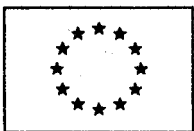


**MEN
AND WOMEN
OF EUROPE
IN 1987**



MEN AND WOMEN OF EUROPE IN 1987
The evolution of opinions and attitudes

THIS INQUIRY WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE TWELVE COMMUNITY COUNTRIES AT THE REQUEST OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES' COMMISSION (GENERAL DIRECTORATE ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE)

AS A SUPPLEMENT TO "EURO-BAROMETRE No. 27", AN IDENTICAL TWELVE-ITEM QUESTIONNAIRE WAS SUBMITTED IN MARCH/APRIL 1987 TO REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLES OF THE POPULATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S TWELVE MEMBER COUNTRIES. A TOTAL OF 11,651 PERSONS WERE PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED IN THEIR HOMES BY OUR PROFESSIONAL POLLING STAFF

THE INQUIRY WAS CARRIED OUT BY TWELVE SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS, COORDINATED BY FAITS ET OPINIONS, IN PARIS. THE NAMES OF THE INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE RESEARCH AND ALL OTHER TECHNICAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN AN ANNEX.

THIS REPORT WAS DRAWN UP BY FAITS ET OPINIONS. AS IS CUSTOMARY WITH THIS TYPE OF RESEARCH WORK, THE WORDING OF THE QUESTIONS, THE RESULTS PRESENTED, AND THE COMMENTS DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE POLITICAL VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION.

DECEMBER 1987

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Introduction

This report, *Men and Women of Europe in 1987*, is part of a research programme undertaken by the European Communities' Commission in 1975, which was International Women's Year.

The aim of this research programme, based on opinion polls of the general public in all the countries of the Community, is to acquire better knowledge of the attitudes of men and women to the situation of women in society, and to follow its evolution in time. This subject, first dealt with in 1975, was taken up again in the autumn of 1977, and in the spring of 1983 (1).

In the spring of 1987, the European Communities' Commission decided to update the information on a certain number of important points. The purpose of this update was to examine the evolution of attitudes in time, and to integrate Spain and Portugal into the scope of the inquiry.

(1) The first three inquiries were the subject of reports published by the European Communities' Commission:

- "Men and Women of Europe: Comparative attitudes to some social problems". European Communities' Commission, Brussels, December 1975 (215 p.)
- "Men and Women of Europe in 1978: Comparative attitudes to some social problems". European Communities' Commission, Brussels, February 1979 (237 p.)
- "Men and Women of Europe in 1983: The position of women in society, paid employment, socio-political participation" European Communities' Commission, Brussels, 1983 (185 p.)

Résumés of the substance of the inquiries were published in the magazine "Femmes d'Europe". See supplement no. 3 (72/X/79) and supplement no. 16 (X220/84).

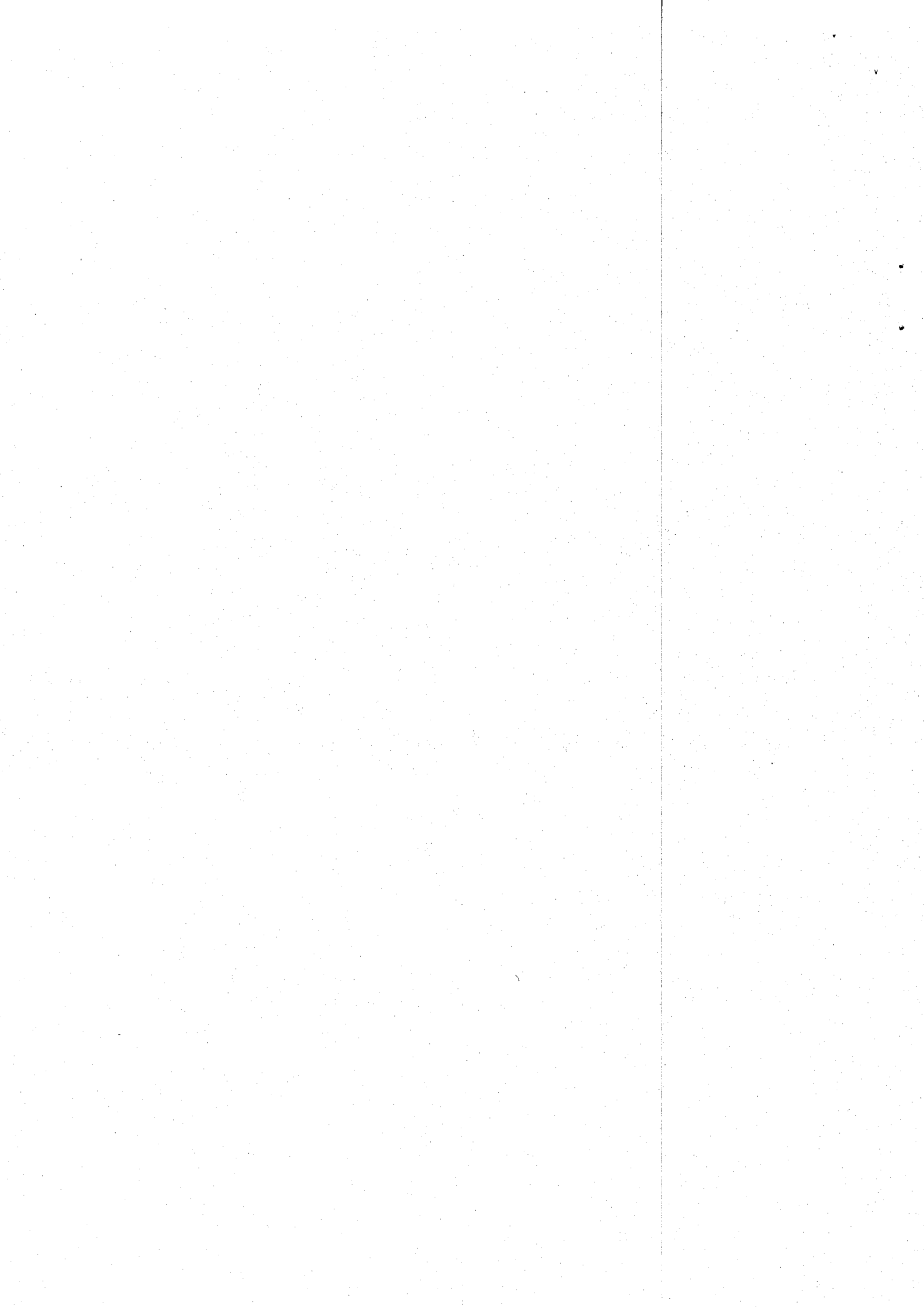
The conditions of the inquiry have been kept strictly analogous since the outset. These conditions are: an inquiry by polling of the adult population (men and women aged 15 years and over), with 9,543 subjects in 1975 (nine countries), 8,936 subjects in 1977, 9,790 subjects in 1983 (ten countries), and 11,651 subjects in 1987 (twelve countries).

A word of caution to the reader regarding the presentation of comparative results from different inquiries

For most of the questions, references from previous inquiries are available. In some cases, these references might be from the 1975 inquiry, when the Community had nine member countries; in others from the 1983 inquiry, when it had ten member countries. For the sake of consistency, comparisons over time are presented with a constant reference base. For a question asked in 1975, for instance, the comparative answers cover the first nine Community member countries (EC.9); for a question first asked in 1983, the comparative answers cover the first ten member countries (EC.10). The 1987 results tables are also given for the Community in its current form (EC.12).

As is customary, the overall results are weighted results. This means that the answers from each country are assigned a coefficient proportional to the population of the country. Thus in 1987, the Spanish results have a coefficient of 11.36, and the Portuguese results a coefficient of 2.88 in the EC.12. total. (For the weighting of all the countries in EC.12, see the Annex.)

This explains the very small difference between the overall results for 1987 calculated for the present-day twelve-member Community, and those based on the nine- and ten-member Communities of 1975 and 1983 respectively. The difference is further reduced by the close similarity frequently found between opinion in Spain and Portugal, and the average for the other countries.



PART 1

THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

1 - THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM IN PUBLIC OPINION

In the twelve-member European Community of 1987, one quarter of the population considers that the place of women in society is an important problem. This information is based on a simple question which had the advantage of having been asked in 1975, and again in 1983, in a smaller Community; it is therefore possible to follow the evolution of opinion over a twelve-year period, for all the countries that made up the 1975 nine-member Community.

In 1983 it was observed that the problem of the place of women in society had lost some of its prominence in opinion since 1975, which was the first international women's year. This phenomenon was present in varying degrees of intensity in all the countries polled.

In 1987, there is a resurgence of awareness of problems regarding women in public opinion, although the 1975 level has not been reached.

Question: The place of women in society, as compared to that of men, is often discussed. Is there, in your opinion, a problem regarding women in our society at this point in time? (The poller presents a 0 to 10 scale, and explains that 0 means there is no problem, 10 means there is a very serious problem.)

	Evolution of 9-member Community			EC.12 total
	1975	1983	1987	1987
. Considerable importance (8 - 10)	32%	20%	24%	25%
. Average importance (3 - 7)	50	55	55	54
. Little or no importance (0 - 2)	17	21	18	18
. No answer	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100	100
. Average importance rating (1)	5.68	4.97	5.28	5.32

(1) The average rating is the weighted average of the percentages of each rating point on the scale: 10, 9, 8, 0. (Don't knows are not included in the calculation.) It constitutes a convenient summary of the answers, and will be used in the forthcoming analyses.

The general tendency described above, i.e., a reduction in the prominence of this problem between 1975 and 1983, followed by a resurgence in awareness in 1987, is confirmed:

- amongst men as well as women, while the difference between the opinions of the two sexes remains the same.
- for all age groups, except the youngest group of women (aged 15 to 24), who continue to be less aware of the problem.
- in all countries, except France (rating falling since 1975), and Greece (since 1983). Everywhere else, the ratings have turned around since 1983.

(See table on page 10).

This being the overall picture of opinion trends, we may speculate on the causes behind these trends. The inquiry did not go any further than straightforward observation; it should be underlined that the question is not as unambiguous as it might appear: those who attribute little importance to the place of women in society may do so because they consider that there is no problem, or because they believe that progress has been made. This may be what happened between 1975 and 1983. What can be stated with certainty is that the question is becoming more acute again in 1987.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM OF WOMEN'S PLACE IN SOCIETY
(AVERAGE RATINGS ON A 0 TO 10 SCALE)**

	EVOLUTION OF 9-MEMBER COMMUNITY			EC.12 TOTAL
	1975	1983	1987	1987
ALL MEN:	5.41	4.60	4.86	4.87
Men aged 15 - 24	5.69	4.72	4.81	4.87
25 - 54	5.46	4.69	4.87	4.88
55 and over	5.31	4.34	4.89	4.84
ALL WOMEN:	6.00	5.27	5.66	4.73
Women aged 15 - 24	6.30	5.70	5.62	5.72
25 - 54	6.05	5.36	5.85	5.94
55 and over	5.35	4.83	5.32	5.34

EVOLUTION BY COUNTRY

	1975	1983	1987
EC.12 TOTAL	-	-	5.32
BELGIQUE	5.53	4.49	4.59
DANMARK	4.92	4.38	5.19
DEUTSCHLAND	5.13	4.62	4.73
FRANCE	6.93	5.48	5.27
IRELAND	6.11	4.54	5.04
ITALIA	6.72	5.89	6.30
LUXEMBOURG	6.45	4.79	4.85
NEDERLAND	3.95	3.85	4.47
UNITED KINGDOM	4.57	4.22	5.27
ELLAS	-	5.90	5.23
ESPANA	-	-	5.59
PORTUGAL	-	-	5.47

Let us now take a closer look at the 1987 answers.

Comparison of National Opinion in the Different Countries in 1987

- Three countries give the problem of women's place in society a high importance rating: Italy (average rating 6.30), Spain (5.59), and Portugal (5.47).
- Four countries are situated in the lower part of the scale: the Netherlands (4.47), Belgium (4.59), Germany (4.73), and Luxembourg (4.85).
- The remaining five countries are around the average.

The national position of each country is the resultant of the men's and women's opinions. It is therefore necessary to look at the differences in evaluation between the two sexes.

In general, the importance ratings assigned by women are about 20% higher than those of the men. However, the gap varies depending on the country, illustrating differences of viewpoint between the sexes which are of unequal extent.

The biggest gaps between men and women are to be found in Ireland, Portugal, Greece and Spain, and the smallest gaps in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

In Italy, which has a very high total rating, as was stated above, there is a difference between men's and women's views, but both sexes are much more convinced than their counterparts in the other countries of the great importance of the problem of the place of women in society.

(See table on page 12)

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM OF WOMEN'S PLACE IN SOCIETY

(AVERAGE RATINGS ON A 0 TO 10 SCALE)

1987

COMPARISON OF ANSWERS FROM MEN AND WOMEN
BY COUNTRY

	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN	DIFFERENCE (1)
EC.12 TOTAL	5.32	4.87	5.73	118
BELGIQUE	4.59	4.16	4.96	119
DANMARK	5.19	4.73	5.62	119
DEUTSCHLAND	4.73	4.25	5.14	121
FRANCE	5.27	4.84	5.68	117
IRELAND	5.04	4.30	5.76	134+
ITALIA	6.30	5.80	6.78	117
LUXEMBOURG	4.85	4.44	5.30	119
NEDERLAND	4.47	4.18	4.76	114
UNITED KINGDOM	5.27	4.95	5.53	112
ELLAS	5.23	4.64	5.80	125+
ESPANA	5.59	4.99	6.17	124+
PORTUGAL	5.47	4.74	6.16	130+

(1) The difference is the ratio $\frac{\text{Average rating by women}}{\text{Average rating by men}} \times 100$

It will be noted that the difference is well above average in Ireland, Portugal, Greece and Spain.

2 - ROLE DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE FAMILY

It was in 1983 that a question on role distribution within the family was asked for the first time in all the Community countries (ten countries at that time). The same question, asked once again in 1987, provides an indication of the ground covered in four years. It is no great distance, but there is a marked difference: those in favour of strict equality are more numerous, and those who believe a woman's place is in the home are less in number.

Question: Role distribution within the family is another much discussed subject. Here are three arrangements. Which of them corresponds most closely to your idea of a family?

	Evolution of 10-member Community		EC.12 Total
	1983	1987	1987
. A family in which both husband and wife have equally absorbing work, and in which household tasks and looking after the children are shared equally between husband and wife	36%	40%	41%
. A family in which the wife's work is less absorbing than the husband's, and in which she takes on more of the household tasks and looking after the children	30	30	29
. A family in which the husband only works and the wife runs the home	28	25	25
. None of the above	3	3	3
. No answer	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100

In 1983, it had been noted that the in-principle views expressed varied more with age, or generation to be more precise, than with sex, and that women were always slightly more in favour of equal roles than men of the same age, although sex-based differences were never very great. This remains true.

The trend that has appeared since then, towards an increase in "egalitarian" answers, can be seen in both men and women of all ages, except for the oldest group of women. It is however among middle-aged men (25 to 54), and men whose wives have a job, that it is strongest (see table on page 14).

THOSE IN FAVOUR OF EQUAL ROLES IN THE FAMILY
EVOLUTION 1983 - 1987

	EVOLUTION OF 10-MEMBER COMMUNITY		RATE OF PROGRESS
	1983	1987	1987/1983 (1)
ALL MEN:	33%	38%	115
Men aged 15 - 24	46	52	113
25 - 39	38	47	124+
40 - 54	26	33	127+
55 and over	25	26	104
ALL WOMEN:	39	41	105
Women aged 15 - 24	56	60	107
25 - 39	43	48	111
40 - 54	34	38	112
55 and over	29	26	90
Men with working wives	42	53	126+
Men with non-working wives	23	25	109
Women with jobs	51	54	106
Women with no job	33	36	109

	BY COUNTRY		RATE OF PROGRESS
	1983	1987	1987/1983 (1)
EC.12 TOTAL	-	41	-
BELGIQUE	31	34	110
DANMARK	46	53	115
DEUTSCHLAND	26	26	100
FRANCE	40	45	113
IRELAND	30	34	113
ITALIA	41	42	102
LUXEMBOURG	25	20	80
NEDERLAND	38	43	113
UNITED KINGDOM	37	48	130
ELLAS	51	43	84
ESPANA	-	47	-
PORTUGAL	-	43	-

(1) 1983 = BASE 100

In the Europe of 1987, the model of the home where the man is the only member to exercise a profession, and where the woman does the housework is still very strong in Luxembourg, Ireland and Germany.

In Denmark, the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands, on the other hand, the idea of role equality within the family is clearly dominant, and has made progress since 1983. In Italy and Greece, too, the idea of equality of roles is widespread, but it has made no progress in Italy since 1983, and it has even lost ground in Greece, to a more nuanced position: the woman has a less absorbing job than the man, and does more of the housework and looking after the children.

Spain and Portugal are clearly in favour of role equality; but, while men and women give very similar answers in Spain, in Portugal far more women than men support role equality.

	Spain		Portugal	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
. Role equality	46%	48%	40%	46%
. The woman has a less absorbing job, and does more of the housework	20	19	23	24
. The man is the only family member with a job, the woman does the housework	28	28	29	21
. None of the above	5	4	6	6
. No answer	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100	100

Finally, let us look at the effect on the views expressed of the wife's professional situation. Women with a job are more in favour of role equality in the family, especially if their job is a full-time one. This need not come as a surprise; but it should also be noted that a significant minority (26% of those who work full-time and 39% of those who work part-time) expressed support for a certain diversification of the roles: the husband with a more absorbing job, and the wife doing more of the housework (See table on page 16. For the results detailed by sex and country, see Table B1 in the annex.)

**DESIRED ROLE DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE FAMILY
SITUATION IN 1987 (EC.12)**

	EQUAL ROLES	WOMAN DOES MORE HOUSEWORK	WOMAN IN THE HOME	NONE	NO ANSWER	TOTAL
BY SEX AND AGE						
ALL MEN	39%	29%	26%	3%	3%	100
Men aged 15 - 24	53	25	12	5	5	100
25 - 39	47	30	18	3	2	100
40 - 54	34	33	28	3	2	100
55 and over	26	28	41	3	2	100
ALL WOMEN	42	29	24	3	2	100
Women aged 15 - 24	61	25	12	1	1	100
25 - 39	49	27	19	3	2	100
40 - 54	37	32	27	2	2	100
55 and over	27	32	36	3	2	100
BY PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES						
Men with working wives	53	30	14	2	1	100
Men with non-working wives	25	30	40	3	2	100
Women with jobs (total)	55	31	10	3	1	100
- part-time jobs	60	26	8	4	2	100
- full-time jobs	45	39	13	1	2	100
Women with no job	36	29	31	2	2	100
BY COUNTRY						
EC.12 TOTAL	41	29	25	3	2	100
BELGIQUE	34	30	25	8	3	100
DANMARK	53	26	12	6	3	100
DEUTSCHLAND	26	34	32	3	5	100
FRANCE	45	28	24	2	1	100
IRELAND	34	20	39	5	2	100
ITALIA	42	31	25	1	1	100
LUXEMBOURG	20	30	39	6	5	100
NEDERLAND	43	28	23	4	2	100
UNITED KINGDOM	48	31	18	2	1	100
ELLAS	43	28	23	4	2	100
ESPANA	47	19	28	4	2	100
PORTUGAL	43	24	25	6	2	100

3 - CONFIDENCE IN THE DIFFERENT SEXES FOR CERTAIN JOBS OR FUNCTIONS

The 1983 inquiry contributed the first measurement of the confidence Europeans had in men and women for the exercise of certain jobs or functions. The examples were deliberately chosen to illustrate cases in which the concept of responsibility can be clearly seen: bus or train driver, surgeon, obstetrician, barrister, Member of Parliament (1). At that time, a majority varying from 50% to 60% depending on the job or function, stated that they would have as much confidence in a woman as a man, although there were significant minorities in the neighbourhood of 30% to 40% who preferred a man, except for obstetricians.

(See question and answers, on p. 18)

A comparison of the answers given in 1983 and in 1987 shows that attitudes have evolved, and always in the same direction: the minority that prefers dealing with a man decreases, the majority that states that it has equal confidence in a woman or a man is on the increase.

Since 1983, the tendency can be seen in both sexes, but it is very slightly more pronounced among men, so that the difference between the views stated by the different sexes is tending to disappear.

(1) We will come back to the specific case of the Member of Parliament later (see pp. 30 et seq.).

Of all the Community countries, Denmark is by far the most "egalitarian"; more than 80% of Danes, irrespective of the profession in question, said that they would have as much confidence in a woman as in a man.

Denmark is followed by the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom, then by Belgium.

The answers from the two new Community countries, Spain and Portugal, are very close to the European average.

Germany, Luxembourg and Greece are situated slightly above the European average. We should however add that, in Germany and Greece, there is a considerable drop in discriminatory replies since 1983.

Finally, the traditional role models are still very strong in Italy and Ireland.

For an overview of the opinions in the twelve countries on the question we are looking at here, we present the average of the five answers in the table below, so that the countries can be ranked in descending order on the parameter "equal confidence in both sexes".

EQUAL CONFIDENCE IN BOTH SEXES
FOR VARIOUS JOBS OR FUNCTIONS, BY COUNTRY

	BUS OR TRAIN DRIVER	SURGEON	OBSTETRICIAN	BARRISTER	M.P.	AVERAGE OF 5
EC.12 TOTAL	63%	64%	61%	63%	67%	64%
DANMARK	86	85	82	82	86	84
NEDERLAND	75	83	67	75	79	76
FRANCE	77	70	65	67	68	69
UNITED KINGDOM	61	70	65	66	75	67
BELGIQUE	67	66	64	64	67	66
ESPANA	56	65	67	69	67	65
PORTUGAL	52	67	68	65	63	63
DEUTSCHLAND	57	55	60	59	64	59
LUXEMBOURG	47	58	60	60	62	57
ELLAS	52	56	59	61	58	57
ITALIA	54	56	49	55	59	55
IRELAND	43	51	49	50	61	51

As the profession that caused the biggest difference between men and women was that of bus or train driver, we will take that profession as our example to study the gap between the sexes by country. The gap is zero in Denmark, which confirms this country as the most egalitarian. It is highest in Ireland, Spain and Portugal.

EQUAL CONFIDENCE IN BOTH SEXES

AS BUS OR TRAIN DRIVER

	MEN	WOMEN	DIFFERENCE (1)
EC.12 TOTAL	57%	65%	114
BELGIQUE	63	71	112
DENMARK	86	87	101=
DEUTSCHLAND	54	59	109
FRANCE	75	79	105
IRELAND	36	50	139+
ITALIA	48	60	125
LUXEMBOURG	45	50	111
NEDERLAND	72	78	108
UNITED KINGDOM	58	64	110
ELLAS	47	57	121
ESPANA	48	63	131+
PORTUGAL	44	58	132+

(1) The difference is the ratio $\frac{\text{Women's answers}}{\text{Men's answers}} \times 100$

4 - WOMEN AT WORK: THE VIEWPOINT OF MARRIED MEN

In 1975, the first inquiry in this series highlighted the fact that one of the items that tended to divide men and women was the married woman's job. At that time, the majority of married men stated that they would prefer their wife to remain at home, while the majority of wives preferred working for pay. A breakdown of attitudes by age gave hope for the future of a gradual decrease in men's hostility to their wives' activities outside the home.

Since 1975, the number of "working" women in Europe has grown, particularly among married women (proportion of married women with a paid job: 1975, 32%; 1987, 40%). The question of how their husbands' opinions evolved during the same period therefore had to be asked. We now have three points on the following question:

Question: (asked of married men and those cohabiting with a woman)

If you had the choice, would you prefer your wife to have a paid job or not?

	Evolution of the 9-member Community			EC.12 Total 1987
	1975	1983	1987	
. Prefer them to have paid work	33%	39%	47%	48%
. Prefer them not to have paid work	56	52	44	43
. No answer	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100	100

As can be seen from the above, in twelve years married men have become much more favourable to their wives' paid activity. It should also be noted that the total number of married men who would like to see their wives work (48%) is now higher than the number of those whose wives have jobs (40%).

Let us see more exactly what the situation in the Community is in 1987.

The figures presented in the foregoing table concern all married men, irrespective of age, in order to follow evolution since 1975. Among the men most directly concerned, there was a clear majority in favour of their wives' paid activity:

- 60% of married men between the ages of 25 and 39
- 70% of men whose wives have a paid job.

The younger and more educated the men, and the higher the family income, the more they are favourable to their wives' work.

Let us now return to what married men said about role distribution within the family, and see how their answers compare with their personal preference for or against their wives' working.

It would appear that two-thirds of married men match their personal preferences to their general principles:

- 24% are in favour of complete equality in the home, and prefer their own wives to do paid work
- 16% are in favour of women having a less absorbing job and taking on more of the household tasks; at the same time, they want their wives to do paid work (but a less absorbing job than their own, is implied)
- 22% believe a woman's place is in the home, and do indeed prefer their own wives not to work outside the home.

(See complete table on page 23)

WOMEN AT WORK
PRINCIPLES AND PERSONAL PREFERENCES OF MARRIED MEN (1)

OUT OF 100 MARRIED MEN CONSIDER THAT THE IDEAL FAMILY IS ONE IN WHICH	PREFER THEIR WIVES			TOTAL
	TO HAVE A JOB	NOT TO HAVE A JOB	DON'T KNOW	
. Husband and wife have equally absorbing jobs and share housework equally	24%	8%	4%	36%
. The wife has a less absorbing job, and does more of the housework	16	11	3	30
. The wife stays at home	6	22	2	30
. Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	48	43	9	100

There are still about a quarter of the men who answer differently depending on whether the question concerns principles (the ideal situation for society in general) or their own life: 6% believe that, in theory, a woman's place is in the home, but prefer their own wives to work; 8% are theoretically in favour of equality in jobs and in the contribution to household work, but prefer their own wives to stay at home; and 11% also prefer their wives to stay at home, while at the same time accepting the principle of a job for the woman, on condition that it is less absorbing.

(1) In order to draw up this table, we took as base 100 the total number of married men, and we compared the answers of each of these men to the two questions to find out whether or not their principles (the ideal family) were in agreement with their personal preferences (whether or not they wished their wife to work).

As we have already seen, considerable differences can be observed between countries if we examine the answers obtained in each country to the question concerning role distribution in the family, regarding married men's attitude to their wives' jobs. In three countries, the majority of men prefer their wives not to work: Luxembourg, Germany and Ireland. Elsewhere, the majority are in favour of working wives.

MEN'S PREFERENCES REGARDING WORKING WIVES
PER COUNTRY

MARRIED OR COHABITING MEN	PREFER THEIR WIVES TO WORK	PREFER THEIR WIVES NOT TO WORK	NO ANSWER	TOTAL
EC.12 TOTAL	47%	43%	10%	100%
BELGIQUE	50	35	15	100
DANMARK	58	23	19	100
DEUTSCHLAND	31	58	11	100
FRANCE	53	41	6	100
IRELAND	34	53	13	100
ITALIA	51	43	6	100
LUXEMBOURG	29	59	12	100
NEDERLAND	42	40	18	100
UNITED KINGDOM	50	40	10	100
ELLAS	63	28	9	100
ESPANA	50	35	15	100
PORTUGAL	53	41	6	100

5 - PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF ACTIONS PURSUED BY NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND BY THE COMMUNITY IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY OF THE SEXES ON THE LABOUR MARKET

The foregoing shows that ideas that are favourable to equality of the sexes are making progress in European public opinion. To what extent do the Europeans perceive the actions of the authorities in each country and the European Community in favour of equality of sexes in employment? This question was already looked into in 1983, and at the time it could be said that the public was both under-informed and sceptical. The situation has not improved since.

Question: Do you know that there are laws in your country that enable women to demand equal treatment with men at work? IF SO, are they enforced?

	Evolution of 10-member Community		EC.12 Total
	1983	1987	1987
. They exist and are enforced	30%	28%	27%
. They exist, but are not enforced	35	41	40
. They do not exist	7	6	7
. No answer	<u>28</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100

Question: Do you know whether the institutions of the European Community deal with problems of the equality of men and women in their employment conditions? IF SO, does their action seem to you to be effective or not?

	Evolution of 10-member Community		EC.12 Total
	1983	1987	1987
. They deal with this effectively	14%	17%	16%
. They deal with this ineffectively	22	26	25
. They do not deal with this	9	9	9
. No answer	<u>55</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>50</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100

The fact that half of the European public is unaware of the Community's action is not in itself surprising, insofar as this action is carried on primarily through the national institutions. What should be underlined is that an increasing proportion of opinion believes that this action is ineffective, just as the laws of each of the member countries are not enforced. This must be seen as a sign that the public finds the present situation far from satisfactory.

If we take a closer look at the views of that part of the public which is most closely concerned, i.e., the working population, we can see that their ignorance is almost as great, and that their scepticism as to the effectiveness of the measures taken is slightly more pronounced.

EC.12 WORKING POPULATION

MEN WOMEN TOTAL

LAWS IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES

. They exist and are enforced	32%	26%	30%
. They exist, but are not enforced	42	46	44
. They do not exist	7	5	6
. No answer	<u>19</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>20</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100

COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

. They deal with this effectively	19	16	18
. They deal with this ineffectively	31	28	30
. They do not deal with this	8	8	8
. No answer	<u>42</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>44</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100

Opinions on these two questions vary depending on the country. As regards national laws, there is a great deal of ignorance of their existence (35% or more) in Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain. The positive view ("there are laws and they are enforced") is higher than the European average in Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

With regard to Community actions, ignorance is 50% or more in Spain, Portugal and France. The positive view is higher than the European average in Ireland, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, Greece, Belgium and the Netherlands, among both men and women. (The complete table of results by sex and country for these two questions can be found in Annex B.2.).

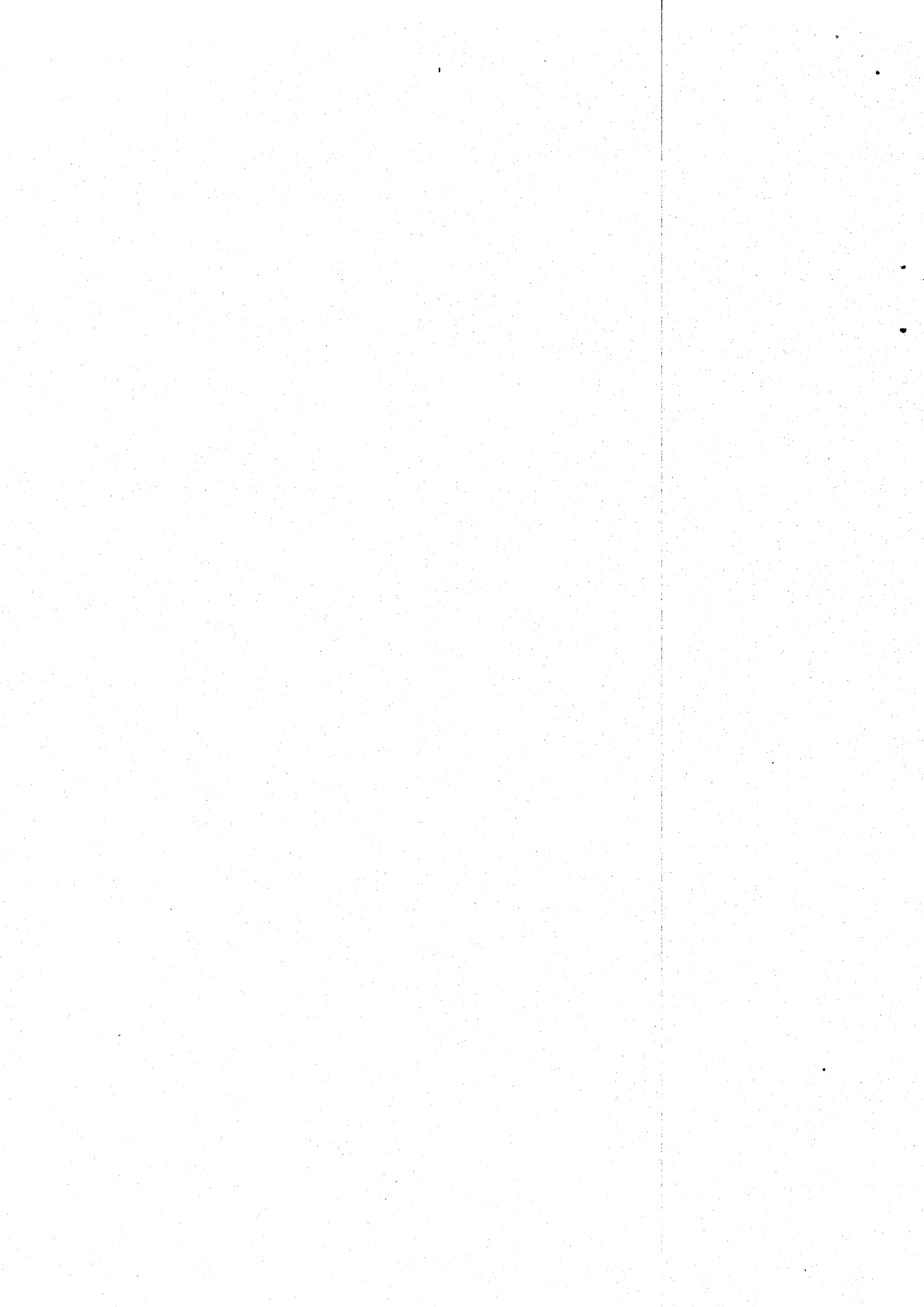
Finally, the judgement of the effectiveness of Community or national action is closely correlated with the ratings given for the importance of the problem of the place of women in society.

The people who had the following view of the importance of the problem of woman's place in society
High (8-10) Average (3-7) Low (0-2)

have the following views on national laws:

. They exist and are enforced	22%	27%	35%
. They exist, but are not enforced	50	42	27
. They do not exist	6	7	9
. No answer	<u>22</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>29</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100

It can be seen that those who believe that woman's place in society is not a serious problem (or has ceased to be a serious problem) tend to think that there are laws on equality in employment, and that these laws are enforced. On the other hand, many of those who consider that woman's place in society is a very serious problem say that there are laws, but that they are not enforced.



PART 2

WOMEN AND POLITICS

1 - PREJUDICES ON WOMEN AND POLITICS

In the 1987 inquiry, we have three questions that enable us to grasp prejudices, and each of these questions had already been asked in the past. We will start by presenting the global answers to these questions, and we will then go on to comment on what they teach us.

Question: It is sometimes said that "politics is men's business, not women's". Do you personally agree fully, agree, disagree, or disagree completely?

	Evolution of 9-member Community				EC.12
	1975	1977	1983	1987	1987
. Fully agree	15%	N/A	8%	7%	8%
. Agree	21	N/A	18	15	14
. Disagree	23	N/A	23	23	21
. Completely disagree	37	N/A	48	54	54
. No answer	<u>4</u>		<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	100		100	100	100

Question: In general, would you have more confidence in a man or a woman to represent you in Parliament?

	Evolution of 9-member Community				EC.12
	1975	1977	1983	1987	1987
. More confidence in a man	38	40	30	22	23
. More confidence in a woman	8	11	6	9	8
. No difference	48	43	61	67	67
. No answer	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

Question: Would things be better or worse if there were more women in the national parliament?

	Evolution of 9-member Community				EC.12
	1975	1977	1983	1987	1987
. Better	N/A	27	24	30	23
. Worse	N/A	18	9	11	11
. No change	N/A	39	56	48	49
. No answer	N/A	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
TOTAL		100	100	100	100

If we follow the answers through the years, we can see that opinion is evolving. The prejudice that politics is men's business is gradually on the wane, and is now rejected by three-quarters of Europeans. Equal confidence in men and women as parliamentary representatives has been growing for ten years. As regards opinions on the effect of an increase in the number of women in Parliament, we can first observe a decrease in the number of negative answers (things would be worse) between 1977 and 1983, to the advantage of the egalitarian answers (things would be the same), followed by a marked increase in positive answers since 1983 (things would be better).

On the first two questions, opinions are fairly similar in all Community countries, and the evolution described above is going on in all countries. (See Annexes B.3. and B.4. for the answer tables by sex and country for the successive polls.)

The opinions of men and women are very close, and an analysis of the 1987 opinions according to socio-demographic criteria shows that the younger and more educated respondents give markedly more "egalitarian" answers, which is hardly surprising, and points to a further retreat of prejudices in the coming years. The answers are however closely correlated with ideological preferences (1) for the right or left, particularly among women, and there are still large minorities among those men and women who place themselves on the right who claim that politics is men's business, and that they would have more confidence in a man to represent them in Parliament. (See tables on pages 32 and 33.)

(1) During the inquiry, respondents are invited to state their political preferences by positioning themselves on a scale from 1 to 10, in which 1 represents the extreme left and 10 the extreme right.

IS POLITICS MEN'S BUSINESS?
 (EC.12 1987)
BY SEX, AGE, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL PERSUASION

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO ANSWER	TOTAL
ALL MEN:	23%	74%	3%	100%
Men aged 15 - 24	20	76	4	100
25 - 39	16	82	2	100
40 - 54	26	71	3	100
55 and over	30	67	3	100
MEN BY EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:				
Low	32	64	4	100
Average	20	78	2	100
High	11	87	2	100
MEN BY POLITICAL PERSUASION:				
Left 1 + 2	15	82	3	100
3 + 4	19	78	3	100
5 + 6	24	75	1	100
7 + 8	26	72	2	100
Right 9 + 10	34	64	2	100
ALL WOMEN:				
Women aged 15 - 24	15	83	2	100
25 - 39	16	83	1	100
40 - 54	17	79	4	100
55 and over	33	62	5	100
WOMEN BY EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:				
Low	29	67	4	100
Average	15	83	2	100
High	7	93	-	100
WOMEN BY POLITICAL PERSUASION:				
Left 1 + 2	9	89	2	100
3 + 4	16	83	1	100
5 + 6	20	78	2	100
7 + 8	23	75	2	100
Right 9 + 10	30	69	1	100

CONFIDENCE IN A MAN OR WOMAN AS PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE
(EC.12 1987)
BY SEX, AGE, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL PERSUASION

	MAN	WOMAN	THE SAME	NO ANSWER	TOTAL
ALL MEN:	26%	4%	67%	3%	100%
Men aged 15 - 24	22	3	72	3	100
25 - 39	16	5	77	3	100
40 - 54	25	4	70	1	100
55 and over	34	5	59	2	100
MEN BY EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:					
Low	34	4	59	3	100
Average	23	3	72	2	100
High	16	4	79	1	100
MEN BY POLITICAL PERSUASION:					
Left 1 + 2	20	5	73	2	100
3 + 4	22	3	74	1	100
5 + 6	26	4	68	2	100
7 + 8	28	4	66	2	100
Right 9 + 10	37	5	58	-	100
ALL WOMEN:					
Women aged 15 - 24	14	14	70	2	100
25 - 39	12	14	72	2	100
40 - 54	19	15	64	2	100
55 and over	29	12	56	3	100
WOMEN BY EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:					
Low	27	12	57	4	100
Average	14	12	72	2	100
High	6	12	81	1	100
WOMEN BY POLITICAL PERSUASION:					
Left 1 + 2	11	25	63	1	100
3 + 4	15	15	68	2	100
5 + 6	18	12	68	2	100
7 + 8	22	10	65	3	100
Right 9 + 10	29	9	60	2	100

The third question (would things be better or worse if there were more women in Parliament?) receives a wide variation of answers depending on the country.

In four countries, more than one citizen in three considers that things would be better if there were more women in Parliament: the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and France. Ireland leads this group, thanks to its women (Ireland as a whole: 36%; Men: 21%; Women: 50%).

In four other countries, the percentage of those who think that things would be better is very low (15% or less): Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain and Portugal.

The remaining countries are close to the average. It should be added that in most cases, the balance between the positive answers (things would be better) and the negative answers (things would be worse), is more strongly positive among men, but there are exceptions. In the following cases, the negative answers are more numerous:

- Belgian men and women
- Luxembourgish men
- Greek men
- Spanish men
- Portuguese men (See table on p. 35)

Thus, this very concrete question on the effect of an increase in the number of women in Parliament is much more revealing than the questions on principles which preceded it. It is clear that as regards general ideas, European opinion claims to be very much in favour of the idea of equality of the sexes in politics, but it is only a minority (28%) that deplores the under-representation of women in parliaments, and considers that "things would be better" if there were more women there.

WOULD THINGS BE BETTER IF THERE WERE MORE WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT?
COMPARISON OF REPLIES BY MEN AND WOMEN BY COUNTRY
1987

	BETTER	WORSE	THE SAME	NO ANSWER	TOTAL
EC.12 All	28%	11%	49%	12%	100%
Men	22	14	52	12	100
Women	33	8	47	12	100
BELGIQUE All	8	23	68	1	100
Men	4	31	64	1	100
Women	11	16	72	1	100
DANMARK All	36	5	49	10	100
Men	30	6	55	9	100
Women	41	5	43	11	100
DEUTSCHLAND All	27	12	49	12	100
Men	17	17	51	15	100
Women	35	7	48	10	100
FRANCE All	31	6	52	11	100
Men	24	8	57	11	100
Women	37	5	47	11	100
IRELAND All	36	13	42	9	100
Men	21	18	49	12	100
Women	50	8	36	6	100
ITALIA All	29	13	46	12	100
Men	25	17	48	10	100
Women	33	10	43	14	100
LUXEMBOURG All	15	14	62	9	100
Men	12	21	58	9	100
Women	17	7	68	8	100
NEDERLAND All	24	9	54	13	100
Men	18	10	60	12	100
Women	29	8	49	14	100
UNITED KINGDOM All	38	9	41	12	100
Men	34	10	45	11	100
Women	42	7	39	12	100
ELLAS All	23	13	46	18	100
Men	16	19	50	15	100
Women	30	8	42	20	100
ESPANA All	15	14	54	17	100
Men	13	17	53	17	100
Women	16	11	56	17	100
PORTUGAL All	11	17	51	21	100
Men	7	24	50	19	100
Women	15	10	52	23	100

2 - SOCIO-POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

In the foregoing pages, we have seen the prejudices and images that predominate in European society concerning the respective roles of men and women in a series of fields of activity.

We will now tackle the comparison of attitudes and behaviour.

The theme of socio-political participation, or more precisely the comparative levels of participation of men and women, was gone into very thoroughly in 1983: interest in politics, exposure to the news given out by the media, participation in elections, propensity to demonstrate in public, corporate life, attitudes to Europe and with a view to the 1984 European elections (1).

The 1987 inquiry is much more modest on this point; nonetheless, if we borrow the material of a certain number of questions which are usually featured in the Euro-Baromètre, it is possible to update our information on significant points, and to find out where Spain and Portugal stand with respect to the trends observed in the other countries.

The benchmarks we have concern two fields:

- the frequency of political discussion and debate on social issues, and
- the intention to participate in national elections.

(1) See Men and Women of Europe, 1983, pages 127 to 174.

Political Discussion and Debate on Social Issues

One of the main indicators of the extent of citizens' involvement in political life is the frequency with which they discuss politics when among friends. The previous inquiries established that women as a group discuss these subjects less often than men. This is still true in 1987, but the gap between men and women is gradually shrinking. This is an important phenomenon: the gap between men and women is shrinking primarily because, over the years, men's interest in politics has decreased markedly. This trend has been perceptible since 1975.

Question: When among friends, do you discuss politics frequently, occasionally or never?

	Evolution of 9-member Community				EC.12	
	1975		1987		1987	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
. Frequently	28%	14%	18%	9%	18%	9%
. Occasionally	47	44	57	52	55	49
. Never	24	40	24	39	26	41
. No answer	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100
Coefficient of frequency (1)	2.56	2.10	2.40	2.05	2.40	2.02

The observed tendency towards a gradual decrease in interest in politics is no surprise; it was underlined in the 1983 report. In 1983, the hypothesis was put forward that the disaffection was for politics as such rather than for "affairs" in the broad sense of the term. A question was asked that is symmetrical to the one asked above, concerning "major problems in society", and a considerably greater amount of interest was observed. This is confirmed in 1987.

(1) The coefficient of frequency is calculated by assigning the weighting 4 to "frequently" answers, 2.5 to "occasionally", 1 to "never" (don't know left out).

Question: When among friends, do you discuss the major problems in society (e.g., human rights, poverty, the Third World, equality of the sexes, etc.) frequently, occasionally or never?

	EC.12 1987	
	Men	Women
. Frequently	24%	20%
. Occasionally	55	56
. Never	20	22
. No answer	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	100	100
. Coefficient of frequency (1)	2.56	2.44

Let us now take a closer look at the situation in 1987, with the aim of examining behavioural differences in terms of age and sex. To do so, we will use the two questions mentioned earlier: the frequency of discussion among friends on politics and major social issues, and a question that is usually featured in the Euro-baromètre, and which also contributes to revealing the extent of citizens' participation.

Question: When you hold a deep conviction, are you sometimes able to persuade your friends, companions or acquaintances to adopt this conviction?

	EC.12 1987		
	Total	Men	Women
. Frequently	14%	16%	12%
. Occasionally	39	42	36
. Seldom	25	23	27
. Never	20	17	23
. No answer	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	100	100	100
. Coefficient of frequency (1)	2.47	2.58	2.38

We can see that the impression that men and women have of their influence in their circle of acquaintances is very close in all Community countries, and only slightly lower for woman.

(1) For the calculation of the coefficient, see footnote on p. 37.

We now have three questions the answers to which are summarized by a coefficient which in all three cases can vary between 4 and 1, with a central value of 2.5. It is this set of three coefficients, calculated separately by country, and for men and women, which will enable us to compare the situations in the various countries.

(The complete table of coefficients by sex and country is shown in Annex B.4.)

The three graphs on the next three pages present a synthetic view of the data. For each of the three questions, the position of a country is defined by a point whose Y-axis coordinate corresponds to men's answers, and whose X-axis coordinate corresponds to women's answers.

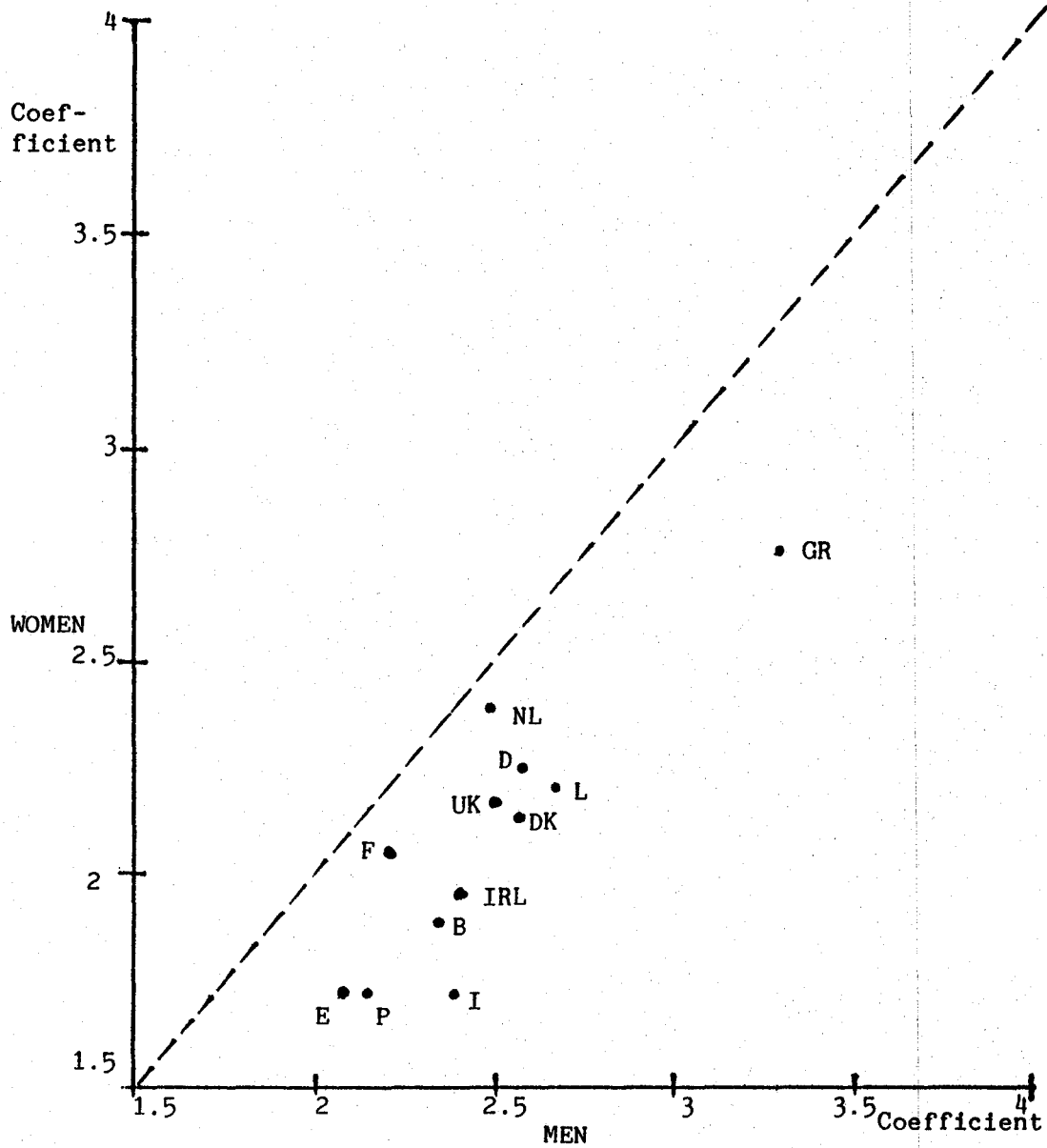
- A. Frequency of political discussion: the coefficient of frequency varies from one country to another (it is very high in Greece, low in Spain, Portugal and Italy). The women's coefficient is always lower than that of the men, and the gap is practically the same in all countries (smallest gap in the Netherlands).
- B. Frequency of discussion on social issues: the coefficient of frequency is almost always higher than the previous coefficient. The gap between men and women is smaller, and the women's coefficient is higher in five countries (Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, France and Luxembourg).
- C. Propensity to persuade one's circle of acquaintances: the women's coefficient is lower than the men's, but the gaps are smaller than for the frequency of political discussion.

In all three cases, the answers from Spain and Portugal, or to be more precise, the gaps between men and women in these two countries, are in line with those of the other Community countries.

(See graphs on pp. 40, 41 and 42.)

FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION
(Coefficients from 4 to 1)

Comparison of answers from men and women, by country

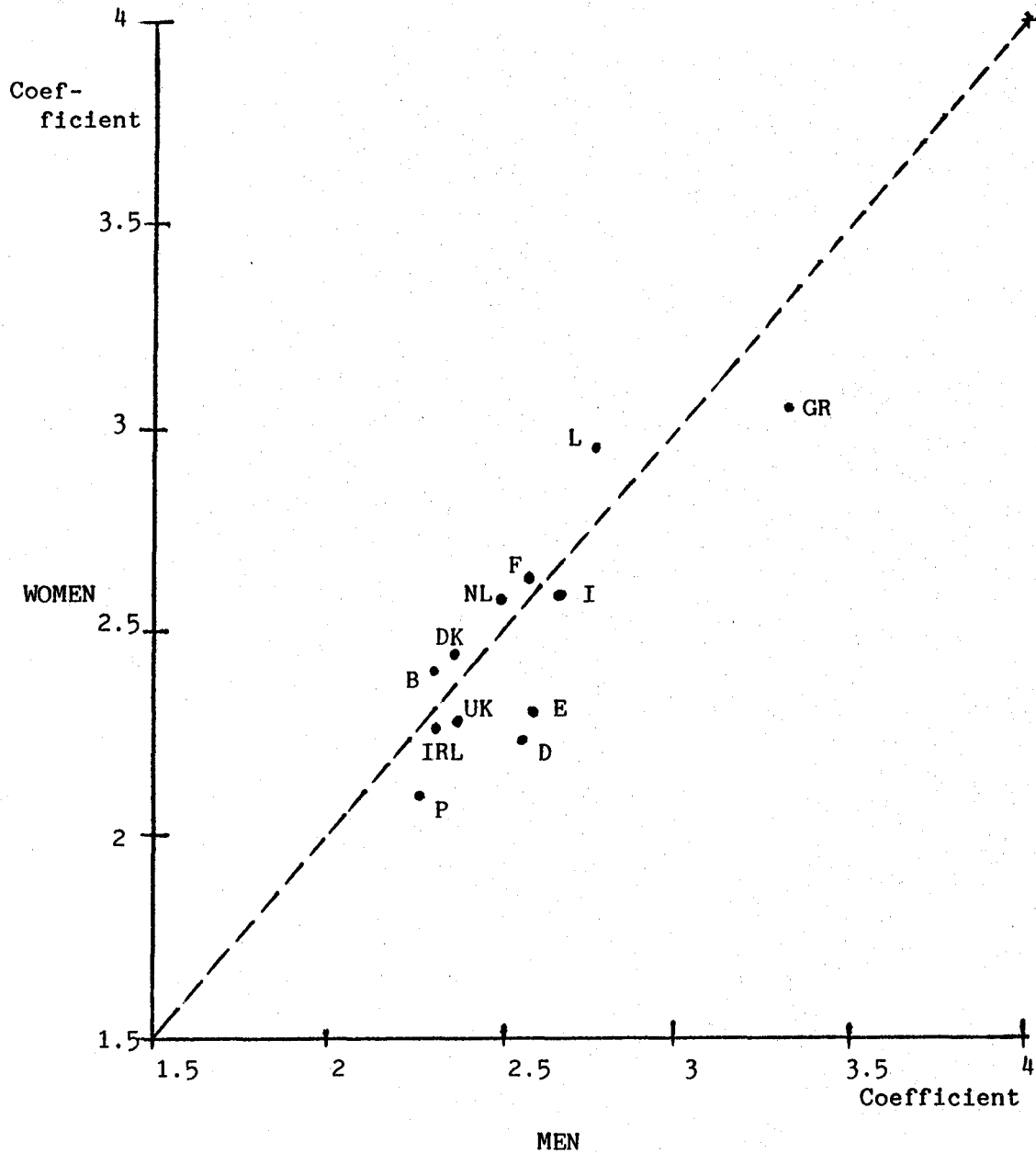


The position of each country is defined as a point whose Y-axis coordinate corresponds to the men's answers and whose X-axis coordinate corresponds to the women's answers. In all countries, women discuss politics less frequently than men. The smallest gap between men and women is in the Netherlands.

FREQUENCY OF DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL ISSUES

(Coefficients from 4 to 1)

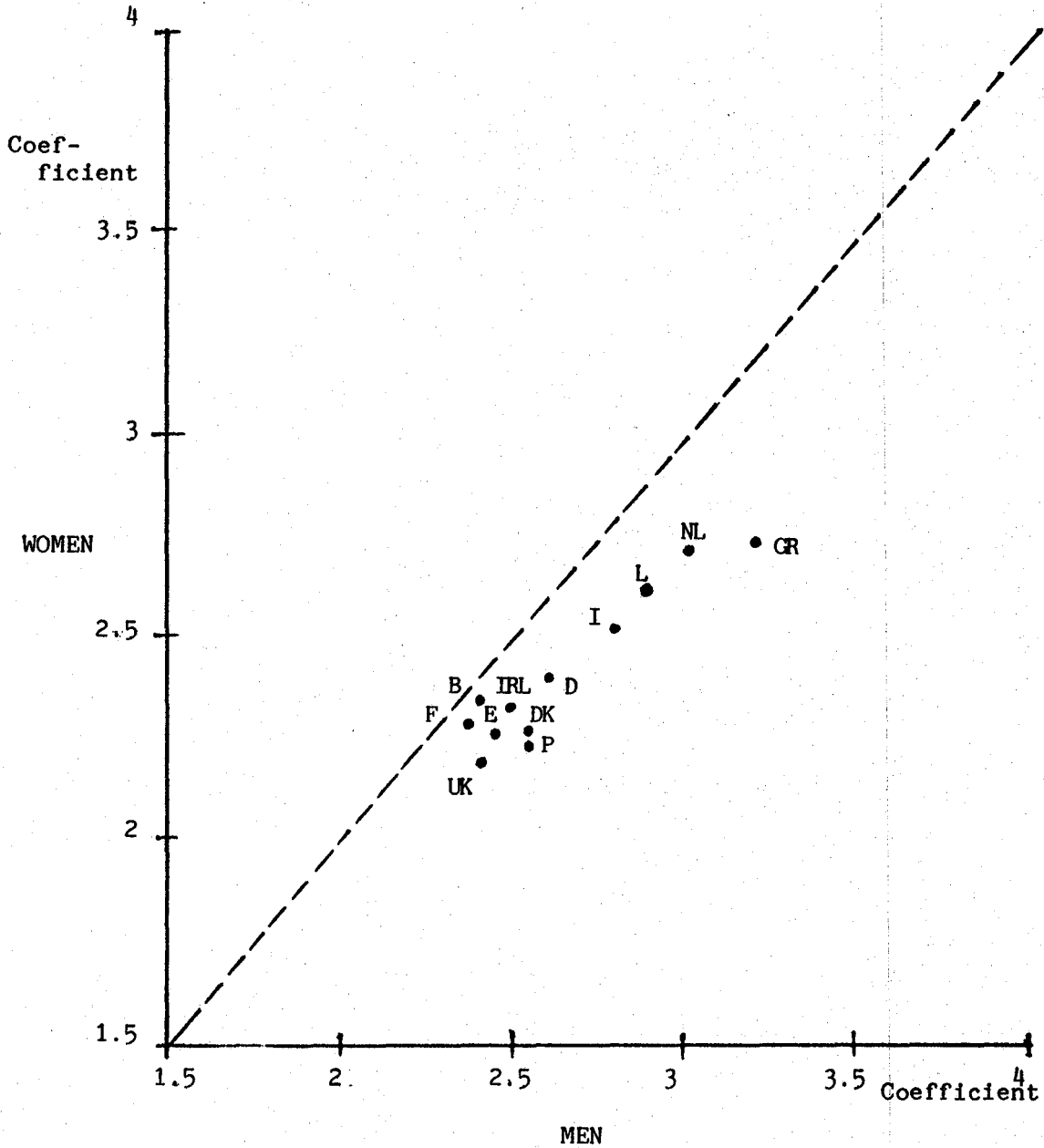
Comparison of answers from men and women, by country



As on page 40, the position of each country is defined as a point whose Y-axis coordinate corresponds to the men's answers, and whose X-axis coordinate corresponds to the women's answers. In Luxembourg, France, the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium, women discuss social issues more often than men.

ABILITY TO PERSUADE ONE'S CIRCLE OF ACQUAINTANCES
(Coefficients from 4 to 1)

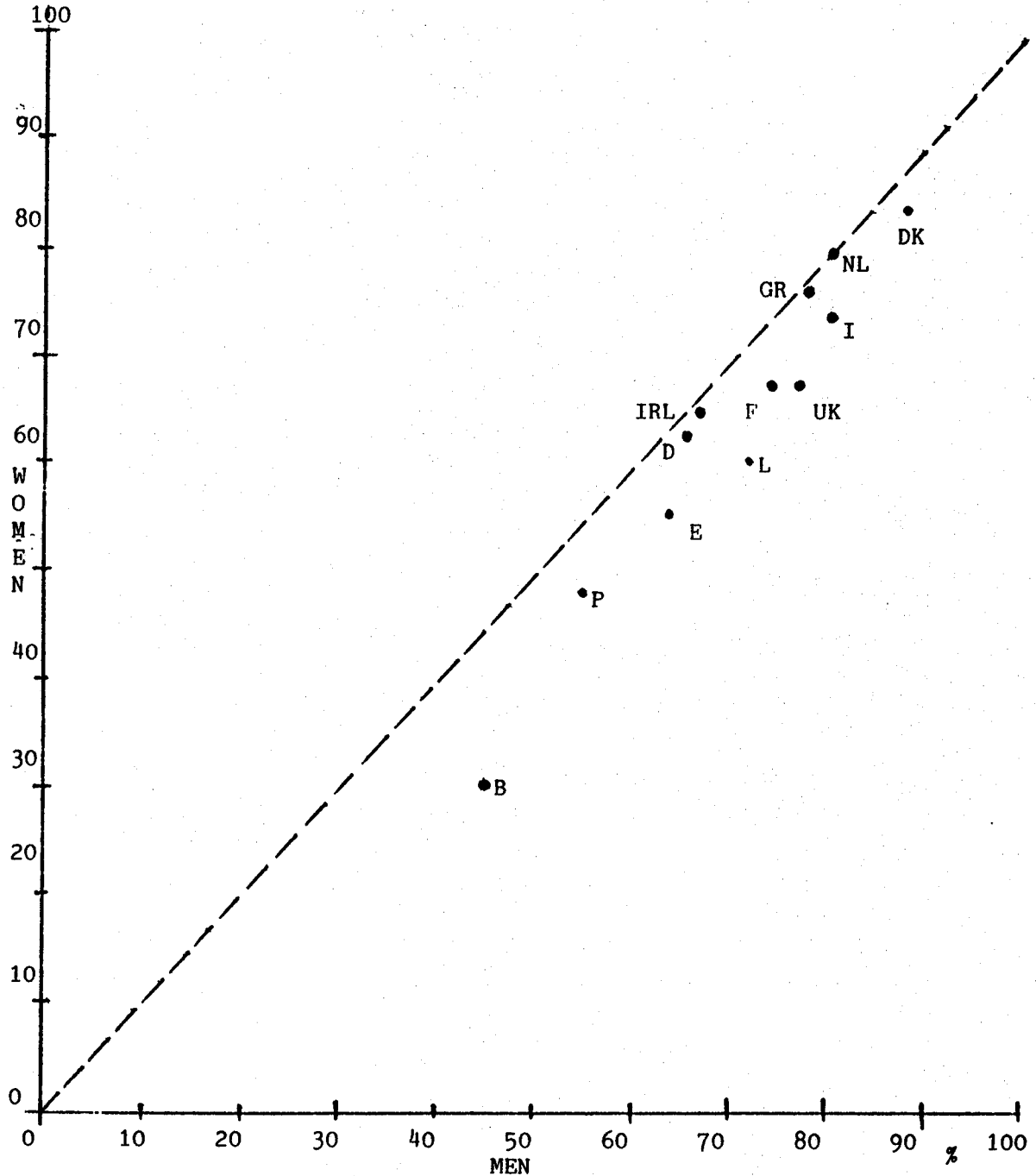
Comparison of answers from men and women, by country



The countries are positioned by the same method used on pages 40 and 41. The coefficient for women is slightly lower than for men, but the gaps between men and women are not very wide.

INTENTIONS TO VOTE AT THE NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS
(% of certain intentions)

Comparison of answers from men and women, by country



As before, each country is represented by a point whose Y-axis coordinate corresponds to men's answers, and whose X-axis coordinate corresponds to women's answers. The number of "certain" intentions to participate in a national election are equal for men and women in the Netherlands, Greece, Ireland and Germany. In the remaining countries, it is slightly lower.

Participation in Elections

The traditional form of political participation is voting in national parliamentary elections.

Question: If parliamentary elections were to be held in your country tomorrow, would you vote - certainly or probably - or would you abstain - certainly or probably?

	EC.12 1987 (aged 18 and over)	
	Men	Women
. Yes, certainly	72%	66%
. Yes, probably	14	17
. No, probably not	5	5
. No, certainly not	6	7
. It depends	2	2
. No answer	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	100	100

It is well known that the percentage of firm voting intentions rises as the elections approach. What must therefore be examined with the help of this question is the gaps between men's and women's answers. For the Community as a whole, the gap is a small one. What about the different countries? In Annex B.4., readers will find the answers by sex and country for respondents who state that they will certainly vote.

We will use the same procedure to interpret the gaps as in the previous questions (see graph on page 43).

This graph shows that the more certain intentions to vote there are, the more the gaps between men and women tend to shrink and disappear.

Again, as above, it can be seen that the answers in Spain and Portugal are in line with those of all the other countries.

SYNTHESIS:

**THE POSITION OF THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT
TO THE STEREOTYPE OF WOMAN'S PLACE IN SOCIETY**

In this inquiry, we have gathered data on Europeans' attitudes to eight questions on the image they have of women's role in relation to that of men; we also have answers to the question on the importance attributed to the issue of woman's place in society. We will now take an overall view of each country's position on the various items examined; to be more precise, we will measure the position of each country with respect to the European average. To do so, we will use the index 100 to represent the European average each time. For example, the average rating of the importance of the problem of woman's place in society is 5.32 for the twelve-member Community; therefore the index for Belgium, which gave an average rating of 4.59, will be:

$$\frac{4.59}{5.32} \times 100 = 86$$

The table on page 46 shows the index of each country for the nine questions examined.

Let us recall the nine items used: EC.12 total
(= base 100)

. Egalitarian models:

A. The ideal family is one in which both husband and wife have equally absorbing jobs, and share the housework and looking after the children equally. 41%

Say that they have as much confidence in a woman as a man.

B. to drive their train or bus 62

C. as a surgeon to operate on them 64

D. as an obstetrician to assist at the birth of their child 62

E. as a barrister to defend them 63

F. Reject the idea that politics is men's business 75

G. Would have as much confidence in a woman as a man to represent them in Parliament 67

H. Consider that things would be as good or better if there were more women in Parliament 76

. Importance rating of the problem of the place of woman in society (0 - 10) 5.32

The data in the table on page 46, which are unavoidably abstract, can be summarized as follows:

In four countries, egalitarian ideas regarding the role of men and women in the family, in working life and in politics are markedly above the European average.

- . Denmark is well in advance of the average opinion in Europe on all aspects of equality between men and women examined in this inquiry. In addition, the rating of the importance of the problem of woman's place in society is equal to the European average, which means that people are still alive to this issue.
- . The Netherlands come second in support for egalitarian ideas. In this country however, the rating of the importance of the problem of woman's place in society is relatively low (the lowest in Europe). This was already true in 1975 and 1983, but the situation righted itself in 1987, so that the gap with the European average narrowed.
- . The United Kingdom and France are in third place for egalitarian ideas, and their importance rating of the problem is equal to the average.

Three countries are well below the European average.

- . Germany and Luxembourg are at the bottom of the European scale for all questions regarding the equality of the sexes, particularly the respective role of husband and wife in the family; the answers from men and women are very close in these countries. At the same time, it can be seen that the place of woman in society does not appear to be a serious problem in these two countries. This is however a description of public opinion as a whole, and does not preclude the existence of active minorities. This "dissonance" of German and Luxembourgish opinion in a European context was already observed in 1983.
- . Ireland also belongs to this group, especially in that the idea of a woman train or bus driver, surgeon or barrister is less often accepted there than elsewhere.

The Irish are also less often in favour of equal roles within the family. On the other hand, they are relatively willing to accept women in politics. The importance rating of the problem of woman's place in society is slightly lower than the European average, but do not forget what we wrote on p. 11, i.e., that in this country, the gap between men and women on this question is very marked: men minimize the problem, while many women think it is very important.

The remaining five countries fall between these two extremes

- . In Italy, opinion lags behind as regards equal confidence in men and women for the various professions examined; on the other hand, the principle of role equality in the family and the role of women in politics are accepted there. In addition, the problem of woman's place in society is judged more important there than elsewhere, indeed very important.
- . In Belgium, there is most reluctance about the equality of roles in the family, and woman's place in society is not considered an important problem.
- . In Greece, the reluctance is focused on the confidence in women to exercise certain professions, while equality of roles in the family is accepted; it is often stated that politics is not exclusively men's business, but the Greeks do not think that things would go better, or even as well, with more women in Parliament.
- . Finally, in the two new Community countries, Spain and Portugal, opinion is generally very close to the European average; however, the role of women in politics is less easily accepted here than elsewhere, especially in Portugal, as is the possibility of seeing a woman driving a train or bus. So certain traditional role models remain very strong. In the family, on the other hand, equality of roles is considered desirable. People in these two countries attribute more importance to the place of woman in society than elsewhere (except Italy), and, as in Ireland and Greece, the gap between men and women is wide on this question (see pp. 11 and 12).

THE POSITION OF EACH COUNTRY WITH REFERENCE TO THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE (EC.12)

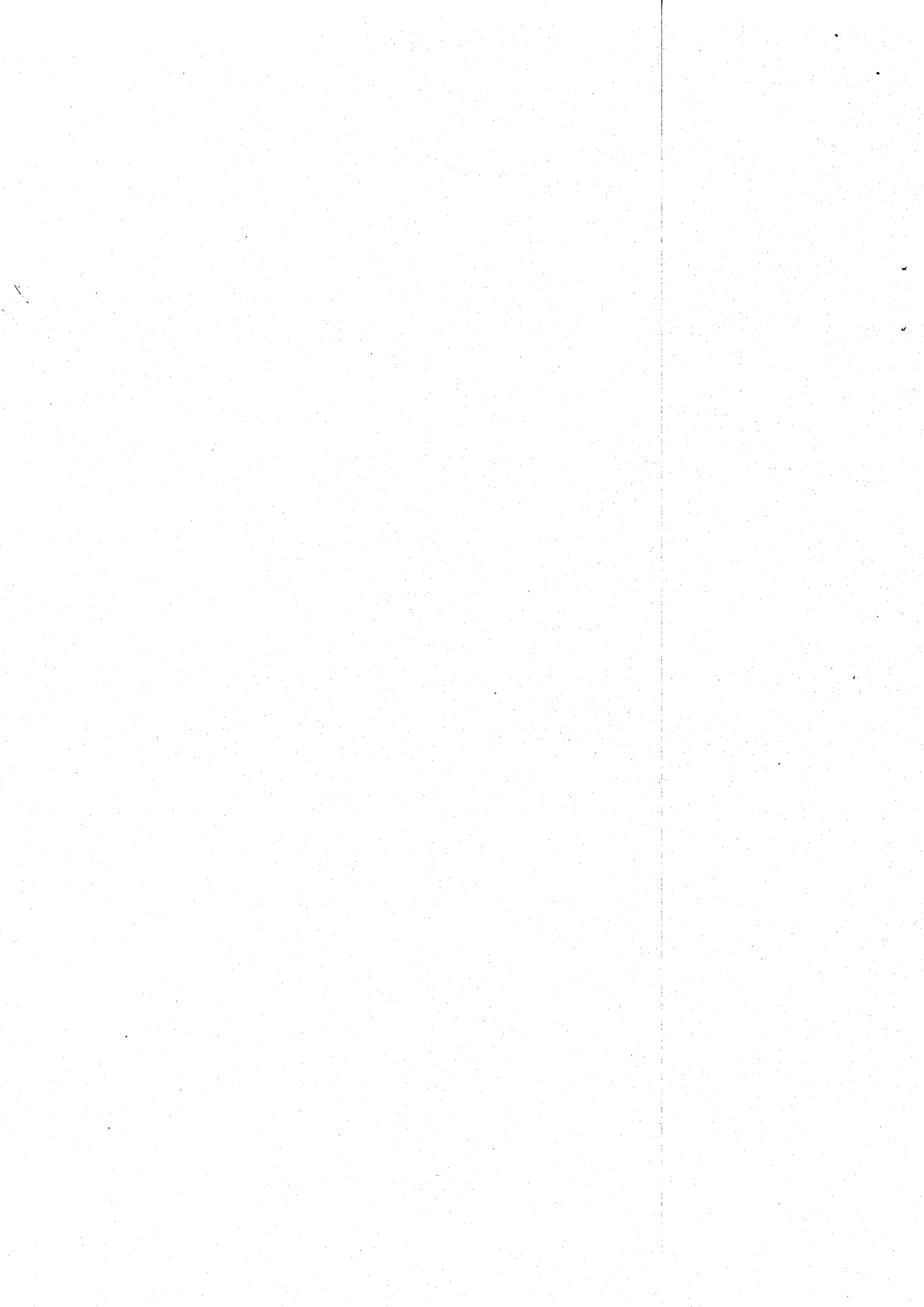
(THE COEFFICIENT IN EACH COLUMN SUMMARIZES THE POSITION OF THE COUNTRY WITH REFERENCE TO THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE WHICH IS TAKEN AS BASE 100)

EGALITARIAN VIEWS

- A. IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY OF ROLES WITHIN THE FAMILY
- B. EQUAL CONFIDENCE FOR CERTAIN JOBS: TRAIN/BUS DRIVER
- C. SURGEON
- D. OBSTETRICIAN
- E. BARRISTER
- F. POLITICS IS NOT JUST MEN'S BUSINESS
- G. EQUAL CONFIDENCE IN A MAN OR WOMAN TO REPRESENT THEM IN PARLIAMENT
- H. THINGS WOULD BE JUST AS GOOD OR BETTER IF THERE WERE MORE WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

I. IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM OF WOMAN'S PLACE IN SOCIETY

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	AVERAGE A - H	I
BELGIQUE	84	109	103	104	100	92	101	100	99	86
DANMARK	130	140	133	134	130	120	130	111	128	98
DEUTSCHLAND	64	92	87	97	92	85	95	100	89	89
FRANCE	110	125	109	106	106	107	101	108	109	99
IRELAND	83	69	80	79	79	98	92	102	85	95
ITALIA	102	88	88	79	87	103	88	98	92	118
LUXEMBOURG	50	77	91	97	95	87	94	101	87	91
NEDERLAND	106	122	129	108	118	110	118	102	114	84
UNITED KINGDOM	119	99	110	106	104	116	112	104	109	99
ELLAS	107	85	87	95	97	113	87	90	95	98
ESPANA	115	91	101	109	109	89	100	102	102	105
PORTUGAL	106	84	104	111	102	84	95	91	97	103
EC.12 Average	40.7=100	61.6=100	64.0=100	61.6=100	63.4=100	75.1=100	66.7=100	76.3=100	100	5.32=100



CONCLUSIONS

It was in 1975, the International Women's Year, that the Commission of the European Communities initiated a research programme with the aim of finding out more about the attitudes of men and women to the position of women in society and following their evolution in time. The first opinion poll, organized in 1975, was followed by other similar inquiries in 1977, 1983 and 1987. Each of the inquiries polled a representative sample of the adult population of all the Community's member countries, i.e., nine countries in 1975 and 1977, ten countries in 1983, and twelve countries in 1987.

Since 1975, the Commission of the European Communities, the European parliament and the authorities in each country responsible for ensuring equality of opportunity between men and women, have been working to promote legislation to ensure more equal opportunities, particularly in the field of employment, and an information policy aimed at women.

What has happened during this period to the opinions and attitudes of the European public?

The purpose of the enquiry presented in this report was to gauge the evolution of opinions and attitudes over the years, and to situate Spain and Portugal, where the inquiry was being held for the first time, in the Europe of 1987.

1 - The awareness of the problem of woman's place in society in opinion, first measured in 1975, was then at a relatively high level, probably stimulated by the interest generated by the International Women's Year. Seven years later, in 1983, the acuity of the problem of woman's place in society, as perceived by public opinion, had decreased in all the countries. In 1987, there is a general resurgence of interest among the public of almost all the countries. It is in Italy, Spain and Portugal that the public is at present most aware of this issue.

Women are traditionally more aware of this problem than men, and over the twelve-year period under review, the gap between the sexes has not narrowed. It is at its widest today in Ireland, Greece, Spain and Portugal.

Let us now deal with the concrete aspects of woman's place in society.

2 - The concept of complete equality of husband's and wife's roles is still in the minority, but it has gained ground since 1983. Four out of ten Europeans now believe that the ideal family is one in which the husband and wife have equally absorbing jobs, and in which the housework and looking after the children are equally shared between them. The model of the woman in the home is still strong (25%), but is slowly fading. Between these two positions, there is the family in which the wife has a less absorbing job, and takes on more of the housework than her husband (29%).

The most advanced countries on this issue are Denmark and the United Kingdom, while as in 1983, Germany and Luxembourg are the least egalitarian. Spain and Portugal are more in favour of equal roles within the family than the European average.

3 - To be still more precise, what do married (or cohabiting) men think of their wife's working for pay? Here the evolution since 1975 is very noticeable: one third in 1975, a half in 1987, say that they prefer or would prefer their wife to work; the younger and better educated the men, and the higher the family income, the more widespread is this attitude.

In nine of the twelve Community countries, the majority of married men are in favour of their wife's working; Spain and Portugal are included. In the remaining three countries, Germany, Luxembourg and Ireland, the majority of men are opposed to this situation.

4 - Let us now take a look at the stereotypes regarding women at work: are there jobs for which people have more confidence in a man than a woman? Five examples were quoted during the inquiry: train or bus driver, surgeon, obstetrician, barrister, Member of Parliament. In all cases, opinion has evolved since 1983: those who claim that they have equal confidence in both sexes to do this work are now slightly more numerous (at least 60%, irrespective of profession), and it is the men who have changed most.

Denmark stands out as the country where the idea of discrimination has almost completely disappeared, because more than 80% of its inhabitants claim that they have as much confidence in a woman as a man for any of the professions mentioned, and because men and women give identical answers.

In the other countries, the men are still more reluctant than the women. It is in Ireland, Spain and Portugal that the difference of opinion between men and women is greatest.

5 - The efforts made by the authorities, both nationally and Community-wide, to promote equality of men and women for employment, still tend to go unnoticed. More often than not, they are unknown, or looked on with scepticism, by women even more than by men. As far as this is concerned, the situation has hardly changed since 1983.

We must admit that it will take a great deal more time and effort before more of the public becomes aware of national and Community action in favour of employment equality between men and women. This is obviously going to be a long haul.

6 - The idea that "politics is men's business" was already outdated in 1975, and is increasingly being rejected by public opinion. Only a small minority (European average 22%) continue to support this prejudice, particularly in Germany and Luxembourg. As we were able to see during previous inquiries, men's answers differ little from those of women.

7 - As we saw earlier, most Europeans theoretically have as much confidence in a woman as a man as a Member of Parliament. Yet the number of women who stand for or are elected to Parliament is not great. What would happen, we asked, if more women were elected? One woman in three, and one man in five, think that things would be better; these percentages have barely changed in recent years. But this minority that is convinced of the potential effectiveness of women if there were more of them in Parliament is a substantial one: it is no longer a simple question of equal competence (which was what people were saying in their replies to the previous questions), but of a new input. In all countries, considerably more women than men found the idea of more women in Parliament desirable. This tendency is particularly strong among women in Ireland (50%), the United Kingdom (42%), and Denmark (41%).

8 - Let us now move on from opinions to socio-political behaviour. In everyday life, the participation of citizens in "affairs" manifests itself naturally in their conversations with friends, colleagues, acquaintances. During these conversations, women discuss politics less often than men. This was noted in the previous inquiries, and is corroborated by many other indices of the fact that women have less interest in politics in the strict sense of the term. But, as was already stated in the 1983 report, it would not be true to say that they are not interested in "affairs" in the broad sense of the term. They discuss social issues much more than politics with their friends and acquaintances (the question suggested some examples of such issues: human rights, poverty, the Third World, equality of the sexes). The frequency of this type of conversation is a cultural trait which differentiates clearly between Community countries: they are very frequent in Greece, relatively rare in Spain and Portugal. But, irrespective of the national norm, women's behaviour is almost exactly the same as men's in every country in this respect, and sometimes even more active.

Another test of socio-political participation occurs at election time. Slightly fewer women than men said that they had the certain intention of voting if there was a national parliamentary election, but the gap was a small one (men 72%, women 66%). The same phenomenon was observed in 1983.

9 - If we look at all the answers obtained, country by country, on all the themes examined in the inquiry, it would appear first of all that there is a broad European consensus, of which we have stated the essential in the foregoing pages. There are also shades that differentiate one country from another, which were mentioned in passing.

If we look at all these shades with the aim of drawing a conclusion in terms of penetration of egalitarian ideas, we can clearly distinguish a hierarchy of countries, organized as follows, with reference to the European average:

- The following scored higher than the European average on all parameters: Denmark, well in front, followed by the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and France.
- The following scored well below the European average on all parameters: Germany, Luxembourg and Ireland; in Ireland, however, women are often well in advance of men, particularly regarding the role of women in politics.
- In the middle, i.e., close to the European average, sometimes a little above, sometimes a little below, the remaining five countries: Italy, Belgium, Greece, Spain and Portugal.

10 - In conclusion, the follow-up of the inquiries commissioned by the Commission of the European Communities shows that since 1975, the concept of equality of the sexes has made considerable progress in people's minds. At the same time, public opinion is far from being unconcerned about the concrete problems of woman's place in society, and in recent years has even gone so far as to express a resurgence of interest in this subject.

ANNEXE A

INSTITUTS CHARGES DU SONDAGE ET SPECIALISTES RESPONSABLES
INSTITUTES WHICH CARRIED OUT THE SURVEY AND EXPERTS IN CHARGE

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IRELAND	IRISH MARKETING SURVEYS Ltd 19-20 Upper Pembroke Street IRL-DUBLIN 2	Charles COYLE Mary BOYCE	Tél. 353.176.11.96 Télex 0500.30617 Telefax 353.176.08.77
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ECHANTILLONNAGE / SAMPLING

L'objectif de la méthode d'échantillonnage est de couvrir de façon représentative la totalité de la population âgée de 15 ans et plus, des douze pays de la Communauté élargie. L'échantillonnage de chaque pays est constitué à deux niveaux :

1° Régions et localités d'enquête

L'enquête a lieu sur l'ensemble du territoire des douze pays, soit 138 régions.

Chaque pays a constitué aléatoirement un échantillon-maître de localités d'enquête, de telle sorte que toutes les catégories d'habitat soient représentées proportionnellement à leurs populations respectives.

Au total, les interviews ont lieu dans environ 1.350 points d'enquête.

2° Choix des personnes interrogées.

Les personnes interrogées sont toujours différentes d'une enquête à l'autre. L'échantillon-maître aléatoire évoqué ci-dessus indique le nombre de personnes à interroger à chaque point d'enquête. Au stade suivant, les personnes à interroger sont désignées :

- soit par un tirage au sort sur liste dans les pays où on peut avoir accès à des listes exhaustives d'individus ou de foyers : Danemark, Luxembourg, Pays-Bas ;
- soit par échantillonnage stratifié sur la base des statistiques de recensement, l'échantillon étant construit à partir des critères de sexe, âge et profession : Belgique, France, Italie, Royaume-Uni, Irlande ;
- soit par une méthode combinant les deux précédentes (cheminement systématique) : Allemagne, Grèce, Espagne, Portugal.

The sample has been designed to be representative of the total population aged 15 years and over of the twelve countries of the enlarged Community. In each country a two stage sampling method is used :

1° Geographical distribution

The survey covers the whole territory of the twelve countries e.i. 138 regions.

In each country a random selection of sampling points is made in such a way that all types of areas (urban, rural, etc..) are represented in proportion to their populations.

The interviews are distributed in more or less 1.350 sampling points.

2° Choice of respondents

For each survey different individuals are interviewed in the master sample of sampling points described above. Within these sampling points, the individuals to be interviewed are chosen :

- either at random from the population or electoral lists in those countries where access to suitable lists of individuals or households is possible : Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands ;
- or by quota sampling. In these cases the quotas are established by sex, age and occupation on the basis of census data : this system is used in Belgium, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Ireland ;
- or by a method combining the two precedent ones ("random route") : Germany, Greece, Spain, Portugal.

	Population 15 and older			Nombre d'interviews Number of interviews (Euro-Baromètre n° 27)	Dates (Euro-Baromètre n° 27)
	Milliers/ Thou- sands	% CE/EC 12	% CE/EC 12		
B	7.924	3.64	3.12	1.010	24/03-04/04/1987
DK	4.133	1.90	1.62	992	04/04-12/04
D	51.466	23.62	20.26	994	20/03-14/04
GR	7.715	3.54	3.04	1.000	17-03-18/04
F	42.851	19.67	16.87	1.002	13/04-29/04
IRL	2.455	1.13	.97	1.005	31/03-15/04
I	44.438	20.39	17.49	1.053	25/03-10/04
L	300	.14	.12	287	13/04-08/05
NL	11.400	5.23	4.49	1.004	28/03-04/04
UK	45.207	20.75	17.79	1.306	02/04-21/04
CE/EC 10	217.889	100.00	85.77	9.652	17/03-08/05
E	28.854	-	11.36	.998	31/03-15/04
P	7.314	-	2.88	1.000	26/03-16/04
CE/EC 12	254.057	-	100.00	11.651	17/03-08/05

Il est rappelé que les résultats obtenus par sondage sont des estimations dont le degré de certitude et de précision dépend, toutes choses égales d'ailleurs, du nombre des individus constituant l'échantillon. Avec des échantillons de l'ordre de 1.000, on admet généralement qu'une différence inférieure à cinq pour cent entre deux pourcentages est au-dessous du niveau acceptable de confiance.

Readers are reminded that the sample survey results are estimations, the degree of certainty and precision of which, everything being kept equal, rests upon the number of cases. With samples of about 1.000, it is generally admitted that a percentage difference of less than five per cent is below the acceptable level of confidence.

ANNEX B.4.

SOCIO-POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR
COMPARISON OF MEN AND WOMEN BY COUNTRY

	B	DK	D	F	IRL	I	L	NL	UK	GR	E	P
FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL ISSUES (Coefficient 4 - 1)												
Men	2.35	2.40	2.54	2.56	2.34	2.69	2.72	2.50	2.41	3.32	2.54	2.31
Women	2.44	2.49	2.30	2.63	2.32	2.62	2.97	2.59	2.35	3.12	2.37	2.10
FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION (Coefficient 4 - 1)												
Men	2.30	2.57	2.56	2.22	2.41	2.34	2.66	2.46	2.47	3.24	2.10	2.12
Women	1.89	2.12	2.23	2.01	1.97	1.74	2.15	2.36	2.13	2.71	1.75	1.75
ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE (Coefficient 4 - 1)												
Men	2.44	2.53	2.58	2.42	2.50	2.77	2.85	2.96	2.44	2.14	2.47	2.53
Women	2.36	2.29	2.42	2.30	2.34	2.50	2.66	2.81	2.20	2.82	2.27	2.24
CERTAIN INTENTION TO VOTE IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS (Percentage)												
Men	45	87	65	73	66	80	71	81	76	78	64	54
Women	32	83	63	68	65	75	61	81	68	77	56	47

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