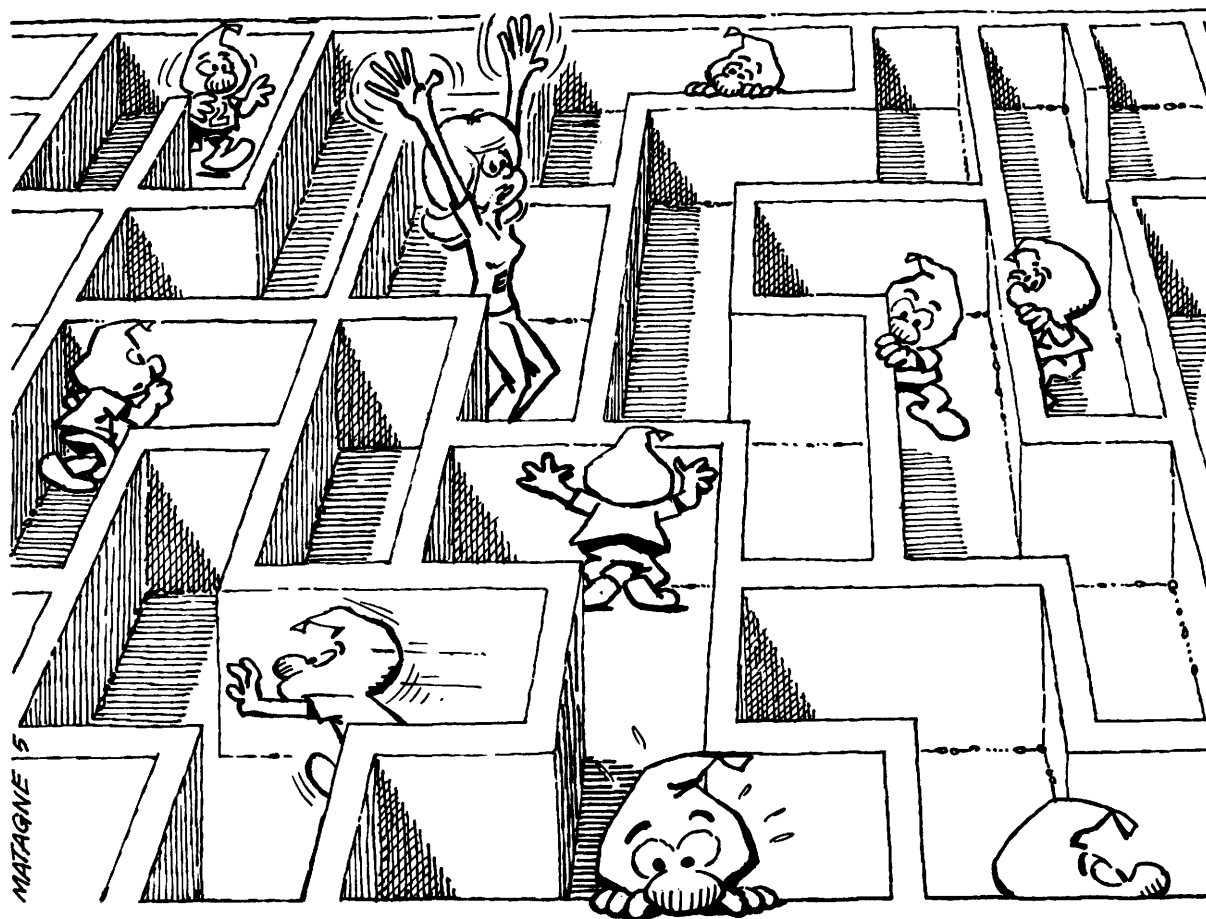


Brussels, 10 February 1976

No 6/76



EURO-WHITE AND THE NINE DWARFS

Episode Five: This week they discover that, after all their work, they have built themselves a maze, not a house! Could they have misread the plans? They must get together to find out what went wrong. But will they end up talking at cross-purposes?

X/67/76-E

This bulletin is published by the

Commission of the European Communities
Directorate General of Information
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 - Brussels - Tel. 735 00 40

Further information is available from the Commission's press and information offices in the countries listed on the back page.

The information published in this bulletin covers, very freely, different aspects of the European Communities' activity. It is, therefore, not limited to recording official Commission decisions or opinions.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * The year of the great debate (p. 3)
- * European food (p. 3)
- * Youth unemployment in the Community (p. 3)
- * Euronet: the European teleprocessing system (p. 3)
- * Help for the handicapped (p. 3)
- * Butter and health (p. 4)
- * Amaranth under suspicion (p. 4)
- * The public service (p. 4)
- * Unemployment in 1965, 1970 and 1975 (p. 4)
- * Consumers' Consultative Committee (p. 5)
- * Energy dependence and the Community (p. 5)
- * Aid from the Regional Fund (p. 5)
- * Raw materials research in the Community (p. 5)
- * European congress on waste oils (p. 6)

** THE YEAR OF THE GREAT DEBATE

Hundreds of delegates, all of them prominent in the political, economic, social and cultural life of Europe, attended the Congress of Europe recently organized in Brussels by the European Movement.

In ANNEX 1 Euroforum breaks with tradition to outline some of the highlights of the Congress.

** EUROPEAN FOOD

The German law on the purity of beer go back as far as 1516. Is this long tradition to be swept away by a handful of impatient Eurocrats?

In ANNEX 2 Euroforum explains why Community food regulations are necessary and how proposals are drafted.

** YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

One and a half million young people in the Community were out of work at the end of 1975. Youth unemployment has been climbing steadily since 1970.

In ANNEX 3 Euroforum reproduces three succinct but informative tables which highlight the most serious aspects of this problem.

** EURONET: THE EUROPEAN TELEPROCESSING SYSTEM

Beginning in June 1977 EURONET will be able to draw on more than 20 data bases to answer questions on physics, chemistry, aerospace, energy, nuclear science, metallurgy, medicine, agriculture, law, economics ... in three seconds and at reasonable cost.

The European Commission has persuaded the postal administrations of the nine Community countries to set up and manage the first European data network: EURONET. The network has been specially designed to meet the information requirements of some 700 research centres, advanced technology industries and national and Community agencies equipped with terminals. It is to form the nucleus of a public data network for Europe.

EURONET will have four switching centres (in Rome, Frankfurt, Paris and London), four concentrators (in Brussels, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Dublin) and access facilities in Luxembourg where the Community's information centre is located; this will be linked up to the network and will make its own data bases available to users.

** HELP FOR THE HANDICAPPED

In 1975 45.11 million u.a. (1 u.a. = approx. US \$1.1), or 13.50% of total aid from the European Social Fund, went to the handicapped. This money is used to help the disabled resume work following a period of vocational rehabilitation, training or retraining. The

European Social Fund makes no distinction between mental and physical handicaps. In fact a "handicap" is defined as "any limitation, congenital or acquired, of a person's physical or mental ability which affects his daily activity and his work by reducing his social contribution, his employment prospects, and his ability to use public services".

** BUTTER AND HEALTH

The European Commission has told a Member of the European Parliament in answer to a written question that there is no scientific proof that butter is harmful to health. Similarly there is no evidence that margarine is better than butter from a dietary point of view, notably as regards the effects of polyunsaturated fatty acids. It is generally agreed however that excessive consumption of oils and fats is unwise.

** AMARANTH UNDER SUSPICION

Amaranth is to be arraigned before the Scientific Committee on Foodstuffs on a complaint from the European Commission. A scare in the United States has drawn attention to the possible dangers of amaranth, a colouring matter used in the food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries.

Community legislation on permissible colouring matters in foodstuffs authorizes the use of amaranth until 31 December 1978. Nine colouring matters were recently banned by the Scientific Committee on Foodstuffs. In 1967 the European Commission produced a proposal on colouring matters in pharmaceuticals and followed this in 1972 with a proposal on colouring matters in cosmetics. Both proposals are still pending before the Council of Ministers.

** THE PUBLIC SERVICE

In Germany, in 1974, 13 out of every 100 persons in employment were in the public service. The corresponding figures for other Community countries were 12 in France, 13 in the Netherlands, more than 13 in Belgium, 9 in Luxembourg, close to 20 in the United Kingdom and more than 23 in Denmark. Officials of the European Communities, better known as "Eurocrats", accounted for 0.0120% of the total working population.

** UNEMPLOYMENT IN 1965, 1970 AND 1975

Unemployment rates (i.e. the unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labour force) for each of the nine Community countries in 1965, 1970 and 1975 are given below:

	Unemployment rate (%)		
	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>
Germany	0.6	0.6	4.0
France	0.7	1.3	4.7
Italy	6.0	4.6	5.9
Netherlands	0.8	1.2	4.5
Belgium	1.9	2.2	6.0
Luxembourg	0.0	0.0	0.4
United Kingdom	1.4	2.5	4.6
Ireland	4.4	5.9	9.5
Denmark	0.7	1.0	4.2
THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE	1.9	2.1	4.8

** THE CONSUMERS' CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Between 1 January and 15 October 1975 twelve proposals for directives were referred to the Consumers' Consultative Committee (CCC) by the European Commission. Over the same period the CCC issued eight opinions.

** ENERGY DEPENDENCE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The European Community stepped up production of primary energy sources by 5.1% in 1975. Coal production was 6.4% higher than in 1974, petroleum production 7.0%, natural gas production 3.2% and electricity production 11.5%. The main significance of these initial figures is that internal coverage of the Community's energy requirements has improved. This, combined with the fact that internal consumption seems to have fallen considerably with the economic crisis, would put the Community's degree of energy dependence at slightly less than 60% as compared with 61.5% in 1974.

** THE REGIONAL FUND HELPS ITALY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

The European Regional Development Fund is to help finance 63 regional development projects in Italy and the United Kingdom to the tune of 21.7 million units of account (1 u.a. = approx. US \$1.1). Total expenditure on the 63 projects will come to 169.62 million u.a. The European Commission has emphasized in this connection that although the governments concerned need not necessarily pass the funds allocated on to the individual investor the transfusion should make it possible for them to step up total investment in development regions.

** RAW MATERIALS RESEARCH IN THE COMMUNITY

To avert a "raw materials crisis" comparable to the "energy crisis", the European Community is pressing ahead with the formulation of a Community research and development

programme in this area. The Committee for Scientific and Technical Research (CREST) has just given the green light for a series of meetings, scheduled to begin in February, between national policy-makers and Commission departments.

Primary raw materials will be the first consideration. It has been found that very little is known about either the present situation or the future outlook for the individual raw materials. It is becoming urgently necessary to produce profiles which will take technical and economic stock of a number of essential raw materials such as phosphates, aluminium, copper, lead and zinc.

Secondary raw materials - from the recycling or recovery of wastes - are growing in importance with the prospect of primary raw materials becoming more expensive or indeed running out. This is why joint action to recover, recycle and regenerate consumer waste, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, organic matter, tyres, rubber and so on should get under way at once.

** EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON WASTE OILS

The first-ever European congress on waste oils is to be held in Brussels on 18 and 19 March under the auspices of the European Commission. The topics to be discussed include waste oil regeneration techniques, regeneration research, disposal of waste from waste oil regeneration, national legislation on waste oil disposal in Europe, and Community policy on wastes in general and waste oils in particular. Further information may be obtained from: U.E.I.L., 33, rue Marbeuf, 75008 Paris.

THE YEAR OF THE GREAT DEBATE

Hundreds of delegates, all of them prominent in the political, economic, social and cultural life of Europe, attended the Congress of Europe organized in Brussels on 5, 6 and 7 February by the European Movement.

It is easy for officialdom, claiming realism, to deride the European Movement. More than twenty-five years ago the European Movement adopted by acclamation a resolution couched in terms so emphatic that it makes us smile today: "Europe is threatened, Europe is divided and the greatest danger comes from her divisions. The hour has come to take action commensurate with the danger. Together with the overseas peoples associated with our destiny we can tomorrow build the greatest political formation and the greatest economic unit our age has ever seen. Never will the history of the world have known so powerful a gathering of free men."

The European Party

Since then the European Movement has become what might be termed the "European Party" and like a political party it has developed a left, a right and a centre which is not necessarily right in the centre. It has campaigned for an electoral programme which others have put into practice. Because, although opinion polls on European union give some idea of its popularity and pay tribute to its vision, the European Movement does not seek office. And this in itself is quite a recommendation.

It seems that discussion at the Congress was very lively. Mr Jean Rey, former President of the European Commission, voiced his irritation in terms which are to be included in the final declaration: "It is entirely unacceptable that the European continent should be the weakest, the slowest, the least organized and the least capable of defending the interests of its citizens - the peoples of Europe - before the rest of the world."

Mr Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, took the opportunity of publicly refuting the idea that he favours a "two-tier" Europe: "My proposals", he said, "go in the opposite direction." The consultations he had prior to drafting his report have left a bitter taste: "The enthusiasm of a crusade for Europe has gone. Here and there we find signs of defeatism and often even of pessimism. There is a real danger that in the end a kind of cynicism will prevail. These difficult times, I am convinced, must inevitably prompt us into taking a leap forward."

A great debate

But the "leap forward" is a Chinese image, just as the "new frontier" is an American one. Europe is more modest: it is to settle for the "Year of the great debate" announced by Mr Ortolí, President of the European Commission, at the inaugural session of the Congress.

But a debate about the future, conducted in public rather than behind ministerial doors, is bound to acquire a certain grandeur of its own.

There is plenty of material to provoke discussion. The reports on European Union produced by the Community institutions complement Mr Tindemans' but they are not Holy Writ: no one would compare them with the Ten Commandments, the Book of the Prophets or the Song of Songs, but they could well provoke a new religious war. "It would be a sad day for Europe", said Mr Tindemans, "if, in preparing the reforms which must represent major qualitative improvements, at this new stage, and if, particularly, in setting up the first European elections, we found ourselves at cross purposes which negated any advance. That is why I look to the political parties of Europe, rooted as they are in democracy, in the hope that they will not exacerbate potential dissent over the future of Europe, but rather seek the structures which they can accept as the foundation of a pluralist European society. That will certainly be a gauge of their credibility, when, in our changing world, they voice their feelings about Europe."

Mr Willy Brandt expressed the view that the European Parliament was the obvious bridge between the citizens and governments of Europe. He announced his intention of standing for election to the European Parliament as a German, and European, social democrat. Mr Brandt's speech contained a number of striking phrases. Europe, he said, must be "taken by main force". The European Parliament must become "the voice of Europe" and look upon itself as "Europe's permanent constituent assembly". He claimed that there had been "a silent European miracle": the Community has after all survived the myriad crises of recent years.

Two stages

By the end of the debate, the Congress of Europe had come to the conclusion that European Union could and should be achieved in two successive stages: the first would end with the election of the European Parliament in 1978; the second stage would begin in autumn 1978 and involve revision of the present Treaties.

The Congress urged the Community's Council of Ministers to act before 1976 on proposals for reinforcing the European institutions - return to majority voting in the Council, procedures for appointing Members of the Commission, more and wider powers for Parliament.

On the Commission the Congress thus echoed the views of Mr Ortoli himself: "The procedure for appointing the Commission must strengthen its political authority and independence of member governments. Thus the Commission will be able to play its full role as policy initiator and executive, both within the Community itself and vis-à-vis non-member countries."

EUROPEAN FOOD

Food legislation and consumer protection are still in the melting pot. "All you've got to do ...", say the consumer associations. "Fine, but it's not that simple", reply the experts, European and/or national. And it isn't easy to reconcile the principle of generally binding rules and regulations and application of this principle in an area where national idiosyncracies are most marked, where originality and variety are powerful selling points, where tradition may stretch back into the mists of time. Germany's law on the purity of beer for instance dates back to 1516.

Manufacturers resent interference in their business and consumers don't like being told what to eat. This resentment led to an enormous outcry when news of a possible Community directive on bread made the headlines. People jumped to the conclusion that Brussels was planning to concoct a "Euro-loaf". The Community wants to kill individualism, they wailed: no more French rolls; no more Bavarian rye bread; nothing but dull, square, white loaves.

Eurocrats still feel hurt and misunderstood. Standardization was the last thing they had in mind. Their aim - to use Community jargon - was to remove "obstacles" to the free movement of bread, to ensure that national legislation did not prevent this or that kind of imported bread being sold in local shops. Individual products might well have fallen foul of Community rules but this would only have been in the consumer's interest: to get an inferior product off the market or ban the use of a dangerous substance. In any event such instances would have been exceptional.

"Optional" directives

And there are legal ways and means of making them even more exceptional. The intransigent attitudes of some governments led to the devising of "optional" directives. One country may insist on putting a particular ingredient into its sweets; others may not want it at all. An "optional" directive would ban the use of this ingredient in sweets sold to other Community countries but leave Member States free to authorize its use in products for home consumption.

If an additive can cause cancer, it is obviously just as dangerous for a Sicilian as it is for a Dane. For this reason the "optional" approach only works if there is no danger to health. This must be qualified however: an additive need not be entirely bad and toxicologists can sometimes decide on an admissible dose.

An example would be sulphur dioxide, a preserving agent added to wines and fruit juices. Experts have been able to determine that in countries such as France and Italy where large quantities of wine are consumed it would be wise to cut down on sulphur dioxide in fruit juices. The British on the other hand drink very little wine but are very fond of certain fruit juices which are sold in large economy-size bottles which are not consumed at

one go and therefore need a preserving agent. The ultimate aim of the Community directive is to ban sulphur dioxide: in four years' time none will be allowed in grape juice. But any country that wants to can allow a certain amount of it in orange, grapefruit, lemon and lime juice.

How British chocolate kept its name

The Community has another pragmatic way of keeping its food legislation flexible. A specific example will serve as an illustration. When Britain joined Europe, the chocolate trade suddenly realized that half the chocolate consumed in Britain could no longer be called "chocolate" for the simple reason that it did not meet the requirements of a Community directive being drafted at the time.

What could be done? There were two possible ways of dealing with the problem: the directive could stand and the British could invent another name for their chocolate; or the description could be changed to accommodate the British product which contains less than the specified quantity of sugar and cacao. The first solution would have been a bit ridiculous because it would have forced British chocolate-makers to boost the cacao content of their product in defiance of British consumers' preferences. The second solution would have been unfair to continental consumers because "substandard" chocolate would no doubt have supplanted the genuine article before long ...

In short, some way had to be found of reconciling British tastes with quality standards satisfying the most demanding consumers. In the end a compromise was reached: as from 1 January chocolate with a low cacao content is to be known as "cooking chocolate"; it will be sold freely and the German or Italian consumer will know exactly what he is buying.

Authoritative opinions

The European Commission has a host of experts to help it in its work. The Standing Committee for Foodstuffs is made up of (official) representatives of the nine Community countries and is chaired by a representative of the Commission. Its job is to advise the Commission on the adoption of implementing measures (inspection procedures and so on).

The Scientific Committee for Food is a consultative body composed of highly-qualified, independent scientists. It advises the Commission on all problems associated with the protection of human life and health.

The Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs makes it possible for the Commission to hear trade and consumer views on the problems raised by the harmonization of food legislation. Its members represent industry, consumers, agriculture, business and workers.

Progress so far

The following decisions are worth mentioning though readers should bear in mind that any text can be reviewed at any time in the consumer interest.

Food additives

Colouring matters: The Community has a positive list of colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs. Common rules (Council Directive of 23 October 1962) lay down criteria of purity for these substances and list the products which can be used to dilute or dissolve them. The Community list of colouring matters is in fact being reviewed at the moment.

Preservatives: There is also a positive list of authorized preservatives. Criteria of purity for these are laid down in a Council Directive of 5 November 1963.

Antioxidants: A third positive list covers antioxidants and the substances in which they can be diluted or dissolved. The Council Directive of 13 July 1970 also includes general criteria of purity, notably for maximum heavy metal content.

Emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners and gelling agents: A fourth and, for the moment, final positive list covers these (Council Directive of 18 June 1974).

These four Directives have been updated and amended more than 20 times over the last 10 years to bring them into line with the latest scientific and technical developments.

Foodstuffs

Cocoa and chocolate: The Community has rules on cocoa beans, granulated cocoa, cocoa paste and the various types of cocoa-butter ... adopted on 24 July 1973.

Sugar: Community standards were adopted for edible sugars (white, refined, liquid ...) on 11 December 1973.

Honey: Community rules and definitions were adopted for honey on 22 July 1974.

Fruit juices: On 17 November 1975 Community standards were adopted for fruit juices (including reconstituted juices), concentrated fruit juices, fruit nectars (pulp or non-pulp) and dehydrated fruit juices.

Preserved milk: Community rules adopted on 18 December 1975 cover certain dehydrated preserved milks for human consumption, for instance various condensed milks (full or otherwise, sweetened, non-sweetened), milk powders ...

Both the Council of Ministers and the European Commission are now working on the following:

- general rules on the labelling of foodstuffs;
- general rules on materials and objects which come into contact with foodstuffs;
- general rules on dietary foods;
- texts on pesticide residues in or on fruits, vegetables, animal feedingstuffs, cereals and so on;
- texts on coffee, chicory and coffee substitute extracts and mixtures based on these extracts;
- a proposal on fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and chestnut purées;
- a proposal on mayonnaise, mayonnaise-based sauces and other emulsified sauces.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

One and a half million young people were out of work at the end of 1975. Youth unemployment in the Community has been climbing steadily since 1970, the only exception to the general rule being the United Kingdom where unemployment among the young fell slightly for a short period when the school-leaving age was raised in 1973.

	Youth unemployment					
	Summer 1973	Winter 1973	Summer 1974	Winter 1974	Summer 1975	Winter 1975
Belgium	14 596	26 187	18 564	46 677	50 987	89 224
Germany	-	51 001	105 459	158 051	253 711	287 373
Denmark	4 184	-	7 435	-	-	-
France	94 800	187 100	123 400	331 500	276 400	462 000
Italy	287 963	277 888	308 336	311 820	369 598	-
Netherlands	27 130	37 065	33 761	59 935	62 370	87 234
United Kingdom	154 256	-	174 122	-	436 226	-

Note: No comparable figures are available for Ireland and Luxembourg. Generally speaking the figures apply to under-25s. In Italy however they apply to under-21s plus persons of any age seeking first employment.

If unemployment figures are analysed by age group, taking mid-1973 as a base, it will be seen that the youngest age groups are by far the most vulnerable.

	Age group	Situation (1973 = 100)	
		mid-1974	mid-1975
Belgium	15 to 20	121	445
	20 to 25	129	315
	15 to 65	109	197
Germany	15 to 20	333	552
	20 to 25	294	571
	15 to 65	254	459
France	15 to 18	144	305
	18 to 22	131	305
	15 to 65	115	224
Italy	15 to 21	107	128
	15 to 65	99	113
Netherlands	16 to 19	137	295
	19 to 23	125	227
	16 to 65	116	183
United Kingdom	16 to 18	123	388
	18 to 20	112	297
	16 to 65	102	186

There is another disturbing fact: the table below reveals that a growing number of young people are remaining unemployed for more than six months.

	Date	Number of persons unemployed for		
		3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	more than 12 months
Belgium	30.6.74	3 403	4 239	3 098
	30.6.75	11 596	13 621	6 447
Germany	30.5.74	26 786	12 879	1 218
	30.5.75	69 103	52 935	7 219
France	30.6.74	23 400	19 800	4 300
	30.6.75	57 700	56 000	9 300
Netherlands	30.8.74	7 137	4 453	1 877
	30.8.75	15 390	13 568	4 689
United Kingdom	8.7.74	17 943	11 387	6 070
	14.7.75	56 361	33 868	12 015

PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BELGIUM

1049 BRUSSELS
Rue de la Loi 244
Tel. 735 00 40

DENMARK

1045 COPENHAGEN K
4 Gammeltorv
Postbox 144
Tel. 14 41 40

FRANCE

75782 PARIS CEDEX 16
61, rue des Belles-Feuilles
Tel. 553 53 26

GERMANY

53 BONN
Zitelmannstrasse 22
Tel. 23 80 41

1 BERLIN 31
Kurfürstendamm 102
Tel. 886 40 28

IRELAND

DUBLIN 2
29 Merrion Square
Tel. 76 03 53

ITALY

00187 ROME
Via Poli, 29
Tel. 68 97 22 à 26

LUXEMBOURG

LUXEMBOURG
Centre européen du Kirchberg
Tel. 479 41

NETHERLANDS

THE HAGUE
29, Lange Voorhout
Tel. 070-46 93 26

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON W8 4QQ
20, Kensington Palace Gardens
Tel. 727 8090

CHILE

SANTIAGO 9
Avenida Ricardo Lyon 1177
Casilla 10093
Tel. 25 05 55

GREECE

ATHENS 134
Vassilisis Sofias 2
Tel. 743 982/83/84

JAPAN

102 TOKYO
Kowa 25 Building
8-7 Sanbancho
Chiyoda-Ku
Tel. 239-0441

SWITZERLAND

1202 GENEVA
37-39, rue de Vermont
Tel. 34 97 50

TURKEY

ANKARA
Kavaklidere
13, Bogaz Sokak
Tel. 27 61 45/46

UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037
2100 M Street, N.W.
Suite 707
Tel. (202) 872-8350

NEW YORK 10017
277 Park Avenue
Tel. 371-3804

URUGUAY

MONTEVIDEO
Calle Bartolome Mitre 1337
Casilla 641
Tel. 98 42 42