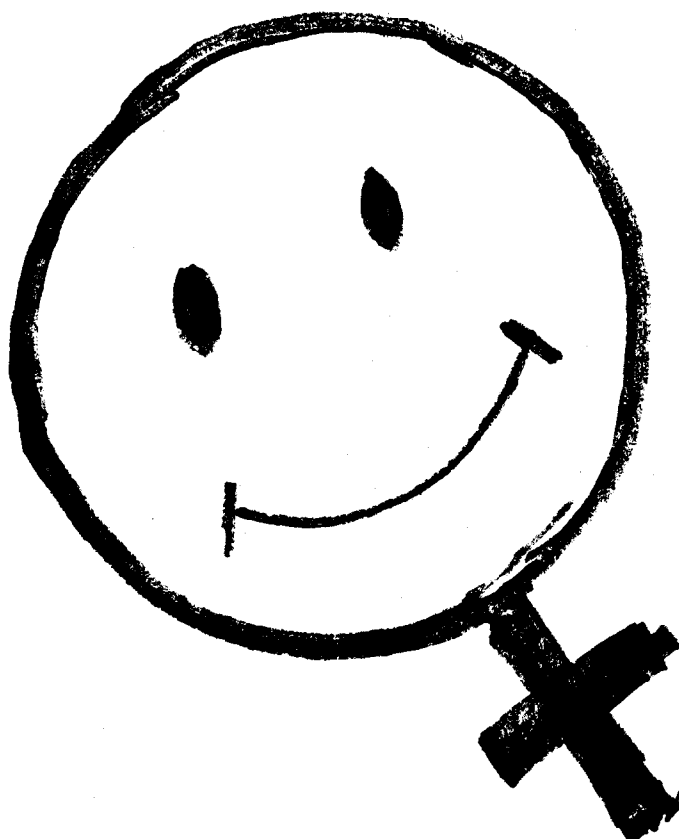


Women of Europe

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

T H E " N A I R O B I " E F F E C T
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There there! Let's get things in perspective! The Decade for Women may be coming to an end, but it's not the end of the world. Admittedly the Decade has galvanized people into widespread action, it has made ministerial departments and the authorities unusually sensitive to the issues at stake and it has caused a flurry of attention in political circles. The fear is that, as the Decade closes, all this effort - some of it generous and spontaneous, some the result of arm-twisting - might peter out, as if we were all running out of breath.

But let us look at things in perspective. When the United Nations, a cumbersome political organization, decreed that there should be a Decade for Women, it was not a bolt from the blue or a miraculous change of heart. Quite the contrary: it was because women throughout the world had for many long years resolutely committed themselves to political and social ideals, and they could no longer be ignored.

The Decade for Women has been one phase in the general evolution. Looking back on it, we will realise that it has been a good long phase, a show of strength, a phase lived to the full. But because one phase is over it does not mean that evolution has stopped. The earth is still turning. Women are pressing home the advantages they have achieved in the democratic life of our society with patience, imagination and guts. They are determined not to be eternally banished from the world of men, not to be the "third world" of society.

W O M E N A N D T E L E V I S I O N

About 150 TV and advertising personnel, trade unionists, MPs and representatives of women's organizations attended the seminar on "Women and television" organized by the Institute of Social Sciences of the Independent University of Brussels with the backing of the European Commission.

In television, 96% of technical jobs are done by men. Only 1 in 150 women, as against 1 in 25 men, is at management level. A study of 24 television companies in 9 Community countries revealed only 134 women in decision-making positions.

This pessimistic note was struck by all three papers given at the seminar: Margaret Gallagher's report on "employment and positive action for women in television companies in European Community Member States"; Gabriel Thoveron's study of "the place and role of women in certain programmes produced by European television"; and Eliane Vogel-Polski's paper: "What positive action? What strategies? A critique of alternative programmes and the lessons they have to offer".

Several factors were mentioned by the speakers and participants in the discussions. One of the most serious problems is still the difficulty of combining a career and a family. It is noticeable that many of the women occupying management posts in television are single and childless.

Milly Buonanno of RAI (Italian television) raised a more technical problem: items intended for television broadcasting go through so many filtering processes that few of them actually appear on the small screen. If women's issues are to receive more attention, a special information agency like the one that already exists for sport will have to be set up. Strict rules govern the broadcasting of news items: women will have to learn to manipulate them.

An interesting point was expressed by Tony Crabb of the BBC, one of the few men to attend the seminar, who found it difficult to imagine any topic for a television programme which would interest women and not men. Television should aim to inform all its viewers and not create a ghetto of women viewers.

Lea Martel of BRT (Dutch-speaking Belgian television) said it was undoubtedly important to have women at the top of the hierarchy but women's involvement in every stage of production was of prime importance. In view of this need, she called for specialist colleges to be more accessible to girls.

According to figures quoted by Gabriel Thoveron, women account for only 14.5% of television journalists and are usually more "sedentary" than their male colleagues. Three-quarters of the women who appear on the small screen are about 30 years old, 90% are under 40 and it is rare to see a woman over 50, though there is no shortage of male TV reporters in this age group. Another detail: 35% of male TV reporters wear glasses but none of the women reporters do. How is this control over the image of men and women exerted?

Role stereotyping in TV advertising is remarkably consistent. More often than not, the man advises and the woman does the buying. Men are shown in their working environment, women in the home.

A comment by Lone Kuhlmann (Danish television) caused a stir: it is the television image of men that needs changing. Men should be shown who are less macho and more considerate, men who are not afraid to show their feelings. "I'm tired of hearing women say that it's society's fault if we have reached this point," she said. "We are not the problem. It's men who are the problem. Let's talk about part-time work for men. Let's stop seeing ourselves as victims. If we act like victims, how can we expect our bosses to take us seriously?"

Fausta Deshormes, head of women's information, said that one of the most striking problems is the lack of any critical sense among viewers, both male and female. Women have to be taught to recognize the impact of television in changing attitudes. School broadcasts will have to be improved, just as school textbooks have been.

Winding up the seminar, Nicole Delruelle-Vosswinkel of Brussels University raised an important issue: where do the media stand on the question of changing cultural patterns? The media have undergone immense technical upheavals but seem slow to adapt to social change. Why? How can women manage when they are expected to move into a traditionally male preserve and still fulfil their "natural functions" as women?

French television journalist Christine Ockrent was optimistic. European television, she said, has been a formidable instrument in accelerating changes for women. In the US, for example, the gap between real life and the stereotypes conveyed by television programmes is even wider. If men's and women's careers develop at such different rates, it is because women have not yet developed a taste for power and are still doubtful as to their own potential. The situation, though, is about to change. The growing number of television channels will undoubtedly create more time for women's issues and channels will certainly be able to target specific groups of viewers and produce alternative programmes catering for individual interests.

Odile Quintin, head of the Bureau for Questions regarding employment and equal treatment for women, wondered what should be done at Community level to do away with inequalities in real life. It is pointless just to bring in new directives. There is already a whole series of Community legislation on equal opportunities, which is applied in every Member State. A series of recommendations would be preferable and probably quite adequate. Recommendations are not binding but their application is a matter of prestige for Member States. Another possibility would be a "talent data bank" listing women experts in specialist fields.

The seminar's conclusions will be conveyed to European television officials. The European Commission is ready to help television companies wanting to take positive action.

Useful addresses: Institut de Sociologie, ULB, 44 avenue Jeanne, 1050 Brussels.
Bureau for Questions regarding employment for women, European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Education, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.

A colloquium on equality for men and women before the law was organized by the European Commission and the inter-university Centre of Comparative Law together with the Centre for Patrimonial Law of the Catholic university of Louvain.

Open only to high-ranking specialists, the colloquium took as its objective the listing and assessment of legal measures and action to promote sexual equality. The opportunity was seized to bring the issue to the attention of various legal practitioners (magistrates, barristers, solicitors, law lecturers, company lawyers, legal advisers to both sides of industry, labour inspectors, etc).

Various points for action were discussed: how to check on follow-up action on directives by setting up contacts and exchanges between experts in the socio-occupational areas concerned; how to improve appeal procedures which are not being used (including reversal of the onus of proof); how to change attitudes by promoting greater awareness among groups directly affected by the legal aspects of the problem.

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

For International Youth Year, the European Commission has adopted a Memorandum setting out policy guidelines covering the employment, education and vocational training of young people.

In the Memorandum, the Commission expresses its continuing concern at the situation of the 48 million Community youngsters aged between 15 and 25. More than 5 million of them are unemployed, 1.5 million for more than a year. The unemployment rate amongst youngsters is three times higher than for other members of the working population. Even though 18 million youngsters do have jobs, many of them have little choice on the jobs market and cannot fully realize their potential. Some groups are even more disadvantaged: namely young women (whose unemployment rate is over 22%, compared with 20% for young men), the children of migrant workers and handicapped youngsters.

The Community is lagging behind in schooling: the proportion of children staying on at school in Japan and the US after the minimum school-leaving age is far higher than in the Community: 30% in Japan and 60% in the US compared with 25% in the Member States as a whole. Only 15 out of every 10,000 citizens in the Community are engineers and researchers whereas the ratio is over 30 in the US and Japan. Finally, American and Japanese students move easily from one intellectual community to another in their countries, whereas European students are not very mobile: fewer than 1% spend a period of study in a Member State other than their own.

The Commission intends to launch individual measures over the next twelve months. The mobility and exchange of students and teachers in every discipline will be stepped up. At this level, the objective is to double the number of universities involved by 1991 (there are only 600 at the moment out of a possible total of 3,500 higher education establishments) and to multiply the number of mobile students by 10. Cooperation between universities and industry is to be stimulated, one way being to support student placements in firms in other Community countries. In training programmes backed by the European Social Fund, priority will be given to programmes devoting 40 hours training to new technology. Finally, the teaching of foreign languages will be promoted.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

May Session The keynote of the May session of European Parliament was indisputably the address by President Reagan, then almost at the end of his European tour. MEPs were not all in favour of his visit, mainly because of American policy towards Nicaragua, and some MEPs made their feelings known by sporting logo-bearing T-shirts or waving placards with slogans expressing their disapproval. At times, the US President seemed surprised at the mild interruptions provoked by parts of his speech. He was, however, given a standing ovation by most of his audience. President of European Parliament, Pierre Pflimlin, told Mr Reagan that Europeans would never forget the debt they owed to the American people. This remembrance was all the more appropriate as it was expressed the day after commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the ending of the Second World War on 8 May 1945.

President Reagan's message to Europe can be summed up in a few main points: confirmation of America's confidence in Europe, which he wants to see "strong and unified: not as a rival but as an ever stronger partner", strengthened by the inclusion of Spain and Portugal (which the President also visited during his European tour); the need to re-establish the balance of power with the Soviet Union ("We are not seeking nuclear superiority"); confirmation of the guiding principles of US policy towards the Soviet Union and practical proposals to the Soviets (the proposals already formulated by NATO). President Reagan concluded: "We are committed to the re-creation of a larger and more genuinely European Europe... It is our hope that in the 21st century there will be one, free Europe."

Mr Reagan was on his way back from the Western Economic Summit in Bonn. Jacques Delors gave a lucid report to Parliament on the outcome of the Summit, which he had attended as President of the European Commission. He expressed his regret that the Summit had not been the subject of more concerted action on the part of the Community countries: this reduced the significance of the main message which, at an economic level, was that each country must do its bit to maintain a general equilibrium. Mr Delors expressed his approval, however, of the idea of indicating exactly what each country should do. Europe's task is to bring about increased growth when possible and above all to encourage greater movement on the labour market. Speaking of the political declaration signed at the Bonn Summit, Jacques Delors said that it would be an excellent topic for civic education.

During the debate, President Delors announced a European technological plan and outlined its precise objectives, feasibility, management, general scope and funding.

Also during the May session, Parliament voted on the recommendations of Italian Communist Francesca Marinaro's report on a European policy for migrant workers. The vote was complicated by the large number of restrictive amendments (and a vote by roll call was demanded for all of them) suggested by the Group of the European Right. Other amendments, which weakened the resolution without departing from its general objective (greater justice, more rights and further attention to the specific problems of migrants), were accepted and the resolution was passed by a substantial majority (with the exception of most French MEPs who either voted against or abstained as they felt that the question had not been considered in sufficient depth). After the vote, British Conservative Michael Welsh put aside political differences to compliment Francesca Marinaro on her dignity and poise throughout the debate.

Parliament also adopted the resolution tabled by Chairman of the Committee on Women's Rights Marlene Lenz (Germany, European People's Party) regarding the Nairobi Conference which closes the Decade for Women in July 1985. In an exhaustive resolution, Parliament stressed the Commission's positive role in bringing about sexual equality in Europe, called on Member States to pursue this policy by implementing and supplementing Community legislation and listed a whole series of considerations and demands regarding women in developing countries.

In emergency debate, Parliament examined the situation in Nicaragua and called on the Sandinista government to resume a dialogue with the democratic opposition parties. This followed the adoption of amendments suggested by the Group of the European Right which appreciably modified the original motion tabled by the Socialists, calling on Parliament to help Nicaragua to rediscover the road to democracy.

Also in emergency debate, the emotional question of the expulsion of refugees from the Ibnet camp in Ethiopia was brought up. Parliament also wished to place on record the speed and effectiveness of action taken by the Commission. Commission Vice-President Lorenzo Natali said that the Commission had acted at once and had set up an immediate inquiry revealing that the evacuation was the result of an administrative error which had nothing to do with Ethiopian President Mengistu. President Mengistu has taken steps to prevent any repetition of this type of incident.

Colette Flesch (Luxembourg, Liberal and Democratic Group) has announced her intention of giving up her European mandate on 1 September 1985. Leader of the Democratic Party in the Grand Duchy's Chamber of Deputies, Colette Flesch is not leaving the European scene completely as she was elected President of the European Liberal and Democratic Parties at the Groningen congress. Deputy Mayor of the City of Luxembourg Lydie Würth-Polfer will take up the seat left vacant by Colette Flesch in European Parliament. Under Democratic Party rules, an individual cannot be both a national and European Member of Parliament at the same time.

June Session During the June session, European Parliament had an important guest: Italian President Sandro Pertini. In his address, which was much applauded by MEPs, he recalled the words of President Reagan who had spoken to the House the month before of Europe's "moral" success. Sandro Pertini said that the success should also be political, pointing out that the twofold national and European approach lends itself well to all today's problems and calling for significant progress towards the drafting of a treaty of European Union. The Milan Summit could be an opportunity to reaffirm this political resolve.

Mr Pertini called for peace, the strengthening of East-West relations and a common European security policy and went on to speak of the end of the Second World War and the resistance movements which had been "the dawn of European unity". He asked Europeans to remember the reasons for the war but not to indulge in the pointless exercise of putting the blame on the German people. "We are Europeans and, therefore, we are also Germans," he said. "Germany divided is Europe divided," he declared, "her drama is ours as well." President Pertini expressed his belief that the only way to "overcome Yalta" and to "reunite what a wall cannot separate" lies in the search for a new order based on peace.

During the June session (6 months late, due to differences with the Council of Ministers), Parliament adopted the EC budget for 1985. Parliament voted to maintain the priorities which it had set concerning the fight against world hunger and to call for relatively modest increases in credits to be concentrated in certain sectors. Apart from food aid, the other major beneficiaries are the European Social Fund and the Regional Fund. The Information budget has also been increased, with a special 500,000 ECU increase for women's information.

In the resolution accompanying - and in some ways commenting on - the budget, Parliament criticized the Council of Ministers fairly strongly on budgetary matters.

The agenda of the June session was disrupted by a piece of news: the German veto of a decision (already late) on cereal prices during the meeting of Council agriculture ministers in Luxembourg at the same time as Parliamentary session was seen by all MEPs as a matter of concern and a debate was arranged. The veto confirmed the misgivings of some of the Member States about the taking of decisions by majority vote in Council, reinforced by the timing, only a few days before the Milan Summit.

The German decision in Luxembourg to protect its vital interests in this matter (and it was the first time that Germany had used the veto) showed the gap between good intentions and reality, a fact which several MEPs made a point of stressing during the debate. The debate understandably gave rise to fairly heated exchanges between German MEPs in the majority and opposition groups.

The Commission has explained its views on the matter at length. Frans Andriessen, Commissioner responsible for agriculture, deplored Germany's use of the veto after all the German authorities' recent statements on improving the decision-making process in the Community. The Commission now has to handle a difficult situation and combat speculation. Mr Andriessen recognized that the failure to reach agreement highlighted the need for radical changes in European control of the cereal sector: the Commission is drawing up proposals and is prepared to speed up its current study.

Commission President Jacques Delors bitterly criticized the Council's "general behaviour". "Germany is not the culprit," he said; "in deciding to abstain, other Member States too have exercised their 'right' of veto." The President's attack was sparked off by Council's general attitude and the private bilateral meetings between heads of State on subjects which should have been debated openly and democratically.

British Conservative Ben Patterson's report provoked a wide-ranging debate on the internal market, during which an impressive package of proposals was put forward by the Commission. All MEPs agreed on the need to improve the common market by reducing red tape at frontiers and implementing various measures which are still filed away at the Council of Ministers. Some MEPs were concerned by the possible effects of a true common market on peripheral areas but were reassured by Commission spokesman Lord Cockfield who said that specific measures would be taken in all "sensitive areas". Lord Cockfield did stress, however, that Community decision-making processes would have to be improved if a genuinely European market were to become a reality.

Also during the June session, Parliament approved the Commission's draft regulation for Integrated Mediterranean Programmes (IMPs) but called for

additional resources and stressed the need for compatibility of objectives and actions.

Parliament also voted in favour of a cooperation agreement with Central America on the basis of the report given by German Socialist Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul. Speaking for the Commission, Claude Cheysson called for a political dialogue with Central American countries and referred to the American boycott of Nicaragua and its possible consequences. Speaking of Central America's foreign debts, Commissioner Cheysson argued that it would be pointless to cancel its debts without putting the underlying financial situation of the countries concerned on a sounder footing.

In emergency debate, following the tragic events at the Heysel stadium in Brussels, Parliament passed several resolutions on violence and sport and supported the decision to ban English teams from European competitions.

July Session Parliament first discussed the outcome of the Milan Summit which had brought together the heads of State of the Community countries, adopting a resolution tabled by Chairman of the Institutional Affairs Committee Altiero Spinelli (Italy, Communist and Allies Group) by a substantial majority.

The resolution adopted declared itself expressly in favour (and this term legally implies that it is Parliament's formal "opinion") of convening an intergovernmental conference to discuss the development of a European Union. Parliament hoped that the conference would produce positive results and invited Member States who are in favour of a Union treaty to embark on its formulation on their own should a unanimous decision not be achieved. This point obviously did not please all MEPs, especially the British, Danish and Greeks, but the majority of the Assembly supported the resolution.

During the wide-ranging debate that preceded the vote, Altiero Spinelli emphasized that a single Treaty should emerge from the discussions and then be submitted to Parliament. Mr Spinelli regretted that the Milan Summit had not taken Parliament's draft Treaty of European Union as its starting point, since it had effectively opened the whole debate.

The Presidents of the Council of Ministers and the European Commission also spoke on the outcome of the Milan Summit. Jacques Santer, Prime Minister of Luxembourg and, for 6 months, acting President of the Council, said that all those present in Milan had stressed the need to improve the "rules of the game". Member States voting in favour of convening an intergovernmental conference did not wish to exclude the others, but it was reasonable for them to start working on European Union if they were ready to do so.

Commission President Jacques Delors confirmed that it was not a "7 against 3" confrontation but merely that there were different ways of approaching the same problem. The Commission would play a full part in the conference but would not want matters coming under the Treaty of Rome to be separated from those coming under the heading of political cooperation. Meanwhile, the Commission will press on with its work on several matters of priority: a People's Europe, the internal market and technology.

A resolution put forward by Christine Crawley, Raymonde Dury and other members of the Socialist Group and by Vera Squarcialupi and Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano for the Communist Group expressed concern at the possible suppression of the women's information service with the reorganization of the Commission's Directorate-General for Information. The resolution stated that Parliament was aware of the funds needed to improve women's information

and had voted in favour of a 500,000 ECU grant specifically for women's information when the 1985 budget was adopted. Submitted in emergency debate, time was too short for the resolution to be discussed.

On the basis of British Conservative Dame Shelagh Roberts' report, European Parliament considered the Commission Memorandum on taxation and equal treatment for men and women. All the speakers in the debate regretted that the Commission had not issued a directive and cited discriminations in this area in most Member States.

Speaking for the Commission, Carlo Ripa di Meana said that a political assessment of the problem could be produced on the basis of the Memorandum. Mr Ripa di Meana announced that the Commission was to arrange a seminar to investigate the technical problems of taxation, probably in early 1986. The Council of Ministers would then be forced to accept its responsibilities in the matter.

By 111 votes to 1, Parliament adopted Dame Shelagh Roberts' resolution which pointed out the often pernicious influence of tax systems, which can discourage women from entering the jobs market, and noted that the tax status of married women is less favourable than that of single women, a fact discouraging marriage. It called on Member States to avoid all direct and indirect discrimination against women based on their sex, civil status or family status. It would be best to base taxation of income and revenue on an individual assessment of every taxpayer. The cost of child-minders and home-helps to working parents could be tax deductible. Finally, Parliament demanded that a spouse working in a family business should have the right to reasonable remuneration and that her income should be taxed separately and proportionately.

Dutch Liberal Jessica Larive Groenendaal had drafted a report on vandalism and violence at sports events which was adopted by 118 votes to 33 with 46 abstentions. In the resolution, European Parliament recommended preventive measures such as a ban on the sale of alcohol, body searches, segregation of supporters and coordination between the governments and authorities concerned.

Should one go as far as banning "black-listed" fans from stadiums? This measure was recommended but Italian Socialist Vincenzo Mattina and British Socialist Janey Buchan both deplored it as "liberticide". Winifred Ewing, however, argued that non-violent supporters would be prepared to accept measures protecting them against the violence of others. She said that stringent measures are applied in Scotland with good results. Belgian Socialist Ernest Glinne pointed out that he had addressed a written question to the Council on violence in sport; two days before the tragic events at the Heysel stadium in Brussels, he had received a reply telling him that this was not a matter for the Council. Speaking for the European Commission, Peter Sutherland declared himself in favour of a meeting of sports ministers but was doubtful whether legislative action by the Community would have any effect.

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Chaired by Marlene Lenz (Germany, European People's Party) the Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights has been pressing on with its work.

During the meeting held in Brussels on 21 and 22 May, MEPs exchanged views with Carlo Ripa di Meana, Commissioner responsible for problems concerning a People's Europe, information, arts and tourism policies. Marlene Lenz asked him about the Commission's general guidelines on information and said that coordination is needed between European Parliament and the Commission on this matter. Mr Ripa di Meana outlined the Commission's programme, which includes making the public more aware of the Community, informing women on any new rights they have acquired through Community efforts and taking action to enlighten the way people think, especially the decision-makers.

Italian Communist Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano wondered whether the Commission's Information Offices could set up information schemes aimed at women in the Community countries. Both Ms Cinciari Rodano and French Socialist Marie-Claude Vayssade commented favourably on "Women of Europe", but regretted the long delays in its production, translation, printing and distribution. Dutch Socialist Ien van den Heuvel noted that "Women of Europe" is not addressed to the public at large for obvious financial reasons and wondered whether there was any chance of the Commission publishing a magazine aimed at a wider female readership. Johanna Maij-Weggen (Netherlands, European People's Party) also expressed her regret that, for lack of resources, the Commission was unable to reach either the public at large or journalists.

Carlo Ripa di Meana replied that he was in favour of periodic consultations between the Commission's Women's Information Service and the Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights. Speaking of the Women's Information Service, its staff and budget, he said he hoped for greater autonomy for the service and even a doubling of its staff, but pointed out the budgetary constraints. He was interested in the idea of a magazine aimed at a broad readership, a magazine that might be found at a hairdresser's, but said it was a complex problem. Discussing more immediate problems, the Commissioner said that the first steps were to disseminate information in Spain and Portugal, inform the legal profession on progress achieved and make better use of television to inform the public.

The Committee approved British Conservative Dame Shelagh Roberts' report on equal treatment for men and women in taxation and, in the presence of a Youth Forum delegation, heard Dutch Socialist Ien van den Heuvel's draft opinion of the report, Youth. The Committee also exchanged preliminary views on the question of single-parent families, on which Italian Communist Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano is drafting a report.

During the Committee meeting in Brussels on 26 and 27 June chaired by Christine Crawley (British Labour), Rika De Backer-Van Ocken (Belgium, European People's Party) reported on the vote on the 1985 budget. The Committee was delighted by the 500,000 ECU allocated to women's information and declared itself in favour of following the same guidelines for the 1986 budget. The Committee adopted Greek Socialist Konstantina Pantazi's draft report on International Youth Year.

The Parliamentary Committee gave its first reactions to Dutch Socialist Hedy d'Ancona's report on violence against women. The report is to be discussed by European Parliament during the December plenary meeting. German Socialist Heinke Salisch was appointed rapporteur to discuss the social impact of new technology on women's affairs.

Another highlight of the June meeting were talks by two experts (Ms Smith and Ms Schaffer) who had been invited to give a paper on their work on equal opportunities for girls and boys in education. The topic is so far-reaching that MEPs considered arranging a seminar on education and training.

At the request of German Socialist Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, women's information had been put on the agenda. This was prompted by Belgian Socialist Raymonde Dury, who had called on women's organizations and members of the Committee to lobby Carlo Ripa di Meana "to ensure that the women's information service adequately staffed and funded to deal with the problem". The reorganization of the Directorate-General for Information made the subject very topical.

At the Committee's request, Director-General for Information Mr Froschmaier gave an up-to-date report on women's information. MEPs expressed their concern that there were still no official proposals on the matter and once again called for the establishment of an independent women's information service. The Committee on Women's Rights decided to put its point of view in writing to Commission President Jacques Delors and Carlo Ripa di Meana, Commissioner responsible for information.

Now that the policy guidelines for the European Social Fund for 1986 to 1988 have been published, rapporteur Johanna Maij-Weggen (Netherlands, European People's Party) expressed the Committee's regret that "women's programmes" had not been allocated their fair share of resources.

AT THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
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Germany has not fulfilled its obligations, the Court of Justice of the European Communities has declared. The European Commission complained that Germany had not listed jobs exempted from application of the Community directive (76/207) on equality of treatment for men and women in access to jobs, training and promotion and in working conditions.

According to article 611 a) of the German Civil Code, the principle of equality may be waived for certain jobs which can be done only by a man or a woman. The Commission declares, however, that this is not enough, and a list of such jobs must be drawn up.

Germany's reply: no such list is required in the text of the directive. The Commission insisted, however, that article 9, paragraph 2, of the directive states that it is the Commission's responsibility to ensure that exemptions are justifiable. How can the Commission carry out these controls if there is no clear list of exempt jobs? In not producing a list of exemptions, Germany has impeded the exercise of a useful control by the Commission and has made it more difficult for the victims of discrimination to defend their rights.

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY:FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWSAND MILITANT ACTIVITIES

B E L G I U M

A new law on rape is to be introduced. The bill has already gone through the Chamber of Deputies but has been amended by the Senate and will, therefore, be returned to the Chamber for a second reading. It defines rape as "any act of sexual penetration, of whatever kind and by whatever means, committed against an unconsenting person". Harsher sentences will be given in certain cases, such as those involving a child under 14.

More care will be taken to respect victims' anonymity and the press will not be allowed to give any information which might identify them. Hearings in camera will be granted at the victim's request.

Neighbourhood bureaux is an interesting scheme launched in Brussels by a non-profit making organization, "Bureaux de quartiers". The aim is to offer marriage and family guidance, establishing close and constant relations with different agencies such as local authorities, social workers, doctors, mutual aid charities, schools, parishes, etc. In the founders' own words: "the local community is the best place for contact".

Useful address: Bureaux de quartiers, 141 rue Froissart, 1040 Brussels

A complaint has been made against the Belgian Government on the indirect discrimination of an unemployment benefit allowance. The Comité de Liaison des Femmes (women's liaison committee) has received a reply to its complaint forwarded to the European Commission. Aloïs Pfeiffer, Commissioner responsible for employment, has responded:

"I can assure you that I entirely share your concern at the discriminatory nature of Belgian legislation on unemployment benefits and the need to amend its legislation to bring it into line with Community directive 79/7. This change is all the more pressing since, as you are aware, the deadline for implementation has now expired... You can rest assured that the Commission is taking this new situation into account in the proceedings being taken against the Belgian Government and that it is doing everything possible to bring matters to a conclusion."

(N.B. Directive 79/7/EEC is on the equal treatment of men and women in social security matters.)

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

"Let's change books", after 5 years of action, has now been given official status as a non-profit making association. The group's most recent productions are Françoise Bouchez's video cassette, L'oeuf ou la poule (Chicken or egg) and a book called Les femmes dans les manuels scolaires (Women in school textbooks), published by Pierre Mardaga.

The video cassette uses a rapid sequence of examples to illustrate sexist stereotypes, how they are part of a child's whole education and how they can influence future choices and ambitions. The examples chosen are not only from school textbooks: children's thoughts about their future careers, comments on favourite heroes and heroines, etc. In the space of 20 minutes, the problem is stated and a debate launched.

The book is a critical analysis of secondary school history, literature, art history and science textbooks. The same two observations apply to all of them: women's role is eclipsed, their portrayal stereotyped. The work finishes with a set of constructive proposals.

Useful address: Changeons les livres, 29 rue Blanche, 1050 Brussels

Community action with and for women was the theme of a one-day seminar organized jointly by the Conseil national des femmes belges (National Council of Belgian Women - French-speaking section) and its Dutch-speaking counterpart, Nationale Vrouwen Raad. Action by the European Commission was discussed and viewed in the context of the "post-Decade for Women".

At the end of the day, participants called for more meticulous application of Community directives on equality and a new Community Action Programme 1985-88 for equal opportunities. As well as an increase in human and financial resources for the services responsible for women's issues in the European Commission, the 70 or so women's organizations present called for the elimination of all sexist language in texts produced by the Commission. They also called on Member States and the Community itself to propose a second Decade for Women to the UN.

Useful addresses: CNFB, 1a Place Quételet, 1030 Brussels
NVR, 8 Middaglijnstraat, 1030 Brussels

Sounder North-South relations are the aim of a new association, "Pour un développement autre" (Puda - for a different development). Puda's policy is borne out by the support it has given to schemes set up by six Belgian groups. Members donate money which is then offered to specific projects chosen by the members themselves (new cooperatives, development of local resources, etc). Money is not given outright but offered on an interest-free loan basis. In the words of the association: "We prefer to collect social rather than purely financial interest on our loans".

Useful address: Puda, 71 Drève du Duc, 1170 Brussels

Space for women - "Ruimte voor Vrouwen - is an association encouraging women to concern themselves with employment, education, housing and the environment. A dossier compiled by the association assesses matters which are rarely taken into consideration: how the design and environment of buildings affect women's everyday lives, how women's views are (or are not) taken into account by town planners and architects, women's position on decision-making bodies, etc. The dossier is available for 130 Belgian francs, including postage, payable to account no. 001-0488559-46.

Useful address: Ruimte voor Vrouwen PA/Elcker-Ik, 115 Blijde Inkomstraat, 3000 Louvain

Alimony payments are a problem for both parties involved. Women often find it extremely difficult to extract payment but men, too, often have enormous difficulty in paying amounts set in better days before the economic crisis. During a debate on the subject organized by Infor-Femmes (women's information), it was explained that a plan to set up an "Office de recouvrement des créances alimentaires" (agency for the recovery of alimony debts) was coming up against unexpected obstacles, mainly due to the complexity of the Belgian constitutional system. Contrary to what the Government had thought (Social Affairs Minister Mr Dahaene was particularly surprised) the matter is the responsibility of the French- and Dutch-speaking Communities and not the State. The debate continues.

Useful address: Infor-Femmes, 29 rue Bréderode, 1000 Brussels

Lady June will welcome you in Brussels, should you be passing. Set up by dynamic D.J. Brennan, Lady June is a meeting place which offers cultural,

artistic and crafts activities. A warm welcome awaits you in French, Dutch or English. The centre is open from 8pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays but it is probably best to give a ring beforehand just to check: (02) 511.78.47

Useful address: Lady June, 48 rue Philippe de Champagne, 1000 Brussels

D E N M A R K

The 1984 annual report by Ligestillingsrådet (the Equality Council) states that too few women are being trained in the economic sectors where expansion is hoped for. A growing number of women, especially young women, wanting to move into traditionally male jobs are constantly meeting strong resistance from both employers and male colleagues. "It is essential that everybody holding a responsible position in the training system and the world of employment should use their powers to combat female unemployment. That includes the Government, Parliament, the authorities and social services," says Ligestillingsrådet.

The 100-page report includes many statistical tables allowing comparisons over 10 or even 15 years. They show, for example, that 249,100 women were doing part-time work in 1967 and 526,500 in 1983 - a significant increase, especially as the total number of women in employment rose from 861,900 in 1967 to only 1,240,900 in 1983.

Useful address: Ligestillingsrådet, Frederiksgade 19-21, 1255 Copenhagen

"Fremskridtets pris" (the price of progress) is the title of a recent report published by the Danish Minister of the Interior on the ethical (or moral) problems posed by genetic engineering, embryo transplants, artificial insemination and experiments on the human foetus. The report has been prepared by a committee in preparation for a bill which Liberal Interior Minister Britta Schall Holberg hopes to table in Parliament before the autumn.

One of the report's conclusions is that it would be useful to set up a central council on medical ethics which would formulate rules and supply information to the scientific committees which monitor biomedical science and ensure compliance with World Health Organization regulations.

In the Folketing (Danish Parliament), the opposition Social Democrat Group did not support the idea of a central council on ethics, proposing a committee to deal with the ethical aspects which would be given 3 years to produce a report on the legal, technical and ethical aspects of the problem. It could consist of an equal number of men and women and include representatives of the handicapped, youth and women's organizations.

Two major ethical problems are raised by the Interior Minister's report: the modification of hereditary genetic characteristics and artificially induced pregnancy.

Should the new science of genetics be given a free rein? Avoiding congenital malformation is an acceptable objective, but how far can science be allowed to go in using fertilized ova for its research? The working group which has studied the question feels that experiments should not be carried out on an embryo more than 14 days old, and in no case should a fertilized ovum submitted to experiments be reimplanted. It did not want to pass an opinion on the ethics of starting a pregnancy with the intention of aborting

and carrying out a scientific experiment on the foetus.

The diagnosis of foetal sickness during pregnancy poses many problems: what illness or malformation is serious enough to justify abortion? Who will take the responsibility and decide what kind of illness or malformation another human being is going to live with? How severe does a handicap have to be to deny the right to life? The report states that the final decision should be taken by the pregnant woman but that it is essential to ensure that she is in full knowledge of the facts.

The report concludes by saying that it is impossible to foresee the consequences of "cloning" (the reprogramming of hereditary features) for future generations. There is a great risk to humanity of committing an error of perspective and making hasty changes that normally take thousands of years, without thought for a general balance which we still do not fully understand. What we see as the frailty of the human body may be a strength or may perform a function of which we are unaware.

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, Niels Hemingsensgade 8-10,2,
1153 Copenhagen

The Women's Research Centre in Social Science has just published its 1984 annual report, which also reviews the general guidelines laid down when it was founded in 1980. All things considered, the Centre's officials feel that the right move was made in setting up an institution specifically devoted to women, even though the final, long-term objective is to integrate women's perspectives in the wider field of the social sciences. In support of their argument, they point out that the Community action programme for equal opportunities for women and men 1982-85 adopted the same method.

NEW address: Women's Research Centre in Social Science, Adelgade 49,
1304 Copenhagen

F R A N C E

Minister for Women's Rights Yvette Roudy has been made a full minister instead of "Minister responsible to the Prime Minister" in a recent reshuffle of the French Government. Commending her on her work since 1981, Prime Minister Laurent Fabius said on 8 March that the Ministry was not "disappearing", but being "promoted".

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

The general election in March 1986 is already keeping French politicians busy. As a member of the Socialist Party's Steering Committee, Yvette Roudy observed with some bitterness that members of the various political sub-groups and movements are already wheeler-dealing in smoke-filled back rooms, taking hardly any account of women's place on the lists of candidates. A recent reform of the French voting system means that women must be even more vigilant if they want to maintain or increase the number of women MPs in the next Chamber.

Speaking for women heads of households, the Fédération syndicale des Familles monoparentales (federation of single-parent families) has reacted vigorously to certain statements made by sociologist Evelyne Sullerot. In a recent report, she wrote: "Hardly has our society learnt to curb premature death and considerably reduce the proportion of orphans than it

creates artificial orphans by relieving fathers - and mothers - of a sense of responsibility. They often seem to accept all too readily that their child should in practice have no father; indeed, they sometimes opt for this course."

The Federation stresses that a child should still have both a father and a mother even if their relationship as partners has been destroyed by divorce or even death. A child has a right to both its parents, whatever their status. It is a recognized fact that a child needs a positive image of its family for its untraumatic development. The Federation says that it wants to claim such recognition for single-parent families by calling for the reform of the family code, with the support of all family movements.

The Federation disputes Evelyne Sullerot's claim that assistance for single parents would encourage them to shirk their responsibilities.

Useful address: Fédération syndicale des familles monoparentales,
53 rue Riquet, 75019 Paris

More and more unemployed women are setting up their own businesses. Between 1981 and 1984, 18% to 20% of the 142,000 unemployed persons given assistance in setting up a business were women. Under the scheme, unemployed persons are paid 6 months of their unemployment benefit in a lump sum.

Women have been receiving a smaller grant (14,900 francs) than men (21,600 francs), and their decision to start a business usually comes later (after 9 months' unemployment) than men's (after 6 months on average).

In most cases, women launch new businesses (66% of cases in the second half of 1982) but a high proportion take over an existing business (21%); it is still higher if one includes those taking over businesses in liquidation (6%). Some women have also set themselves up in the professions. Is it courage or inexperience? More women than men take over existing businesses: 21% as against 13%.

The businesses that women set up are essentially in "retailing" (39% in 1982) or in "services" (35%) but a number of women do invest in manufacturing (21%) and even the building industry (4%).

More than 80% of businesses set up by women are still going after a year. The failure rate is higher in retailing than the manufacturing (11%) or service industries (15%) but generally firms set up by women are just as sound as those established by men in the same sectors, even though they have received less initial capital.

Useful address: Citoyennes à part entière, Edition-diffusion CNIDF,
4 rue Bayard, 75008 Paris

Women from the Antilles are the central feature of a special issue of the review, Nouvelles Questions Féministes (new feminist questions), no. 9-10/85, edited and coordinated by Arlette Gautier. She is the author of a work entitled Les soeurs de solitude (sisters of solitude), a history of women in the French West Indies from 1635 to 1848, to be published soon by Editions Caribéennes (5 rue Lallier, 75009 Paris).

The special issue of Nouvelles Questions Féministes opens with a pertinent observation: feminism is still largely white; the voices of black feminism have not made themselves heard or have not been listened to. Many articles in this 200-page issue attempt to make up for lost time: sociological studies, women's accounts of their own experiences, a historical analysis of the role of women in the September 1870 Martinique uprising, a study

of relations between slaves and their masters, etc. At only 70 francs, a real discovery.

Useful address: Nouvelles Questions Féministes, 34 Passage du Ponceau, 75002 Paris

An association of women restaurant owners and cooks (Association des restauratrices cuisinières - ARC) claims and proves that there are many women in the world of "haute cuisine". Not all chefs are male: ARC already has about a hundred members.

Useful address: Gisèle Crouzier, ARC, 5 Place Moltu, Chaumont-sur-Tharonne, 41600 Lamotte-Beuvron

G E R M A N Y

Family allowances are to be increased to DM.46 for the first child, almost double the present amount. Addressing the Bundesrat (Federal Senate), Family Affairs Minister Heiner Geissler explained that the new family policy is intended to be social, fair and of benefit to children. There will be tax incentives to encourage larger families: households with dependent children will pay considerably less tax than childless families. In all, an extra 10 thousand million marks will be allocated to family policy from 1 January 1986.

Family allowances will not, however, be increased across the board. High-income families will receive a smaller allowance than low-income families.

Useful address: Pressedienst des Bundesministers für Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit, Kennedyallee 105-107, 5300 Bonn 2

Feminism and socialism do not automatically go together but they do mutually complement each other. This is the main conclusion of the Young Socialists women's conference, the first of its kind to be organized by JUSO. It sharply criticized Government policy, partly for treating legal marriage as the only acceptable form of cohabitation.

Young women Socialists feel that political structures, including their own party, are still not accessible enough to women and argue that the only acceptable proportion of women in party bodies is 50%. According to JUSO's national president Gabriele Schwietering, the men who control the German Social Democrat Party do not pay enough attention to women's needs.

Useful address: Jungsozialisten in der SPD, Ollenhauerstrasse 1, Postfach 2280, 5300 Bonn 1

The Department of Women's Research and Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin (Independent University of Berlin) has been officially recognized by the governing board. Set up in 1981 for a four-year trial period, the department has had plenty of time to prove its worth, even though it only has three scientific researchers and one administrator.

Four papers were presented at a symposium in early July, one of which discusses the fate of unemployed women academics. A significant figure: in 1984, 45.6% of students but only 7.6% of teaching staff at the Freie Universität Berlin were women. The department decided to publish papers on women's scientific work in a series entitled "Ergebnisse der Frauenforschung" (women's research findings) in a bid to gain wider publicity for women's work. You do not have to be a registered student at the University

to submit work for the series. Useful address: Zentraleinrichtung zur Förderung von Frauenstudien und Frauenforschung an der Freien Universität Berlin, Königin-Luise-Strasse 34, 1000 Berlin 33

Contacts with Spain and Portugal are increasing. President of the Catalonian Christian Democrats Concepcio Ferrer y Casal was to be seen paying close attention to events during the day devoted to women at the CDU (Christian Democrat Union) national congress. Useful address: CDU Frauenvereinigung, Freidrich-Ebert-Strasse 73-75, 5300 Bonn 1

Aimed at the business world, a small practical guide to the advancement of women has recently been published and distributed by the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, thanks to the Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik (service responsible for women's policies). The guide was compiled by Camilla Kresbach-Gnath and Ina Schmid-Jörg of the Battelle Institute in the light of experience acquired during an inquiry into 26 companies. Its originality lies in the fact that it contains a series of blank tables that it is enlightening to compile. Businesses are asked to carry out their own review and assess the development of men's and women's salaries in each job category, comparing the figures for, say, 1974, 1983 and 1984.

Managers are very sensibly encouraged to compare not only costs but also the company's image, their staff's job motivation, internal training programmes, etc. To maintain the initial momentum it hopes to impart, the guide contains tables with empty columns for goals in 1985 and 1986. Various examples are given of ways of involving staff and/or their representatives in the company.

Useful address: Der Bundesminister für Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit, Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik, Postfach 20 04 90, 5300 Bonn 2

130 women local authority officials met in Ellwangen (Baden-Württemberg) to discuss the problems encountered by women who want to take an active part in local politics. Most women there had been elected on the independent lists of the traditional parties or on all-female lists.

The experience of women local authority officials shows that their election is often greeted with scepticism. Unjustified doubts are expressed as to their competence. Women are not only under-represented in local politics but also unwelcome to their male colleagues. Even in the traditional parties, women feel they have to be like "the average man". As soon as a woman shows that she has a mind of her own, difficulties appear. The very slow progress towards a more enlightened attitude explains why women involved in politics express solidarity across political boundaries. It has already been decided that the next meeting of women local authority officials will take place in Stuttgart in 1986.

Useful address: Gisela Mayer, Marktplatz, 7090 Ellwangen

The law on parental leave could come into effect in 1986, increasing the period of leave first to 10 months and then to 12 months from 1988. The allowance would be DM.600 per month. It is estimated that 300,000 parents (men or women) would request parental leave each year and their jobs would be guaranteed until the end of the leave period. This would mean that one-year contracts could be given to some 200,000 persons currently unemployed.

A woman at the Ministry for Family Affairs: in a letter addressed to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the President of Deutscher Frauenrat (German women's council) Irmgard Blattel has urged that a woman be appointed as Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs and Health, should the post become vacant. Useful address: Deutscher Frauenrat, Südstrasse 125, 5300 Bonn 2

"Frauenpress" (women's press) is a firmly established women's information agency founded by three women journalists in December 1982. Their first newsletter was sent to 240 editorial offices and aroused a response from 180 of them, a surprising figure. Jutta Brinkman, Cornelia Benninghoven and Ingrid Rieskamp work 60 hours a week. They received financial assistance from the European Commission to set up the press.
Useful address: Frauenpress, Postfach 4025, 4400 Munster

G R E E C E

Only 12 women MPs (13 in the previous term) were elected to run a 300-seat Parliament in the last general election. Women were noticeably active in the election campaign, but women candidates were generally badly placed on the lists of candidates. A recent reform prevented voters from voting for a named candidate, and this influenced the order of names on the lists put forward by the parties. It should also be pointed out that the date of the election was brought forward (it was to be in October), and women were taken by surprise and did not have time to lobby the political parties for a fairer deal for women candidates.

Some women's organizations unattached to any political party such as Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas (league for women's rights) and Aftonomi Kinisi Gynekon (autonomous women's movement) sounded a public cry of alarm.

Of the women elected, 8 are members of the Socialist Party (which is in government) and 4 are in opposition: 2 members of Nea Dimocratia (new democracy), 1 Communist and 1 non-attached.

Useful addresses: Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas, Assklipiou 26, 106 79 Athens; Aftonomi Kinisi Gynekon, Methonis 66, 106 83 Athens

Rural women are to benefit from a special childbirth allowance as from 1 May 1985. The bonus, which is in addition to an allowance for the first few months after the birth of a child, will be 50,000 drachmas (about 500 ECU) per child, in compliance with article 78 of law 1541/85 proposed by the Ministry of Health and Social Security.

The debate on the legalization of abortion continues in Greece. The Panhellenic medical association organized the first public discussion of the subject, during which every shade of opinion was expressed. The carefully phrased remarks made by all the speakers show how delicate a subject it is. The debate itself proved that there was a general desire to go to the heart of the issue without engaging in confrontation. There was agreement as to the need to inform people better and to develop family planning services throughout the country. Both the fervent anti-abortionists and those in favour of legalization share the same concern about population trends in Greece, where the birth rate is declining steadily.

Sexual equality in education is the subject that attracted more than 400 people to a conference in Thessalonica, organized by Symvoulío Isotitas ton Dio Filon (council for sexual equality) and attended by the Education Minister. The main conclusions of the conference were that: it is a matter of urgency to inform teachers on sexual equality by arranging crash courses at regional or even local level; it is imperative to review school textbooks which are still full of sexist clichés; and it would be a good idea to review the concepts underlying children's toys and children's radio and television programmes. It is also essential to encourage discussion between students of opposite sexes to help remove prejudice. Useful address: Symvoulío Isotitas ton Dio Filon, Mousseou 2, Plaka, 105 55 Athens

Three countrywomen's cooperatives have been singled out at the Filoxenia exhibition in Thessalonica, held under the auspices of the Greek Tourist Office. These tourist cooperatives were set up by Symvoulio Isotitas ton Dio Filon (Equality Council) with the help of regional and local authorities. The women were trained in crafts, cooking fresh and simple but good quality food, revitalizing local tradition and the art of hospitality - the essentials of a tourist industry - by the Tourist Office with the support of ELKEPA (Greek productivity centre). Several authorities combined to convert old buildings into accommodation for holiday-makers.

The three cooperatives are at Petra (Island of Lesbos), Mastichohoria (Chios) and Ambelakia (Thessaly).

I R E L A N D

Equal opportunities in education: there has been marked progress in Ireland over the past few years. Very soon after her appointment as Education Minister in December 1982, Gemma Hussey could back up her efforts with a comprehensive report entitled "Sex Differences in Subject Provision and Student Choice in Irish Post-Primary Schools".

Produced by the Economic and Social Research Institute headed by Professor Damian Hannan, the report describes the scale, nature and causes of sex differences in the Irish school system.

In March 1984, the Education Ministry set up a working group on which all administration divisions are represented. The group coordinates all equal opportunities measures planned or introduced by the Ministry. It has been very meticulous: in public examinations, for example, examiners will no longer be able to identify a candidate's sex from the code number at the top of the examination paper.

In the same spirit, the Ministry has decided to adopt most of the rules set out by the International Reading Association with a view to eliminating sex stereotyping in school materials. Further thought has been given to teacher training to ensure that the teachers of tomorrow display no form of sexism in the classroom. Courses are suggested to help the teachers of today achieve a better balance between the sexes.

It has been observed with pleasure that 58% and 76% of teachers taking refresher courses in physics and chemistry respectively in 1984 were women. A special effort has been made by the Ministry to encourage both girls and boys to opt for mathematics, physics and chemistry: between 1981 and 1984, there was a 51%, 52% and 25% increase respectively in the number of sixth-formers taking these subjects.

New teacher promotion procedures have been introduced. Selection committees must have at least one representative of each sex. Their attention has been drawn to the law on equal opportunities at work and they have been reminded that candidates for promotion may not be asked any question, nor may any information be sought, which might be discriminatory on the grounds of sex or marital status.

Useful address: Minister for Education, Oifig An Aire Oideachais
Dublin 1

"Irish Women - Agenda for Practical Action" is the title of a 400-page report recently launched by the Minister of State for Women's Affairs and Family Law Reform, Nuala Fennell. For over two years she has been working with an interdepartmental working party to produce this comprehensive review of the areas in which action is still needed to achieve equality.

The main findings of the report are that:

- all funding bodies should review the conditions of entry to enterprise schemes, with particular regard to the difficulties faced by women;
- the Industrial Development Agency should devote special attention to the needs of women in industrial jobs and give special help to women returning to employment;
- there should be a substantial increase in the maternity grant to encourage pregnant women to make better use of antenatal services;
- there should be recognition, in the form of direct payment, for those taking care of aged relatives, and more leeway should be given to single parents to earn money to supplement their State allowances.

Useful address: Office of Women's Affairs, Department of the Taoiseach,
Merrion Street, Dublin 2

Over half of Ireland's unmarried mothers are aged under 20, according to statistics on the birth rate for the third quarter of 1984. Out of a total of 16,155 births in that period, 7.9% were to unmarried women. The Council for the Status of Women, whose new chairwoman is Audrey Dickson of Gingerbread, has called for special help for young unmarried mothers.

Useful addresses: Council for the Status of Women
64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2
Central Statistics Office, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

£4,000 compensation could be paid to a woman if she is judged to have been the victim of unjustified discrimination. At least this was the award recommended by the Equality Officer in one case. A woman temporarily employed in a Dublin television showroom to discourage lunchtime robberies by young delinquents had not been told about a permanent vacancy, as her employer wanted to take on a man. Jobs, however, can only be reserved for a particular sex if they are listed under the Act as jobs for which the employee's sex is an occupational qualification.

Useful address: Department of Labour, Mespil Road, Dublin 4

An Irish Customs Officer who was taken off mobile patrol duty because she was pregnant has won a sex discrimination case against the Revenue Commissioners, even though the Equality Officer investigating the case accepted that she was transferred because her immediate superiors were genuinely concerned about the health risk to her unborn child.

The Equality Officer concluded that a male employed by the Commissioners would not have been transferred against his wishes, contrary to his own doctor's opinion. The treatment afforded to the woman complainant because of an exclusively female condition constituted discrimination on grounds of sex. It was recommended that she be paid the mobile officer's allowance of £262.67 which she would have earned had she stayed on patrol duty.

Divorce is still banned under the Irish Constitution. A 16-member parliamentary committee set up to look into marriage and the consequences of its breakdown has recommended a referendum on the ban. The matter will not be debated in full Parliament until the autumn.

I T A L Y

Equality for men and women in language, the media and education was the threefold theme of a seminar arranged by the Commissione Nazionale per la realizzazzione della parità fra uomo e donna (national committee for parity between men and women). With its wealth of literature and theatre in which man has always displayed himself to the best advantage, can Italian culture discard stereotypes? Language and the media reflect deeply ingrained tradition, and change will inevitably be slow. Hopes are being pinned on education. A close, hard look at school textbooks and a rethinking of the training of tomorrow's teachers are obvious steps on the long path that still lies ahead.

During the debate, speakers stressed what seems to be the most serious danger: that women might try to ape male roles, whereas by their nature they have very specific qualities to draw upon and put to valuable use.

Useful address Commissione Nazionale per la realizzazzione della parità fra uomo e donna, Presidenza del Consiglio, Palazzo Chigi, Rome

Essay subjects set in the Italian language paper for the "maturità" examination (the equivalent of A-levels) often reflect issues of topical concern in Italian society. The three themes tackled by boys and girls this year were: "society is torn by everyday violence"; "Metternich's and Mazzini's concepts of Europe"; and "the image of women in Italian literature in the romantic age".

Women unionists in the Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (the largest federation of trade unions, essentially the Communist and Socialist unions) have had a chance to meet at a national seminar devoted to women and new technology. How can working hours be adjusted to give people time to lead their own lives? Do working methods perpetuate class divisions? Have women a viewpoint of their own on information technology? Has new technology led to new work-related illnesses and, if so, what can be done to prevent them? There is no ready answer to questions as serious as these, but at least women clearly want to investigate them in depth.

Within CGIL, the central body FILCEA is particularly alert to women's problems. Its journal, "Formula 80", for instance, recently devoted a whole issue (3/85) to women's status. When women are brought into the picture it still causes great tension, even in union circles. But the journal takes a clear, frank look at what is going on today and does not dismiss the idea that society is being "translated into the feminine", in other words is changing because of the specific influence of women.

Useful addresses: Coordinamento Femminile CGIL, Via Po 21, Rome
Formula 80, FILCEA-CGIL, Via Bolzano 16, 00198 Rome

In the May provincial and regional elections, women candidates standing on the Communist party ticket scored particularly well, increasing their number of seats on regional councils from 40 to 48 and on provincial councils from 88 to 108. Lalla Trupia, member of the Communist Party steering committee with special responsibility for women's affairs, points out that women candidates today are of higher calibre. The campaign that took as its slogan "donna vota donna" (women vote for women) probably made its mark on women voters as well.

Useful address: Donne e Politica, Via Botteghe Oscure 4, 00186, Rome

Who's that man? He lives in Rome, he produces and distributes - all on his own - a bulletin entitled "Women & Men" sub-titled with the phrase in twelve languages. He has so many ideas (some disarmingly simple) that he was invited to Geneva for International Women's Day. A former international civil servant, Raymond Lloyd has a simple aim: to encourage men to share in the progress being made by women.

In a field with which he is very familiar - governments and international organizations - Raymond Lloyd puts hard-hitting questions: over the past three years, the director of UNICEF and the High Commissioner for Refugees have been men and, what is more, they have been kept on in those jobs after the retirement age of 60, although there is no lack of competent women and most of the people with which both institutions are concerned are women. Why?

With admirable regularity, Raymond Lloyd draws up a list of women who are undeniably be capable of taking on high-level jobs in international bodies, and also lists positions about to fall vacant. It is a sort of data bank for women's benefit, created by a man who deserves to be more widely known.

Useful address: Women & Men, Raymond Lloyd, 10 Piazza Albania, 00153 Rome

An informal survey of great interest has been conducted by the Consiglio Nazionale delle Donne Italiane (national Italian women's council) at the time of the European elections last year. Its findings have now been made public as a result of analytical work by Nicola D'Innocenza. A vast majority of women (90%) are in favour of revising the treaties that set up the European Community with the main aims of improving the running of its institutions and the political integration of Member States and giving more power to European Parliament.

It seems that women are looking for a "qualitative leap". They complain of not being given enough information on European integration.

Useful address: CNDI, c/o Maria Sofia Lanza Spagnoletti
Segretaria Generale, Piazza dei Quiriti 3, 00192, Rome

Vivere assieme - "living together" - is the title of a radio programme produced by the Centro Riabilitazione Mastectomizzate (centre for the rehabilitation of women who have undergone mastectomy) in conjunction with the Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro i tumori (Italian league for the campaign against tumours) and the Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (Italian cancer research association).

Every Monday the programme goes out on the regional station, "Rete Europe" (network Europe). Personal stories, hints and formal medical advice: it contains everything one needs to know about a problem that every woman may have to face up to some day.

Useful address: Centro Nazionale Riabilitazione Mastectomizzate
Via Udine 6, Trieste

Women's liberation archives. Thousands of documents are now held by the Centro di Studi Storici sul Movimento di Liberazione della Donna in Italia (centre for historical research on the women's liberation movement in Italy). Undoubtedly the largest of its kind, the Milan centre was the prime mover in a major international seminar on women's documentation centre organization and archiving methods. One recent project has been documentary research in Lombardy entitled "from the feminist movement to widespread feminism". The Centre is open to the public, as it is housed in the Feltrinelli Foundation library.

Useful address: Centro di Studi Storici sul Movimento di Liberazione della Donna in Italia, Via Romagnosi 3, Milan

L U X E M B O U R G

The Conseil National des Femmes Luxembourgeoises (CNFL - Luxembourg National Women's Council) has just celebrated its tenth anniversary. Founded with the aim of bringing together under a single umbrella all the women's associations of the Grand Duchy, whatever their political leanings or occupations, the Council can claim to have achieved its objective, as it now includes ten associations: 5 affiliated to political parties and 5 others.

Council President Sanny Carmes can note with satisfaction that her organization represents "a very wide range of women in Luxembourg, working together to advance women's interests".

The rights and duties of husbands and wives, protection of maternity, laws on abortion and divorce: the Council's field of action has been vast. Not until 1980 was the Council given the right to be represented on the Comité du Travail Féminin (Committee on women's work) where, as a committee member, it could enter into discussions with government bodies.

A welcome present for a joyful anniversary: the Minister for Family Affairs has agreed in principle to grant funds for setting up and running a hostel for battered women and children. The home will be opened "somewhere" in the south of the country and will be run by the Council. Useful address: Conseil National des Femmes Luxembourgeoises, BP 160, Luxembourg

When the wife drinks, runs an old saying, the roof burns - "une femme qui boit, c'est le toit de la maison qui brûle". The problem of women alcoholics has been discussed at length by Laure Charpentier, author of Toute honte bue (all shame drunk), published by Editions Denoël in 1981, guest-speaker of the Mouvement luxembourgeois pour Planning Familial (Luxembourg family planning movement).

One of the main difficulties in treating women alcoholics stems from the fact that a huge majority are secret drinkers. Friends and relations are not really concerned and even when they are the bad habit takes some time to come to light.

Useful address: Alcooliques Anonymes à Luxembourg, BP 2642, Luxembourg

Elderly women have special social problems, both because they are women and because they are elderly. This fact is stressed by the "Eurolink-Age" association, whose ambition is to organize solidarity among the elderly throughout the Community. There is a marked tendency to forget that women who have now reached retiring age began their lives under entirely different social and cultural conditions and have been only marginally involved in all the social progress made over the past ten years. Furthermore, the image of elderly women conveys a set of derogatory connotations in our society and labels such as "old bag" and "poor old dear" are attached to them. The meeting organized by Eurolink-Age with the help of the European Commission provided an opportunity to draw up a whole catalogue of advice, demands and recommendations aimed at both the European and national authorities and elderly women themselves. Useful address: Age Concern, Bernard Sudley House, 60 Pitcairn Road, Mitchum CR4 3LL

A petition has been launched by Fraegrupp Amazonen (Amazon group) calling for contraceptives in Luxembourg to be funded out of the health service, as is the case in France, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, to mention only Member States of the European Community. Useful address: Fraegrupp Amazonen, Centre des Jeunes de Luxembourg, 1 place des Bains, Luxembourg

N E T H E R L A N D S

Ten years of emancipation policy in the Netherlands (tien jaar Emancipatiebeleid in Nederland) is the title of a report prepared by the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs as a working document for Dutch participation in the third UN world conference on women in Nairobi. It covers such matters as anti-discrimination laws, policy on subsidy for social emancipation, positive action to improve women's status. The report surveys progress in the Netherlands: the number of women employed in the public sector and police has increased. Employment policy is being geared to a reorganization of working hours and helping women to combine outside jobs with their work in the home. Opinion surveys reveal that women's situation in the Netherlands has altered in a number of areas. Ten years ago, 80% of the population thought that women were best suited to bringing up children, but only 55% still hold this view. Another significant example is that 60% of the Dutch population is in favour of husband and wife sharing household chores equally. The proportion of women wanting to work outside the home is now 41%. Yet, despite everything, women do three-quarters of the unpaid work but hold less than a quarter of paid jobs. Only 0.5% of women, as against 3.3% of men, are in managerial posts. Useful address: Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, Zeestraat 73, The Hague

Nederlandse Vrouwenraad (Dutch women's council) is also celebrating its tenth anniversary. The Council is a pillar of strength for a large and influential women's movement. It recently organized the "Projekt Nederland-Nairobi" (Netherlands-Nairobi Project) conference and has produced a comprehensive dossier on the subject "women". Useful address: Nederlandse Vrouwenraad, Laan van Meerdervoort 30, 2517 The Hague

Married women will now have the right to a pension under the AOW (Algemene Ouderdomswet: general law on pensions), as a result of the third EEC directive. The pension, to which they were not previously entitled, will be back-dated to 1 January 1985. At 65, the pension is 50% of the minimum wage (at present, 782.08 guilders gross per month). For a pensioner, man or woman, living with a partner under 65, the amount may be up to 1,564,16 guilders, depending on the partner's income (which is used as the basis for calculating the pension). This provision will not, however, be implemented until 1 April 1988.

Useful address: Ombudsvrouw, Postbus 18520, 2502 The Hague

Nemesis is a publication devoted to women and the law. The magazine contains information, theoretical and historical articles, interviews and literary reviews. Each of the six issues a year looks at legislation, case law and legal aid. Among the subjects covered in recent issues are marriage, equal treatment, the family, feminist law theory and Nemesis and the swan.

Useful address: Nemesis, Stichting Ars Aequi,
Postbus 1043, 6501 BA Nijmegen

The individual insurance scheme covering the incapacity to work discriminates against women. They pay higher premiums, receive less compensation, have to state their marital status, are not covered in pregnancy or the post-natal period or for the inability to work resulting from pregnancy or post-natal complications: these are the findings of a study carried out by the Vrouwenstudies (women's studies) section of Amsterdam University's Faculty of Economics at the request of Emancipatieraad (emancipation council). Of the 37 insurance companies questioned, 15 apply the "huisvrouwenclausule" (housewife clause), which applies to married women who are unable

to work for a year and who therefore forfeit their original occupational status.

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

Home-help... and then?: The booklet "Alphahelpster... en dan?" focusses on some 38,000 women in the Netherlands who act as home-helps, mainly to elderly people. The booklet is for the home-helps themselves and the institutions and foundations with which they are registered. It has been produced jointly by Leidse Wetenschapswinkel (Leiden science shop), Stichting Ombudsvrouw (arbitration body) and Komitee Waakzame Vrouwen in de Gezinszorg (family help committee) and outlines all the legal and tax aspects of being a home-help. It also publishes the true experiences of home-helps whose jobs are currently under threat. Useful address: De Wetenschapswinkel, Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden, Kloksteeg 25, 2311 Leiden

A "women and work shop" has recently opened in Rotterdam, called Vrouwen Werkwinkel. It is aimed at women wanting to create their own businesses and offers advice and help on specific problems.

Useful address: Vrouwen- en Werkwinkel, Mauritsweg 48, 3012 JW Rotterdam

"Women, history and sexuality" is the theme chosen by Landelijk Overleg Vrouwengeschiedenis (regional council on women's history) for a one-day seminar to be held in October 1985. With this in mind, the Council would like to make contact with anybody interested in the subject.

Useful address: Landelijk Overleg Vrouwengeschiedenis, Postbus 15002, 1001 MA Amsterdam

"The world upside down" - De omgekeerde wereld - is the title of a study by the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs recently presented to the lower house, the Tweede Kamer, by Ms Kappeyne van de Coppello, Secretary of State for emancipation. It is a bibliography of Dutch and foreign reports analysing sexual aggression against children within the family. Very little is known about the extent, nature, motives and side-effects of the problem, and this study will be followed by other inquiries into the subject.

Useful address: Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, Postbus 20801, The Hague

The problem of Diethylstilbestrol (a drug given to pregnant women to prevent miscarriage) is still controversial. The medical side-effects of DES only became apparent years after its use. Recent studies have shown that the daughters of women given DES run double the risk of suffering cancer of the uterus and it would also appear, 22 years later, that the mothers themselves are twice as susceptible to breast cancer. The World Health Organization is warning of the danger arising in developing countries.

Useful address: Stichting DES-Aktiegroep, Maliesingel 46, 3581 Utrecht

Het Halve Werk (half-work) is a collective making children's clothes: cheap, ready-to-sew and easy to make. The five women in the collective were the first to take advantage of regulations making it easier for women to set up in business. Introduced by State Secretary Ms Kappeyne van de Coppello, an interest-free loan of up to 50,000 guilders is available.

Useful address: Het Halve Werk, Karnemelksloot 135, Gouda

UNITED KINGDOM

"A woman's place is in the world": the neat campaign slogan launched by the Scottish Action Group gained the obvious approval of the 67 associations gathering in Edinburgh in late June for a meeting arranged by the Equal Opportunities Commission. The meeting provided an opportunity to examine the way in which Community directives on equality are being applied in Scottish society.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission, Scottish Regional Office
249 West George Street, Glasgow G2 4QE

The European Court of Human Rights has found that British 1980 rules on immigration are in breach of article 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights in that they discriminate against women. The matter was raised by three wives from Malawi, the Philippines and Egypt. All are legally resident in the UK, but this does not entitle them to bring in their husbands. Under British rules, foreign husbands with residency rights may be joined by their wives, but not vice versa. The wives' appeal was upheld by the Strasbourg Court, whose judgment will now be studied by the Home Office. Revised legislation may benefit 3,000 husbands hoping to join their wives in Britain.

Under a social security reform outlined by Norman Fowler, Secretary for Social Services, men and women may be entitled to the same occupational and personal pensions at the same age. Life assurance companies, whose figures are based on a century of actuarial experience, have treated men more favourably than women up to now. Mr Fowler insists that unisex rates should be quoted in the future.
Useful address: Department of Health and Social Security
Alexander Fleming House, London SE1 6BY

270 seamstresses at Ford factories at Dagenham and Halewood came out on strike for six weeks last year for the status of skilled workers. An independent assessment upheld their claim and they have now received a pay rise of £7 and recognition of their skilled status. A happy end to a battle waged for the past 17 years!

Most pedestrians are women. A survey, the first of its kind in Britain, by the Greater London Council has shown that more than half of women walk all the way to wherever they are going every day. Research shows that at least once a week 88% of women go shopping, 53% go on social and entertainment trips, 42% go to paid work and 70% escort children. Women prefer to travel by bus (52%) rather than by underground (18%) and British Rail (8%). Even so, they point out that the design of the traditional London bus is not ideal for a person struggling on with a pram or shopping bags, despite help from conductors. Women are worried about transport facilities at night, and 78% prefer not to go out on their own at all after dark.

Dave Wetzel, who chairs the GLC Transport Committee, feels that the survey findings should have a impact on the planning of public transport in London and elsewhere, for it reveals a large potential market and the concerns of users. [The Conservative Government intends to abolish the intermediate tier of local government represented by the Greater London Council and other city councils.]

Useful address: Greater London Council, Press Office
The County Hall, London SE1 7PB

City Centre is an invaluable solution to the needs of office workers in London. It is a resource centre providing meeting rooms, a library, advice and a place to read or have a bite of lunch in peace. The idea was so good that in May the office had to move to larger premises.

Irene Hamilton and four other staff members provide an information and advice service to individual callers. The Centre is starting research on the employment conditions of secretaries in Central London and on health hazards for people working at a computer screen. It will also be looking at recruitment practices in City firms with a view to encouraging black people and ethnic minorities to take jobs there. In the same way, it will be launching a research project on temporary workers in the summer.

The City Centre is being funded by the Greater London Council until June 1986.

Useful address: City Centre, 32/35 Featherstone Street (2nd floor)
London EC1

14 Hull women fish packers have won an equal claim before an industrial tribunal. Comparing their work to that of a male labourer in the same firm, they proved they were doing "work of equal value" and now receive an extra £5.82 in their weekly pay packets.

Led by Debra Wells, the fish packers were backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission and Transport & General Workers Union official Peter Allen, well known for his active support for women fighting for better wages. The struggle has been helped by the amended legislation on equal pay for "work of equal value" rather than "equal work". He expects that the victory won by Debra Wells and her colleagues will improve the pay of 200-300 women in the Hull area alone.

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

Steve Shirley is a dynamic employer of 1,000 people working from home, most of them women and half of them with small children. With a turnover of over £7 million, her firm, F. International, is one of the largest independent computing consultancy and software companies. Almost all her employees are highly trained women, and all are well paid. They must work a minimum of 20 hours a week, but their computing can be done at times that fit in with their home responsibilities. Teams work together on projects under a project manager; communication is by telephone rather than office meetings.

Useful address: Steve Shirley, F. International, Berkhamstead, Bucks.

Smoke gets in your eyes: the nostalgic refrain is used as the title of a report commissioned by the British Medical Association from Dr. Bobby Jacobson and Dr. Amanda Amos on women's magazines and their policies on tobacco advertising.

Out of 53 magazines, only one third refuses tobacco advertising. The remaining two thirds are in breach of the tobacco industry's voluntary agreement with the Government, which aims to prevent the exposure of young people to a glamorized image of cigarette smoking. The report claims that at least a million non-smokers in the 15-24 age group are being exposed to "hard sell" tobacco advertising. The Tobacco Advisory Council, however, claims that no advertisements have appeared in publications where the majority - or even a 20% minority - of readers are known to be under 18.

Useful address: BMA, Tavistock House, London WC1

RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

English lessons designed for women are being offered by the Canterbury English Studies Association. An original feature is that the course is given by women for women, taking everyday language as its material. Videos and tape recordings are used and the focus is on themes such as women in the cinema, in history and at work. The course is tailored to women's purses: £90 a week, to include accommodation with a family.

Useful address: C.E.S., 21 Monastery Street, Canterbury, Kent, England

What do Portuguese women think? If you are interested, you should read the Boletim of the Comissão da Condição Feminina (the equal opportunities committee bulletin). Issue 3/4-84, for example, is on women's image in advertising. With facts, figures and amusing illustrations, the bulletin takes an in-depth look at the issues and introduces us to those who are about to be our partners.

Useful address: Comissão da Condição Feminina
Av. da República 32 - 2 Esq. 1000 Lisbon

ASTREA is the title of a new series launched by publishers Aldo Martello-Giunti, whose general editor is Roberta Mazzanti. Autobiographies, essays and fiction - no type of writing is ruled out. The editor would like to contact translators in other countries for the books she is to publish and people who have interesting books for publication in Italy.

Useful address: ASTREA, Roberta Mazzanti, Giunti Martello Edizioni
Via Scipione Ammirato 37, 50136 Florence

Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas - the Greek league for women's rights - is offering a 100,000 drachma grant (about 1,000 ECUs) towards research on the effects of the women's movement on political life. In the same spirit, a prize of 30,000 drachma will be awarded to the best university thesis on "TV programmes and female stereotypes". Another prize already exists, and it is a good idea: the P. Paleologue award for the journalist (man or woman) whose articles or radio or TV programmes most effectively and accurately present the question of equality for men and women.

Useful address: Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas
Asklipiou 26, 10679 Athens

Women in Management Review is a new quarterly whose aim is to help women managers in their everyday life and gain recognition for women's managerial talents. Published by Anbar Management Publications in association with the Equal Opportunities Commission. Annual subscription: £25 or (outside UK) £40.

Useful address: Women in Management Review, PO Box 23, Wembley HA9 BDJ

La Cité Européenne by Prof. Henri Brugmans is the first of a series of the same title, to be published by Presses Universitaires Européennes. Co-founder and first president of the Union Européenne des Fédéralistes, Brugmans offers no solutions but launches a debate with courage and clarity. He shows that today's great controversial issues now have a "European dimension": if they are not tackled on a European scale they will never be solved. In the end, he argues, a genuine "European power" must be created. 180 pages, 10 ECUs.

Useful address: Presses Universitaires Européennes
Postbus 1190, 6202 BD Maastricht

Women in the home: a generous bibliography has been produced on the subject for Centrum voor Bevolkings en Gesinsstudiën (centre for population and family research).

Useful address: C.B.G.S., Dienst Publicaties (Mevr. J. Degraef)
Nijverheidstraat 35-37, 1040 Brussels

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Tel.: 239 04 41

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