

Women of Europe

Brussels, 15 September/15 November 1987
No. 51



'356/87-EN

This bulletin is published by the



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
Directorate-General Information, Communication, Culture
Women's Information Service
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels - Tel. 235 11 11 / 236 11 11

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To celebrate European Year of the Environment,
Women of Europe is printed on recycled paper

Editorial work on this issue of *Women of Europe*
was completed on 5 November 1987

Dear Reader,

The European Commission has been publishing *Women of Europe* and its supplements for 10 years. In this time our readers have sent us many suggestions that have been of great help to us in our work. However, we feel that the moment has come to take stock of the situation. Where are we now? What changes should we make to meet our readers' new demands?

We need your help to answer these questions. You who are reading *Women of Europe*, what are your reactions? What are your impressions as you read these pages? What information would you like to find? How do you use the information we provide?

The answers to these questions will help us to adapt our bulletin even better to our public's tastes and needs.

Therefore, please take ten minutes of your time to fill out the questionnaire that you will find in the middle of this issue and send it back to us without delay. All responses will be read with the greatest attention. All remarks and suggestions are welcome; do not hesitate to attach a letter if you want to explore an issue more fully or take this opportunity to inform us of your activities, concerns or projects.

All replies will remain completely anonymous.

Thank you very much,

Fausta Deshormes La Valle

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

It took a political novel to imagine a woman member of the European Commission. Stanley Johnson, adviser to the Commission on environmental affairs, lays claim to this first in his novel *The Commissioner*, published by Century Hutchinson Ltd., 62-65 Chandon Place, London WC2N 4NW. The first woman Commissioner - one of the most likable and courageous figures in this political detective story - is a Portuguese national responsible for environmental affairs. (Could this happen in the next Commission?)

New draft directive

The European Commission adopted in October a proposal for a Council Directive to complete the two other EC directives currently in force concerning equal treatment of men and women in matters of social security. It covers aspects not covered by the two earlier directives (the first one, adopted in 1978, concerns statutory social security schemes; the second one, adopted in 1986, concerns equal treatment in occupational social security schemes).

Affirmative action

"Industrial challenge: the new role of women and positive actions" was the theme of a seminar organized by the European Commission in Brussels in October for the purpose of promoting affirmative action programmes for women in European companies.

As Commission Vice President Manuel Marin said in his opening speech, the European Commission sees this action from the standpoint of a better utilization of human resources. The potentials of women employees are often under-utilized or women are entrusted with tasks that are below their abilities or skills and thus demotivating. The Community considers affirmative action to include any action aimed at correcting *de facto* inequality affecting female employment and encouraging "mixing" at all levels and in all sectors in order to improve utilization of human resources. There is a Community-level framework for these actions in the form of a recommendation by the EC Council of Ministers of 13 December 1984 which makes provisions for the various possibilities in this area and calls for the creation of an appropriate framework to give them a boost.

The seminar, which was attended by representatives of many private enterprises from the 12 Member States, also tied in with the Community's policy of promoting equal opportunity. The employment situation for women in the Community is alarming. Even though girls usually are more successful than boys in compulsory education, they tend to choose general options with limited futures. This segregation takes shape, grows, and compounds the problem of the under-representation of women in training programmes. This leads to the concentration of women in a limited range of jobs and professions, making them more vulnerable to the risks of unemployment. Indeed, women account for more than 50% of Community jobseekers.

Mr Marin also encouraged companies to develop affirmative action programmes, reminding them of the possibilities of Commission support for such initiatives. Four affirmative action programmes (PTT, Netherlands; Audi, Germany; Moulinex, France; and Esso, UK) were presented and discussed at the seminar.

The participants underscored a number of points that are common to and influence the success of women's affirmative action programmes, i.e., the involvement of top-level management; designing these programmes with a view to management (better use of female potential); measures to encourage the sharing of family and professional duties (e.g., adapting working hours); the importance of hiring and career follow-up measures; and the need for accompanying, support and consciousness-raising measures.

Migrant women

Representatives of the Member States, labour unions and immigrants' organizations attended a seminar held in September by the European Commission on the problem of the employment of women immigrants. The participants underscored the need to put an end to the specific discrimination experienced by these women, who are often restricted to lower-paid work and lack adequate training. The European institutions were urged to take concrete steps to help improve these women's lot through either the European Social Fund or the Equal Opportunity Programme.

Useful address: Bureau for Equal Opportunity, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Education, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels

Segregation in the banking and insurance sectors

The European Commission, replying to a question from MEP Johanna Maij-Weggen (Democrat - NL), acknowledged that very wide "global" differences existed between the mean salaries of men and women in the banking and insurance sector. However, the Commission stressed that if a more detailed analysis of salaries within fairly uniform subgroups (qualifications, age, and company size) was performed, the disparity between women's and men's average salaries (expressed in percent of men's average wages) shrank accordingly

in banking: - from -24.9% to -5.3% in Belgium
 - from -25.9% to -5.4% in West Germany
 - from -26.0% to -9.3% in France
 - from -34.3% to -14.3% in Luxembourg and
 - from -42.1% to -10.3% in the Netherlands

and in insurance: - from -28.0% to -1.4% in Belgium,
 - from -27.3% to -9.3% in Germany,
 - from -33.7% to -6.7% in France, and
 - from -40.0% to -8.7% in the Netherlands (1).

Still and all, the Commission recognized that there was some "segregation" of women in these sectors and pointed out that it has put special emphasis in its equal opportunity programmes on the need to develop affirmative action for women, precisely to correct such inequities.

(1) The Luxembourg sample was not included in these multivariate comparisons because it was too small.

The European Social Fund and women

Answering a question submitted by MEP Stephen Hughes (Labour - UK), the European Commission provided a country-by-country breakdown of the number of women who have received Social Fund aid each year for the past four years:

Country	1984	1985	1986	1987
Belgium	24,117	25,757	6,812	16,042
Denmark	37,630	36,630	15,154	11,639
France	70,669	178,339	68,125	95,762
Germany	47,658	60,541	20,563	36,053
Greece	96,387	128,438	79,452	103,500
Ireland	67,359	121,836	56,062	61,279
Italy	111,341	199,946	172,480	185,801
Luxembourg	48	160	1,111	1,336
Netherlands	12,907	8,840	6,927	7,909
Portugal	-	-	47,020	104,760
Spain	-	-	169,977	210,758
United Kingdom	224,809	284,330	213,965	351,705
Total women	692,916	1,044,817	857,648	1,186,544
Total overall (men + women)	1,878,976	2,736,004	2,338,281	3,076,736
women/men	36%	38%	37%	38%

Europe against cancer

The overwhelming majority of Europeans give tobacco as the most frequent cause of cancer but 28% of Europeans do not know that tobacco is the most widespread carcinogen in our environment. This is what is revealed by the latest *Eurobarometer* survey of people in the twelve Member States as part of the "Europe Against Cancer" Programme (1987-89). The survey findings show that Europeans are fairly familiar with the "European anti-cancer code" adopted by EEC oncologists, except for the code's "food commandments". "Don't smoke" is the most well-known of the commandments, but is also judged the most difficult one to obey.

While women appear to be well aware of the commandments drawn up in their interest, actually obeying them is another story. For example, three out of four European women realize the importance of a pap smear, but 57% of them do not have themselves tested for cancer by this screening test, although it would make it possible to prevent 3/4 of the deaths caused by cancer of the cervix. Although 57% of European women also say they have been informed of the importance of breast X-rays, only 13% of them have had them done, although this screening test could likewise prevent 1/3 of all deaths from breast cancer.

Some sociologists, whose remarks have been picked up by the press, explain this behaviour, as well as the fact that fewer women, percentage-wise, give up smoking than men, as an expression of their emancipation. It would be interesting to know women's opinions on this!

Useful address: Mr J.R. Rabier, Special Adviser on opinion polls
Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi,
1049 Brussels

At the last European Parliament Development Committee meeting, Lorenzo Natali, European Commission Vice President, stated that the Commission had drafted a stage report on its women and development activities and organized a meeting with the Member States, the main recommendations and conclusions of which have been assembled in an information memo. In a nutshell, the reports conclude that while real progress has been made in paying more attention to "women and development" concerns, additional efforts are needed. These include reinforcing the administrative abilities of the aid agencies to deal with this question, creating expertise in this area in both Europe and the developing countries and training and raising the awareness of management. The Commission is willing, within the bounds of its current limitations, to increase its organizational efforts and resources to ensure that the emphasis on women is not overlooked in its development activities and to organize cooperation in this area amongst the Member States.

Useful address: Directorate-Generale for Development,
Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi,
1049 Brussels

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Replying to a question from British Conservative MEP Scott-Hopkins, the European Commission felt that the role of volunteer organizations in social affairs could not be overestimated. Such organizations help finance a variety of projects launched by them or with their participation, whether they are antipoverty or equal opportunity programmes, local job-creation initiatives launched by women or measures to help families or the elderly.

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The European Commission has adopted the new action programme for the disabled, which should benefit more than 30 million people, according to cautious estimates. The programme will run from 1988 to 1991 and includes proposals on the mobility of the disabled, access to public buildings and housing.

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Youth Forum has elected Jan Dereymaeker Secretary-General and Eril Eril Eudeline Deputy Secretary-General as of September 1987. Youth Forum, which is a European association of the national youth committees of the EEC's Member States and 26 international youth organizations, focuses on issues of importance to young people that come under the Community's jurisdiction, e.g., youth unemployment, education and training, youth exchanges, development, racism and discrimination, regional policies and the EEC's enlargement, the rights of young people, young women, etc.

Useful address: Youth Forum, 10 rue de la Science, 1040 Brussels

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

MEP Nicole Couraqui has died at the age of 49 after a long illness. Member of the RPR since 1977, she had been a member of the EDA Group in the European Parliament since the European elections of 1979 (having been re-elected in 1984).

Plenary session: debate on women

At its first October session the European Parliament tackled the problem of sexual equality once again with the adoption of four reports by the Committee on Women's Rights. This time, the Parliament focused on the extremely important problems of 1) integrating women into the workforce, 2) the controversial issue of the rights of immigrant women, 3) sexual discrimination in sports and 4) the portrayal of and images projected by women in the media.

- 1) The Parliament adopted a stronger, amended version of the report by Dutch Liberal Jessica Larive Groenendaal calling on the Member States and European Commission to take a series of measures to facilitate the re-entry of women into working life after breaks in their careers. The report noted that one had to dispell the myth that women drop out of the job market when they have children and thus do not deserve to be the recipients of money for training and support. On the contrary, the Member States should help them by considering women who return to the employment market just like the other long-term unemployed. This would automatically give them certain rights, especially the right to refresher courses and training. The European Commission, for its part, should propose a model programme for the reinsertion of women into the workforce that would include (Hedy d'Ancona's amendment) quantitative goals and the elimination of age limits that restrict access to training and the labour market. This programme should be adopted by a joint meeting of the Ministers responsible for employment, social affairs, education and emancipation by the end of 1989.

European Commission Vice President Manuel Marin, Commissioner for Social Affairs, pointed out that the Commission had just approved a Council recommendation on encouraging women in the labour force that was designed to guarantee more equal opportunity. However, he pointed out sadly, the European Social Fund's limited budget prevents the Commission from elaborating as ambitious a programme as that desired by the parliamentarians.

During the debate Ms Larive pointed out that the Netherlands was the country in which the largest number of women stopped working after the birth of their first child. Spanish Socialist Ludivina Garcia Arias mentioned the case of employers in her country who requested fertility certificates when hiring women and British Socialist Carol Tongue asked the European Commission to keep a close watch on how ESF appropriations for training were used in the United Kingdom. The Belgian Socialist

Marijke Van Hemeldonck denounced the prejudices that threw so many spanners into good initiatives. She cited one example of some women trained as welders. When these women started working at an Antwerp shipyard, their male colleagues had a wall built between the two groups, as if the women were "monsters"!

- 2) German "Green" Brigitte Heinrich's report on women and immigration was adopted by 124 for, 32 against (the Right and several Conservatives), and 74 abstentions (including several Christian Democrats, who criticised the resolution for giving women migrants from non-EEC countries more rights than EEC women). The report denounced the state of dependence of most migrant women, who were usually considered as merely "accompanying" their spouses and thus bereft of all autonomy. The restrictions placed on these women, Brigitte Heinrich noted, have not achieved the desired effect of reducing their influx into the Community but rather that of plunging them into a situation of uncertainty and illegality. That is why the Parliament asks that these women be given the right of residency without regard to their families and that the Member States give unmarried couples the same legal status as married couples, provided (amendment of Spanish Conservative Carmen Llorca) that the same rights are granted to EEC nationals. The resolution insists on the need to allow these women to have access to vocational training and the job market and asks the Member States to guarantee the respect for family life and put an end to State interference in personal relations between spouses. Commissioner Marin, while expressing his satisfaction with the contents of such a concrete, realistic resolution, had to admit that the European Commission's attempts, backed by the Parliament, to solve these problems by a specific procedure had been rendered null and void by the EEC Court of Justice's ruling in July 1987 that the Commission had no powers in this domain.
- 3) The Parliament adopted the report by Dutch Socialist Hedy d'Ancona, Chairwoman of the Committee on Women's Rights, asking for more equality in sports. The report stresses that sexual discrimination in sports takes latent, indirect forms but also very direct forms, as, for example, regulations banning women from participating in certain professional sports or working as referees or coaches. Concretely, Ms d'Ancona asked the Commission to indicate what it was doing to encourage female participation in sports. She proposed, among other things, that the Commission organize a "Women's Sports Week" to coincide with the 1988 International Women's Day celebrations (March 8).

While acknowledging that women's athletics takes a backseat to men's athletics, Marin nevertheless alluded to the Commission's lack of financial resources and powers in this area. Still, in the context of its general communications policy the Commission has supported several sports events this year that included women participants. Foremost among them were the presence of a woman skipper in the "Round Europe Sailing Race", the ascent of the Himalayan peak K2 by a woman high mountain guide and various tournaments and championships (see *Women of Europe* N° 50). As for the suggestion for a "Women's Sports Week", Marin thought it feasible if the Member States and national athletics federations were called upon to help finance it.

- 4) In presenting her report on women and the media, Ms Marlene Lenz (EPP, Germany) stressed the importance of the media in determining the image of women that is embraced by the public. Two problems were cited: the use of women as advertising decor (advertising agencies are urged to give up

all advertising strategies and practices that conflict with the principle of respecting the dignity of women); and the fact that few women take on important responsibilities in the media, reinforcing the far too traditional image of women that the media disseminates. Whence the need to give women preferential treatment through affirmative action until they have achieved equal rights (e.g., in hiring, training and job promotions).

Marin noted that the conclusions of a seminar sponsored by the European Commission in 1985 showed that the way women are portrayed on television is directly related to their presence in management. The television stations that have women in their decision-making centres usually take a different line from those dominated by men. The Commissioner also called attention to the fact that the draft directive on broadcasting unveiled by the European Commission last year and submitted for Council approval provides for the abolition of all sex-based discrimination in radio and television advertising in the Community.

Women's advances during thirty years of European unity

MEP Marlene Lenz (Christian Democrat, Germany), who was Chairwoman of the Commission on Women's Rights from mid-1984 to the end of 1986, reviews in a document published by the EPP Group the principal stages of "thirty years of policies on women's status in Europe". After reviewing the highlights of Community legislation affecting women, she recalls the "long and difficult road" taken by women in the European Parliament, as the number of female MEPs rose from 1 in 1952 (a Dutchwoman) to 8 in 1973, 69 in 1979, 75 in 1984 and 81 in 1986. Ms Lenz also describes the struggles of the Committee on Women's Rights, the work of which has focused until now on specific "holes" in women's status.

Useful address: European Parliament
Directorate-General for Information, Luxembourg

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The Committee on Rules of Procedure and Petitions has chosen French Socialist Marie-Claude Vayssade as "mediator" in child custody cases. In its first report on this subject the Parliament indicates that the Committee has received 49 requests for intervention so far - 15 for kidnappings of children in a Member State and 34 (concerning 46 children) in cases of children with parents of different nationalities (in 20 of the latter, the father is North African).

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The ACP/EEC Joint Assembly, meeting in Lisbon at the end of September, adopted the Hambayi report (Zambia) on regional cooperation. During the debate, Kenya's representative called for closer cooperation, especially in developing the role of women. The EEC Council President assured the assembly that the place of women in the Third World would be one of the central themes of the November Development Council.

Useful address: European Parliament
Directorate-General for Information, Luxembourg

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

At its September 24 plenary session the Economic and Social Committee (ESC) listened to Mr Beretta's (Workers' Group, Italy) report on "The social aspects of the internal market", which put special emphasis on problems affecting women, e.g., reaffirmation of equal access to training and employment; preservation of support measures for the most underprivileged social categories; measures to preserve the unity and value of the family; measures to protect ethnic minorities; and affirmation of the consumers' right to participate in drawing up consumer product quality and safety standards.

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Information, Communication and Culture has published a brochure, *Europe, our Future*, describing what "1992, a European area without borders" will be like that stresses the advantages that this unification will have for Europe's citizens.

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

In ruling on case 384/85 (equality of treatment in matters of social security), the Court of Justice asserted, in its answer to a preliminary question put to it by the Social Security Commissioner of London, that Article 4, §1 of Council Directive 79/7 on banning all discrimination based on sex in social security schemes could be invoked since 22 December 1984 (the date on which the Member States should have taken the measures required to implement this directive) so as to avoid the prolongation beyond this date of the effects of national legislation not in compliance with this article.

The case opposed Ms Borrie Clarke and the Chief Adjudication Officer concerning a new benefit called a "severe disablement allowance", available starting in November 1984. In April 1983 the plaintiff was denied a non-contributory invalidity pension (NCIP). The basis of this refusal was a condition concerning her ability to do normal household tasks, a condition that was not required of men. The NCIP was abolished in November 1984 and replaced by the "severe disablement allowance", for which claimants of both sexes had to meet the same conditions. However, as persons eligible for the old NCIP could receive the new benefit automatically, without showing proof of eligibility under the new conditions, Ms Clarke claimed that these transitional clauses effectively perpetuated the discriminatory basis of eligibility for the NCIP.

The Court ruled that, in the absence of appropriate measures for implementing Article 4, §1, women had the right to be treated the same way and be subject to the same rules as men in the same situations.

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY:**FACTS, INSTITUTIONS, LAWS****AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES**

BELGIUM

Miet Smet, the Secretary of State for the Environment and Social Emancipation, has launched an appeal to 12-year-old girls. "Prepare your future now" is the title of this awareness campaign to change attitudes towards the roles of women and girls in society (choice of studies leading to better job prospects, etc.). The campaign includes a government message aired on the national television, a large poster with a model lesson on the back and a small poster with a letter to parents on the back.

Useful address: Cabinet de la Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Emancipation Sociale, rue de la Loi 56, 1040 Brussels

There are currently thirty women in the Ministry of External Relations, including an ambassador to Nairobi, another ambassador to Harare and a consul in Tokyo. Only five of these women began their diplomatic careers after 1975.

The Secretary of State for Justice and the "Middle Classes" (tradesmen and the self-employed), Mr Mundeleer, received a delegation of doctors' spouses from the association ASCAM who asked that the status of "spouse-aid in the (liberal) professions" be recognized fully, in line with a Community directive on this problem. Mundeleer announced the creation of a committee to make suggestions on this for the next round of tax reform.

Useful address: ASCAM, 30 rue d'Arquet, 5000 Namur

The Ecole Royale des Cadets de Laeken has gone co-ed as of this year. The 291 registrations include 37 girls.

The July/August issue of *Femmes Plurielles*, the bi-monthly magazine of Femmes Prévoyantes Socialistes, contains a special section of updates on filiation, adoption and adoptability. From now on, Belgian adoption laws will no longer make a distinction between married and unmarried couples. Anyone 25 years of age and over will be able to adopt a child.

Useful address: Femmes Prévoyantes Socialistes, rue Saint Jean 32, 1000 Brussels

Back-to-school for women in Flanders: Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen has created a post-graduate programme "Vrouw en Samenleving" (Women and Society). The courses will be given "without feminist bias".

Useful address: M. van Nuland, Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen, Universiteitsplein 1, 2610 Wilrijk

Wij vrouwen (We, Women) is the first publication of the information body of the Federatie Vlaamse Vrouwengroepen (Federation of Flemish Women's Groups). Housework is one of the subjects covered in this issue.

Useful address: Federatie van Vlaamse Vrouwengroepen, Bennesteeg 2, 9000 Ghent

The Association des femmes au foyer (Association of Housewives) has published its 1987-88 yearbook.

Useful address: Avenue Georges Henri 509, 1040 Brussels

The Kristelijke Arbeiders Vrouwen (KAV), a movement of Catholic working women with more than 323,000 members, recently conducted a survey of its membership. The results show that 23.4% of its members are between 46 and 55 years old, 21.7% between 36 and 45, 20.5% under 36, 19.7% between 56 and 65, and 11.1% over 65. 3.3% of the people contacted did not respond. A table giving the level of education, broken down by age group, shows that the largest proportion of the readers completed lower and upper secondary school curricula. The KAV is one of the many associations belonging to the Nationale Vrouwen Raad (National Women's Council).

Useful address: KAV, 33 Emile Bouiliotstraat, Bus 9, 1060 Brussels

DENMARK

There are three women in the new Danish government formed after the October 8 elections: Mimi Stilling Jakobsen (Democratic Centrist), Minister for Social Affairs; Mette Madsen (Liberal), Minister for Church Affairs; and Agnete Laustsen (Conservative), Minister of Health. The popular Britta Schall-Holberg is no longer Minister of Agriculture. 52 of the 179 members of the Folketing (Danish Parliament) are women, up from 47 in 1984.

The National Council of Danish Women is represented in two newly-created government commissions, i.e., one appointed by the Prime Minister to oversee the drafting of an action programme for women based on the United Nations' "strategies for the future" and another one appointed by the Justice Minister to study the problem of increasing the number of women in certain administrations or organizations (e.g., PLCs, non-profit foundations, low-income-housing construction and management companies and State-owned companies).

A Justice Ministry commission has just published a report on the victims of violent assaults and rape. The commission, which was created at the instigation of the National Council of Danish Women, the Council for Equal Rights, and the Danish Women's Society, will eventually give rise to drafts of bills to strengthen the legal positions of women affected by such deeds.

The Nordic Union's women's organizations are preparing the conference of nordic women or "Nordic Forum" that will take place in Oslo in 1988 on the theme "The future belongs to women". As part of the preparations, the National Council of Danish Women will be holding a series of public meetings, kicked off by a meeting in Copenhagen in May, attended by some 200 women. Working groups will meet on a variety of subjects, including new technology, the media, information, and the army. The Nordic Union Ministers in charge of equal opportunity have offered to put up 5.5 million Krone to fund this initiative.

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, Niels Hemmingsensgade 10,
1153 Copenhagen

FRANCE

Hélène Gisserot, Delegate for Women's Status, recently shared the results of a year's work with listeners at a Women's Associations meeting. Ms Gisserot seized the opportunity to broach a number of ideas that had been inspired by her past year of work.

In a nutshell:

- despite progress, deep-seated resistance to growth in the role of women continues to make itself felt. This comes in part from women themselves, posing yet again the problem of access to and assimilation of information. For example, 80% of craftsmen and tradesmen's wives continue to be "invisible workers", although the law of 10 July 1982 lets them choose from amongst three different statuses.
- some features of women's jobs that are seen today as sources of inferiority may be advantages in the future. These include women's "aptitudes" for service-related activities and public relations, which will make up the bulk of jobs in the future (72% in the year 2000, versus 28% in 1950); precision, dexterity, speed and flexibility, which will be "at the heart of the performances required by tomorrow's firms (provided that women acquire the necessary technical skills); and the ability to adapt to flexible scheduling, which may eventually become the rule.

Useful address: Délégation à la Condition féminine, 14 boulevard de la Madeleine, 75008 Paris

Some forty Socialist female activists attending a "summer university" at Vaison-la-Romaine (that was sponsored by the Delegate for Information, Yvette Roudy) began work on the National Convention on Women's Rights scheduled for 8 March 1988 (which the Socialist women managed to have convened only after great difficulty). Former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, who took part in the proceedings, spoke his mind on the merits of setting quotas for women candidates in elections. "It is an absurd, but necessary, measure," he said. He felt that it would not be hard to get 25% of the slots on the Socialist lists set aside for women in the next municipal elections.

Three women have been appointed to the 69-member think-tank on the future of universities, the creation of which was announced by Jacques Valade, Minister of Research and Higher Education, in July. They are Irène Dupoux-Couturier (CBFRI Director), Nadine Forest (President of Paris VII) and Chantal Revillon (delegate of the Education Liaison Committee, Institut de l'entreprise).

The Association of Doctors' Spouses has informed its members that the French Parliament has adopted the law allowing the spouses of individuals practising a "liberal profession" (doctors, lawyers, etc.) to draw their own benefits and derived benefits concurrently and to acquire their own pension rights as "helping spouses".

Useful address: ACOMED, 41 rue Ysry, 92200 Neuilly

Autrement Femme, an association of women working in a variety of sectors, has launched "people's schools", training programmes and support and guidance schemes to help women create their own enterprises. To cite one example, it has taken action in the very deprived Basse-Terre area to encourage rural tourism, family vacationing and "touring in the feminine".

Useful address: Autrement Femme, 14 rue Maurice Marie-Claire, 97100 Basse-Terre

A colloquium on "Women and the French Revolution" will be held in Toulouse in the spring of 1989. The three days of debate will give participants a chance to study how women related to the revolutionary movement and such issues as equality, citizenship, natural rights and universality from women's perspectives. The themes that will be covered include types of action and expression (women's writings, role in societies and clubs, participation in uprisings, role in the "salons", resistance to the revolution), new rights and duties, the individual and society (women and war, poverty, prostitution), "appearances and designs" (meaning of clothing fashions, iconography), and, finally, the "'89 effect" on the post-revolutionary years.

Useful address: Marie-France Brive, 13 rue de la Colombette, 31000 Toulouse

Pianist Wally Karveno gave a concert in Paris in April of works by women. The lecturer, Gabrielle Janier, explained the roles of the composers whose music Wally Karveno had chosen to play, i.e., Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre (1664-1729), Hélène de Montgérout (1764-1836), Louise Farrenc (1805-1875), Cécile Chaminade (1857-1944), Marie Jaëll (1848-1925), Augusta Holmes (1847-1903), and Germaine Tailleferre (a contemporary composer).

(Reminder: Supplement N° 22 of *Women of Europe* was on "Women and Music".)

Martine Rolland, a 36-year-old Frenchwoman and the first woman high mountain guide, failed in her attempt to become the first woman to reach the top of K2, the world's second highest peak (8611 metres), located on the edges of Pakistan and China. Rolland wanted to plant the European flag on the summit during this expedition, which lasted from June to September (see *Women of Europe* N° 50), but was stopped, along with the entire team, from continuing this enterprise by first an accident, then poor weather conditions, at about 6,200 metres.

GERMANY

Recognition of one year of child-rearing in calculating pensions will be granted to all mothers starting in 1990. This is another step forward, after the recognition of this right to a limited category of women in 1986 and then, as of 1 October 1987, to mothers born before 1907.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Pressestelle,
Postfach, 5300 Bonn 1

Sexual equality: Minister broadens her powers

Federal Minister Rita Süßmuth obtained this result by threatening to cross out the "for Women" in the name of her Ministry (for Youth, the Family, Women and Health). Since July she may speak in Parliament whenever the debate concerns women's rights, put forward programmes and bills, even if another minister has primary jurisdiction in such matters and participate in all proceedings affecting women. In addition, the Minister is now responsible for promoting women in government departments, programmes for the reintegration of women into working life, the protection of motherhood and the punishment to be meted out for rape within a marriage.

The Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family, Women and Health has published a study on the causes of violence against women and the possibilities for help.

Dr. Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling, who began her career as scientific assistant at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at Berlin Free University, has been appointed head of the Department of Women's Affairs of the Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family, Women and Health.

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

Women in public service: North Rhine-Westphalia goes on the offensive

Following Hamburg's lead, this Land has carried out its self-criticism. Women make up 44% of its 380,000 civil servants, but only 2% of the upper grades. Even at the training level, girls have fewer chances than boys.

The Government is thus going to launch an awareness and information campaign and create the position of "Women's Status Officer" in all of its administrations. Moreover, the Secretary of State for Women's Status, Ilse Ridderse, will follow Professor Ernst Bende's (Hamburg) recommendations and examine the pros and cons of instituting a quota system, if it can be ascertained that the qualifications of the women concerned are the same as the men's. Ms Ridderse's office published the first issue of the Bulletin of the State Committee on Equality, called *Wir Frauen in Nordrhein-Westfalen* (We Women in North Rhine-Westphalia) in July.

Useful address: Parlamentarische Staatssekretärin für die Gleichstellung von Mann und Frau, Haroldstrasse 4, 4000 Düsseldorf 1

The Hessen Government official responsible for women's issues has published a catalogue of women composers called "Frauen können auch Töne angeben" (Women Can Also Set the Tone) (Gustav-Freytag-Strasse 1, 6200 Wiesbaden).

Women and the army: the controversy continues

The Secretary of State for Defence, Agnes Hürland (CDU), claims that girls will have to be drafted, due to the very low birth rate in Germany, and has announced a plan. However, negative reactions have been flooding in from all sides: trade unions, churches, the Women's Council, Greens, Social Democrats and even some women in the parties of the ruling coalition (CDU

and FDP). Anke Fuchs, SPD General-Secretary, feels that this initiative will not help women - integrating them into the army is not a substitute for equal employment opportunities.

Useful addresses: DGB, Hans-Böcklerhaus, 4000 Düsseldorf
DAG, Karl-Mulck-Platz 1, 2000 Hamburg 36
ASF, Ollenhauerstrasse 1, 5300 Bonn 1

Part-time work often prevents people from collecting social security (this is the case for women who receive DM600/month after the birth of a child but are not allowed to work more than 19 hours a week while on child-rearing leave). 92% of part-time workers in Germany are women. Minister Rita Süßmuth and the labour unions have issued warnings against the abuses of this system, which leaves women without any social protection.

Useful address: Hans-Böcklerhaus, 4000 Düsseldorf

Too many divorcees fail to obtain alimony, which, in addition, is often minimal, from their ex-husbands. As they often work only part-time, they must manage on very small incomes - 37% of divorced women earn less than DM1,200/month and 24% less than DM600. FORTE, a newly-created association in Berlin, offers to help such women claim their due.

Useful address: FRTE, Lieselotte Ernst, Melanchtonstr. 20, 1000 Berlin 21

Women in the news:

- * Helen Schüngel-Straumann is the first woman appointed to a chair of theology (at Kassel).
- * Astrid Riche is the first Officer of Women's Status appointed by the federal post office, which is the country's leading employer of women (200,000 in all). The goal is to improve women's career prospects.
- * Elisabeth Kiausch (SPD) is the first woman president of a regional parliament. She was elected in Hamburg, together with two women Vice Presidents, Charlotte Fera (CDU) and Helga Elstner (SPD).
- * Ulrike Wolf (CDU) is the first woman editor-in-chief at a television station. She is in charge of ARD's broadcast "Tagesthemen".
- * Anke Brunn, Minister for Science of North Rhine-Westphalia, is the first woman federation president (Bezirks-Vorsitzende) in the 12-year history of the Social Democratic Party.
- * Ursula Pausch-Gruber, Deputy Chairwoman of the Social Democratic Women, is the first woman in Bavaria to head a section of the SPD.
- * Ilona Schulz takes over from Ute Rohr as Officer for women's status in the workers' union DAG.
- * Hedwig Keppelhoff-Wiechert has been elected President of the Rural Women's Association (Laundfrauenverband). A round-up of activities made at its meeting in Aachen reveals that the Association organized 59,000 conferences, lectures, visits and seminars in one year with a total attendance of 1.7 million.
- * Christine Schmarsow, town official for academic affairs in Kassel, organized a conference on identity conflicts and the role of Turkish women.

- * Poetess Ulla Hahn is one of the rare women to have been given the official title of town "authoress" (Bergen). This will enable her to receive a stipend for one year.
- * Anneliese Schimke, President of the Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund (German Housewives' Association) from 1977 to 1985, has been awarded the grand order of merit of the Republic for her work for housewives.

The Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund centred its June General Meeting on "looking out for the environment in household management", confirming its interest in environmental protection. (As early as 1976, the title of its seventh congress was "Thinking about Tomorrow Today".)

On another front, Chancellor Kohl, receiving the Housewives' Association's officers in July, stated that the housewives' demands (e.g., for inclusion in accident insurance and broader recognition in pension schemes of the periods devoted to child-rearing) would have to be examined under the shadow of budgetary constraints.

Useful address: Adenauerallee 193, 5300 Bonn 1

"Frauen helfen Frauen" (Women Helping Women), a women's house at Oberhausen (address: Marktstrasse 45), has celebrated its 10th anniversary. Since its founding until the end of 1986 it has taken in 809 women and 821 children subjected to acts of physical or mental violence.

Otti Geschka, Secretary of State for Women's Affairs in the Hessen regional government, opened an exhibition in Wiesbaden in July on Mädchen in Bilderbuch (girls in picture books), an exhibition of non-sexist children's books.

GREECE

According to Ms Antoniou-Laiou, Secretary-General for Equality, the status of women in Greece is undergoing a "peaceful revolution". Her report on this issue has just been presented to the United Nations' Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Progress has been made in many areas, e.g., parental leaves, family legislation, affirmative action, training, the decentralization of the bodies working for equality, women's cooperatives and the payment of pensions to farmers' wives. The CEDAW has suggested holding an international seminar on equality and improving women's status in Greece next year.

Useful address: Secretariat-General for Equality, Mousseau 2, Plaka, 10555 Athens

However, female unemployment remains an acute problem. According to the statistics cited by Ms Fani Palli-Petralia, a representative of the major opposition party, Nea Demokratia, during a parliamentary debate on the issue, women account for 52.4% of the unemployed, although they make up only 35.4% of the working population. Female unemployment has reportedly risen 240% in three years (from 1981 to 1984)! Still, when women are willing to fight, with trade-union backing, they can get good results. Here are two examples:

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please return to: Women's Information Service, Directorate-General for Information, Communication and Culture, 200 rue de la Loi, Rm. JCL 2/107, 1049 Brussels.

1. HOW DID YOU OBTAIN THIS ISSUE OF *WOMEN OF EUROPE* (WoE)?

- I am a subscriber 1
- I am a member of a subscribing organization or institution 2
- It is a borrowed copy 3
- Someone gave it to me 4
- Other possibilities 5
- 6

2. CONCERNING THE COPY THAT YOU ARE READING:

- Has it already been read by someone else? 1
- Will it be read by persons other than yourself? 2
- Will you be the only person to read it? 3

3. AS A RULE,

- I read most of WoE 1
- I do not read WoE, but file it with my documents 2
- I throw WoE out 3
- I do not read WoE but give it away 4

4. WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR ISSUES OF WoE?

- I keep them 1
- I cut them up and file the useful information 2
- I use them to create an address file 3
- Other possibilities..... 4
-
-

5. DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PAGES IN WoE?

- No 1
- Yes 2

If you answered "yes", which section(s) would you cut out?

- The Changing European Community 1
- The European Parliament 2
- Country to Country 3
- Europe and the World 4
- Research, Meetings and Books 5

6. WHICH EVENTS DO YOU READ ABOUT?

- What is happening in my own country 1
- What is happening in other countries 2
- News in "Changing Europe" 3
- News about the European Parliament 4
- News about women's organizations 5
- Research, meetings and books 6

7. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT WoE'S PUBLISHING SCHEDULE?

- I am happy with it 1
- The lag between the publication date and dispatch date is annoying 2
- WoE comes out too late 3
- Other comments:
.....

8. HAVE YOU FOUND IN WoE

- the information you need about Europe? 1
- useful information for your occupation? 2
- useful information for your feminist activities? 3
- ideas for action? 4
- other possibilites:
.....

9. HAVE YOU INTRODUCED OTHER PEOPLE OR ASSOCIATIONS TO WoE?

- Yes 1
- No 2

10. HAVE YOU SUCCEEDED IN ESTABLISHING CONTACTS THROUGH WoE

- in your own country? yes 1
 no 2
- in other countries? yes 3
 no 4

IF SO, WHAT KIND?

- with national institutions 1
- with European institutions 2
- with women's organizations 3
- with Members of the European Parliament 4
- other possibilities 5
.....

11. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WoE'S COVER?

-
.....
.....

12. YOUR COMMENTS ON TYPE SET, LAYOUT, PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION:

-
.....
.....

13. WHAT SHOULD WoE STRESS MOST?

- women 1
- countries 2
- Europe 3
- other possibilities 4

14. DO YOU GET INFORMATION ABOUT WOMEN THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS?

- Yes 1
- No 2
- If yes, about your country? 3
- about other countries? 4
- Through which channels? 4
-

15. DO YOU GET INFORMATION ABOUT EUROPE THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS?

- Yes 1
- No 2
- If "yes"; through which channels? 4
-

16. DO YOU FIND INFORMATION IN WoE THAT YOU DO NOT FIND ELSEWHERE

- about your country? 1
- about other countries? 2
- about the European Community? 3
- about the European Parliament? 4
- about women's organizations? 5
- about research and meetings? 6
- useful addresses? 7
- other possibilities 8
-

17. HAVE YOU ALREADY USED INFORMATION FROM WoE

- for an article written for the mass media? 1
- for an article for a specialized journal? 2
- for an article for an internal bulletin? 3
- for a book? 4
- for a lecture? 5
- for other work? Explain 6
-

18. PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT WoE AS IT IS TODAY:
ITS USEFULNESS TO YOU.

- your general and/or specific criticisms:

- your assessment of WoE's supplements:

- your hopes for the future, your suggestions:

WHO ARE YOU?

- | | | |
|--|--------|---|
| - sex | male | 1 |
| | female | 2 |
| - nationality | | |
| - age | | |
| - are you a salaried worker? | Yes | 1 |
| | No | 2 |
| - if so, do you work in the public sector? | | 3 |
| in the private sector? | | 4 |
| - Do you have responsibilities in/participate in activities in a women's organization | | |
| - at the local or regional level? | | 1 |
| - at the national level? | | 2 |
| - at the international level? | | 3 |
| - at the European level? | | 4 |
| - What objectives are you and/or your organization or institution pursuing at the present time | | |
| - with respect to women? | | |
| - at the European level? | | |

MANY THANKS!

- The Telecommunications Agency's telephone operators have won a long-standing dispute with their employers, obtaining the right to promotion on the basis of their real qualifications according to the same criteria as for their male colleagues and the right not to be transferred to another part of Greece against their will.
- Women accountants have been granted the same rights to child benefits as their male counterparts.

Contraception and abortions: other voices heard from

Depenalizing abortion in Greece has triggered reactions. On the one hand, Dr. John Wilky, President of the international "Right to Life" Federation, invited to Greece by the Greek Society for the Protection of Human Life, has asked the Greek Government to change the legislation, equating abortion with murder. The Greek Society for the Protection of Human Life defined its objectives as follows during a joint press conference: limitation of the right to abortions, support to enable women to keep their babies and free medical assistance.

On the other hand, five NGOs concerned with women's status see things quite differently. They criticise the Government for the sluggishness of its family planning services. As a result, abortion remains a necessary means of contraception. The organizations are the Greek Women's Federation (Omospondia Gynekon Elladas), the Union of Women Jurists (Enossi Ellinidon Nomikon), the Union of Progressive Mothers (Proodeftiki Enossi Miteron Elladas), the Greek Housewives' Society (Sylogos Ellinidas Nikokiras) and the League for Women's Rights (Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynkeas).

Useful addresses: Elliniki Eteria gia tin Prostasia tis Anthropinis Zois (Greek Society for the Protection of Human Live), Rigilis 26, 10674 Athens;
Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynkeas, Solonos 41, 10672 Athens.

Women and:

- Sexual violence. A report on research conducted by lawyer and writer Tasia Hadji and sociologist Maria Drakopoulou on this subject has just been published in the quarterly women's magazine Pantheon. Some 500 women answered their questionnaires. 50% of them said that they had been the victims of sexual abuse between the ages of 4 and 12, and one out of five reported being raped later. The investigators found that female victims of sexual violence did not belong to a special "high-risk" group and their aggressors in many cases (and in 75% of the child abuse cases) were not strangers.

Useful address: Pantheon, Anaxagora 5, 10552 Athens

- crime. A debate organized by the Women's Rights League and moderated by the League's President, Prof. Aliki Giotopoulou-Marangopoulou, a noted criminologist, tried to sort out myths and reality on this subject. The points covered included the female crime rate (lower than that of men), possible ties between rising crime and the improved position of women in society, and the unequal treatment of female offenders, who are punished more severely by society than men are.

Useful address: Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynkeas (see above)

- technology. An international experts' meeting on "Mediterranean women and technology" was held in Athens in October by the Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute, with the support of the Ministry of Culture and help from UNESCO.

Useful address: Kentro Erevnon gia tis Gynekes tis Mesogiu, Leoforos Alexandras 192/B, 11521 Athens

IRELAND

The new Minister for Labour, Mr Bertie Ahern, has said that there is a real danger that if no efforts are made to promote equality women will remain trapped in low-grade work. He called on management and employees to use persuasion to bring about changes wherever possible and to avoid having to take cases to the Labour Court or other bodies. In short, much greater efforts need to be made at the plant and workplace level to promote the rights of women at work.

The Irish Revenue Commissioners (the Tax Collecting Agency) have been found by the Labour Court to have discriminated against female employees in competition for promotion to the grade of Tax Officer. The decision is expected to have widespread repercussions on Civil Service Interview Procedures.

The case is only the third one since the Employment Equality Act was passed in 1977 in which the Civil Service has been found in breach of the legislation. The trade union involved brought the case on behalf of four clerical assistants who applied for promotion to Tax Officer grade together with 654 other candidates. Whereas 169 (26%) of the applicants were men and 485 (74%) women, the success rate of promotion proved to be 29% for the men versus 15% for the women.

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

Recently-released figures from the 1981 census show that over 80% of the women in the workforce have had post-primary education. However, this improvement in educational level has not been translated into monetary advantages. The statistics consistently show that women's per capita wages are significantly lower than men's.

Useful address: Central Statistics Office, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

Recent statistics from the Department of Health reveal that the marriage rate in Ireland is falling. The 1984 figures reveal a 0.4% decrease compared with 1983. The full significance of the figures can be seen when the 1973 statistics are compared with the 1984 statistics. In 1973 the rate of marriage was 7.4 per 1,000 population; in 1984 it had declined to 5.2 per thousand.

Useful address: Department of Health, Custom House, Dublin 1

Legislation providing for the adoption of legitimate children in certain restricted circumstances is being examined in the Senate. The Government measure will allow legitimate children with one or both parents still alive to be adopted in very restricted and exceptional circumstances. The natural parents of legitimate children would have to be declared to have failed in their duty towards the child for physical or moral reasons, with said failure continuing without interruption until the child reached the age of 18.

An estimated 2,500 children are likely to benefit from the new provisions if the bill is passed by the Parliament.

Useful address: Department of Health, Custom House, Dublin 1

The Federation of the Service for Unmarried Parents and their Children has criticised the media for its treatment of unmarried mothers in recent years. At its Annual General Meeting members were critical of what they saw as the lack of balance in the treatment of unmarried mothers and the criticism of the women's State entitlements that had been voiced by part of the media. The Federation has recently launched an Information Pack that deals with 23 potential problems that single parents and their children may face.

Useful address: F.S.U.P.C., 36 Upper Rathmines Rd., Dublin 6

A young female meat packer was awarded £8,000 by the Belfast Industrial Tribunal in Northern Ireland recently in a sexual harassment case. She complained that her male colleagues had been molesting her and that things came to a head when they put a high pressure hose under her skirt, causing her physical injury. A similar case, in which a female employee is pressing charges of sexual harassment against her boss, is expected to be heard by the Labour Court shortly.

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

A recent jury acquittal of a young man facing criminal charges of rape has triggered indignant outcries from many women's groups, which have already been calling for reforms in the way rape cases are handled. Their demands include a broader definition of rape, ruling out references to the plaintiff's (victim's) sexual history as inadmissible, free legal defence, and the criminalization of rape within marriage. The current Government has already committed itself to reform in this area and draft legislation may be ready for introduction when the Parliament returns from recess. An all-party Joint Committee on Women's Rights recently completed a comprehensive report on sexual violence that recommends, among other things, the very reforms called for by the women's groups.

Useful address: Government Information Service, Government Building, Dublin 2

Two young Irishwomen have received their jockey's diplomas from the Kildare Racing Apprentices Centre of Education. This is the first time in this centre's 14 years in existence that women were admitted and successfully passed the necessary tests. They were chosen from an initial group of over 200 candidates.

More than 8,000 women participated in a mini-marathon sponsored by the Evening Press Limited, one of Ireland's leading newspapers. The winner ran the 10 kilometres in 34 minutes and 2 seconds.

The Council for the Status of Women has just published its annual report for 1986. It contains some important initiatives concerning young women and "regional women, the forgotten women".

Useful address: CSW, 64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2

ITALY

A woman, Christian Democratic Senator Rosa Russo Jervolino, has been chosen to head a new ministry in the Goria Government, the Ministry for "Special Affairs". A violent debate immediately broke out concerning the ministry's role. Would it be primarily in charge of women's affairs? No, said Ms Jervolino, for "our problems cannot be treated as 'special affairs'". The new ministry will be in charge of the "serious social problems" to which the Government wants to accord special attention, namely, drug abuse, the handicapped, the elderly, minors, and Third World immigrants. It will be characterized by flexibility, for the respective weights of these problems vary over time. In the words of Giovanni Goria, this ministry will in a way be "the Government's feelers in society".

The early elections in Italy prevented a Senate vote on the bill on maternity benefits for self-employed women. The publication *Donne Rurali* (Rural Women) sadly noted this delay in implementing a measure that is actually the subject of a Community directive.

Useful address: Donne Rurali, via 24 Maggio 43, 00187 Rome

The women Communists and unaffiliated leftists (plus a few Socialists) in the Chamber of Deputies have suggested creating a new standing committee, the "Committee for Women's Rights", to verify that laws on equality are applied correctly. According to Livia Turco, one of the forces behind this idea, such a committee is also needed in Parliament (comparable commissions are already attached to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Labour).

Torino is the second large Italian city - after Palermo and Elda Pucci - to have a woman mayor. The new mayor is Socialist Maria Magnani Noya, a lawyer, three-term deputy and women's activist from the start. One of her goals is to make Torino a centre of culture, conscious of its past, as well as an industrial centre.

After the national elections (see *Women of Europe* No. 50), the Emilia Romagna Regional Committee for Parity between Men and Women held a seminar on the very timely subject of "Women and political power: women without power?" During the seminar the Committee drew the participants' attention to the fact that they must not only exercise their right to vote, but also use it to change the position of women in politics.

Useful address: Commissione per la Realizzazione della Parità tra uomo e donna, Giunta regionale Emilia Romagna, Viale Silvani 6, Bologna

Continuing in this vein, the Commissione Nazionale Coordinamento Donne of the ACLI (Associazioni Cristiane Lavoratori Italiani) (Women's National Coordinating Committee of the Christian Associations of Italian Workers) has held a seminar at Lariano (Rome) on "Women and Politics". The work, based on the concrete experiences of women attached to various institutions, political parties, trade unions and associations, stressed the need to create models and new rules to enable women to serve in Government positions with all of their creativity rather than serving merely as "underlings".

Useful address: ACLI, Via Giuseppe Marcora 18-20, Roma

The problems of migrant women were examined during a debate organized by the National Italian Women's Council (Consiglio Nazionale Donne Italiane - CNDI) and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) with the collaboration of the EC Information Office in Italy. The specific training needs of this category of women, as well as the need to take into account both their cultures of origin and cultures of adoption, were analyzed on the basis of a report written by Colette De Troy for the European Commission.

Useful address: CNDI, Piazza dei Quiriti 3, 00192 Roma. President:
Liliana Richetta

The number of female police officers is rising: 926 (more than 50%) of the 1,800 officers who have just completed their training and begun working are women. Many of them will join the motorcycle units and mounted police brigades. The Italian police now include 78 women deputy commissioners, 188 women directors and 476 women inspectors, in addition to the 926 officers mentioned above.

The family is making a comeback: This is one of the conclusions reached during three days organized by the Christian Democrats' Women's Movement on "The contemporary family, crisis and recovery of values", "The family, an economic subject" and "The family, government and the private sector".

Useful address: Movimento Femminile DC, Corso Rinascimento, 00186 Roma

Sports and violence unfortunately go together. How can one react? By prevention rather than punishment, according to the participants of a colloquium sponsored by the Unione Donne Europea Segnalatesi nei vari Settori d'Attività (UDESSA) (Union of Outstanding European Women).

Useful address: Angela Musolesi, Presidente UDESSA, via Luigi Biochilin 12, 00146 Roma

The Istituto Italo-Africano, directed by Tullia Caretoni, has begun work on two projects concerning women in Africa (two articles of the new Italian law on cooperation for development make explicit mention of interventions to improve the situation of women). One of them concerns the promotion of women in Zimbabwe (the same type of programme conducted in the village of Kasanze will be spread to the country's other seven provinces) and technical support for the Kandito Women's Association (which has been given 150 ha for horticultural use by the Lake Victoria Basin Authority).

Useful address: Istituto Italo-Africano, via Aldovrandi 16, 00197 Roma

A Comitato Terziario Donna (one of the Committees for Women in the Service Sector that have been created in each province of Venetia to help the women working in commerce, tourism and services to realize their potentials) would like to get in touch with women working in this field in other countries.

Useful address: ASCOM, Passaggio de Gasperi 3, 35131 Padova

The charter of the Pontifica Facoltà di Scienze dell'Educazione "Auxilium" was recently approved. This is the only faculty (created in 1980) within the Church that is run entirely by women (Istituto delle Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice). The faculty is attended by large numbers of students of both sexes from all over the world.

Useful address: "Auxilium", via Cremolino 141, 00166 Roma

The activity rate of Italian women (number of working women over the total adult female population) rose between April 1986 and April 1987 from 23.3 to 23.8%, according to Istat's latest workforce statistics. The male activity rate declined slightly over this same period, from 54.6 to 54.5%. An apparently paradoxical consequence of this rise in the number of women on the labour market was the increase in the rate of female unemployment, which currently stands at 17.9% compared with 8.1% for men.

Milan Polytechnic held a symposium in September on "Women and Polytechnical Education". The invitation noted that of the 1,000 engineers and 1,000 architects who graduated from the Polytechnic last year, 60 and 420, respectively, were women.

Useful address: Politecnico di Milano, Ufficio Affari Generali, Piazza L. da Vinci 32, 20133 Milano

The Mexican journalist Valentina Alaszaraki, a television and newspaper correspondent in Rome, has been elected president of the Foreign Press Association. She is the second woman president in the Association's 75-year history. Four of the seven members of its Governing Board are women.

Useful address: Foreign Press Association, via della Mercedez 52, Roma

Caritas Italiana organized a year of volunteer social work called "Giving a Year". The volunteers - mainly young women - who devoted one year of their lives to activities for the underprivileged.

Useful address: Caritas Italiana, viale F. Baldelli 41, 00148 Roma

The May/June issue of *La Voce dell'ANDOS* (the publication of the National Association of Mastectomized Women) looks at the progress made in controlling breast cancer, the problems of rehabilitating women after surgery and the theme "fashion as therapy".

Useful address: ANDOS, via Udine 6, Trieste

A 27-year-old woman, Anna Wilhelm, is the youngest Italian orchestra conductor. Her mother is a composer, her father a violinist at the Scala. She recently conducted the Young People's Chamber Orchestra of the Civic Theatre of Vercelli.

LUXEMBOURG

Wage discrimination: The Committee of Female Labour protests against the poor treatment given to cleaning women in the communes of southern Luxembourg. The Committee, alerted in particular by the case of the commune of Pétange, has called for an investigation of all alleged discrimination.

Useful address: Comité du travail féminin, c/o Astrid Lulling, Chairwoman, Chambre des Députés, rue du Marché-aux-Herbes, Luxembourg

Artificial insemination and genetic engineering: The National Women's Council, noting the rapid progress in and secrecy surrounding this field, has asked the Government to set up a National Ethics Committee on which women would be well represented in order to advise lawmakers in areas concerning the protection of human life and the rights of the fetus, family and human beings.

Useful address: Conseil National des Femmes, BP 160, 2011 Luxembourg

The pension fund reform bill worries both the National Women's Council and the Committee on Female Labour. It raises the age of early retirement to 60 years (from 55) and increases the statutory "waiting period" for eligibility for early retirement considerably (from 15 to 40 years). The National Women's Council opposes the overly strict rules on concurrent claims, while the Committee on Female Labour has called for the creation of optional insurance for non-working spouses. The private-sector- and bank-employee unions are also unhappy with the bill, which they call a "scandalous, systematic dismantling of women's rights".

Useful addresses: Aleba, 51 Boulevard Grande-Duchesse Charlotte;
FEP, 16 avenue de la Faiencerie, 1610 Luxembourg

Feminism is still necessary: That is the message broadcast by the Women's Liberation Movement at its last Annual General Meeting. The participants fretted that today's young women, used to more rights and freedom than the previous generation, are often unaware of the need for feminist activism, although sexism continues to exist in many areas of life in Luxembourg. They felt that this strengthened the *raison d'être* of the Movement, which in 1987 launched a major campaign against the commercial exploitation of women's bodies.

Useful address: MLF, BP 174, 2011 Luxembourg

NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands now has a "Women's Party". The new party outlines its main demands in its platform, "The Women's Party demands..." (De Vrouwenpartij wil) and invites all women interesting in finding out more to contact it.

Useful address: Vrouwenpartij i.o., Postbus 1120, 5602 BC Eindhoven

The Government's income tax proposals fall short of the mark, according to the Emancipatieraad (Council for Emancipation). In its report "eenvoud in de loon- en inkomstenbelasting" (Simplifying taxation of wages and income), the Council notes that these proposals do not actually improve conditions for women.

The Council for Emancipation has also just published its annual report for May 1986-May 1987.

Useful address: Emancipatieraad, Lutherse Burgwal 10, 2512 CB Den Haag

Nijmegen, a major Dutch city, has a woman mayor once more. Ien Dales is the first Socialist and 26th woman to hold the office of "burgomaster".

Working Women (Vrouwen aan het werk): The Minister of Social Affairs is using a series of pictures and posters to spread information on the situations of Dutch women in 23 different professions.

Useful address: Centrale directie voorlichting van het Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, Zeestraat 73, 2518 AA Den Haag

Women and Housing: This is the theme of a congress held in October by the Dutch Women's Council (Nederlandse Vrouwenraad). The Council also devoted issue 18 of its Info series to building and the home and the way the home surroundings can influence women's daily lives.
Useful address: Nederlandse Vrouwenraad, Laan van Meerdervoort 30, 2517 Den Haag

The number of women members of the FNV trade union has not stopped rising: at the end of 1986 women accounted for 16.6% of the union's members. However, as the Vrouwenbond FNV (FNV Women's Union) points out, women make up 36% of the working population and therefore continue to be under-represented in unions. The Union also notes that women are generally at a disadvantage when it comes to work.
Useful address: Vrouwenbond FNV, Plein 40-45, N° 1, 1064 SV Amsterdam

Pregnancy and Employment: Nijmegen Catholic University organized a day of study of the legal, political and social aspects of this subject in November.
Useful address: Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen, Section Vrouwenrecht, Kamer 08.02.11, Postbus 9049, 6500 KK Nijmegen

The Women's Training Centre (Vrouwenvormingscentrum) has published its winter '87 and spring '88 course offerings. They include women and politics, women and different cultures, spirituality and other life-styles.
Useful address: Vrouwenvormingscentrum, Bornweg 12, Postbus 6, 6720 AA Bennekom

In memorium: Trix Terwindt is no longer with us. This resistance fighter, who survived her internment at Mauthausen concentration camp, fought the German Occupation from Great Britain, where she had found refuge.

Publications of interest to women:

* Continuing Education (Doorstuderen), a brochure written by Marina van Koten-Hertogs for the Association of Women with Academic Training (Vrouwen met Academische Opleiding), analyzes the situation of women graduates of higher education and makes proposals for improving these types of study through affirmative action.

Useful address: Drs. van Koten-Hertogs, Vereniging van Vrouwen met Academische Opleiding, Saffierhorst 202, 2592 GN 's Gravenhage

* Feminism, by Anneke Ribberink, and Drift en Woude, strijd en beleid tegen seksueel geweld, a work about sexual violence, the mechanisms underlying it and ways to combat it, published by the Dutch Centre for Political Training.

Useful address: Stichting Burgerschapskunde, Postbus 349, 2300 AH Leiden

PORTUGAL

There are 19 women amongst the 250 legislators elected to Parliament (Assembleia da República) in the July 19 national elections. Women now account for 7.6% of the MPs, up from 6.4% before. Ten are Social Democrats (PSD), 4 Socialists (PS), 4 Social-Democratic Centrists (CDU) and 1 of the Democratic Renewal Party (PRD). Here are their names and political affiliations:

- PSD: Marília Raimundo, Maria Luisa Ferreira, Ercília Ribeiro da Silva, Teresa Gouveia, Conceição Castro Pereira, Margarida Borges de Carvalho, Leonor Beleza, Manuela Aguiar, Maria da Assunção Andrade Esteves and Cecília Catarino
- PS: Helena Torres Marques, Elisa Damião, Teresa Santa Clara Gomes, Helena Roseta
- CDU: Bernardina Sebastião, Luisa Amorim, Maria Santos, Odete Santos
- PRD: Natália Correia
-

Portugal is represented by only one woman in the European Parliament. She is Socialist Maria de Lurdes Pintasilgo, who was Prime Minister from July 1979 to January 1980 and the only woman presidential candidate in 1986.

The Advisory Council of the Commission on Women's Status adopted in July a Plataforma de Acção para a Igualdade (Platform of Action for Equality). This platform is the product of a consensus achieved by a collection of very different organizations and covers a broad range of areas, i.e., political participation, education, information, guidance and vocational training, labour, health and social security, changing mentalities and mechanisms for ensuring equality. The aim is to translate the equality of rights guaranteed by the constitution into reality.

Useful address: Comissão da Condição Feminina, Avenida da República 32, 1039 Lisboa Codex, Tel. 77 60 81/2/3/4

The Committee on Women's Status has just published a brochure called "*Portugal - Situação das Mulheres*" (Portugal - the Situation of Women) in which it analyzes, with the help of statistics, the place actually occupied by women in Portuguese society and the place set aside for women by the laws and constitution. (Chronological tables included.)

We remind our readers who want to keep informed of all national, Community and international developments concerning women that the Committee publishes a quarterly bulletin, *Notícias*.

Useful address: same as above

The MCDS (Mulheres Centristas Democráticas Sociais - Social-Democratic Centrist Women) have created the annual Rainha D. Leonor award for the best master's or doctoral thesis on the rights and social condition of women. For more information: MCDS, Largo Adelino Amaro da Costa 5, 1196 Lisboa Codex

The use of women in advertising: The Advertising Council (Conselho da Publicidade), an advisory body composed of representatives of the administration, consumers and bodies for social communication, has just published its second recommendation on this still topical subject (the first recommendation dates back to 1984) indicating the types of advertising to be avoided.

The bulletin of the Associação Portuguesa de Mulheres Empresárias, created in 1985 to improve the position of women with positions of responsibility in companies, explains the association's aims and guiding principles. Useful address: APME, rua Castilho 50 1200 Lisboa

Issue No. 107 of the magazine *Mulheres* contains a special report on "women in social communication in Portugal". This report notes that in March of this year women accounted for 20% of the staff of the weekly *Expresso* and only 13% of the staff of the weekly *Jornal*, while they beat all records at the RDP (Rádio Difusão Portuguesa), with 30% of the total, but especially as production assistants. 21% and 19% of the journalists at the press agencies Anop and NP (before their merger) were women.

Ana Maria Braga da Cruz, of the Committee for Women's Status, has finished her report on "Management in Portugal - a Job for Women", based on a project that was carried out last year with the help of European Social Fund financing. The project, which she coordinated, involved the production of hand-crafted textile products by 28 women.

SPAIN

As a result of the June 10th elections, there are six women MEPs from Spain (versus 54 men). They are Ludivina Garcia Arias (Soc), Ana M. de Lage (Soc), Barbara Duhrkop (Soc), Conception Ferrer (EPP), Carmen Llorca Vilaplana (ED) and Carmen Dize de Rivera (NA).

The Instituto de la Mujer (Women's Institute) revealed in a recent survey that 65.3% of the respondents felt that there were not enough women in Parliament and 70.2% felt the same about the number of women in the Government. This opinion was shared by 61.1% of those polled concerning the number of women in senior administration posts, 58.7% concerning town councils, and 69.1% concerning the number of women in politics in general.

The Constitutional Court has rejected an appeal brought by a woman against a Labour Court ruling that denied her the right to a widow's pension after 40 years of cohabitation with her companion, whose three children she had borne. The Court declared that "marriage and cohabitation out of wedlock are not equivalent situations". The Constitutional Court also rejected in July the appeal brought by Orosio Francisco Limón Navarro contesting a 1985 decision of the Avila Labour Court on the grounds of violation of the right of equality guaranteed by Article 14 of the Spanish constitution. Limón Navarro, who works at the hospital La Seguridad Social Nuestra Señora de Sonsoles, is the father of a 2-year-old girl. He had claimed in vain recognition of the right to receive a wage supplement given to all of the women working in the hospital who have children under 6 years of age.

Useful address: Instituto de la Mujer, Almagro 36, 23010 Madrid

The Coordinadora Estatal de Organizaciones Feministas del Estado Español has decided to take charge of organizing the Regional European Meeting on "Women and Health" that will take place in 1988 (based on the proposal of the 5th International Congress on Women and Health, held in San José de Costa Rica).

Useful address: Belén Nogueiras y Carmen Saez, Asociación Mujeres para la Salud, c/Barquillo, 44, Madrid

Radio Nacional de España is going to start broadcasting a morning programme with a team composed entirely of women. The national radio station's director was quick to inform the journalists that, "It will not be a feminist programme, but a broadcast produced with a woman's viewpoint".

Four Madrid women police officers with law degrees have had the job for a little more than a year of questioning mistreated women. So far they have questioned women between the ages of 10 and 80 who were victims of violence and sexual assaults. 250 women reported such acts in 1986, but the real number of incidents is much higher.

The Coordinadora de Librerías de Mujeres has, with the help of the Women's Institute, published a "Feminist Bibliographical Bulletin" containing a list of works on feminism and the situation of women, as well as non-sexist children's books and books written by women.

The Spanish National Women's Council (Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de España) held a symposium and workshops on "Women and Technology" in March with the help of Catalana de Gas y Electricidad, S.A.
Useful address: Consejo Nacional de Dones, Diputació, 306 pral, 08009 Barcelona

The Women's Institute has stepped up its activities to promote local initiatives and job creation, especially through its eleven Women's Rights Information Centres, which offer guidance in this area free of cost. The Institute has also created employment guidance units to inform women as fully as possible of training and employment possibilities, especially cooperative work. (For address, see above, Instituto de la Mujer.)

UNITED KINGDOM

The latest elections have boosted women's representation

The June general election, which returned Margaret Thatcher to power for a third term (see *Women of Europe* No. 50), also increased the number of women in Parliament. There are now 41 women in the House of Commons (6.3% of the total), up from 23 (3.5% of the total) in 1983. There are now 21 Labour women MPs (including Dianne Abbott, the first black woman MP), 17 Conservatives, 2 Alliance and 1 Scottish National Party. The Prime Minister is the only woman in the Cabinet.

The parties' campaign pitches to women differed widely. The Conservatives stressed the family; Labour focused on establishing a Ministry for women; while strengthening the Equal Opportunities Commission and doing more for women in the areas of education, taxation and social security were the targets of the Alliance (Liberals and Social Democrats). The Labour women MPs wasted no time in announcing that they planned to present a new agenda of debates on issues affecting women in the House of Commons.

Presenting the Equal Opportunity Commission's 11th annual report, EOC Chairwoman Lady Platt stressed that 1986 had been a year of outstanding successes, including a major change in retirement law following the European Court of Justice's ruling on the Helen Marshall case; fundamental improvements in conditions for women in two important organizations, SOGAT and Dan Air Services; and the EOC's productive cooperation with British Gas, the Metropolitan Police and Tate & Lyle to secure equal opportunity change voluntarily. The EOC also requested £1 million in additional Government funding to develop a regional network of offices.

The EOC has just published *Women and Men in Britain - A Statistical Profile*, bringing together for the first time in one document a wealth of statistics on the positions of men and women in the '80s.

Courts award compensation to four pregnant women who were sacked: Employment Tribunals have awarded sizable compensation (highest: £1,400) to four pregnant women sacked by their employers (a nursing home, a double glazing firm, a school for the handicapped and a bakery), ruling that the women were victims of illegal discrimination. As Nicky Jones, Principal Legal Officer at the EOC, said, "If pregnant women can show that male employees who can take time off, e.g., for sickness, would not be sacked, then they can claim sex discrimination."

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

Part-time work: As a result of discussions with the EOC, the Halifax Building Society has launched a new policy guaranteeing better treatment for women. The new policy, which is backed up by the appointment of an Equal Opportunities Manager, will enable employees to switch to part-time work without sacrificing their careers or benefits.

Useful address: The Halifax Building Society, PO Box 22, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 1JU

In contrast, the Equal Opportunities Commission of Northern Ireland was disappointed to learn that the Government's latest equal opportunity proposals offer nothing to facilitate the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women, but are confined to religious discrimination. The EOC's recent publications include a *Guide to Women's Voluntary Organizations*, which describes the activities of 45 women's organizations, and *Equality in Employment: Making it Work for Women and Men*, a round-up of ten years of developments under the sex discrimination and equal pay legislation.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission of Northern Ireland, Chamber of Commerce House, 22 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 2BA

BBC wants women: A new equal opportunity plan has been developed by Cherry Ehrlich, the BBC's first Equal Opportunities Officer. Already in gear, it is designed to correct the imbalance in top management (there are only 11 women in the BBC's 170 top management posts). The BBC also means to extend equal opportunity to ethnic minorities, plus, £40,000 will be given to a pilot training scheme to help blacks and Asians break into TV reporting.

Useful address: BBC, Press Office, Television Centre, London W12 7RJ

Women in high places:

* Betty Boothroyd, Labour MP, has been appointed Deputy-Speaker of the House of Commons. She is the second woman to hold this office.

- * Elisabeth Esteve-Coll, a specialist in Romanesque sculpture, has been appointed head of the Victoria and Albert Museum. She is the first woman to head a museum of this calibre in Great Britain.
- * Wendy Henry has, at the age of 33, become editor of the *News of the World*, one of Britain's toughest Sunday tabloids, and the youngest British newspaper editor in 50 years.

Trade unions try to attract women to their ranks

Many unions that, until now, have generally ignored the goldmine of part-time workers (90% of whom are women) are changing their attitudes toward female membership. For example:

- * The General, Municipal & Boilermakers' Union (GMBU) has decided to recast its traditional negotiating priorities to emphasize bargaining points such as cancer training and pregnancy testing that benefit women.
- * TASS, an engineering union, says that, thanks to its equal opportunity policy, its women members earn 81% on average of their male colleagues' salaries, versus 61% on average for most women in industry. Terry Marshland, TASS national organizer, believes that many more women will join if the union takes up such issues as equal pay, part-time workers' rights, sexual harassment and health protection.
- * COHSE, the health workers' union, is urging the TUC to set up a "women's department", in line with the TUC Women's Conference's demands. This would improve the status of women in the trade union movement.

Useful address: TUC, Congress House, Greater Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS

Twenty-two women are currently enrolled in a carpentry training course at the Southwark Women's Training Workshop. The project, funded jointly by the European Social Fund and the London Borough of Southwark, was launched 3½ years ago. It has already trained 170 women in this traditionally male trade.

Useful address: Southwark Women's Training Workshop, 164 Union St., London SE1

The Women into Science and Engineering (WISE) campaign launched in 1984 has been successful. Nearly 2,000 women began engineering courses at UK universities and polytechnics in 1986/87. Women also accounted for more than 10% of degree places in engineering, up from 7.8% before the campaign began. The Engineering Council finds this trend "most encouraging".

Useful address: Engineering Council, 10-16 Maltravers St., London WC24 3ER

Virago, a 15-year-old all-women's publishing house, has bought back its independence after 5 years within the powerful publishing house of Chatto, Bodley Head and Jonathan Cape (just bought by the even bigger Random House). Amongst the new directors are founders Carmen Callil, Urusula Owen and Harriet Spicer. Run entirely by women, Virago employs a staff of 17 and is publishing 90 books in 1987, with plans to expand to 120 a year over the next five years.

Useful address: Virago Press Ltd, 41 William IV St., London WC2N 3DB

The British chapter of the European Network of Women (ENOW), a feminist lobby launched in 1983 that operates in the Community's twelve Member States, has produced two publications of interest:

- *Making the EEC Work for Women*, a leaflet published with NALGO, the local government union, to encourage British women to take a more positive role vis-à-vis the European Community (watch out for some technical mistakes)
- *Network News* (UK), providing useful information about women's activities throughout the Community.

Useful address: ENOW (UK), 52/54 Featherstone St., London EC1Y 8RT

Springboard, published by Springboard Publishing Ltd, PO Box 741, London NW6 4YP, is the first directory containing the addresses and phone numbers of all businesses, organizations and services directed or owned by women. Arranged in 6 different sections, its 240 pages have everything you need.

Welsh women now have their own publishing company, Honno. Its first two titles are *Buwch ar Y Lein*, by Hafina Clwyd, and an autobiography of a famous Welshwoman, Elizabeth Davis, related by historian Jane Williams.

Useful address: Ailsa Craig, Heol y Cawl, Dinas Powys, De Morgannwg, CF 64 AH

The University of Bradford has been offering post-graduate courses leading to a degree in Applied Women's Studies since 1982. These are interdisciplinary courses designed to establish connections between practical experience and theoretical analyses of woman's role in society.

Useful address: University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD 7 IDP

Loughborough University created in 1986 a Standing Group on Women and Politics composed of researchers from practically all of the EC Member States and Scandinavian countries.

Useful address: Loughborough U., Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU

EUROPE AND THE WORLD

The Church: The Synod will not be able to remain silent on the specific place and duties of women in the Church, according to Cardinal Danneels, Archbishop of Mechelen, to the Synod of bishops meeting in Rome in October. Women also took the floor, for example during a hearing of five lay members, including three women (Patricia Jones of Liverpool, Calixta Belomo Essana of Cameroon and Teresa Chooi of Malaysia).

Many bishops underscored the discrimination against laywomen in the Church and their under-representation in decision-making bodies, e.g., the Roman Curia, dioceses and even the diplomatic corps. One even asserted that the Catholic Church should consider reintroducing the institution of deaconesses. However, he was a bishop from an Eastern Church (in India) that has been ordaining women deacons for years.

The Rotary Club must admit women according to the US Supreme Court in its ruling on the case of a Californian Rotary Club that had been kicked out of Rotary International for having admitted three women in 1977.

Amnesty International - Belgium has released the names of three Chilean political prisoners for whom the national courts are seeking the death sentence. They are Cecilia Radrigan Plaza (44), Miriam Ortega Araya (37) and the latter's husband, Rudolfo Rodriguez Moraga (58). As part of its "Chile capital punishment" campaign, Amnesty International urges everyone to send letters asking that these people not be sentenced to death and that the sentences of all of the other prisoners on death row be commuted.

Useful address: Amnesty International Belgique, rue Berckmans 9, 1060 Brussels

"Women in Trade Unions in Western Europe", a European Trade Union Institute report written by Harald Lövaas with the help of the Women's Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation, reviews the progress made by women in the trade union movement in recent years. The country-by-country analysis shows that: in Austria, 30.8% of the ÖGB's members at the end of 1985 were women; in Belgium, women make up some 1/3 of the total CSC and FGFB 1983 membership; in Denmark, women made up 46% of the LO and 55% of the FTF membership in 1985; in Finland, women accounted for 44% of the SAK and 83% of the TKV; in France in 1982, 32% of the CFDT's members were women; in Germany, 22.1% of the DGB's members are women; Greece - accurate figures on women in the GSEE are not available; in Iceland, 46.3% of the ASI's members are women; in Ireland, 32% of the ICTU's members are women; in Italy, women are estimated to make up 32% of the CGIL, 30-33% of the CISL, and 24% of the UIL membership; in Luxembourg, women make up 16.7% of the CGT-L and 10% of the LCGB; in the Netherlands, 15.9% of the FNV and 20% of the CNV are women; in Norway, 37.7% of the LO's members are women; in Portugal, 46% of the UGT-P's members are women; in Spain, 14% of the UGT but 21% of the ELA/STV (Autonomous Basque Community) are women; in Sweden, 43.1% of the LO's and 57% of the TCO's members are women; and in Switzerland, 12.3% of the USS and 11% of the CSC members are women (1986 figures).

As one can see, the percentages vary widely from one country to the next, despite the universal progress. As one would expect, the situation becomes more skewed the higher one climbs in the union hierarchy.

Socialist International Women celebrated its 80th anniversary on 17 August 1987 by putting out a special edition of its bulletin.

Useful address: Maritime House, Old Town, Clapham, London SW4 0JW

The third stage of the "European Communities Scientific Training Programme in Japan" will be launched by the European Commission in January 1988. This programme, which provides for the exchange of young scientists between Europe and Japan was activated in 1986. Two groups of trainees have been sent out since then. In the second stage, 20 (15.4%) of the 130 applicants were women. Of the 20 selected for interviews, 4 (20%) were women. Of the 6 finally chosen to go to Japan, 1 was a woman.

The trainee selection criteria include age (25-35 years), level of studies (doctorate) and field of research (different for each stage). The trainees' travel expenses and Japanese language course fees are covered by the European Commission. They also receive an initial bonus to set them up and a monthly stipend to cover the cost of their stay in Japan for the training period (from 12 to 18 months).

All applications must be sent to the Commission by the end of March 1988. The candidates passing the final round of selection will leave for Japan in September 1988.

For further information, contact:

Patricia Van den Meersschaut, SDM 2/72, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels - Telephone: 02/235.75.59

RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

Bozze 87: The March/April 1987 issue of this bimonthly magazine edited by Raniero La Valle contains an article - "Lotta per la pace e liberazione della donna. La donna a repentaglio nel sistema di guerra." (Struggle for peace and women's liberation. The risks taken by women in the system of war) - in which Andrée Michel, Director of Research at the CNRS in France describes the "violence and oppression" aimed specifically at women. Edizioni Dedalo, Casella Postale 362, Bari.

Italia: Paese Europeo? Maria Weber, researcher at Bocconi University, Milan, analyzes in this book the "Italians' political culture" compared with those of the other European countries. A chapter on the "feminine political culture" considers in particular the "political apathy" of so many women. Published by Franco Angeli, viale Monza 106, 20127 Milano.

In *Strutture e Strategie della Vita Quotidiana*, Franca Bimbi and Vittorio Capecchi have assembled (for Franco Angeli Libri, Milano) the writings of numerous authors who explore the "sociology of daily life" through analysis of the roles of men and women, "family strategies and the resource structure", ageing, "young people: between the old and new religiosity", "the feminist movement, past and present", etc.

The *Quaderni di Cooperazione* (magazine of the Department of Cooperation for Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) has devoted an entire issue, under the supervision of Maria Lucia Monami, to the participation of women in development. Example of cooperation projects financed by Italy in Africa, Latin America and Asia are cited, with special emphasis on the role of women.

Address: Ministero degli Affari Esteri, Palazzo della Farnesina, Roma

Some thirty women examine the lessons to be learned from the Chernobyl accident in *Scienza Potere Coscienza del Limite* (Science Power Awareness of the Limits), published by *Quaderni di Donne e Politica* (Editori Riuniti Riviste). This volume is the proceedings of a seminar held in Rome last year by the women's section of the Italian Communist Party.

The same publishing company examines the problem of "Culture, research and women's careers in the University" in *Il lavoro dell'intelligenza*, which contains the conclusions of a seminar organized by the "Schools and University" section of the PCI's women's section in Rome in March.

Vivement les femmes: Violaine de Cordon (25 years old, a *Women of Europe* contributor), questioned some 100 leading figures in France to try to determine why there are so few women in politics, although noting at the same time the need to take the growing political awareness of Frenchwomen into account in the future. Insights into the problem were given by Simone Veil, Françoise Giroud, Edith Cresson, Yvette Roudy, Marie-France Garaud, Michèle Barzach, François Mitterrand, Raymond Barre, Michel Rocard, François Léotard and such noted journalists as Christine Ockrent, Ivan Levai, Jean-Pierre Eldabach and Alain Duhamel. The women describe the obstacles that they had to overcome, the men alternate between open-mindedness and misogyny. Violaine de Cordon concludes that much remains to be done, for 34 of the 577 deputies and 8 of the 319 senators are women, while France has had only 9 women ministers since 1947. Published by Balland, Paris.

The Institut Frau und Gesellschaft has published articles on women and new technology, the family in flux, mother-daughter relations and Moslem women - between re-Islamization and Westernization in its "Frauenforschung" series. (B. Dleine Verlag GmbH, Kolmarerstr. 5, 4800 Bielefeld)

Under the title *Un homme sur deux est une femme* (One Out of Two Men is a Woman), the Université d'été des femmes has published the proceedings of the courses attended at Tilff, near Liège (Belgium) in 1986 on the following subjects: the history and philosophy of feminism; social and economic discrimination against women; and discrimination in the raising, education and training of girls. Ministère de la Communauté française, Service pour la promotion culturelle et professionnelle des femmes, 27 Galerie Ravenstein, B-1000 Brussels.

Hacia una crítica de la razón patriarcal. Celia Amorós, feminist and professor of history and philosophy, has published a collection of articles and essays on the philosophical implications of feminism. Editorial Anthropos, Barcelona.

Aportaciones para una lógica del feminismo. Victoria Sau, psychologist and militant feminist, traces the history of feminism from the time that the "mother/goddesses" were stripped of their power, to be replaced by a patriarchal society. Her conclusions are optimistic, bolstered by confidence in feminism as a tool for social change. La Sal Ediciones de les Dones, C/Valencia, 226, 08007 Barcelona.

The Third International Feminist Book Fair will take place in Montreal on 14-21 June 1988. The next fair, in 1990, will focus on the women of Latin America. Address: 420 Est, rue Rachel, Montreal, Canada, H2J 2G7.

The International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC), an organization that backs associations that encourage Third World women to participate actively in the development process, is compiling an international yearbook of "funding sources for women's projects in the Third World". Besides listing the various sources, this yearbook claims to include a complete inventory of all the guides, manuals and other publications on this subject that are available.

Useful address: IWTC, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY, 10017 USA

Request for information: An Italian student carrying out a terminological investigation of voluntary termination of pregnancies in Italy and Germany for her final dissertation would like to know what has been written on this subject. She intends to compare the laws on the books in the two countries and examine their actual enforcement.

Address: Ana Linsalata, via dell'Aratro 18, 47037 Rimini (FO), Italy

The fourth Feminist Book Fortnight, during which some 300 works from 87 publishing companies were exhibited, was a great success. For the occasion, the group "Women in Publishing" has put out a study of the media's reaction to women's books.

Useful address: Carole Spedding, Feminist Book Fortnight, c/o London House, Church St., London NW8