

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

GREEN LIGHT FOR NEW OPERATING PROGRAMMES

Member States will share a total of 525.3 million ECU for activities under the European Community's human resources programmes: EUROFORM (creation of new skills and jobs), NOW (Opportunities for Women) and HORIZON (jobs for disadvantaged people such as the disabled). In February, European Commissioner Mrs. V. Papandreu approved funding for a series of Member States' operating programmes out of the European Social Fund and the Regional Development Fund. Spain, Italy and Greece receive the lion's share with total allocations of 96.7, 86.4 and 67.4 million respectively, followed by France (61.8 million), the United Kingdom (55.3) and Portugal (53.1). At the end of the line come Ireland (24.2), the Netherlands (14.9), Belgium (12.5), Germany (8.7), Denmark (3.6) and Luxembourg (0.7). ■

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

For almost a decade, the European Community has been insisting on the importance of recognizing the economic and social role of women in development policies. Included specifically in the LOME Convention, taking account of women has become an essential feature of cooperation arrangements with developing countries in Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean basin.

At the end of 1991, the Commission proposed a draft Regulation and Action Plan entitled "Women and Development" for cooperation with these countries. According to the Commission, it is necessary to "increase women's active participation,



WOMEN OF EUROPE NEWSLETTER

NEWS
ON THE EQUALITY POLICY
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



Dear Reader,

This is the last editorial and the last edition of the "Newsletter" which I shall be signing, as I shall shortly be retiring from my position with the European Commission. As you all know, the "Women of Europe

Newsletter", "Women of Europe", and its "Supplements" are just some of the many instruments and activities introduced by the Women's Information Service to provide women with information, to make them conscious of Europe and their rights, and to change attitudes towards a greater sense of equality in our societies.

My goal when taking on responsibility for the Women's Information Service 15 years ago was to contribute to hastening the day when any structure specially "for women" would be unnecessary and when equality would be a fait accompli, not only on the statute book but also in terms of social behaviour.

We are not there yet, and there is still plenty of work left for my colleague and friend Paula Laissy, who is taking over my post, as well as for the whole small Women's Information Service team.

But the overall results to date are positive: thanks to the European Community, legislation is well advanced and irreversible. Both the Commission and the European Parliament are looking to complete and strengthen it and to ensure its application.

Slower than expected but surely, stereotypes appear to be changing, as women move into increasingly important social and economic roles (not yet political unfortunately!); this is what opinion surveys tell us. The Niki prize — this issue gives the results of the 3rd competition — demonstrates, as we hoped when creating it, the growing attention and sensitivity of television channels to this subject.

The year which has just started is passionate, rich in events which promise progress and hope: the creation of the European Union; the approach of 1 January 1993 and the opening of the Single Market, that is, an enormous area of free movement of goods and social influence; the reconstruction of democracy and freedom in Central and Eastern European countries.

My wish for each and every one of you is that you will be able to play your part in creating a more harmonious European society based on new values of justice, solidarity and generosity.

Fausta Deshormes La Valle

on an equal footing, not only in the production process, but also in social activities and decision-making".

The principal means of achieving this include better access to resources, agricultural technology and credit. But long term investment is also needed to develop literacy, education, hygiene and health as well as birth control.

Even though inspired by the LOME Convention for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, the action plan for Latin America and Asian countries must also be rooted in the specific conditions of these parts of the world, according to the Commission. The problems of women textile workers in Southern Asia are not the same as those of women in rural areas in Africa. An instruction manual written for the use of experts and for training Commission personnel will take account of these differing cultural, social and economic contexts.

With this in view, a new budget line "Women and Development" with an annual allocation of 500,000 ECU has been created for Latin America and Asian countries, equivalent to the line which already exists for ACP countries.

In this respect, the European Parliament's Women's Rights Committee insisted, in a resolution presented at its meeting of 23-24 January, that the new unit created within the European Commission be well staffed and permit the introduction of effective action programmes. For its part, the European Parliament's Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Media and Sport adopted an opinion stressing the key role of education, in particular of young women, in development. The opinion also recommends a series of global economic and health measures and improving the status of women and children. Finally it invites Member States to take action to combat traffic in women and children.

Information: Esmerelda Hernandez Aragones, Directorate-General, External North/South Relations, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Advisory Committee met in Brussels on 20 and 21 January, with Joanna Foster in the chair. It presented a status report on the development of the Third Action Programme for Equal Opportunities in Member States. Most countries have already organized seminars or conferences launching this programme. The Committee was informed of action taken by the European Commission following the publication of the action programme for implementing the Community Charter of Workers' Fundamental Social Rights. It welcomed the new coordinators of the six Community networks selected by the Equal Opportunities Unit following the invitation to tender launched in 1991 (see **Women of Europe Newsletter, no. 23**). The meeting also welcomed the president of the European Parliament's Women's Rights Committee, Christine Crawley. Ms Crawley presented the main activities undertaken by this Committee since 1984, and announced her Committee's intention of "reviving" the directive on parental leave as well as the debate on the protection of pregnant women. In this respect, the Advisory Committee adopted an opinion, which, while positively welcoming a directive, objected to pregnancy being placed on the same footing as illness and demanded an extension of the planned protection. It also adopted two other opinions, one on night work and another on the texts adopted at Maastricht as these relate to Community equal opportunities policy.

The Committee emphasized on the importance of its active participation in the implementation and evaluation of the Community's NOW (New Opportunities for Women) initiative. It decided to set up a working party to look at measures aimed at reconciling women's and men's family and professional responsibilities (including child care) and another on the follow-up and consequences of Maastricht for equal opportunities policy. ■

Contact: *Els van Winckel, Equal Opportunities Unit.*

THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

Women and influence

How can women have influence in and through the European institutions? This was the main theme of a seminar held in Copenhagen on 14 and 15 February. Organized by the Danish Women's Society, with support from the European Commission's Equal Opportunities Unit, it brought together women with experience working with European institutions for two days. National and European MPs, members of the Advisory Committee and the European Commission and representatives of the Nordic countries were also present. Participants expressed a desire for better communication between Parliament and Member States and greater visibility of equal opportunities policies. A European Forum on women and politics is planned and a major campaign should be introduced in 1993 during the Danish presidency of the European Community.

Women in the Year 2000

Two important conferences on equality have been held in other Nordic countries. The first, in Oslo (Norway) from 13 to 15 January, presented the new project (1992-1994) on **Equal Opportunities in Teacher Training** decided by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Finland will participate in this project, which draws much of its inspiration from the European Community's TENET experiment. The second, in Stockholm on 18 and 19 January, was entitled **Women in Europe in the Year 2000**. Organized by the Swedish National Federation of Social Democratic Women, the conference brought together parliamentarians and members of Social Democratic parties from most European countries as well as the European Parliament. At the end of the conference, a manifesto on Women in Europe in the Year 2000 was adopted. This manifesto covers five main topics: women, peace and disarmament; women and the environment; women, democracy and equal opportunities; women and decision-making; women and equality in social life and at work. Contact: *Helle Jacobsen, Equal Opportunities Unit.*

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

1992 NIKI Prize

The 1992 NIKI Prize was awarded on 8 March, international women's day, to the German channel ZDF (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen) for "Starke Mädchen" (Strong Girls) in the children's category; to ITV-Granada (UK) for "Prime Suspect" in the fiction category and to Britain's Channel 4 for the documentary "Rites of Passage".

Created by the European Commission in 1988 to encourage the production of television programmes reflecting women's social situation, the NIKI prize was awarded in Amsterdam.

The success of the NIKI prize among television organizations, demonstrated by the increasing number of programmes presented, is encouraging. 46 programmes from 12 Member States were submitted this year compared with 16 in 1988 and 33 in 1990. The jury is made up of 18 European cinema and television personalities.

The NIKI prize, which is open to both public and private national television channels in European Community Member States, was awarded, in 1990, for a documentary by Greek television (ERT) on the meeting between an elderly woman writer and a young journalist, a programme by the German ARD on the difficulties faced by women in reaching management positions and finally a very funny programme by ITV (United Kingdom) on sexism at school. 1992 Prizes were awarded by Mrs Hedy d'Ancona, Dutch Minister of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs, during a ceremony chaired by Mr Max de Jong, President of the Dutch NOS television channel, in the presence of Mr Dondelinger, member of the European Commission. We will give further details of this event in the next issue.

New video

Over 100 personalities were present at the European Commission's London Representation office for the launch of

a video film "The Glass Ceiling Breakers" on 26 February. This film documents efforts made in European Community enterprises and training bodies to encourage women to force "the invisible barriers" which still frequently bar their access to senior management positions. The film presents examples of "good practice" in several countries and is intended to send a clear message on equal opportunities to political and business decision-makers. This 28-minute video film, sponsored by Unilever, will soon be available in the 9 European Community languages and provides an insight into effective ways of improving the situation of women at work. It will be distributed by the European Commission in all Member States.

Information: Women's Information Service or: Wilcox Bulmer Productions Ltd, 12 Cambridge Court, 210 Shepherd's Bush Road, UK-London W6 7NL, Tel.: 44-71-602.9811.

Donation of Books

The European Commission's Women's Information Service has donated works on feminist studies to the library of the European University Institute in Florence. This material adds to the institute's women's studies collection and should assist research currently under way. ■

Information: Istituto Universitario Europeo — C.P.N 2330, I-50100 Firenze Ferrovia

Women's Information Service, Directorate-General Audiovisual, Information, Communication, Culture, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The new president of the Economic and Social Committee (ESC) of the European Communities is a leading German trade unionist, Mr Michael Geuenich (DGB). Elected by 115 Votes to 6

with 8 abstentions, Mr Geuenich replaces Mr François Staedelin, who died recently. Mr Staedelin was president of the Committee since October 1990. Before the Plenary session of 29 and 30 January which elected him, Mr Geuenich declared that he would continue the policies of his predecessor, in particular his social policies as they relate to the Single Market, a question which, in his view, did not receive a satisfactory response at the Maastricht summit.

The ESC welcomed Mr Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, at its Plenary Session of 26 February. Mr Delors presented the Commission's work programme for 1992 and the Commission's Communication on the means of financing Community policy between 1993 and 1997 (the so-called "Second Delors Package"). In reply to questions from the ESC, Jacques Delors reaffirmed, in particular, the importance of the ESC and highlighted the increasingly active role devolving into both sides of industry in the introduction of social and structural development policies.

Useful address: ESC, 2 Rue Ravenstein, B-1000 Brussels, tel.: (32.2) 519.92.07/519.92.02/519.93.20.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Change of President

During its January Plenary Session, the European Parliament elected a new president, Mr Egon Klepsch, a German Social-Democrat, succeeding Mr Enrique Baron Crespo, a Spanish socialist. Mr Baron Crespo will now chair the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security (formerly the Political Affairs Committee). Mrs. Christine Crawley (Soc., United Kingdom) was confirmed as president of the Women's Rights Committee, and will be assisted by three vice-presidents, Mrs Carmen Llorca Vilaplana (EPP, Spain), Mrs Teresa Domingo Segarra (GUE, Spain) and Mrs Lissy Gröner (Soc., Germany). Mrs Nel Van Dijk (Greens, Netherlands) will chair the Committee

on Transport and Tourism and Mrs Rosaria Bindi (EPP, Italy) the Petitions Committee. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy will have its own "Currency" sub-committee, chaired by Mrs Christa Randzio-Plath (Socialist, Germany).

MEPs also elected 14 Vice-Presidents. These include four women: for the Socialist group, Mss. Nicole Pery (France) and Maria Magnani Noya (Italy); for the EPP, Ms Nicole Fontaine (France), and Ms Marie-Anne Isler-Beguïn (France) for the Greens.

Anti-tobacco

During the January plenary session, Parliament postponed its vote on banning tobacco advertising, after a stormy debate. The report presented by Mr Vernier (RDE, France), which was finally adopted in February, comes out in favour of the European Commission's proposal to ban all tobacco advertising. The report also wants the directive to contain a clear provision covering sponsoring activities and another provision forbidding the use of automatic cigarette distributors for advertising.

The report was adopted by 150 votes for, 123 against and 15 abstentions. According to the Eurobarometer opinion poll of October 1991, 8 Europeans out of 10 favour a total ban on tobacco advertising. The European Commission had itself launched and supported strong campaigns for cancer prevention and the fight against tobacco consumption (see **Women of Europe Newsletter no. 21**).

Children's Rights

The problem of kidnapping children of separated parents was partly resolved by the 1988 convention, signed following the "Algerian mothers" affair in which the European Parliament played a role via its mediator, Marie-Claude Vayssade (Soc. France). Mrs Vayssade gave an initial assessment of the effect of the convention during Parliament's January session. Although undeniable progress has been made, M.C. Vayssade believes that this question "which is not a minor problem" must be dealt with in the form of agreements "committing the whole Community".

Harmonization of Social Security

During its February plenary session, the European Parliament adopted a resolution approving the Council of Ministers' Recommendation on the Convergence of Social Protection Objectives and Policies within the European Community. Nonetheless, it adopted a series of amendments aimed in particular at ensuring that harmonization does not lead to reductions in social protection due to competitiveness or to further inequalities. Parliament believes that a minimum income guaranteeing the integration into society of the oldest and most disadvantaged women within the European Community needs to be introduced and that measures should be taken to individualize rights and to put women's old age pensions on an equal footing as men's. MEPs also pleaded for improved high quality child care facilities. Parliament wishes to be consulted should the Council modify the text of this Recommendation. It wants a report on the application of this Recommendation to be drawn up every two years. ■

SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A public hearing was held in Brussels on 25 and 26 February on **"Poverty, social exclusion and social protection policies at European level"**. Opening the session, Mr Van Velzen (Soc. Netherlands) indicated that this event met two major concerns: firstly of obtaining more information to enable the European Parliament to examine the European Commission's proposed Recommendation on the Common Criteria for Introducing a Minimum European Income, and, secondly, of looking at the convergence of social protection systems, an essential element of post-Maastricht Europe.

Mrs Odile Quintin from the European Commission outlined the different existing social protection systems in Member States and insisted on guaranteed resources as the Commission's proposed key instrument in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Experts from various countries and

backgrounds provided valuable contributions and cast additional light on the multiple facets of poverty. ■

WOMEN'S RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Women's Rights Committee, meeting in Brussels on 23 and 24 January, adopted two opinions, one for the Development Committee (see above), the other for the Social Affairs Committee (report presented by Marijke Van Hemeldonck) on the European labour market after 1992. The opinion contains 13 conclusions relating to women. The Women's Rights Committee fears that the new economic climate will promote inequalities and factors which will affect women in a negative way. A series of subjects covered in these conclusions will feature on the agenda of the **Equal Salary Forum**, to be held on 23 and 24 March next. This Forum is a follow-up to the one held in 1990 on "Women and Employment in the 90s". The Forum will look in particular at the classification of professions and qualifications, how negotiations and collective agreements can be used to obtain equality of treatment, and legal procedures available to defend plaintiffs in equality cases.

Post-Maastricht

During this meeting, the Committee initiated a discussion on the consequences of the Maastricht Treaty for social policies. It deplored the growing "democratic deficit" which is weakening the potential role of Parliament.

This discussion was continued at the 18-19 February meeting in Brussels. The Women's Rights Committee welcomed Mrs Vasso Papandreou, the Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner, and proceeded to an exchange of views on the conclusions of the Maastricht summit and on the European Commission's work programme for 1992. The Committee, found this programme lacking in ambition in the area of equal opportunity and also expressed considerable concern at the implications of the changes in Article 119 of the Treaty, which prohibits pay discrimination between men and women at work.

Christine Crawley reiterated the intention of the Women's Rights Committee to adopt a series of amendments to the proposed directive on **maternity leave**. This directive, for which Joanna Ronn (Soc., Denmark) has drafted a report, will be debated and voted in April. ■

Useful address: European Parliament, 96-133 rue Belliard, B-1040 Brussels or Plateau du Kirchberg, L-1919 Luxembourg.

PUBLICATIONS

Quality in services for young children — a discussion paper by the European Commission's Childcare network. Published by the Equal Opportunities Unit, the document is available in all official Community languages.

Information: Equal Opportunities Unit, Directorate General Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.

"One step backwards and many forwards". IRIS Danish seminar dossier on vocational training for women in new jobs and in male-dominated professions. The seminar was held in Bornholm (Denmark) on 20 and 21 March 1991. Available in Danish, French and English.

IRIS: Network Directory 1992. Available in all official languages of the European Community, the directory gives information on the 468 IRIS member programmes providing vocational training for women. Illustrated with maps and graphs, the directory also includes indexes.

Information: IRIS Unit, CREW, 21 rue de la Tourelle, B-1040 Brussels.

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