

# Women of Europe

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## OUR CORRESPONDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY:

Belgium	Nanette Nannan, 33 rue E. Bouillot, bte 9, 1060 Brussels
Denmark	Danske Kvinder Nationalraad, N. Hemmingsensgade 8, 1153 Copenhagen
France	Jeanne Chaton, 43 ave. Ernest Reyer, 75014 Paris
Germany	Christa Randzio-Plath, Hadermans Weg 23, Hamburg 61
Greece	Effi Kalliga-Kanonidou, 10 Neofytou Douka, 106 74 Athens
Ireland	Yvonne Murphy, 19 Palmerston Park, Dublin 6
Italy	Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, Piazza di Spagna 51, 00187 Rome
Luxembourg	Alix Wagner, 7 rue Henri Frommes, 1545 Luxembourg
Netherlands	Patricia Niedzwiecki, 47 rue de Roumanie, 1060 Brussels
United Kingdom	Peggy Crane, 12 Grove Park Road, Chiswick, London W4
European Parliament	Lidya Gazzo, Alexanderstrasse 22, Stuttgart

Production: J.A. Pirlot

Editor: **Fausta Deshormes La Valle**  
 Women's Information Service  
 Directorate General for Information  
 Commission of the European Communities  
 200 Rue de la Loi  
 1049 Brussels

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<p>THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY</p>
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WOMEN OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL: "OPERATION WELCOME"

Between 9 and 15 February 1986, five women's delegations from Spain and Portugal will each visit two Member States of the European Community before gathering to compare notes in Brussels, where they will be welcomed by the European Commission.

Each delegation will include women who have created a name for themselves by their energy, creativity and sense of responsibility.

In each country they visit, the delegations will be received by government officials, visit equal opportunities agencies and meet women Members of European Parliament. An extremely important aspect of the visits is that the delegations will have the opportunity to meet women and women's organizations in each country.

The impression given by the preparations is that the visits will be marked by joy and gravity: joy at the thought of ever increasing solidarity and the gravity of a clear, full and forthright discussion of women's problems and achievements in societies which are so similar and yet so different.

During a press conference at the end of each visit, there will be searching interviews and long discussions centring on the benefits reaped from the visit and current social developments in Spain and Portugal as seen by each visitor.

Women's organizations in the Ten European Community countries had hoped for a practical, productive welcoming gesture. This visit, during which Spanish and Portuguese women will be briefed and welcomed, is the answer to their prayers. It is up to us to make it a success.

Women of Europe

### Recognition of diplomas

The European Commission has submitted a directive establishing a general system for the recognition of higher education diplomas to the Council of Ministers.

The draft directive proposes radical changes. Up to now, experts in the various Member States have had to engage in prolonged, complicated discussions to agree the minimal subject content of studies leading to certain professions. Once an agreement had been reached, people with approved diplomas were entitled to practise their profession throughout the Community. This is how the regulations covering doctors, vets, dentists and architects were drawn up, and the same method is to be applied to pharmacists, whose case is still under discussion.

The European Commission's proposal represents a new approach in that it is based on the idea of mutual trust: if a person is officially recognized as being capable of practising a profession in one Member State, he or she would automatically be entitled to practise that profession throughout the Community.

The new proposal covers professionals such as surveyors, accountants, solicitors, physiotherapists, opticians and psychologists. The assumption in implementing the directive would be that standards of higher education are comparable in all Member States. The European Commission is counting on close cooperation among national authorities in assessing and defining professional skills as testified by higher education diplomas in a spirit of mutual trust.

Not all university degrees would be recognized as of equivalent value. In every field, some universities are more prestigious, dynamic and advanced than others. Part of the proposal is the creation of a Community-wide network providing information on the professions to which access is regulated and on the degrees and diplomas leading to those professions. If there are significant differences between one country and another (regarding, for example, the length of study required), specified forms of practical experience may be taken into account instead.

Lord Cockfield, Vice-President of the European Commission and commissioner responsible for the intra-Community market, announced the proposal, saying that it would provide a new stimulus to the free movement of people and services within the European Community.

### Basic statistics

Eurostat publishes a paperback edition of "Basic statistics of the Community" every year. You do not have to be a mathematical genius to draw valuable information from this publication: its clear, colour-coded diagrams allow you to make a quick comparison of employment and unemployment trends, in the number of doctors and pharmacists or in the Community's demand for imported energy, not to mention agricultural production and the number of televisions, telephones and private cars. The statistics cover the European Community as a whole as well as each of its ten Member States by comparison with Spain, Portugal, the United States, Japan, Russia, Canada, etc.

The latest edition is available in seven languages from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 5 rue du Commerce, 2895 Luxembourg, and from all offices selling official EC publications.

### Equality at school

In a meeting chaired by Italian Minister of Education Franca Falcucci, the Community's Education Ministers adopted a resolution on equal opportunities for girls and boys at school. This is an important political move as it is the first time that all the Education Ministers have passed a resolution containing a working programme for this matter.

It will be recalled that Irish Education Minister Gemma Hussey organized a conference on equal opportunities for girls and boys at school in Brussels in November 1984 at which a number of recommendations were put forward. The resolution adopted by the Education Ministers may be seen as a continuation of that conference's work.

The action programme drawn up by the European Commission and approved by the Ministers of Education names the following four objectives:

- to ensure that girls and boys have an equal opportunity to enter any channel of general and technical education so that every child can develop his or her abilities to the full;
- to enable girls and boys to make education and career choices which give them all the same chances of employment and economic independence, ensuring that they make such choices at the appropriate times and for good reasons;
- to encourage girls and boys to make non-traditional choices and to complete their training so that they can gain access to a much wider range of jobs;
- to encourage girls to participate as much as boys in new, expanding areas such as information technology and biotechnology, in both their general education and their vocational training.

The action programme is divided into ten main points:

1. To make all those involved in education aware of the need to grant equal opportunities to girls and boys. The action programme is aimed at children, parents, school inspectors, headteachers, teacher trainers, teachers, education and careers advisors and local education authorities.
2. To use education and careers guidance to encourage girls and boys to make a wider range of career choices. Information, counselling and advisory services should be provided for all pupils throughout their school lives, particularly when they have to decide on their future course of studies.
3. To forge links between school and the outside world and working life, particularly when non-traditional female work is being promoted.
4. To create genuinely wider access for girls and boys to all vocational training options and give adequate support to youngsters making non-traditional career choices.
5. To introduce the issue and teaching of equal opportunities as a subject to teachers both in their initial training and during refresher training.
6. To improve coeducation in schools and colleges, encouraging girls as well as boys to take up technical and science options.
7. To allocate posts in the education system more evenly to men and women when recruiting, promoting and training staff.

8. To eliminate stereotypes that still exist in school textbooks and in all teaching, assessment and advisory material. This calls for close collaboration between publishers, teachers, the authorities and parents' associations.
9. To take specific action to help the most disadvantaged groups, particularly girls who are given very little encouragement by their families to continue their education and the children of migrant workers.
10. To take specific steps to promote equal opportunities programmes by, for example, encouraging schools to produce annual reports on the situation or revising statutory instruments (including ministerial circulars) to eliminate discrimination and stereotyping.

The resolution adopted by the Education Ministers also states that the European Commission will cooperate with teachers' associations at European level and with parents' associations. The Commission will also undertake to promote the principle of equality for girls and boys in all Community activities and policies connected with education, training and employment. It will take specific action to encourage a spirit of enterprise in boys and girls to ease the transition from school to working life.

The European Commission is also responsible for setting up a group of national officials responsible for equal opportunities for girls and boys in education and representatives of agencies involved in the question (education specialists, equal opportunities committees, etc). The group's task will be to pool Member States' experience and monitor the application of the action programme. The group will report on its work to the Education Committee which is responsible for submitting an initial report in two years' time.

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

The role of women in Third World development has been highlighted by the European Commission in a report to the Council of Ministers. Their spirit of mutual support and their practical knowledge are only two of the many arguments in favour of women's full involvement in decisions that concern their communities.

The European Commission feels that projects designed specifically for women tend to be too short-term, are "social" rather than economic and are inadequately funded. It points out a series of problems to be overcome: women have too few rights of ownership and too little access to education, training, improved technology and health care. Finally, it stresses that one aim of development aid policy must be to select more projects specifically for women while still maintaining an integrated approach and avoiding programmes which segregate women. The Council of Ministers acknowledged the report in its October meeting.

### Tax equality

It is pointless to talk about equal treatment for men and women while tax systems perpetuate both direct and indirect discrimination, says the Community's Economic and Social Committee.

This opinion, submitted to the Committee by Hedda Heuser (Germany, Non-attached Group), stresses that "current discrimination against the partner who earns less, who is usually the woman, will be eliminated only if earnings are assessed separately".

The Economic and Social Committee states that in no Member State should tax legislation ever make a value judgment of marital status; tax systems must remain completely neutral on such matters. It suggests adoption of the following points at European level as soon as possible:

- individual taxation, abandoning the principle of reciprocal liability for tax obligations;
- fair division of tax relief for dependents (children, old people, the disabled, etc.).

Useful address: Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities  
2 rue Ravenstein  
1000 Brussels

### Poverty

A new action programme to combat poverty within the Community has just been launched, with a budget of 25 million ECU over four years.

Apart from the traditional poverty of the elderly and homeless, the European Community is now experiencing a "new poverty", affecting not just the unprecedentedly large number of people who have been unemployed since the 1970s but also single-parent families, the many refugees taken in by Member States over the past five years and "returning migrants" who had emigrated in more prosperous days.

The Community is to give financial support to 61 action and research projects, approved and submitted to the European Commission by national authorities which will normally be responsible for half the cost. The Commission feels that these should not be one-off projects within individual countries but that coherent common action should be taken to combat poverty in the Community, and it is arranging an intensive exchange of information throughout the programme.

In early 1986, the Commission is to appoint a European research institute to coordinate and assess projects and to publicize their methods and results. The purpose is to draw the attention of all EC nationals to the poverty in which some of their fellow citizens live. One way of doing this is to provide better statistics.

Of the 61 projects accepted, 11 concern disadvantaged urban areas, 12 impoverished rural areas, 14 the unemployed, 7 the elderly, 8 single-parent families and 9 migrants.

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

September Session The European Summit held in Milan decided to convene an intergovernmental conference before embarking on a reform of the European treaties. This was one of the main points discussed as soon as European Parliament met after the summer recess. In adopting resolutions tabled by the Committee on Institutional Affairs (chaired by Altiero Spinelli), Parliament has already made it clear that it expects to be properly consulted throughout drafting and to be asked for its opinion on a possible final text. The assurances offered by the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of Ministers, which means to adopt a pragmatic approach, did not convince the majority of MEPs.

The most controversial debate of the September session was sparked off by German Socialist Jan Klinkenborg's report on the Commission's memorandum on air transport. The resolution was strongly criticized by independent airlines, which accused the MEP of allowing IATA (International Air Traffic Association) to dictate his findings.

Parliament could not arrive at a consensus on the measures the Ten (and even the Twelve) had decided to take against South Africa, because the Left did not feel that it could approve of what it saw as a very mealy-mouthed Centre-Right paper.

October Session (I) The first October plenary session was largely devoted to the development of new technology: eleven reports were discussed, including one by German Socialist Heinke Salisch on the effect of new technology on the employment of women. Once again Parliament stressed the need for adequate training for women: although the introduction of new technology involved certain risks, it also offered new job opportunities. Parliament also had a brief preliminary debate on the 1986 budget which had been adopted at its first reading by the Council of Ministers. The budget was criticized for not taking the consequences of enlargement fully into account.

October Session (II) Human Rights dominated the October session. Parliament adopted Richard Balfe's (UK, Labour) report which demanded the continued suspension of the European Parliament and Turkish Assembly interparliamentary delegation pending an improvement in the human rights situation in Turkey.

Also during the October session, Parliament adopted Dutch Socialist Ien van den Heuvel's report on human rights violations in the world, although its scope was narrowed by several Conservative amendments. Finally, Parliament gave its opinion of the Achille Lauro affair, the Italian liner sea-jacked by terrorists. Its condemnation of all such acts was extended to the "act of piracy" committed by the United States in the affair.

The drug situation in the Community is to be studied by a parliamentary committee of inquiry chaired by Marietta Giannakou-Koutsikou (Greece, EPP) who, at 34, is a specialist in neurology and psychiatry. Vera Squarcialupi (Italy, Communist), Eileen Lemass (Ireland, European Democratic Alliance) and Brigitte Heinrich (Germany, Green Party, member of the Rainbow Group) were elected vice-chairmen.



## 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 in Brussels on 17-18 September, MEPs exchanged views on the draft opinion on the abuse of human embryos and fetuses which had been prepared by Ursula Braun-Moser (Germany, EPP) for Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs.

The varied response to her letters to the ministers concerned with this vital issue in the Member States pointed to the need for harmonization, she said. Although the matter does not come under the jurisdiction of European Parliament but is governed by the national laws of Member States, the rapporteur felt that every effort should be made to make women aware of the consequences of this use of human embryos and fetuses (by, for example, the cosmetics industry) since it involves respect for human life.

Eileen Lemass (Ireland, European Democratic Alliance) has drafted an opinion for the Social Affairs Committee, which is concerned with the lot of the elderly. Old age pensions, she stressed, should be enough to enable pensioners to live with dignity and without fear of hunger and cold. National authorities should ensure that old people's homes provided by the State answer the needs of residents and that equipment is suitable and regularly serviced and upgraded. The authorities should also monitor facilities offered by private old people's homes to ensure that the quality of service represents good value for money. She spoke of the work done by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and called on authorities to provide the elderly with free transport, electricity and heating.

Single-parent families are the subject of a working document drafted by Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano (Italy, Communist). No reliable statistics are available but it is estimated that 3% to 10% of all families are single-parent families. In 90% of cases, heads of the household are unmarried mothers, widows or divorcees. Members of the Committee on Women's Rights put forward several recommendations on improving the situation of single-parent families and it was suggested that these and the recommendations concerning the elderly be included in a general report on family policy for 1986.

The effects of microtechnology on women's employment were examined by Heinke Salisch (Germany, Socialist Group) in a report which some members of the Committee considered over-pessimistic. Should the European Community introduce legislation on outwork? Heinke Salisch thinks it should, but Liberal and Democratic MEPs taking part in the debate saw legislation as a pointless constraint.

Facilities for child-minding and the care of the elderly still leave a lot to be desired, according to a working paper written by Gabrielle Peus (Germany, EPP). A debate revealed the need to reach a balance between women's needs and the Member States' financial resources. It is difficult to formulate acceptable demands in the absence of details on national budgets.

During a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights chaired by Marlene Lenz in Brussels on 14-15 October, MEPs exchanged views with Jean-Claude Juncker, Luxembourg's Labour Minister and acting President of the Council of Ministers. The outlook seemed bleak to several MEPs: there are differences of opinion within the Council of Ministers on many issues such as the reorganization of working hours, temporary work, the directive on social security (occupational scheme) and the directive on equal treatment for self-employed men and women. Jean-Claude Juncker called for a concerted effort by Parliament and the Council of Ministers to make some progress on social policy questions.

The Commission's views were explained to the Committee on Women's Rights by Henning Christopherson, Vice-President of the European Commission and commissioner responsible for personnel. Speaking of equal opportunities, he said he shared MEPs' dissatisfaction that there are so few women in the Community's highest administrative grades. He said that, amongst other planned measures, the age limit for recruitment to the staff of European Community institutions presently imposed on women is to be reviewed, to take account of women wanting to return to work after bringing up children.

Concluding his address, Mr Christopherson said that a group of experts was working to identify discrimination within European institutions. Not without bitterness, Marlene Lenz recalled her days as a Community official when women's problems were dismissed as "bees in a bonnet", although that was back in the early sixties.

Nicole Chouraqui (France, European Democratic Alliance) has drafted a working paper on Community family policy. Industrialization, urbanization, recession and the falling birthrate have been taken as the themes, since the rapporteur wishes to define the areas covered in this very complex field. She feels that "institutions in each Member State of the Community must, as a matter of importance and urgency, assume responsibility for the 'family question'".

#### Latin America

Delegations from the European and Latin American Parliaments met in Brasilia for the Seventh Interparliamentary Conference of the European Community and Latin America.

The Conference reaffirmed the principle of the indivisibility and universality of Human Rights, whether political, civil, economic or social, and asked for the specific problems of women to be taken into consideration.

The Brasilia Conference ratified the decision made in Brussels in 1983 to establish a Euro-Latin American Institute based on common interests to serve as an instrument of cultural, political, economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two areas. The Institute will have two centres: one in Brasilia for Latin America and one in Madrid for Europe.

The Institute will be responsible for preparing in-depth studies leading to a debate on the special problems of women to be covered by the next interparliamentary conference.

A T T H E C O U R T O F J U S T I C E  
O F T H E E U R O P E A N C O M M U N I T I E S

Retirement age is the central question in two cases referred to the European Court of Justice by women.

In the Dutch case, Ms Beets-Proper claimed that the van Lanschot Bank in Amsterdam, where she was a secretary, had refused to allow her to work as from 1 September 1982 because she had reached the age of 60 in August of that year. The Bank was applying the Dutch law which states that a contract of employment automatically expires when the employee reaches the age at which he or she can claim a retirement pension. The age is 60 for women and 65 for men in the Netherlands. Ms Beets-Proper asked to be allowed to work for another five years and saw her employer's refusal as a discrimination in conflict with European law.

In a similar British case, nurse Helen Marshall thought she had the right to work until she was 65, on a par with a man in the same job. She is now 67 but is still pursuing her case: if she wins, the Court's decision could change the rights of the 300,000 women who retire at 60 every year, about a third of whom would prefer to continue working.

Sir Gordon Slynn, Advocate-General at the Court of Justice of the European Communities, has already given his opinion on the two cases: he thinks the plaintiffs are right. The Court has yet to pass its verdict.  
Useful address: Court of Justice of the European Communities, PO Box 96,  
Plateau du Kirchberg, Luxembourg

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: WOMEN'S VOTES

Two hundred million Europeans, both men and women, were called upon to vote in June 1984 to elect their representatives to European Parliament. What was their attitude to the elections? Do women's attitudes differ from men's? Do age, education, the level of political consciousness and awareness of Europe affect people's attitudes and, if so, what effect do they have?

These are some of the questions that a systematic analysis of European women's attitudes tries to answer.

The study, coordinated by the "Institut Faits et Opinions de Paris" (Paris institute of facts and opinions), is based on the Euro-barometers, the surveys carried out for the European Commission and directed by Jacques-René Rabier.

The report is published in Supplement no. 21 to "Women of Europe" and is packed with information, some of it quite surprising. It's a must!

R E N D E Z - V O U S     I N     N A I R O B I
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157 States sent delegations to Nairobi for the conference closing the United Nations Decade for Women, as well as Namibia itself, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia. 133 countries were represented at the opening conference in Mexico and 145 at the "stock-taking" in Copenhagen half way through the Decade. The rise in the number of participants is a measure of the Decade's achievements.

#### Nairobi - world capital for women

An estimated 2,000 delegates attended the United Nations conference and some 13,000 women took part in "Forum 85", arranged by non-governmental organizations.

The main objective of the UN World Conference in Nairobi was to examine and assess the progress made and obstacles encountered over the ten years in the fields of health, education and employment. To take stock of the situation, governments had been asked to complete a detailed questionnaire (containing some 100 questions) which had been compiled in 1983.

The Nairobi Conference also had the task of formulating strategies for the future, aimed at improving women's situation between now and the year 2000. It was preceded by concerted action and cooperation between governments and non-governmental organizations at national level. As is usual before any large international conference, preparatory meetings had been arranged at regional level in Africa, North America, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Pacific countries.

This huge international gathering had been made possible by the organizing team led by Leticia Shahani (Philippines), Deputy Secretary-General of the UN and officer responsible for social development and humanitarian affairs, who was appointed general secretary of the World Conference in 1983.

#### Light and Shade

UN Secretary-General J. Perez de Cuellar opened the Conference with an outline review of the Decade. He felt that the main advances had been towards equality. Speaking of development, he said it was simplistic to believe that women would automatically benefit from economic growth.

As regards legislation, 90% of UN Member States have now established official machinery for the promotion of women's rights and the number of countries that had instituted the legal principle of "equal pay for equal work" rose from 28 in 1978 to 90 in 1983.

Other figures quoted by Mr Perez de Cuellar were less optimistic. According to the World Health Organization, "almost two thirds of women in developing countries have a poor or inadequate diet". Although equality had been achieved in primary and secondary education in the developed countries of the East and West, the same could not be said for developing countries where girls' attendance rate at school has increased considerably but is still much lower than for boys.

As regards employment, according to International Labour Organization statistics, millions of women have come onto the jobs market since 1975 and an estimated additional 10 million per year will join between now and the end of the century.

Immediately after the welcoming address by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, the assembly elected Margret Kenyatta to chair the Conference. She demonstrated her skills as a diplomat by persuading the assembly to vote on a compromise resolution: all resolutions were adopted by consensus wherever possible, only controversial passages being put to the vote.

Like it or not, any conference of 157 States will inevitably be a political forum. In Nairobi as in New York, three main "blocs" were in evidence: the West, the Soviet bloc and the "77 group", also known as the "non-aligned countries". The points of contention were Zionism, apartheid and the Palestinian question: some countries insisted on bringing up these questions, while others refused to discuss them.

As all its Member States are already full members of the United Nations, the European Community itself has only observer status at conferences organized by the UN, although this does not prevent it from playing an important role there.

One member of the Community's delegation said that the World Conference was a success "beyond all our hopes". Through its excellent internal coordination, the European Community made a constructive contribution to all the Nairobi Conference proceedings.

#### Towards the year 2000

"Towards the year 2000" is a long, 371-paragraph document describing medium-term strategy from now to the year 2000 which was passed unanimously without a vote, although some delegations said they would be expressing reservations on a few delicate or controversial points to the UN General Secretariat.

The document, and the fact that it was passed unanimously, is seen as an important milestone in women's progress towards equality. Despite the fact that texts such as this have no binding power on governments, women see the Nairobi report as an extremely supportive moral contract, particularly in the Third World.

A highly diversified picture of women's needs, with a clear-cut division between industrialized and non-industrialized countries, emerges from the document.

For Western countries, the main objectives to achieve by the year 2000 are the active involvement of women in new technology (recommendations include vocational training courses, measures favouring women's careers and official support for women to increase their participation in politics) and, first and foremost, the campaign against the new poverty of women.

Women's poverty was the subject of heated discussion in Nairobi. Delegates claimed that women tend to be employed in declining economic sectors, their pay is lower than men's, they often stop working to bring up children and, as a result of cumulative factors, have smaller pensions than men. Divorced women also have great difficulty - and do not always succeed - in extracting alimony payments from their ex-husbands.

"Strategy for the year 2000" makes explicit reference to the notion of "equal pay for equal work" and the need to avoid a situation where women working in sectors employing a largely female labour force are under-paid because no comparison can be drawn with male workers.

The section on development points to various obstacles that have not been overcome during the Decade for Women: sexist stereotypes, the arms race, imperialism, colonialism, apartheid, occupation of foreign territories, the world economic situation and the exclusion of women from decision-making.

Any strategy of increasing women's involvement in development must also increase the number of women present at the highest levels of the decision-making hierarchy as well as all the intermediate stages. The document also specifies that parental responsibilities must be shared between men, women and society.

Measures in the field of health must take account of women's vital role as the main carers, both at home and in the community. Reference was also made to women's traditional role as "healers", of which better use should be made in national health planning.

Women's ability to control their own fertility was cited as "an important basis for women's enjoyment of their other rights". The Nairobi Conference called on governments to make more family planning services available, whatever their policy on population.

The Conference asked governments to set up classes to teach men to assume their family responsibilities on bringing up their children and helping in the home.

Women MPs from the 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries that signed the Lomé Convention met their European counterparts in Nairobi at the meeting of an ACP-EEC Joint Parliamentary Assembly working group.

Chaired by Renate Rabethge (Germany, EPP), the working group on "women's role in the development process" studied and unanimously adopted a report of the same title drafted by Rose Waruhiu (Kenya).

The resolution proposed by Ms Waruhiu could easily be seen as an action programme even if it did not go under that name. It is as non-academic as possible and is marked by its down-to-earth, pragmatic approach.

To give just one example: on the subject of the siting of industries, the report says that "in siting industrial projects and micro-projects, account must be taken of the need to provide local people with jobs within reasonable distance of their homes and families, so that fewer men have to migrate to towns in search of work, leaving their wives to look after their families, homes and land alone".

The resolution also calls on the European Commission to "provide women's organizations in the ACP countries with the financial resources they need to carry out projects and hold meetings with European women's organizations".

Useful address: Renate Rabethge, PO Box 170, 3352 Einbeck, West Germany

The voice of the Community in Nairobi...

In his address to a plenary session of the Nairobi Conference, European Commissioner for Social Affairs Peter Sutherland discussed the action taken by the Community during the Decade for Women.

"As regards the European Community, I am happy to say that equality for men and women in employment is now one of the most advanced areas of our social policy", said Mr Sutherland.

The Commissioner gave a full inventory of the equality directives that had already been adopted or were under discussion and went on to mention the areas in which the European Commission is seeking to improve women's situation without introducing legislation. He cited the recommendation on positive action which the Council of Ministers had adopted in late 1984. He also stated that "to enable women to run their own affairs, [the Commission] is actively supporting the creation of women's cooperatives".

Peter Sutherland also attended the NGO Forum where he had several discussions with representatives of women's groups and associations.

... and in New York

During the fortieth session of the UN General Assembly in New York at the end of October, Luxembourg's representative spoke on behalf of the European Community and for Spain and Portugal.

Reviewing the Decade for Women, he said that "we must further narrow the gap that still exists between decision-making and the actual implementation of those decisions. We are not blind to the difficulties that may prevail in some societies where age-old stereotypes have to be overcome, but we must continue our work - the end of the Decade for Women must not mark the end of our efforts. Too many objectives have yet to be achieved, too many injustices persist, too many inequalities are still evident in too many societies."

Speaking of the document of strategies for women, the Luxembourg representative said that "from now on, these strategies must be put into practice. In close cooperation with women's organizations and NGOs, governments must give greater priority to implementation of strategies for the future. Spain and Portugal as well as the Ten feel that this practical implementation must be properly and regularly monitored at national, regional and international level."

During the same session, European Commission spokesman Danièle Smadja said that "the document on strategies for the future forms a good basis for concrete action for the practical promotion of equality."

Ms Smadja also commented that "the theme of the development and improvement of women's role in the development process is just one of the European Community's concerns. The corresponding chapters of the document on future strategies have been the subject of particular attention and the recommendations will, at least for the Community, be a source of inspiration that we shall seek to turn into reality with our partners in the developing countries."

Forum '85

A Forum of non-governmental organizations was held at Nairobi University as a fringe event to the official Conference. This is where, sitting under the trees or on the grass, Betty Friedan was to be found, together with women in "boubous", "tchadors", jeans or even jeans and tchadors.

How can anyone describe this boiling-pot of ideas, where songs filled the air and passions rose? The topics defy enumeration and nobody can claim to have attended all the meetings and debates. Your choice had to depend on your particular interests or language. Illiteracy, prostitution, health, education, communications, violence, technology, breast-feeding, banking systems and cooperatives were just a few of the subjects discussed.

Nearly 1,500 journalists tried to find their bearings in this maelstrom. All in all, a thousand meetings, workshops, events, debates...

When she realized how much interest was being shown in the NGO Forum as well as the official Conference, French Minister for Women's Rights Yvette Roudy organized a "Francophone space" where videos of the proceedings were shown continuously on six screens.

A slide-show entitled "Images of Women" presented 160 photographs taken by women photographers throughout the world. In collaboration with Yvette Roudy, the French cultural centre in Nairobi organized concerts, films and debates with women writers.

The whole operation is indicative of the amount of attention given by a public body to the growing influence of non-governmental organizations.

The Forum had already proved its worth ten years earlier in Mexico. Many of the women in Nairobi had been active since then. They have built up an inconspicuous but powerful world-wide network with hundreds of small local groups which have kept in contact with each other despite all the difficulties.

In this impressive array, women from the Third World - and particularly African women - were certainly in the majority. Travelling by their thousands to Nairobi, often at great personal cost, the stories they recounted revealed the deep misery of the peasant women and their terrible living conditions. It is all too easy to forget that, in Africa, it is women who account for three quarters of food production. No development programme will succeed if it excludes women from owning - and earning their living from - the land or if it fails to take them into account when considering agricultural modernization.

A petition drafted by a group of Belgian women was sent to Conference delegates asking that "the Rights of Man" be rephrased as "Human Rights". A comment attached to the petition read: "It is often useful to use words with precision. For 150 years we talked about universal suffrage even though women were excluded."

In the eyes of women attending Forum '85, the European Community already had twelve Member States six months before the official accession of Spain and Portugal: Spanish and Portuguese women were quite naturally included in all activities involving the Member States. This gave other European participants a better understanding of the difficulties faced by Latin American women.



COUNTRY TO COUNTRY:FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

## B E L G I U M

Parliamentary Elections

The Conseil national des femmes belges (National Council of Belgian Women) - French-speaking section) can only be moderately pleased with the election results: despite intensive efforts to inform, there are only two more women MPs in 1985 than there were in 1981.

Sixteen women, as opposed to 13 in 1981, were elected to the Chamber of Deputies (212 seats); in the Senate, only six women were directly elected and twelve others coopted or nominated by the provinces, whereas there were 19 women in the previous Senate.

Since women account for 53% of the electorate, it must be assumed that they rarely base their votes on the sex of candidates. The whole strategy for women in politics rests, therefore, on the attitudes of the parties and how they "place" women on the lists of candidates. The CVP (Dutch-speaking Social Christian Party) did make an effort on this score as it placed women in good positions on its lists, so that 6 of its seats as Deputies and 4 as Senators were won by women.

L'oeuvre belge du Cancer (Belgian cancer movement) has awarded four prizes, three of which have gone to women. The three female winners are Anne Van den Broecke, doctor of veterinary medicine, Véronique Bailly, biochemist, and Claire Verschraegen, doctor of medicine.

Useful address: Oeuvre belge du Cancer, 21 rue des Deux Eglises,  
1040 Brussels

The Government

The composition of the new government is not known at the time of writing, but Nationale Vrouwenraad (Dutch-speaking Council of Belgian Women) and its French-speaking counterpart, Conseil national des femmes belges, have already asked future Prime Minister Wilfred Martens to give women real responsibilities in the new government.

Should there be a Ministry for Women's Rights? It is a controversial question. Some women think that such a ministry is essential if equality policies are to be given a new stimulus while others feel that women's policies should not be isolated in an administrative ghetto but be effectively put into practice by all the ministries concerned.

A compromise solution has also been suggested: that a "women's condition unit" or even a Ministry for Women's Rights be attached to the department of a woman heading a "major" ministerial department (not simply the department of a Secretary of State). This proposal is put forward in a memorandum by the National Council of Belgian Women.

N.B. NEW ADDRESS: CNFB, 24 rue de Florence, 1050 Brussels [Tel.(02)538.03.04]

Housewives made an unexpected gesture on 24 October - they came out into the streets and demonstrated in front of several ministry buildings in Brussels for status and better social security cover.

The Collectif Charles Fourier (Charles Fourier Collective), which is based at the Catholic University of Louvain, has been studying the practical feasibility of a minimum level of financial independence for all women, including the 850,000 Belgian women who have no income of their own and live in a state of total dependence on their partners. The collective suggests radical reform of the system of welfare payments by introducing a universal allowance. This would be a strictly personal allowance paid unconditionally to all men and women whether gainfully employed or not.

L'Alliance agricole féminine (women's agricultural alliance) is asking its members for the second year running to reflect on the question of "accepting change in agriculture". In an introductory letter, the Alliance comments that "in the past, it was important to produce more to compensate for the fact that prices might not be high enough; in the future it will be important to produce alternative agricultural products by different methods".

How can technical progress, which has until now been used to increase production, help to improve profitability? What legal and social measures can be taken to encourage and help farmers to keep abreast of technical progress? Useful address: Alliance agricole féminine, 21 rue de la Science, Box 2, 1040 Brussels

Influence parliamentary candidates and MPs: this is the strategy adopted by the "formation européenne" (European training) group of the Centre Féminin d'Education Permanente (women's centre for continuing education). It is an important move in the huge debate on European Union. The European training group would now like to make contact with any other groups pursuing the same objectives in the Member States to compare strategies, methods and ideas.

Useful address: Formation européenne, CFEP, 1a place Quêtelet, 1030 Brussels

D E N M A R K
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The Scandinavian countries have regular exchanges of views and are seeking to harmonize their position in various fields. The leaflet, "Køn og roller i skolen" (role and gender at school), gives further information on equality between boys and girls in schools in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. It describes the work of a group of specialists who met in Gentofte, Denmark in December 1984.

Useful address: Nordisk Ministerråds sekretariat, 29 St Olavsgate, PO Box 6753, St Olavs Plass, Oslo 1, Norway

An equality committee was set up at the University of Copenhagen in 1983 by some women members of the teaching staff. The University has some 25,000 students and 3,000 lecturers, including 1,300 part-timers. There are also about 2,000 technical and administrative staff.

Most of the female students are enrolled in the theology and humanities faculties; 46% of law students but only 26% of natural science students are women. Only 4% of lecturers are women. The equality study group is continuing its attempts to improve the situation.

Useful address: Ligestillingsradet, 19-21 Frederiksgade, 1265 Copenhagen

## FRANCE

Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux (41) has been appointed Deputy Secretary-General to the French Presidency. An ex-student of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, she joined the Elysée (where the personal staff of the French Republic is based) in 1984 as technical advisor responsible for education. From 1981 to 1984, she was rector of the academy of Orléans-Tours (under the French administrative system, an academy is a university division).

"The parliamentary elections due to be held in March 1986 are going to be a disappointment to women" is the prediction already being made in France. Women are just as much at a disadvantage in the ranks of the present Socialist majority as in the opposition groups, particularly when lists of candidates are being drawn up.

Recent changes in the French electoral system (the introduction of proportional representation when calculating the final number of seats allocated to the various lists) might have brought about a significant improvement in women's position had the political parties taken appropriate action.

Women in the Socialist Party chose the party conference to voice their bitterness, whereas women in the opposition parties made their feelings known by taking advertising space in the national press.

INGENIEUR"E: in French, that little "e" at the end shows that the engineer is a woman, and it makes all the difference in the campaign launched to encourage women to become engineers. Women's Rights Minister Yvette Roudy says that girls account for 48% of sixth form science students and yet only 17% of engineers are women.

To prove to girls that they too can become engineers, Yvette Roudy has set up a "fund for the scientific and technical training of women". Every year, 50 schoolgirls will be selected by competition to receive a FF 40,000 grant, payable over four years, to pursue their studies. Useful address: Ministère des Droits de la Femme, 53 avenue d'Iéna, 75016 Paris

L'Association française des Femmes Ingénieurs (French association of women engineers) and the publishing house Fernand Nathan have co-produced a slide-show consisting of 24 slides and a clear, concise text to launch the debate on women engineers. Entitled "Pourquoi pas INGENIEURE?" (Why not engineer"ess"?), the show cites some useful figures: there are more than 20,000 women engineers in France but they only account for 6% of all qualified engineers. 71% of women engineers and about the same proportion of male engineers are happy in their work. Women engineers tend to be young: 65% are under 35 and their average age is 28; 75% of women engineers are married and 4 out of 5 married women engineers have one or two children. Useful addresses: Editions Nathan D.P.E., 75640 Paris, Cedex 13  
Association française des Femmes-ingénieurs, 10 rue Vauquelin, 75005 Paris

Unwaged "co-working spouses" (conjoints collaborateurs) have already set up several national associations, including groups for the spouses of vets (AFFV), doctors (ACOMED), dentists (ACODENT), surveyors (ACOGEF) and architects (ACOARCHI). It was only logical for these associations to combine to take concerted action in some areas and there have been social and working links between them since as early as 1979. Now the Fédération des Associations nationales des Conjoints collaborateurs de Professionnels libéraux (FANCOPL, federation of national associations of professionals' co-working

spouses) has been set up with Françoise Denimal as its first spokesman. Useful address: Françoise Denimal, 12 rue A. Verrien, 92200 Neuilly

France's European policy is to be supervised by Elisabeth Guigou, who has been appointed General Secretary to the Secrétariat général de coordination interministérielle (SGCI, General Secretariat for interministerial coordination). The post is particularly important in that the holder is responsible for coordinating the action of ministerial departments concerned in all negotiations taking place within the European Community. Aged 39, an arts graduate and ex-student of the Ecole Normale d'Administration, Elisabeth Guigou is (and will remain) technical advisor to the Presidency on international economic problems and European affairs.

The budget for the Ministry of Women's Rights has been passed by Socialist Deputies in the General Assembly. At FF 128,700,000, it is 8.12% higher than last year and accounts for 0.012% of the State's general budget. During the debate, Minister for Women's Rights Yvette Roudy pointed out that "equality between men and women may have been achieved on paper but it has yet to be put into practice in society, which is quite another matter."

"Mères de familles: coûts et revenus de l'activité professionnelle" (working mothers: income and expenses) is the title of a survey carried out by the Centre d'étude des revenus et coûts (Centre for research on incomes and expenses) in 1981. The findings of the survey are still relevant (ref. Document no. 75).

56% of mothers work, 72.5% want to start or continue working or return to work, 34.4% have never stopped working and only 8.9% have never worked. Women who have never worked are in a difficult position because, generally speaking, they have more children and lower incomes than other women. 39.2% of mothers with no qualifications have a job, but the proportion of mothers with some form of higher education who work is far higher, at 73.9%.

In lower paid social groups (unskilled workers), it is a financial necessity for wives to work to supplement their husbands' wages. In the middle-range groups where career prospects are limited, it is a conscious decision for the wife to work and she does so to raise the couple's standard of living and out of a mutual desire for social advancement. In the more privileged social groups, where it is really possible to "build a career for oneself", the fact that a woman with a family has a job reflects the desire to ensure against any future difficulties and a search for a different way of life.

Another interesting piece of information is that working mothers spend relatively little on childminders: FF 6,100 per year, including holidays (this figure relates to 1984).

Useful address: CERC, 3 boulevard de Latour Maubourg, 75007 Paris

Women sculptors have set up an association whose aim is "to use all possible means (exhibitions, seminars, catalogues, films, etc.) to publicize contemporary women's art and the work of little known women of past centuries, contribute to continuing research on the image of women in the plastic arts and promote women on the arts market".

The first task taken on by the Association pour la promotion des Artistes plasticiennes (association for the promotion of women in the plastic arts) is to publish a history of women's art. This fully illustrated work of reference will contain historical and sociological information which fully justifies the undertaking, says chairman and founder member Catherine Valabrègue.

The Association is open to anyone wishing to work in the field and would like to make contact with any other associations pursuing the same objectives in Community countries.

Useful address: Association pour la promotion des Artistes plasticiennes,  
14 rue Cassette, 75006 Paris Tel. (1) 45.48.86.05

Heures Claires, a monthly review published by Union des femmes françaises (French women's union - closely affiliated to the French Communist party), has had to go out of print. In an editorial, Sylvie Jan claims that "the withdrawal of government subsidies has dealt a death blow to the review". The first issue appeared four years ago and was called "Femmes françaises" (French women). A demonstration demanding that the magazine be enabled to continue publication is being planned for January 1986. Useful address: Heures Claires, 15 rue Martel, 75480 Paris, Cedex 10 Tel. (1) 45.23.02.88

G E R M A N Y
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Dr Rita Süßmuth has been appointed as Dr Heiner Geissler's successor as Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs and Health.

Born in 1937, Dr Süßmuth teaches education science at Dortmund University. She has also been director of the Frau und Gesellschaft (women and society) research institute in Hanover since 1982. She is vice-president of the federation of German Catholic families and president of the "marriage and family" commission of the Central Committee of German Catholics and has also been president of the CDU (Christian Democrat Union) federal commission for family policy since 1983. Most of her work and her publications have been on family policy, the evolution of the family and the problems of reconciling duties at home and work.

We reported in "Women of Europe" no. 41 that Deutscher Frauenrat (council of German Women) had sent a letter to Chancellor Helmut Kohl urging him to appoint a woman as Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs and Health should the post fall vacant. Dr Geissler had in fact declared his intention to leave his ministerial post to devote his time and energy to the General Secretariat of the Christian Democrat Union.

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

Wir bilden Mädchen aus (we are giving girls vocational training): a car-sticker bearing these words is being offered to the large number of firms which ensure that young girls receive vocational training. Given free of charge by the Federal Government, the stickers improve a firm's image by advertising its contribution to social progress.

Useful address: Spiegel der Frauenpublizistik, Presse und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung, 11 Welckerstrasse, 5300 Bonn 1

Part-time work: a lasting solution?

An in-depth study has been made of 34 households where the man works part-time in order to help bring up the children. In general, men who have chosen this way of life want it to go on as long as possible.

The survey was conducted by the independent university of Berlin for the Federal Ministry of Youth, Family Affairs and Health and is of immediate interest to the ten million or so couples who have adopted this method of sharing family responsibilities. It seems obvious that a growing number of young couples will organize their lives in this way.

The fathers questioned enjoyed dividing their time between work and their families and also expressed great satisfaction with the relationships they had established with their children. Mothers are generally happier at work and appreciate their husbands sharing the domestic chores.

Useful address: Forschungsstelle Ökonomik der Arbeit der FU Berlin,  
2 Corrensplatz, 1000 Berlin 33

#### Information fairs

More and more "women's information fairs" are being held in Germany. These fairs are run by the municipal authorities in collaboration with women's organizations and have the full support of the Federal Ministry for Youth, Family Affairs and Health. The Ministry has even published a guide on how to organize and conduct information fairs successfully - "Informationsbörsen für Frauen: Leitfaden zur Planung und Durchführung" (Women's information fairs: planning and management).

The most recent event was held in the conference room of Cologne city hall during the first week of October on the theme "Equality - but not at any price". 35 women's associations active in Cologne displayed and discussed their publications and activities, which covered a wide range of subjects, including politics, religion, sport and culture. United under the banner of Arbeitskreis Kölner Frauenvereinigungen (working group of women's associations in Cologne), whose president is Charlotte von der Herberg, the organizations represent some 500,000 women. As well as browsing at the information stands, visitors could also listen to a female vocalist or orchestra or join in a debate on equal opportunities in Europe. Fairs tend to be fairly short, usually from 10 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon.

The municipal equality agency took an active part in organizing the fair and hopes (as do its counterparts in Bremen and Bonn) that an inter-regional information network will be set up. It is hoped that such a network would reach the whole population and affect men's as well as women's attitudes.

Useful address: Frauen-Gleichstellungstelle, Der Oberstadtdirektor,  
City of Cologne

#### On the air

What about an international women's night on the radio on 8 March 1986? The idea was mooted last April during the international forum, "Women in Community Radio", organized by Berliner Frauenbund 1945 (1945 Berlin women's association). Entitled "Women on the air", the report on that forum has just been published (in English only) and is available from the organizers for DM 7.

The aim of the forum was not only to exchange information and discover common ground but also to look closely at the situation of each sector of the national media system. Topics covered included legal status, commercial structure, history of radio and broadcasting, independence of programmes, editorial content and type of audience. It is a rich and expanding subject.

Useful address: Berliner Frauenbund 1945 e.V., 63 Ansbacher Strasse,  
Berlin 30

Frauenmuseum (women's museum): Women artists have long been complaining about the lack of attention they receive in art history and in modern galleries and museums. Under the leadership of Marianne Pitzen, women artists in Bonn have chosen the simplest solution and set up their own museum. The museum is on three floors and provides 2,000 square metres of exhibition space. It has rooms for holding lectures and chamber music recitals, archives and plenty of visitors between 3pm and 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday.

Useful address: Frauenmuseum, 10 Im Krausfeld, 5300 Bonn 1

Marie Schlei, Social Democrat and former Minister for Development, died in 1983. Chaired by Christa Radzio-Plath, the Marie-Schlei-Association has been founded in her memory to continue her work. The aim of the Association is to raise money in Germany to finance schemes organized and conducted by women for women in the Third World. "Help women to help themselves" is the Association's motto. Successful schemes have already been backed in Mexico, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Jamaica, Senegal and Zimbabwe. All donations will be gratefully received: Sparkasse Bonn BLZ 380 500 00, account no. 14 85 38 57.

Useful address: Marie-Schlei-Association, 2 Neefestrasse, 5300 Bonn 1

G R E E C E
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A General Secretariat for Sexual Equality has been set up in Greece in accordance with article 27 of Law 1558/85. The Secretariat is attached to the Prime Minister's department. Following the government reshuffle this summer, former president of the Equality Council Ms Laiou-Antoniou has been appointed as the first General Secretary for Equality.

The government's decision clarifies a delicate point: the General Secretariat is a government department and as such is subject to the general working rules for the public sector. This means that its staff may be increased but there is no provision for the participation of representatives of women's organizations.

Ways of setting up an advisory body to include representatives of women's organizations, trades unions, etc., are under discussion. The new Secretariat is presently housed on the Equality Council's premises.

Useful address: Ms Laiou-Antoniou, General Secretariat for Sexual Equality, Mousseou 2, Plaka, 105 55 Athens

This summer's government reshuffle has not altered the number of women ministers in the government. The number of women holding the post of General Secretary to a minister has, however, increased from one to three. The three women concerned are Ms Sereli (General Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and Social Security), Ms Laiou-Antoniou (General Secretary for Sexual Equality) and Ms Karali-Dimitriadi (General Secretary for Greeks living abroad, attached to the Ministry of Culture).

The Minister of the Interior has appointed several "Nomarchs" (a type of chief executive for a region, or "Nomos"), four of whom are women aged between 26 and 42. This means that 20% of Nomarchs are now women. The first woman Nomarch was appointed four years ago. Their responsibilities include running public services in their region.

Important promotions have also taken place in the judiciary. Ms E. Gotzamani has been appointed Public Prosecutor at the Magistrates' Court and the Supreme Court has appointed jurist Anna Athanassiadi to serve as presiding judge at the Court of Appeal. She is the first woman to be given such an eminent post in the Greek judiciary.

Contraception is the focal point of a campaign launched by the Ministry of Public Health. The UN has made \$15,000 worth of contraceptive pills available to the public and they can be obtained from the many recently opened family planning centres. Virginia Tsouderou, MP, independent opposition Deputy and former president of Eteria Ikogeniakou Programmatismou (family planning association), is concerned by the campaign which she con-

siders to be ill-prepared and badly run by the public authorities. Other people feel that, considering the present drop in the birthrate, the campaign is somewhat ill-timed.

"To Vivlio - To Pedi" (the book - the child), a bookshop and meeting place for many Athens feminists, has welcomed Norma Swenson, a leading light of the Group of Boston Women. En route to Nairobi, she agreed to make a detour via Athens when Aftonomi Kinisi Gynekon (autonomous women's movement) invited her to present the updated and revised second edition of her famous book, "We and our Body". Norma Swenson told a large and attentive audience that the work had been translated into twelve languages and sold more than two and a half million copies. The discussion was continued later at Aftonomi Kinisi Gynekon's offices, where the main topics were contraception and abortion.

Useful addresses: Aftonomi Kinisi Gynekon, Methonis 66, 106 83 Athens  
To Vivlio - To Pedi, Sina 38, 106 72 Athens

"Human Rights for the Young - during and after adolescence" was the theme of the first Panhellenic conference of the Greek branch of Soroptimist International. Local groups had been discussing the subject from the beginning of the year and thoroughly prepared working papers were good starting points for developing arguments in the debate. The various sub-topics, which included minors and the law, young people and the environment and psychological problems, gave rise to a lively debate. One of the high spots of the conference was the panel discussion in which parents, teachers and children took part.

Apart from reaching conclusions on all the sub-topics, there was a consensus on the importance of good communication channels between adults and children both within the family and in society as a whole. Useful address: Diethnis Soroptimistiki Enossi Ellados, Eleftheriou Venizelou 6, 106 71 Athens

Kentro Gynekon Ypethrou (institute of women farmers) and local women's organizations together organized a whole week of activities on the island of Aegina. There were information exchanges, debates and cultural activities in the town of Aegina and the island's main villages. Discussions and meetings focused on questions of health, agriculture and tourism, small businesses and women's cooperatives. A photographic exhibition recounted the lives of rural women.

Useful address: Kentro Gynekon Ypethrou, Leka 12, 105 62 Athens

Family law underwent important changes in 1983. The Greek Equality Council has published an amusing booklet in English called "Family Law" which describes all the changes brought in by the new law. Sophia Zarambouka's illustrations are simple and entertaining; the text is short and clear. The book is a quick and easy guide to the current situation and the history of family law in Greece.

Useful address: General Secretariat for Sexual Equality, Mousseou 2, Plaka, 105 55 Athens



I R E L A N D

Women on public bodies (advisory and steering committees, etc.) are just as scarce as they ever were: 10.45% in 1984, as opposed to 10.03% in 1979. Members of the government are responsible for a large number of nominations and it is with deep disappointment that the Council for the Status of Women notes that women appointed by ministers account for only 11.9%, barely 2% more than at the time of the last survey.

In response to the publication of these figures, Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald told Parliament that he was concerned by the situation and promised to review the procedures for nomination to public bodies.

Useful address: Council for the Status of Women, 64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2

Fianna Fail, the main Irish opposition party, has set up a special research group to study women's affairs. The group has decided to begin by concentrating on the questions of women's legal domicile and the facilities available for children of pre-school age.

According to Irish law, a wife's legal domicile is that of her husband. This causes problems when couples are separated, particularly when the husband goes to live abroad.

Useful address: Fianna Fail, Mount Street, Dublin 2

Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE), the national radio and television broadcasting service, has been criticized by the parliamentary committee on women's rights because there is not a single woman on the committee responsible for monitoring radio and television advertisements.

The parliamentary committee says that this total absence of women is an anomaly and that the criteria for assessing advertisements should also be reviewed to take account of the changing role of women in Irish society. RTE has already indicated that it will take the parliamentary committee's comments into consideration.

Useful address: RTE, Information Office, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 (Tel. 693111)

Women's average wage in Ireland is currently £Ir2.94 per hour as against £Ir4.35 for men. This figure, supplied by the Central Statistics Office, shows that the gap between men's and women's wages is widening: in 1980, women's average hourly pay was 68.4% of men's; in 1983, it was 68.1% and it is now down to 67.6%. Useful address: Central Statistics Office, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2 (Tel. 767531)

The Rape Crisis Centre released some worrying statistics in its last annual report. According to information officer Ann O'Donnell, the Centre received 426 calls for help in 1984: 274 involving rape and 152 involving sexual assault of children. This last figure is particularly alarming as only 21 cases of child abuse were reported to the Centre in 1983.

Useful address: Rape Crisis Centre, 2 Lower Pembroke Street, Dublin 2 (Tel. 601470)

An industrial tribunal has awarded £Ir500 compensation to a nurse who had been refused permission to do overtime. The Employment Equality Agency is pleased with the decision which clarifies an important point of principle for employers, employees and the unions. Useful address: Employment Equality Agency, 36 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2 (Tel. 605966)

## I T A L Y

A "Conference on women's employment" has been announced by Premier Bettino Craxi. The aim of "Conferenza sull'occupazione femminile" would be to gain a clear picture of women's employment situation in both qualitative and quantitative terms.

In the same government announcement, Mr Craxi said that coordinated action by ministries and the National Equality Commission will result in measures, particularly concerning academic and careers guidance, to put an end to the concentration of girls in areas of education affording no job prospects.

Speaking of the running of public institutions and services, the Prime Minister promised that there would be more women in national and international agencies and on all bodies within the jurisdiction of the State. To see that this happens, an observer from the National Equality Commission will be appointed to the Civil Service Directorate.

Useful address: Commissione nazionale per la realizzazione della parità tra uomo e donna, Presidenza del Consiglio, Palazzo Chigi, Rome

The third industrial revolution is a challenge for women. The magazine "Donna Oggi" has devoted a special issue to this problem, with contributions by Oretta Bello, Grazia Lago and Patrizia Procaccini.

The industrial changes being brought about now and in the future by technology are less and less predictable, and the social changes that ensue are just as unpredictable. Whether the introduction of new technology into the workplace creates jobs will depend on women. Whether work is more fairly shared and working relationships are fairer than in the recent past will also depend on women.

Useful address: Donna Oggi, Via S. Maria in Via 12, 00187 Rome

"Women and a strategy for parity: aspects of women's employment" was the title of a seminar organized in Rome by the interparliamentary group of women MPs on the Italian Communist Party's lists. The two specific areas under discussion were the employment and unemployment of women and young people and equality policy.

Italy's two equality commissions (one attached to the Ministry of Labour and the other to the Prime Minister's department) were represented in the debate and both spoke of the need for complementary action to achieve greater equality in the working world and society.

A comparative analysis of policies followed by the various Member States of the European Community clearly demonstrates that the problems can be solved only if the industrialized countries take concerted, joint action. A common equality policy of this type should not be limited to the industrial aspects of employment but should include measures on vocational training, leisure time, facilities, etc. The seminar concluded that a discussion of women and work was, by definition, a discussion of the society of tomorrow, a society that will have undergone radical change.

Useful address: Gruppo Interparlamentario di Donne elette nelle liste PCI, Piazza di Campo Marzo, 00187 Rome

Fewer women than men commit suicide. In 1984, 891 women and 2,090 men committed suicide in Italy.

"The role of women farmers" was studied at a meeting organized by the Movimento Femminile della Confederazione Nazionale Coltivatori Diretti (women's movement of the national farmers' confederation).

Both the debates and the final panel discussion highlighted the specific nature of women's contribution to production. Until recently, women's identity was defined in relation to men's: men were involved in their work and away from home, women stayed at home. This traditional sociological division of roles is a thing of the past: women now contribute by doing the same things as men but "do them differently". Women, being more aware of "cosmic" relationships and closer to the rhythms of nature, can bring different qualities to bear on farm work. Traditional values are held just as dear but are pressed into the service of a more forward-looking concept and vision of the future.

Useful address: Confederazione Nazionale Coltivatori Diretti, Movimento Femminile, Via XXIV Maggio 43, 00187 Rome

Vocational education and cultural development: these two themes were closely linked during a national seminar in Sassari organized by the Centro Italiano Femminile (CIF, Italian women's centre).

Opening the proceedings, CIF national president Maria Rosaria Bosco Lucarelli outlined a dynamic image of work as not merely a means of subsistence but a way of improving one's potential, establishing human relationships and contributing towards the development of the community as a whole.

It was in this spirit that the seminar examined the inherent value of vocational training and its benefits to the individual and society. The European Social Fund was discussed not as an administrative body but as the instrument of a policy promoting a dynamic vision. The discussions also covered regional laws on vocational training and their links with national legislation. Useful address: CIF, Via Carlo Zucchi 25, 00165 Rome

Arci Donna is a new association formed by some 200 women attending a conference in Rome. It represents women's groups and circles throughout Italy and is a women's cultural and leisure association, but not for women alone. In launching the scheme, two basic ideas were asserted: women's right to free time and the need for a radical critique of our world and our "consumption" of life itself. This analysis is possible only through communication among women, and from this communication a new female identity will emerge.

The women of Milan were very much in evidence at a massive demonstration in the Piazza del Duomo organized by the European Movement to mark the summit of European Community heads of state and governments.

Journalists commented on the youthfulness of the crowd responding to the call of the European Movement. Among them, sporting a huge yellow banner, the OIKIA (housewives' association) of Verona was demanding equal rights and a European union.

The success of the demonstration (with a turnout of over 100,000) owed a good deal to the energy and determination of Caterina Chizzola, General Secretary of the Union of European Federalists and leader of the European Movement.

Useful address: UEF, 49 rue de Toulouse, 1040 Brussels

## L U X E M B O U R G

Shared ownership of marital property is the subject of a paper by Fernand Entringer (lawyer) and published by the Banque Générale du Luxembourg in its series entitled "Réalités et perspectives". The author explains that there is no mention of the terms "husband" and "wife" in the Law of 4 February 1974 because married couples are now on a strictly equal footing in all respects. "As a result, the woman no longer enjoys the protection that the old Law (1804 Civil Code) provided to counterbalance her incapacity."

Useful address: Banque Générale du Luxembourg, 27 avenue Monterey, Luxembourg

Compulsory registration of marriage contracts was abolished by the Law of 21 February 1985, the Minister of Justice confirmed in his reply to a parliamentary question.

Many notaries, however, are still sending marriage contracts to the registrar. To end this practice, a circular stating that married couples are not obliged to notify the existence of a marriage contract to the registrar has been sent to all municipal authorities and the Chamber of Notaries.

The economic training of women is a matter of concern to the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, which took it as the subject of a two-day seminar. The programme focused mainly on the heads of business who face a twofold responsibility as businesswomen and mothers. Management, staff motivation and the delegation of work were the other topics of discussion.

Useful address: Chambre de Commerce du Luxembourg, 7 rue Alcide de Gasperi, Luxembourg

Association des Institutrices du Préscolaire (association of women pre-school teachers) feels that the principle of "equal pay for equal work" is not being properly applied.

Since 1973, a distinction has been made between teachers of "the old school" and "new blood" teachers who must have a certificate of secondary education. This leads to marked differences in the earnings of the two groups.

The Association's argument is that pre-school education used to be a female reserve and the situation changes only when pre-school teachers receive the same training as primary school teachers. Quite rightly, men and women teachers at primary level are on an equal footing.

The Association feels that equal work should be rewarded by equal pay irrespective of the training paths leading to those responsibilities.

Married women's names are the subject of a petition launched by Deputy Lydie Err, president of Femmes Socialistes (Socialist women). In the petition, she criticizes article 9 of the electoral Law of 1924 which, contrary to a 1794 decree (stating that no person may bear any surname or first name other than those given in his or her birth certificate), obliges women to vote using their husband's name.

Those signing the petition call for a new law to allow married couples, at the time of marriage, to take the surname of either one or a double-barrelled name combining their two surnames in an agreed order. Their children's surname would be decided by the couple at the time of marriage. Couples could also choose to retain their own individual surnames.

Useful address: Femmes Socialistes, rue de la Boucherie, Luxembourg

NETHERLANDS

De vrouw in het ambacht (women in the craft industries) is the title of a new bulletin published by "Promotor Vrouw in het Ambacht" (promotion for women in the craft industries). Its twin aims are the exchange and dissemination of information on women in the craft industries. The bulletin contains articles on vocational training trends and schemes, business life and other matters concerning the other half of the population - i.e. women - in a sector in which few women used to work. All groups, institutions and organizations are invited to make a contribution to this new publication.

Useful address: Redactie, Drs Carla Walvis & Margriet Pauw, PO Box 80701, 2508 The Hague

"Vrouwenboekenweek" (women's book week), organized by women's bookshops in Holland, took place for the first time between 2 and 9 November and was a real success, with presentations, conferences, book fairs, theatre and musical events throughout the country all week long.

Useful address: Meld & Regelkamer van der Vrouwenboekenweek, 1e Sweelinckstraat 10, 1073 Amsterdam

The Emancipatieraad (Emancipation Council) report on its four years of existence reveals that 45% of women will be part of the working population by the year 2000. This high percentage will call for extensive social changes to secure financial independence for women. We should like to take this opportunity to congratulate seven people on their nomination as new members of the Emancipation Council: Anne Lize van der Stoel, Hans Smallembroek, Jenny Goldschmidt, Rose Baljé-Rijnders, Miep de Wit-Mulder, Yasemin Tümer and Frank Boddendijk.

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

Nederlandse Christelijk Ondernemers Verbond-Vrouwenraad (women's council of the Dutch Christian league of businessmen), set up in 1983, promotes the interests of the wives and daughters who work with their husbands and fathers in family businesses as well as businesswomen in their own right. It is a centre for meeting and exchanging views and upholding women's interests in matters such as taxation and social and legal affairs. It also organizes study programmes and has held several day courses on automation this autumn. Further details are given in the Council's booklet.

Useful address: NCOV-Vrouwenraad, Secretariat, Treubstraat 25, 2288 Rijswijk

Nightwork for women is to be legalized, and is to be governed by a system of authorization over the next three years. At the end of this period, a decision will be taken on whether nightwork for women can be unconditional or whether it should still be subject to authorization.

At the end of June 1985, 259,000 women and 478,000 men were registered as unemployed with employment offices. This means that, compared with the figures for the end of the previous month, 6,100 fewer men and 7,100 more women were unemployed. This trend is found in every province, with a figure of almost 5% in Drenthe and Overijssel.

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

Nederlandse Vrouwenraad (Dutch women's council) has just published "Uit eigen beweging: 10 jaar vrouwenorganisaties" (Off the cuff: 10 years of women's organizations) to celebrate its tenth anniversary. The articles

and interviews present the views and personal accounts of members of women's organizations on politics, employment and labour, emancipation training and cooperation in development.

Useful address: Nederlandse Vrouwenraad, Laan van Weerdervoort 30,  
2517 The Hague

Vrouwenbond FNV Secretary J. Zwanepol has written asking us to inform readers of the full address of the women's section of the federation of trades unions: Vrouwenbond FNV, PO Box 8456, 1005 AL Amsterdam

"Ondernemende Vrouwen" (women in business) was the theme of an information fair held at the Koopmansbeurs in Amsterdam last June. An event of this kind had become vital due to the growing numbers of women starting up their own businesses. Many people had travelled from far and wide to attend the fair. "Breed Platform Vrouwen voor Economische Zelfstandigheid" (broader platform for women's economic independence) was the main organizing body behind the meeting. The Ministry for Social Affairs has introduced special measures (an interest-free loan over three years) to help women to set up their own business.

Useful addresses: Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid,  
Zeestraat 73, The Hague & Ondernemende Vrouwen, Damrak 37, 1012 LK Amsterdam

"Beleidsplan Emancipatie" (plan for emancipation policy) was drawn up last June by the Council of Ministers at the suggestion of the Secretary of State for Emancipation Ms Kappeyne van de Coppello. The plan has aroused considerable hostility from various Christian groups. Its main objective is gradually to create a society in which everybody - women and men, married and single persons - has an equal chance of leading an independent life in every respect.

"De Hooimijt" (haystack) is Holland's first women's camp site, situated near the Lauwersmeer and the border with Friesland. Subsidized by the "Directoraat Coördinatie Emancipatiezaken" (directorate for emancipation coordination), the site has received financial support from several women's groups. The aim is to provide a holiday centre where women can relax "in peace".

Useful address: Anja de Mooij, Lenie van Schie,  
Camping de Hooimijt, Pieterzijl, Groningen

"Stichting Ombudsvrouw" (arbitration body) has instituted injunction proceedings demanding that Minister of Education Deetman suppress a special clause in the regulations on dismissal which gives preferential treatment to teachers who have done military service. This means that women teachers are more likely to be made redundant when the decision is based on length of service. The ruling is also in contravention of the "Wet Gelijke Behandeling" (law on equal treatment).

Useful address: Stichting Ombudsvrouw, PO Box 18520, 2502 EM The Hague

National development and urbanization should go hand in hand with emancipation. According to recent surveys, 47% of women dare not go out alone at night and 25% would not risk using public transport at night either. Mr Van der Vlis, municipal magistrate of Amsterdam, intends to improve safety in dangerous areas of the city. A day course on the safety of women outside the home was held last May.

Useful addresses: Buro ZijAanzicht, PO Box 511, 6700 AM Wageningen  
St. Vrouwen Bouwen en Wonen, Weena 756, 3014 DA Rotterdam

P O R T U G A L
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Leonor Beleza has been appointed Health Minister in the new government formed by Mr Cavaco Silva.

La Comissao da Condicao Feminina (Commission on women's status) has organized a vocational training course with the financial backing of the European Social Fund, in conjunction with the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Oporto and the Antonio Sergio Institute for the Cooperative Sector and Uninorte (services cooperative).

The delegation from the Commission on women's condition, which has been working in the field for seven years, confirmed that cooperatives offer women a practical solution to the problem of becoming well integrated in the working world. The cooperative system cares for the individual and the group and so creates a working atmosphere in which each person's knowledge is shared and put to use.

Cooperative organizations commented that few women obtain management posts and that women's technical and vocational training is inadequate. Women who have a high standard of vocational training lack self-confidence, management experience, knowledge of accounting and marketing and other skills.

More than 500 candidates came from all the Northern provinces when it was announced that 80 women were to be given places on a vocational training course linked with the cooperative system. The successful applicants were divided into groups of 20 to attend a week of live-in classes followed by three weeks' training in a cooperative. They received training in specific areas such as accountancy, cooperative administration and management and production planning and also had a chance to get to know each other better, increase their self-confidence and develop their abilities without inhibitions.

Useful address: Comissao da Condicao Feminina,  
av. da Republica 32 - 1, 1093 Lisbon, Codex

Women in Portuguese society was the subject of a colloquium organized by the Institute of Economic and Social History of the University of Coimbra, one of Europe's oldest universities. During the two-day colloquium, some 50 papers were attentively heard by 200 participants, mainly academics. Three exhibitions (bibliographic, ethnographic and photographic) complemented the colloquium.

Women's participation in political life is one of the main objectives set for the Comissao da Condicao Feminina (Commission on women's condition) by the Prime Minister. The Commission is a body attached to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. In pursuit of this objective, the Commission asked two sociologists, Estrela Duarte and Margarida Almeida Fernandes, to study the position of women in Portuguese politics. Their research paper has been published under the title, "A Mulher e a Politica" (women and politics).

The Commission is assisted by an advisory panel comprising representatives of the women's organizations of the main political parties and two major unions as well as women's associations. As a result the Commission's seminar on the participation of women in political life was attended by a large and keenly interested audience of 200 who identified and demythologized obstacles to women's participation in politics. Recommendations were made to political parties, unions, teachers and research workers as well as to national and local public bodies.

## S P A I N

Instituto de la Mujer (women's institute), as part of its mission of providing information, has distributed a booklet called "Igualdad de oportunidades para las Mujeres en la Comunidad europea" (equal opportunities for women in the European Community) in Spain, so that Spanish women can acquaint themselves now with the main points of a policy in whose development they are soon to take part. The Institute is a body attached to the Ministry of Culture but is largely independent. A quick browse through its newsletter, whose lively content and layout are quite as professional as the commercial press, is positive proof of its independence.

Useful address: Instituto de la Mujer, Ministerio de Cultura,  
Pasco de la Castellana, Madrid 16

An exclusive survey has been conducted by the society for "Estudios Comerciales y de Opinion (commercial and opinion studies) for the weekly journal, "Cambio 16", on women's and men's views on discrimination.

In answer to the question, "Does social discrimination against women exist?", 38% of men but only 23 % of women said that it does not. 24% of women but only 17% of men said that there is a great deal of discrimination and 50% of women and 42% of men said that there is discrimination but that it is only slight.

"Who discriminates against women?" Society, said 75% of men and 63% of women. 21% of women and 14% of men blamed it on men. Women have a keener sense of guilt than men: 12% of women said that women are responsible for discrimination against women.

Where have all the machos gone? When asked the question, "do men treat women as equals or is their attitude towards them chauvinistic?", 43% of men said that they treated women as equals. How curious that women are not aware of it - only 26% of them said that men treated them as equals. Men's chauvinistic attitude is recognized by 51% of men and 68% of women.

According to the same survey, a third of women vote as they are told to do by the man of the house, be he husband, son or father.

Useful address: Cambio 16, Hermanos Carcia Noblejas 41, 28037 Madrid

Abortion has been legalized by Parliament after a lively debate. Termination of pregnancy is now authorized in three cases: when pregnancy is a result of rape, when it creates a grave risk to a woman's physical or mental health and when the existence of severe mental or physical damage to the foetus is suspected.

The doctors' associations immediately forbade its members to apply the new law and it was several days before a doctor took the risk of performing the first legal abortion. The only concession accepted by the government has been to allow doctors to express a conscientious objection, in which case they are not obliged to apply the law.

The Catholic Church has restated its opposition to legalizing abortion and has even excommunicated a young woman who had an abortion after contracting German measles.



## UNITED KINGDOM

Cinema of Women is a new film distribution company run by Eileen McNulty, Jenny Wallace and Penny Ashbrook. The fact that the firm's initials form the word "COW" is a touch of humour, not an unfortunate coincidence. The films and videos selected by the company all deal with women's problems, such as health, work, emotional and sex life and social relationships. Cinema of Women is also looking for films made by feminists and women in general.

The company's catalogue, which presently contains about 50 films, has been sent to trades unions, women's groups and schools which could use the films as a starting point for discussions and debates. Cinema of Women wants to keep up to date with the disturbing events currently affecting British society, such as violence, racial and social conflict.

Two films in particular have attracted the attention of the general public and film buffs alike: Leila and the Wolves, in which Arab women speak of their social and cultural heritage, and Lizzie Borden's Born in Flames, which is fast becoming a cult movie.

Useful address: Cinema of Women, Feminist Film Distribution,  
27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0AT

Barclays Bank and the Equal Opportunities Commission have signed a draft agreement on curbing sexual discrimination in the Bank. 60% of Barclays' 74,000 employees in the United Kingdom are women but only 44 of its 2,900 local branches are managed by women. These figures alone show that there is a problem.

Barclays and the Equal Opportunities Commission have also carried out a joint study on the Bank's recruitment and promotion policies. This step was taken following a complaint made by a young woman who applied for a job in a local branch in 1983 and was shocked to find herself passed over for a young man who came from the same school and had the same qualifications as she had.

Barclays has appointed equal opportunities expert Tina Boyden to ensure that the new policy is implemented. A booklet on equal opportunities in the Bank has been distributed to all its personnel.

Useful address: Barclays Bank PLC, PR Department, 54 Lombard Street,  
London EC3

Married women are still discriminated against in the working world despite the anti-discrimination laws. The Equal Opportunities Commission successfully backed two significant cases brought before industrial tribunals.

The first concerned Ms Coleman, who worked at a travel agent's and married an employee of a rival agency. Ms Coleman's employer fired her the day after her wedding because he was afraid that confidences shared by the couple might have a prejudicial effect on his business. His dismissal of Ms Coleman was based on the idea that, since her husband earned more than she did, it was she who should leave her job, rather than her husband. The Court of Appeal awarded Ms Coleman £766 compensation, including £100 for "moral damages".

The second case involved Mrs Horsey, who had been refused permission to attend a vocational training course by Dyfed County Council on the grounds that she was likely to leave her job to join her husband, who was working in the London area. In this event, vocational training would have been a worthless investment for the Council.

The Court of Appeal ruled that Dyfed County Council was wrong to assume that a woman would automatically follow her husband, rather than vice versa. Mr Horsey had, in fact, already moved twice in order to be closer to his wife's place of work. Mrs Horsey received £1,150 compensation.

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

Scottish women are no better off than women in the rest of the United Kingdom. Two of Scotland's eight Euro-MPs but only the same number of the 72 Scottish MPs in the House of Commons are women. There are plenty of women on councils, commissions and other official bodies concerned with education and social affairs but they are under-represented in other sectors, particularly fisheries and agriculture.

In secondary schools and higher education establishments, girls are concentrated in languages and arts departments while boys dominate science and technical options. Compared to England and Wales, though, Scottish girls achieve better results when they do choose subjects traditionally taken by boys.

A hundred delegates from 60 women's organizations met in Edinburgh at the invitation of the Equal Opportunities Commission in collaboration with the European Commission's Information Offices in London and Edinburgh. The participants were informed of the various initiatives taken in favour of women and identified areas in which concerted effort could benefit Scottish women. The Equal Opportunities Commission's statistical study, "Women and Men in Scotland" was presented at the meeting and is now available from the Commission.

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

The Trades Union Congress adopted a motion demanding new slogans on equal opportunities by a vast majority at its last meeting and the General Council was called on to launch a campaign for this purpose. Chaired by Ken Gill, the TUC committee for equal rights specifically referred to ethnic minorities and women in demanding improved protection of rights and more jobs. Useful address: TUC, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1

350 deaconesses are waiting to be ordained as deacons following the decision of the Church of England General Synod. Up to now, deaconesses have devoted themselves to charity work but, from 1986, their ordination will mean that they can conduct marriage ceremonies and use the title of Reverend. Women in the Church are still not man's true equals, however: women deacons are still not permitted to celebrate Holy Communion nor give absolution. The deaconesses' spokesman Diana McCluthey is delighted with the decision, which puts an end to an age-old anomaly.

Useful address: Church of England General Synod, Church House, Dean's Yard, London SW1

The wives of professional soldiers come up against particular problems when looking for work, says the Minister of Defence. The situation is even worse for women whose husbands are posted overseas, of whom only 27% find jobs. Useful address: Anne Armstrong, c/o Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot

## RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

Droits des femmes et politique familiale (women's rights and family policy) has been published by Confédération des organisations familiales de la Communauté européenne (confederation of family organizations in the EC) in its "documents" series. It is an analysis of the complementary and, at the same time, contradictory aspects of equal opportunities and the interests of the family unit.

Useful address: COFACE, 17 rue de Londres, 1050 Brussels

Famille, Etat et sécurité économique d'existence (family, state and financial security) was the title of the fifth world congress of Association internationale de Droit de la Famille (international association of family law) held in Brussels in early July under the chairmanship of Ms M.T. Meulders-Klein, lecturer at the Catholic University of Louvain. In more than 100 sessions, participants analysed the problem of financial security for the individual and the family in countries in the northern and southern hemispheres from both a comparative and prospective point of view. The main papers of the congress have been published by Ekelar & Katz, Butterworths, Canada.

Women of Europe: Elizabeth Vallance and Elizabeth Davies have used this well known title for their analysis of women MEPs' contribution to the promotion of equal opportunities. A large number of interviews of women MEPs give a detailed description of Parliament, its operation and achievements. Published by Cambridge University Press, Shaftsbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU

Odette Thibault, doctor of biology, writer, feminist and pacifist, was planning to write a book on men and the suffering of women. On reflection, she felt she ought to tackle the wider issue of the suffering of couples. When does suffering bring a couple closer together? When does it destroy their relationship? Is dialogue at least possible?

She would be grateful for any personal accounts, on the understanding that published texts would remain anonymous.

Useful address: Odette Thibault, 35 rue Broca, 75005 Paris

Donne, lavoro, partecipazione (women, work, participation) is the title of an inquiry into 13 cooperatives which was coordinated by Donatella Ronci for Lega (national league of cooperatives) in 1982. The research throws light on the development of women in a type of business which is unique in that it implies participation.

Irish Women: Image and Achievement is a collection of a dozen essays exploring images of women in Irish society and assessing the role women have played in the creation of these images. Art, law, folklore and religion: it is a fascinating journey into the past of a country and the heart of its imagery. Published by Arlen House, The Women's Press, 69 Jones Road, Dublin 3.

Improving the statistics on women was the common objective of the UN Statistics Office and INSTRAW (international institute of research and training for the advancement of women), which led to the publication of "Compiling Social Indicators on the Situation of Women", a book which explains how to use available figures. A second work, "Methods for Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Women", suggests various improvements to data collection methods and is aimed at specialists. The two books are a step towards greater efficiency in measuring current trends. Useful address: INSTRAW, Avenida Cesar Nicolas Penson 102-A, PO Box 21747, Santo Domingo

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200 Rue de la Loi - 1049 Brussels

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## BELGIQUE — BELGIË

Rue Archimède/Archimedesstraat, 73  
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel  
Tél.: 235 11 11

## DANMARK

Højbrohus  
Østergade 61  
Postbox 144  
1004 København K  
Tél.: 14 41 40

## BR DEUTSCHLAND

Zitelmannstraße 22  
5300 Bonn  
Tél.: 23 80 41

Kurfürstendamm 102  
1000 Berlin 31  
Tél.: 892 40 28

Erhardtstraße, 27  
8000 München  
Tél.: 23 99 29 00

## ΕΛΛΑΣ

2 Vassilissis Sofias  
T.K. 1602  
Athina 134  
Tél.: 724 39 82/724 39 83/724 39 84

## FRANCE

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

### Marseille

C.M.C.I./Bureau 320  
2, rue Henri Barbusse  
F-13241 Marseille Cedex 01  
Tél. abrégé: 8467

## IRELAND

39 Molesworth Street  
Dublin 2  
Tél.: 71 22 44

## ITALIA

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

Corso Magenta, 61  
20123 Milano  
Tél. 80 15 05/6/7/8

## GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Bâtiment Jean Monnet  
Rue Alcide de Gasperi  
2920 Luxembourg  
Tél.: 430 11

## NEDERLAND

Lange Voorhout 29  
Den Haag  
Tél.: 46 93 26

## UNITED KINGDOM

8, Storey's Gate  
London SW1P 3AT  
Tél.: 222 81 22

Windsor House  
9/15 Bedford Street  
Belfast BT2 7EG  
Tél.: 40708

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

7 Alva Street  
Edinburgh EH2 4PH  
Tél.: 225 20 58

## ESPAÑA

Calle de Serrano 41  
5a Planta  
Madrid 1  
Tél.: 435 17 00/435 15 28

## PORTUGAL

35, rua do Sacramento à Lapa  
1200 Lisboa  
Tél.: 60 21 99

## TÜRKIYE

Kuleli Sokak 15  
Gazi Osman Paşa  
Ankara  
Tél.: 27 61 45/27 61 46

## SCHWEIZ - SUISSE - SVIZZERA

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

## UNITED STATES

2100 M Street, NW (Suite 707)  
Washington, DC 20037  
Tél.: (202) 862 95 00/862 95 01/862 95 02

1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza  
245 East 47th Street  
New York, NY 10017  
Tél.: (212) 371 38 04

## CANADA

Office Tower  
Suite 1110  
350 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ont. K1R 7S8  
Tél.: (613) 238 64 64

## AMERICA LATINA

### Venezuela

(Siège de la Délégation pour l'Amérique latine)  
Valle Arriba  
Calle Colibri  
Carretera de Baruta  
Caracas  
Tél.: 92 50 56/92 39 67/91 47 07

### Chili

(antenne de la Délégation en Amérique latine)  
Avda Américo Vespucio, 1835  
Santiago  
Adresse postale: Casilla 10093  
Tél.: 228 24 84/228 28 98

## NIPPON

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

## ASIA

(Siège de la Délégation pour l'Asie du Sud-Est)  
Thai Military Bank Bldg, 9th et 10th Flrs  
34 Phya Thai Road  
Bangkok - Thaïlande  
Tél.: 282 14 52

### Inde

(Siège de la Délégation pour l'Asie du Sud)  
YMCA  
Cultural Center Road  
Jai Singh Road  
New Delhi 110011  
Tél. 34 42 22/35 04 30