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We have already received numerous responses to the questionnaire that was inserted in *Women of Europe* No. 51. We would be grateful if those readers who have not yet responded would do so as soon as possible.

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THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

4th European Colloquy of Women's Associations: the Birth of
a Lobby for Women

At the invitation of the Fawcett Society and the Commission of the European Communities (Women's Information Service), one hundred twenty women, members of eighty-five organisations with more than fifty million members, met in London from November 5 to 7, 1987. The theme of the colloquy was "Towards Equality - Campaigning for Change".

Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education and Science, welcomed to London for the first time Women's Associations from the twelve countries of the European Community. She made it a point to refer to women who have been striving for more than a century to achieve a fairer and more equal society. However, Mrs. Rumbold asserted that in a more complex society shaken by economic crises, the role of women should be carefully analysed and become part of the efforts of society as a whole.

Next the dynamic former chairman of the Fawcett Society, Margaret Joachim, opened the session. She began with warm words of welcome and noted that the development of women's rights in the United Kingdom had received a new impetus from Community legislation. In order for this legislation and attitudes to continue making advances, a "European Women's Lobby" must be created.

Fausta Deshormes La Valle, head of the "Women's Information" services of the Commission of the European Communities, introduced the colloquy's theme. She praised the long history of the Fawcett Society and underscored the significance of associations in a Democratic system. She then illustrated how combining ideas and information can bring progress to all of European society, even to areas that had not been explicitly foreseen in the Treaty of Rome.

Mrs. Deshormes also remarked that there is a considerable amount of convergence between the activities of European institutions and those of women's organisations. While the institutions - the Commission, Parliament, Council of Ministers - propose, debate and vote on directives on equality, associations are active in the field, ensuring that local governments, management and labour are aware they are being applied.

Mrs. Deshormes then looked toward the future to the European elections scheduled for 1989 and to the Single Market in 1992, giving special emphasis to the specific contribution of women in these events. The Internal Market, in particular, should not be merely a quantitative goal. The newly-emerging European Community should also be better, more imaginative and more creative.

Odile Quintin, head of the European Commission's Service for Action in Favour of Employment and Equality for Women, then took the floor. She spoke on implementation of the 2nd Action Programme for equal opportunities. Mrs. Quintin indicated that the Programme had been largely inspired by the comments from women's organisations and she stressed that it cannot be fully implemented without the direct and constant help of the main people concerned: women themselves.

Women and their organisations can influence local governments and ministerial and parliamentary advisors during the decision-making process for Community directives.

Odile Quintin explained that a distinction should be made between two levels: the legislative level, i.e., the manner in which a State transposes into national regulations the Community directives on equality; and the practical level - the manner in which an enterprise interprets and applies the legislation.

The network which "monitors" application of the directives, and covers all Community countries (see *Women of Europe*, no. 48), detects difficulties which occur before the directives are applied. Of course, as a last resort, the European Commission has the option of summoning a State before the Court of Justice of the Communities. But, in most cases of infringement, a simple request for clarification is all the Commission needs for things to return to normal.

Carlota Bustelo, director of the *Instituto de la Mujer* (Spain) and Chairwoman of the European Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities, explained in her capacity as chairwoman the committee's role and operations. She stressed the crucial need to keep in permanent touch with society's rapid changes.

How to Be Heard?

During the question and answer period, an initial debate took shape. Certainly, the lobby which women's associations have been talking about creating for many years would be useful, but in any event, the information channels among associations and between the associations and Community institutions must be further improved. In addition, such a pressure group would need to be truly representative of all associations active both in Europe and in the individual countries.

This naturally leads to the hope that debate among women themselves, and more particularly on some basic and important questions, will broaden. For example, should they fight for the right to nighttime employment or for the abolition of nighttime employment for everyone? Should they hope that the retirement age is raised to 65, as it is for men? Should they not, on the contrary, consider the double work load with which women are shouldered all their lives - being workers and mothers with families?

BEUC's Experience

Tony Venables, director of the European Bureau of Consumers' Unions (BEUC), offered some invaluable information on how to run an effective lobby. He gave examples to show that a permanent office is needed in Brussels in order to be constantly in touch with decision-making centres.

Sometimes a group's "pressure" must be exerted for many long years while a file "matures." Some problems are solved unexpectedly, so a lobby must be ever watchful and conduct a constant information campaign at the European Commission and with European Parliament Members and Council Ministers.

The European Parliament's Viewpoint

Hedy d'Ancona, Chairwoman of the Committee on Women's Rights of the European Parliament, backed up Tony Venables' point of view by explaining how important it is for the representatives in both the European Parliament and national parliaments to be informed by associations of their actions, aspirations and initiatives. If these conditions are met, the Members of the various Parliaments can fulfil their duties, because there is a daily reality that extends beyond legal texts which Members of the European Parliament want to consider as extensively as possible.

Hedy d'Ancona stated that two problems merit special attention today: the feminisation of poverty and the difficulty in combining professional and family life.

During the ensuing debate, several women expressed their concern about the role played by the media. On the one hand, it seems that television and the press reflect only partially the developments in society and the efforts of women's associations to achieve equality. On the other hand, the most popular media channels continue to reflect an excessively traditional image of women.

Help from the Law

Stephen Grosz, a lawyer specialising in administrative and public law, spoke of his experiences. He has, on several occasions, successfully defended women who were victims of discrimination. The first observation to be made is that the courts are not very familiar with Community legislation on equality. Secondly, decisions in court, particularly those from the Court of Justice of the European Communities, improve daily life and influence the practice of Community law. This is the case, for example, in the areas of retirement age, part-time work and redress of wrongs in cases of discrimination.

Several participants drew on personal examples to emphasize the fact that the way appeals are handled is almost as important as their content. The offenders must in fact be informed publicly of the risks of adverse publicity resulting from their lack of awareness or from flouting equal treatment of the sexes. The strategy adopted must also take into account the specific national characteristics of the law. It may be advisable to regroup several complaints of the same nature against the same employer in one country, whereas in another this procedure would be counterproductive or it may be enough to win one representative case and set a precedent.

Ideas and Exchanges

The meeting split into five working groups to facilitate the exchange of thoughts and ideas. It would be impossible to list here the profusion of ideas, comments and suggestions of each group. Two topics were successively presented to the participants for reflection: 1) the role of associations in formulating Community policy, and, 2) the role of associations in choosing a test case to present before the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

Two proposals could be singled out that were particularly interesting and feasible concerning this last topic: the preparation of a "manual" on procedures to follow in case of discrimination (phases, proof, financing for a complaint, support for the plaintiff, examples, etc); the sending of complete documentation on equality in Community law to each court where a complaint has been lodged.

Two Resolutions

Two resolutions were adopted by the assembly at the close of the conference. The texts are as follows:

CREATION OF A PRESSURE GROUP

The non-governmental women's associations, meeting in London on November 6 and 7, 1987, for their fourth European colloquy, made statements on the following:

- the desire to quicken progress toward equal opportunities and equal treatment for all women, in the framework of a more united Europe,
- a proposal to create an influential structure open to all interested women's organisations to exert effective pressure on European and national institutions in order to ensure better defence and representation of women's interests.

The delegates asked the Commission of the European Communities to offer its assistance in organising a meeting early in 1988 to implement such a structure.

MEDIA MONITORING

The women's associations of the European Community, meeting in London for their Fourth colloquy, requested that the European Commission create a media monitoring group.

The persistence of disturbing stereotypes which express an outdated cultural model that seriously handicap the changes which both national and European lawmakers seek.

This action could begin on the occasion of the European Cinema and Television Year and continue as part of the Media Plan.

Women's associations insist that a quality image of women must be presented in exporting the products of European culture.

For their part, women's associations will invite all local, regional and national women's organisations to a day of observation of all programmes shown on television in each of the Member States, assessing them by the same criteria. The results of these analyses will be compared, discussed and then disseminated.

Reaction of the European Commission

Commissioner Ripa di Meana acknowledged these texts and stated that once again, women are demonstrating their interest in the European Community, their desire to be protagonists in the construction of Europe and most importantly, their will to make their voices heard while strengthening democracy in a People's Europe.

Conclusions

The two resolutions adopted in London are the result of several years of confident and constructive contacts among women's associations in the European Community.

In Bonn in 1982, when the first colloquy brought together only about forty associations, the decision had already been taken to meet regularly to review social developments with the Commission. Meetings took place in Turin, The Hague and, most recently, in London.

The associations, given the success achieved through solidarity, quite naturally became interested in enhancing this aspect. Backed by experience, the associations feel increasingly capable of leading not only concerted action, that is, different projects with the same goal, but also joint actions, in which a number of associations participate.

Farmers, young people and consumers did not attain their influential position over European institutions in a day. The road ahead will be long for women too, but the direction to take is unmistakable.

The Fawcett Society

The Fawcett Society began campaigning for sexual equality in 1866. Today, its activities also include education for girls and the role of women in government committees or in the Parliament. One of their many original actions, which could serve as a model, is the Shareholder's Question Scheme. Using the right to question which company shareholders may exercise at annual meetings, the Fawcett Society encourages women to put questions to the companies in which they hold stock concerning issues of equality in the workplace.

DIVERSIFYING PROFESSIONAL CHOICES: AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION

The report on diversification of professional choices for girls and women was published recently as part of the 1982-1985 Action Programme. The coordinator is Evelyne Sullerot, president-founder of *Retravailler* (Back to Work). The report is the result of the work of one of the three "networks" set up within this Programme to monitor the application of directives on equality, employment of women, women and television, local employment initiatives and child care (see *Women of Europe* n° 48).

This in-depth report reviews the "positive action" already undertaken and draws lessons for new actions to be taken in 1988. The review reveals some successes, but also some difficulties, delays and failures. Here are a few examples:

- in Germany (expert: Christiane Schiersmann), the Contact Bureau of Göttingen achieved some positive results, particularly in the area of aid to women in technical professions and more generally, for women in non-traditional professions. However, the report notes that girls who study a year of basic instruction in technical fields in Lower Saxony have limited possibilities of finding a job because the best trainee contracts are concluded very early in the year. This positive action will continue until the end of 1988 and a new action will be decided over the course of the year.

- in Italy (expert: Renata Livraghi), the technical and scientific committee set up in Milan to train 30 equality advisors, has attained some very positive results, despite certain difficulties. For 1988, they are planning to train financial consultants and take positive action in a clothing company near Milan.

- in Belgium (expert: Helma Verhulst), an effort was made to incorporate the problem of equal opportunities for women into the training programmes for preschool and primary school teachers. This met with some success, although in general, teachers are still very reluctant to speak of sexism. Plans for 1988 include informing employment agencies and instructors at the National Office of Employment and Labour (ONEM) of the problem of equal opportunities and creating a body to coordinate teaching and work in Limbourg.

- in Denmark (expert: Lotte Valbjorn), "open computer workshops" were organised, as well as an experimental training course for unskilled, chronically unemployed women. The main problem here is the lack of credits, particularly after the experimental stage. Plans for 1988 include action within a company (enhancing the awareness of executives) and computer training on Denmark's small islands.

- in France (expert: France Estrosi), positive actions involved training quality control experts in electronics and in food industries, and training staff for international trade.

In 1988, training will be organised in Savoie to help women find jobs at the upcoming winter Olympics in 1992.

- in Greece (expert: Anne Karamanou), there was some difficulty in organising action at the National Telecommunications Company. Some of the difficulties mentioned by the rapporteur were the changes in the administration, the economic situation and men's attitudes. In 1988 an action will be undertaken to diversify women employees' duties in a semi-public insurance company called Agricultural Insurance in Athens.

- in Spain (expert: Ines Alberdi), an action to publicise the problem of equality was undertaken with very good results in the areas of education and training. There were, however, some delays in initiating a broader debate on education after the student unrest in the winter of 1986-1987. A tendency toward "stagnant attitudes" was noticed in religious establishments. Action will continue in 1988.

- in the United Kingdom (expert: Janet Hemsley), an action was launched to reduce sexual segregation at the BBC. However, some time later, the BBC management reneged on some of its commitments. A positive action will start in 1988 in the field of biotechnology.

- in Luxembourg (expert: Astrid Lulling), diversifying women's employment in a bank was a total success. Projects for 1988 include an action to encourage women who want to set up their own company.

- in the Netherlands (expert: Rose Balje-Rijnders), farmers' wives received computer training. In 1988, training will continue for women working with their husbands (in shops, cafés, restaurants, crafts, etc.).

- in Portugal (expert: Isabel Romão), a training action was begun and will continue in the banking sector. The main problems are attitudes and lack of money.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING: DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

In October, the European Commission adopted a draft recommendation on vocational training for women. This is one of the seven areas of action laid down in the Resolution of 26 July 1986 on a medium-term Community programme (1986-1990) for equal opportunities for women. Vice-President Marin would have preferred that the "Social Affairs" Council adopt this recommendation at its meeting in early December, but the Council was unable to do so. However, it did adopt an action programme for vocational training for the young; an action programme for the handicapped, a directive on worker protection (ban on some agents and/or activities); a directive on workers' protection against exposure to benzene; a resolution on safety, hygiene and health in the workplace. It also took note of a communication from the French delegation on founding a "European Institute for Research on Women."

The main objective of the Commission's draft recommendation on vocational training for women is to promote women's participation in careers of the future and in those in which they are under-represented. More specifically, the Commission asked Member States to do the following: - facilitate women's participation in vocational training by decentralising study locations; - adapt school, university and professional guidance services to the needs of women; - provide skilled personnel for guidance training and job-placement services in order to respond to the specific problems encountered by women; encourage girls to go on to higher education, particularly in technical and technological fields; promote continuing education; - encourage women to create cooperatives or their own businesses; - recognise the skills acquired in the home and the family; - take flexible child care measures and create social infrastructures which allow mothers to receive vocational training; - offer training for certain categories of women (disadvantaged women, or women seeking employment after an interruption in work); - enable the spouses of self-employed workers who are involved in their spouse's activities to benefit from the same training actions under the same conditions.

Useful address: Commission of the European Communities Service for Action in Favour of Employment and Equality for Women, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels

WORK IN THE HOME: STUDIES ON ITALY, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

Work at home remains a typically female occupation, despite the fact that it is changing and that "intellectual" employment is on the rise. In the beginning this type of work was basically manual. These and other observations are contained in a report by experts drawn up for the European Commission (without its participation) on the subject of work in the home in Italy, France and the United Kingdom. The study shows, for example, that in France, male and female home workers (male workers account for only 12 to 19% of the whole labour force working at home) do not compete in the same areas of the labour market since men occupy the most skilled positions.

In the United Kingdom, however, the few men who work at home are involved in traditional industries and often help their wives. In addition, a survey of households in the UK conducted in 1978 found that the number of home workers employed in manual jobs was practically identical to the number of those in "intellectual" jobs.

The authors of the report stress the difficulty in finding reliable figures on this phenomenon, which is nevertheless an economically important one. For example, they found that:

- in France, according to official statistics, which list only "legal" home workers, the figure in the employment survey was 76,744 and in the population census it was 115,640. However, this excludes self-employed workers who are separated by a very fine line from home workers. This leads to a clear underestimate. In addition, in France, according to the ILO, there are between 600,000 and 1,200,000 illegal workers, including home workers;
- in the United Kingdom, where there is no legal definition of work at home, several surveys have established a nation-wide estimate of 1,680,000 people, excluding construction, transport workers and domestic employees. (Experts suspect that actual figures are higher);
- in Italy, existing statistics are incomplete. The most recent statistics date from 1983 and report on the labour force. They reveal an estimated 2,334,000 people "whose workplace is their home", which also includes workers in the liberal professions.

The report confirms that the overwhelming majority of workers at home in these three countries are women, and maintains that the most frequent reason why women choose this type of employment is to assume the responsibilities of wife and mother. Thus, in France, the majority of home workers are in the 25-39 age group because this is the age at which women generally raise a family.

However, at the same time there was also a slight shift from traditional sectors to new sectors. In France, for example, home workers are found mainly in shopkeeping, telecommunications, real estate and transport. They are also clearly present in textiles, wood, leather and rubber industries, machinery construction and pharmaceuticals.

In the United Kingdom, the report shows that home workers are in these same sectors, but also in hotels, remodelling and repairs, insurance, medical and legal services and printing-publishing. In Italy, however, work at home in non-manual jobs seems to be growing more slowly.

While the report highlights the economic role of this kind of work, it also criticises its weaknesses and stresses the need to remedy the situation through an adequate protection system, which should include at least the following aspects:

- minimum wages; social security; duration and stability of the labour contract and health protection.

Useful address : Commission of the European Communities, Service for Action in Favour of Employment and Equality of Women, 200, rue de la Loi - 1049 Brussels.

ERASMUS IN 1988: THREE TIMES MORE CREDITS THAN IN 1987

It is estimated that some 8,000 students, 2,000 professors and administrators, in addition to 800 institutions of higher learning will benefit during the 1988-89 academic year from EEC programmes for student and personnel exchange set up among the institutions of higher learning of the EEC Member States. The total outlay slated for these programmes is 30 million Ecus.

This appropriation is three times the funds available for 1987 and will be committed to the recently-enacted ERASMUS programme. Real progress is expected in academic mobility among the EEC Member States.

The programme will place emphasis on opportunities for students who wish to conduct a part of their studies in another EEC country with full academic recognition in their country of origin. ERASMUS also offers very interesting opportunities for the exchange of university professors and administrators and provides for aid to universities that would like to develop integrated co-operation programmes.

Useful address: Commission des Communautés Européennes
Direction Générale de l'Emploi, des Affaires Sociales
et de l'Education - Programme ERASMUS
Rue Archimède, 1, 1040 Bruxelles.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG WORKERS: BOYS AND GIRLS

In response to a question from Members of the European Parliament, the Vice-President of the Commission, Mr Marin, pointed out that 5,366 individuals participated in the exchange programme for young workers of the Community during the 1979-1984 period. It was also revealed that 49% of these young workers were girls, chosen for their good knowledge of languages - a prerequisite for participation in the programme.

SMOKING: THE NUMBER OF WOMEN SMOKERS HAS DOUBLED IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES

In our last issue, we cited tobacco as the main cause of cancer. A survey conducted in seven EEC Member States on the evolution of smoking between 1963 and 1987 by Reader's Digest revealed in particular a wide difference in smoking between men and women. Overall, the number of smokers fell, especially in Belgium, where it dropped by more than half, Great Britain and the Netherlands, by 40%, in West Germany and in France, by about 30%, and in Italy by more than 20%. At the same time, a slight drop was noted in women in Great Britain, a levelling off in Italy, but an increase in West Germany, the Netherlands, France and Belgium. In the latter two countries, the number of female smokers nearly doubled. Given the small size of samples, figures for Luxembourg were not included.

1988 has been designated the year of "Europe Against Cancer", during which information on cancer and the importance of prevention will be disseminated in the Twelve Member States. A committee of oncologists has prepared a European anti-cancer code containing advice on nutrition, smoking and hygiene. Two of its ten commandments are intended specifically for women: the need for a Pap smear on a regular basis and the need for a breast examination on a regular basis and, if possible, for women over 50, have mammographies done at regular intervals.

Several studies have stressed the importance of prevention and the direct influence it can have on reducing and curing certain types of cancer, if detected at an early stage.

Useful address: M. Richonnier, Commission des Communautés
Européennes, Direction Générale V,
200 rue de la Loi
1049 - Bruxelles

THE WOMEN OF EUROPE AWARD CONFERRED ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN DETAINEE HELENE PASTOORS

Journalists at the Copenhagen Summit (4 December, 1987) granted the *Women of Europe* award to H el ene Pastoors, a Belgian-Dutch sociologist who has been sentenced to ten years in prison for "high treason". She has been in detention since June 26, 1986 in a South African prison, and was transferred last May to a psychiatric hospital. H el ene Pastoors was conducting research at the University of Johannesburg and has published a study on "Language, Power and Development". She was involved in the movement opposing apartheid, which led to her arrest.

The *Women of Europe* award was created at the initiative of the European Federalists Union (EFU) and is sponsored by, among others, the Commission of the European Communities. At the Copenhagen ceremony, the EFU regretted that too few women are interested in Europe, while their role in European construction should be acknowledged and optimised.

All the Member States of the Community, with the exception of Germany, proposed the following candidates for the award: Italy: Ursula Hirschmann Spinelli who was active in the underground during the fascist regime, participated in the founding of the European Federalist Movement. She continues to work for European Union following the death of her husband, Altiero Spinelli; United Kingdom: Pauline Cutting, surgeon, chose to work voluntarily in a refugee camp in Lebanon where she spent a year and a half and, during five months of siege, conducted more than 500 operations; Denmark: Inge Kemp Genefke: physician, founded an international research and documentation centre on torture. The centre organises the recycling of hospital personnel from other European countries and the study of the rehabilitation and readaptation of torture victims; Belgium: Anne-Marie Lizin, Belgian Socialist Member of the European Parliament, was chosen in particular for her action in favour of the "Mothers of Algiers", a group comprising European women who are separated from their Algerian husbands and denied access to their children. A visit was finally organised in Strasbourg in February 1987; Luxembourg: Marcelle Lentz-Cornette, Christian Democrat Member of the European Parliament, became known for her involvement in development projects in Africa and Latin America; France: Dani  le S en et, from the Angers chapter of *Women of Europe Association*, which provided financing for an irrigation project in Mali and Kabala, Sierra Leone; Greece: Virginia Tsouderos, founding member of the Greek Council of the European Movement, Independent Member of the Greek Parliament and former official of the FAO and the International Monetary Fund; Ireland: Chrissie Ward, a Gypsy and member of the Travelling Community, a poor and disadvantaged group in whose behalf she has been active for many years. She is a 40-year old grandmother and mother of 12 children. She has had no formal education, and lives in a caravan with her family; Spain: Soledad Gallego-Diaz, Assistant-Director of the Spanish daily, *El Pais*. As correspondant for *El Pais* in Brussels during the negotiations for Spain's accession to the Community, she accomplished remarkable work in providing information and insight; Portugal: Maria Julia Guerra, radio journalist. She has always striven to emphasise the "European dimension" of news stories.

The award consists of a sculpture by the young Spanish artist Fernando Garcia, also known as Erlanz.

Useful address: EFU, rue de Tr eves 66, 1040 Brussels.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

PLENARY SESSION: Two women, Christiane Scrivner and Carla Barbarella, among the rapporteurs of the Delors Package

The European Parliament, in its November session, was successful in adopting a coherent position on the subject of the Delors Package, something the Copenhagen Summit was unable to achieve two weeks later. The European Parliament managed to overcome the usual staunch opposition on the part of certain members to any cuts in farm spending. Among the six co-rapporteurs of the Budget Committee on the Delors Package, the French Liberal Christiane Scrivner defended the proposal aimed at introducing farm spending stabilisation mechanisms. Her ideas received the support of a majority of the MEPs. The Parliament also backed the Italian Communist Carla Barbarella in asking for "at least" a doubling of the Structural Funds. The other rapporteurs on this subject were the Spanish Socialist Enrique Baron (the comprehensive position by the Parliament on financing reforms), the Dutch Socialist Piet Dankert (budgetary discipline), the German Christian Democrat Horst Langes (future own resources) and the British Conservative Peter Price (revision of the Community's financial rules).

During the session, several women submitted technical, but nevertheless important reports, some parts of which were controversial. They dealt with the following subjects.

- the research and development programme for the developing countries. The Greek Socialist Konstantina Pantazi accused the Council of a "flagrant violation" in this matter concerning "co-operation" with the Parliament as provided for in the Single European Act. The Parliament supported her by approving the amendments she sought to introduce to the Commission's proposal.
- foodstuffs control. Here, the risk of a dispute was apparent, not with the Council, but with the Commission, who could not accept all the amendments put forward by the British Conservative Caroline Jackson. However, these amendments were in the end adopted, the most noteworthy of which dealt with the setting up of a Community inspection division.
- environmental action for the creation of jobs. The Parliament adopted the report by the Italian Communist Vera Squarcialupi, thereby reinforcing the Commission's proposal. More particularly, the Parliament asked that greater encouragement be accorded to the creation of jobs in sectors directly linked to the environment, rather than to the fight against pollution, an area that is already sufficiently developed.
- the European dimension in schools. The Parliament followed the view of its rapporteur Eileen Lemass (EDR, Ireland) and indicated the initiatives required for a clearer definition of the "European dimension". These include the teaching of languages, the recycling of teachers, development of common educational material and the exchange of both students and teachers.
- branch offices of financial institutions. The Commission accepted the proposal tabled by the rapporteur, the French Socialist Marie-Clause Vayssade, who sought to amend certain aspects of the Commission's proposal in order to ensure greater transparency and more judicial security.

- transborder mergers of companies. The rapporteur, the Christian Democrat Nicole Fontaine, requested and obtained the referral to committee of the report dealing with this very controversial subject. The Legal Committee recommended that this European Commission proposal be rejected, but the rapporteur would have preferred to take a "more constructive" position.

Moreover, many women participated in the debates on political questions. These included Simone Veil, President of the Liberal Group, who spoke on the US-Soviet INF Agreement, Luciana Castellina, Italian Communist, on the arrest of two leaders of outlawed Turkish political parties who sought to return to Turkey, the Dutch Socialist Ten van den Heuvel, on political prisoners in Malaysia, the Italian Communist Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano on conditions for refugees in Lebanese camps, the British Labourite Janey Buchan on detained children in South Africa. She later presented a petition on this subject to Margaret Thatcher in Copenhagen, not in her capacity as Prime Minister, but as the "only woman participating in the Summit". Finally, the Irish Christian Democrat Mary Banotti urged tolerance following the IRA attack in Enniskillin that, she said, "belittles all of us".

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS: Europe's demographic problems are considered serious by Mr Marin.

The Vice-President of the European Commission for political and educational policies, Mr Manuel Marin, initiated a debate before the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights, meeting at the end of November in Brussels, on the subject of demographic evolution and its consequences on the Community's social policy, one of the most crucial topics of the day.

Mr Marin underscored the fact that the European Commission had already taken up the subject, notably in a statement on Social Security regimes, which was submitted to the Council in 1986. He added that the Commission considers this a very important subject and has included it on the list of priorities for 1988. He expressed the wish that the European Parliament take up the matter in order to find a solution free from ideological constraints.

Vice-President Marin cited some figures to illustrate the drop in the Community's demographic evolution, caused by a very slow population growth rate and a gradual fall in the mortality rate. He then underscored the fact that the ageing population will lead to a reduction in the total active population and serious financial problems in our social security systems around the year 2000. By way of example, around the middle of the 21st century, there will be two retired persons for every five active persons. Today this proportion is one to four.

Mr Marin's statement was followed by a very lively debate.

Most of the Members of the European Parliament expressed clear reservations about approaching the problem from a family policy viewpoint. Such an approach is always based on women and on encouraging a rising birth rate, which could urge a return to the home, a notion not included in the aims of the Committee on Women's Rights.

The Parliamentary Committee raised other aspects to be considered in the debate, such as the lack of assimilation of immigrant populations and the paradoxical argument that, as stated by Nel Van Dijk (Rainbow, Netherlands), advocates a slowdown in the birth rate among Third World populations and encouragement for "white women" to have more children. Marijke Van Hemeldonck (SOC, Belgium) emphasised the fact that despite the elaborate family allowances system, such as that in Belgium, the birth rate is nevertheless falling.

Furthermore, the Commission unanimously adopted the report by Margaret Daly (DEP, UK) asking the Council to adopt at the earliest possible date the Directive on voluntary part-time work, in order to prevent new forms of discrimination aimed at women, who may be forced by circumstance to accept jobs that do not guarantee independence from the economic nor from the career standpoint.

Commissioner Ripa di Meana, who was unable to attend the meeting, declared in letter to the Chairwoman of the Committee, Hedy d'Acona (SOC, Netherlands), that he supported the resolution adopted in London at the beginning of November at the European Colloquy of Women's Associations (see page 6). This resolution requests the setting up of a women's forum at the European level. Moreover, the Commissioner announced the creation of a European award for the television programme that presents the best image of today's women. Through this initiative, the Commissioner intends to fulfil a wish expressed in the report by Marlène Lenz on women and the media that was adopted by the European Parliament last October (see *Women of Europe* n° 51).

For further details, please contact the European Parliament's Information Bureau in your country:

* ATHENS
2, Avenue Vassilissis Sophias

* LUXEMBOURG
Centre Européen du Kirchberg

* BONN
In der Raste 12 - Bonn 1

* LONDON SW 1H 9AA
2, Queen Anne's Gate

* BRUXELLES
97-113, rue Belliard

* PARIS
288, Bd. St. Germain

* DEN HAAG 2514 EB
Lange Voorhout 27a

* ROME
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* COPENHAGEN
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DK - 1217 KØBENHAVN K

* LISBON 1200
Rua do Salitre 56

* DUBLIN
Molesworth Street 43

* MADRID
Calle de Serrano 41

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY:

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS, LAWS
AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES

G E R M A N Y

According to a recent opinion poll by the Allensbach Institute, 42% of the men and women interviewed felt that a women could very well become Chancellor, while 41% felt it is a man's job. In the lead as possible candidates for Chancellor was Rita Süßmuth for the CDU and Annemarie Renger for the SPD.

The SPC and the CDU, the main West German parties, are beginning to realise that quotas can be useful in improving women's access to key positions. The executive committee of the Social Democrat Party submitted a detail plan providing that by 1990 at least 25% of SDP public offices will be filled by women, by 1994, at least one third and by 1998, at least 40%. The final aim is equality. "The SPD wants to begin the year 2000 on an equal footing with women", the party affirmed. The Christian Democrats' hope that "a women will fill one out of every four CDU posts". The party's executive committee has set up a working group to deal with women's affairs under the chairmanship of the Secretary General, Heiner Geissler and the President of the Women's Union, Rita Süßmuth. Furthermore, "congresses for women party members" will be organised among the Länder and on the local level. One of the goals will be to appoint a women to every post that becomes vacant.

It has been noted that the number of women in municipal councils has increased. Thirty-three percent of municipal council members that are members of the Greens Party are women, while the figure is 17% for the SPD, 16% for the FDP and 14% for the CDU/CSU.

Useful address: CDU, Konrad-Adenauer-Haus, 5300 Bonn
SPD, Ollenhauerstrasse 1, 5300 Bonn

An increase in the presence of women has also been noted in the north of West Germany. In Schleswig-Holstein, for example, a women, Lianne Paulina Mürl, presides over the Land's Parliament. In Hamburg a women also presides over the Parliament - Helga Elstner. In Hamburg, there are three women Ministers: Elisabeth Kiausch (finances), Christine Maring (health), Rosemarie Raab (education), and three female Secretaries of State: Barbara Bludau-Krebs (internal affairs), Eva Rümkkork (women's equality) and Wilma Simon (labour and social affairs).

In Bremen, there are two women Ministers: Eva Maria Lamke, environment, and Vera Rüdiger, federal affairs.

In addition, Wettig-Danielmeier, member of the Landtag in Lower Saxony, was re-elected President of German Social Democratic women.

Another initiative concerns the setting up of a special committee for women in the Landtag, or regional parliament, of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Paula Karpinski, the first women Minister in post-war Germany, who held the post for 11 years in the Hamburg government, recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

A report from the Ministry of Youth, Family, Women and Health points out that part-time work is still mainly carried out by women. In 1986, women held 92.3% of part-time jobs, while part-time jobs accounted for only 9.4% of total employment. In addition, 22.3% of unemployed women seek part-time work.

Among government civil servants, the proportion of women has not improved. *Frauen im DBB* noted with disappointment that at the most recent meeting of DBB members, there were only 36 women with the right to vote out of a total of 425 voting delegates, compared to 30 out of 435 in 1983.

Useful address: Frauen im DBB, Dreizehnmorgenweg 36
5300 Bonn 2

The German Association of Women Jurists (Deutsch Juristinnenbund) has come out in favour of a quota system in order to truly improve women's access to high-level positions.

The General Assembly of the Council of German Women, meeting in Berlin at the beginning of November in which about one hundred delegates participated, expressed its support for quotas in government hiring, and adopted resolutions dealing with girls' education, social security and part-time work, measures in the field of city planning and transport with a view to increasing security among women and children.

Useful address: Deutscher Frauenrat, Südstrasse 125, 5300 Bonn 2
tel. 31.60.94

Women judges. According to a study by the Ministry of Justice, women judges today account for 16.5% of the total number of judges and account for 36.4% of recently appointed judges (Richter auf Probe).

Useful address: Bundesjustizministerium, 5300 Bonn 1.

Companies. According to statistics, 600,000 companies out of a total of 3.2 million are directed by women.

Culture. A study by the Ministry of Education and Science expressed concern over unequal opportunities between men and women in this area, and the Secretary of State Irmgard Karwatzki stressed the need for women to create networks enabling them to step up their presence in this field. According to the study, 55% of art students are women, but women account for only 15% of teaching staff.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft,
5300 Bonn 2

Biotechnology. The women members of the Social Democratic party, at their Congress held at Mannheim, discussed reproduction technology and biotechnology. They expressed their fears concerning the repercussions of these techniques and requested that artificial fertilisation be banned. Moreover, the Congress adopted resolutions on peace, chemical weapons, women in the Third World and the environment. The President of the SPD, Mr Vogel, affirmed at the Congress that the credibility of a party also depended on the role it accords to women.

Women in the Protestant Church also raised questions on the subject of reproduction technologies and underscored the inherent dangers.

Useful address: Evangelische Frauenarbeit, Klingerstr.24
6000 Frankfurt.

Sexual aggression: Minister Rita Süßmuth affirmed that the law should offer better protection to women against rape, notably in married couples. She recalled that one woman out of two has denounced violent sexual acts within the family, that 150,000 children are the victims of sexual violence and that 24,000 women per year are forced to seek refuge in homes for battered women.

Living alone. Today in West Germany, 8,7 million households out of a total of 25.6 million are made up of one person, while 1.6 million households comprise 5 persons, 3.4 million have 4, 4.4 million have 3 and 7.6 million, 2 persons.

Journalism. Women journalists in Germany (25% of the total), recently created their own organisation, the Deutscher Journalistinnenbund, which brought criticism from trade unions that accused the women of counterproductive "separatism".

The Elisabeth Seibert Award for journalistic and scientific work with special emphasis on the role of women has been conferred by the government of Hesse on three journalists: Susanne Bittdorf, for her radio programme entitled *Lorna war jede Mark wert*, that deals with marriage agencies; Elisabeth Kiderlen, for her articles on genetic engineering technologies; and Esther Schapira, for her article entitled *O mein Papa*, on a father's responsibility in his daughters' education.

Foreign women. Ilse Ridder, Secretary of State of North Rhineland-Westphalia for Women's Equality, has published a study on the social situation of foreign women. It is available from the following address: Die parlamentarische Staatssekretärin des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Postfach 1103, 4000 Düsseldorf 1.

Women and travel. Two books have been published recently on the problems encountered by women travelling alone: *Frauen unterwegs* by Solveig Ockenfuss (Rowohlt Verlag) and *Frauenreisebuch* by Ingrid Backes.

Universities. Dagmar Hiltcher, delegate for women's status at the University of the Ruhr, has launched a plan to promote women in all German universities after observing the extent of masculin "chauvinism" in German universities. Only 5% of professors are women and at the University of the Ruhr, there are 7 women out of a total of 407 professors.

Computers. At 15 years of age, one out of three boys, but only one out of thirty girls, has a computer. Multinational firms are becoming interested in girls and are even offering study grants.

Useful address. IBM, Postfach 800880, 7000 Stuttgart 80.

The Deutscher Frauenring held information workshops on Europe on October 4 and 6 in Bonn, during which time not only the evolution of the Community and social protection problems in the Member States were discussed, but also EEC/COMECON relations and disarmament were taken up. The *Deutscher Frauenring* regrets the death of Ursula Hammer, born in 1923. She had been a member of the organisation since 1969 and member of the presidency since 1982.

Useful address: Edith Bartels, Ruschenstrasse 27/a, 4300 Essen 1.

A new women's organisation for the purpose of encouraging exchanges among women and to develop an inter-cultural dialogue has been created in Germany. It is called "Women of the World - Office for Inter-Cultural Education and Encounter". One of its first activities will be the organisation of events on African women.

Useful address: Frauen der Welt, Ursula Linnhoff
Warendorferstrasse 6
5000 Koln 91
tel. 89.69.77

Vera Bubendy-Welker has informed us that contrary to what we published in Women of Europe n° 51, she is not president, but the new administrator (*Geschäftsführerin*) of *Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund*. She also indicated that the president (*Präsidentin*) is Siglinde Porsch, who took office in May.

BELGIUM

Elections. Following the elections held on December 13, 1987 and the constitution of the two houses of parliament, there are now 5 fewer women members of parliament than after the 1985 elections. There are currently 18 women in the Lower House and 15 in the Upper House, 6 of whom are elected directly and 9 chosen from among the provincial senators. In 1985, there were 16 women members of the Lower House and 22 in the Upper House. It remains to be seen how many women will be called on to become ministers and secretaries of state. There were only 4 women in the outgoing government, all Flemish speaking.

Huberte Hanquet, Chairwoman of the National Council of Belgian Women (CNFB), outgoing member of parliament and former Senator, has been chosen for a Senate seat. She is the only woman from the Christian Socialist Party in the Senate.

Following the elections, the CNFB sent a letter to all the presidents of political parties inviting them to comply with the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in forming a new government. The Convention was ratified by the Belgian state in 1985. The CNFB is demanding the presence of women in the various regional governments and in the federal government as ministers and secretaries of state.

Useful address: CNFB, rue de Florence, 24 - 1050 Bruxelles.

Mrs Smet, Secretary of State for Social Emancipation has presented an assessment of approximately two years' work for the emancipation of women under the 6th Martens Government. Mrs Smet's report emphasises the importance of the founding of the Council of Emancipation in 1986 at the request of women's organisations, and indicates a series of initiatives that have been taken, such as the "prepare your future now" awareness campaign and the opening of the *Ecole Royale des Cadets* to girls during the 1987-1988 school year (30 candidates out of 231 were successful, bringing the proportion of girls to 16% in the first year); employment measures, such as the regulation concerning a "career pause"; the standardisation of physical requirements for admittance to the army and police force; a review of legislation for the protection of women (during which it was admitted that current legislation does not always promote equality); vocational training; a policy for positive actions; new regulations on unemployment benefits; and standardisation between men and women of the retirement age.

Violence: Mrs Smet was also instrumental in launching an information campaign against violence directed at women and children with the slogan "Is Violence Desired?". Two brochures were published that raise questions on the causes of violence, the means for self defence and advice on how to help victims.

Useful address: Secretariat à l'Emancipation Sociale, rue de la Loi 56, 1040 Bruxelles

Moreover, the Collective for Battered Women, located at 29, rue Blanche, 1050 Brussels, tel. 539.27.44, has called attention once again to the difficulties relating to children raised by only one parent.

What equal opportunity? Topics ranging from exclusion at school to exclusion in society were raised by the European Cultural Centre for Brussels at a seminar held in November 1987, with the support of the European Commission.

The seminar was chaired by Raymond Dury, Belgian Socialist Member of the European Parliament, with the participation of Judith White of the Manchester Equal Opportunity Commission.

Useful address: Institut de Sociologie, Françoise Noel, Avenue Jeanne 44, 1050 Bruxelles.

National Women's Day, celebrated on November 11, dealt this year with new production technologies.

Useful address: Association "29 rue Blanche", 1050 Bruxelles.

Women over 50: the "Encounters and Exchanges" organisation, located at 89, rue St. Henri, 1200 Bruxelles, tel. 733.27.68, has published a questionnaire for women over 50 with the aim of discovering their problems and needs.

La femme prévoyante, located at 32, rue St. Jean, 1000 Bruxelles, tel. 515.04.01, has just published a report on the law on filiation of March 31, 1987.

Justice. At the end of last summer, women trainee lawyers were, for the first time, more numerous than their male counterparts - 70, compared to 61.

Cancer. The "Live as Before" Association, located at 223, Avenue Louise, 1050 Bruxelles, tel. 649.41.68, is made up of volunteers with personnel experience with cancer who offer moral and practical assistance to women who have undergone the removal of a breast due to cancer.

The Women's University, located at 10, Place Quétlet, 1030 Bruxelles, has published in its magazine "Chronique féministe" a report on the subject of "Les filles à l'école: ça vous est égal?" (Girls at school: does it matter?).

DENMARK

The results of the general elections of September 1987 revealed that the number of women in the Danish Parliament increased slightly to 52, compared to 47 following the 1984 elections. Out of a total of 179 representatives, women now account for 29%. The National Council of Danish Women (DKN) invited the elected officials to the *Folketing* (the Danish Parliament) the day the parliamentary session was inaugurated to discuss how best to enhance co-operation with women's organisations. At the same time other problems were raised, such as those relating to the labour market, the status of working women vis-a-vis their husbands, the training of unskilled women, equality in the distribution of benefits, assistance in the home; child care centres, and women & power.

Useful address: DKN, Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, 1153 København K. Denmark.

The DKN has organised a series of experimental courses for unskilled women consisting of two sessions of six and ten months. Of the 27 participating women, 17 were successful in finding a job. The courses demonstrated that adult training should be revamped in order to adapt them to the needs of women. Today, some 18% of unskilled workers who belong to the *Kvindelight Arbejderforbund* (Association of Women Workers) are unemployed. The report by DKN on this experiment, drawn up by Asse Rieck Sørensen, was recently published. The DKN organises other experimental training programmes for women requiring specific qualifications, such as in the iron and metals or the construction sectors.

The KAD (Association of Women Workers) has won the "Premier Is" court case against the city of Copenhagen. The case involved wage equality and the interpretation of the notion of "equal work". The company in question, in which unskilled women were paid wages 25% lower than those of men, was required to pay 700,000 Kroner in compensation (the KAD had asked for 912,000 Kroner).

The Council for Equal Treatment is organising in February 1988 a consultation on the unsatisfactory way the law on wage equality is applied. The LO (*Landsorganisation*, a national trade union) would like the Court of Justice of the European Communities to provide information as to whether the employer must assume the burden of proof and demonstrate that the difference in wages, if it has been shown that a difference does in fact exist between the wages of men and women, is not a violation of the equal wage law.

The Council has organised a seminar on girls and boys at primary school and has invited the Nordic Council of Ministers to proclaim 1990 the year of equal treatment in primary school for all of the Nordic countries.

The committee of self-employed small business directors, set up by the Ministry of Social Affairs, denounced in a communiqué the discrimination of persons working in their spouse's firm. The DKN has asked the government to take steps to ensure these persons an adequate social and economic status.

The second informative bulletin (Nyhedsbrev) has just been released on the preparatory work that will take place in Denmark for the Nordic Forum that will be held from July 30 to August 7, 1988 in Oslo. Fifty-five working groups have been set up to prepare the various seminars planned. The groups deal with centres that offer assistance to women victims of violence, equal treatment in government, sexuality and school, alcohol and drug abuse in women, power and science, etc. A poster contest for the forum has been organised in all the Scandinavian countries in which Danish competitors numbered 80.

Useful addresses: Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, 1153 København K. Denmark, and, Nordisk Forum's sekretariat, Nedre Vollgt, 80158 Oslo 1.

SPAIN

The Council of Ministers was informed in September 1987 of the Action Plan for women's equality, drawn up by the *Instituto de la Mujer*. The Council of Ministers instructed the *Consejo Rector*, or governing board, of the institute, which is part of the Ministry of Culture, to monitor the enactment of 120 measures proposed within this Plan that are to be adopted over the next three years by the various ministerial departments. This Plan, based on the European Community's 1986-1990 Action Plan, was presented to the public by the *Instituto de la Mujer* during a series of events that were held from October 27 to 29 at the *Círculo de Bellas Artes* in Madrid. The Plan covers the period 1988-1990 and comprises the following priorities: equality before the law, family and social protection; education and culture; employment and job relations; health; international co-operation; and associations.

In order to facilitate the Plan's enactment, the various Ministries concerned will set up several committees, one of which will be instructed to study and apply the necessary reforms to allow women to join the armed forces. Another committee will examine the means to abolish prostitution. Moreover, a series of agreements will be concluded with the *Ente Público Radiotelevisión Española* enabling it to contribute to the effective application of the Plan through the image it projects of women and their role in society.

Useful address: Instituto de la Mujer, Calle Almagro, 36, 28010 Madrid, tel. 410.51.12, 410.56.01

Don't restrict her education, she is a woman of the 21st century. The future woman of the 21st century is a little girl in overalls playing orchestra director. This is one of the slogans selected for the information campaign devised by the *Instituto de la Mujer* in the context of the Plan for equality. Another attractive and expressive image chosen for the campaign shows a young woman holding in her arms a number of hats, such as a chef's hat (it is well known that most great chefs are men), a military hat, a workers hat, etc. The caption reads "Choose your profession well, choose your future well because now *you* can choose".

The *Secretaría de Participación de la Mujer* of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) has just published, in the magazine *Mujeres Socialistas*, detailed information on women in politics. The magazine reveals the following:

- The proportion of women in the Socialist Party rose from 9.4% to 15.5% of the total number of members between December 1981 and June 1987.

- In the Congressional elections of 1982, 10.7% of the total number of candidates were women and 7.92% of those elected were women, compared to the 1986 elections when women candidates represented 13.48%, and those elected, 7.07%. In the Senate, women in the 1982 elections accounted for 5.49% of the total number of candidates and 5.22% of those elected, while in 1986 the figures were 6.96% and 7.26%, respectively; - The ministry with the largest proportion of women is that of Culture (27.6%), followed by Health and Consumers' Affairs (16.7%), Education and Science (14.3%) and the ministry with the smallest proportion of women is Foreign Affairs with 1.4%. The number of women in the Ministry of Defence is negligible.

Useful address: Matilde Fernandez Sanz, Calle Ferraz, 70, 28002 madrid, tel. 470.11.12.

A survey by the Women of the Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT) on working women indicates that 84% of working women feel they are treated in an offensive manner by their male colleagues. Thirty percent among these women have complained of "sexual innuendos and 4% denounced outright propositions".

In October, the second chamber of the Tribunal Supremo amended the procedures followed in cases of rape. Previously, the rape victim was required to prove that she had resisted the aggressor. Now, the court has decided that to show that rape did occur, it is no longer necessary to prove that she put up a "heroic resistance". The court rules that it is discriminatory to measure the credibility of the aggression against the degree of resistance offered by the victim.

FRANCE

The "Social Affairs" Council of the European Community, which met last December, has "made note" of the French Government draft for the setting up of a "European Research Institute on Women" (see The Changing European Community). The interministerial committee for European economic co-operation outlined the precise role of this institute. The French Government has stated that, while in Europe there is "a strong potential" for research and studies on women, there is nevertheless a lack of "information and coordination structures" for optimising past work, avoiding overlapping and developing joint actions. The institute should have the lightest possible structure in order to better coordinate and promote research and to function as an information, exchange and co-operation centre for research workers. The new body, that will not carry out research itself nor finance it, not even at the outset, will be entrusted the following tasks: - classify study and research projects in files and data bases; - make the most of this work by publishing and disseminating it; - organise encounters and seminars; - and set up links with other, similar institutes in Europe.

The seventh woman member of the Institut de France, that brings together the five French academies, was admitted last October. Since then the writer Marguerite Yourcenar, who entered the *Académie Française* in 1979, died at the age of 84. The new member of the Institute is Collette Caillat, 66, nee Vidal, is a specialist in Sanskrit and was admitted to the *Académie des Inscriptions et des Belles Lettres*. The six other women are Suzanne Bastid (the first woman admitted in 1972 to the *Académie des Sciences morales et politiques*, Yvonne Cloquet-Bruhat, Marianne Grumberg-Manago and Nicole Le Douarin (all three members of the *Académie of Sciences*) and Jacqueline de Romilly to the *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*.

In its bimonthly DFI bulletin, the Délégation à la Condition Féminine (Delegation for Women's Status) published a "vocational training" report. The Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, Mr. Philippe Séguin, answers questions on this topic in an interview. He mentioned in particular the positive results of the "emergency plan for youth employment", which led to an increase in the proportion of women hired with certificates of qualification (from 37 to 41%). The bulletin also contains an article explaining how the "agreement for equal employment" works. Its goal is to help women enter traditionally male-dominated occupations in SMEs and SMIs. This new measure in favour of women was inspired by the work of the Conseil supérieur de l'égalité professionnelle (High Council on Professional Equality).

Useful address: DFI, 14 Boulevard de la Madeleine, 75008 Paris.

The Délégation à la Condition Féminine has also published the first issue of "Audiovisuel Femmes-Bulletin d'Information." Using mainly information provided by the regional delegates to the Delegation for Women's Status, the issue assesses women's works in the audiovisual sector. The first issue, produced by Marie-Christine Beurel, lists about forty audiovisual documents prepared by women. They deal mainly with rape, childbirth, feminism, professional equality, women in agriculture, setting up businesses, female artists, women in Afghanistan, etc.

The "Femmes et développement" (Women and Development) network, founded in October 1986) has put out its Bulletin containing a wealth of documents on publications, meetings and initiatives involving woman's role in development. The editorial observes that this role is acknowledged more and more by development organisations.

Useful address: 18 rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris.

The CMCI and the CCIM have just announced their intention to create the European Association of Sub-editors, underscoring the importance of mutual support as European frontiers are opening.

Useful address: Pierre Azoulay and Elisabeth Borne, CMCI, 2 rue Henri Barbusse, 13001 Marseille.

The Mouvement français pour le planning familial (MFPF), which has been in existence for 30 years, called for a demonstration against article 647 of the Health Code, which prosecutes information activities considered to be "propaganda, publicity, incitement to abort." The MFPF notes in particular that France has the shortest authorised time frame for voluntarily interrupting a pregnancy among those European countries where abortion is permitted.

Useful address: MFPF, 6, Square St. Irénée, 75011 Paris.

The Association Nationale des Françaises à l'Étranger (National Association of French Women Abroad) has published articles on problems faced by French women living in Germany, Italy and Austria in its quarterly bulletins Nos. 7 and 8 of 1987. They also contain an account of the "Français de l'étranger" (Frenchman from abroad) information day which was held last September.

Useful address: 9, rue Humblot, 75015 Paris.

Council - Feminist Theology devotes its latest issue to the topics of "Women, Work, Poverty." In her editorial, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza expresses a hope for the advancement of "feminist theological reflections rooted in the daily experiences of working women."

Useful address: Beauchesne Editeur, 72 rue des Saints-Père, 75007 Paris.

G R E E C E

A television advertising award organised by the General Secretariat for Equality in collaboration with the national radio, was based on a particular criterion: the ability to project a convincing image of the principle of equality of the sexes and of the new roles for men and women in society.

The General Secretariat for Equality also organised a series of cultural events under the heading "Women and Art". One event consisted of an exhibition of fifteen Greek artists (sculptures and micro-sculptures).

Useful address: General Secretariat for Equality, Mousseoust, 2, Plaka, Athens

The Secretariat also helped launch a women's agri-tourist cooperative in Agios Germano , a lake region bordering Albania and Yugoslavia. It will offer traditional Greek hospitality at low prices in three magnificently restored old buildings.

Useful address: Gynekios Agrotouristikos Syneterismos Prespon, Agios Germanos, 53100 Florina.

In Athens, the Hellenic Association of Women Jurists organised a seminar in November on application of the principle of equality of the sexes in the areas of social security and labour law. The conclusion was that despite some progress, the status of women remains inferior to that of men. Therefore the "positive discrimination" in current legislation should not be abolished for the moment.

Useful Address : Enossi Ellinidon Nomikon, Adadimias 64, Athens.

On the occasion of the European Year of the Environment, the Association of Greek Housewives has organised a symposium on the theme "Housewives and Environment" aimed at informing women about environmental problems which are of a broader nature than problems found in the home. Beginning in her own neighborhood, the women is made aware of more universal problems, such as nuclear hazards, air pollution, etc.

Useful address: Syllogos Ellinidas Nikokyras, Fidiou 18, Athens.

Six women's NGO's have signed a petition asking the Minister of Justice to act immediately to reform living conditions in the country's prisons. The initiative was based on a report by a woman public prosecutor who exposed the conditions of many prisons in Greece today.

The number of "mixed" families in Greece is growing: traditionally a country of emigration, it is now increasingly becoming a host country for political and other types of refugees. A seminar on this issue was recently organised by the Goethe Institute of Athens (Omirou, 14-16, Athens).

The Association of intra-national families, founded two years ago, has moved. Two-thirds of its members are women. Its goal is to help non-Greek spouses integrate into society. The president is a woman, Soula Kalandji.

Useful address: Syllogos Diethnikon Ikogenion, Agras 37, Athens.

A special unit in charge of gynecological problems of children and adolescents was opened at the Alexandra Hospital in Athens. Services include information on teenage pregnancies, venereal diseases, etc.

Useful address: Meeftirio Alexandra, Vassilissis Sofias 80, Athens.

Sex, education and health were the topics at the seminar held in November by the Family Planning Association of Greece, with approximately 400 people attending.

Useful address: Eteria Ikogeniakou Programmatismou, Solonos 121, Athens.

For its 32nd anniversary, the Club of Businesswomen and Professional Women of Athens honoured Sofia Maltezos as "Greek journalist" of the year. They report that 183 out of 1060 journalists for daily papers today are women, while they already constitute a majority in magazines and periodicals (146 out of 261). Their numbers are increasing in radio and television as well.

Useful address: Syndesmos Epanheltion & Epichirimation Gynekon Athinon, Agias Zonis 57, Athens.

Publications : The Autonomous Women's Group of Thessaloniki has just published a new magazine, "Katina."

Tessa Doukeri recently put out a book on "The Participation of Greek Women in the Family and in the Work Force," available from Sakkoulas, Solonos 69, Athens.

IRELAND

The Anti-Discrimination (Pay) Act of 1974 and the Employment Equality Act of 1977 were reviewed by the Department of Labour, which will soon issue a document containing several options for amending the legislation.

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

Meanwhile, the Government, (which had opted not to name a minister for Women's Affairs), has decided to axe a number of women's services set up by previous Governments. For example, the Women in Enterprise Agency has been abolished, and a scholarship scheme for older women who want to continue their higher education has had its credits curtailed. This drew a reaction from the Council for the Status of Women, which charged the Government with "putting yet another nail in the coffin of Irish women's equality."

Useful address: The Council for the Status of Women, 64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, Tel. : 01-615-268.

At the second annual conference of the new Progressive Democrats Party, leader Desmond O'Malley noted that 28% of their Parliamentary Party were women, compared to less than 10% for Fine Gael, less than 6% for Fianna Fail and no women in the Labour Party. In addition, the Party's Executive has a woman chairperson and vice-chairperson.

Useful address: The Progressive Democrats, 25 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2.

A major survey of women in Ireland today was recently published by the Sunday Press and conducted by Lansdowne Market Research Limited on women between the ages of 16 and 42. It showed that 55% of women surveyed feel that abortion should be illegal under all circumstances (while 67% think that women have a right to advice in the matter); 47% of women are in favour of divorce, 45% are against, and 8% don't know (last year's Constitutional Referendum on divorce resulted in a two to one majority against legalising divorce); more than three out of five women at home and two out of five women at work feel that the Women's Movement has not helped them, either at home or in the work place; 70% of respondents think it is bad for mothers with children under five years of age to work outside the home (this figure is lower than result from a similar poll in 1981).

Useful address: The Sunday Press, Burgh Quay, Dublin 2.

A seminar organised recently by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions on the issue of low pay for women revealed that 70% of part-time workers (generally unskilled and low paid jobs) were women. A part-time cleaner must work 18 hours a week at least to earn the same amount as someone receiving Unemployment Assistance.

Useful address: I.C.T.U., 19 Raglan Road, Dublin 4.

The term of the Chairwoman of the Employment Equality Agency, Sylvia Meehan is ending and she will soon be replaced, although she will stay on temporarily as Chief Executive Officer. Sylvia Meehan has headed the Agency for ten years. It may be reorganised and the roles of chairperson and Chief Executive Officer could be redefined. The position of Chairperson may become a part-time job.

Useful Address : The Department of Labour, Mespil Road, Dublin 4.

A survey from the British Office of Censuses and Surveys reports that nearly one thousand Irish women had abortions in the United Kingdom during the first quarter of 1987 (and even more, counting those Irish women living in the United Kingdom). Of these women, 708 were between the ages of 20 and 34. There has been a slight drop compared to 1986 figures that was more pronounced in the under-20 age bracket.

Useful address: The Well Woman Centre, 73 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

A recent report from Women's Aid asks that wife beaters be put in gaol. The report is based on the experiences of 127 women who sought refuge at Women's Aid in 1986 and 1987. It shows that the police generally prefer conciliation to pressing charges, (which occurred in only 38% of cases). Seventy-six of the women at the shelter were pregnant, 10 of whom lost their child after being beaten and 17 had miscarriages.

Useful address: Women's Centre, 53 Dame Street, Dublin 2.

Sexual abuse of children has risen sharply : in the first half of 1987, the number of cases reported by the Rape Crisis centre (926) was the same as for all of 1986.

Useful address: Rape Crisis Centre, 2 Lower Pembroke Street, Dublin 2.

A study by the Market Research Bureau on Irish society today, published by the "Irish Times" states that 54% of those interviewed are in favour of women priests, 31% are against, and 15% are unsure. More men are in favour of it than women.

Useful address: The Market Research Bureau of Ireland, 47 Northumberland Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

58% of Irish emigrés from 1981 to 1986 were men, according to a study from the Economic and Social Research Institute.

Useful address: E.S.R.I., 4 Burlington Road, Dublin 4.

Woman artists, art historians, art critics and curators have formed the "Woman Artists Get Together" cooperative and have held their first exhibition in Dublin, with works from nearly 90 artists. Their aim is to assert themselves in a world of art criticism that is dominated by men.

Useful address: Guinness Hop Store, Crane Street, Off James Street, Dublin 8.

Publications : The Employment Equality Agency has just put out two leaflets available free of charge. One is on the Agency's own services, the other on the role of positive action programmes.

Useful address: 36, Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

Attic Press has published the "Irish Women's Book" and the "Irish Women's Diary" for 1988.

Useful address: 44 East Essex Street, Dublin 2.

ITALY

"You have elected 65 of us. That's a lot, if you're willing to help us out." With these words the female members of the Italian parliament elected from the Italian Communist Party at the latest general elections urged their male and female voters to continue backing them. Their number is : 67.179.640 (every day from 10 to 12).

Their address : Gruppo parlamentari elette nelleliste del PCI, Via Campo Marzio 42, Roma.

The professional and personal profile of the woman manager in Italy today is the title of a very interesting study undertaken by the *Centro di Ricerca sulla Organizzazione aziendale de l'Università Bocconi de Milan* for the *Confederazione Italiana Dirigenti d'Azienda* and the *Association Donne in Carriera* (CIDA, via Nazionale 75, 00184 Rome; Donne in Carriera, Via JS. Maria alla Portal, 20123 Milan). The report was presented in Milan at a seminar on women managers in Italy today. The extensive data in the report often contradict popular stereotypes. Some of the findings are: - age : the average Italian woman manager is 45 years old (42 in transport and 44 in services). This is young, compared to the age of male managers (47 in industry, 49 in banking); - civil status : 60% of the women polled are married or live with someone (in 22% of the cases, the partner works for the same company as the executive woman) and 53% have children ; - level of education : 45% of the women had a university education, 53% had "humanities" studies. In addition, 17% of these women have had post-graduate instruction (29% of women under 40 fit this description); - vocational training : in 1986, every woman manager in Italy had six days of vocational training (compared to 3 for men) ; - company seniority : it has risen an average of 16 years (probably because staying with the same company offers better career opportunities) ; - income : approximately 10% lower than what other managers declare. However, women say they are generally satisfied with their jobs; - schedules : 48 hours per week are devoted to work, 12 to the home and family and 12 to leisure activities.

Married women managers report that their husbands devote 47 hours to work, 8 to the family, and 13 to leisure activities. Only 5% of company directors are women. That's not much, but at least it's better than the 1 - 2 % of a few years ago. However, 22% of all company employees questioned are women.

The Regional Council of Piedmont has set up the "Regional Committee for Equality", composed of 15 women with scientific, cultural, professional, economic and political experience in the field of women's status. The regional labour delegate, Mr. Giuseppe Cerchio stated that in Piedmont, female unemployment continues to be very high: in Turin, it's at 17.9% and in Novara, 15%.

Useful address: Palazzo Lascaris, via Alfieri 15, 10121 Torino.

The Regional Council, in conjunction with the *Consulta femminile regionale del Piemonte* and the *Consulta femminile de Turin* recently prepared a book on "Parità tra uomo et donna - il diritto et la giurisprudenza italiana e comunitaria", published by Franco Angeli. It contains the minutes from the seminar on equality of men and women in law and Italian and Community jurisprudence, held in Turin in October 1984 with the collaboration of the European Commission.

Clara Maglietta was particularly "active" at the recent Italian diplomats' strike in response to reforms which will allow people to join the *Farnesina* without any examination, contrary to tradition. She is the secretary of the autonomous union of Italian diplomats.

Last May, UDESSA (Unione Donne Europee Segnalatesi nei vari Settori e Attività), organised a colloquy on the theme of sports and violence. The Association, which has existed for nearly one year and aims to contribute to the unification of Europe and to women who play a prominent role in public or private life, is chaired by Angela Musolesi, the youngest Knight of the Order of Merit in the Italian Republic.

Useful address: Via Luigi Biolchini 12, 00146 Rome.

On the subject of sports, the *Unione Italiana Sport Popolare* will organise a series of women's sports events in 1988 at the request of its women's coordination group to be held March 6 and 8. The plan is more ambitious than usual and was bolstered in particular by the recent resolution of the European Parliament on women and sports.

The events will be called "*Sportiva*" (female athlete) and will begin on the morning of March 6 simultaneously in twenty Italian cities. Rome will host the seventh edition of the women's race (over 5000 women took part in the previous race); in Palermo, women from all the Mediterranean countries will run in the "Mediterranean Women's Race." Elsewhere, for the first time in Italy, a women's Tour of Italy (bicycle) will take place next June. Last October, the UISP held a colloquy in Florence on "What Italians think of women who play sports."

Useful address: Coordinamento Donne - UISP, Via Carrara 24, 00196 Rome.

We have many sad episodes to report on the subject of violence, including the one about a 14-year old girl in Mazara del Vallo who was beaten to death by her brother because he "didn't approve of" the people she chummed with. The killer had his sentence reduced from six to four years at first, then it was further reduced to house arrest. The judges in Trapani noted that the young man had "hit his sister, inflicting wounds that would have healed in twenty days, if death had not occurred...".

The Committee of Justice of the Chamber of Deputies looked into the issues of sexual violence and criminal indulgence toward offenders.

The *Unione Donne Italiane di Ferrara* (Contrada della Rosa 14, Ferrara) organised a colloquy on the topic entitled "Women and Minors: stories of everyday violence."

Women police officers are making progress : Rachele Schettini is the new national secretary of the autonomous police union. And two female agents managed to capture Giuseppe Marchese, head of the "*clan dei Catanesi*", sought by police since December of 1984. Nevertheless, female police officers met in Milan (they account for 146 out of 2250 officers) and complained of numerous cases of discrimination. For example, they are not allowed to use a bicycle, let alone a motorcycle.

For the first time, a woman, Lucia Pintore (26, from Cagliari) has won the "sommelier of the year" award, conferred in Ancona by the Italian Sommeliers Association. The secretary, Antonio Mantovani, acknowledged that this is no longer only a "man's job." 15% of the Association's members are women.

Women and writing was the theme of the conferences organised on November 20 and December 11, 1987 by the *Gruppo Donna e Salute* of Genoa. The works of four women were the focus of the debate : Elsa Morante, Simone de Beauvoir, Astrid Lindgren and Freya Stark.

Useful address: CIDI, via Gramsci 14, 16126 Genoa.

Women at Home : The first national congress of the *FederCasalinghe* took place in Rome in November. The group has been in existence for five years and has half a million members. Congress participants argued in favour of wages for house work, whose estimated economic value is 25% of GNP.

Useful address: FederCasalinghe, Via dei Cappuccini 6, 00187 Rome.

Publications : The following are of note :

- "*Reti, pratiche et saperi di donne*," a new bimonthly journal headed by Maria Luisa Boccia (Editori Riuniti, Via Botteghe Oscure 4, 00186 Rome).

- "*I consiglieri di parità*", by Maria Vittoria Ballestrero, Luigi Frey, Marco Frey, Renata Livraghi (Franco Angeli Editore, Viale Monza 106, 20127 Milan), on "equality counsellors", based on a pilot project in Lombardy. The firm has published "*Dalla parità all'uguaglianza delle opportunità*" (minutes of the colloquy held in December 1985 in Bologna on this subject) and *Comparable worth e segregazione del lavoro femminile*, by L. Frey, R. Livraghi, T. Treu, M. Zrbini and M. Bergamaschi on application of the idea of comparable worth at work. Luigi Frey and Renata Livraghi have also written "Se la strada non la sai" (for the *Amministrazione provinciale e comunale di Reggion Emilia*, Corson Garibaldi 26, Reggio Emilia), which offers a real plan of attack for women seeking employment.

LUXEMBOURG

In the municipal elections of last October, 385 women candidates, 14% of the total, stood for office. But the figure in cities with more than 3,000 inhabitants was 20%, and only 10% in small towns where running for office is more the result of personal choice than part of a party's strategy. The conclusions that could possibly be drawn from this are that political parties have perhaps understood the advantages of putting up women candidates and that women still need to be encouraged to run for office.

Useful address: Ministère de l'Intérieur, 19 rue Beaumont, Luxembourg.

In these same municipal elections, the Alternative Greens party complained of the sexist wording of the forms required in filing a candidacy. The presiding judge of the local court decided in their favour. In order to give more force to their protest, some women filed for candidacy disguised as men.

Useful address: Tribunal d'arrondissement, rue du Palais de Justice, Luxembourg.

In other political developments, at the congress of women Christian Socialists, the participants gave emphasis to the initiatives taken for women. For example, 49 women candidates stood for office in district elections, efforts were made to achieve equal treatment in social security matters, and new regulations were introduced for part-time work in government. In the future, Christian Socialist women hope to take up the problems of part-time work in the private sector, improved possibilities in the recycling of workers and new artificial reproduction methods.

Useful address: Femmes chrétienne-sociales, c/o Erna Hennicott-Schoepges, présidente, 38 rue du Curé, 1368 Luxembourg.

In 1985, the proportion of women in the active population was 34%. Between 1981 and 1985, the number increased from 49,000 to 51,000, while at the same time, the active male population fell by 1,500.

The number of divorces reached a record level in 1986: 680, or 36% of marriages. Moreover, the number of marriages fell from 1,962 to 1,892 between 1985 and 1986, a drop of 13.6% over the 1980 figures.

Useful address: Statec (Service Central de la Statistique), 19-21 Boulevard Royal, 2013 Luxembourg.

Waitresses and waiters in the cafés of Luxembourg are not treated equally. According to a regulation dating back to 1915, a waitress can be employed only with special authorisation from the district council, whereas authorisation is not required to hire a café waiter or a headwaiter. A woman café owner in Differdange recently became aware of this law when she was refused authorisation to hire a waitress by the town's council. She lodged a complaint with the Council of State, which ruled in her favour, invoking a law of December 8, 1981 on sexual equality in the labour market.

Useful address: Conseil d'Etat, 5 rue Sigfroi, 2536 Luxembourg.

THE NETHERLANDS

Good news for unmarried couples: the government has approved a proposal from the Secretary of State for Public Health, Mr Dees, to offer benefits to unmarried couples living together under the social security plan of one of the members of the couple. The measure would affect some 50,000 persons.

Vrouwen in 'mannen'-beroepen (Women in "male" jobs) has published in its latest issue a series of interesting figures: 19% of all members of parliament are women; 29 of the 714 mayors are women; 13% of primary school headmasters are women, but only 5% in secondary schools; and the staffs of daily newspapers comprise only 10% women. At the end of the year, the Government launched a campaign to encourage access for women to the so-called masculin professions and to promote exact sciences as a field of study for women students. These two initiatives will be effective until 1990.

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

The city of Amsterdam has taken a positive initiative: for a period of five years it will employ only women to head primary and secondary schools.

The Minister for Emancipation of Women, Mr De Koning, has given 10 million Guilders to some 33 groups devoted to the promotion of and information for women seeking employment. In Dutch, these groups are called *vrouw-en werk-winkels* or "women and work boutiques". In 1988, the Minister will initiate a new action programme for employment and training of women. A recent ministerial report affirms that this aspect takes on added importance owing to the fact that the principle of wage equality is often disregarded. Out of 600 companies questioned by the Ministry, nearly half were unfamiliar with legislation on wage equality. The result is that 72% of women do not benefit from these laws.

The Institute of Social Studies of The Hague is proposing a new specialised field of study: "Women and Development". This was the Institute's response to a request from a group of women originally from the Third World in order to offset the imbalance in social sciences and offer courses in the history of women's social contribution in all countries.

Useful address: Academic Registrar, Institute of Social Studies, P.O. Box 90733, 2509 LS Den Haag.

The "Stichting Vrouwen, Bouwen en Wonen" (Women, Construction and Habitat Foundation) has awarded a prize of 100,000 Guilders to the city of Leiden for the serious manner in which it took up the problem of sexual violence. A woman will be recruited to conduct a year-long full-time study on how women's security in the cities can be improved. Moreover, a mobile exhibition, that may be lent free-of-charge, will be organised. The exhibition will consist of 24 mounted photos packed in a box for transport, weighing 55 kg.

Useful address: Stichting VTGS Leiden, p/a Doezestraat 34, 2311 HB Leiden.

The group "Vluchtelingen Werl (aid to refugees) has published a brochure entitled "Je haast geen toekomst meer" (there is practically no longer any future for you), which analyses the problem of sexual violence that leads women to leave their country.

Useful address: Vluchtelingen Werk, 3de Hugo de Grootstraat 7, 1052 LJ Amsterdam.

A new committee called Vrouwen Blijven Eisen (Women Continue to Make Demands" was set up as a reaction against the schemes of the "Dekker Commission" (Health Committee), which "are a step backward, particularly in the areas of abortion and contraception."

Useful address: FNV - Vrouwensecretariaat, Plein '40-'45, Postbus 8456, 1005 AL Amsterdam.

The "Vrouwen VVD" organisation (Women of the VVD, the Liberal Party) is celebrating its 40th anniversary in Lunteren and will focus on the role of women in arts and the media.

Useful address: Liberale Vrouw, Koninginnegracht 57, 2514 AW Den Haag.

The "Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad" (Dutch Women's Council) has published a leaflet on "The Community as a Power base for Women" which emphasizes the positive role the European Community can play for women.

Useful address: Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad, Laan van Meerdervoort 30, 2517 AL Den Haag.

The sculptress Theresa van der Pant has won the Judith Leyser award (a 17th century painter, most of whose works have disappeared, and many of which have been attributed to Frans Hals). The award was established in September of 1987 and will be offered every two years.

P O R T U G A L

Three women are among the civil district governors and vice-governors who just took office at the end of 1987 : Marilia Raimundo Of Guarda, Maria Cândida Machado de Oliveira (vice-governor of Oporto) and Irene Aleixo of Setúbal.

The "Local Government and Women" seminar organised in late November by the Comissão da Condição Feminina with the help of the European Commission revealed the need to create information channels specifically for women. Close to 300 people participated and asked in the conclusions for the decentralisation of the Comissão da Condição Feminina, the setting up of council and guidance cabinets for women and organisation of more local seminars and colloquys.

During the course of the 1987-88 school year, the Comissão in collaboration with the Ministry of Education will promote a study on the attitudes of the young (boys and girls) toward technology. Young people aged 14 to 15 and teachers will be surveyed to determine their attitudes toward the issue. Existing figures on the presence of girls in technical/professional studies or in other branches of technical studies show that in Portugal, as in many other European countries, girls are generally much less drawn to technical professions or branches than boys.

A scheme to give young girls vocational training in new information technologies just got the go-ahead from the European Social Fund. The scheme will last three years and was developed by the Department of Educational Sciences at the Science Department of the University of Lisbon. It aims to train women micro-computer technicians to create data banks or files or work in information services.

Useful address: Comissão da Condição feminina, Avenida da Republica 32 - 1º, 1200 Lisboa.

The Associação Portuguesa de Mulheres Empresarias (Portuguese Association of Businesswomen), founded in 1985, held its first International Congress in November of 1987. Women from several Portuguese-speaking countries attended. An exposition of products from the respective companies (fashion, jewelry, leather goods, metallurgy, etc..) was held at the same time as the Congress and some business contacts were made.
Useful address: APME, Rua Castilho 50-99, 1200 Lisboa.

UNITED KINGDOM

As of November 1987, British women can work on oil rigs. Legislation against sexual discrimination and in favour of equal pay was recently extended to cover work on the UK continental shelf. It represents an important symbolic victory as well as a very real victory in the offshore gas and oil industries. Women currently account for barely 1% of the workforce.

Useful address: Equal Opportunity Commission, Overseas House, quay Street, Manchester M 3 3HN.

On 7 November 1987, the amendment to the law on retirement and unfair dismissals went into effect in application of the decision taken by the Court of Justice of the European Communities (Decision of 26.1.81) in the "Helen Marshall" affair. This case illustrated that a different retirement age for men and women was a violation of the Community directive on equal treatment. So 60-year old women forced to retire earlier than their male colleagues will be able to request compensation (but the amendment does not involve State retirement). Meanwhile, in Northern Ireland, Frances Finnegan, who was fired at age 60 on 1 April 1986 from the Clowney YTP Ltd. company, received the maximum compensation of 8000 pounds from the Industrial Tribunal.

A report from the Cobden Trust decries the disturbing ignorance, and as a result, the large number of errors, of industrial tribunals in cases of sexist discrimination at work. In her work "Judging Inequality", Alice Leonard proposes that each region set up a specialised group with at least one woman in charge of investigating these affairs in order to remedy gaps.

Useful address: The Cobden Trust, 21 Tabard Street, London SE1 4LA.

Lady Platt, Chairwoman of the Equal Opportunity Commission, invited the government to review its decision to freeze child benefits at £7.25 per week per child until 1989 instead of raising them to £7.55 to account for inflation. She said the decision was "deeply contrary to the interests of a very large number of women."

Signposts, a new guide from the Equal Opportunities Commission, helps women who want to find another job or continue their education to choose the right direction. Practical information is also supplied: how to answer an advertisement, send a cover letter, etc.

Useful address: EOC, Overseas House, quay street, Manchester M3 3HN.

The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff has launched a campaign to allow women to leave behind traditional employment and enter new, better-paying jobs. Anne Gibson, head of the Association for women's issues, stresses the importance of training and recycling.

Useful address: ASTMS, 79 Camden Road, London NW1 9ES.

The Department of Employment has just published "Young Women in 'Gender-atypical' Jobs : The Case of Trainees Technicians in the Engineering Industry". The authors, Glynis Breakwell and Barbara Weinberger note that only 2% of technicians in the engineering industry are women, while it has been found in training courses that girls are considered more reliable, punctual, committed and neater than boys.

At the same time, however, their supervisors tend at times to be more indulgent with girls. This approach is often misguided, the authors assert, and could lead to greater antagonism among the boys.

Useful address: Department of Employment, or Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Holborn Bookshop, 49 Holborn, London WC1.

Another publication of interest is "Women in Engineering: EITB Initiatives", from the Engineering Industry Training Board.

Useful address: EITB Publications, P.O. Box 75, Stockport, Cheshire SK 4 1PH.

Management: The Women in Management Association has recently awarded its prize to the employer who best complies with equal opportunity in the private sector to the Littlewoods Organisation and a certificate of distinction to the National Westminster Bank. In the public sector, the prize went to Brixton College and a certificate of distinction to the North Bedfordshire Health Authority.

Useful address: WIM, Linzi Horwood, 64 Marryat Road Wimbledon, London SW19 5BN.

The British Institute of Management (Management House, Cottingham Road, Corby Northants NN 17 1TT) and the Women in Management Association have published "Blueprint for Change - Women Managers - The Future" compiling a series of contributions from women on their experiences in the business world. The President of the Association, Eleanor MacDonald, affirms in her introduction that her own "formula for a career" is a simple one: "I am, I can, I must, I do".

The Trades Union Congress organised at the end of October in London a meeting on women in trade unions during which the problem of parental rights was discussed at length. The United Kingdom, it was pointed out, makes a poor showing in comparison with the rest of Europe.

Useful address: Congress House, Great Russell Street, London SW1 3HG

The Conservative Women's National Committee has recommended that the law on abortion (the Infant Life Preservation Act of 1929) be amended so as to allow legal abortions up to the 24th week of pregnancy, instead of 28 weeks as the law currently stands. The Committee was against a reduction to only 18 weeks, as suggested by the Alton Law.

Useful address: 32 Smith Square, Westminster, London SW1P 3HG.

A good example of an entrepreneurial spirit: Anne Siller, a widow with two young children, has received, thanks to the assistance of the government-backed Enterprise Allowance Scheme, an allowance of £40 per week for one year, which will enable her to set up a small button-making company. The buttons will be made out of a ceramic-like material that she can bake in her kitchen. She has been so successful that she has even had orders from Japan.

Useful address: Scottish Home and Country, 42/A Heriot Row, Edinburgh EH3 6ES.

Time off for Women 1987 has organised a series of events in order to obtain pay for work in the home in the context of the international campaign for wages for housework. The campaign also is seeking to have this work included in the Gross National Product, whether or not it is paid.

Useful address: Time off for Women 1987, King's Cross Women's Centre, 71 Tonbridge Street, London WC1E 9DZ

Women in Enterprise will publish in February 1988 its first national business guide for women, with the support of the National Westminster Bank. Women in Enterprise was launched two years ago to help women set up and manage small businesses.

Useful address: 26 Bond Street, Wakefield WF1 2QP.

The Fawcett Society, at the forefront of sexual equality since 1886, is preparing a list of expert women in all fields for presentation to the BBC and other radio and television authorities. The goal is for the public finally to be able to hear women, not just men, in interviews on various topics. The Fawcett Society has also published "Getting Started", which explains the workings of the 1987 positive action programme and makes suggestions for the future.

Useful address: The Fawcett Society, 46 Harleyford Road, London SS 11 5AY.

The University of London Institute on Education has presented the course of studies for the Women's Studies Summer Institute, which will take place in July 1988 at the Centre for Research and Education on Gender. The main courses will be "The Militarisation of Women's Lives", "Women and Migration", "European Feminism in Theory and in Practice" and "Women and Crime".

Useful address: 20 Bedford Way, London WC 1H OAL.

Jo Campling has won the "Pandora" Award for the most positive contribution to the image of women in publishing for having started "Women in Society" in 1983. The company is now preparing over 40 titles.

Useful address: Jo Campling, 52 The Avenue, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 5ES.

Sian Edwards (28-years old) will be the first woman to conduct the orchestra of the Royal Opera House. She was elected "woman of tomorrow" from among 700 candidates by Cosmopolitan magazine.

The Magdalena Project, successfully launched in 1986, became a permanent organisation so that it could continue its work on the language of women in theatre. After the first international Festival of Women in experimental theatre, it then organised research workshops in June and July in Denmark with the Odin theatre, and in September and December in Cardiff.

Useful address: Jill Greenhalgh, The Magdalena Project Chapter, Market Road Can, Cardiff CF5 1QE.

The General and Municipal Workers' Union has distributed a pamphlet on cancer detection of primary interest to women. The Women's National Cancer Control Campaign says that early detection can help reduce the number of deaths due to cancer (2000 from uterine cancer and 13,000 from breast cancer each year).

EUROPE AND THE WORLD

International Council of Women (IWC) : This organisation was founded in Washington in 1888 under the chairmanship of Elisabeth Cady Stanton and celebrates its centenary this year. The Council has always been a meeting place for women from across the world. It has met regularly, even in war time, to set priorities, compare legislation and conduct surveys. In 1983, it organised the "Congress of Representative Women" in Chicago with attendance estimated at over 150,000 people. From its inception, the organisation has been in the forefront of issues of the day : in 1909 it took a stand for environmental protection; in 1920, on ways to prevent female and child slave trade; in 1930, on the problem of battered wives and children; since 1926, on cinema and its educational role. IWC has also set up regional committees in Europe, America and Asia. The European committee (CECIF) meets twice a year, each time in a different European capital. The national Councils of each country are preparing to celebrate the anniversary with various activities.

Useful address: CECIF, 139 Boulevard Brand Whitlock 1200 Bruxelles.

Women and Development : Caribbean seminar : The European Commission has published the proceedings of a seminar held in Port of Spain (Trinidad) on the role in the Caribbean development process. (These countries have ties with the Community through the Lomé Convention, along with African and Pacific countries). Work at the seminar was divided amongst three working groups on: - creating employment and employment protection; - health and education; - training and information. A central concern emerged during the course of the debate relating to all three topics : the acts of violence suffered by women, mostly affecting women, but also widespread violence in Caribbean society. Participants feel that this violence hampers social development.

Useful address: Direction Générale du Développement - Commission des Communautés Européennes, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Bruxelles.

Poverty : Last October, the International Association of Charities (AIC) organised a seminar in Paderborn, Germany on the theme "Communication and Poverty". The seminar was sponsored by the Women's Information Service of the European Commission. It provided an arena for a hundred or so women volunteers from nine European countries to exchange their views and experiences in the fight against poverty. Participants noted that poverty is spreading to more and more women across Europe and stressed the need to build on their actions in directions already explored, such as family shelters, food cooperatives, job training, and job searches for young women.

Useful address: AIC, rue d'Alsace Lorraine 38, 1050 Bruxelles

Women Engineers : The 8th congress of Women Engineers and Scientists was held in September in Abidjan with the participation of over 200 women from thirty countries. It adopted recommendations aiming mainly to prevent discrimination against women engineers, to encourage women to have a career, to award prizes regularly for particular achievements and to consult women engineers when new technologies are introduced. The chairwoman was Marthe Achy-Brou, who is also chairwoman of the *Cercle Ivoirien des Femmes Ingénieurs, Scientifiques, Architectes et Techniciennes Supérieures* and vice-chairwoman of the National Assembly. Nicole Bécarud, from the *Association Française des Femmes-Ingénieurs*, emphasised the need to encourage women even more to study engineering. Today, 5% of registered students in engineering schools in Africa and Western Europe are women (there are very few in Germany, Italy and Switzerland), 10% are women in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Oceania, and 25% in Eastern Europe.

Useful address: Association française des Femmes Ingénieurs, 10 rue Vauquelin, 75005 Paris.

Socialist International Women : The Board of the International, meeting in Dakar last October, adopted a resolution putting forward a number of demands for women living in the country and the city. The resolution urges access to modern production techniques and to all professions, the inalienable right of all individuals to paid work and compliance with minimum wages.

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

JAPAN : More than 250 women and nearly 50 men took part in the symposium on women, organised last October by the Information Bureau of the European Commission in Tokyo. Participants heard four papers on women's situations in Community countries and had a chance to ask many questions concerning education, health, work, children and the elderly.

Useful address: Europe House, 9-15 Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102.

UNITED STATES : According to a recently published study by the Federal Office of Statistics, women earned an average of 61% of what men earned for the same job in 1960 and now they earn 70% of men's salaries. Not much progress in twenty-seven years.

UNITED NATIONS : In September of 1987, the coordinator of the United Nations for the improvement of women's status within the UN published a progress report on women's roles in the organisation. The report notes in particular that the goal set in 1982 to have 25% of the seats in the UN Secretariat filled with women was reached, but it reasserts that this level should be 30% by 1990 and that more women should fill higher positions, particularly political ones.

SWITZERLAND : The Swiss Parliament formed after the latest elections will have at least 31 women, including 28 in the National Council (21 in the last Parliament) and 3 in the State Council. The monthly "*Femmes Suisses*" reports the figures with some satisfaction, pointing out that "a list of women-only candidates was influential in the canton of Berne, where two Socialist women were able to get elected" and speculates as to why this phenomenon was not more widespread. In another article, an editor of the magazine complains about the fact that Switzerland is "totally absent" from the pages of "Women of Europe" (she states that "there is no other source of information like it"). She believes that the prospect of a large single market in 1992 makes this shortfall even more shameful.

Useful address: CP 323, 1227 Carouge/Geneva

QUEBEC : The "Femmes regroupées pour l'accessibilité au pouvoir politique et économique" (FRAPPE, Women United for Access to Political and Economic Power, French initials = STRIKE) designed an original method for increasing the presence of women in senior political and economic positions : when a public post is opening up, the association goes through its data base for the names of women whose curriculum vitae correspond to the profile requested and presents them to the companies or institutions concerned. To do this, the association keeps an up-to-date file with a list of companies and dates when contracts expire. More to follow.

LATIN AMERICA

Health : The International Meeting of Women and Health was held in San José in Costa Rica, where a series of recommendations favouring protection of women's health, especially in the Third World was adopted. In an "Open Letter to the Governments of the People of the World", participants come out against the "manipulation of our reproductive ability by using us as experimental subjects for Western science" and states that these "abuses of new technologies have at times threatened the integrity of our native cultures." Participants also demand reform of the legislation in favour of abortion.

Environment : The March 1987 issue of "La Mala Vida" (with the subtitle "only he who knows the bad life can live the good life") contains articles on "Ecotactics - Green Women", "Nukiller Energy" and "Irradiated Food : No, thanks!".

Useful address: 70342 Caracas 1071 Los Ruices

Native Women : This is the theme of the special issue of *Mujer/Fempress*, directed at native women from several Latin American countries : Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Guatemala.

Useful address: Casilla 16-637, Correo 9, Santiago/Chile.

Uruguay : A women's committee has published information on the status of women in Uruguay. They illustrate the long road ahead for women in the area of employment, domestic work, politics, education and the media.

Useful address: Carmen R. Alvarez, Palacio Salvo 848/2204, Montevideo.

Human Rights : The June 1987 issue of "Vamos!", published by the women's department of the centre for the Defence of Human Rights in Brazil, contains the names of the women killed during acts of violence in the fields from 1980 to 1984 (it lists about twenty). The editorial informs us that "the total emancipation of woman is not simply a matter of winning legal equality, because it has much deeper implications which have their roots in the emancipation of human beings."

Useful address: Av. Almirante Barroso, 74, Caixa Postal 93 - João Pessoa - Paraíba, Brasil.

ISIS : ISIS International, the information and communication service for women throughout the world has published articles on feminist movements, peace, health and Third World resources in its first issue of "Women in Action" in 1987. It mentions in particular the idea of calling an "alternative economic summit of women", which was first proposed in the United States.

Useful addresses:- Via Santa Maria dell'Anima 30, 00186 Roma
- Casilla 2067, Correo Central, Santiago/Chile

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