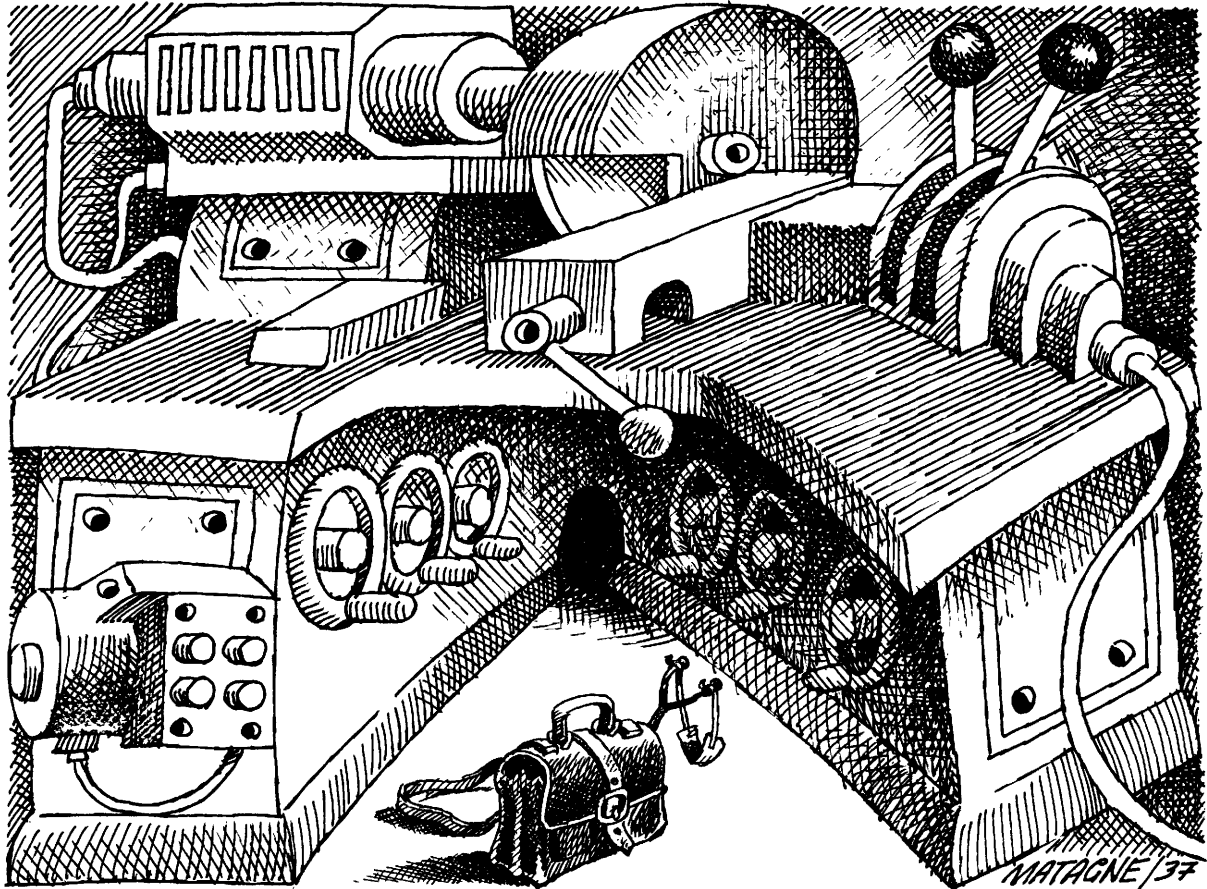


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From classroom to conveyor belt (see page 3)

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**\*\* FROM CLASSROOM TO CONVEYOR BELT**

"Off to earn a living at last!" is the triumphant cry heard each year as thousands of school-leavers heave a sigh of relief and set out in search of a job. But for many of them their introduction to the working world is like being born again - and the experience can be every bit as traumatic, difficult and hazardous as the first time around.

In ANNEX 1 Euroforum examines the problem and describes what is being done in the European Community to solve it.

**\*\* RADIO AND THE CONSUMER**

Radio stations throughout the Community are making laudable efforts to keep consumers informed.

In ANNEX 2 Euroforum describes the programmes broadcast.

**\*\* RESEARCH AT YOUR SERVICE**

We may soon be burning hydrogen instead of coal. Before long the sun may be heating our homes. All over the world scientists are looking for economical ways of exploiting new sources of energy.

In ANNEX 3 Euroforum outlines work being done in this area by the European Community's Joint Research Centre.

**\*\* WHEN THE DEFENDANT IS A SUPERMARKET**

If a French supermarket commits an offence against its customers (putting misleading labels on food for instance), the offence is regarded as an "economic" one and the supermarket can make a "deal" with the Ministry of Finance. But if a French customer commits an offence against a supermarket (shoplifting for instance) he is regarded as a criminal and may well find himself in the dock. In reply to Mr Dondelinger, a member of the European Parliament who finds this difference in treatment intolerable, the European Commission pointed out that the position as regards the criminal liability of companies varies from one Community country to another. In some the company itself is liable; in others there is a hybrid arrangement whereby criminal sanctions are taken against the officers of the company and administrative sanctions (such as closure) against the company itself.

One of the topics to be discussed by a working party on criminal law is harmonization of penalties for infringements of Community economic law. It will also consider the possibility of the principle of the criminal liability of legal persons being extended to all Community countries.

**\*\* MOVES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION**

It is thought that 600 000 migrant workers are living illegally in the European Community. In other words, for every ten migrants who have entered the Community in the normal way, one has slipped in the back door. In the present economic situation the first to suffer from illegal immigration are "official" migrants: the pool of illegal immigrants encourages unscrupulous employers to get around the law and reduce wages to an absolute minimum.

To remedy the situation, the European Commission has presented a proposal for a directive to the Community's Council of Ministers aimed at harmonizing national legislation on illegal immigration and illegal employment. The European Commission proposes to combat

illegal immigration by seeing to it that foreign workers are well-informed about living and working conditions and aware of the procedures to be followed by anyone wishing to enter, live and work in the Community. The European Commission hopes that Community countries will ensure that "manpower traffickers" - those who organize illegal immigration or illegal employment - are severely punished.

**\*\* HELP FOR YOUNG UNEMPLOYED**

More than 1 075 000 under-25s are unemployed in the Community at present: they account for more than 35% of total unemployment figures for the nine countries.

The problem is obviously worrying the European Commission. The ultimate solution probably lies in a series of measures spanning economic, education and labour market policy - indeed work on these has already begun - but the European Commission believes that the basic problem of preparing young people for the working world should be tackled as a matter of urgency. It intends to address a recommendation to the nine governments before the end of the year urging them to take specific measures to improve what is known as "pre-vocational" training.

**\*\* FRIULI AND THE COMMUNITY**

Thanks to Community solidarity, the great aqueduct which is essential to the life of Friuli, is to be rebuilt. Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the European Commission, recently visited Friuli to sign an ECSC loan contract to help with the rebuilding damaged steel plants. The regional authorities took advantage of the opportunity to say how pleased they were that collaboration with the European Commission was so good. The inevitable formalities are being dealt with ahead of schedule and all funds made available by the European Community should be committed by the end of the year.

**\*\* IS IT POISONOUS OR ISN'T IT?**

Quintozene, a plant protection product, is banned in Germany and the Netherlands but tolerated elsewhere in the Community. If it is bad for the Germans and the Dutch, it can hardly do other Europeans much good. Could this be a case of national regulations distorting competition, particularly in border regions, at the expense of firms applying stricter rules?

In reply to a question tabled by Mr Schwörer, a member of the European Parliament, the European Commission admitted that differences in national regulations could distort competition and constitute obstacles to trade. It added, however, that the performance of many plant protection products is influenced by local factors, such as pests, climate, soil type, crop variety and so on, and that different provisions could be justified in certain cases.

**\*\* EUROPEAN PASSPORT**

Little by little the European passport is taking shape. It is already known that it will measure 105 mm x 148 mm, that it will have at least thirty-two pages, that the binding will be limp and that the cover will be lilac-coloured. Two outstanding problems - the information given on the cover and the languages used inside - have still to be discussed by representatives of the nine national administrations.

**\*\* MORE FISH IN THE SEA**

On 1 January 1977 the Community countries concerned will simultaneously extend their fishing limits to 200 miles from the North Sea and Northern Atlantic coasts. A decision has been taken by the Community's Council of Ministers.

Negotiations will now get under way between the Community (represented by the European Commission) and a number of non-member countries to work out arrangements for allowing "foreign" fishermen access to Community waters and Community fishermen access to theirs.

**\*\* POLLUTION AND THE LAW**

An exhaustive, comparative study of pollution control legislation in the nine Community countries has been produced by a team of distinguished experts at the request of the European Commission. The thirteen-volume study, entitled "The Law and Practice Relating to Pollution Control in the Member States of the European Communities", is published by Graham & Trotman Ltd, 20 Foubert's Place, London.

## FROM CLASSROOM TO CONVEYOR BELT

"Off to earn a living at last!" is the triumphant cry heard each year as thousands of school-leavers heave a sigh of relief and set out in search of a job. But for many of them their introduction to the working world is like being born again - and the experience can be every bit as traumatic, difficult and hazardous as the first time around. The problems of preparing young people for working life and easing the transition from school to employment are to be discussed by the Community's Education Ministers when they meet in late November. One of the documents before them will be a hundred-page report analysing the situation in the nine Community countries: in all of them economic recession has aggravated the intrinsic difficulties.

### The outlook is gloomy

There are three black clouds on the young job-seeker's horizon: unemployment, insecurity of tenure and lack of choice.

Since 1973 unemployment among young people has doubled, trebled and in some countries even quadrupled, and they now represent an increasingly high proportion of those on the dole. Girls are even worse off than boys: indeed a girl under 20 looking for her first job is in the worst situation of all.

To earn their living many young people are forced to take a job which doesn't appeal to them and for which they are not properly trained. The result is a total absence of job satisfaction which in turn means that they leave, or are asked to leave, before very long.

In the present-day situation the choice of careers is limited by increasingly fierce competition between applicants and growing demands by employers. Vocational training is of decisive importance in this context. Full-time vocational education does not necessarily provide young people with the qualities in demand on an ever-changing labour market. In countries where vocational training is organized primarily in firms, the transition to working life seems to be less problematical: the contract signed with the employer gives the trainee some guarantee both as regards getting a job in the first place and then holding on to it.

### Education

The nine Community countries are more or less unanimous in their conviction that radical reform of the education system is essential to gear it to the requirements of working life. But reform will take time and, because teaching methods vary, will follow a different pattern from country to country.

In the meantime the number of disillusioned young people grows and grows as they find out that "qualifications aren't everything" and see little similarity between harsh reality and what they learned at school. Indeed even employers have been known to make comments along the same lines.

Integration of vocational training into the education system as a whole must be carefully balanced. Two systems are in operation in the Community. In Belgium, France, Italy and the Netherlands vocational training is essentially part of the school system. In Germany, the United Kingdom and Ireland training is mainly "on-the-job". The two systems exist side-by-side in Denmark and Luxembourg.

### The pros and cons

The big advantage of the apprenticeship system is that it is in touch with reality and can be adapted as the need arises. But it has its shortcomings. The production process is regarded as more important than theoretical training, which does not show an immediate profit. Basic skills are neglected and teaching equipment can be inadequate. Two problems

block all attempts to reform the apprenticeship system: financing and cost sharing. A system of "collective funding" by government and industry is currently under consideration in the United Kingdom.

The bad points of the apprenticeship system are often the good points of full-time vocational training and vice-versa: full-time training is often way behind the times and classroom attempts to put theory into practice are too like "exercises" to have any real value. As a result the student may have to go through a fairly long period of specialized training when he starts work.

But pilot schemes combining the best of both systems are now in operation virtually everywhere in the Community in an attempt to establish a better balance between theory and practice.

#### A second chance

Given the genuine defects in both systems the first priority must be to devise compensatory, remedial and further education schemes for young people who go through school without managing to achieve the basic minimum in the way of qualifications to see them through life. Many young people fall into this category: young people with a low scholastic standard, young people with little or no vocational training, young people who have a psychological difficulty in adapting to work. It also includes those who have taken a wrong turning somewhere along the line and those who have a diploma but are unlucky in that there are no openings for them.

Two positive attempts have already been made to improve the situation. One is the introduction of paid leave or grants to enable young people to attend courses; the other is the introduction of "second chance" education for those who dropped out of school. However schemes of this kind are still fairly limited in scope and it is difficult to say exactly how many of them there are.

#### Better guidance

If reform is to have any chance of success, the whole approach to career guidance and individual counselling must be reviewed. Guidance services should be consulted whenever a choice has to be made and counsellors should have more personal contact with their charges. This means that counsellors themselves will need specialized training.

If education is to adapt to changing circumstances there must be a regular two-way flow of information between the academic and working worlds and an eye must be kept on young school-leavers during the early years of employment.

Guidance services in most Community countries are clearly inadequate. Advice comes too late in the student's career, contact is limited and superficial and too many young people tend to rely solely on teachers, whose own vision of the working world is in the nature of things incomplete.

#### A new approach

But all Community countries are in fact endeavouring to do something to ease young people into working life.

A number of countries have changed junior secondary curricula in an attempt to bridge the gap between school and work. In some cases this has meant the provision of instruction in manual and technical skills, in others the introduction of social studies. One example is the Danish "Introduction to working life" course which is the fruit of collaboration between teachers, trade unions and employers. Other countries arrange for students to visit factories and education for leisure has become an acknowledged aim of all secondary school curricula in the Community.

An even more determined effort is being made at senior secondary level to ease the transition from school to work. The cult of over-specialization is frowned on today; the trend now is towards broader-based training. More time is being devoted to optional subjects and more emphasis is being placed on the interests of the individual pupil.

In Ireland, France and the Netherlands the practice of alternating general studies with training courses is gaining ground. In countries where apprenticeship training predominates general studies are being expanded to diversify centres of interest: periods in school alternate with periods at work. The system operated in Denmark for instance is based on a two- or three-year contract with an employer, the main limitation here being the difficulty of finding enough willing firms.

In 1975 France introduced "employment-training" contracts whereby firms guarantee a minimum of six-months' employment and undertake to provide at least 120 hours' vocational training. Part of the cost is borne by the government. The scheme was initially viewed as a short-term measure to combat unemployment but the chances are that it will be retained on a permanent basis. France is also making an all-out effort to assist a particularly vulnerable group of young people - namely 16- to 20-year-olds who dropped out of school and have no qualifications. Under the scheme these young people are offered a chance of returning to school, a job contract or an opportunity of undergoing vocational training. The scheme is operated by a team of specially-trained group leaders in conjunction with teachers, employers and workers in firms organizing on-the-job training.

A number of countries are also making an effort to improve the training given to vocational guidance specialists and to increase the number of people involved in this work. With the falling birth rate more and more teachers are facing the threat of unemployment; it should not be too difficult for them to switch careers and become counsellors.

#### A joint effort

The approach to educational reform may well be different in the nine Community countries but the basic aim is the same: to avoid placing young people at risk at a particularly difficult stage in their development. The problem is common to all Community countries: a joint effort could solve it.



## RADIO AND THE CONSUMER

Euroforum thought it would be a good idea to list consumer information programmes broadcast by radio stations throughout the Community. We begin with brief descriptions of programmes in Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom supplied by the producers themselves. No details of programmes in Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands have reached us as yet.

### Denmark

Five days a week at 7.55 Danish Radio broadcasts a five-minute consumer programme called "We are the users". Between 9.00 and 10.00 there is a phone-in programme in which two journalists advise listeners on consumer matters and note suggested topics for further programmes (the quality of bread, trade practices, garden chemicals, barbecues, telephone services, tainted vegetables, sun stroke, the quality of shoes, smoking in food shops, toxicity of cosmetics, fires on camping sites, the need for more cycle tracks, diets, fluoridation of drinking water ...).

This five-minute programme is supplemented by a 24-minute programme produced by the same two journalists every fortnight.

### France

Since January 1974 France-Inter - now Radio France - has been broadcasting a daily 4-minute bulletin at 6.50 on topics of interest to consumers: the quality of water and food, rents and associated charges, misleading advertising, price display and price formation, misuse of colouring agents, information on drugs ... A weekly 60-minute phone-in programme answers questions put by women listeners. On Saturdays a two-hour programme "Questions pour un samedi" (Questions for Saturday) answers listeners' questions and gives special reports. It is often devoted to consumer topics.

### Germany

The Süddeutsches Rundfunk (SDR), Stuttgart, broadcasts a consumer advice magazine called "Für Sie Notiert" (Noted for You) which goes on the air Monday to Friday from 10.05 to 11.00 on Südfunkl, its information and light entertainment channel. The topics dealt with range from financial and legal questions to consumer protection, food, housing, education ... Some broadcasts concentrate on a specific theme: one programme for instance was based on the annual income tax return. Most items are recorded and then slotted into programmes as the need arises but programmes on important issues are live. Items of consumer interest are also featured in other programmes: "Familie Frau Modernes Leben" (The Family, the Housewife and Modern Living), "Wirtschaft" (Economic Affairs) and "Landfunk" (Agriculture).

On Bavarian Radio (Bayern I) eight 2- to 3-minute consumer spots are included in "Das Musik Journal" (News and Music) between 5.30 and 8.00 Monday to Friday and five on Saturday between 7.05 and 7.45; 80% of the time is devoted to consumer problems. "Markt und Meinung" (Market and Opinion), broadcast from 13.20 to 13.25 Monday to Friday, is 50% consumer orientated. "Auf Mark und Pfennig" (Pennies and Pounds) gives savings advice every Saturday from 10.30 to 10.35. "Das Notizbuch" (Notebook) is a magazine programme broadcast daily from 10.00 to 11.00 which answers phone-in questions from listeners once a month. Bavarian Radio also broadcasts a regular survey of prices in various towns in cooperation with consumer association headquarters in Munich. "Information für die älteren Generationen" (Information for Senior Citizens), which goes out from 16.00 to 16.30 Monday to Friday, gives practical information for pensioners.

Twice a month Berlin Radio (RIAS) broadcasts a 45-minute programme answering listeners' letters and listeners' phone-in queries in alternate programmes.

In its morning magazine programme, which goes on the air at 7.00, the Norddeutsches Rundfunk broadcasts short 3- to 5-minute information bulletins specially prepared for consumers by its economic staff. From Monday to Friday the programme is called "Kurier am Morgen" (Morning Mail) and on Saturday "Mit NDR 2 ins Wochenende" (Weekend with NDR 2). Every Friday from 9.35 to 9.40 it broadcasts "Einkaufstips zum Wochenende" (Shopping Tips for the Weekend) with consumer advice on good buys. An economic affairs programme "Kontakte" (NDR 1 from 17.05 to 17.30) has occasional items of interest to consumers (congresses, legislation ...) and deals with problems such as food quality, the pros and cons of recommended prices and so on.

#### Ireland

The main Radio Telefís Eireann (RTE) consumer programme is "Gay Byrne's Hour", presented by one of Ireland's leading TV personalities, which goes on the air at 10.00 Monday to Friday. Consumer topics are usually covered by commenting on complaints sent in by listeners. Subjects dealt with in recent months included the housewife's shopping basket (a weekly comparison of prices in six supermarket chains), when to call in a vet as a precaution against rabies, defective shoes, the cost of holidays for single people, muddy drinking water in Dublin suburbs, the tax on car seats for babies and "phantom" door-to-door salesmen.

#### Luxembourg

The Luxembourg Consumers' Association (ULC) prepares talks entitled "Pour la ménagère" (For the housewife) for Radio Luxembourg. Subjects have included the usefulness of saucepans, humidifiers, imported tropical fruits, tea (from plantation to tea-pot), furniture creams and polishes, electric grills, the different types of leather, and sewing machines.

Other programmes take the form of a dialogue between an expert and the ULC. Subjects covered here include the winding-up of IOS, Eurocheques, door-to-door sales, travel agents and holidays, consumers and financial problems, the pros and cons of print buying and the work of Luxembourg's wine commission.

#### United Kingdom

Radio 4 broadcasts several programmes of consumer interest.

Checkpoint goes on the air every Friday at 10.05. It looks into listeners' complaints about bad service, defective goods, misleading claims and non-recognition of rights in the public and private sectors. The aim is to bring fraudulent practices to light (offenders are named) and help resolve consumers' problems.

You and Yours is broadcast at 12.02 Monday to Friday and at 12.15 on Sunday. It provides consumer information in the broad sense, dealing with questions of money, work, education, the family, the law and health. It notifies listeners of the official price index at regular intervals: this index indicates national and regional trends in prices charged for food and household goods in the shops.

Woman's Hour (13.45 Monday to Friday) is a magazine programme covering consumer items of topical interest. A monthly programme chronicles new developments in the consumer field and is of particular interest to local consumers' associations.

Tuesday Call, which goes out every Tuesday at 9.05, answers listeners' phone-in questions and gives general consumer advice. It occasionally helps on consumer legislation, as in the recent "Fair Deal" programmes with John Methven, the Director of the Office of Fair Trading.

"Checkpoint", "You and Yours" and "Woman's Hour" also answer listeners' letters.

Radio Manchester

"Counter Measures" is a consumer phone-in programme which goes on the air three times a week between 2.00 and 3.00. The presenter answers listeners' question with the help of the chief consumer advisor attached to Manchester County Council.

Radio Manchester's consumer programmes are the most advanced in the United Kingdom: it is the only station to cooperate with the local authorities on a dual-purpose programme. Immediate advice is given to callers but there is also a follow-up. If this reveals sharp practices the matter is referred to the local trading standards team. No less than 600 calls were dealt with in six months and there is no sign of calls tailing off. The programme also provides information on consumer legislation and consumers' rights, sometimes with the help of recorded interviews. In this way three million listeners are kept informed of the protection afforded them by the law.

## RESEARCH AT YOUR SERVICE

Hydrogen may soon become so economical that we will be able to burn it instead of coal, oil or gas. Before long the sun may be heating our homes.

All over the world scientists are looking for economical ways of exploiting new sources of energy. The European Community's Joint Research Centre is obviously playing its part too: the two pivots of work being done under its 1973-76 programme are energy and the environment, in that order. This programme marked an important stage in the Centre's development: set up by Euratom it had dealt exclusively with atomic research until 1973 when it was allowed to extend its activities to other fields. It is now active in some 20 areas of research ranging from hydrogen production to remote sensing of earth resources, from solar energy to protection of the environment and raw materials recycling.

Energy is again given top priority in the new programme to be adopted for 1977-80. The total cost will be in the region of 374 million units of account and some 1 800 research workers and technicians will be involved.

### Four Community research establishments

Broadly speaking Community research is conducted in four establishments; Ispra in Italy; Geel in Belgium; Karlsruhe in Germany; and Petten in Holland.

The headquarters of the Central Bureau for Nuclear Measurements is at Geel. The Bureau provides the Community with nuclear data and measurements and prepares nuclear samples for research, industry and medicine.

In Karlsruhe research concentrates on the study of elements such as plutonium, which can be used as nuclear fuels to increase available energy supplies.

In Petten research workers are particularly interested in the High Flux Reactor (HFR) and the development of high temperature materials.

These three establishments are clearly very specialized; research at the fourth, Ispra, is much more varied.

### Nuclear energy and safety

The future of nuclear energy depends on completely satisfactory replies being given to three questions: How safe are reactors? What is to be done with radioactive waste? How well are nuclear fuels protected against theft?

Reactor safety research being carried out at Ispra relates mainly to light water reactors, the type of reactor most commonly found in nuclear power stations. But the Centre is also working on fast breeder reactors, the reactors of the future. They may hold the key to the energy problem because they can use most of uranium's potential energy instead of the fraction used by existing reactors.

### Radioactive waste

As the number of nuclear power stations increases, so does production of radioactive wastes, some of which will remain radioactive for thousands of years. In Karlsruhe Community research workers are exploring means of separating long-lived wastes from the rest and transmuting them to short-lived isotopes by neutron bombardment.

In Ispra vitrification of wastes is being investigated: they are reduced in volume and then enclosed in glass, asphalt or concrete. There is then no risk of their dissolving in water and they can be disposed of in deep geological formations.

### Theft of nuclear fuels

The development of nuclear energy increases the danger of saboteurs or terrorists getting hold of nuclear fuels to manufacture explosives. The authorities and the general public are rightly concerned about the implications.

The Centre is therefore perfecting procedures for fissile materials control. To guard against theft special seals have been developed which resemble human fingerprints in that they cannot be copied. Inspectors use special portable seal identification systems to spot containers of fissile materials quickly and safely.

### Alternative energy sources

The search for alternative energy sources - non-polluting, economical and reliable - led the Centre to concentrate on the applications of solar energy in tomorrow's housing and on the use of thermochemical processes to produce hydrogen from water. Hydrogen is easy to transport and store; it can be used for many purposes, it is non-polluting when burned - in short it is an ideal source of energy. Heat from nuclear reactors (or from the sun) could be used to produce it, thus extending the application of nuclear energy to areas other than electricity generation and reducing the Community's dependence on oil and natural gas. The Centre is playing a leading role in work on hydrogen being carried out in collaboration with the International Energy Agency and the OECD.

We should also mention the Centre's theoretical studies on fusion reactors the applications of which will only become apparent in the longer term. These reactors may be able to exploit the energy produced by the fusion of hydrogen nuclei and may perhaps offer a firm solution to the energy problem.

### Other research

Other projects carried out by the Research Centre under its 1973-76 programme include materials research, raw materials recycling and remote sensing of earth resources: satellites in orbit around the earth take special photographs which show resources (mineral deposits for example) in different colours. The Centre also organizes highly-specialized training courses known colloquially as "Ispra Courses".