

# WOMEN OF EUROPE



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Editorial work on this issue of Women of Europe was completed on 30 May 1988.

**THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

Television: As part of European Film and Television Year, EC Commissioner Carlo Ripa Di Meana introduced the Nike Prize ("victory" in Greek) in Cannes in May. The prize will be awarded to the television broadcast that has contributed most to furthering the role of women in modern society. A 12-member jury chaired by MEP Marlene Lenz (CDU, Germany), that includes the Chairwoman of the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights, Hedy d'Ancona, as one of its members, will award a gold Nike to the television station and 16,000 Ecus to the scriptwriter of the film that wins first prize; a silver Nike and 8,000 Ecus as second prize; and a bronze Nike and 4,000 Ecus as third prize. The prizes will be awarded by Commissioner Ripa Di Meana in Brussels on 8 October 1988.

Useful address: Women's Information Service, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.

As our readers may remember, the European Commission organized in 1985 in conjunction with the Sociology Institute of Brussels Free University a colloquium on the image and place of women in television. The proceedings of this colloquium have now been published.

Useful address: 44, Avenue Jeanne, 1050 Brussels.

Ministers responsible for Women's Affairs: Social Affairs Council President Rita Süßmuth took a good initiative at the informal meeting of EC Social Affairs Ministers held in Berlin at the end of April. In a letter to Chancellor Kohl she asked the Chancellor to raise the issue of including women among the Commissioners of the next European Commission (which will be renewed in January 1989) at the Hannover European Council taking place at the end of June. She addressed letters in a similar vein to the other Heads of Government. Her move was backed by her colleagues, Commission President Jacques Delors and Commission Vice-President Manuel Marin. In addition, the Ministers discussed the following topics:

- the Second Medium-Term Community Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women. Süßmuth asked in particular that the draft directive on parental leave be placed on the agenda of one of the forthcoming Council meetings and that the European Commission report on the situation of women in agricultural areas and the reinsertion of women in the labour force. Commissioner Marin took this opportunity to inform the Ministers of the wish expressed by the women's associations at their fourth Colloquium, held in London in November 1987, to create a women's lobby and the Commission's favourable response to this demand (see below).
- Equality between men and women in social security schemes. The Ministers felt that implementing the directive rapidly posed financial problems, but Belgian Minister Miet Smet insisted that the issue be kept on the June Social Affairs Council's agenda. According to Marin, the Commission might accept a longer transitional period, but not partial implementation of the directive.
- Women's unemployment: Marin presented the Commission's interim report on unemployment. The report concludes that female unemployment is continuing to rise at a faster rate than male unemployment and that the Member States have not dealt adequately with the problem.

Süssmith also informed her colleagues that she had received numerous appeals prior to the Berlin meeting, including one from the International Women's Council's European Centre (Boulevard Brand Whitlock, 1200 Brussels) calling for a series of measures to reduce unemployment among women and for the correct implementation of the EC directives on equal opportunities.

**REVERSAL OF THE BURDEN OF PROOF:** The European Commission has just adopted a directive that, by proposing the "reversal of the burden of proof" in equal opportunity claims, is intended to improve Member State compliance with Community law with regard to equality between the sexes. At the present time, a woman who feels that she is being discriminated against because of her sex (for example, because she feels she is being paid less than her male counterparts for the same work or work of equal value) can seek redress in court. However, in practice, many obstacles stand in her way, for the national laws place the burden of proof of discriminatory practices on the plaintiff. If such evidence is not provided, the plaintiff loses the case. For this reason, many women who feel that they are discriminated against do not even try to seek legal reparation.

The Commission now proposes that the defendant - in this case, the employer - be required to prove that the charges are unfounded. However, the Commission does not propose the complete reversal of the burden of proof, as the plaintiff is still required to provide a "presumption of discrimination" (for example, information on the nature of the work, seniority, etc., compared with the work of her male colleagues) so as to enable the court to get an idea of the possible existence of discrimination.

The Commission's proposal also contains a definition of "indirect discrimination", which is considered to exist when an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice puts individuals of one sex at a disproportionate disadvantage due to a reference to the individual's matrimonial status or family situation, for example, that is not objectively justified by a necessary reason or condition not linked to the sex of the person concerned. Thus, for example, indirect discrimination exists when an employer pays for part-time work at a lower rate than full-time work or when the fact that one has dependent children makes one less eligible for a position.

**EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY:** At the end of April the European Commission assembled a working party composed of members of women's associations and movements that had suggested, at the colloquium "Towards Equality - Campaigning for Change" held in London in November 1987, that a lobby capable of exerting pressure on European and national institutions efficaciously be set up for the better defence and representation of women's interests. This colloquium was the fourth such event organized by the Commission to further communication and exchanges between European institutions and women's association. The first colloquium, held in Bonn, was attended by 60 women from 40 associations; the London colloquium drew 120 women from 85 associations. Commissioner Ripa Di Meana, who was formally presented with the resolution adopted at the London colloquium, saw in it further proof of women's interest in the Community and their desire to make their voices heard.

The working party will hold a second meeting this autumn in order to prepare a constituent assembly for the "European Women's Lobby" for 1989. This initiative meets a demand that has been made by women's associations for a good ten years.

Useful address: Jacqueline de Groote, Avenue de Mercure 11, 1180 Brussels.

**OPINION POLLS:** We mentioned in the last issue of WoE the publication of a very interesting opinion poll called Men and Women of Europe in 1987 that was carried out under the aegis of Eurobarometer. This was the first attempt to ask European men and women throughout the Community the same questions systematically over an extended period of time (since 1975). This opinion poll, which was published as Supplement No. 26 to Women of Europe (Useful address: Commission of the European Communities, Women's Information Service, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels), revealed the following trends: renewed interest among the general public in the problem of woman's place in society, after a certain loss of interest in 1983; an increase in the number of advocates of complete equality of husbands and wives' roles in the family (although the advocates of this distribution continued to be in the minority (four out of ten Europeans), while 25% of the respondents still favoured the model of the woman in the home); the existence of a more egalitarian majority in some countries (Denmark and the United Kingdom), although the majority continued to lean in the other direction in other Member States (especially Germany and Luxembourg); an increase in the number of married (or cohabiting) men who preferred or would prefer that their wives worked (half in 1987 versus one-third in 1975), although, while a majority of men were in favour of their wives' working in 9 of the Member States, the majority of men in the other 3 Member States (Germany, Luxembourg and Ireland) were not; an increase in the number of people who are equally confident in both sexes' abilities as train engineers or bus drivers, surgeons, midwives, solicitors, and members of parliament); the idea that "politics is men's business" is rejected more and more by public opinion, with little difference to be found between the answers of men and women (an average of only 22% of the European public - and slightly higher percentages in Germany and Luxembourg public - support this prejudice on average).

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:** The Commission has drafted an interim report (presented by Marin at the informal "Women's Affairs Council") on the implementation of the Community's Medium-Term Programme 1986-1990 (COM(88)150) which reveals variable developments in the Member States with regard to both equal opportunity structures and actions.

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** As already mentioned, Marin also presented the informal ministerial meeting on Women's Affairs with the Commission's temporary conclusions on the measures taken by the Member States to combat unemployment. This report (COM(88)135) concludes that, while all of the Member States have taken measures in the areas of training and consciousness-raising, most of them have failed to take specific measures to combat female unemployment.

**IRIS:** Still in Berlin, Marin also cited the IRIS network of vocational training for women as being one of the most important initiatives currently being examined by the European Commission. The goal of this programme is to foster exchanges in demonstration projects between Member States starting by selecting 50 vocational training projects. The Commission will organize a seminar at the end of the year to assess this work. This seminar will be followed by national seminars.

**Useful address:** Commission of the European Communities, Service for Action to Promote Employment and Equal Opportunities for Women, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.

**DEVELOPMENT:** The 14th General Assembly of European Development NGOs (non-governmental organizations), which was held in Brussels, confirmed the role of NGOs in development, especially as regards raising public awareness of development problems.

The second issue of WID, an EFD bulletin published "by and for Commission staff members working in development", has just come out. The issue pays particular attention to the role of women in development (with articles on the specific situations of women in Equatorial Guinea and Kenya).

**WOMEN ELECTED MEMBERS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT:** The European Commission and Council of European Municipalities and Regions (41 Quai d'Orsay, F-75007 Paris) co-sponsored a meeting of women elected members of local and regional government (the third meeting of its kind) in Antwerp at the end of March. The participants demanded, among other things, that the completion of the barrier-free Internal Market in 1992 coincide with harmonization of social legislation from on high; initiatives be taken to find a solution to the problem of urban violence, of which women are the main victims; and local and regional authorities play a greater role in the treatment of various health problems (controlling cancer, drug addiction and alcohol abuse), the acceptance and integration of second-generation immigrants, education and young people's leisure activities. On the same occasion, Commissioner Willy De Clercq spoke of the prospects opened by 1992. He stressed the opportunities and challenges that the Internal Market presented for all of Europe's citizens and women in particular.

**BUSINESS START-UPS BY WOMEN: MOTIVATIONS, SITUATIONS AND OUTLOOK:** This expert's report ordered by the European Commission but which expresses the opinion of its author only (Monique Halpern, in conjunction with Jean-Charles Szurek), is the fruit of research in all of the Member States. In her conclusions, which contain some recommendations but also many questions, the author states that she is loath to suggest specific financial aid (except in some countries, such as Portugal, or certain areas, such as most of the rural areas). Instead, she is in favour of setting up experimental pilot structures to show that women can create viable companies.

**Useful address:** Commission of the European Communities, Service for Action to Promote Employment and Equal Opportunities for Women, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.

**EUROPEAN MOVEMENT:** The European Movement held its 40th Congress in The Hague on 6-7 May in the same Ridderzaal as in 1948. The Movement's President, Enrique Baron Crespo, opened the sitting with a recording of the voice of its first President (Winston Churchill), then called out the names of the surviving pioneers who were present. The women included Ursula Spinelli Hirschmann, who was given a hearty ovation.

The women who attended the revolutionary, hoped-filled Congress in 1948 had made a declaration and adopted some resolutions. Forty years later, no one was surprised to hear Nicole Perty, Vice-President of the European Parliament, speak from the podium or find Simone Veil at the centre of speculation over the next French Government. In contrast, there were relatively few women in the audience.

**Useful address:** International Women's Committee of the European Movement, 66 rue de Trèves, B-1040 Brussels.

**WHITE PAPER:** The Commission has adopted its third report on implementing the White Paper on Completing the Internal Market. To date, the Commission has introduced 206 proposals required for the completion of the Internal Market and intends to put forward another 50 this year. The Council has adopted 70 of them in their entirety, 6 of them partially, is still studying another 126 and has taken joint positions on 14.

**EUROPEAN SOCIAL AREA:** The Commission and many of the Member States feel that progress on this front is a sine qua non for completing the Internal Market. It is also important for women. Greece, which will be filling the Council Presidency in the second half of 1988, has presented a memorandum on this subject to its partners in which it indicates that it will strive to promote equality between men and women as one of its priorities.

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Luxembourg Socialist Lydie Schmit, Member of the European Parliament, has died after a long illness at the age of 49. She was on the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Committee on Political Affairs.

**APRIL PLENARY SESSION:** The European Parliament adopted the Community's 1988 Draft Budget after a first reading months behind schedule due to a dispute with the Council of Ministers (in the interim, however, further problems have emerged in the Council of Ministers). The Parliament gave broad backing to the views of the rapporteur, Italian Communist Carla Barbarella, in asking, in particular, for increases in the credits earmarked for the Community's development aid policy (especially food aid and aid for the victims of apartheid) and health policy (to combat cancer, AIDS, drug abuse and alcohol abuse). The Parliament adopted some amendments (minor ones in terms of the sums involved) concerning women more specifically. These included an additional 400,000 Ecus in credits for specific efforts to boost the creation of business by women and an additional 200,000 Ecus for the actions provided for under the Community's equal opportunities action programme, bringing the total to 1,750,000 Ecus.

The Parliament also adopted reports by Beate Weber (German Social Democrat) on instituting stricter controls on sulphur dioxide emissions and protection from ionizing radiation and a report by Irish Christian Democrat Mary Banotti on the precise definitions of the ingredients of jams, chestnut creams and fruit juices.

The number of highly-technical reports submitted to the Parliament is rising. This is partly the result of the fairly complex consultation procedures laid down in the Single Act and which should theoretically give the Parliament more weight in Community decision-making.

**THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS,** at its March sitting (in Madrid),

- heard a report by European Commission Vice-President Marin on the Commission's actions in favour of women, especially those foreseen under the European Social Fund (ESF). Marin stressed that the Commission continues to attach great importance to its dialogue with both sides of industry for the implementation of its comprehensive programme on equal opportunities for 1986-1990 (for details, see **THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**). Priorities included better enforcement of legislation on occupational equality; the creation of a Community data bank on Member State legislation on occupational equality; the elimination of indirect discrimination; and the development of the IRIS network, with demonstration projects in all twelve Member States.

- adopted a report by Spanish Conservative **Carmen Llorca Vilaplana** calling for the drafting of a **bill of rights for pregnant women** applicable throughout the Community. The rights called for include **amniocentesis** before the 17th week of pregnancy; freedom of choice with regard to the hospital and type of delivery; freedom of choice between giving birth in hospital or at home; the presence of one's partner, relatives or friends during the delivery; a longer period during which the nursing woman may take leave from work; and a medical card allowing pregnant women to receive care in all of the Member States. Marin stated that the European Commission was empowered to approve a code of conduct concerning work but could not take a stand on the health proposals, as this area was outside of its jurisdiction.
- adopted a report by the Spanish Socialist **Ludivina Garcia Arias** on the **situation of women in Spain and Portugal**. This report called on the European Commission to step up its actions in favour of women in these two "new" Member States.
- held an exchange of views on a working document by British Labourite **Christine Crawley** on **women in prison**. This report called for a string of measures concerning health conditions, preserving the detainees' privacy and the rules applied to children living in prisons with their mothers.
- participated in a round table on **female unemployment**, educational and training problems and problems of vocational re-integration with the chairwomen of the Cortes and Portuguese Assembly's Committees on Women's Status, Mrs. Tavares, chairwoman of the Commission for Women's Status in Portugal and Mrs. Bustelo, director of the Spanish Instituto de la Mujer (Women's Institute).

at its April sitting (in Brussels),

- adopted a report by the Luxembourg Christian Democrat **Nicolas Estgen** on **equal opportunity for boys and girls in education and vocational training** that called for a series of European and national initiatives aimed at eradicating stereotypes and discrimination. Thus, the Community's Education Ministers are urged to implement, through concrete measures, the equal opportunity programme adopted by the Council of Ministers on 24 July 1986. The European Commission is urged to draw up innovative vocational training projects for girls; to allocate sufficient sums (in the 1978 budget) for information seminars on this subject; and to declare 1989 European Year of Equality in Education and Vocational Training.
- had an exchange of views on the draft report on **Women and Decision-Making Centres** by **Marietta Giannakou** (Nea Demokratia). Many of the women who took the floor during this debate stressed the need for women, too, to have access to non-traditional jobs. Italian Communist **Maria Luisa Cinciari Rodano** felt that conflicts and confrontations with men in this area were inevitable. Portuguese Socialist **Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo** hoped that measures would derive inspiration from the Canadian and Scandinavian models. French EDA **Guy Guermeur** asserted that the problem was chiefly one of education, but Spanish Conservative **Carmen Llorca Vilaplana** wondered whether it was not rather a question of the education of men, given that men often continued to equate women with the "Third World".
- had a first look at a report by **Martine Lehideux** (National Front, France) on the status of the **helping spouses** of professionals.



- listened to statement by Maria Luisa Cinciari Rodano on her draft report on equality between men and women in statutory and occupational social security schemes.

Useful address: Committee on Women's Rights, European Parliament, Centre Européen de Kirchberg, Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

SEXUAL MUTILATION: Meeting in Lomé in March, the Joint ACP/EEC Assembly failed to adopt a proposal by MEP Martine Lehideux calling for the condemnation of the sexual mutilation of women, as the text was approved by a majority of the EEC representatives only (it was rejected by a majority of the Assembly's ACP members). The examples cited by Lehideux included practices in the Arab countries and Ethiopia, Sudan, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Niger for the ACP States.

ERRATUM: The correct address of the European Parliament's Information Office in Bonn is:

Bonn-Center, Bundeskanzlerplatz, D-5300 Bonn 1  
(Tel.: 0228/22.30.91)

## EC COURT OF JUSTICE

SOCIAL SECURITY: On 8 March the EC Court of Justice ruled in favour of three women jobseekers who had brought actions against the way in which the Dutch Government had complied with the EEC Directive of December 1978 on equality in social security matters. To comply with this directive, the Netherlands had to abrogate its old legislation on unemployment benefits, which excluded from eligibility for benefits "the worker who, having the status of a married woman, could not be considered the head of the family or did not live permanently separated from her spouse". The Netherlands did not amend its legislation until 24 April 1985, instead of by 23 December 1984, as required. However, the plaintiffs argued that it had done so incorrectly by adopting a temporary measure that refused to extend the benefits of the abrogation to women who had become registered unemployed prior to 23 December 1984 (unless they were already receiving benefits at that time by virtue of the law on unemployment). In its answer to a preliminary question put to it by the Arnheim *Raad van Beroep* (Work Council), the Court interpreted the measure as discriminating against women, since men did not have to comply with the same conditions.

Useful address: Court of Justice of the European Communities, Centre du Kirchberg, Luxembourg, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.

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

**B E L G I U M**

Progress has been made in Belgium - its new Government includes four women! They are **Miet Smet** (Dutch-speaking Christian Democrat), Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for the Environment and Social Emancipation, Deputy to the Prime Minister; **Paula d'Hondt** (Dutch-speaking Christian Democrat), who obtains the important post of Minister of Public Works (she was Secretary of State for the PTT in 1981); **Anne-Marie Lizin** (French-speaking Socialist), MEP, who, at the age of 39, becomes Secretary of State for Europe 1992 (a new post), Deputy to the Minister for Foreign Trade; and **Léona Detiège** (Dutch-speaking Socialist), Secretary of State for Pensions, Deputy to the Minister for Pensions (Detiège has been a deputy from Antwerp since 1977).

The Charter for Women in Politics has been drawn up at the instigation of Miet Smet, Secretary of State for the Environment and Social Emancipation (rue de la Loi 56, B-1040 Brussels, Tel.: 230.49.25) with the presidents and representatives of the women's groups set up within the political parties. Smet calls on everyone to contribute to the equal participation of men and women in political life.

Miet Smet has also launched a campaign with the slogan, "The trade not fit for girls has yet to be invented" in order to show the importance of girls' educational choices. Her office has also published a handbook on company affirmative action (*Guide pratique des actions positives dans les entreprises*).

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE:** Miet Smet's office has just published an informative brochure on the first aid to be given in cases of sexual abuse of children within the family and a report on the initiatives taken in Belgium up to March 1988 to combat sexual violence. With regard to this, a court in Charleroi has sentenced a man to six years in prison for raping his wife.

The Unions professionnelles agricoles féminines (trade unions of women in agriculture) (rue Antoine Dansart 94-96, B-1000 Brussels, Tel.: 511 07 37), in celebrating the 20th anniversary of their founding, have called for compliance with Community Directives on helping spouses and the right of such individuals to benefits if they become unable to work.

Fondation belge de la Vocation (Belgian Career Foundation - Galerie Agora, Bureau 110, rue du Marché aux Herbes 105, Bte 6, B-1000 Bruxelles; Tel.: 513 57 83) has awarded study grants to 16 women so as to enable them to embark on various careers (this year's winners are opera singers, sculptresses, photographers, fashion designers, neuropsychologists, mask makers, and experts on Japanese theatre).

The Fondation Brunfaut (rue de la Garenne 16B, B-5922 Malèves Ste-Marie, Tel.: 010/88 97 72) has been created by the children of Emilienne Brunfaut, who died about a year ago and would have been 80 this year. This fervent union activist devoted all her energy to the fight to emancipate women. Emilienne Brunfaut's last study contains a message full of hope: "Girls are on the march towards the year 2000." The Brunfaut Foundation will not only preserve a very rich social and cultural heritage, but will also

continue to spread a humanistic idea committed to achieving the potentials of all men and women.

**Adoption:** *Infor-Femmes* (rue Brèderode 29, B-1000 Brussels, Tel.: 512 96 47) has published three extremely readable brochures on the recent changes in the Belgian laws on kinship and adoption called *L'enfant né hors mariage*, *Tous les enfants égaux?* and *L'adoption* ("The child born out of wedlock", "Are all children equal?", and "Adoption").

**Abortion:** Socialists Léona Detiège and Philippe Moureaux have introduced a new bill in the newly-formed Parliament on decriminalizing abortion (an identical bill had been discussed in the Senate but could not be voted upon after early elections were called). Meanwhile, a court in Ghent has acquitted 50 people charged with performing or undergoing abortions.

**National Belgian Women's Council:** The Council is crowing over some electoral fall-out, namely, the appointment of Antoinette Spaak as President of the Council of the French-speaking Community, Lucienne Hermann-Michielsen as Chairwoman of the Senate's Committee on Health and Huberte Hanquet as Chairwoman of the Committee on Foreign Relations. It has also demanded that more women be included on the RTBF's (French-speaking radio and television) Board of Directors and that the condition that "no more than two-thirds of the members of the Audio-Visual Board may be of the same sex) be added to the decree on audio-visual practices. Meanwhile, Els Witt has been named Chairwoman of the BRT's (Dutch-speaking radio and television) Board of Directors. Tenured professor at Brussels Free University (the French-speaking entity), Witt is a specialist of the recent history of Belgium.

**Instruction:** As of the next school year, the *Faculté de Sciences économiques, sociales et politiques* (Faculty of economic, social and political sciences of the *Facultés universitaires Saint-Louis*, 43 Boulevard du Jardin Botanique, B-1000 Brussels, Tel.: 211 78 80) will be offering courses on a staggered schedule to meet the demands of individuals wishing to resume their studies or adults wanting to change their career orientations.

**Soroptimist international de Belgique** (225 Avenue de Tervueren, B-1150 Brussels) will be awarding a prize of 400,000 Belgian francs in September, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of its founding, to a Belgian or non-Belgian woman no more than 45 years of age who has applied fundamental or clinical research in the health field in Belgium for at least 3 years.

**Femmes coloniales au Congo belge** (Women Colonists in the Belgian Congo) is the title of a brochure put out by the Centre of African History of French-speaking Louvain Catholic University (Collège Erasme, Place Blaise Pascal 1, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve). It is the result of several students' final dissertations on the situation of women in the Belgian Congo between 1940 and 1960. (For example, one learns that infant mortality over this period was lower in the Belgian Congo than in Belgium).

**Feminism:** The *Centre de lecture publique de la Communauté française* (French-speaking Community's Public Reading Room - 123 Boulevard de la Sauvenière, B-4000 Liège; Tel.: 041/22.45.27) has published the first catalogue of the Mundaneum Collection of "150 years of feminism in pictures" (an exhibition of the same name was shown at the University of Maryland in the United States after its opening in Belgium).

**Women in the home:** In *De dagtaak van de vrouw* (woman's daily work), Luc Deschamps, Koen Pauwels and Walter Van Dongen (Universiteit Antwerpen,

Nijverheidsstraat 8, B-2150 Malle) analyze the working day of women in the home. One of their conclusions is that women who work outside the home log 70 hours a week, work and household duties combined.

The Nationale Vrouwenraad (National Women's Council) (Avenue Louise 183, B-1050 Brussels) has published a 30-volume collection on Third World women called *Vrouwen uit de Derde Wereld aan het woord* (Third World Women Have the Floor).

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D E N M A R K

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Danske Kvinders Nationalråd (DKN): At its last General Assembly, the National Danish Women's Council elected its sixteen officers, including Jytte Lindgard as president, Eva Munck as first vice-president and Gitte Hansen as second vice-president. Jytte Lindgard took the occasion to declare that the DKN should participate more in the debates on family and child policy and step up its international activities. The DKN is currently filling the presidency of the International Women's Council's European Centre (CECIF), which is likely to be called on to lobby for women's demands at the EC in the framework of the European Women's Lobby that is taking shape. The General Assembly also admitted two new organizations to the DKN, thereby bringing the total to 39 organizations with more than a million members; they are "Women Professionals of Copenhagen" and "the Danish Association of Women Professionals". The Assembly felt that the national priorities should be equal pay, child policies and the presence of women on government committees and commissions.

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, D-1153 København, Tel. 12.80.87.

Nordic Forum: The Nordic Planning Group will be meeting in Oslo from 30 July to 8 August to prepare for the Nordic Forum, which will be held on 3-5 August, also in Oslo. During the preliminary meeting, which is expected to be attended by some 8,000 women from the Nordic League countries, the participants will be able to attend workshops on ways to combine the roles of working woman and mother. They will also hear talks by American Gertrude Goldberg on the relationship between sex and poverty, Australian Helen Caldicott on women's contribution to peace and Indian Kamla Bhasin on women and development.

At the Nordic Forum itself, the Nordic Council of Ministers will hold a conference on equality with the participation of the Nordic Ministers responsible for matters of equality, members of the national parliaments, representatives of the Nordic Council and representatives of these countries' women's groups. The key topics will be women's roles in economic development and the relationship between family and working life. The proceedings will give rise to a "Nordic Action Plan in Matters of Equality" for 1989-1993 that will then be presented, in the form of a proposal by the Council of Ministers, at the 1989 Nordic Council. This plan will outline common initiatives to be taken by the Nordic countries with regard to wages, women company heads, parents' rights, services for children and the elderly and, more generally, the individual's right to economic independence and an individual income.

**Women and power:** Drude Dahlerup, lecturer at the Institute of Political Sciences, has written a manual reviewing the strategies adopted by women in the five Nordic countries over the last fifteen or so years to increase women's political representation. She also focuses on some successes in this area, e.g., women's lists in the elections in Iceland and the Faroe Islands, the setting of quotas by sex, local equality committees, etc.  
**Useful address:** Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, D-1153 København K.

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F R A N C E

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In the wake of the presidential elections that re-elected François Mitterrand President of the French Republic, six women have been appointed to Prime Minister Rocard's new government (the composition of which may change, depending on the results of the 12 June general elections). They are Edith Cresson, Minister of European Affairs; Georgina Dufoix, *Ministre déléguée* (Deputy Minister) to the Social Affairs Minister, responsible for the Family, Women's Rights, Solidarity and Repatriates; Edwige Avice, *Ministre déléguée* (Deputy Minister) to the Foreign Minister; Catherine Tosca, *Ministre déléguée* (Deputy Minister) to the Minister of Cultural Affairs, responsible for Communication; Catherine Trautmann, Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for the Elderly and the Handicapped under the Minister for Social Affairs and Employment; and Véronique Neiertz, Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for Consumption under the Minister of the Economy, Finances and Budget.

**Municipalities:** The Federation of Town Councilwomen's Associations (*Fédération des Associations des Conseillères municipales*, 5, Place du Petit-Collège, F-69005 Lyon), created in 1985, intends to step up its activities in 1988 with the aim of getting more women elected in the 1989 municipal elections than in 1983. In 1983, 72,131 town councilwomen were elected (14% of the total, although women make up 53% of the electorate); this was still much better than the figures in 1977 (38,304) and 1945 (14,889).

**Liberal professions:** The Federation of National Associations of Professionals' Spouses (*Fédération des Associations nationales des Conjointes de Professionnels libéraux*, 12, rue Angélique-Verrien, F-92200 Neuilly) has applauded some advances made in France, e.g., the law that went into force this year that aligns the (previously very unfavourable) rules on simultaneous drawing of primary and secondary entitlements with the statutory scheme. In addition, spouses participating in the activities of a liberal profession will henceforward have the right to acquire their own rights. The creation of a retirement scheme for helping spouses is currently in the pipeline.

**BUSINESSES:** The pilot operation *Femmes et Entreprises* (Women and Companies) launched by the Delegation for Women's Status of the Hauts-de-Seine Department (167, Avenue Joliot-Curie, F-92013 Nanterre, Tel.: 47 29 03 33) with the aim of creating 100 new companies in one year has won its bet. At the end of March, 86 enterprises generating 170 jobs had been created, mostly in the service sector (public relations, medical expertise, trade, computer applications, on-line secretarial services, etc.).

**Feminism:** The second issue of *Etudes féministes* (Feminist studies) (2/ter, passage des Marais, F-75010 Paris) contains a special report on the International Women's Film Festival as well as an assortment of information on meetings, publications and initiatives for the advancement of equality between men and women (both abroad and in France).

**Sport:** The Women's Committee of the Aquitaine Regional Olympic Committee and the Regional Delegation for Women's Status in Aquitaine (Esplanade Charles de Gaulle, F-33077 Bordeaux, Tel.: 56 90 64 34) have collaborated on the publication of a brochure *Sport au féminin* (Sport in the feminine) that contains very detailed information on the sports played by women.

**Television:** *La Télé est à nous* (Television is Ours) (1, rue Paul Baudry, F-75008 Paris, Tel.: 45.62.56.98) is an initiative to encourage citizens to participate in determining audio-visual policy and to fight for the pluralism and independence of information. Its Deputy Secretary-General, Jeanne Danos, stressed that it was aimed particularly at women.

**1992:** The Women's Civic and Social Union (*Union féminine civique et sociale*, 32, Quai Saint-Antoine, F-69002 Lyon, Tel.: 78 37 20 31) held a three-day seminar, *Formation des Formateurs Europe 92* (Training for Trainers - Europe 92) to ready women for the completion of the Community's barrier-free Internal Market.

**Women pilots:** The European Federation of Women Pilots (*Fédération des Pilotes européennes*, 15, rue du Maine, F-92600 Asnières) held its 8th Congress, attended by representatives from 15 countries, at the end of April. The Congress was chaired by Honorary Chairwoman Jacqueline Auriol in the presence of Marie-Joséphe de Beauregard, the Federation's founding chairwoman.

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## G E R M A N Y

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**Elections:** After the Baden-Württemberg elections of 20 March, the percentage of women in the Landtag (regional parliament) rose from 5.5 to 8.8%.

**Household chores:** Speaking at a hearing of the Bundestag Faction of the SPD, MP Renate Schmidt, Vice-President of the Group (Bundestagfraktion, Bundeshaus, D-5300 Bonn) called for a revision of the family code which, in her opinion, should contain the obligation for both partners to carry out household chores.

**Abortion:** Not only the opposition parties, but also some Liberals (i.e., Conservatives) and Christian Democrats, such as Lower Saxony's Finance Minister, Birgit Breuel, and women members of various associations, labour unions and even the Church have criticised the proposal by Minister Rita Süßmuth to attach some extremely complicated consultation procedures to the Federal abortion law. The Minister has protested that she simply wanted to improve this procedure, but her critics assert that her suggestions would actually place unacceptable limits on the woman's independence by stipulating which doctor she would have to consult and which doctor would have the right to perform the abortion. In addition, a Max-Planck Institute study (Pressestelle, Postfach, D-7900 Freiburg) contests the claim that a stricter legal procedure would reduce the number of abortions.

**CONVENTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN:** The report by Minister Rita Süßmuth (Pressereferat, BMJFFG, Kennedyallee 105-107, D-5300 Bonn 2) on the implementation of this convention in Germany notes progress on the legal front but lack of equality in daily life. The first German woman has been appointed to the UN Committee reviewing the reports submitted by UN member governments. She is Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling, head of the women's department of the Federal Ministry for Youth, Family, Women and Health.

**Police:** According to a scientific report carried out for the relevant authorities of Hamburg (Innenbehörde, Pressestelle, Postfach, D-2000 Hamburg 1), women in the police perform the same work as their male colleagues, who in turn feel that the women are fully integrated in the force. That, at least, is the result of this city's experience (Hamburg has had women police officers since 1979).

**CDU:** The *Bundesfrauenkonferenz* (a federation of 16 chapters of women Christian Democrats) has changed its name to *Frauen-Union der CDU* (Women's Union of the CDU). Minister Rita Süßmuth has been re-elected as its president.

**Useful address:** Frauen-Union, Konrad Adenauer-Haus, D-5300 Bonn 1.

**Legal profession:** According to a survey of the working conditions of young solicitors and barristers carried out for the Justice Ministry, 75% of the women who sought employment in industry and 70% of those who sought work with law firms admitted to having been turned away because of their sex.

**Useful address:** Frauen in DBB, Dreizehnmorgenweg 36, D-5300 Bonn 2.

**Military dependents:** *Mutter Courage* (Hermann-Löns-Weg 23, D-2822 Schwanewede) is a new publication for military dependents. Gabriele Biffar, a soldier's wife herself, took the initiative to found with some other women an association to gain recognition of military dependents' interests. The association stresses the problems specific to dependents (long absences, frequent moves, the risk of isolation from the rest of society).

**Mothers:** A "Mothers' Congress", held at Langen, has called for the creation of a "mothers' lobby" to pressure political parties into creating support structures (nurseries, schools, hospitals, etc.) and a less hostile environment for women and children. This idea is shared by conservative women and the "Greens" (the latter were represented at this first congress by Waltraud Schoppe).

A study by the Berlin-Charlottenburg Women's University Clinic reveals that the number of women having children after 35 is rising. According to the study, these "older" mothers do not run a greater risk than younger mothers.

**Lower wages:** A women's advancement plan has been launched at the instigation of the food-consumption-restaurants trade union. According to a study, only 2 of the 19,486 women employed in this sector are not relegated to lower wage levels.

**Useful address:** Hahrung-Genuss-Gaststätten, Ruth Köhn, Postfach, D-2000 Hamburg 1.

Rhineland-Westphalia: The Social Democratic Government has introduced a bill for the advancement of women in the ministries and civil service that provides for monitoring of its implementation by the State Delegates for Women's Status and the municipalities.

Useful address: Staatsekretärin Ilse Ridder-Melchers, Staatskanzlei, Postfach, D-Düsseldorf 1.

#### News Briefs

- \* Inge Wettig-Danielmeier, Lower Saxony MP, is calling for financial independence for housewives.
- \* Monika Wulf-Mathies, President of the public service and transport union, has made a commitment in favour of wage cuts.
- \* Marieluise Beck-Oberdorf, member of the Greens in the Bundestag, has published a book on "Flexible work schedules - where does women's happiness lie?"
- \* Angelika Wagener is the new Vice-President of Hamburg University.
- \* Dr. Rosemarie Nave-Herz, professor of sociology at Oldenburg University, takes over from Rita Süßmuth as directress of the Women and Societies Institute in Hannover.
- \* Eva Lausmann and Nicole Lunemann are the first women pilots to be flying German commercial aircraft since Marga von Etzdorf in...1928!

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### G R E E C E

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Training and equality: Antoniou-Laiou, the General Secretary for Equality under the Prime Minister, has published a report called "Achievements in equality from 1981 to date" that analyzes the structural causes of discrimination against women in Greece and broaches the Government's programme to deal with them. The key aims of the Government's programme are to create government bodies to defend equality; change the laws so as to support sexual equality; create services to free women from social bondage and help the family; introduce affirmative action in both the private and public sectors; and draw up a specific programme having the twofold aim of eradicating prejudices and attitudes of the past by a reform of education and keeping citizens systematically informed of matters involving sexual equality.

The General Secretary for Equality is offering, together with the Organization for Small Industries and Crafts, study grants to enable 15 unemployed women architects and decorators to do a specialisation.

Useful address: General Secretariat for Equality, Mousseou 2, Plaka, H-10555 Athens.

University of Thessalonike: The university's Women's Studies Group is offering a free lecture programme - with a new series of lectures - for the fourth consecutive year. In addition, it has enlarged the scope of its activities by holding a series of ten classes on subjects of interest to women.

Useful address: Omada Gynekion Sopotidon, Tmima Nomikis, University of Thessalonike, H-54006 Thessalonike.



**Internal Market:** Representatives of a series of women's NGOs participated in a discussion held in Athens with MEPs Tina Pantazi (Greek Socialist) and Marijke van Hemeldonck (Belgian Socialist) of the possible effects of the dismantling of the EC's internal borders on its female citizens. (Many women members of the European Parliament have announced that they will systematically introduce amendments to all "Internal Market" proposals to have the latter taken into account questions of social cohesion and the situation of women.)

**Greek Women's Federation:** The Federation held its fourth conference in Athens. The Conference, which was attended by representatives of foreign women's organizations and some 960 delegates from all over Greece, focused on defining the course of action that the women's movement should take until the year 2000. The topics touched upon included women's unity; peace and life between now and 2000; and social protection and social security.

**Military service:** A number of women's organizations have issued strong protests against the Defence Ministry's rumoured plans to propose compulsory military service for women (women can currently volunteer for service in some sectors of the army). These organizations argued that as long as the discrimination suffered by women is not abolished, imposing the additional burden of compulsory military service is out of the question. The Defence Ministry has given assurances that the system will not be changed and that efforts will simply be made to make better use of the existing provisions governing voluntary service.

**Health:** A symposium on women and health that was held in Athens under the aegis of the women's section of the Greek Left has concluded that medicine is by no means neutral either in theory or in practice. The participants called for better medical services for women in particular, more information on women's health problems, greater participation by women in health policy decision-making (and the presence of women on workers' health and safety committees) and better implementation of the recent laws on abortion.

**Useful address:** Tmima gia to Gyneko Zitima tis Ellinikinis Aristeras, Platia Eleftherias 1, H-10553 Athens.

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## I R E L A N D

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**Local Elections:** With local elections looming again in just over eighteen months, the Women's Political Association (WPA) has been encouraging women to participate in them. The WPA has provided some useful statistics on women councillors. Thus, 37% of the 76 female councillors were elected in Dublin constituencies. In Dublin, 46% of the women councillors belong to the Fianna Fail Party, 7% are Independents, 3% are Progressive Democrats and almost 11% are Labour. In the rest of the country, 35% of the female councillors are from Fine Gael, 33% from Fianna Fail, 10% Independents, 6% Progressive Democrats, 6% Workers' Party and 6% Labour.

**Useful address:** The Women's Political Association, 6 Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Tel.: 88.51.83.

**Children:** The Status of Children Act will go into effect on 14 June at the latest. Thereafter, it will be easier to establish paternity legally by court-ordered blood tests, for example. If paternity is established, the father will have to maintain the child and, though he will not automatically acquire guardianship rights, he will be able to apply for joint guardianship, if the mother agrees, or ask for it in court if she doesn't.

**Useful address:** F.S.U.P.C., 36 Upper Rathmines Road, Dublin 6, Tel.: 96 41 55.

**Industry:** Labour Minister Bertie Ahearn has said that he is not surprised by the results of a recent survey carried out by the RTE 2 programme Market Place which revealed that 97% of the top management jobs in the country's leading 100 companies are held by men. Sylvia Meehan of the Employment Equality Agency said that any revision of equal employment legislation would have to take this finding into account.

**Useful address:** Radio Telefis Eireann, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, Tel.: 69 31 11.

**Air transport:** Aer Lingus has appointed its first woman captain, Grania Cronin. The company already has several women copilots. Aer Lingus was subjected to an inquest some years ago for having tried to recruit stewardesses only for their aircraft, despite the adoption of the Employment Act. Following the investigation, it agreed to recruit stewards on a similar basis.

**Useful address:** Aer Lingus, Dublin Airport, Co. Dublin.

**Women's Studies Forum:** The Women's Studies Forum at University College Dublin, which was founded in 1983 by a group of women, women students and women teachers, held a series of lectures in April on a variety of topics including "The Woman Poet in Contemporary Gaelic Poetry", "Feminism, Autonomy and Community" and "The Myth of the Perfect Body". The Forum has also published its first series of reports and working papers on such subjects as women and law in Ireland, abortion, farm women and women and education, based on the conclusions of its annual research seminars.

**Useful address:** Mary Flynn, Main Library, UCD Belfield, Dublin 4, Tel.: 69 32 44 ext. 8129.

**Women's Studies Association:** The WSA has published the first edition of its Women's Studies Review, containing articles of relevance to Irishwomen today (e.g., part-time work, women and poverty, equal opportunity in school and care for the elderly).

**Useful address:** Lelia Blunt, 113 Fortfield Road, Terenure, Dublin 6.

**Married women:** The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Women's Rights is preparing recommendations for the Married Property Act, which Fine Gael MP Monica Barnes claims is long overdue, given the extremely vulnerable position of the wife in the home. The Committee is also examining such problems as sexual abuse of children, women and work and the portrayal of women in the media.

**Useful address:** The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Women's Rights, Dail Eireann, Dublin 2, Tel.: 78 99 11.

**Rape within the marriage:** The twenty organizations that demanded that submitted opinions to the Law Reform Commission demanding that rape within the marriage be made a crime are happy about the Commission's proposal to this effect, although their reactions to some of the other suggestions in the Commission's report were mixed.

**Useful address:** The Law Reform Commission, Ardilaun Centre, 111 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Tel.: 71 56 99.

**Abortion:** The Irish Supreme Court has decided not to refer a question to the EC Court of Justice concerning the right of Irish women to have access to specific information on the possibilities for abortion in the United Kingdom because the issue raised was that of assistance, not of information. The Supreme Court dismissed an appeal brought by two pregnancy-counselling services, the Dublin Well-Woman Centre and the Open Line Counselling Service, ruling that any information given out by such services that could be interpreted as assistance in procuring an abortion violated the constitutional right to life of the unborn.

**Poverty:** The Council for the Status of Women will be holding a "tribunal on poverty" later this year to illustrate women's growing problems in a period of recession. In addition, the CSW has called for a ban on the unauthorized use of human embryos and advised that an advisory body made up of an equal number of men and women be set up to monitor human reproductive techniques.

**Useful address:** Council for the Status of Women, 64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, Tel.: 61 52 68.

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I T A L Y

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**Government:** There are six women, including two Ministers (instead of one in the previous Government), in the new Italian Government headed by De Mita. They are Rosa Jervolino (Christian Democrat), Social Affairs Minister; Vincenza Bono Parrino (Social Democrat), Minister of Cultural Property; Susanna Agnelli (Republican Party), Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Maria Pia Garavaglia (Christian Democrat) and Elena Marinucci, (Socialist), Under-Secretaries for Public Health; and Gabriella Ceccatelli (Christian Democrat), Under-Secretary for the Environment.

**Trade unions:** A group of women members of the CGIL (Corso d'Italia 25, I-00198 Roma) has proposed setting up a "women's union", i.e., an association of women CGIL members that would be open not only to the labour union's registered women members, but also to housewives and women jobseekers.

CGIL-CISL-UIL women organized the first-ever demonstration of women for "a different type of work" in Rome at the end of March.

**Useful address:** Coordinamento Femminile CGIL-CISL-UIL, via Appia km. 28000, 300 Ariccia, I-00198 Roma.

Speaking at the 23rd National Assembly of Rural Women, National Delegate Maria Pia Mancini stressed the capital importance women's participation in the new union strategy.

**Useful address:** Donne Rurali, Via XXIV Maggio, 43, I-00187 Roma.

**Christian Democracy:** In opening the 16th National Congress of the Christian Democratic Women's Movement (of which she has been national delegate until now) (Corso Rinascimento 113, I-00186 Roma) on "Women - the Roots of the Future", Gabriella Ceccatelli stressed how tired women were of being kept on the edges of politics.

The Congress elected Maria Paola Colombo Svevo as its new national delegate.

*Voci dall'altra storia: Il femminile nella cultura dei popoli:* "Echoes from the other history - the feminine in culture" is the theme of the research launched by the SIFA (*Storia Internazionale Femminile Associata*), with the support of the Commission of the European Communities and the Italian National Research Council (CNR) and the sponsorship of the President of the Republic. Carlo Ripa Di Meana, EC Commissioner responsible for Culture and Communication, insisted on giving the introduction at the press conference introducing the research to the public in Rome on 13 May.

The geographical area of this study will consist of certain countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. Working under the coordination of Prof. Gioia Longo and Dr. Katharina Steffen, local women researchers will comb these countries, seeking out a repressed historical memory, a "non-history" shared by all countries and cultures. Even in those countries where women have obtained *de jure* equality, women continue to be hobbled by the survival of a culture that limit and sometimes thwarts the affirmation of a feminine subjectivity in actual practice. In addition, there subsist in various parts of the world societies in which differences in race and ethnic ties or the convergence of economic, social and religious factors penalizes women even more dramatically.

The aims of "Echoes from the other history - the feminine in culture" are:

- to bring to light the currently buried part of "feminine culture" that exists but is not recognised in a history "marked with the sign of the condition of masculinity";
- to exhume women's achievements in a wide range of fields, contributions that have not gained official recognition or that, in any event, have failed to be broadcast far and wide;
- to help the women in so many parts of the world who do not have the tools needed to give shape and substance to their history; and
- to give a general overview of the current status of women in various cultural contexts with a spotlight on prospects and tensions.

Useful address: SIFA, Via Carlo Fea 7, I-00161 Roma. President: Carla Grohchi; Vice-President: Olga Fontana

Military service: Defence Minister Valerio Zanone (*Ministero della Difesa*, via XX Settembre, Roma) has drawn up a project that should enable Italian women to perform military service by 1990. Fairly broad agreement on this project exists among the political parties, but some of them feel that such a project should be put to the test of a referendum.

Careers: The European Social Fund held, together with *Progetto Donne* (via Arenula 29, I-00186 Roma) a colloquium on "Is working in the grey areas finished? The colours of women's activities" at which the participants underscored women's right to successful careers. On a related front, the *Centro di Ricerca sull'organizzazione aziendale* (Centre for Research into Business Associations) of Bocconi University, in Milan, has carried out research, published by Franco Angeli, on the "professional and personal profile of women in command in Italy". The Association *Donne et Carriera* (Women and Careers) (via Santa Maria alla Porta 1, I-20123 Milano and via Tarvisio 3, I-00198 Roma, Tel.: 844 91 85) is holding a series of training courses for career women in Rome.

**Sexual violence:** The National Italian Women's Council (*Consiglio Nazionale della Donne italiane*, Piazza dei Quiriti 3, I-00192 Roma) held a debate in Verona on violence directed at women in which emphasis was placed on the need to improve legislation in this area (the CNDI also held a meeting on "a better quality of life"). In fact, the need to step up the fight against sexual violence prompted a demonstration in Rome that was attended by 100,000 women (shortly after the sentencing of three young men for a rape committed on Piazza Navona, in the heart of Rome).

*UIL-Giovani*, a youth organization within the UIL labour union (Via Lucullo 6, I-00187 Roma) has suggested instituting a half-price taxi fare for women after 10 p.m. in order to reduce the risks of violent acts.

Finally, a "pink phone" for the victims of violence has been operational in Italy for the last few months. The idea was tossed up by *Tribunale 8 Marzo*, which has been giving free legal advice to women for the past two years.

**Useful address:** Via Colonna Antonina, 41, I-00186 Roma.

**Communist women:** At the recent Communist Women's Forum on "Time and Women", MEP Marisa Rodan gave a talk on "Time and Work in the Market"; Perla Lusa spoke about "Time for Care"; Aureliana Alberici spoke about "Training Time"; Claudia Mancina, Grazia Zuffa and Maria Luisa Boccia discussed "Time and Course in Sexuality and Reproduction"; and Ersilia Salvato "The Time of Women in Political Representation". The day of discussion on this very important theme was opened by Livia Turco, whose remarkable introduction - a talk rich in original thoughts and conceptualizations - cannot possibly be summarised in these pages. We suggest that the text be requested from the *Commissione Femminile del PCI*, via Botteghe Oscure, I-00186 Roma.

In addition, the conclusions of the colloquium of women of the European Left that was held in Rome in March by the Communist group of the European Parliament (and attended by numerous women MEPs) have been published under the title *Le donne della sinistra europea a confronto* (exchanges between women of the European Left).

**Development:** The training programme for women in Zimbabwe run by the Istituto Italo-Africano (via Aldovrandi 16, I-00197 Roma) under the direction of Tullia Caretoni has been completed two months ahead of schedule.

**ENEL:** The National Committee for Parity between Men and Women has convinced the ENEL to set up a committee to study the status of its women employees (who currently make up 8% of the national electrical power company's workforce).

**Useful address:** Via Dalmazia, 15, I-00198 Roma.

**Sport:** The 11th volume of the *Centro Studi Economico-Politici Ezio Vanoni's* (via San Pelagio 24, I-34128 Trieste) special monographs focuses on "Sport in the Feminine".

**Cinema:** The *Laborario Immagine Donna* (Via aretina 98, Firenze, Tel.: 67 18 52) held the tenth international meeting of cinema and women, "The House and the World", in Florence.

**ACLI:** The national congress of the *Associazione Cattolica Lavoratori Italiani* (Catholic Working Women's Association), held this year in Milan, proposed a platform to improve women's participation in society, notably through a huge training effort.

**The loss of a friend:** Alma Maria Sabatini, 64, a leading figure in the Italian feminist movement and an influential woman in her own right, died with her husband in a car accident in April. A political activist (coming from the Radical Party in the '70s, she joined the women's liberation movement and was in the front line of a number of battles over women's demands), she was also a fervent expert on American literature, as well as a linguist who wrote an admirable study on non-sexist language.

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L U X E M B O U R G

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**Undeclared work:** The Federation of Luxembourg Industrialists (*Fédération des Industriels Luxembourgeois* - FEDIL) has strongly attacked a government plan to institute a child-rearing allowance for parents (mothers or fathers) who devote themselves to the raising of their children. The employers feel that this will encourage work on the "black" economy, especially undeclared housework.

**Useful address:** FEDIL, 7 rue Alcide de Gasperi, L-1615 Kirchberg, Tel.: 43 53 66.

**UN Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women:** This convention, signed in New York in 1979, has just been presented for a first reading in Luxembourg's Chamber of Deputies. However, the rapporteur has found to points in the Convention that conflict with the Luxembourg constitution. The latter stipulates that the male heirs of the House of Nassau have priority in succeeding to the throne (even if they have older sisters) and that women cannot give their children their maiden names.

**Useful address:** Chambre des Députés, rue du marché aux Herbes, Luxembourg.

**Migrant women:** The *Association de soutien aux Travailleurs immigrés* (immigrant workers' support association) has just completed a report on the situation of migrant women in Luxembourg. The report concludes that, given the country's 25% foreign population, Luxembourg should take steps to ease the foreigners' integration. It also denounces the discrimination that the immigrant women must suffer. Thus, these women usually fill unskilled, precarious jobs (especially in the tertiary sector, with building maintenance coming first and foremost); if they rejoin their husbands after the latter emigrated, they must wait three years to obtain a work permit automatically; if employed, they do not have the right to take language courses during the work day; they are excluded, either *de jure* or *de facto*, from advisory bodies such as the Women's Labour Committee and women's associations; and they (no more than their husbands) do not sit on school committees like other parents, despite the fact that 53% of the primary school pupils in the city of Luxembourg are foreigners.

**Useful address:** ASTI, 10, rue August Laval, L-1922 Luxembourg.

**Public transport:** Martine Reichling, 23, will be the first woman (out of 210 drivers) to drive a city bus in Luxembourg. Women were not banned from this occupation; simply, no women had shown any interest in it until now.

**Useful address:** Administration communale de la Ville de Luxembourg, Direction Autobus, 63 rue de Bouillon, Luxembourg.

**Cooking:** ARC, the International Association of Women Restaurant Owners and Chefs, held its General Assembly at Léa Linster's (the only Luxembourg member, she recently won a start in the Michelin guide). Ninety women restaurant owners, directors, managers and cooks belong to this 12-year-old association, which will be publishing a guide in 1988.

**Useful address:** ARC, c/o Léa Linster, 17 route de Luxembourg, L-5252 Luxembourg.

**Solidarity:** Luxembourg's Socialist Women have launched a campaign to finance the purchase of bicycles for Nicaragua in order to palliate the country's chronic lack of means of transport.

**Useful address:** Femmes socialistes, 2, rue de la Boucherie, L-1247 Luxembourg.

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T H E N E T H E R L A N D S

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**Equal rights:** The National Equal Rights Committee has just been set up at The Hague to guarantee "unconditional" compliance with Community law on equal rights.

**Useful address:** Stichting Landelijk Ombudsvrouw, Postbus 11666, NL-2502 AR Den Haag or Clara Wichmann Instituut, Single 373, NL-1012 WL Amsterdam.

**Employment:** The Minister for Social Affairs and Employment has launched a campaign (commercials, posters and brochures available in post offices) to raise women's awareness of technical vocations.

**Useful address:** Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, Directie Voorlichting, Zeestraat 73, Den Haag.

**Media:** The Coordination Office for the Emancipation Policy and the Dutch television broadcasting company have published a handbook called *Vrouw in beeld, een vademecum van vrouwelijke deskundigen* (Women in pictures - a guide to female expertise) containing the names and addresses of 1,111 women experts in a variety of fields in the media, especially television.

**Useful address:** NOS, Tekstenservice, Postbus 444, NL-1200 JJ Hilversum.

**Computers:** A computer course for women called "women and computers" has been organized by Teleac in order to try to correct the under-representation of women in this sector.

**Useful address:** Teleac, Jaarbeursplein 15, Postbus 2414, NL-3500 GK Utrecht.

**Sexual violence:** M. van Egmond and D. Jonker of Leiden University have conducted a study on sexual violence in which they found that 68% of the female victims of such acts make suicide attempts, pushed by their feelings of shame or guilt. However, they also discovered that the publicity given to acts of sexual violence has bolstered the victims' courage; women now denounce the acts and request assistance more often than in the past.

**Useful address:** Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, Breestraat 70, NL-2311 CS Leiden.

**Divorce:** The Chamber of Deputies has approved a series of measures to make divorce easier. Thus, the two parties need merely submit a joint request and appear in court without requiring the assistance of a lawyer.

Births: The Emancipation Council has proposed a birth allowance of 500 Dutch guilders a month for six months. The same council, which had proposed in the past granting parents six months' unpaid leave (an idea that the Government accepted), also suggests that the two parents take care of the child part-time.

Useful address: Emancipatie raad, 10 Lutherse Burgwal, NL-2512 CB Den Haag.

Women farmers: In the Netherlands, one out of four pregnant women in agriculture has a miscarriage, according to a study by Wageningen Agricultural University, which also notes that women farmers work an average of 30 hours a week in family undertakings.

Useful address: Maatschappelijke Plats Wageningse Afgestudeerden, Postbus 79, NL-6700 AB Wageningen.

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P O R T U G A L

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Comissão da Condição feminina: For the tenth anniversary of this Parliamentary Committee, the President of the Republic, Mário Soares, applauded the progress made towards equality (especially the abolition of "anachronistic" laws) while stressing the need to do more. This Committee consists of 21 MPs. Social Democrat Maria Manuela Aguiar Moreira is Chairwoman, Socialist Elisa Maria Ramos Damião Vice-Chairwoman and Communist Maria Luisa Amorim Secretary.

Useful address: São Bento, P-1200 Lisboa.

The Executive Board of the Committee on Women's Status of the Council Presidency (Avenida da República 37-1, P-1000 Lisboa) has just sent the President of the Assembly of the Republic and other parliamentary bodies a resolution reflecting the consensus among women's associations on the amendments that they would like to make to the Constitution. In addition, these organizations have reached a consensus on a "platform of action for equality" after ten years of team work conducted by organizations of a wide variety of political leanings. This platform contains proposals on political participation, education, information, vocational guidance and training, employment, health and social security, changes in mentalities and the mechanisms for achieving equality.

Women and violence: This is the theme of a meeting held by the *Movimento Democrático das Mulheres* (Women's Democratic Movement) (Av. Duque de Loulé, 111, P-1200 Lisboa) to mark its twentieth year of operation. The meeting included a symbolic court ruling to give the participants a chance to analyze a case of violence committed by an unemployed man on his wife.

Daycare: The women workers at a Quimigal (chemicals) plant at Ansião have prevented the management's closing of the creche that provided daycare for 47 children.

Erratum: In issue No. 51 of *Women of Europe* we informed our readers that 4 women from the *Partido do Centro Democrático e Social* had been elected in the July 1987 general elections. Actually, they were candidates from the *Coligação Democrática Unitária* (CDU), an alliance of parties close to the Communist Party.



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S P A I N

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**Wage discrimination:** According to a recent study by the Ministry of the Economy, Spanish women earn an average of 22.6% less than Spanish men. In administrative jobs, women earn an average of only 58% of that earned by men, whereas in the less skilled categories of employment (e.g., farming), the difference is only 5%.

**Unemployment and training:** The *Instituto de la Mujer* (Women's Institute - Calle Almagro 36, E-28010 Madrid, Tel.: 410 51 12 (or 410 56 01)) sponsored a study on the situation of unemployed women on the Spanish labour market which revealed that the majority (58.7%) of women jobseekers had no previous work experience, while those that had tended to have gained experience in secretarial work (21.6%), clothing factories (11.1%), household employment (8.2%) and teaching (6.9%). 54.9% of these women had been unemployed for more than a year. The survey also showed that the most frequently demanded skills on the labour market were languages (22.7%), encoding and secretarial skills (22.4%) and computer expertise (21.1%).

**Mistreated women:** The first police station reserved exclusively for handling the problems of mistreated women has been operating in Barcelona since March. This service, which is part of a pilot operation that should be copied in other Spanish cities, is called *Servicio de Atencion a la Mujer* (Women's Aid Service). It received five telephone calls for advice and one visit on the very day it opened. Other police stations - in Madrid, Sevilla, Zaragoza and Gijon - already have specialised units for handling the problem of battered women.

The Minister of the Interior has published the statistics on complaints of acts of violence lodged by women in 1987. Thus, 15,209 women denounced their husbands (compared with 17,056 in 1986). The complaints against husbands accounted for 66.8% of the total cases of "mistreatment" reported in 1987.

**Armed forces:** The decree on including women in the armed forces obtained final approval in March of this year. Women will thus be able to enter the military academies in September. Later, other measures should give women the possibility of joining combat units.

**Feminism and politics:** According to a survey of women's attitudes towards politics and feminism that was conducted by the *Instituto de la Mujer*, the majority of women have a positive attitude towards feminism and see it as a way to shake free of traditional life-styles. 82% of the women surveyed felt that the situation of women had improved compared with conditions in the past (the remaining 18% were mostly older women) and most of the women felt that the main problem in the future would be to inculcate the principle of the equality of the sexes in young people. Interest in politics remained fairly limited. 45% of the respondents did not know which political parties were particularly interested in the problems concerning women and only 9% took part in political activities, including passive participation (e.g., in meetings and lectures). The majority of the women tended to take Central-Left positions, but 23.6% of them said that they voted for different parties, depending on the circumstances. Finally, 10.3% of the women said that they voted like their husbands or fathers.

Work and family: A survey by the *Instituto Demoscopia* reveals that most Spaniards see nothing wrong with single women's working but only 47% take the same attitude concerning married women with young children. At the same time, some progress has been made in the sharing of household duties.

Another interesting survey was carried out by the neurology department of San Juan de Dios Children's Hospital (*Hospital Infantil de San Juan de Dios*), in Barcelona, which found that the psychomotor development of children whose mothers worked outside the home was faster than that of homemakers' children (75% of the former moved around unassisted at the age of 9-10 months, compared with 55% of the latter).

Retirement: The Constitutional Court has overturned a ruling of the Central Industrial Tribunal refusing the right to early retirement that Iberia grants to its stewardesses to two stewards. The Constitutional Court upheld the men's right not to be discriminated against on the basis of sex. (Actually, the women's right to early retirement derives from another discrimination, namely, the fact that they are expected to be "young and pretty".)

Equality: A "platform of women's associations" will monitor the implementation of the Government's Plan for Equal Opportunity for Women. The "platform" will be open, non-hierarchical, pluralistic and egalitarian. So far it consists of 18 organizations.

Widows: The *Federacion de Asociaciones de Viudas Hispania* (Federation of Widows' Associations of Spain, Alfonso XI, 4-6, Madrid 14, Tel.: 231 35 77), a federation of 368 associations with a total membership of some 300,000 women, under the presidency of Mercedes Garcia de Lopez-Amor, has informed us of its activities aimed at reintegrating widows as active members of society and would like to contact other similar organizations in the Community.

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T H E   U N I T E D   K I N G D O M

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AIDS: While there are currently thought to be more than 50,000 carriers of the AIDS virus (HIV) in the United Kingdom, a recent survey has shown that fewer than one in five people between the ages of 16 and 25 have altered their sexual behaviour to reduce the risks of infection. The survey of 800 young people in the West Midlands revealed that only 22% of young women bought condoms; even a majority of those with three or more partners in the past year had not changed their sexual behaviour.

Trade unions: According to a Labour Research Department Survey of the British trade unions with the largest female membership, women are seriously underrepresented among full-time trade union officials in Britain. Women accounted for less than 10% of full-time officials in six of the ten unions surveyed.

Overall, the study shows, although women account for more than 45% of the UK workforce, only one-third of trade union members are women. The unions are trying to correct this situation by holding meetings at times that are more convenient for women, increasing the number of child-care facilities, etc. An encouraging development has taken place at the National Union of

Journalists, where Scarlet McGuire and Barbara Gunnell have been job-sharing as union president since April.

Useful address: Labour Research Department, 78 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8HF.

Indirect discrimination: Twelve women clerical and administrative workers with H & J Quick Ltd. (Ford cars) in Manchester have won a "landmark victory" in the fight for equal wages when the Appeal Court decided that they had the right to take their claim of wage discrimination to an industrial tribunal. The women contended that their work was worth the same pay as male colleagues working as parts salesmen, van drivers and car cleaners. When their employer claimed that because a job evaluation scheme had found that the women's jobs were not equal to the men's, the women could not claim equal pay for work of equal value, the appellants, supported by the Equal Opportunities Commission, argued that the methods used in the job evaluation scheme were insufficiently analytical, discriminated against them and failed to comply with the Equal Pay Act.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 5HN

Equal Opportunities Commission: The EOC has launched a campaign for early changes in the laws on sexual equality. At a press conference in London in March, EOC Chairwoman Lady Platt illustrated the proposals put forward to the Home Office while underscoring the need to simplify and strengthen the existing laws and their enforcement. According to Lady Platt, the United Kingdom is in need of a new, comprehensive act based on a stated right to equal treatment (it could be called the "Equal Treatment Act") that would contain specific clauses on wages, family status, pregnancy, retirement, indirect discrimination, etc.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission, Press Office, 1 Bedford Street, London WC2H 9HD.

Local government: Two research reports published in March by the Equal Opportunities Commission show that local authorities of all political complexions are beginning to take equal opportunity seriously. Almost two-thirds of all local government employees are women (although they are still concentrated in a relatively small number of low-grade positions offering few prospects for promotion). Of the 446 authorities that responded to a survey, more than half have said that they had an equal opportunity policy covering sexual equality. However, there is considerable variation in the extent to which they have put their policies into practice. Thus, while two-thirds of them described themselves as equal opportunity employers in their advertisements, less than half of those with an EO policy trained their employees on how to avoid discrimination. Local authorities with an equal opportunity policy were more likely to have adopted employment policies that benefit working women. For example, flexible work schedules were offered by 179 authorities while 50 offered job-sharing opportunities. However, child-care assistance or help for women returning to work was offered by fewer than one in ten authorities with equal opportunities policies.

Budget: In his annual budget this year, Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson claimed to have struck a blow for equality between the sexes by ending tax discrimination against married women. However, his decision to retain the married man's allowance, renamed the "married couple's allowance", gives a married couple higher tax allowances than two single people and so discriminates against single people. Furthermore, as Dipak Nandy, former EOC Deputy Chief Executive, points out, under the new rules, if a couple separates or divorces, the man will continue to get the whole married allowance for that year, as well as tax relief on maintenance payments, thereby perpetuating the discrimination.

Poverty: The "Women for a Change!" campaign against world poverty that was launched by "War on Want" in March is going strong, with conferences, workshops, a video showing the day-to-day lives of Third World women and a booklet summarising the seminar on the British Aid Programme's contributions to the education of women in developing countries.

Useful address: War on Want, 37-39 Greater Guildford St., London SE1 OES, Tel.: 620 11 11.

Violence: In its first year of operation, the Lothian Regional Council Women's Committee has setup a joint consultative group with Lothian and Borders Police to look at the police department's guidelines on domestic violence. As a result, the police department - traditionally wary of becoming involved in "domestic disputes" - is carrying out a pilot research scheme to collate statistics and information on domestic violence. It has also set up liaison officers to work with women's shelters and a women-and-child unit, staffed by women officers, for rape victims.

Useful address: Carol Forfar, Women's Development Officer, Lothian Regional Council, 12 St. Giles Street, Edinburgh EH1 1PT.

Universities: The University of Strathclyde, in Glasgow, is the first university in the UK to adopt an affirmative action policy in favour of women. Mr. Ronald Crawford, the university's academic registrar, told Women of Europe that Strathclyde is proposing to favour women in courses where they have been underrepresented, such as engineering and applied sciences, by virtue of Section 47 of the Sex Discrimination Act, which allows affirmative action in areas where women have been underrepresented. Mr. Crawford also pointed out that, with 17% of its undergraduate engineers women, the university is already 6% over the national average.

Useful address: Ronald Crawford, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ.

Stereotypes: "As the female stereotype crumbles, make sure you are portraying the image woman responds to" is the advice offered to advertisers by Mintel's market analysts in a report called "Women 2000". The report predicts that women in Great Britain will increasingly be divided into two groups, confident, rich, independent high-achievers and the poorest, dependent women. It also contains information on behaviour in the home. For example, a survey shows that the greater the difference between a man's income and his wife's, the less likely the husband is to help with the housework.

Useful address: Mintel, KAE House, 7 Arundel Street, London WC 24 3DR.

Fawcett Society: The Fawcett Society, which has been campaigning for equality between the sexes since 1866, is currently compiling a databank of women experts in all fields to offer to the broadcast media in hopes of persuading radio and television producers and editors to include more women in their programmes. More names to be added to the already more than 300 are welcome.

In addition, the Fawcett Society has launched a "shareholder's question campaign" to quiz companies (those in which it holds shares and any others with interested shareholders) about the career progress of their female employees. Shareholders themselves may put the questions at Annual General Meetings or give the Society proxies to represent them.

Useful address: The Fawcett Society, 46 Harleyford Road, London SE11 5AX.

Media: The London Strategic Policy Unit's Recreation and Arts Group has published "Women in Focus", a new report giving an overview of training and employment opportunities for women in the film, video and television industries in London. The report concentrates on training and employment in technical and production areas of the industry, where women are particularly underrepresented.

Useful address: Recreation and Arts Group, London Strategic Policy Unit, 20 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SS.

Enterprises: The Everywoman Directory (34a Islington Green, London N1 8DU) is just out. It is the first national directory of women's enterprises, including professionals ranging from plumbers to graphic artists to computer consultants.

Northern Ireland: Mary Clark-Glass, Chairwoman and Chief Executive of The Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland, has launched an appeal to have more women obtain civil service positions. Last year, women accounted for only 18% of all civil service employees, while fifty government employers had not even hired a single woman. The worst record is held by the Farm Ministry, with one woman in only one of the eight bodies for which it is responsible. Clark-Glass thus exhorts women to obtain information by filling out the "Talent Bank" form available from the NI-EOC.

The EOC of Northern Ireland has also published a guide on how to become an equal opportunities employer. The guide, called Making Changes for Women at Work: How to Implement an Equal Opportunities Programme, is full of very detailed practical advice.

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

## BOOKS, STUDIES AND MEETINGS

Comparative Women's Rights and Political Participation in Europe (Transnational Publishers, Inc., Dobbs Ferry, New York, 10522) is by Gisbert H. Flanz, professor emeritus of political theory and comparative politics at New York University, where he has been teaching for 36 years. The author examines the participation of women in politics in Europe (not just in the EC Member States) from the beginning of the century until 1983.

Gender and History, a magazine that will be published in March 1989, is intended to be a permanent forum for specialists interested in the roles of men and women throughout history. Its directors are Leonore Davidoff (Dept. of Sociology, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SA) for Europe and Nancy Hewitt (Dept. of History, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620) for the United States.

Sage Publications (28 Banner Street, London EC1Y 8QE) is pursuing a similar goal with its new quarterly, Gender and Society, and a booklet "Analyzing Gender", that takes stock of the empirical research conducted until today on the role of sex as "a variable for understanding society". In addition, Sage's Women's Studies collection includes books on women and law, psychology, politics, social policy and violence.

Violence: Journal of Interpersonal Violence, a quarterly magazine published by Sage Publications, is continuing (for a second year) to explore the problem of the treatment of the victims and perpetrators of acts of physical and sexual violence. In Pornography and Sexual Violence (Everywoman, Freepost, London N1 8BR), Barbara Rogers analyzes an aspect of the problem that has preoccupied feminists recently, especially in Germany and the United States.

Women and politics: The Centre for European Research of Loughborough University (Dr. Joni Lovenduski, Director, Loughborough, Leic LE 11 3TU) started compiling an inventory of works on women in politics one year ago. This Research Register contains the works of authors from all countries, whether Community Member States, the USA, Finland or Turkey.

Directory of Women's Media (Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 3306 Ross Place N.W., Washington DC 20008): The 1988 edition of the Directory contains the titles of 603 women's periodicals, 44 regular radio programmes, female film-making groups, musical groups, theatre companies and painters, 91 women's bookshops and 41 organizations for the advancement of women in the media. Martha Leslie Allen asks all interested women to please make themselves known.

Women's Movements in the World is a new addition to Keesing's Reference Publications (Longman Group, Westgate House, the High Harlow, Essex CM20 1NE). It describes more than 800 groups in great detail.

Reproductive and Genetic Engineering - The Journal of International Feminist Analysis (Pergamon Press, Headington Hill, Oxford OX3 0BW) is a new publication that will come out three times a year. Its aim is to encourage feminist and multidisciplinary analysis of new reproductive techniques and their impact on women. The collective editorial staff welcomes contributions on these subjects in order to make the magazine a real forum for discussion of a problem of great import for the future.

*Les femmes, la violence et l'armée*, by Emmanuel Reynaud (Fondation pour les Etudes de Défense Nationale, Documentation française, 29-31 Quai Voltaire, F-75007 Paris). The author, a researcher at the French Foundation for National Defence Studies, has already published several works on the "feminization" of the army in France and the United States. Here he conducts an investigation of France's three armed forces and national police (*gendarmerie*) (as he points out, there are currently 20,000 women in the French army, making up 6.5% of France's active servicemen) that leads him to ask a number of questions on the division of work between the sexes, differences in the use of equipment and weapons, the role of culture in sexual identification, etc.

*Le féminisme et ses enjeux* (Centre d'histoire sociale, de recherches, de formation et de documentation de la Fédération de l'Education Nationale, 6, rue Cardinal Mercier, F-75009 Paris) is a compilation of analyses of various facets of the feminist struggle. The 27 women who contributed to it include writer Colette Audry, former Minister Yvette Roudy, European civil servant Odile Quintin, Anne Zelensky, president of the *Ligue du Droit des Femmes*, and Aline Vergon Bondarnaud, department official for Women's Status. The Centre has also published *Femme en cause*, a study by Anne Raulin of sexual mutilation of African girls in France today.

*Simone Weil, une femme absolue*. Gabriella Fiori, an Italian essayist and specialist on Simone Weil, describes the course taken by a woman who corresponded to an entire epoch (Editions du Félin, Espace Kiron, 10 rue de la Vacquerie, F-75011 Paris).

*Une année dans la vie d'une femme* (Albin Michel, 22 rue Huyghens, F-75014 Paris): Mathilde Nobécourt, child psychoanalyst, and Maïté Jacquer, midwife, have written this book for pregnant women. The subjects covered include the father's participation in the delivery, sexuality after the delivery and conversing with the newborn child.

**Women and the Church:** Giulia Paola Di Nicola (Istituto Storico Sociologico, Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Teramo) has held a conference at Arezzo on the prospects for women in the church after the 1987 Synod and has contributed to *La donna nella chiesa e nel mondo* (Woman in the Church and in the World) (Deloniane, Napoli).

*Changeons les livres*, by Evelyne Wilwerth (29, rue Blanche, B-1050 Brussels), describes French women's literature from the 12th century to 1955.

*Alma Mahler, ou l'art d'être aimée*, by Françoise Giroud, and the biography of Sarah Bernhardt (*Le rire incassable*) by Françoise Sagan have been published by Robert Lafont, Paris, in a new collection "*Elle était une fois*" ("Once upon a time in the feminine") under the supervision of Marie-Josèphe Guers.

*Koedukation und Geschlechtertrennung in der Schule* (*Fördengemeinschaft für Schulen in freier Trägerschaft*, Paulstrasse 22, D-5000 Köln 41), by Dr. Ingbert von Martial, comes to the conclusion that girls' schools can do more to foster equality between the sexes than coeducation can. "Coeducation or not?" the author therefore wonders.

*Le Donne del fascismo - Maissae rurali e dive del Cinema nel Ventennio* (Elleme, via Trionfale, 8406, I-00135 Roma), by Nunzia Messina, analyzes the behaviour of women, from peasants to movie stars, during the 20-year fascist reign. In the introduction to this very interesting essay, Antonio Spinoso stresses the fascist authorities' tendency to humiliate women and make them marginal simply "because they belonged to the other sex".

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