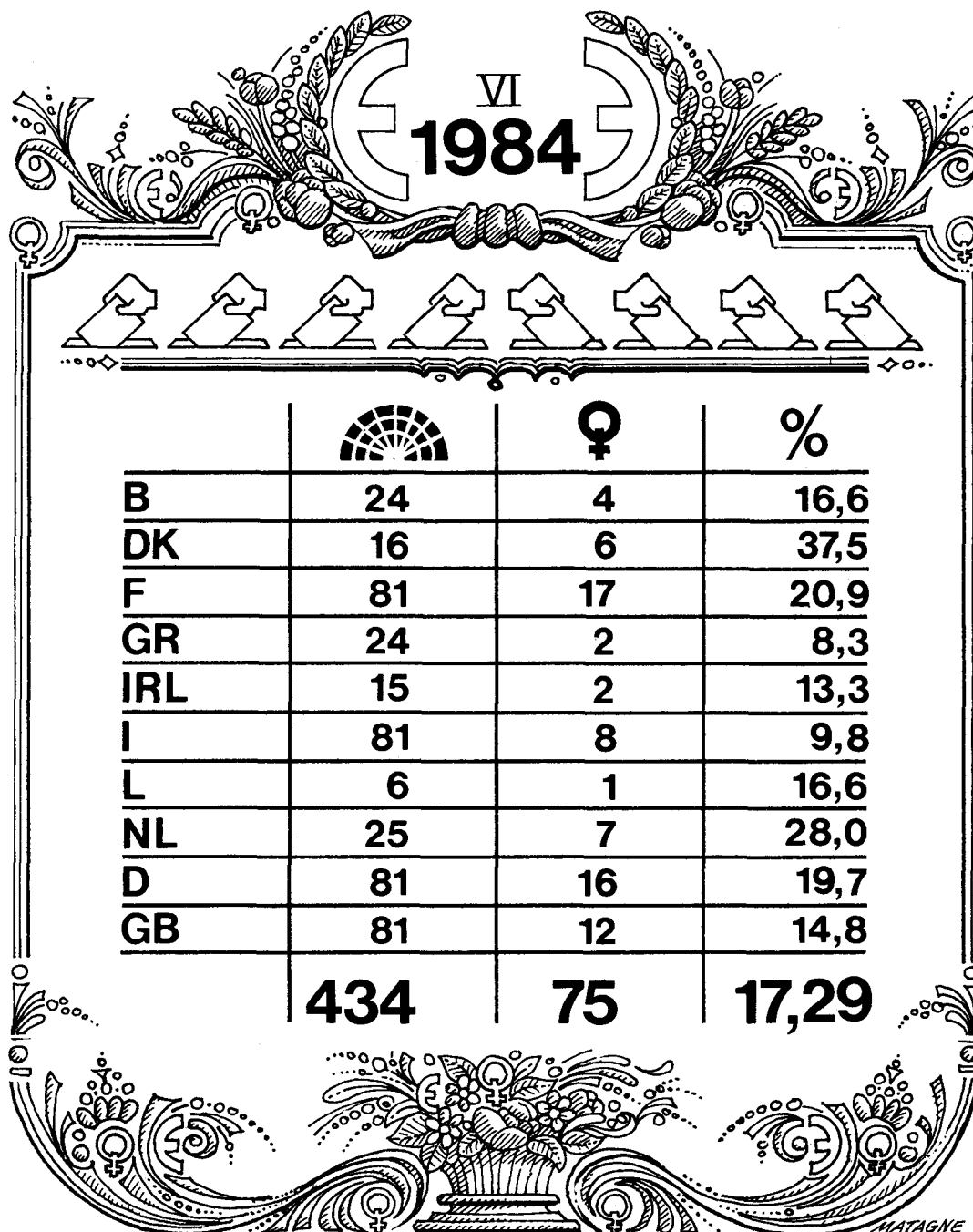


Women of Europe

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ELECTIONS :

THE EUROPE OF WOMEN CITIZENS

EVERYDAY DEMOCRACY

What lessons can we draw from the European elections ?

The first and foremost point to be noted is that never before have there been so many women in the European Parliament. But there is no reason to crow : the increase in the number of successful women candidates is far from being commensurate with their growing place in politics and it falls far short of our expectations.

The second point to be noted is that the election campaign was dominated far more by national issues than by the real facts about Europe.

It would be too easy to say that women were the victims of circumstances. Their share of responsibility should not be denied at the very time when they are becoming active partners in the world of politics.

The only possible conclusion to be drawn is that the mobilization of women and their action within the organs of democracy must continue and be intensified.

There is no shortage of objectives : the structures of the political parties, the draft for "European Union", several Community Directives currently under discussion which are of specific concern to women ...

The campaign goes on.

Women of Europe

THE CANDIDATURES : A comparison between 1979 and 1984

Countries	Total N° of candidates		N° of women		%	
	1984	1979	1984	1979	1984	1979
Belgium	215	246	53	62	24.6	25.2
Denmark	165	209	40	45	24.2	21.5
France	882	891	223	225	25.2	25.0
Germany	234	540	50	106	21.3	19.6
Greece	378	-	42	-	11.1	-
Ireland	34	46	4	5	11.7	10.8
Italy	702	968	67	74	9.5	7.6
Luxembourg	84	84	18	11	21.4	13.0
Netherlands	111	234	18	37	16.2	15.8
United Kingdom	271	270	48	25	17.71	9.3
<hr/>						
Total, incl.						
Greece	3 076	-	563	-	18.3	-
Total, excl.						
Greece	2 698	3 488	521	590	19.3	16.9

(Reminder : Greece was not yet a member of the Community in 1979)

These figures call for just a few prudent comments : in 1979, the first elections to the European Parliament by universal suffrage attracted an exceptionally large number of parties and candidates. In 1984, the reduction in the number of candidates may reflect at one and the same time a more realistic assessment by the potential candidates of their chances of success, less interest in the elections themselves (this can also be detected in the number of voters) and a different mobilization of the traditional and non-traditional parties.

It should be pointed out that although the number of women candidates fell in absolute terms, the percentage was up. Furthermore, as was the case in 1979 too, the percentage of women candidates was very similar to the percentage of women elected.

From 1979 to 1984

Here is a quick analysis of the results of the campaign, as drawn up by the European Parliament. It has the advantage of highlighting the successes and failures of the various lists, country by country. And hence those of the women on the lists.

GERMANY

The major event in the Federal Republic of Germany was the disappearance from the European Parliament of the Liberals, whose leader, Mr Martin Bangemann, was the Chairman of the Liberal and Democratic Group in the Parliament elected in 1979. Breakthrough by the Greens who, with 8% of the votes, won seven seats. The Christian Democrats and Socialists lost ground, in terms of both votes and seats.

BELGIUM

Overall the parties forming the government majority (Christian Socialists and Liberals) lost ground in relation to 1979, mainly as a result of the very big setback suffered by the CVP (Flemish Christian Socialists), who lost three of their seven seats. However, the French-speaking Liberals improved their 1979 position markedly and gained one seat. While the Volksunie (Flemish regionalist party) went up from one to two seats, the French-speaking and Walloon regionalist parties (FDF and PWE), which stood separately, contrary to what happened in 1979, lost their two seats. The fact that Mr Happart, Mayor of the Fourons area, was on the French-speaking Socialists' list, is probably not unconnected.

Marked successes achieved by both the Flemish and French-speaking Socialist parties, which each gained one seat. Together the two Socialist lists now have nine seats instead of seven, while the Christian Socialists, who previously held ten seats, have to be content with six.

Lastly, breakthrough by the Ecologists, who gained one seat in the two electoral colleges.

DENMARK

The Conservatives, who are in power, went up from 14% to 20.8% and doubled their number of seats (from 2 to 4). In the opposition, the Social Democrats suffered something of a setback, since although they held on to their three seats, they lost votes to some extent.

The leading party in the 1979 elections, the Social Democrats were beaten this time by the Conservatives and the Movement against the Common Market, which have the same number of seats and more or less the same number of votes, 20.8%, although the Conservatives just had the edge. An important point to note is that the Movement against the Common Market made no headway and even lost ground slightly.

FRANCE

Compared with the results achieved by the UFE and DIFE party lists (they stood separately in 1979), the Union de l'Opposition (United Opposition Parties) made slight progress in 1984. Slight setback for the Socialist party's list and very serious setback for the list presented by the Communist party.

Forceful emergence on the French and European political scene of the Front d'opposition nationale (National Front) led by Mr Le Pen.

Neither the Greens nor the ERE list succeeded in polling the requisite 5%.

GREECE

Stability seat-wise for the two largest parties : the PASOK and New Democracy, each of which made gains : slight for the Socialists, large (7%) for New Democracy, which captured one seat. Despite losing some ground the two Communist parties kept their respective seats (3 and 1).

Emergence of an extreme right-wing list (EPEN : National Political Union), which took one seat with 2.3% of the votes. Annihilation of the "small lists", particularly the KODISO, whose leader, Mr Pasmazoglou, lost his seat in the European Parliament.

IRELAND

What is striking in Ireland is firstly the low turn-out compared with the 1979 elections, the respective figures being 63.6% and 47.6% : the recent decisions regarding agricultural policy may not be unconnected.

Moreover, it is to be noted that one of the two parties in power, the Labour Party, suffered a big setback, losing the four seats which it took in 1979. The Christian Democrats on the other hand gained two seats, going up from four to six, even though they lost 1% in votes. Fianna Fail, the opposition party, made a lot of headway and now has eight seats instead of five.

ITALY

The major political event was the fact that for the first time the Italian Communist party came first and moved ahead of the Christian Democrats in both votes and seats (one seat more). The Socialists made no progress, neither did the Liberals. The Italian Socialist Movement gained ground slightly. It should be noted that the Val d'Aosta Union had one successful candidate.

LUXEMBOURG

The Christian Socialists, who form the government with the Liberals, lost ground very slightly. The Liberals lost almost a quarter of their electorate. The winners were the Socialists, who went up from one to two seats. The Greens performed well (6%), although they did not poll enough votes to win a seat.

(It should be pointed out that in Luxembourg the date of the European elections coincided with that of the national parliamentary elections).

NETHERLANDS

Emergence, with two seats, of a list bringing together groupings such as Greens, pacifists and communists. Eclipse, in terms of seats, of Democracy '66 (Centre-left), which lost its two members.

The ruling Christian Democrats lost two seats and have now been overtaken by the Socialists, who keep their nine seats. The liberals in the VVD, who are in the government, gained one seat. Lastly, one seat was taken by a list consisting of representatives of three small right-wing "ultra" protestant parties.

UNITED KINGDOM

With regard to the 78 seats distributed throughout Great Britain (excluding Northern Ireland), a distinction needs to be drawn between changes in voting patterns and changes in seats. The Conservatives lost a fifth of their 1979 votes and about the same number of seats. The Labour Party, which, on the other hand, went up from 33% to 36.5% of the votes cast, nearly doubled its number of seats, from 17 to 32.

The Liberal/SDP Alliance, however, failed to get a representative into the European Parliament, despite taking 19.5% of the votes.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND INFORMATION On the occasion of the elections, the European Parliament made a special effort in the information field. On the evening when the votes were counted, there was a large-scale operation to ensure that the figures and initial comments were collected and circulated with all speed. Furthermore, the European Parliament's Directorate-General for Information and Public Relations (Publications and Press Reports Division) has published various documents, including : - "The Results and Elected Members" and - "Biographical Notes", which are obtainable on request.

Useful address : European Parliament
Plateau du Kirchberg
Luxembourg

WOMEN AND THE CAMPAIGN, COUNTRY BY COUNTRY

GERMANY

Women won 16 of the 81 seats to be filled in Germany, i.e. 19.75%, which is a far higher percentage than in the Bundestag (Federal Parliament), where the proportion is less than 10%. It should be noted that of the 81 successful candidates, 78 were voted into office by the electors, the remaining three having been appointed by the local parliament in Berlin, in view of the city's special status.

All the political parties endeavoured to appeal to women, but of course their messages differed. It was principally the women candidates who stressed the need for European cooperation and the importance of the work of the European Parliament in promoting equality for women. The parties already represented in the European Parliament emphasized the action it had taken, with particular reference to the application of the Community Directives on equal pay and on equality of treatment as regards access to employment, promotion and working conditions.

For the first time the SPD (Social Democratic Party) nominated a woman to head the polling list for the whole of the Federal Republic. Katharina Focke, who took on this responsibility, spoke in many towns and cities in Germany as part of a "Frauentournee" (Women's tour) bringing together women candidates and women artists (musicians, singers etc).

Generally speaking, the political parties opened up their meetings aimed at women to the general public and not just to party members. Furthermore, women politicians from other Community countries were invited to come and speak as often as possible.

With regard to the content of the proposals, the SPD and the Greens came out in favour of a shorter working week. The CDU/CSU (Christian Democrats and Christian Socialists) and the FDP (Liberals) placed greater emphasis on flexible working hours (part-time work, job sharing).

Overall the Greens came out top with 37.5% : 3 women members out of a total of 8, followed by the SPD with 25% : 8 women members out of 32, and the CDU/CSU with 9.75% : 4 women members out of 41. As is known, the FDP did not win a single seat, which meant that Mechtild von Alemann, the active Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe in the previous parliament, lost her seat.

As might be expected, only women stood for the Frauenpartei (Women's Party) after having been nominated at the party's federal day on 22 October 1983. Led by Karin Ernst (although "led" is not the right word to use in the German electoral context), the Frauenpartei's list polled 94 481 votes, i.e. 0.4%. "A revolution takes a long time !" was how the party's review put it shortly after the elections.

To achieve this result it had been necessary to collect together over 4 000 signatures in support and also to produce a film for television.

For the Frauenpartei went on the air during the election campaign, both on radio (20 broadcasts) and television (4 broadcasts).

Faced with a female electorate tempted by a non-traditional vote, the Grünen (Greens) party also conducted a very active campaign, supported by an electoral programme aimed specifically at women, together with posters and an evening's entertainment which proved to be a joyous mixture of politics and variety artists.

The women's organizations also engaged in intense activity. Mention should be made of - among other things - the leaflet issued by the Deutscher Frauenring (German Women's Circle) on the activities and role of the European Parliament and of the initiative by the Deutscher Landfrauenverband (German Women Farmers' Association), calling on its members to vote.

The women's regional bodies did not remain idle. Thus it was that the Landesfrauenrat Schleswig-Holstein (Schleswig-Holstein Regional Women's Council), the Landesfrauenrat Baden-Württemberg (Baden-Württemberg Regional Women's Council) and the Bremer Frauenausschuss (Bremen Land Regional Women's Committee), to name but a few, stepped up the number of meetings and brochures, to ensure that women citizens were properly informed via women's organizations.

BETWEEN TWO ELECTIONS

A short but interesting study has been produced by Micheline Regout, under the supervision of Myriam Cerexhe (Institut Supérieur de Commerce Saint-Louis, Brussels) concerning "Female representation in the European Parliament in July 1979 and March 1984".

Were there more women at the end of the parliament than at the beginning? Were there more left-wingers than right-wingers or vice versa? On which interparliamentary committees and delegations were they mostly to be found? Did their positions of responsibility increase or diminish?

It appears that "69 women out of 410 MEPs were elected in 1979. Of the 70 women members still holding seats at the end of the parliament, 11 (4 Belgian and 7 French women) obtained them via the alternate system, i.e. 16.9%. Over the five-year period only the number of Belgian women members went up. With the exception of Luxembourg and France, in all countries in which a woman MEP gave up her seat (Denmark, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands), she was always replaced by a male member".

Here is another detail which may be significant: "The average age of women MEPs in 1979 was 49 - that of men was 54. At the end of the parliament the average ages were 52 for women and 58 for men".

Just one last curious figure: "The number of posts held by women on the nineteen committees was 103, i.e. 20.2%. This percentage is higher than the relative numerical strength of women in the European Parliament, as in March 1984 they held only 16.1% of the seats".

BELGIUM

Under the system used in Belgium each party presents a list of actual candidates and a list of alternate candidates. Should the sitting member resign or die during his or her term of office, the alternate takes over. It is therefore more important to be in a good position on the alternate list than in a bad position on the members' list. On the French-speaking lists there were 25 women among the 99 actual candidates and 25 women among the 99 alternate candidates. On the Dutch-speaking lists there were 31 women among the 104 actual candidates and 24 women among the 104 alternate candidates - a total of 105 women out of 406 candidates, or 25.8%.

With the same total of 24 seats to be filled (11 French-speaking and 13 Dutch-speaking), the number of women members rose from 2 to 4 compared with 1979.

Belgian electoral law allows preferential voting. It is therefore interesting to note the good results achieved by the women elected : 77 293 preferential votes for Hendrika De Backer (Dutch-speaking Christian Socialist), 50 902 for Anne-Marie Lizin (French-speaking Socialist), 19 561 for Raymonde Dury (French-speaking Socialist) and 14 860 for Marijke Van Hemeldonck (Dutch-speaking Socialist).

Despite a very good personal result, Antoinette Spaak was not re-elected, as the list on which she was standing did not poll enough votes overall. Antoinette Spaak, a member of Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe, had, among other things, presented a report on "The introduction of new technologies and the effects on the employment of women".

Many women's associations were active during the campaign. An initiative characteristic of this desire to provide information and mobilize women voters was the "Portes ouvertes sur l'Europe" (Opening up Europe) day organized by the French-speaking branch of the Conseil national des Femmes belges (National Council of Belgian Women), in conjunction with the Centre féminin d'éducation permanente (Women's Permanent Education Centre). This provided several hundred women with an opportunity to meet the women candidates in person and to make inquiries of leading representatives of the Community institutions.

With the same aim in mind the "INFOR-FEMMES" association published a document entitled "L'Europe en bref" (Europe in brief) and organized "Midis politiques" (Lunch-time political meetings), at which a woman representative from each party - in turn - came and explained its views on Europe with particular reference to work, politics and military matters, ecology and consumer affairs and lastly Europe vis-à-vis the Third World.

DENMARK

Of the 16 seats to be filled in Denmark, women won 6 - which is slightly up on the 1979 figure of 5 seats. It should be pointed out straightaway that a woman headed the lists of three of the six parties which took seats in the European Parliament. They were Else Hammerich (Folkebevægelsen - i.e. the anti-EEC Movement), Bodil Boserup (So. Folkeparti - People's Socialist Party) and Tove Nielsen (Venstre - i.e. Liberals).

All the women MEPs were re-elected. The two new members, Jeanette Oppenheim and Marie Jepsen - come from the Konservative Party.

A total of 188 people stood as candidates in the European elections, 53 women and 135 men. Given that of the 16 successful candidates six were women and ten were men, it is a simple matter to work out that the electors (both male and female) voted in 11% of the women candidates and only 6% of the men candidates.

With reference to the distribution of male and female candidatures within the parties, it should be pointed out that 10 men and 10 women stood for the People's Socialist Party - as required by its statutes. There were 5 women and 15 men Social Democrat candidates, the same number stood for the Radical Left, 6 women and 14 men Conservatives, 3 women and 7 men Centre Democrats, 8 women and 12 men for the People's Movement against the EEC, 4 women and 16 men People's Christian Party candidates, 3 women and 15 men Left-Wing Socialists (VS) and lastly 4 women and 16 men Fremskridt-parteit (Progress Party) candidates.

As is the case in Belgium too, Danish electors can express a preference when voting, this being called a "personal vote". The successful women candidates polled an average of 30 334 personal votes, the men 51 422. However, attention needs to be drawn to the exceptionally good result achieved by Else Hammerich, heading the People's Movement against the EEC list : she polled 156 145 preferential votes. Similarly, Eva Gredal, of the Social Democrat Party, outstripped, with 57 303 votes, the "Number One", Ove Fich, who only ^{got} 35 160. In the People's Socialist Party, led by Bodil Boserup, the "Number Two", John Iversen, got 4 064 preferential votes, but the "Number Three", a woman, polled 5 430, although her success did not make any difference to the final result.

It is common knowledge that Denmark's membership of the European Community is still a very delicate political issue in the country. Very many women's associations did their utmost, however, to provide their members with as much information as possible, although every woman was of course free to make her own choice, but with full knowledge of the facts.

FRANCE

Of the 81 seats to be filled in France women won 17, or 21%. Among the 41 successful candidates on the Union de l'Opposition (United Opposition Parties) list, there are 8 women or 19.51%. Of the 20 Socialist members there are 6 women or 30%. Two of the 10 Communist members are women, the proportion thus being 20%. Lastly, there is one woman among the ten National Front members, or 10%.

According to an analysis commissioned from Janine Mossuz-Lavau by the Agence Femmes Information (AFI) (Women's Information Agency), the results of the 17 June elections show that "male and female voting patterns no longer now converge exactly and the divergences can no longer, moreover, be evaluated along the traditional bipolar lines (right versus left/opposition versus majority)".

Janine Mossuz-Lavau's finding was that "women avoided supporting extremes more than men, particularly the list headed by Jean-Marie Le Pen (National Front), which got about 13% of male votes but only 8% to 9% of female votes (...). On the other hand, women did not desert the Socialist camp to any greater extent than men. But they voted in far greater numbers than men for the list headed by Simone Veil. In fact, almost half of the women voters opted for this list, compared with 37% to 39% of men".

Whereas in 1979 there were 9 different lists, this time there were 14 out to capture the electors' votes. In addition to the Union de l'Opposition list headed by Simone Veil, the Lutte Ouvrière (Workers' Struggle) list was led by Arlette Laguillier and the Réussir l'Europe (Let's Make a Success of Europe) list by Francine Gomez, President and Managing Director of the Waterman company.

The latter list was conspicuous, among other things, for the exceptionally high proportion of women, 38 of the 81 candidates, or 46.91% to be precise. According to Francine Gomez, it was not difficult to find women candidates: "Society is bursting with first-rate women with no say in things".

Led by Professor Henri Cartan, a member of the Académie des Sciences, and Janine Lansier, President of "Femmes pour l'Europe" (Women for Europe), the "Pour les Etats-Unis d'Europe" (For the United States of Europe) list included 23 women candidates. This was also the list with the most radically European programme, calling for a European government and the ratification by France of the draft European Union Treaty, which has already been adopted by the European Parliament.

The women's organizations made a sustained effort to provide information, despite the strong influence of the domestic political debate on these European elections. Thus it was that the Women's Committee of the French European Movement Organization embarked as early as January on a number of activities not only in Paris and the various regions in France but also abroad. The Union féminine civique et social (Women's Civic and Social Union) for its part published and distributed a special issue of "Cahiers d'éducation civique" (Civics Notebooks), running to some fifty pages and entitled "Europe 1984" (still available, price FF 40, from U.F.C.S., 6 rue Béranger, 75003 Paris).

Of the women MEPs who were not re-elected, we would mention Marie-Jane Pruvot (Lib.), who was a member of the Committee on External Economic Relations and of Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the treatment of toxic and dangerous substances, together with Sylvie Leroux (Comm.), a member of the Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe and author of a report on "Maternity, parental leave and pre-school facilities".

GREECE

In Greece's case, the fact that the European elections were taking place three and a half years after the country joined the European Community might have been used to "test" people's feelings about what is called "the greatest decision in the country's modern history".

In practice, this possibility did not materialize, as the campaign was completely dominated by domestic political issues. The tone having been set by the big parties, the smaller political groupings merely followed suit. There were many outdoor meetings during the campaign, which lasted a month, in both Athens and the main provincial cities.

Questions of more specific interest to women were dealt with amongst others, but no more than that. On both the government and opposition sides everyone was anxious to point to what had been achieved or prompted as regards improvements to women's status. Few new proposals were put forward, few promises made and these matters were not mentioned by the press, as if nothing further needed to be done for women.

The short duration of the campaign, moreover, scarcely left enough time to put detailed questions about women's issues to the candidates and political leaders.

This time 16 parties took part in the campaign (compared with 10 in 1981) and 381 candidates, including 45 women, stood for election. However, the places allocated to women on the lists meant that they only took 2 out of 24 seats, the same result as in 1981.

On the lists with 23 or 24 candidates, the proportion of women fluctuated between one and seven places, the best one for women being the KO.DH.SO Party (Social Democratic), which had 7 women and 17 men candidates but only polled 0.8% of the votes.

In fact, the places allocated to women were a determining factor in their success or otherwise. In the big political groupings, the first woman generally appeared in about tenth place, whereas in the small parties she was in around third place. This just goes to show how slight the women's chances were.

In practice, only 4 of the 45 women candidates had any hope of being elected. Two were in eighth and tenth places respectively on two big lists, the two others held first and second places on less well known lists.

As regards the women candidates' social and occupational background, most were in the professions, with the exception of two candidates who stood for the PASOK and who were already MEPs. Whereas the inevitable lawyers, doctors, economists and journalists were to be found among the men, there were teachers, architects and several housewives among the women.

Well before the start of the campaign Greek women's organizations approached the political parties, asking them to ensure that women were given an important and worthwhile place on the electoral lists. But the political passion aroused during these elections was so intense that this appeal was scarcely heard.

IRELAND

While women's affairs may have been a contributing issue among those which brought Irish voters to the polls in the 1979 European elections, the same could not be said in 1984. Just before the summer the principal issues were unemployment, Ireland's neutrality, Europe's budgetary problems and some degree of disillusionment with the European Community - particularly as regards milk production.

The election campaign itself was slow to start and a low-key affair, confirming the results of a recent survey which showed the Irish to have little interest in European affairs and to be "disenchanted" with their membership of the Community.

Despite this difficult situation women's issues did get a look-in, mainly as a result of the endeavours made by the Council for the Status of Women, which invited the women candidates to state their position at a special press briefing and called on women voters to vote for women.

The only party to have two women running was Fine Gael : Mary Banotti was elected, but not Deirdre Bolger, a former Senator. The Labour Party, Fine Gael's partner in government, fielded Eileen Desmond, who was a member of the Irish parliament and is a very experienced politician with 19 years in politics.

Another successful candidate was Mrs Eileen Lemass, who was on Fianna Fail's list in her native Dublin constituency, in succession to her husband, who died in 1976.

The two other women candidates were Liz McManus, a town councillor and member of the left-wing Workers' Party and Mary McGing, a member of Sinn Fein (radical Republican party) - the only party which actively campaigned to pull Ireland out of the European Community.

It is only fair to mention two candidates who are supporters of women's rights campaigning, one (Des Geraghty) being a member of the Workers' Party, the other (John de Courcy Ireland) a member of the Democratic Socialists.

All the parties were careful to include statements concerning women in their policy documents. Fianna Fail (aligned in the European Parliament with the Group of European Progressive Democrats) stated that it was not satisfied with the way in which the Directive on equality of treatment as regards access to employment was being implemented. It proposed the establishment of bodies to promote equality in the public services. Other proposals were put forward on vocational education and training for women, on promotion for women, on the provision of child care facilities, retraining programmes for women etc.

Fine Gael's policy on women was encapsulated in the document issued by its political grouping in the European Parliament, the European People's Party (Christian Democratic Group). It supported the right of both women and men to work in paid employment, the re-organization of work and it advocated an effective policy which would "eliminate the obstacles" to full equality for women. With regard to matters of immediate concern, Fine Gael came out in favour of the Directive (which is still under discussion) on the legal status of women working in family businesses.

The Labour Party, for its part, concurred with the document published by the Confederation of the Socialist Parties of the European Community : this comprehensive 30-page document covers all the main issues, from pre-schooling to pensions, and also includes parental leave, family law, adult education etc.

At all events, the election campaign showed just how much further there is to go before women's issues are really taken into account. In Eileen Desmond's words : "We live in an age where a woman can go into outer space; where she can hold a senior position in government; where she can hold down a senior management post (meaning in the private sector), as many women do. But there are club committee rooms in this city (Cork) that a woman is not allowed to enter, unless it's to clean up or bring in the tea".

The figures seem to prove Eileen Desmond right : of the 15 seats to be filled in Ireland, women won two.

ITALY

Of the 81 seats to be filled in Italy women won 8, which is a setback compared with 1979 (11 seats). According to a close observer (female) of Italian politics, the women's organizations conducted an active campaign to get worthwhile places allocated to women on the party lists but - with a few rare exceptions - this action was not supported by the parties' machinery or by the pressure groups, where women are still definitely in a minority.

The figures for women candidates reflect this weakness : only 65 women candidates took part in the election campaign, 15 being on the Communist list, 6 on the Christian Democrat list, 8 on the Italian Socialist Party list, 6 on the joint Liberal Party/Republican Party list, 6 on the Proletarian Democracy list, 11 on the Radical Party list, 3 on the Italian Social Movement (extreme right-wing) list, 3 on the Social Democratic Party list, 6 on the Union for a Federalist Europe list and lastly 1 on the People's Democratic Party list.

The number of successful women candidates in proportion to the total seats taken by each list shows not only that there were relatively few women but also that they were in a poor position : 6 women among the 27 new Communist MEPs, 1 woman among the 26 Christian Democrats, 1 woman too among the Republican Party's three successful candidates. But not a single woman among the Italian Socialist Party's 9 new MEPs, among the 5 on the PLI-PRI's joint list or among the 5 on the MSI's list.

During the new Parliament's life the number of Italian women members might rise with the arrival of Maria Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso, the best-placed unsuccessful woman candidate on the Communist list and hence in a good position to replace a departing member should the need arise. But several MEPs whose activity attracted considerable attention will no longer be there : Tullia Caretoni Romagnoli (Comm.), a member of the Committee on Development and Cooperation, Paola Gaiotti de Biase, Christian Democrat and author of a report to the Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe on the application of the first two Directives on equality (equal pay and equal treatment), Maria Antonietta Macciocchi, a member of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament, who drew up a report on the place of women in decision-making centres for the Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe.

The women's associations carried out particularly important work in making women aware of the implications of the European elections. In the political arena the Christian Democrats stressed the future of women, of young people and of families, the Communists emphasized that "It is illusory to believe that it is possible to come through the economic crisis without women and against women", while the Women's Republican Movement, which is associated with the National Coordination of Women Liberals, adopted the slogan "Europe for women, women for Europe : women leaders, a potential source of innovation".

The non-political organizations also took numerous initiatives : appeal by the Soroptimists, FIDAPA (Professional Women's Organization) round table, "European Wednesdays" lectures organized by the CNDI (National Council of Italian Women), not forgetting the initiative taken by the latter in producing a widely distributed questionnaire, the replies to which confirmed the growing interest in European politics being shown by women.

A number of meetings were organized in all parts of the country by the CIF (Centro Italiano Femminile - Italian Women's Centre). Women citizens were provided with information by associations such as the A.N.D.E. (National Association of Women Voters) and the FILDI (Women Graduates Association).

In Northern Italy, the regional women's advisory councils in Piedmont and Val d'Aosta issued an appeal tempered by a comma "VOTA, DONNA" (Vote, woman). But women voters will have amended this accordingly on their own.

LUXEMBOURG

In Luxembourg one woman (Colette Flesch - Liberal) won one of the 6 seats to be filled. However, as the national parliamentary elections were taking place on the same day as the European elections, two MEPs withdrew to take part in the government and their places were taken by two women: Marcelle Lentz-Cornette (Christian Democrat) and Lydie Schmit (Socialist), who will therefore sit in the European Parliament.

There were seven opposing lists in all for the European elections and there were 18 women among the 84 candidates, i.e. 21.4%. With completely equal lists, for both the national parliamentary elections and the European elections, the Parti Vert Alternatif (Alternative Green Party) was rightfully able to pride itself on fielding the largest number of women candidates on the voting lists.

The only successful directly elected woman candidate (the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg forming a single constituency), Colette Flesch, Chairman of the Democratic Party but also Minister for Foreign Affairs and for Economic Affairs, and Number One on her party's list, polled 20 225 preferential votes out of a total of 91 988 personal votes.

For the record it should be pointed out that there were 11 women candidates in the 1979 European elections.

NETHERLANDS

Of the 25 seats to be filled in the Netherlands women won 7, which is up on the 1979 score of five. The PvdA Socialists won 9 seats, 3 of which will be held by women. The CDA Christian Democrats have 8 seats, 3 of which go to women. The VVD Liberals have 5 seats, one of which is to be held by a woman.

However, Annie Krouwel-Vlam, who was an active member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, will no longer be seen in the European Parliament, and nor will Doeke Eisma, one of the few male MEPs to have been a member of the Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe.

The campaign conducted by the women's associations in preparation for the European elections started early in the Netherlands, since as far back as 8 September 1983 the Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad (Dutch Women's Council) brought the elections to the attention of its member organizations by publishing a list of the speakers made available to the organizations by the Europese Beweging in Nederland (European Movement in the Netherlands). Over 200 meetings were thus organized, with attentive audiences who were often keen to follow up the points raised during the discussion meetings with further discussions at home.

UNITED KINGDOM

Of the 81 seats to be filled in the United Kingdom, women won 12, only one more than in 1979. It is true that the European elections could hardly be said to have cut much ice with the voters, only 32% of whom bothered to vote.

For the figures to be comprehensible it needs to be pointed out that the 81 seats are divided up into 78 for England, Scotland and Wales, the remaining three going to Northern Ireland. In Northern Ireland a proportional representation system was used, whereas in the rest of the country the constituencies were formed so that the seat went to the candidate with the largest number of votes, with no transferrable votes. This meant that the Liberal-SDP Alliance, with 2 591 657 votes (18.51%), did not win a single seat, whereas a seat was taken in Northern Ireland with 1.05% of the votes (less than 150 000 votes).

Of the 271 candidates fielded by the parties as a whole, there were 48 women, or just under 18%. Present in Great Britain (but not in Northern Ireland) with 78 candidates (contesting the 78 seats), the number of women candidates standing for the big parties were, respectively, 13 Conservative, 11 Labour and 11 Liberal-SDP Alliance too. Women were proportionally more numerous on the smaller lists - such as the Ecologists' list - but their chances of success were almost non-existent in view of the electoral system. In this context, Winifred Ewing, Scottish Nationalist, who was re-elected in her constituency despite a slight fall in the percentage of votes which she polled, is a special case.

In all the 12 women MEPs make up 15% of the British representatives, which is a more satisfactory figure than the 3% of women present at Westminster.

However, Gloria Hooper, a member of the Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe and author of a report on information policy and women, will no longer be seen in the European Parliament, neither will Norvela Forster, a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, or Elaine Kellett-Bowman, a member of the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning.

The electoral platforms published by the main political groupings devoted a lot of space to relations between the United Kingdom and the European Community. One of the ironies of the elections was that the Liberal-SDP Alliance, while being staunchly pro-European, did not take a single seat. The Conservative manifesto highlighted the action taken by Margaret Thatcher's government, while the Labour manifesto paved the way for a policy less resolutely opposed to the Common Market.

As regards women more particularly, the Labour Party and the Alliance specifically mentioned the Community's role in promoting equality of opportunity. The Labour Party promised to use "every single penny available" in the European Social Fund to help women to learn non-traditional jobs, while the Alliance called for full implementation of the Community Action Programme on equal opportunities, together with an increase in the number of Community texts on equality for women.

THE WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

GERMANY

C.D.U. (Christian Democratic Union)

BRAUN-MOSER Ursula

b. 25.5.37 in Frankfurt-am-Main. Economist. Former local councillor.

LENZ Marlène

b. 4.7.32 in Berlin. Translator. Vice-President of the European section of CDU-CSU women. Vice-Chairman of the European Union of Women. MEP 1979-84.

PEUS Gabriele

b. 25.7.40 in Münster. Teacher. Member of the International Secretariat of Catholic Secondary School Teachers.

RABBETHGE Renate-Charlotte

b. 14.10.30 in Göttingen. Foreign correspondent. Member of the Federal Committee on "The situation of women in the middle classes". Member of the Bundestag for Lower Saxony. MEP 1979-84.

C.S.U. (Christian Socialist Union)

SCHLEICHER Ursula

b. 15.5.33 in Aschaffenburg. Musician (harpist). Member of the Bundestag 1972-80. Federal Vice-President of the Catholic Workers of Germany Movement. International Chairman of the European Union of Women (EUW). MEP 1979-84.

S.P.D. (Social Democratic Party)

FOCKE Katharina

b. 8.10.22 in Bonn. Political economist. Member of the Rhine-Westphalia regional parliament 1966-69. Member of the Bundestag 1969-80. Secretary of State for relations with Parliament responsible to the Federal Chancellor 1969-72. Minister for Youth, Family Affairs and Health 1972-76. MEP 1979-84.

HOFF Magdalena

b. 29.12.40 in Hagen. Civil engineer. Local councillor. MEP 1979-84.

ROTHE Mechtild

b. 10.8.47 in Paderborn. Teacher. Member of SPD Council.

SALISCH Heinke

b. 14.8.41 in Grevenbroich. Conference interpreter. Karlsruhe city councillor since 1971. MEP 1979-84.

SEIBEL-EMMERLING Lieselotte

b. 3.2.32 in Leobschütz. Schools inspector. Member of Bavarian parliament since 1966. MEP 1979-84.

SIMONS Barbara

b. 16.6.29 in Wolfenbüttel. Educationalist. Specialist in vocational training.

WEBER Beate

b. 12.12.43 in Reichenberg. Teacher. Vice-President of the SPD Council. Heidelberg city councillor. MEP 1979-84.

WIECZOREK-ZEUL Heidemarie

b. 21.11.42 in Frankfurt-am-Main. Teacher. Federal President of the Young Socialists 1974-77. Member of the SPD Council. MEP 1979-84.

DIE GRÜNE (The Greens)

BLOCH von BLOTTNITZ Undine

b. 20.8.36 in Berlin. Not previously in paid employment.

HEINRICH Brigitte

b. 29.6.41 in Frankfurt. Specialist in foreign policy issues and the problems of the dependency of the Third World countries.

PIERMONT Dorothee

b. 27.2.43 in Strasbourg. Antique dealer. Has taught politics and German history in Paris. Former member of the French PSU (Parti socialiste unifié - Unified Socialist Party).

BELGIUM

P.S. (French-speaking Socialist Party)

DURY Raymonde

b. 22.7.47 in Haine-Saint-Paul. Sociology graduate. Worked as a sociologist for the Femmes prévoyantes socialistes (Socialist Women's Provident Association) 1970-76. Press attaché to the Socialist Group in the European Parliament 1976-82. MEP 1982-84.

LIZIN Anne-Marie

b. 4.1.49 in Huy. Economics graduate. Local councillor, then Mayor of Huy. MEP 1979-84.

S.P. (Dutch-speaking Socialist Party)

VAN HEMELDONCK Marijke

b. 23.12.31 in Hove. Teutonic languages graduate. Has worked in various ministers' private offices. Member of the Bureau of the ABVV trade union's Women's Committee. Chairman of the Women's Committee of the European Movement. MEP 1982-84.

C.V.P. (Dutch-speaking Christian Socialist Party)

DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN Rika

b. 1.2.23. History graduate. Studied Thomist philosophy. President of Antwerp CVP. Former Senator. Minister 1974-81.

DENMARK

People's Conservative Party

JEPSEN Marie

b. 27.3.40. Provincial and local councillor.

OPPENHEIM Jeanette

b. 14.8.52. Lawyer. Copenhagen city councillor.

Folkebevaegelsen (People's Movement against the EEC)

HAMMERICH Else

b. 7.9.36. Teacher. Activities in the Danish feminist movement. Not a member of any party. MEP 1979-84.

Social Democratic Party

GREDAL Eva

b. 19.2.27 in Nørresundby. Former social worker. Former Minister for Social Affairs. Former member of the Folketing (Danish Parliament). MEP 1979-84.

Venstre (Liberals)

NIELSEN Tove

b. 8.4.41 in Durup. Former teacher. Adviser to the Danish Employers Federation. Former Minister for Education. MEP 1979-84.

People's Socialist Party

BOSERUP Bodil

b. 24.7.21. Biochemist. University Professor (Faculty of Medicine). Copenhagen city councillor. MEP 1979-84.

FRANCE

Union de l'opposition (United Opposition Parties)

ANGLADE Marie-Madeleine

b. 5.7.21 in Valence. Deputy Mayor of Paris with responsibility for employment matters. Paris city councillor. Member of the Steering Committee of the Centre national des indépendants et paysans (National Centre for the Self-Employed and Agricultural Workers). Secretary-General of the Compagnie française de journaux (French Newspaper Company).

CHOURAQUI Nicole

b. 18.3.38 in Algiers. Economist. Graduate of the Paris Political Studies Institute. Deputy Secretary-General of the R.P.R. (Rassemblement pour la République).

DUPUYS Anne-Marie

b. 18.9.20 in Pithiviers. Member of the Council of State. Alpes Maritimes councillor. Mayor of Cannes.

FONTAINE Nicole

b. 16.1.42 in Grainville-Ymauville. Teacher. Doctor of law. Member of the National Education Council and of the Economic and Social Council.

MARTIN Simone

b. 14.4.43 in Tourcoing. Trained as a nurse. Member of the Champagne-Ardennes Economic and Social Committee. Saint-Dizier town councillor. Secretary-General of the Haute-Marne Chamber of Agriculture. MEP 1979-84.

SCHRIVENER Christiane

b. 1.9.25 in Mulhouse. Harvard Business School graduate. Former member of the Board of Electricité de France. Former minister. Deputy Secretary-General of the Republican Party. MEP 1979-84.

THOME-PATENOTRE Jacqueline

b. 3.2.06 in Paris. Former minister. Former Vice-President of the Assemblée nationale. President of the Society for the Protection of Animals.

VEIL Simone

b. 13.7.27 in Nice. Magistrate. Former Minister for Health and Family Affairs. President of the European Parliament July 1979 - January 1982.

P.S. (Socialist Party)

CHARZAT Gisèle

b. 17.2.41 in Paris. Self-employed. MEP 1979-84.

FUILLET Yvette

b. 1.2.23 in Marseilles. Managerial post in insurance. Marseilles city councillor. Member of the Socialist Party's Executive Committee. MEP 1979-84.

GADIOUX Colette

b. 8.4.45 in Bellac. Deputy Mayor of Limoges. Head of the Limousin Region Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Department.

LIENEMANN Marie-Noëlle

b. 12.7.51 in Belfort. Secondary school teacher. Town councillor in Massy. Assistant National Secretary of the Socialist Party with responsibility for the environment and the quality of life.

PERY Nicole

b. 13.5.43 in Bayonne. Teacher of literature. Deputy Mayor of Ciboure. Alternate Member of the French Parliament for the Basque Coast.

VAYSSADE Marie-Claude

b. 8.8.36 in Pierrepont. Head of a Workers' Training Centre. Member of the Socialist Party's Executive Committee. MEP 1979-84.

P.C.F. (French Communist Party)

DE MARCH Danielle

b. 6.8.39 in Lérrouville. Clerical worker. Member of the PCF's Central Committee. Deputy Chairman of the Var department Council. MEP 1979-84, elected Vice-President.

HOFFMANN Jacqueline

b. 26.12.43 in Béziers. Metal worker. Member of the Yvelines district headquarters of the PCF. Member of the PCF's Central Committee. MEP 1979-84.

Front de l'opposition nationale (National Front)

LEHIDEUX Martine

b. 27.5.33. Managerial assistant.

GREECE

PA.SO.K. (Panhellenic Socialist Movement)

PANTAZI - TZIFA Konstantina

b. in 1943 in Patrai (Peloponnese). Trained as an interpreter. Founder member of the Union of Greek Women. MEP 1981-84.

N.D. (New Democracy)

GIANNAKOU Mariori-Marietta

b. in 1951 in Sparta. Trained as a doctor. Founder member of the Youth Section of New Democracy. Member of the Executive Committee of New Democracy. Founder member of the Panhellenic Union of Women Scientists.

IRELAND

Fianna Fail

LEMAS Eileen

b. in 1932. Member of the Dail (Irish Parliament) since 1977. Elected as member for Dublin.

Fine Gael

BANOTTI Mary

Trained as a nurse. Employed in this capacity in Europe and Africa. Has campaigned for the reform of social law. Specialist in social policy.

Important note : These biographical notes, which are necessarily brief, in no way constitute the official biographies of the MEPs in question.

ITALY

P.C.I. (Italian Communist Party)

BARBARELLA Carla

b. 4.2.40 in Magione. Political science graduate. Former European Community official. MEP 1979-84.

CASTELLINA Luciana

b. 29.8.29 in Rome. Doctor of law. Journalist. Member of the Executive of the PDUP (Proletarian Unity Democratic Party). Elected MEP, on that party's list, 1979-84.

Important note : In accordance with a practice peculiar to the PCI, prominent persons can be asked to stand as candidates on the party's list without being members or having to vote along party lines. This is the case with Altiero Spinelli, who was elected on the Communist list but is not a member of the party. This is also the case with Luciana Castellina, who, moreover, has joined the "Rainbow" Group in the European Parliament and not the Communist Group.

CINCIARI RODANO Marisa

b. 21.1.21 in Rome. Member of the PCI's Central Committee. Former Vice-President of the Senate. MEP 1979-84 and Chairman of Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe.

MARINARO Francesca

b. 26.11.52 in Villarossa. Secretary of the Italian Communist Party's Federation in Belgium.

SQUARCIALUPI Vera

b. 5.8.28 in Pola. Arts graduate. Journalist. Member of the Senate. MEP 1979-84.

TRUPIA Lalla

b. 31.5.48 in Vicenza. Head of the Women's Committee and member of the PCI's Executive.

D.C. (Christian Democrats)

CASSANMAGNAGO CERETTI Maria Luisa

b. 7.4.29 in Bergamo. Economics graduate. Member of the Italian Parliament. Member of the party's National Council. MEP 1979-84.

P.R. (Radical Party)

BONINO Emma

b. 9.3.48 in Bra. Degree in foreign languages and literature. Member of the Chamber of Deputies. MEP 1979-84.

LUXEMBOURG

P.C.S. (Christian Socialist Party)

LENTZ - CORNETTE Marcelle

b. 2.3.27 in Nieder Korn. Member of the Chambre des Députés. MEP 1981-84.

P.O.S.L. (Luxembourg Socialist Workers Party)

SCHMIT Lydie

Chairman of Socialist International Women.

P.D. (Democratic Party)

FLESCH Colette

b. 16.4.37. Political science and economic graduate. Député 1969-80. Mayor of Luxembourg 1970-80. President of the Democratic Party since 1980. Vice-President of the Government, with responsibility among other things for Foreign Affairs, since 1980.

NETHERLANDS

PvdA (Labour Party)

d'ANCONA Hedy

b. 1.3.37 in The Hague. Former member of the Upper House. Former Secretary of State with responsibility for matters concerning women's emancipation.

VAN DEN HEUVEL Ien

b. 7.8.27 in Tiel. Former member of the Upper House. President of the Socialist Party 1974-79. MEP 1979-84.

VIEHOFF - MAAG Phili

b. 8.6.24 in Zwolle. Former member of the Gelderland Provincial Council. MEP 1979-84.

C D A (Christian Democratic Appeal)

BOOT Elise

b. 2.8.32 in Rotterdam. Scientific assistant at the University. Former member of the Utrecht Provincial Council. MEP 1979-84.

MAIJ - WEGGEN Johanna

b. 29.12.43 in Emmen. Member of the teaching staff in a School of Nursing. MEP 1979-84.

VAN ROOIJ Yvonne

b. 4.6.51 in Eindhoven. Over the last five years has worked for the Netherlands Federation of Christian Employers.

V V D (People's Party for Liberty and Democracy)

GROENENDAAL Jessica

b. 24.11.45 in Voorburg. Official with the Benelux authorities 1973-78. Since 1978, Administrator, Liberal and Democratic Group, European Parliament.

UNITED KINGDOM

Conservative Party

BROOKES Beata Ann

b. 1931. Former social worker. Elected as member for North Wales. MEP 1979-84.

DALY Margaret

b. 1938. Formerly departmental head of international insurance company. Elected as member for Somerset and Dorset West.

ELLES The Baroness Diana Louise

b. 1921. Barrister. Opposition Spokesman on foreign affairs in the House of Lords 1975-79. International Chairman of the European Union of Women 1973-79. Elected as member for Thames Valley. MEP 1979-84.

FAITH Sheila

b. 1928. Director of her family's group of clothing stores. In local politics 1970-77. MP for Belper 1978-83. Elected as member for Cumbria and Lancashire North.

JACKSON Caroline

b. 1946. Head of London office of the European Democratic Group. Former local councillor. Elected as member for Wiltshire.

ROBERTS Dame Shelagh

b. 1924. Industrial relations consultant. Member of the GLC 1970-81 and of the Port of London Authority 1976-79. Elected as member for London South West. MEP 1979-84.

Labour Party

BUCHAN Janey

b. 1926 in Glasgow. Former Chairman of the Labour Party in Scotland. Member of Strathclyde Council. Elected as MEP for Glasgow, 1979-84.

CASTLE Barbara

b. 1910. MP for Blackburn 1945-79. Former Minister for Overseas Development, Minister of Transport, Secretary of State for Employment, Secretary of State for Social Services. Former Chairman of the Labour Party. Elected as member for Greater Manchester West. MEP 1979-84.

CRAWLEY Christine

b. 1950. Teacher. Active in local politics. Member of the Fabian Society and of the NUT. Elected as member for Birmingham East.

QUIN Joyce

b. 1944. Former lecturer and researcher for the Labour Party's international department. Elected as member for Tyne and Wear. MEP 1979-84.

TONGUE Carol

b. 1955. Administrative assistant to Socialist MEPs since 1980. Elected as member for London East.

Scottish Nationalist Party

EWING Winifred

b. 10.7.29 in Glasgow. Lawyer. MP for Moray and Nairn 1974-79. Elected as member for the Highlands and Islands. MEP 1979-84.

E U R O P E A N P A R L I A M E N T

July 1984 Inaugural Part-session

In the absence of Mr Gazis (Greece), the oldest member of the Parliament was Jacqueline Thome-Patenôtre (France), elected on the Union de l'Opposition list. In this capacity she presided over the first sitting of the newly-formed Parliament.

In her inaugural speech, Jacqueline Thome-Patenôtre said that women, whether they were in the chair for a day or for a much longer period, were always "at the ready" when it was a question of the construction of Europe. In making this allusion, the speaker was paying tribute both to Louise Weiss, who herself made a speech as the oldest member at the opening of the previous Parliament, and to Simone Veil, the elected President of the European Parliament from July 1979 to January 1982.

Not forgetting that she is International Vice-President of the European Movement, Jacqueline Thome-Patenôtre wished to thank all those who fight for the European cause : she pointed out that the election of the European Parliament owed much to them and then went on to list the most important stages in her long career as a parliamentarian and fighter for the European cause, which had enabled her to get to know the "pioneers" of Europe.

Mrs Thome-Patenôtre drew attention to the progress made by Europe in spite of everything and she stressed the need to forge ahead. She observed that authoritative voices were increasingly calling for a defence policy, but she immediately went on to say that European security nowadays needed to be as much internal as external, since a certain kind of terrorism was seeking to destabilize democratic Europe and such terrorism should be the main enemy.

The speaker also referred to pacifism : she said that everyone was a pacifist, but that a certain kind of pacifism, which did not put the defence of peace and freedom on the same footing, would play into the hands of a power which banned all public demonstrations in its own territory and in territories which came under its control.

Referring to the Spinelli draft, the oldest member stressed that Parliament, with the new draft for European Union, had given new hope to Europe and this was why it should be closely associated with the Member States' powers to put forward proposals and take decisions. Mrs Thome-Patenôtre ended her speech by saying that it was high time that Parliament's role was enhanced.

Parliament then proceeded to elect its President. On the second ballot Mr Pierre Pflimlin (France, EPP) was elected with 221 votes out of the 403 cast. Piet Dankert polled 133 votes and Altiero Spinelli 49.

As soon as he had been installed as President to applause from members, Pierre Pflimlin referred first of all to the very first President of the Parliament, the Frenchman Robert Schuman, saying that he still considered himself to be one of Schuman's disciples even today.

Rejecting "Europessimism", which was currently wreaking some degree of havoc, the new President drew attention to Europe's assets: it was essential for Europe to be up with the leaders again, thanks to its ability to invent and innovate. The Europe which Parliament wanted was concerned about its own interests but also aware of its responsibilities to the rest of the world, particularly the poorest countries.

Pierre Pflimlin also expressed the hope that real solidarity would be achieved in Europe, something which went far beyond mere free trade. With reference to the Community's current financial problems, the President called on his experience as a former Minister of Finance to underline that the Member States' positions were not as far apart as might be supposed.

Referring to the "powers" of the European Parliament, Pierre Pflimlin paid tribute to the two previous Presidents: they had both done everything possible in the area of budgetary powers, Parliament's only true powers. The speaker wondered whether Parliament had misused these powers - as some people claimed - but went on to give his answer, which was that this was certainly not the case. However, Parliament should endeavour to widen its competence in a responsible fashion.

What gave MEPs special strength compared with those who were preoccupied with day-to-day management was their role as representatives of peoples who aspired to greater solidarity in Europe: this was their main task.

Pierre Pflimlin pointed out that from the institutional viewpoint Parliament had taken an important decision in adopting a draft for European Union - by a majority - and he paid tribute to Altiero Spinelli, to whom they all owed a debt of gratitude and whom he admired. He did not know what the fate of this draft would be but at all events it should be kept under close review.

The new President of the European Parliament ended his speech by saying that Europe was a revolutionary idea and that it was Parliament's job to convince young people that this was the case.

Parliament then went on to elect its twelve Vice-Presidents. Three women were elected to this post: Maria Luisa Cassanagnago Cerretti (EPP), Lady Elles (ED) and Nicole Pery (Socialist).

They were elected with 270, 246 and 250 votes respectively.

The Vice-Presidents, with the five Quaestors and the President, form the Bureau of the European Parliament - an important body which decides, for instance, on the agenda for sittings.

When it came to discussing the number and membership of the parliamentary committees, an amendment to Annex V of the Rules of Procedure was moved by Marie-Claude Vayssade (France, Soc.), Marlène Lenz (Germ., EPP), Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano (It., Comm.) and Simone Martin (France, Lib.).

This text, concerning a "COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS" is worded as follows:

" This Committee is responsible for matters relating to :

- the definition and evolution of women's rights in the Community, based on Parliament's resolutions of 11 February 1981 and 17 January 1984;
- the implementation and improvement of Directives relating to equal rights for women and the formulation of new Directives;
- employment policy in respect of women and young girls, and measures to combat female unemployment;
- common policies insofar as they concern women, including information policy;
- problems relating to the professional activities of women and their family role;
- women in the European Community institutions;
- the situation of migrant women and the wives of migrant workers;
- the World Conference on Women. "

Adopted as it stood by a very big majority, this amendment therefore confers permanent status on what was only at first an "ad hoc" committee, then "Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe".

The Committee on Women's Rights has 25 members, namely :

Socialist Group : Ms Crawley, Ms Lizin, Ms Pantazi, Ms Quin, Ms Salisch, Ms Vayssade and Ms Wieczorek-Zeul and Mr Newman and Mr Schmid.

Group of the European People's Party : Ms Braun-Moser, Ms Cassanmagnago-Cerretti, Ms De Backer-Van Ocken, Ms Fontaine, Ms Giannakou, Ms Lenz and Ms Maij-Weggen.

European Democratic Group : Ms Faith, Ms Jackson and Ms Jepsen.

Communist Group : Ms Cinciari Rodano

Liberal Group : Ms Larive-Groenendaal

Group of the European Democratic Alliance : Ms Lemass

"Rainbow" Group : Ms Heinrich

European Right Wing Group : Ms Lehideux.

The Committee met and elected MARLENE LENZ (Germ., EPP) Chairman.

THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

For its preparatory work the European Parliament has formed 18 committees, like most of the national Parliaments.

Particulars : Committee members are elected during the newly elected Parliament's inaugural sitting and again after a period of two and a half years. Nominations are sent to the Bureau, which submits to Parliament proposals taking account of fair representation of the Member States and of political leanings (Article 92(1) of the Rules of Procedure). In practice, committee seats are generally divided out under agreements between the political groups and approval of this allocation by a plenary sitting of Parliament is then a mere formality.

At its first meeting the committee elects a Chairman and one, two or three Vice-Chairmen, who together form the Committee's Bureau. Here too the practice is for the groups to agree on the nominations for the chairmanship of the committees, with the result that only one candidate stands for office.

Out of the 18 parliamentary committees six are chaired by women. Here again this is a particularly high proportion, given the percentage of seats held by women in the European Parliament. The details are given below :

Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights : Marie-Claude Vayssade (France, Soc.);

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection : Beate Weber (Germ., Soc.);

Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport : Winifred Ewing (Scottish Nationalist, allied to the Group of the European Democratic Alliance);

Committee on Development and Cooperation : Katharina Focke (Germ., Soc.);

Committee on External Economic Relations : Dame Shelagh Roberts (UK, Cons.);

Committee on Women's Rights : Marlène Lenz (Germ., EPP).

In the previous parliament only three committees were chaired by women, namely (1) Committee on Energy and Research, chaired by Hanna Walz (Germ., EPP); (2) Legal Affairs Committee, chaired by Simone Veil (France, Lib.); (3) Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe, chaired by Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano (It., Comm.).

As far as the political groups are concerned, it should be noted that Simone Veil has been elected Chairman of the Liberal and Democratic Group. Not a single woman chaired any of the political groups in the previous parliament.

THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER

B U T ...

T H E C A M P A I G N G O E S O N !

For democracy to remain a living, everyday reality, women need to obtain information, to make choices with full knowledge of the facts and to play a part in the construction of Europe.

Below are just a few publications available to you which may be useful in catching the attention, stimulating reflection and initiating discussions :

WOMEN IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Women and Europe on 50 slides. This audio-visual pack for women's group leaders consists of three parts : a set of 50 colour slides, a recorded cassette tape and a user's guide. A clear text, pictures conducive to memorization of the main topics, in other words just the thing to start a fruitful debate.

This pack is available on application to the EEC Information Office in your country (See address on the last page of Women of Europe).

EUROPE AND WOMEN

The facts and figures about who we European women are, on 10 laminated wall sheets (measuring 72 cm x 90 cm). At school, Towards working life, At work, The European Community - Directions for use, Equality of opportunity comes via Europe, Parliament as a reflection of European women and men. Enough to mount a compact exhibition, easy to affix (reinforced corners) and attractive to look at.
(For the time being the text is available in either English or French).

WOMEN IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

A 6-page booklet on equal rights, equal opportunities and equal responsibilities. An excellent pocket-book to take home - and discuss with all the family.

Information for Women's Association and Press, 200 rue de la loi, B-1049 Brussels

Information for Women's Associations and Press, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels

THE CHANGING

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Parental leave - Reactions to the Commission's proposals

Parental leave and leave for family reasons are the subject of a new proposal for a Directive put forward by the European Commission on Mr Ivor Richard's initiative. This proposal comes within the framework of the implementation of the Community Action Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Women 1982-85 (See Women of Europe N° 33).

As is customary, the proposal for a Directive sent by the European Commission to the Council of Ministers of the Community was submitted to the European Parliament. Three parliamentary committees examined the document and put their comments to Parliament : the committees in question were the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe.

The resolution finally passed by the European Parliament at a plenary sitting "welcomes the proposed Directive as a very positive contribution to the improvement of family life and to the establishment of equal rights for both parents to share in the care of their children". Parliament also "considers that it is important to establish the right of male and female employees to share in the care of their children".

Nonetheless, Parliament made several interesting improvements. For example, it "requests the Commission specifically to include step-parents within the categories of those entitled to parental leave and, in the case of handicapped children, to raise the age of children in respect of whom entitlement to parental leave arises in proportion to the degree to which they are handicapped". However, Parliament "considers that the parental leave entitlement should not be less than three months in any circumstances". Lastly, Parliament "recognizes the difficulties in achieving generally acceptable and comprehensive definitions of what could constitute 'pressing family reasons' and recommends the alternative of definitions drawn up by the Member States in accordance with guidelines from the European Commission".

The Community's Economic and Social Committee, which was also consulted, made various comments, considering that "the Commission's proposals will provide increased equality of opportunity and could, over time, lead to a greater sharing of family responsibilities". However, the Economic and Social Committee is concerned that "Such measures run the risk of leading employers to concentrate their recruitment in an unbalanced way on an older age group".

The Committee stresses, among other things, that "the provision of parental leave should not prejudice the development of public child care facilities which in many Member States are regarded as providing practical assistance to working parents".

The European Commission is to amend its text along the lines suggested by Parliament.

Equal treatment for self-employed women

A proposal for a Directive on the application of the principle of equal treatment for women and men in self-employed occupations was recently put forward by the European Commission on Mr Ivor Richard's initiative. This proposal too comes within the framework of the Community Action Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Women 1982-85 (See Women of Europe N° 35).

As is customary, the proposal for a Directive sent by the European Commission to the Council of Ministers of the Community was submitted to the European Parliament. Two parliamentary committees examined the document and put their comments to Parliament : the committees in question were the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment and the Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe.

The resolution finally passed by the European Parliament at a plenary sitting notes that the previous Directives on equal treatment which have already been adopted "do not always take account of the specific situation of self-employed workers and their spouses who participate in their professional activities" and points out that Parliament "has already on several occasions asked for a Directive on equal treatment for men and women in self-employed occupations, including agriculture, trade and crafts". Parliament therefore welcomes the Commission's initiative and expresses its appreciation of the Commission's work on equal opportunities for men and women.

In the text of the resolution, Parliament gives special attention to the removal of any form of discrimination based on sex, marital status and/or family circumstances. The European Parliament also hopes that in all the countries of the EEC women employed in self-employed occupations, including women working in family businesses, will enjoy proper professional status, legally and financially. It is a question in particular of strengthening the principle of "continuity", whereby the surviving spouse is ensured of preferential rights as regards inheritance.

Parliament wishes the contribution made by the spouse towards constituting the family patrimony thus to be recognized.

A separate income, separate treatment for tax purposes and in the social security system are three particularly important points as MEPs see it in ensuring that "secondary rights" - which some people consider to be an absence of real rights - are progressively eliminated.

The Commission has decided to take account of the comments made by Parliament, an example being the right of spouses to vote in economic organizations and in cooperative associations in which the family business is involved.

Cécile Boerave-Derijcke, Chairman of the Women's Committee of COPA (Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the EEC), has already written to Ruairi Quinn, the Irish Minister for Labour and currently President of the Council of Ministers of the Community, to draw attention to the special importance which women working in agriculture attach to this Directive.

Aid for women's cooperatives

The 1982-85 Equal Opportunities Action Programme merits careful reading : under the title "Desegregation of employment", the programme states that "The European Commission will support initiatives taken in the Member States to set up cooperatives, within the framework of Community priorities for job creation (...)".

In 1983 four women's cooperatives received financial support for this purpose from the European Commission.

In Dublin (Ireland), the Women's Community Publishing Cooperative put forward a dynamic scheme, its ambition being to encourage women who are writers and illustrators, in order to publish books written by women, postcards, diaries for women etc.

In Petra (Greece), an "Agrotourism" cooperative was set up in the Petra area on the island of Lesbos, with the appealing idea of organizing farm holidays.

In Lampeter in Wales the problem was tackled at its very basis, by bringing into service a Women's Enterprise Bureau, with the task of helping women who wish to set up in business on their own.

In London, the Women's New Technology Cooperative is developing and selling software for home computers.

What is happening in 1984 ? In Arhus (Denmark) a scheme for a women's museum has attracted the European Commission's attention. If you happen to be in the areas the address of the Kvindemuseumsforeningen is as follows: Mejlgade, 3, DK-8000 Arhus C.

Two schemes have been selected in Italy this year too. Both are located in Milan. One is called "Quotidiano donna distribuzione" (Women's Daily Distribution) and its aim is to propagate women's culture through the cinema and the audiovisual in general, more especially to improve the distribution of women's films in Italy. The other has taken "Primavera" (Spring) as its title, although its full name is "Comitato regionale Lombardo 'Primavera'" (Lombardy Regional "Spring" Committee).

In this case it is a question of a services cooperative within a group of residential cooperatives comprising 186 families whose average age ranges between 30 and 40. The cooperative aims to help firstly women who do not want to work full-time (or cannot do so) and secondly women who do work, the former by employing them, the latter by helping them out.

Useful address : Directorate-General for Social Affairs
Bureau for Questions concerning Employment and Equal
Treatment for Women
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Lomé : What contribution can women make ?

As is known, the European Community is currently negotiating the terms of the next Lomé Convention with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

This has prompted the non-government organizations which cooperate with the Community in the development field to ask the question "What about the women ?".

Michel Bo Bramsen, Lisette Caubergs and Anne Clarke have spelled out their joint views on the subject, these being all the more interesting as Bo Bramsen is a political scientist working on women and development issues, Caubergs is involved in a study group on appropriate technology and the situation of women in the Third World and Clarke is coordinator of a "Women and Development" programme.

They observe that "So far, texts outlining negotiating points for both parties (the Community and the Third World countries) are still remarkably reticent on the contribution of women to development, particularly in all aspects of food self-sufficiency. Unless this omission is dealt with, the failures of past development efforts are likely to be repeated under the new Convention. In that case the present negotiations will have made little contribution to improving the world situation or to reducing the current waste of human and financial resources for development".

The next Convention should promote changes under three headings :

- planning with women;
- avoiding waste;
- changing the attitudes of aid administrators.

"With regard to planning with women, negotiators should - Emphasize that development is about people and communities;

- Urge governments

to recognize the central role of women in food production, processing and marketing, and ensure that existing planning and implementation methods are changed to reflect this priority;

- Stress the

importance of involving women in all dialogues on food and other strategies and also of consulting women at the stage when indicative national programmes are set;

- Emphasize the

importance of providing women with access to credit facilities and training in agricultural techniques, financial management and organizational skills; (...)

"As regards changing the attitudes of aid administrators, negotiators should : - Sensitize donor and recipient administrations to the need for retraining of staff to analyse the social and cultural as well as the economic aspects of projects;

- Urge that active measures are taken to recruit women to decision-making positions in both ACP and EEC administrations (...)"

Useful address : Liaison Committee of Development NGOs
76 rue de Laeken
1000 Brussels

Navigation : Women at the helm

The regulations governing international navigation on the Rhine laid down by the Convention of Mannheim are incompatible with the Community standards on equal treatment for men and women. Mr Bouke Beumer (Neth., EPP) drew the European Commission's attention to one of the unlawful forms of discrimination contained therein, namely the restriction on the number of female crew members, which makes it impossible for the master of a vessel to form a crew with his wife and daughter.

Answering on behalf of the European Commission, Mr Contogeorgis stated that "The European Commission is aware of the fact that the regulations currently applied in Rhine navigation do not conform to Community rules on equal treatment for men and women.

The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) has undertaken a revision of the regulations in question; the work is still in progress. Commission representatives are taking part in the discussions; they have, among other things, stressed the fact that the future regulations will have to be fully in accordance with the Directive on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions.

The European Commission hopes that the work being undertaken by the CCNR in Strasbourg will be completed as soon as possible. As soon as a resolution has been adopted by the institution in question, the European Commission will propose that the Council of Ministers of the Community incorporate it into Community law, extending it to the inland waterways in the Community. At the same time, the European Commission will ensure that the provisions of the Council Directive are strictly observed.

On 5 December 1979, the European Commission sent a letter to the German, Belgian, French and Dutch Governments in which it stated that legal provisions which do not seek to provide protection discriminate against women and hinder their recruitment and that where such provisions are contained in international agreements, they should be removed when such agreements are renegotiated".

Exchange of young workers

The second Joint Programme to encourage the exchange of young workers enabled some 4 000 young people to take training courses in one or other of the Community countries between 1979 and 1983.

It is estimated that about 40% of those taking part were girls.

Whether the young people spend a few weeks or a few months in the country concerned, all the exchanges prove beneficial in varying degrees. To such an extent that in certain sectors more and more employers are agreeing to release their employees to enable them to go abroad and gain practical experience commensurate with the firm's requirements.

Useful address : Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and
Education
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

The European Social Fund and Women

According to the report on the activities of the European Social Fund in 1983, which was published recently, the applications for assistance submitted to the Fund amounted to a total of 3 179.54 million ECU, i.e. a 10% increase on the previous year.

However, the commitment appropriations available, although up 23.53% on 1982, amounted to only 1 949.16 million ECU. Taking the net figures, the Social Fund budget represented 6.39% of the general Community budget.

Of the 1 893.07 million ECU which the Fund approved in 1983, 34.95 million ECU were allocated to women (not including young girls, who come under the "Young people" heading).

The various Community countries received the following amounts :

Belgium	0.70 million ECU	i.e. 2.00%
Denmark	0.16 million ECU	i.e. 0.46%
France	6.88 million ECU	i.e. 19.69%
Germany	18.56 million ECU	i.e. 53.10%
Greece	0.39 million ECU	i.e. 1.12%
Ireland	0.59 million ECU	i.e. 1.69%
Italy	3.01 million ECU	i.e. 8.61%
Luxembourg	-	-
Netherlands	0.54 million ECU	i.e. 1.54%
United Kingdom	4.12 million ECU	i.e. 11.79%

It will be remembered that the Youth Forum mounted an intensive campaign to draw attention to the problem of unemployment among young people. Its promoters will no doubt be gratified to learn that in the "Training" section young people qualified for assistance amounting to 694.95 million ECU and in the "Employment" section the figure was 201.15 million ECU. Although no detailed figures are available, it can be assumed that girls were allocated a respectable proportion of this funding.

It should be remembered that over half of the jobless are under 25 years of age, which justifies the fact that at least 75% of the appropriations in the European Social Fund are to be allocated to measures to help young people. Emphasis is placed on improving professional qualifications, adjusting the labour force to technological changes and reducing regional imbalances in the labour market.

Useful address : European Social Fund (DG V)
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

How can a wrong be redressed ?

It will be remembered (See Women of Europe N° 30), that the German courts requested the Court of Justice of the European Communities to give a ruling as to how a wrong can be redressed in the event of discrimination. The issue had been raised by two qualified social workers, Sabine von Colson and Elisabeth Kamann, whom the penitentiary in Werl (North Rhine-Westphalia) had refused to take on.

The national court had found that it could only, under German law, refund the travelling expenses incurred by the plaintiff, Ms von Colson, when she had applied for the post, i.e. DM 7.20, and would have to dismiss the other counts in the plaintiffs' appeal.

However, the judges made a point of asking further questions : for instance, does Directive 76/207/EEC require discrimination on grounds of sex regarding access to employment to be made the subject of a sanction by way of an obligation imposed upon the employer who is the author of the discrimination to conclude a contract of employment with the candidate discriminated against ?

The European Commission, which was asked to give its opinion, noted that the Directive did not lay down any specific penalty but left the Member States free to choose between the different solutions suitable for achieving its objective. In the Commission's view the conclusion to be drawn was that the employer was not bound to take on the candidate discriminated against.

It would appear that a national law restricting the rights of redress of persons who have been the victims of discrimination as regards access to employment to purely nominal compensation, such as the reimbursement only of the costs incurred in submitting the application, does not meet the requirements of proper incorporation of the Directive into national law.

In answer to the questions referred to it, the Court ruled that : "1° Directive 76/207/EEC does not require discrimination on grounds of sex regarding access to employment to be made the subject of a sanction by way of an obligation imposed upon the employer who is the author of the discrimination to conclude a contract of employment with the candidate discriminated against. 2° As regards sanctions for any discrimination which may occur, the Directive does not include any unconditional and sufficiently precise obligation which, in the absence of implementing measures adopted within the prescribed time limits, may be relied on by an individual in order to obtain specific compensation under the Directive, where that is not provided for or permitted under national law. 3° Although Directive 76/207/EEC, for the purpose of imposing a sanction for the breach of the prohibition of discrimination, leaves the Member State free to choose between the different solutions suitable for achieving its objective, it nevertheless requires that if a Member State chooses to sanction the breach of that prohibition by the award of compensation, then in order to ensure that it is effective and that it has a deterrent effect, that compensation must be adequate in relation to the damage sustained and must therefore amount to more than purely nominal compensation, such as, for example, the reimbursement only of the costs incurred in submitting the application. It is for the national court to interpret and apply the legislation adopted for the implementation of the Directive in conformity with the requirements of Community law, insofar as it is given discretion to do so under national law". (Text underlined by Women of Europe).

RENDEZVOUS IN NAIROBI

When ? 15 to 26 July 1985

Where ? The Kenyatta Conference Centre, Nairobi (Kenya)

Who ? Attendance at the Conference will be restricted to representatives of the governments and bodies coming under the United Nations system. In addition, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with official status will be allowed to attend.

What will the agenda be ? There are two items on the agenda.

- 1° Critical examination and assessment of the progress made and the difficulties encountered in achieving the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women at national, regional and international levels;
- 2° Implementation strategies directed towards the future aimed at the promotion of women, by the year 2000, applicable at national, regional and international levels, to attain the "equality, development and peace" objectives.

Who will chair the Conference ? It is customary (and this proved to be the case in Mexico and Copenhagen) for the head of the delegation from the host country to be nominated to chair the Conference. Everyone hopes that the Kenyan delegation will be headed by a woman.

Who is in charge of organization ? Leticia R. Sahani has been appointed Secretary-General of the World Conference responsible for examining and assessing the results of the United Nations Decade for Women. Mrs Sahani is Under-Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs at the UN.

How will the Conference proceed ? Two days of preparatory consultations will be held immediately before the opening of the Conference proceedings, i.e. on 13 and 14 July 1985. The Conference proper will comprise 1° A plenary session to deal with organizational matters, critical examination and assessment at national level; 2° A committee to deal with implementation strategies directed towards the future at regional and international levels.

How will preparations be made ? Within the UN itself the Commission on the Status of Women has continued with its work, which has then been submitted to the Economic and Social Council. In addition, preparatory intergovernmental meetings are to take place in the various big areas of the world, such as Africa, Latin America, Western Asia etc.

What about the European Community ? The member countries of the European Community form part of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. They confer together, under the leadership of the country which currently holds the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Community. First it was Germany, then France and now it is Ireland. The Community as such will also be present - but as an observer - at the Nairobi Conference.

How can information be obtained ? By applying to the Advancement of Women Branch, Office E-1277, Vienna International Centre, BP 500, A-1400 Vienna.

And what about the non-governmental organizations ? A free Forum is to be organized from 11 to 19 July. As happened in Copenhagen, this will provide them with an opportunity to meet, to help one another and to exchange ideas and plans.

What is the situation as regards the Voluntary Fund for the Decade ? Of the numerous ideas and the discussions throughout the Decade for Women, the Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women has proved to be a practical and effective programme.

Set up in 1978, it has to date provided financial aid for some 400 projects in the 78 poorest countries in the world. The applications come from women themselves and cover the most varied fields.

One of the grounds for satisfaction is the fact that women on a low income are putting the resources made available to good use and are quickly repaying the loans granted, often even before the due dates.

The Voluntary Fund has been well received in the developing countries because it is multilateral and administered through the United Nations Development Programme.

However, in the European Community countries public opinion is still not sufficiently aware of the needs of women in the Third World countries. The collection of funds from private individuals and from organizations could be better.

Has the European Parliament turned its attention to the Rendezvous in Nairobi ? Yes. The motion for a resolution tabled by Mrs Gaiotti de Biase (It., EPP) and passed by Parliament, calls on the European Commission to strengthen contacts and (its) coordination work, using the Equal Opportunities Committees in particular, in order to arrive at a mutually agreed position to be adopted by the (Community) Member States' delegations during the preparatory work for the Conference. The European Parliament "hopes that women's associations will also be represented in the national delegations of the Member States (of the Community". Lastly, Parliament feels that "the Community should produce a document of its own, stating the progress achieved during the last decade on questions coming within the Community's sphere of interest".

And what about the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men ? Chaired since April, for a one-year period, by Sylvia Meehan, who heads the Employment Equality Agency in Ireland, the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities "welcomes the detailed preparations for the World Conference being carried out by the European Community". It also stresses "the important part that the Advisory Committee and its constituent national equal opportunity bodies can play in ensuring a coordinated and effective Community representation at these (preparatory) meetings. The Advisory Committee therefore wishes to be represented in the European Community delegation at the World Conference".

What are women's organizations and women's groups doing to provide one another with information on a reciprocal basis ? In this connection one initiative worth mentioning is that taken by the International Women's Tribune Centre, which is preparing a worldwide list of the newspapers and periodicals produced by women's organizations, to ensure that there is better reciprocal information. Useful address : IWTC, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.

The abundance of topics and the restrictions placed on us by the page-setting mean that we have had to combine two sections, "Facts, Institutions and Laws" and "Militant activities", which are normally kept quite separate. Moreover, allocating the items of information to the right headings is always a problem for the Editorial Staff, as so many militant activities pave the way in fact for a change in the law ...

FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY ...

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS, LAWS

MILITANT ACTIVITIES

G E R M A N Y

Summit meeting

The Deutscher Frauenrat (Council of German Women) expressed its concern about the developments in the situation of women at recent high-level talks with the government authorities : the meeting was attended by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Dorothee Wilms, Minister for Education and Science, and Heiner Geissler, Minister for Youth, Family Affairs and Health.

With reference to a reform of the social security system, the Deutscher Frauenrat stated that new regulations which would take no account of the bringing up of children in calculating retirement pensions did not appear justified. The Deutscher Frauenrat expressed regret at the fact that it did not seem possible to implement the autonomous social security system for women which had been demanded for several years. It was true that the proposal put forward by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs had few drawbacks compared with others, but, if there were no simultaneous recognition of the period spent bringing up children, the new proposal would in no way change the fact that mothers continue to be treated unfairly by retirement pension schemes.

The Deutscher Frauenrat also lodged a formal protest about the reduction in maternity leave allowances. It requested that under no circumstances should the introduction of an allowance for bringing up children be prejudicial to the interests of working mothers. Furthermore, women were being particularly hard hit by unemployment. With regard to the change in the divorce law, Chancellor Kohl invited the Deutscher Frauenrat to attend a meeting on the subject which was to be held shortly with experts present.

Irmgard Blättel, President of the Deutscher Frauenrat, again emphasized the political representation of women. To this end she requested the setting up of a working party consisting of official representatives, the Deutscher Frauenrat and legal experts, who would be responsible for examining the possible changes which might be made to the electoral law so as to increase women candidates' chances of success in elections.

A few days after this summit meeting the Deutscher Frauenrat had reason to be satisfied, when Dr Ursula Engelen-Kefer was appointed Vice-President of the Bundesanstalt für Arbeit (Federal Labour Office). The fact that a woman has been appointed to a post of this importance is a significant step forward, in view of the considerable dearth of women in executive positions in both the government and on national committees and in the civil service.

In this connection, the Deutscher Frauenrat is urging that part-time jobs be created in the public services, so that women can get back into managerial positions subsequent to the bringing up of children, which should be recognized as such.

Useful address : Deutscher Frauenrat
Südstrasse, 125
5300 Bonn 2

Divorce law

The CDU/CSU (Christian Democratic Party/Christian Socialist Party) women's group in the Bundestag (Federal Parliament) takes the view that the decision taken by the coalition government to change the divorce law, in force since 1977, is to be welcomed. The group feels that it is a good thing that temporary solutions are now possible as regards both the amount and the duration of the maintenance awarded. However, it would be advisable, under the proposed reform, to continue to abide by the old statutory principle which provides better protection for the entitlement to maintenance of women who have custody of their children, especially in cases where they have wholly or partially given up their jobs.

Useful address : CDU/CSU Fraktion des Deutschen Bundestages
Gruppe der Frauen
5300 Bonn 1

Women and political power

The Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach (Allensbach Population Research Institute) recently carried out a survey of a specific political phenomenon: since April, the Executive Committee of the German ecology party, The Greens, has been composed solely of women. According to the poll, 81% of the 2 066 people canvassed were aware of the fact. Thirty-one per cent expressed their approval, 47%, however, hinted that they were not altogether satisfied and 22% had no strong views either way.

The decision taken by the ecology party has been endorsed by the majority of its electorate and by young women. However, although 82% of women voters said that they were delighted, only 57% of men were of the same opinion. Twenty-five per cent of the men who voted for the ecologists disapprove of the decision.

In 1965, the Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach carried out an opinion poll on the subject of "Women and Politics". At the time, 27% of men and 32% of women said that they agreed with women being involved in politics. In 1979 the question was asked again : 57% of men and 68% of women said that they were in sympathy with the idea of women being involved in politics.

Useful address : Institut für Demoskopie
7753 Allensbach am Bodensee

B E L G I U M

Royal invitation

King Baudoin and Queen Fabiola recently received a delegation from the French-speaking branch of the Conseil national des Femmes (National Council of Women), headed by its Chairman, Fanny Fuks, at their château in Laeken. This meeting provided an opportunity to describe to the Sovereigns the projects carried out by the winner of and the runners-up in the Woman of the Year Prize, namely the work being done by "Médecins sans frontières" (Doctors without Frontiers) in Afghanistan, "Vivre comme avant" (Living life as before - support for women having undergone a mastectomy), "Le Nid" (The Nest - social and occupational rehabilitation of prostitutes), the legal proceedings against the State taken by the Caisse des veuves et des orphelins (Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund) and last but not least "Clés pour le travail" (Keys to Work - retraining of women having never worked or having stopped work).

Useful address : Conseil national des femmes belges
Branche francophone
la Place Quételet
1030 Brussels

The pensions law

The "Loi Mainil" (Mainil Law - called after the Minister of the same name) published in the Moniteur belge (Official gazette) on 22 May has caused quite a stir throughout the pensions sector with the numerous changes which it introduces. One is of particular interest to women, as it clearly establishes their equality with men from this viewpoint.

The principle of the awarding of a survivor's pension to the "surviving spouse" (and no longer solely the widow) has been accepted. In addition, the "married couple's" pension (higher rate) will be paid to women as well as men, on condition that the spouse (man or woman) is a dependent.

Alternate custody

In September 1983, the newspaper "La jurisprudence de Liège" (Reports of Cases before the Liège Courts) published a ruling handed down by the Liège Civil Court refusing to permit a divorce by mutual consent on the grounds that the spouses had stipulated in their prior agreements that they would have alternate custody of the children.

The couple concerned immediately appealed. The Liège Appeal Court reversed the lower court's judgment and ruled in favour of alternate custody, finding that this is perfectly legal and therefore falling in with a number of judgments in favour of this system.

It has to be admitted that this concept, which was unknown until a few years ago, is making headway in setting legal precedents, despite the practical and psychological difficulties encountered by many couples and many children. Two weeks with one parent, two with the other : the time is shared out totally fairly but scarcely takes the children's psychological development into account.

Journalists' President

Mia Donnaert, a journalist on "De Standaard-Het Nieuwsblad", has been elected President of the Association générale des journalistes professionnels de Belgique (AGJPB) (General Association of Belgian Professional Journalists).

Useful address : A G J P B
1, Bld Charlemagne
1040 Brussels

Sexual harassment

The Commission nationale du Travail des Femmes (National Committee on Women's Employment) has commissioned a research project entitled "Sexual harassment at the workplace" from the Walloon Sociology Group, Catholic University of Louvain. The Group is most anxious to meet anyone affected by this type of problem, whatever form it may take (unsolicited sexual advances, uncalled for physical contact, verbal abuse etc).

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

Information agency

"Le Monde selon les femmes" (The World according to Women) is an unusual North-South women's information agency which has just been set up. It will collect together information about Third World women through personal contacts, but also via various women's bodies and groups.

The interesting idea involved is to pass on to the Third World the information collected together in this way. All similar organizations are being asked to contact the agency with a view to possible exchanges of information.

Useful address : Le Monde selon les femmes - agence d'information
la Place Quételet
1030 Brussels

Women's House

The Brussels Maison des femmes (Women's House) is undergoing a complete transformation. The "29 rue Blanche" association, which groups together Changeons les livres scolaires (Let's change school books), the Groupe pour la formation et éducation à l'autonomie (GEFA - Group for Training and Education in Autonomy), the Women's Organization for Equality (WOE), the Marie Delcourt Association, the Collective pour Femmes battues (Battered Women's Collective), the Ateliers du Grif, the Association de défense des enfants enlevés (Association for the defence of kidnapped children) and Femmes Contact Avenir (FCA - Women Contact Future), will be responsible for running the house, with the help of a full-time woman officer.

The association plans to introduce a "public letter-writer" service and to implement an informatics project linked up to the European Community's "Esprit" programme.

Useful address : Association "29 rue Blanche"
29 rue Blanche
1050 Brussels

Relations between Belgium and China

Mrs Zhang Shu, the Chinese Ambassador to Belgium, has asked Mariette Stocker, correspondent for the Federation of Chinese Women, to help her compile a file containing the names of the persons heading Belgian women's associations, together with their aims and activities. This work is being carried out in order to promote contacts between organizations in the two countries at the end of the Decade for Women in 1985. Any organizations which may be concerned should take note.

Useful address : Fédération des Femmes Chinoises
c/o Mariette Stocker
127 av. Charles Quint, Bte 1
1080 Brussels

D E N M A R K

Equal pay ?

The sixth report by the Ligestillingsrådet (Equal Opportunities Council), published in June, reviews women's and men's pay on the labour market. This review proves that there are still considerable differences in pay. For instance, 95% of the female clerical workers employed by the local authorities and 87% of female central government employees have an annual income of less than Dkr 168 000, whereas the same applies to only 77% of the men employed by the local authorities or by central government. What is more this proportion turns out to be about the same at other levels in the civil service. It should be pointed out, however, that the 1973 agreement and the 1976 law guaranteed equal pay for equal work for both women and men.

The Ligestillingsrådet concludes that the legislation currently in force is not sufficient to eliminate the differences which exist, since the main cause of the discrimination lies in the fact that women and men are given different trainings and are employed in different sectors. It also points out that in the years to come positive measures will have an important role to play. Furthermore, it proposes a pay policy designed to protect the most deprived.

In its annual report the Ligestillingsrådet also finds that whereas male unemployment is tending to fall, female unemployment is constantly on the increase. We would draw your attention to the fact that the document published by the Ligestillingsrådet includes a summary in English.

Useful address : Ligestillingsrådet
Frederiksgade 19-21, 1
1265 Copenhagen K

The government

In a recent reshuffle of Poul Schluter's government, Elsebeth Kock-Petersen was appointed Minister for Social Affairs and Mette Madsen Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs.

The Folketing

In an analysis of the parliamentary elections held on 10 January, the Ligestillingsrådet notes that voters are increasingly tending to vote for a person rather than a party. This "personalized" or "preferential" voting, which is also practised in Belgium and Luxembourg, enables a candidate on a list to be favoured. Women tend to plump for personalized voting more than men. It should be noted that 11% of voters did not have the opportunity to vote for a woman as their party did not include any women candidates on their list.

Computerized linguistics

Bente Maegaard, a science graduate, is one of the ten researchers appointed recently by the Planlaegningsrådet (Research Planning Council). Aged 39, she teaches at the University of Copenhagen. Her speciality is computerized linguistics. Bente Maegaard worked in this capacity on a European Community research project for two years : it concerned the development of a computer capable of translating into the Community's official languages.

Technical training

Women do not feel at ease in the technical training field and when training as engineers, for instance, they have to show a great deal of tenacity and strength of character. This is the conclusion to emerge from a survey carried out by two sociologists - Anne Bruvik Hansen and Yvonne Due Billing - who interviewed 113 students and prospective students at the Danish Technical Academy and the Danish Engineers Academy.

The purpose of the study was to find out why only 15% of women opt for this specialist training.

It is indeed the educational system and the social context - and not the technical and professional requirements - which pose problems for women students. What young women are offered does not measure up to what they expect of such a training, namely autonomy, imagination and creativity. By opting out or giving up in the middle of their studies women are passively criticizing the education being offered.

Useful address : Polyteknisk Boghandel
Ank. Angelundsvej, 1
2800 Lyngby

In the Victorian era

If women at the end of the last century presented an image of themselves as ideal mothers, as protectors of virtue, combating prostitution and alcoholism, it was so that they would manage to survive in a world run entirely by men. This is an idea upheld by Lene Koch (an arts graduate) in her book "Hendes egen Verden" (Her Own World), published by Tiderne Skifter. Lene Koch teaches the history of women at the Center for Kvindeforskning (Centre for Research into Women), University of Copenhagen.

These women who were said to have been reactionary, asexual and somewhat ridiculous had in fact a cunning strategy : did they not bring the birth-rate down to 4 children per family in 1900, compared with an average of 8 a century earlier ?

Useful address : Center for Kvindeforskning
Københavns Universiteit, Amager
Njalsgade, 80
2300 Copenhagen S

F R A N C E

The government

In the government formed by Laurent Fabius, there are three women out of a total of 16 ministers : Edith Cresson, Minister for Industrial Redeployment and Foreign Trade, Georgina Dufoix, Minister for Social Affairs and National Solidarity and Huguette Bouchardeau, Minister for the Environment.

There is only one woman among the six junior ministers : Yvette Roudy, who keeps the official title "Minister responsible to the Prime Minister for Women's Rights". Lastly, there are two women among the 20 Secretaries of State : Edwige Avice has the redoubtable honour of being the first woman to become deputy to the Minister for Defence, and Catherine Lalumière is responsible to the Minister for Economic Affairs, Finance and the Budget for Consumer Affairs.

Occupational equality

A year after the Roudy law on equality of treatment for women and men in employment, the Conseil supérieur de l'égalité professionnelle (Council for Occupational Equality) has been officially set up.

This high-level authority has 36 members, all of whom are prominent people renowned for their skill or experience, such as Marcelle Devaud, ex-Chairman of the European Commission's Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, and Odile Dhavernas, a barrister, together with prominent figures from the trade unions, such as Jacqueline Léonard (CGT), Nicole Notat (CFDT), Micheline Figueriau (FO), Chantal Cumunel (CGC) and Roberte Le Dantec (CFTC), and also representatives of the employers such as Renée Villebrun (CNPFP).

Three committees have been formed :

- vocational guidance
- initial and in-service training
- safeguard provisions as regards labour legislation.

As early as 1 August the secretariat of the Conseil supérieur de l'égalité professionnelle started its brief with the Ministry for Women's Rights, under the direction of François Brun.

Guidance and training are on the agenda for the Council's next meeting, which is scheduled for the end of September.

Useful address : Conseil supérieur de l'égalité professionnelle
Ministère des Droits de la Femme
53, avenue d'Iéna
75016 Paris

Education and sexist prejudices

The Association pour une éducation non sexiste (Association for Non-Sexist Education) is organizing a symposium entitled "Education and sexist prejudices", to be held in Paris on 17 and 18 October. Well over thirty very high level women will speak on themes as diverse as the renovation of the educational system, the influence of the family and the media, the training of women teachers, and also an assessment of an experiment carried out in England, together with the role of vocabulary, the conveyor and dictator of social roles and sexist prejudices.

The attendance fee will be FF 50.

Useful address : "Pour une éducation non sexiste"
14, rue Cassette
75006 Paris

Women for Europe

The Women's Committee of the European Movement's French Organization has adopted a new name, "Femmes pour l'Europe" (Women for Europe), taking its example from its sister organization in Spain. To obtain information about the activities and views of "Femmes pour l'Europe", it is worthwhile reading the quarterly Liaison Bulletin published by the association.

Useful address : Femmes pour l'Europe
24, rue Feydeau
75002 Paris

Liaison Committee for Women's Associations

On 29 June, Yvette Roudy, Minister for Women's Rights, set up a "Comité de liaison des associations de femmes" (Liaison Committee for Women's Associations). According to Yvette Roudy, this new body is intended "to promote regular exchanges and consultations between the various associations and the Ministry".

When meeting the members of the Committee, the Minister stated that in her view women's associations are "social partners". "I need your ideas", she said.

It will also be the Committee's task, under Carmen de Sota, to prepare for the international conference in Nairobi. Although it is up to the Ministry to answer the questionnaire sent to all governments by the UN, Yvette Roudy wishes there to be the fullest consultations before the drafting of the report on the situation of women in France is entrusted to a "top-ranking person".

A political refugee in France since 1974, Carmen de Sota was born in Chile where among other things she headed the National Council for Social Development. She was recently appointed as Adviser to the office of the Minister for Women's Rights, after having been deputy delegate for women's affairs in the Ile-de-France area.

Feminism and Pacifism

Three organizations have decided to pool their resources in order to defend peace. The organizations in question are "Résistance internationale des Femmes à la guerre" (Women Against War International Resistance Movement), the "Ligue internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté" (Women for Peace and Freedom International League) and "Femmes pour la Paix" (Women for Peace), which together are organizing an international symposium on "Feminism and Pacifism" on 24 November 1984.

Useful address : Résistance internationale des Femmes à la guerre
74 rue Villiers de l'Isle Adam
B.P. 265 Paris Cedex 20

Swiss initiative

The Swiss association "Femmes-Féminisme-Recherche" (Women-Feminism-Research) is preparing for the fifth "Women and Science" meeting, given over this time to the subject "Can feminist research be classed as dissidence ?", to be held on 17 and 18 November 1984.

At the meeting, priority will be given to the theorization of Swiss feminist research. However, the meeting is open to a limited number of other European women, who might make a contribution when the subject is discussed.

Useful address : Groupe de préparation Congrès
c/o Martine Chaponnière
16, rue Hôtel-de-Ville
CH-1204 Genève

The masculine, a neutral gender

The Académie française (40 "Immortals" including one woman), which is the guardian of the purity of the French language, has issued a public warning about the feminization of titles and offices, following the setting up of a "Terminology Committee" by the Ministry for Women's Rights. The Académie takes the view that in French the masculine is the "neutral" gender. The venerable institution fears the revision being contemplated is the result of misunderstanding of the concept of grammatical gender and that it will lead to proposals at variance with the essence of the language.

To which Benoîte Groult, "présidentE" (Chairwoman) of the Terminology Committee retorts : "Language is not a neutral vehicle. In fact it mirrors a society, its prejudices and its structures. The higher women rise on the social ladder, which also generally corresponds to the pay ladder, the more they are refused a feminine title".

In the last century, the writer Rémy de Gourmont was already observing that "the absence of the feminine in the dictionary results in the absence of women's rights in the Code" (i.e. in law).

It should be pointed out that there is already an Audio-visual and Advertising Terminology Committee, which put forward a list of 127 new terms in 1982. In future, these terms will have to be used in official texts and also by the State authorities and services.

Lastly, it should be noted that Switzerland has adopted the terms "Conseillère Régionale ou Fédérale" (Women Regional or Federal Councillors) for its elected women members, as the motion put forward by two Socialist deputies states that "The systematic use of the masculine tends to marginalize women, while at the same time obliterating their identity".

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

A boat for Algiers

In France every year about a thousand children born of parents of different nationalities or of the same nationality are abducted by the parent who has not been given custody. Weary of legal and official proceedings which had produced no results whatsoever, mothers decided to take spectacular action, by taking a boat to Algiers and protesting on the spot.

The aim of these 50 people, the mothers of abducted children and officials from associations providing them with support, is to get the European countries and Algeria to negotiate and sign a bilateral convention on the question of child abductions.

The organization of this trip suddenly aroused the ministries and chancelleries in all parts of the Mediterranean. The planned demonstration in Algiers did not take place in the end but negotiations were started - as a matter of urgency.

Useful address : Ligue international du Droit des Femmes
54, avenue de Choisy
75013 Paris

Association nationale de Défense des Enfants enlevés
B.P. 405
07000 Privas

WOMEN AND SPORT

Edwige Avice, who at the time was Minister for Leisure, Youth and Sport, set up a working party to consider women's practice of sport. The report, called "Women and Sport", came up with some interesting figures :

Forty per cent of women go in for sport. They prefer individual sports to team sports. Thirty-two per cent do physical education, walking or jogging regularly or occasionally, 26% an individual sport and only 9% a team sport. Women account for 43% of the people who practise a sport regularly, but only 30% hold a registration card issued by non-sporting federations. And 9% of women, compared with 20% of men, are members of a sporting association.

Working women are more likely to practise a sport regularly and to a greater extent than housewives. And broadly speaking they are more willing to travel for the purposes of their leisure activities than other women.

Women with children are least likely to go in for sport. For women with children in general, leisure time decreases with each additional child. Thirty-three per cent of women, compared with 68% of men, watch sporting events.

Girls make up 46% of the registered members of the schools sports federations and 32% of those of the university sports federation. In private education the proportion of girls is even lower (24%).

The logical consequence is that 42% of physical education and games teachers are women, whereas they make up 59% of the number of qualified teachers overall. There are, however, positive signs of this inequality being ironed out.

Women and men do not practise the same sports. It is noticeable, for instance, that women are more inclined to turn to sports which are likely to develop their potential to be more attractive. Dancing, gymnastics and horse-riding are predominantly female, while shooting, wrestling, pétanque (bowls), cycling and football are almost solely male sports.

It should be noted, however, that that the first women's Tour de France cycling race started in Bobigny on 30 June and that there was a women wrestlers' championship in France in 1984, for the first time.

The highest percentage of women is to be found in the gymnastics federation, the actual figure being 62.50%. But they are absent at the highest level in seven specific disciplines. This means that there is an average of 24.78% women among top-level athletes.

The many successes enjoyed by women in the recent Olympic Games in Los Angeles shows - if there is still any need to do so - that sportswomen are capable of fine feats. Maybe it is only a question of time and not of constitution. In the walking race, has not a woman athlete already beaten the time taken by the Olympic champion Zatopek in 1947 ?

In the meantime more hurdles still have to be cleared : women's judo has still not been accepted as an Olympic sport and will not therefore be included in the competitions at the Seoul games.

G R E E C E

Children's nationality

Under Law 1438, passed on 12 April and in force since 8 May 1984, children born of a Greek mother automatically have Greek nationality by birth. Children born before the law came into force can acquire Greek citizenship - if they so wish - merely by making a declaration, to be submitted before the end of 1986.

Parental leave

A law tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Labour is to bring the Greek legislative system into line with the International Labour Organization Convention N° 156 concerning workers with family responsibilities.

Some of the provisions laid down in the law relate to parental leave. However, the law applies only to workers in the private sector and explicitly excludes civil servants and local government employees, even when their contract of employment is of a private kind.

Women immigrants in the Mediterranean

A three-day symposium was recently organized by the European Cultural Centre in Delphi on the subject "Immigrant Mediterranean women : Employment, Social Security, Education".

Prepared by the Kentro Erevnon gia tis Gynekes tis Mesogiou (Mediterranean Women's Study Institute), this symposium brought together about fifty people, under the auspices of the Ministry for Cultural Affairs and the Ministry for Research and Technology.

Civil servants, representatives of women's organizations in the Mediterranean countries, researchers and experts discussed the immigration policy of the host countries, the situation of women immigrants and the problems connected with reintegration into the country of origin.

Useful address : Kentro Erevnon gia tis Gynekes tis Mesogiou
Leoforos Alexandrias, 192 b

11521 Athens

A survey on the identity of Greek women

Founded last year, the Panellinia Enossi Epistimonon Gynekon (Panhellenic Union of Women Graduates) recently hit the headlines as a result of an ambitious scheme.

The new association announced that it intended to carry out an extensive survey on "The identity of Greek women". This operation was launched at a working meeting lasting a full day.

The Panellinia Enossi Epistimonon Gynekon asserts that it is scientific and cultural. It is a strong supporter of the view that women are entitled to exercise freedom of choice when it is a question of their fulfilment and happiness, within their families and in their jobs, or else a combination of the two. The association therefore opposes on principle any pre-established restrictive views on lifestyles or any imposition of uniform views and attitudes on the female population.

The survey's ambition is to provide tangible evidence of the soundness of this viewpoint.

Useful address : Panellinia Enossi Epistimonon Gynekon
Skoufa 64
106 80 Athens

Parents' day

The Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas (Women's Rights League), steadfast in its decision to promote a parents' day in place of mothers' day and fathers' day, successfully organized a round-table conference on the subject recently.

Round the table were parents and children of various ages, including university-age children. Both groups expounded their ideas on the subject and described the present-day nature of relations between children and parents.

Useful address : Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas
Asklipiou 26
106 79 Athens

Housewives

The Panellinia Organossi Nikokyras (Panhellenic Housewives Organization) recently held its first national meeting in Larissa - in Central Greece - in conjunction with the Institute of Social Studies and Surveys. The title was "Housewives in Greece and in Europe - Rights and obligations".

Closely followed by the 600 or more women attending, the meeting provided an opportunity for fruitful contacts between militant women from various parts of the country.

Useful address : Panellinia Organossi Nikokyras
Vassileos Konstantinou 42
116 35 Athens

I R E L A N D

Couples in difficulty

The AIM group has been conducting a campaign for the a reform of the discriminatory laws against women in families since 1972. AIM seeks to be very concrete in the way it operates, providing moral support, legal information and a counselling service in cases of marital troubles.

Isobel Butler, who chairs the AIM group, recently had a further opportunity to express her association's main concerns to an all-party parliamentary committee. She explained that :

- A large number of problems start when couples are first married. The majority of people who come to AIM have been married for over ten years, some for as long as twenty or thirty years, but they have stayed together because of the children or because they had no alternative. The most urgent reforms required are the setting up of public reconciliation and conciliation services, education, welfare services and last but not least proper financial support for families.

It is a well-known fact that the Irish constitution outlaws divorce. This means that 31% of the people who approach AIM say that they are "separated" (the comparative figures for 1980 and 1982 being 22% and 29% respectively). But AIM's officials point out that 5% of "deserted" people also need to be taken into account - and incidentally they are surprised that this category does not appear as such in the national census.

Useful address : AIM Group
Box 738
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

Illegitimate children

Cherish, the single parents' association, has welcomed the report prepared by the Committee for the reform of the law on illegitimate children. With regard to the possible abolition of the status of "illegitimate child" the Cherish association has laid down three main principles : 1° All children should be equal, whatever the marital status of their parents; 2° The presumption of legitimacy (of the child) should be replaced by the presumption of paternity (the latter established on as wide a basis as possible); 3° The bestowing of equal rights on children does not automatically mean that equal rights are bestowed on parents.

It is on this latter point in particular that Cherish takes issue, however, with the law reform Committee. The Committee's report states that "Both a child's parents should have joint custody, whether the child is born in or out of wedlock". This is not the view taken by Cherish, which puts forward various arguments : - a mother who feared interference from the putative father might not cooperate when it came to establishing paternity, thus depriving the child of a vital piece of information; - in the majority of one-parent families it is the mother who is in charge of the care and control of the child, the father not playing a significant role; - the mother-child relationship might be adversely affected by interference from the father; - difficulties and delays might arise out of ill will on the father's part, even for simple procedures (adoption, marriage, obtaining a passport).

Useful address : Cherish
2 Pembroke Street
Dublin 2

I T A L Y

An Equal Treatment Committee

The "Commissione Nazionale per la realizzazione della parità fra uomo e donna" (National Committee for the Achievement of Equal Treatment for Men and Women) has been set up by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers. In the press release announcing the setting up of this body explicit reference is made to the second Conference (in Copenhagen) of the United Nations Decade for Women, to the Action Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Community, and to the resolution passed by the European Parliament on 17 January 1984 on a proposal from Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the situation of women in Europe.

Chaired by Senator Elena Marinucci, the Committee is composed of 19 women experts representing all shades of political opinion and economic and social interest groups. The members are Maria Grazia Arangio Ruiz, Marisa Bellisario, Orietta Bello, Agata Alma Capiello, Alida Castelli, Senator Sandra Codazzi, Ivanka Corti, Marisa del Bufalo, Gioia Di Cristofaro Longo, Livia Fornaciari Davioli, Luciana Giambuzzi, Luisa La Malfa, Costanza Pera, Livia Pomodoro, Laura Remiddi, Liliana Richetta, Alma Sabatini, Maria Rita Saulle, Laura Sturlese, Patrizia Toia, Deputy Lalla Trupia and Giovanna Zincone.

An Equal Treatment ^{Committee} with no male members ? This is a first "positive discrimination" measure. Directly responsible to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Committee's brief is to work out the "positive discrimination instruments" calculated to remove the obstacles standing in the path of equality between the sexes. Its purpose is also to speed up the advent of a "new" culture enabling women's "new" role to be recognized.

Some of the Committee's tasks will be to assemble and disseminate information, to examine the laws in order to bring them into line with the objective pursued and to eliminate sexism in school books and in teaching. It will also be responsible for promoting wider representation of women in national and international bodies. Means of social communication will not escape close scrutiny either, as it is up to the Committee to promote the adoption of a "Code of Conduct" for the media and to play a part in making the general public more familiar with the most recent laws in favour of women.

Officially installed at the Chigi Palace (seat of the government) on 14 June, the Committee got down to work straight away. In the early part of July Agata Alma Capiello reported at a meeting on the initial contacts made with the women's organizations and also with bodies pursuing the same aims in other countries. Mention was also made of the very unimportant place of women in public and semi-public administrative bodies : there are no more than 7.5% of women holding senior positions in the ministries and the figure is as low as 2.1% in the semi-public bodies.

Elena Marinucci, Chairman of the Committee, put forward several proposals: publishing a "Code of Women's Rights", making heads and rectors in secondary and higher education more aware of the problem, publishing a bulletin on the Committee's activities at the earliest opportunity.

Useful address : Commissione nazionale per la realizzazione della parità
fra uomo e donna
Palazzo Chigi
Rome

In the press

The Corriere della sera, a leading Italian newspaper published in Milan, devoted a large part of its Sunday supplement on 29 July to "Donne in cammino" (Women on the road, meaning on the right road). Written by Viviana Kasam, this extensive survey took the journalist into the tortuous paths of the education system (3.7% of women students in engineering colleges), behind the scenes in Parliament (A quote from Tina Anselmi : "I was the first woman to be on a parliamentary committee of inquiry"), to the European Parliament (According to Marisa Cinciari Rodano : "The Community Directive on equal pay has improved women's lot in many countries"), into the trade unions (Donatella Turtura, a member of the CGIL trade union, acknowledges that : "Even in the trade union structure it is difficult for us to get on") and into laboratories (Laura Frontali expresses regret at the fact that : "Devoting oneself to scientific research means having to give up family life").

Women's archives

The Social Science Department at the Istituto Universitario Orientale (Eastern University Institute) recently set up the "Archivio delle donne" (Women's Archives) Centre. This new body is hoping to set up a women's studies centre and create a specialist library collecting together all the material drawn up on women in Italy and elsewhere.

The "Archivio delle donne" Centre would like anyone interested to contact it, with a view to exchanging materials and ideas.

Useful address : Archivio delle donne
Istituto Universitario Orientale
Dipartimento di Scienze Sociali
Piazza S. Giovanni Maggiore, 30
80134 Naples

The limits of autonomy

The 3rd International Meeting of women's centres, libraries, groups and bookshops was held recently under the auspices of the Bologna local authority's Centro Donna (Women's Centre). The meeting centred around the problems of how to coordinate initiatives, how to get ideas circulated and take stock of the situation and how to ensure that the whole community benefits from women's production and views.

There was a particularly topical debate : What attitude should be adopted towards institutions ? For a Women's Centre, is not becoming an institution oneself a way of renouncing one's own identity ?

Useful address : Centro di documentazione, ricerca e iniziativa delle donne,
Via Galliera, 4
Bologna

The health of women at work

The risks to working women's health were the focal point of a meeting organized in Rome by the Istituto di medicina sociale (Institute of Social Medicine) and the Centro ricerche rischi e danni da lavoro (Centre for Research into Industrial Risks and Accidents). This provided an opportunity to conclude a lengthy and difficult survey carried out on a nation-wide scale among 4 628 women workers in the most varied industrial and occupational sectors. This survey enabled some big gaps to be filled in, for example with regard to the harmfulness of lead and mercury to women workers' reproductive systems.

LUXEMBOURG

Parliamentary elections

In the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg the European elections were not the only important event on 17 June 1984. On the domestic front the spotlight was far brighter on the parliamentary elections, in which 64 Deputies had to be elected to form the new Chamber.

Of the 390 candidates on seven different lists (Christian Socialist Party, Democratic Party, Luxembourg Socialist Workers Party, Luxembourg Communist Party, Independent Socialist Party, Alternative Green Party, Revolutionary Communist League), there were 76 women or 19.5%. Of these women candidates 9 were directly elected, thus taking 14% of the seats. This means that a great deal of headway has been made, since in the previous Chamber - in which only 59 Deputies sat - there were 6 women or 10%. This also means that 3 of the 5 new seats to be filled were won by women.

Women caused quite a surprise in the Christian Socialist Party, in that 5 of the 6 women candidates were elected, including Astrid Lulling, who used to be a Social Democrat but joined the PCS's ranks a short time ago. Astrid Lulling came third in the country's central constituency, polling more votes than the President of the Chamber of Deputies and a former minister.

Although in the past the Democratic Party was able to point to "its" women candidates, it had to be content with three women being elected this time - but Mrs Flesh and Mrs Polfer took first and second places in number of votes. Among the POSL Socialists, Lydie Err, a barrister and the very young President of "Socialist Women", won a seat in the country's southern constituency.

It is true that no "Green" woman member of the Alternative Green Party (PVA) was elected on 17 June - but this is the party which will change the proportion of women in the Chamber. The party drew up equal lists, with as many women as men, but it also opted for the "rotation" system. This means that each Deputy will resign after a year. There will therefore be ten "Green" Deputies in succession - five of whom will be women. One amusing detail is the fact that the "Green" Deputy elected in the country's central constituency will hand over his seat to his own wife. At last a couple who really do share every single task in an exemplary fashion.

NETHERLANDS

Abortion law

The Council of Ministers has given its assent to the Algemeene Maatregel van Bestuur (AMVB) (General Administrative Measure) on abortion. This Measure lays down the requirements which clinics and hospitals have to meet in order to be licensed by the public authorities to carry out abortions.

Crèches

Another 600 crèches are needed in the Netherlands. The minimum cost of the operation would F1 160 million. The sum of F1 29 million needs to be released as a matter of urgency to resolve the most pressing problems. The government is wavering and is now asking Parliament for its opinion.

Wives of the unemployed

The wives of the unemployed and the disabled often experience psychological problems. The fact that husbands are at home every day gives rise to numerous disagreements, most of which are unknown to the outside world. These are the findings of a survey carried out by two women psychology students at the University of Nijmegen which was commissioned by the Women's Council of the province of North Brabant.

Sexual harassment

The Sociaal-Economische Raad (Economic and Social Council) wishes additional measures to be taken to counter sexual harassment at the workplace. The SER is also calling for more information on this subject to be circulated and for a complaints procedure to be set up. The SER's "Women and Work" Committee emphasizes that the taboos surrounding unsolicited contact and the innuendoes to which women, but men too, fall victim need to be broken down. The SER had been requested to give its opinion on the note on "The sexual violence committed against women and girls" produced by the departments headed by Mrs Kappeyne van de Coppello, Secretary of State for Emancipation.

It has been learnt in this connection that according to a survey carried out in the United States, 40% of women and 15% of men suffer as a result of overfamiliarity, uncalled-for remarks and improper suggestions. The figures relating to the situation ^{in the Netherlands} are not available yet but the University of Groningen is currently examining the nature and scope of the problem.

It has also emerged that 65% of women victims are attacked by men who are employed in the same capacity. Some 37% are attacked by men who are senior to them in rank. The idea is now coming to light of preventing this sort of situation from arising by circulating a brochure giving practical information about the procedure to be followed in the event of a complaint, so that the problem will also be "debunked".

Another point to note in this connection is that the Arnhem district judge, J. Poell, recently awarded a twenty-one year old typist damages of Fl 12 000 in a case of sexual harassment at work.

Work on the farm

The wives of farmers, market gardeners and agricultural workers put in an average of 22 hours a week in the family business. If these hours are added to the time spent on household tasks, it means that as a general rule these women work more hours than the farmer, market gardener or agricultural worker himself. These are the results of a survey carried out by the Landbouw-Economisch Instituut (Agricultural and Economic Institute) and they also show that the husband in these cases does not even spend an hour a week on housework.

Influence of the media

At a meeting on the subject of the social role of periodicals for young people which was organized by the Stichting Studie Tijdschriftpers (Foundation for the Study of the Periodical Press), Renate Dorrestein stated: "Magazines for teenage girls have a pernicious influence on them. They give a distorted image of real life, in which everything is exciting and romantic and where boys are always loving and shy".

Woman Rector

The College of the Mayor and Aldermen of the town of Leiden have decided to reconsider the application submitted by a woman candidate for the post of Rector of the Stedilijk Gymnasium (local secondary school) who had been eliminated during the preselection process.

The person concerned, who is currently co-rector in an Amsterdam secondary school, had taken out an injunction, considering that the school and the local authority had acted in a manner which was at variance with the letter of their advertisement, since this mentioned that preference would be given to part-time work. This implied that a woman Rector would be chosen. The opposite was therefore indirect discrimination against women.

Wrongful dismissal

The courts are settling cases of discrimination with increasing rapidity. The Den Bosch Appeal Court speedily delivered judgment in the case of two women production workers at the Van Dam de Helmond corrugated cardboard factory. These two women workers had been dismissed on the grounds of the number of days' off through sickness and of years of service, while some of their male colleagues, with a higher rate of absenteeism, remained in work. The Court found in favour of the two women plaintiffs.

Training and promotion

If action is not taken with all due speed in the field of women's training, the policy of promoting women's employment in the public services will not have met most of the targets set. This is the opinion of the Emancipatieraad (Emancipation Council), set out in a note to the Netherlands government.

The Council suggests the creation of transitional courses to enable women to acquire the necessary technical knowledge. It also recommends that women civil servants should have priority as far as training is concerned, so as to prepare them for filling posts to which they have no access - or at least only to a limited extent.

Useful address : Emancipatieraad
Lutherse Burgwal, 10
2512 CB The Hague

Collective agreements

Mrs Kappeyne van de Coppello, Secretary of State for Social Affairs and Employment, with responsibility for emancipation, has called on the employers' and trade union organizations to pay attention to collective agreements as many of these contracts still draw a distinction between female and male workers, even though this is not necessary. Mrs Kappeyne is requesting that these discriminatory clauses be changed.

Useful address : Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid
Zeestraat, 73
The Hague

Profiteers

Some men cohabit with women solely for financial gain. This is the finding made by the City of Utrecht's Law Officer, H.W. Doresen. This official is responsible, among other things, for fraud cases and he deals in this

connection with women who have wrongfully claimed social security benefits. It became apparent to Mr Doresen that a growing number of men are immediately taking to their heels as soon as the fraud committed by their wives or girlfriends has been uncovered.

The women are then left to pay back the money received. The police courts often fine them too. The Utrecht Law Officer considers that men who have benefited from a dual income should not be allowed to escape scot-free, hence his decision to sentence a man found guilty of such a misdeed to four weeks' imprisonment, two of them suspended.

Retirement pensions

The government has decided to grant equal rights and duties to women and men in respect of the Algemene Oudersdomwet (Legislation on retirement pensions), as from 1 January 1985.

One of the implications of the Council of Minister's decision is that women and men will both have to pay the pension premium. Furthermore, married women will be entitled to draw the "AOW" (retirement pension) as soon as they are 65. At present they only qualify when their husband reaches this age.

UNITED KINGDOM

Homeworkers

New technology could be dragging down pay levels for working mothers. This is one of the disturbing findings of a report published recently by the Low Pay Unit. This report, commissioned by the Equal Opportunities Commission, challenges the accepted view that one of the main benefits of new technology is its ability to enable people to work from their own homes.

The report also points out that when new cable and satellite communications systems become established, such new technology homeworking is likely to spread to less skilled groups, such as office workers and word processor operators. If this work is underpaid a serious problem could ensue.

As Ursula Hows, the report's author, explains, "There are over three million working women in this country whose jobs involve processing information. A high proportion of these are potential candidates for transfer to the home. Office workers should be alerted to the potential problems, before it is too late.

Planning decisions being made now about the technological infrastructure could affect their working lives for decades to come".

Useful address : Ursula Hows
Low Pay Unit
9 Poland Street
London W1V 3DG

Equal pay

In Northern Ireland changes in the Equal Pay Act came into effect on 15 March 1984. To mark this event, the N.I. Equal Opportunities Commission published a useful guide to the new law entitled "Make It a Woman's World Too".

The illustrated booklet highlights the rights of female employees and the legal remedies available to them in the event of a dispute. The Commission considers that to date little has been done to narrow the wage gap between the sexes, women's hourly rates being currently 27 per cent less than men's.

Useful address : N.I. Equal Opportunities Commission
Chamber of Commerce House
22 Great Victoria Street
Belfast BT2 7LX

Right to work part-time

Sara Holmes, a civil servant and mother of two children, won an historic case when the Employment Appeal Tribunal upheld her right to do her job on a part-time basis.

The Tribunal emphasized, however, that its judgement would not necessarily apply to other specific cases. It should be noted that the Home Office had opposed Sara Holmes' plea, its grounds being the fear that a positive ruling might set a precedent for similar claims.

Pensions : Difficulties for women

More women than men find themselves with an inadequate income on retirement, largely because of their interrupted working lives for childbearing. Some two-fifths of elderly women have incomes on or below the supplementary benefit level; fewer women than men benefit from the earnings-related pension scheme.

The Equal Opportunities Commission draws attention to its finding that there is overwhelming public support for an equal retirement age at 60, with a majority willing to pay extra contributions to support earlier retirement.

The EOC recommends not only the equalization of the retirement age, but the removal of existing inequalities in access to pension benefits, and a form of pension provision which not only enables men and women to enjoy economic independence in their retirement, but also compensates as far as possible for the difficulties women face in building up full pension requirements.

Useful address : Equal Opportunities Commission
Overseas House
Quay Street
Manchester WC2E 9HD

R E S E A R C H , M E E T I N G S , B O O K S

Women's Worlds was the theme of the 2nd International and Interdisciplinary Congress on women and the strategies for gaining power which was held in Groningen last April. The results produced by this Congress will give rise to recommendations and opinions intended for committees of inquiry into the situation of women (e.g. the United Nations Nairobi Conference in 1985). Some 600 women from 46 countries attended the Congress. Fifteen strategic fields were noted, among them education (a predominant factor), solitude, self-analysis and self-respect, myths and mistrust, lobbying, financial resources and striking. It emerged from the various working parties that studies and research on women are a key field for women, provided that such studies and research depart from the beaten track and are specific to women. Another finding was the - vital - necessity of establishing networks, preferably on an international scale. Lastly, women need to provide themselves with means of controlling reproduction, principally by centralizing information.

Femmes et Développement ou Les Métamorphoses d'un Développement au Masculin (Women and Development or the Metamorphoses of Development in the Masculine) written under the direction of Marie Eliou, draws attention to the 'masculine' nature of development, which thus neglects both the actual and potential contribution that women can make and is conducive to discriminatory situations through apparent or incomplete changes. The aim of this collective work is to explore, using facts and figures from various countries as a basis, aspects of this problem on an economic, institutional and socio-cultural level (European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes, Tilburg : EADI Book series; 2, ISBN 90-6660-012-8).

Women's Rights - A new book by Ailbhe Smyth, which has been called a book with "a human heart", reviews education, work, health, marriage, child-rearing, money, social security etc. Published by Ward River Press, Knocksean House, Forrest Great, Swords, Co. Dublin)

Dag tegen verkrachting en ander sexueel geweld (Day against rape and other forms of sexual assault) was organized last March by the Federatie Vrouwen Tegen Mishandeling (Federation of Women against Physical Violence). The aim was to bring this problem out into the open and to provide information, in order to bring effective pressure to bear on the machinery of the law and to enlarge the support and reception network for the victims of such acts of violence. Useful address : Justus Lipsiusstraat 57, 3000 Leuven.

Donna e Società (Women and Society) is a quarterly research and documentation review, issue N° 69 of which is entirely given over to Europe. In the leader Gabriella Ceccatelli, editor of the review, says : "Women cannot afford not to be involved in the great political challenge of the political union of Europe, the sign of a new era. An era which it is up to the second European Parliament to build". Donna e Società, Corso Rinascimento 113, 00186 Rome.

The two special reports by Marie-José^{de} Menditte, La promotion de la femme diplômée (The promotion of qualified women) and La promotion de l'agent féminin fonctionnaire (The promotion of women civil servants) are intended to provide greater understanding of the social problems facing women and thus to promote women's cause. The reports examine in detail the inequalities (a law of nature) in respect of women in these fields and propose the necessary remedies, together with the means enabling women to take their fate in hand. "The services sector, which is ideally suited to women, will be badly hit by the new industrial revolution. It is up to women to ensure that they transfer to other employment at the earliest opportunity". M-J. de Menditte, 45 rue de Lourmel, Paris 15e.

The subject dealt with in Of Common Cloth, edited by Wendy Chapkis and Cynthia Enloe, is women in the textile industry, from India to the American-Mexican border, via the Philippines and the Netherlands. Hundreds of millions of women work in this sector - the preponderant industry in the Third World. "Of Common Cloth" describes the transformation of the sector and also the impact of the big corporations which dominate it on both workers and consumers and analyses it exhaustively. (Transnational Institute, Paulus Potterstraat 20, 1071 DA Amsterdam; 1983, 141 pp.)

A symposium on "Maternité et Société" (Motherhood and Society) is to be held in Brussels on 26 and 27 October of this year at the instigation of "Vie Féminine" (Female Life). The plans are for a study by the "Young Women's" group, for immigrant women to express their views and for the child-minding services, which play an important role in this field, to clarify their position. Political leaders and also Belgian and foreign organizations will take part in the proceedings. We would also draw your attention to the "Petit carnet de la femme enceinte" (The Pregnant Woman's Notebook) (Price : Bfrs 40), produced by Vie Féminine. Useful address: 111 rue de la Poste, 1030 Brussels.

Lavoro femminile, sviluppo tecnologico e segregazione occupazionale (Women's Work, Technological Development and Occupational Segregation), a study by Giuseppe Barile, aims to make a contribution enabling an active policy to be determined with regard to women's work in the framework of the process whereby work is being transformed as a result of the reorganization of productivity and of the impact of technological development. Published by Franco Angeli, Casella Postale 17130, 20100 Milan.

Vrouw en Gezondheidszorg (Women and Health) is the title of the thesis by Nelly Verschuur, written under the auspices of the Stichting Utrechtse Paramedische Academie (Utrecht Paramedical Academy Foundation). This work examines the position of women operators and users in the health sector. Nelly Verschuur highlights the prejudices against women patients and describes about fifty health problems specific to women. Useful address : Nelly Verschuur, Briljantstraat 506, Alphen a/d Rijn.

The publishers George Allen & Unwin have published their 1984 "Women's Studies" catalogue. Useful address : Academic Sales Department, G. Allen & Unwin Ltd., P.O. Box 18, Park Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4TE, England.

Airline pilot, strip cartoonist or television producer are just some of the jobs described in the guide entitled Carrières au féminin (Careers

in the Feminine). This "Guide to occupations for today's women" gives a comprehensive view of the various sectors and their likely development, but more importantly it gives advice and 1200 addresses designed to help women to find a job or a training course, to choose a career or to change careers or to set up their own business. Published by Formation-Carières, 9 rue Ambroise-Thomas, 75009 Paris. (Source : Bulletin Agence Femmes Information).

D'Amour et de Raison (Of Love and Reason), published by Les Cahiers du Grif (N° 28; Winter 83-84), reports the views which emerged at a Symposium held in Belgium in May 1983. How should a relationship be formed? When one has broken free from an enslaving relationship, what other sort of relationship should be established? And how, when establishing a relationship, can one remain unfettered? These are questions connected with the private relationships, the social relationships, which no individual and no group can evade. This is the question which women are asking themselves here, from the very heart of their recent history and its tensions. Between sisterhood and solidarity, a story of love and of reason. Les Cahiers du Grif, 29 rue Blanche, 1050 Brussels.

"Women in Engineering" is a report compiled by the Engineering Industry Training Board and is its contribution to Women into Science and Engineering Year (1984). It shows that unlike men 90% of the women employed in this sector have unskilled jobs, which, as the statistics prove, are under particular threat from new technology. However, a marked change in attitudes is to be noted, in schools and in industry and in society as a whole. Thanks to the recent special programmes designed to encourage women to go into engineering at the highest levels. (E.I.T.B. Publications, PO Box 75, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 1PH).

Minerva. The first issue of "Minerva", a monthly publication for eighties' women who aspire to reading more suited to their current needs, has just come out. Minerva is the symbol of the intelligence which characterized the goddess born out of Jupiter's head. It is also a periodical which takes an interest in women in all sectors of their life and work, respecting their own identity and diversity, in responsibility and power. Edizioni Club delle donne, Piazza Ippolito Nievo 5, 00153 Rome.

The report on the study day on "Hoe kun je emancipatiebeleid in je eigen gemeente of provincie beïnvloeden?" (How can one influence emancipation policy in one's own commune or province?), which was held in Utrecht and The Hague in November 1983, is obtainable from the Netherlands Women's Council. It answers various questions in this field and contains a good deal of practical advice on forming committees and working parties, on ways of influencing local authorities and on ensuring that the recommendations put forward are implemented. (Nederlandse Vrouwenraad (NVR), Laan van Meerdervoort 30, 2517 AL The Hague).

Issue N° 6 of the Bulletin de la science et de la technologie (Science and Technology Bulletin), published by the Quebec Ministry for Science and Technology, is largely given over to the subject of "Women and Science". The facts and figures mentioned should enable everyone, men and women

alike, to reflect on the profound imbalance which continues to exist, in this area as well as several others, between women and men. (Ministère de la science et de la technologie, 875 Grande-Allée Est, Québec G1R 4Y8).

Issue N° 4 of "Seeds" is devoted to "Women and Crafts : Myth and Reality" and has been written by Jasleen Dhamija. The purpose of this report is to examine arts and crafts in general as a means of providing women with a source of income. (Ann Leonard, Editor, SEEDS, PO Box 3923, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163).

"Regard sur les Françaises, Xe siècle-XXe siècle" (A look at Frenchwomen, from the Xth to the XXth century) is a book by Michèle Sarde, in which she tells the story of Frenchwomen. On the one hand, women in France are idealized to an incredible extent. Another feature of French society was the completely mixed social life, very early on in history; and in domestic and group life, considerable ability to manage and intervene which was in no way acknowledged but was exercised by intrigue and secret influence. Are Frenchwomen in the XXth century going to vanish and join the great international community of liberated women ? "Will there still be any Frenchwomen in the 21st century ?" is the question with which Michèle Sarde ends her book. (Stock, 668 pages).

Virago Press has brought out its new catalogue. Virago is a publishing house which specializes in the field of good women writers, contemporary or otherwise. And this year it is reissuing some of the works of Rebecca West, "the greatest woman of letters of the century", who died at the age of 90 in March 1983. (Chatto, Bodley Head & Cape Services Ltd., 9 Bow Street, London WC2E 7AL).

Donne e politica : quale partecipazione ? (Women and Politics : What representation ?) by Giulia Paola Di Nicola, a sociologist and researcher, who, in her study, takes politics as the central theme for a definition of the women's question, in the current period of economic crisis. She also shows that women are not present in those world bodies which hold the power, that their representation at community levels is inadequate, as it is too in the various national parliaments and governments within the European Community and also in the Italian regional assemblies. (Città Nuova, Ricerche 12, Rome, 1983, 243 pages).

Four new titles were published recently in the "Space Seven Series" (Pogge Helps Out; Planet Earth, Planet of the Towers, What Will Happen Next?; children's literature). These stories, published by Sheffield Women and Education Publications have, at the publisher's specific request, been written in such a way as not to present anything of a sexist or racist nature. (Sheffield Women & Education Publications, Bridge Cottage, Edale Road, Hope, Sheffield, S30 2RF).

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