the 8th March celebrations than in previous years. With a very few exceptions, press reports on the events were lame and uninspired, while the radio and television merely reported the Premier's and other officials' speeches and messages without comment. This underlying current of doubt and scepticism was eloquently encapsulated in a poster produced by independent women's groups, the undisputed winner this year, bearing the message "Today, 8 March, we are not celebrating and we are not receiving".

It was the women's non-governmental organizations who took on responsibility for mobilizing women. Their theme was the struggle by women to improve their working conditions. The organizers adopted different approaches. Homospondia Gynekon Helladas (the Greek women's federation) placed the stress on unemployment in general and women's unemployment in particular, the subject of their conference in Thessalonica last March. In Athens, the federation arranged a march through the centre of the city in support of their ideas on what they see as equal opportunities: work and peace.

Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas (women's rights league) held a public debate on women's careers - a road full of booby traps. The discussion was given even more authority by the involvement of women active in various careers within the union movement.

Enossi Gynekon Helladas (the Greek women's union) devoted this year's celebration to women in agriculture, their very specific problems, their position in the family and their role in political and social life, especially in Crete. Three Crete women representing three generations of women in agriculture contributed their own personal stories. Their accounts highlighted similarities in their education and position within the family and the community and the slowness or even absence of progress in this area. A motion reiterating the league's support for women farmers in their campaign for access to cooperatives, farmers' unions and local authorities was also adopted.



Ireland. Feminist organizations celebrated 8 March by drawing attention to the two major themes of concern to Irishwomen: employment - or rather unemployment - among women, and the law as it concerns women, mainly in the fields of abortion and divorce.

Nuala Fennel, who is responsible for Women's Affairs in the Government, spoke of the reforms that had been launched on her initiative, particularly the planned change in the status of children of unmarried mothers.

Italy. Thousands of women demonstrated in the streets of the major cities - Milan, Rome, Florence, Bologna, Catania, Naples, Bari, Genoa, Ancona and others - with the slogan of "Le donne con le donne possono" (women with women will win). Many of the demonstrators were very young. Work, peace and feminism were the subjects most often discussed at meetings, colloquia and seminars.

Many public and private sector employees were not working on 8 March, since it was a public half-day holiday. Women militants from the Socialist Party announced that they were tabling a bill which would make 8 March a permanent national holiday.

A group of women intellectuals, including Natalia Ginzburg, Elena Gianini Belotti and Carla Ravaioli, had called a national demonstration for peace in Rome on 10 March, to which 50,000 women flocked from all over Italy. The theme of the day was "to counteract the violence of weapons, the strength of our Utopia".

"Every woman is a force for change" was the watchword for the women's Christian Democrat movement on 8 March. Its aim is to "change politics so that it is in the service of the individual and the wellbeing of society".

The Italian Communist Party published the findings of a survey on its women members: 61% have a job (most of them in the service sector) and their standard of education is slightly above the average, although their income is fairly low. It appears that only 2% of Party members are divorced and 2% live with their partners without being married.

#### W O M E N   I N   T H E   E U R O P E A N   C O M M U N I T Y

A 6-page booklet entitled "Women in the European Community" has been produced by the Directorate-General for Information, Information for Women's Organizations and Press. Available in each of the Community's official languages, it provides a clear and simple introduction to what the Community has been doing and is about to do for women.

It can be obtained from all of Information Offices (see address list on the last page of "Women of Europe").

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Luxembourg. For the first time, a whole "women's week" was devoted to the campaign against discrimination.

On 8 March, one of the main demands was equality for men and women in training and in the working world. Several lectures, film shows and other public events dealt with women's problems in the workplace, their unemployment and part-time work. The economic realities that form the backdrop to the week's discussions are that Luxembourg women earn an average of 41% less than their male counterparts, 50% of the jobless are women and 90% of part-time jobs are done by women.

A large-scale protest meeting was called by 8 women's associations to wind up this "consciousness-raising" week. Heinke Salisch, a German MEP, was invited to Luxembourg to give a public lecture on new technology and its impact on women's employment.

Netherlands. Unlike other European countries, Holland did not mobilize women around a central, structured theme on 8 March. In many cases, the celebrations were no more than local meetings on a specific subject such as women against fascism or the early days of the women's movement.

As in the previous year, the main concern was "women's struggle and the economic crisis", but Dutchwomen also expressed their solidarity with women who are in prison for their beliefs.

One proposal was made as a result: that Annelien Kappeyne, Secretary of State, should ask the Dutchwomen's National Council to arrange nationwide action in 1985 in cooperation with the organizers of the Hague Women's Congress in 1983.

On 8 March, the city of Leiden gave women employees of the local authority a day off so that they could take part in the day's events. Unfortunately, the same facility was not extended to their teacher colleagues.

United Kingdom. The Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission held its 80th meeting on 8 March to debate some of the issues which it feels will determine women's equality.

In London, the Women's Committee of the Greater London Council arranged an open day with a programme of films and videos on women. Hundreds of women attended a briefing session and visited the stands of the various agencies represented.

Members of the British peace movement mounting guard at Greenham Common had an unpleasant surprise during the night of 7 March: they saw the missiles against whose deployment they had been demonstrating being brought into the US military camp. The Swedish Association for peace and arbitration, a pacifist group founded in 1893, proposed that the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize be awarded to the Greenham Common women.

M I L I T A N T   A C T I V I T I E S

**B E L G I U M**

A complaints bureau

In a previous issue of "Women of Europe" we announced that the Comité de Liaison des Femmes - the women's liaison committee - was planning to open a complaints bureau for women.

The bureau has been operational since 1 January this year. It has dealt with a number of interesting cases, including that of women working for a department store, Galeries Anspach, who were forced to retire early. To save this ailing store, 300 of its work force had to be made redundant, and pressure was brought to bear on women in the 50-55 age group to persuade them to take early retirement. It was Hobson's choice, and 192 women agreed to do so. It turned out to be a very unfortunate decision, however, as the company then went into liquidation. In cases of bankruptcy, employees are compensated out of a special fund, but the fund authorities refused to pay compensation to people retiring before the age of 55 - in this case, all the women staff (since early retirement for men was after the age of 55). In other words, this was a case of indirect discrimination against women.

The affair has had a happy ending but it has been a tough struggle. So much pressure was exerted from every quarter that the Office National pour l'Emploi - the national employment agency - finally agreed, after a year's resistance, to pay them compensation all the same. The women staff themselves took every step to win their case, and some of them referred the matter to the women's complaints bureau. The bureau made sure that their case was widely publicized so that nobody else would be caught in the same trap.

The bureau is now launching an **APPEAL TO THE WIDOWS** of civil servants (who have been employed in Government departments, education, Government-controlled agencies, provincial and local authorities, etc.). The accumulated rights of many widows of civil servants and employees with similar status who receive a retirement pension on their own account are being jeopardized by Royal Decree 30 of 30 March 1982, which has introduced stage-by-stage cuts in widows' pensions. Women whose husbands have died since 30 March 1982 have already been affected by this measure. The only group besides these widows whose benefits have been so radically and unfairly curtailed, says the Liaison Committee, are co-habiting unemployed people.

Anyone who has been adversely affected by Decree 30 has been asked to make themselves known to the women's complaints bureau, which is at the same address as the Women's Liaison Committee: la Place Quételet, Brussels.

In defence of individual rights to social security

The Women's Liaison Committee has openly criticized aspects of the new Government plan of reorganization for public finances, on the grounds that it discriminates specifically against women.

In the field of unemployment benefits, the Government has decided to reduce allowances paid to "co-habitants" - persons living with a spouse or partner - to the level of a minimum living allowance after the second year of unemployment (extended by a period in proportion to the number of years the person has been employed). The Liaison Committee has on several occasions complained of the discrimination inherent in the concept of a "co-habiting person" since in practice in about 80% of cases it applies to women workers who live with their husbands or permanent partners. It has already forwarded a complaint on these grounds to the Commission of the European Communities, which has initiated an infringement procedure against the Belgian Government.

Furthermore, because the co-habitant's allowance is treated as being a minimum living allowance per co-habitant, such co-habitants (most of whom are low-income workers) gradually forfeit their individual right to social security based on insurance contributions. The Liaison Committee opposes the fact that reference should be made to a couple's joint income, as is done for social welfare payments.

The Government is also to introduce a new system of invalidity and unemployment benefits from 1 January 1985. After a certain period, it is to give all beneficiaries an allowance representing the same basic percentage of their former earnings. This allowance will be topped up by a flat rate sum for workers who have "forfeited a single income". A second supplementary allowance will be granted to people with dependants. Finally, family allowances will be given in certain cases, as yet unspecified.

Although this scaffolding would seem to be neutral, it covers up the same old categories of unemployed persons as before (head of household, co-habitant, single person). The fear is that the basic amount will be lower than before, widening even further the gap between the individual rights of people now classified as "heads of households" and the individual rights of "co-habitants".

Measures of this kind would aggravate the system under which unemployment and invalidity benefits are no longer seen as a replacement for earnings that have been lost; these earnings do not, and should not, have anything to do with family status.

The Liaison Committee feels that dependent children must obviously be taken into account, but that this should be done by substantially increasing the family allowances paid in respect of the children of anyone in receipt of a replacement income.

In view of these considerations, the Women's Liaison Committee has called on the Government not to take any decision under its reorganization plan which might prejudice women's right to work or their equal rights to social security on their own account. It has called on the Government to comply with EEC directives on equal treatment for men and women.

Useful address: Comité de Liaison des Femmes  
1a Place Quételet  
1030 Brussels

D E N M A R K

A meeting place

In a working class district of Copenhagen a group from an Ecumenical Centre has created a meeting place called Invandrer-Kvindecentret, open to Danish and foreign women and their children and especially to immigrant women. for it is well known that they often have great difficulty in adjusting.

By giving women of different nationalities a chance to meet, it is hoped that a small step will be taken to mutual understanding and the prevention of racialism and other forms of discrimination.

A booklet has been produced in Serbo-Croat, Arabic, Turkish and Danish to publicize the centre and give essential information.

Suzanne Sønderbo runs the centre, with the help of 25 voluntary workers.

Useful address: Invandrer-Kvindecentret  
Elmegade 21  
Copenhagen N

F R A N C E

Happy anniversary

Agence Femmes Information - AFI - has been in existence for two years now. It is the first press agency to be concerned solely with news about women, their everyday lives and their place in the world. The news agency is much appreciated by journalists, students, teachers, research workers, writers, politicians, etc.

Apart from bringing out a weekly bulletin, ASFI has also set up a research section in its documentation centre and produces press features to order.

Useful address: Agence Femmes Information AFI  
21, rue des Jeûneus  
75002 Paris

Film-making

On the occasion of the 6th Festival of Women's Films, Yvette Roudy called for greater protection for authors. She also promised more official support and declared that she would like to see similar ventures coming into being in other fields as well as the cinema. This event is the first of its kind - perhaps unique in the world.

Useful address: Les Gémeaux  
49, avenue Georges Clémenceau  
92330 Sceaux

A boat for Algiers

The Ligue du Droit International des Femmes (the league for international women's law) and the Association Nationale de Défense des Enfants Enlevés (the French national association for kidnapped children) has set up an operation called "a boat for Algiers". The aim is to tackle the dramatic problem of children born of French mothers and Algerian fathers who, following their parents' divorce, are taken away and kept in Algeria, deprived of their mothers and - in most cases - of their fathers as well, since the men tend to return to France. A few Algerian women living in France who are estranged from their husbands also share this agonizing problem.

Anne-Marie Lizin, a Socialist MEP, has already tabled a motion calling for stringent regulations on visiting rights in Member States, together with the harmonization of protective measures and a European convention to protect such children.

Useful address: Association Nationale de Défense des Enfants Enlevés  
B.P. 405  
07004 Privas Cedex

A broken alliance

The association known as "Alliance Brisée" has been set up to help separated, abandoned and divorced women in France. Its main purpose is to improve the social and legal status of such women.

It tries to achieve its goal by three means: taking up the defence of separated women in dealings with the authorities (by a woman lawyer, Danièle Ganancia), providing information in a quarterly bulletin, and coming together for friendly meetings. It is planning various ways of improving its members' lot and is bringing pressure to bear for new and more favourable laws.

Useful address: Alliance Brisée  
59, avenue Georges Clémenceau  
92330 Sceaux

**G E R M A N Y**

V A T

According to the German Ministers for Finance and the Family, value added tax should be raised to provide funds for subsidizing families.

Government bills are also being introduced which would cut the tax paid by families with children. The Deutscher Hausfrauenbund (German housewives' association) has criticized this proposal and called for a general lowering of tax as being more in the interest of families with children, who are heavily burdened by taxation.

Useful address: Deutscher Hausfrauenbund  
Adenauerallee 193  
53 Bonn 1

### Archives

A feminist information and archives centre has just been set up in Frankfurt: the Feministisches Archiv und Dokumentationszentrum.

Its aim is to gather together historical documents on women and the women's movement, so that history is no longer merely an account of men's doings that ignores women. If women start to research and write on their own history, this state of affairs will end.

The feminist archivist venture is in the form of a foundation. Two members of its board of administration are Margarethe Mitscherlich and Alice Schwarzer. It counts on women to send any documents, books or information on the history and problems of women.

Useful address: Feministisches Archiv und Dokumentationszentrum  
Arndstrasse 18  
6000 Frankfurt 1

### Speaking for the Party

The German ecology party - "Die Grünen" (the Green Party) - is represented in the German Parliament, the Bundestag, by a collegial body of six women: Christa Nickel, Annemarie Borgmann, Heidi Dann, Waltraue Schoppe, Antje Vollmer and Erika Hickel. This body acts as the parliamentary "spokesgroup" for the Party, which advocates a "green revolution".

The decision was preceded by a lengthy debate on how to achieve greater representation for women on decision-making bodies in the various parliamentary groups, ending with a vote in favour of an all-female list. The six women applied all together and their application was upheld, the idea being to promote the discussion of women's problems in the Bundestag and the media.

The protagonists in this "feminist coup" were congratulated by everyone, including women from other parties.

Useful address: Die Grünen  
Bundeshaus  
53 Bonn 1

### New brooms . . .

Unemployed women in Berlin are planning to set up a women's cooperative. The aim: to create jobs for women and to provide access to vocational training. They have come together in a group which they have dubbed "Der befreite Besen" ("the liberated broom"). It is to arrange for women to be trained in departments offering family support and looking after the sick and the elderly, or in administrative departments. The priority will be social support for the old and families with children. The women in the new group do everything: they cook, clean, sweep, scour and also look after children.

Useful address: Der befreite Besen tel 24.39.34  
Berlin

Women's publishing

Most women's publishing houses in Germany - numbering about 50 - came into being as a result of the women's movement. As soon as they started up in business they revolutionized ideas of feminine literature. Women started to write, choose, translate, publish, sell and above all read without being influenced by the male establishment and men's opinions. Thanks to women's publishers like Frauenoffensive, best sellers have appeared like Häutung ("moulting") by Verena Stefan and Wo die Nacht den Tag umarmt ("where night embraces day") by Gudula Lorenz.

Once ordinary publishers realised that women can write, they made it more difficult for women's publishing firms which, lacking their financial resources, cannot compete when it comes to bringing out paperback editions of their authors.

Despite all these difficulties, one objective has been achieved: there is now a wealth of writing on and by women, poetry, novels, etc. Women's bookshops also contribute a good deal to promoting women's literature. All this has encouraged the Mainz Mittelrheinisches Landesmuseum to put on an exhibition devoted to women, "Frauen sehen ihre Zeit" ("women seeing their times"), at which 500 books are exhibited in a setting sparking off thought and debate among women as to their past and present history and condition.

**G R E E C E**

Equality at work

Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas (the league for women's rights) has held a public debate in Athens to highlight positive aspects of the new law passed by Parliament (1414/84) on the principle of equality for the sexes in employment and point out the shortcomings of some of its clauses.

A. Kalogeropoulos, rapporteur at the Court of Justice of the European Communities, G. Zorbas, of the EEC Bureau for Women's Employment, lawyers A. Vagias and Sofia Spiliotopoulou, and Ms Petrionioti-Konsta of the Pantios College of Political Science took part in the debate, which was chaired by Alice Giotopoulou-Marangopoulou, the president of the league.

Useful address: Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas  
Voulis 144 A  
105 57 Athens

A contribution to the five year plan

Syndesmos Hellinidon Epistimonon (the Greek university women's association) is drawing up proposals for the advancement of women, to be forwarded to the Women's Equality Council - one of the Non-Governmental Organizations helping to formulate the five year development plan for 1983-87. There are three priorities for the plan: employment and social security insurance; education; and social infrastructure.

Useful address: Syndesmos Hellinidon Epistimonon  
Voulis 144 A  
105 57 Athens



I R E L A N D

Dying in labour, alone

It will take a long time before the wave of shock and recrimination that shook Ireland on the death in labour of a 15-year-old girl in a field behind a country church dies down.

The story, told in a Sunday paper after the funeral, unleashed anger and indignation at the narrow-minded and uncharitable spirit of the population of Granard (Co. Longford) where the girl lived and where she and her baby died.

The charitable bodies and the institutions which might have helped her have been forced by the weight of public opinion to examine their consciences. AIM, an organization campaigning for the reform of family law, has criticized the policy of sex education in the schools and called for a change. AIM wants to see the introduction of a general school syllabus in which the emphasis is on personal relationships.

Useful address: AIM  
PO Box 738  
Dublin 4

Sterilization of the male

Family planning experts have estimated that about 2,000 men are having a vasectomy in Ireland each year. Since the late 1970s, the demand has been growing steadily. Most operations are carried out in family planning clinics.

According to one doctor, "Irishmen are changing, and they are prepared to accept more responsibility for their sex life and contraception".

Useful addresses:	Irish Family Planning Association Synge Street <u>Dublin</u>	Irish Family Planning Service Pembroke Road <u>Dublin 4</u>
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A hostel for battered families

Adapt House, an old schoolhouse in Limerick, has become a refuge for families that are the victims of violence in the home. A start was made along these lines four years ago. Encouraged by a promise of financial help from the local authority, the Adapt committee has decided to set up the hostel now and to pay part of the installation costs itself.

Useful address: Adapt House  
Rosbrien  
Limerick

**Information published in "Women of Europe"**

**If any of your news has appeared in "Women of Europe" and has produced feedback, correspondence or contact, we would very much like you to tell us about it. It will help us to assess our impact and make our publication even better. Thank you for your help.**

Pregnancy and childbirth

In Ireland it is sometimes called the gentle revolution. Advocates of childbirth reform have, in the space of a few years, brought about a fundamentally new approach to pregnancy and childbirth. One such organization is the Irish Childbirth Trust, set up six years ago. The Trust, at its 8 branches throughout Ireland, employs 15 or so antenatal instructors and arranges seminars on "active childbirth" as well as showing slides on pregnancy.

Another body, AIMS (the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Service) has held a debate on the changes that are taking place in the field of maternity in Ireland.

Useful addresses:	The Irish Childbirth Trust c/o 3 Brookville Park <u>Dublin 4</u>	AIMS 48, Wyvern <u>Killiney, Co. Dublin</u>
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Pornography

In Dublin, in the course of a seminar organized by the Campaign Against Sexual Exploitation, 300 people - most of them women - tackled the problem of pornography.

Nuala Fennell, the minister for women's affairs, declared that she was opposed to censorship although she acknowledged that videos call for certain restrictions. A Swedish professor of sex education also admitted he had difficulty in distinguishing between eroticism and pornography. As a general rule, however, few of those present expressed any doubt as to the direct links between pornography and acts of criminal violence.

Useful address: Campaign against Sexual Exploitation  
PO Box 1207  
Dublin 1

What our parents turn us into

The Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association has recently held a seminar entitled "We are all our parents' children".

The seminar reached the following conclusion: mothers should stop feeling guilty. They should realise that they are the products of the way their own parents brought them up and not go on trying in vain to live up to the aspirations their own mothers had for them.

Useful address: Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association  
11 St. Peter's Road  
Phibsborough  
Dublin 7

I T A L Y

Women against Drugs

It has been estimated that there are 240,000 drug addicts in Italy. Angry Italian mothers reacted by launching out on an original course of action: in the district of Primavalle, a bleak suburb to the north of Rome, they occupied a gymnasium with their addicted children for 66 days until they had weaned them off drugs.

This was in 1981. In 1984, the mothers of Primavalle embarked on another venture. With the help of recently appointed Commissioner Gianni Carnevale, they obtained a post office box number for use by anyone who wanted to give an anonymous tip-off on drug dealers. Over a period of a few months, more than 70 people supplying and dealing in drugs were arrested.

When they were interviewed by the press, the mothers refused to give their names for fear of reprisals but they declared: "drugs destroy not just the addict but all his family".

The Italian Women's Centre: the first 40 years

The Centro Italiano Femminile, better known by its initials CIF, has celebrated 40 years of activity this year. To mark the occasion, CIF's magazine "Cronache & Opinioni" has reviewed progress over the same period.

The president of CIF, Maria Rosaria Bosco Lucarelli, notes with satisfaction that women have conquered new "spheres of responsibility" both in society and in their working lives.

Among recent CIF activities, of special note was a meeting of "young people and Europe", testifying to the Association's commitment to Europe and its wish to be associated with the work of younger generations of women.

Useful address: Centro Italiano Femminile  
Via Carlo Zucchi 25  
00165 Rome

Twinning with the Third World

AIDoS - the Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo (Italian association of women for development) - is busy preparing for the Nairobi conference in 1985 which will close the decade for women. It has had an original idea; it is campaigning to encourage the twinning of Italian women's organizations and their counterparts in Third World countries.

The underlying idea is that development is something that concerns the whole of society, not just the authorities.

Useful address: AIDoS  
Piazza Capranica, 95/int. 4  
00186 Rome

L U X E M B O U R G

Parental leave

The "Conseil National des Femmes Luxembourgeoises" (National Council of Luxembourg women) has urged the Government to ensure that the Council of State approves a bill under which a year's leave taken to care for a baby is treated as if it were a year of full insurance contributions and is taken into account for the purpose of calculating pension entitlement.

The law of 29 December 1983 laying down general staff regulations for Government civil servants allows for any employee, male or female, whose civil servant spouse is granted maternity leave or leave on the adoption of a child to take parental leave. This leave is counted as a period of active service in the public and para-governmental sectors.

The Council points out that workers in the private sector are discriminated against in this respect. The discrimination could be remedied if the year spent caring for a baby were to be included in calculating pensions of women employees in the private sector as well as self-employed women or their spouses.

In the same spirit, the National Council has criticized the bill designed to supplement the law of 3 July 1975 on the protection of motherhood for working women, which introduces parental leave for up to two years in the private sector. This law discriminates against the father, as it gives only the mother the right to unpaid post-maternity leave. Furthermore, it makes no concessions for adoptive parents, nor does it give any real guarantee that an employee can return to a position, as is possible in the public sector.

Useful address: Conseil National des Femmes  
Boite postale 160  
2011 Luxembourg

Divorced women

It was in 1977 that UNIFED - Union des Femmes Divorcées - was set up in Luxembourg. This union of divorced women immediately drew up a plan of action to defend their rights.

In 1978, fresh divorce legislation dissociated the question of alimony from the issue of who is to blame for the breakdown of a marriage. UNIFED had won its case, but a good deal still had to be done to improve the lot of divorced women.

It was for this reason that, a few months ago, FEDILUX came into being. The prime aim of the "Association des Femmes Divorcées Luxembourgeoises" (association of Luxembourg divorced women) was to look after the interests of divorced women without a job and therefore without financial resources, offering them material or legal help and encouraging them to piece their lives together again without hate or bitterness.

Useful address: FEDILUX  
c/o Maria Frieden - tel. 48 56 02  
Luxembourg

**N E T H E R L A N D S**

The unions

Times are hard for the union movement. The number of redundancies is growing and union membership is declining. A change of policy seems to be vital and more attention should be paid to finding out who joins unions. This is a step that has been taken by the secretariat of the Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging (FNV - Dutch union movement federation). Its survey shows that more and more women are joining unions, unlike their male counterparts. The figure rises in proportion to the women's level of education and training and it also depends on whether the women's section of a union plays an active role.

In the course of a national demonstration in Amersfoort last March, Vrouwenbond FNV (the FNV women's alliance) came out in favour of a 25-hour working week, preferably from 1990 onward.

Useful address: Vrouwenbond FNV (Sekretariaat voor Vrouwelijke Werknemers)  
Plane 40-45 N.I.  
1064 S.W. Amsterdam

Social welfare

The Landelijk Comité Vrouwen in de Bijstand (national committee for women in receipt of social security) has sent the Secretary of State for Social Affairs, Mr De Graaf, a report entitled "Wij vrouwen en de bijstand" ("we women and social security").

It seems that a new generation of women is emerging with ever greater financial problems. The committee complains of the way in which women recipients of social security are treated like children, making their lot even more humiliating. "If there is enough money to finance social research," it argues, "why is there no money for us?".

Useful address: Aktiecomité Vrouwen in de bijstand  
Maritsstraat 30a  
9724 BL Groningen

A network of secretaries

At a conference of 250 secretaries, Secretary of State for Emancipation, Ms Kappeyne van de Coppello inaugurated "Secretaresse Netwerk", an association whose aim is to clarify the functions and status of secretaries, giving them more scope for advancement by discarding the traditional concepts of their profession. The Network sees the secretary as being a vital link in the management of a company.

Useful address: Secretaresse Netwerk  
Poortweg 6-8  
2612 P.A. Delft.

Nurses

About 30% of nurses - in a traditionally female profession - working in the Netherlands today are male. They also account for 50% to 60% of more senior nursing positions, according to Wilma van Ingen, a member of the association of nursing and care staff, Het Beterschap ("convalescence"). Women nurses, she says, should stand up for their rights by becoming members of staff councils and demanding equal promotion prospects.

Useful address: Het Beterschap  
Koningslaan 6  
3583 G.B. Utrecht

Women entrepreneurs

"Banks do not take women seriously. One might even say that they discriminate against them by making conditions more stringent and treating them with suspicion," argues Willy Appelo, one of the founder members of Stichting Fonds voor bedrijven van vrouwen. This "women's enterprise finance foundation" has been set up to help women to launch out in the world of business and translate their ideas into practical terms. Sympathisers may make a donation or acquire bonds in the Foundation.

Useful address: Stichting Fonds voor bedrijven van vrouwen  
Postbus 14671  
1001 LD Amsterdam

Battered women

The policy adopted by the authorities on battered women is far too piecemeal. The Government does no more than cope with the consequences of such violence and is not trying to take structural measures to prevent the problem. This is the view of twelve "Blijf van mijn Lijf" ("don't touch me") foundations in a report published in February. According to the report, the ministers of health, social affairs, justice, internal affairs and others should pursue a common policy to counteract this evil.

Useful address: Blijf van mijn Lijf  
Postbus 4214  
Amsterdam

A health centre

The Vrouwengezondheidscentrum (women's health centre) in Utrecht has been in existence for several years. Now it has expanded its surgery with financial help from the ministry for social affair's emancipation department - the first time a centre of this kind has received a Government grant.

Useful address: Vrouwengezondheidscentrum  
Maliesingel  
Utrecht

UNITED KINGDOM

A union leader

Brenda Dean, elected president of the printers' union "Sogat '82" last year, has now been appointed as its secretary general, the first woman to occupy such an important union position in Great Britain.

Before becoming president, Brenda Dean - highly regarded for her negotiating skills - was union secretary for Greater Manchester for six years. She has been a union member for 24 years and has always been helped and encouraged by her male colleagues.

Useful address: SOGAT '82  
13 Borough Road  
London SE1

The Images of Inequality

The Women's Advisory Committee of the Trades Union Congress expressed keen concern at its 54th annual conference about the way women are depicted in advertising and the media. Following a resolution passed in 1982, the TUC published a booklet entitled "Images of Inequality", a vehement criticism of the way women are treated in advertising, the media and the press.

Women are shown as submissive and passive, men as dominating, active and authoritarian. These images, stresses the TUC booklet, are not just untruthful; they sap women's self-confidence. It notes that in the world of television, the press and advertising there are no women in managerial positions. Women are almost always seen through men's eyes and their true achievements are ignored.

The TUC booklet recommends that women who resent this treatment complain to the Advertising Standards Authority. It also calls on journalists to observe the union code to avoid any distortion or misrepresentation of the facts for the sole purpose of titillating their readers.

Useful address: T.U.C.  
Congress House, Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3LS

Upholding civil liberties

The National Council of Civil Liberties, an independent body, has celebrated its 50th anniversary. In 1973, the Council set up a women's rights unit which, for the past ten years, has been a radical advocate of women's interests. It brings out leaflets on women's legal rights and is very active on the occasion of legal cases in which a principle of law or in particular of women's rights is at stake. One unit victory was the raising of the age limit for applicants for the civil service from 28 to 45. Another was to establish that part-time workers have the same rights as full-time workers and that they may not be systematically laid off first. In both cases, the principles that have been affirmed affect women more than men.

Useful address: Rights for Women Unit  
National Council of Civil Liberties  
21 Tabard Street  
London SE1 4LA

### Childminders

Many working mothers leave their children with childminders during the day. These are women who look after other people's children under school age in their own homes for pay.

In so doing, childminders perform a vital role in the economy, since Britain lacks the public amenities to take over this responsibility.

Since 1948, anyone doing this work for more than 2 hours a day has been under an obligation to register with the local authority, which inspects the home and the conditions under which children are cared for. Many minders lead an isolated working life - the reason why, in 1974, they mooted the idea of a National Association of Childminders. Founded in 1977, the Association now has branches in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and most parts of England.

The Association is subsidized out of public funds. It brings out its own publication six times a year. In June 1983, it arranged a week during which it publicized the useful but unsung contribution made by childminders to society.

Useful address: National Childminding Association  
204/206 High Street  
Bromley BR1 1PP, Kent

### RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

From 19 to 21 October 1984, there will be a colloquium in Rome on "Men and women in spiritual life between the Renaissance and the Reformation: 1350-1650". During the event, all the ways in which the human being was represented in Southern and Northern Europe at the time will be considered. Correspondence should be addressed to: l'Istituto Olandese, Via Omero 10-12, 00197 Rome, and Dr. F.W.J. Koorn, P.C. Hoofstraat 75, 1071 BP Amsterdam.

Zakboekje voor de vrouw is an excellent pocket-size guide for women, officially brought out in March. It covers everything of concern to women and provides information on society, employment, health, politics and education as well as giving a long list of useful addresses. RoSa, Bondgenotenstraat 62, 1190 Brussel/Uitgeverij Kluwer, Santvoortbeeklaan 21-23, 2100 Deurne.

Research by Bernhard Bossong on inequalities in pay has now been published in Zeitschrift für Experimentelle und Angewandte Psychologie", Göttingen. This is an interesting sociological survey by Dr. Bossong of the Rheinland-Palatinate Higher College of Educational Studies.

For the first time, a cross section of women has been questioned as to the role of women in environmental protection. The survey by the Union Féminine Civique et Sociale may be obtained from its address at 6 rue Béranger, 75003 Paris (Fr.150. including postage).



SYMPHONIE EUROPA

J.A. Pirlot, who has contributed to "Women of Europe" since it was first published, has written a book entitled "Symphonie Europa", published by Robert Laffont (Paris). To our knowledge this is the first time that the European adventure has been recounted with such warmth, tenderness and emotion.

He tells us, for example, about Altiero Spinelli, exiled by Mussolini to a tiny island, hiding a prophetic document in a chicken coop, his "Manifesto for a united Europe". About Hans and Sophie Scholl, who had their heads cut off for calling for a "new spiritual Europe". And about Henri Brugmans, later to become the rector of the European College in Bruges; when the SS came to arrest him he made them wait while he learned a Baudelaire poem by heart. And Sikorski from Poland and Kanellopoulos from Greece, two exiles in London, dreaming of a vast federation from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

This is undoubtedly the first time that a book has been written for all the peoples of Europe - telling a story of which every European can be proud.

Many women who were to play an outstanding role in the emergence of the European ideal were veterans of the resistance or the struggle against fascism; among these, J.A. Pirlot draws moving portraits of Ursula Hirschmann, Sophie Scholl and Hilda Monte.

The example of political courage set us by such men and women is just as inspiring today as at the time.

Editor's note

La mujer feminista is a new monthly magazine on "the feminist woman" covering events and problems of concern to Spanish women. It also gives world news about women's issues. Published by the Feminist women's union, La Mujer Feminista, Aptdo. de Correos 311, Madrid.

De helft als minderheid ("one half: a minority") is a survey on women in political office by M.H. Leyenaar and B. Niemöller. Its main purpose is to consider the obstacles in the way of women in the political world. Uitgeverij van de Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten, Postbus 30435, 25000 GK 's Gravenhage (ISBN 9032215752).

Sex and Destiny is the latest book by Germaine Greer, the author of "The Female Eunuch", in which she expresses doubts as to the sexual revolution she helped to bring about. Secker & Warburg, 54 Poland Street, London W1.

Shifra (the name of a Jewish woman member of the resistance in the Warsaw ghetto) is a new magazine appearing in Great Britain and at international level. Any contribution on women's experience in any field will be welcome (as will any donation). Shifra, Box n° 2, 59 Cookbridge Street, Leeds 1.

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Mütter zwischen Beruf und Familie (mothers, their jobs and their families) by G. Erler, M. Jaeckel and J. Sass is a report on family policy, covering the subjects of maternity leave, parental leave and family allowances as they relate to women in five European countries. Deutsches Jugendinstitut, Saarstrasse 7, 8000 Munich 40 (ISBN 3-77, 99-0247-8).

Noi Donne ("we women"), a monthly magazine brought out by the Italian Women's Union, is in danger of dying. Noi Donne came into being during the fascist period. In 1945 it became the Union's official publication and, in the 1950s, it reflected all the great campaigns for emancipation. Following the demise of almost every other feminist magazine, this major channel of communication for women is now setting up a cooperative publishing firm, Libreria Stampa, and has asked 500 women to make an exceptional contribution of 500,000 lire (about £200) for the special issue appearing on 8 March (with a print run of 400,000, price per copy 3,000 lire).

Noi Donne, via Trinità del Pellegrino 12, 00186 Rome (source: AFI).

Hjemme godt menude Bedst? is a report by the Roskilde University Centre, edited by G. Vedel, E. Gunnarson and S. Ipsen, on "teleworking" - office work done at home with the help of data transmission technology. They consider the advantages and drawbacks (one of them being isolation) of this workstyle.

Lilith is a feminist publication produced by a collective. The topics of the latest issue are prostitution, women in Nicaragua, a film cooperative, women in local politics, unemployment and a women's clinic in Geneva. Lilith, Julia Rottiers, Hoogvorstweg 15, 1980 Tervuren.

Agence Femmes Information's bulletin 94 cites the very interesting findings of an enquiry, from A to Z, on the daily lives of Soviet women. After the revolution, in which they played an extensive part, Soviet women did not quietly go back home. In the country of Anna Karenina, however, has equality brought happiness? Nadine Puissesseau, of Russian origin and a former star reporter with Life, raised the question during her latest visit to the USSR. AFI, 21 rue des Jeuneurs, 75002 Paris.

Women and water is the theme of the Tribune in its second bulletin on women and development. It highlights the work in which women have taken a part during the Decade for Women and stresses the need for a more active role for women in all water-related projects. International Women's Tribune Centre, 777 UN Plaza, 12th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Last April Kent University held its third European conference on the theme of popular movements and the law, "informal justice" and critical studies of the law. Darwin College, the University, Canterbury CT 27 NY.

Pornografische beelden in onze cultuur (pornographic images in our culture) is a series of slides produced by an Amsterdam women's action group against sexual violence (Vrouwen Tegen Seksueel Geweid Amsterdam). This is an exhaustive study of sexist depiction of women in every field. VTSG, Postbus 15024, Amsterdam.

**S E C O N D   E U R O P E A N   C O L L O Q U I U M**  
**o f**  
**W O M E N ' S   A S S O C I A T I O N S**  
**T U R I N - 9/10 March 1984**

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At the invitation of the Consulta Femminile Regionale del Piemonte - the women's advisory body for Piedmont - and with the support of the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General for Information (Information for Women's Organizations and Press), 50 or so women's organizations representing a membership of over 30 million people met in Turin on 9 and 10 March 1984.

It will be recalled (see "Women of Europe" n° 26) that those taking part in a colloquium in Bonn on 16-18 May 1982 expressed the wish to meet again for the twofold purpose of evaluating progress with the Community's Programme of Action for Equality and preparing for the the United Nations Conference marking the end of the Decade for Women (in Nairobi in 1985).

In view of the timing of the Turin meeting, a third item was added to its agenda: the European elections in June 1984.

Standing by an enormous bouquet of mimosas (the emblem of International Women's Day in Italy), Mr Germano Benzi, president of the Piedmontese Regional Council, welcomed the women who had gathered in the Palazzo Lascaris for the second European colloquium of women's associations. Opening the discussions, Liliana Richetti, the vice president of the Piedmont Regional Council and the president of the Consulta, expressed her pleasure that so many people had managed to attend even though the meeting was so close to Women's Day on 8 March, a day mobilizing large numbers of women in Italy, and despite the travel difficulties caused by strikes in both France and Italy.

In the ultra-modern hall in Palazzo Lascaris, a gallery was reserved for the general public. The fact that it was constantly packed bore witness to the interest that women citizens took in the debates. This was particularly pleasing to Fausta Deshormes La Valle, who described the information policy being conducted by the European Commission. A speech by the guest of honour, Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago, Vice President of European Parliament, testified to the interest displayed by European Parliamentarians in what women's associations are thinking and doing.

A preliminary review of the situation was given by Odile Quintin, head of the Bureau for Women's Employment and Equal Opportunities (in the Commission's Directorate General for Social Affairs, Employment and Education). She described the Community directives on equality and outlined the measures forming the Commission's Programme of Action for equal opportunities, pointing to the efforts being made by Member States without disregarding their shortcomings and possible counter-action by the European Commission.

In the debate that followed, some of the speakers - including those from the German Women's Council, the Deutsche Frauenrat - called on the Commission to encourage communication among (and with) women's groups regarding the steps that should be taken to promote equality of opportunity.

Several of those who spoke described the inevitable gap between what the law says and what happens in real life. Women's groups have a hot line to conflict, individual instances of discrimination and the ways in which employers knowingly or unwittingly fail to observe the major principles laid down by the Community. They are also very much aware of the need to inform women about their rights. A good deal of effort is still called for, to ensure that women do not suffer from lasting injustice due to ignorance or indifference.

In response to this concern, the proposal was made that information seminars be arranged at regular intervals. This suggestion was strongly supported by a representative of the European Union Confederation, who stressed the fact that such interchange would help organizations of different countries to know each other better.

Marisa Cinciari Rodano, who chairs the European Parliament Committee of Inquiry into the position of women, then gave a detailed account of the conclusions to which the Committee had arrived, mentioning the many items of information that had been furnished to MEPs by representatives of women's associations from every Community country.

Marisa Cinciari Rodano was also concerned with the smoother flow of information. When she spoke, she advocated meetings on specific themes to arrive at joint positions.

"This is not the time to cut ourselves off," said Maria Luisa Cassanagnago, "because it is women who will be the first to suffer the consequences of immobility and it is women who will pay if Europe is unable to unite in response to major challenges from outside."

During the general debate that followed, many of those present expressed their appreciation of the sustained action by European Parliament in favour of equality. No major topical problem had been tackled in Parliament without its specific relevance to women being weighed. The reorganization of working hours and new technology were two problems presenting a special challenge to women, and in both respects Parliament had considered their effects on women.

In general, speakers felt that the European Commission is almost the only body to have complied with commitments under the Programme of Action. Community Member States had been moving at a snail's pace and some of them had even gone backwards, for example in matters of social security. "The European Commission is more alert and more aware than individual countries," said one Italian at the conference.

As in the first colloquium in Bonn in 1982, women observers from Spain and Portugal came to listen to the discussions in Turin, and they probably lent a sympathetic ear to complaints by the representatives of other women's organizations about reluctance to change attitudes and the difficulties encountered by women in attaining decision-making positions within the Community.

Written question n° 5/84, addressed by Maria Cinciari Rodano (Italian Communist) to the European Commission:

"At the second meeting of women's associations from ten Community Member States held in Turin on 9 and 10 March 1984 on the initiative of the Commission, delegates from the associations represented there stressed the great value of such events but asked that such meetings be held more frequently so that more detailed consideration could be given to the special problems that arise and so that they can arrive at joint positions at European level, especially among organizations of different trends.

The contribution of such associations has proved very useful in Community action in favour of equal opportunities.

In view of these considerations, does the Commission not feel that it would be appropriate to accede to the request of the associations and organize more frequent working meetings on the various problems that arise?"

#### The North-South Dialogue

The theme for the second day of the colloquium was "women and development", in the period leading up to two major events: the Lomé agreements (re-establishing relationships between the Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries - abbreviated to ACP) and the U.N. conference winding up the Decade for Women in Nairobi in 1985.

The discussions were chaired and introduced by Paola Gaiotti de Biase, a Member of European Parliament but also the head of the Italian Government delegation to the committee preparing for the Nairobi conference. At a panel discussion in which Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, Daniela Colombo and Luisa La Malfa also took part, the point was made that for a long time yet the women of industrialized nations will have to bring even more pressure to bear on their authorities to ensure that, in development cooperation, due account is taken of the position of women in developing nations.

Speakers from the floor several times pointed out that there is still little contact between women's organizations within the Community and their counterparts in the Third World. It was for this reason that several associations called on the European Commission to promote meetings between themselves and women's groups in developing countries (see the full text of recommendations below).

Several speakers expressed their concerns: the end of the Decade for Women was approaching fast and there was a fear that the authorities' attention might flag. The need now is a whole range of measures which will direct development strategy towards the interests of women in a lasting manner.

The European Elections

Margherita Barnabei, president of the Women's Committee of the European Movement, introduced the general debate on the European Parliamentary elections in June 1984. Women she argued, have not yet won their own election battle. A good deal of effort is required of them; for instance, they must ensure that the parties make full allowance for the importance of women in political life. All too often, women are still being given only token positions in political parties' lists of candidates.

During the debate, many speakers complained of how long it takes to change attitudes. Most of the publicity machine is in men's hands. In the same way, media such as the television, radio and press tend to offer space to male candidates without appreciating the growing interest of women voters in political issues.

The work that European Parliament had been doing in favour of women during the legislative session now drawing to a close was admirable, but we must continue to be vigilant, another speaker said. The plan for European Union, for example, is an issue for which women must campaign if they are to show their eagerness to achieve European integration in new forms.

At the time of formulating the conclusions of the colloquium, the chair being taken by Liliana Richetta, several speakers expressed their pleasure at the broader and more diversified involvement of women's organizations. It was requested, however, that there should be fewer subjects for discussion at the next event and that they should be known far enough in advance for the grassroots members of associations to be consulted as to their detailed views.

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**Following the second European colloquium of women's associations, the Consulta (women's advisory body to the Piedmont Regional Council) approved the following declaration in the light of its meeting to evaluate the colloquium:**

The Piedmonte Consulta

EXPRESSES its satisfaction at the outcome of the vote in favour of the new European Union treaty delivered by European Parliament on 14 February 1984 as well as its appreciation of the work done up to this time by the Committee of Inquiry and European Parliament on behalf of women, more particularly by its approval of the Resolutions on the situation of women in Europe in February 1981 and January 1984;

CALLS UPON the Governments and Parliaments of the Community Member States to take prompt action to ratify the European Union treaty;

in particular, in view of the imminent re-election of European Parliament,

CALLS UPON the parties engaged in the election campaign to abide by the principle of equal opportunities and to distribute fairly between persons of both sexes not only the candidacies but also all the promotional resources available for the election campaign; and also

CALLS UPON the media to publicize the work done by European Parliament and the European Commission in favour of women.

The Consulta and its member associations undertake to press on with their work of arousing public opinion as to the urgent need to revitalize the process of European integration.

#### Concerning the Nairobi Conference (1985)

The women's associations gathered together for the European Colloquium in Turin on 8, 9 and 10 March 1984:

- congratulate the information services of the Commission of the European Communities on their initiative in convening them in Bonn in 1982 and Turin in 1984;
- request the Commission, with a view to preparing for the United Nations world conference in Nairobi in 1985, to set up a work group, consisting of representatives of women's Non-Governmental Organizations, to draw up joint papers on the themes of that conference, to include equality, development and peace and the sub-themes of employment, health and education;
- urge the Council of Ministers, in view of the United Nations conference in Nairobi in 1985, to include representatives from women's associations in the Governmental delegation;
- stress that the viewpoint of European women should be taken up in the positions to be presented by the Community as such, more particularly on the themes of equality, development and peace and on the sub-themes of employment, health and education;
- ask that this recommendation be forwarded to the Commission, Council and Parliament of the European Community.

#### Concerning equality

The women's associations gathered together for the European Colloquium in Turin on 8, 9 and 10 March 1984 propose that:

- on the subject of social security, urgent steps be taken to press on with the policy of equal treatment and individualization of rights, in particular by the adoption of the Directive on equal treatment in occupational social security schemes and by the formulation and adoption of directives on matters not covered by Directive 79/7;

- on the subject of unemployment, a policy based on the Commission Communication to the Standing Committee on Employment be more energetically pursued, thus helping to reduce the unduly high proportion of women among the unemployed;
- on the subject of taxation, a memorandum be forwarded to the Council in the near future showing that only separate taxation has a neutral effect on the employment of married women, and specific proposals be made along these lines;
- on the subject of positive action, a Community instrument be submitted to the Council in the near future with a view to promoting positive action in Member States.

Concerning the European elections

The women's associations gathered together for the European Colloquium in Turin on 8, 9 and 10 March 1984:

- are aware of the importance of the forthcoming elections for European Parliament and consider it necessary to encourage women voters to devote their full attention to these elections, pressing for women candidates to be given the largest number of votes.

Concerning the Third World

The women's associations gathered together for the European Colloquium in Turin on 8, 9 and 10 March 1984:

- call upon the Commission to facilitate meetings of associations of women's associations with women representatives of the Third World at which they may have the opportunity to discuss their ideas and their problems.

The women's associations gathered together for the European Colloquium in Turin on 8, 9 and 10 March 1984:

- call on the Commission of the European Communities to place the necessary financial resources at the disposal of women's organizations in developing nations to enable them to discuss their problems and plans.



from L O M E to N A I R O B I

The women's associations gathered together for the Second European Colloquium in Turin on 9 and 10 March 1984 recommend that Community Institutions, in the context of preparations for the end of the United Nations Decade for Women (Nairobi 1985) and preparations for the EEC-ACP Lomé Convention,

- 1) at the time of the Directorate General for Development's prior assessment of financial projects relating to development cooperation and emergency aid, conduct a social feasibility analysis to determine their impact on women's condition and the opportunities for women to contribute towards the planning and implementation of projects that will bring about a real improvement in women's social and economic status;
- 2) arrange for in-depth analysis of every aspect of women's condition in the countries with which the Community is cooperating, to be carried out by teams of local and European men and women experts in cooperation with local women's organizations;
- 3) include a specialist on the problems of women's status on technical missions negotiating projects, and ask for a local woman representative of women's agencies to be included in delegations from developing nations;
- 4) finance existing research centres in developing nations as well as international agencies carrying out research on women's status, with the aim of compiling adequate, accurate data on the problems encountered by women in individual social and economic, official and unofficial sectors;
- 5) give priority to programmes designed to involve women in the process of development in priority areas such as small industry, the informal sector and appropriate technologies.

- 6) give preference to women in training and instruction courses to help them acquire the technical and management skills vital to their integration into the working world and society of today;
- 7) allocate to women at least 50% of the scholarships offered by the Community to the citizens of developing nations;
- 8) finance women's organizations concerned with liaison among different countries and with the dissemination of information on problems of concern to women;
- 9) as part of the work of the Directorate General for Development, reinforce the unit responsible for women's affairs in developing nations so that it can effectively encourage and coordinate intervention policies of other divisions of the Directorate General and so that it may dispose of a Special Fund for projects concerning women which, for whatever reason, cannot be included in country programmes, as well as for international activities such as preparations for the Nairobi Conference and the NGO Forum closing the United Nations Decade for Women in 1985;
- 10) give women's NGOs in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific access to funding for micro-projects;
- 11) enable the unit responsible for Non-Governmental Organizations within the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DG VIII) to finance the whole (100%) of projects for which applications are made by women's organizations.

In accordance with the wish expressed by those attending the Colloquium, these recommendations have been forwarded to the European Commission, the Council of Ministers and European Parliament.

Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano, as chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the Situation of Women in Europe, arranged for the appropriate steps to be taken.

ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL

Margherita BARNABEI Commissione femminile internazionale del Movimento europeo (International Women's Committee of the European Movement) Via Guido Baccelli 10	ROME
Angelina HAMM - TONNAER President, CECIF - Centre Européen du Conseil International des Femmes (European Centre for the International Women's Council) Stadionkade 13	1077 VJ AMSTERDAM
Janse GREMMEE Prsident, UWE/GEFDU - University Women of Europe Waalsdorperweg 71	THE HAGUE
Gertie von KAAK-PAKESCH Soroptimist International of Europe Merangasse 5 A-8010	GRAZ, AUSTRIA
Kirsten RIBERHOLDT CREW - Centre for Research on European Women 22, rue de Toulouse	1040 BRUSSELS
Ariane GOUILLY-FROSSARD Fédération Européenne des Femmes Actives au Foyer Avenue de Tervueren 66, Boite 1	1040 BRUSSELS
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