

euroforum

europa day by day

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The Community's scientists are working on a formula for a better Europe (see page 3)

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++ RESEARCH : THE HUNT IS ON

Life was first breathed into the Community's science and technology policy by the Community's Council of Ministers in January 1974. It is still in its early days but growing rapidly.

Euroforum outlines in Annex 1 the aims and ambitions of Europe's research effort.

++ SOCCER : ARE FOOTBALLERS EUROPEANS?

Keegan, Beckenbauer, Cruyff are these soccer players and their colleagues to be the only ones not to benefit from the Community's rules of free movement and free establishment?

In Annex 2 Euroforum explains the problems European football has to overcome before it can become truly European.

++ AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

According to the European Parliament, the absence of a Community policy on the siting of power stations makes the development of nuclear energy that more difficult, and thereby makes the future supply of Europe's energy more problematic. The Parliament wishes to see discussions at the Community level which can bring about, in the shortest space of time, trans-frontier cooperation on the choice of sites for nuclear power stations.

It came as no surprise that the Parliament gave particular attention to the problems of Europe's youth unemployment. The Nine's leaders, as well as the European Commission are all battling with the problem and no one can yet say if the end is in sight. To reduce unemployment among young people as much as possible, the Commission has recommended Member States to promote the vocational training of young people who are unemployed or threatened with losing their jobs. But the measures which need to be taken, numerous as they are, will not have much effect until the economic crisis has been overcome.

Introducing a uniform passport for the whole of the Community is a nice idea, in the opinion of Mr. Berkhouwer, but it has too many technical difficulties. Very much in favour of the idea of a European passport, Mr. Simonet, Belgium's minister for foreign affairs and acting president of the Council of Ministers, expressed his conviction that it would be possible to find solutions to the problems which would be acceptable to all. The only technical problems which remain to be resolved are the languages to be used on the passport, the presentation of the cover, the format, and the legal basis of the act enabling the creation of a uniform passport.

There it is again : the 'chunnel' - the tunnel under the channel. The Parliament revived the subject and stressed the importance it attached to it from the point of view of economic relations. The project for a rail link across the Alps offers the same sort of advantages and also received the support of the European Parliament who asked the respective governments to review their positions.

++ HELP TO THE YOUNG UNEMPLOYED

Since 1970, unemployment has grown continuously in the Community and by the spring of this year approximately 2,000,000 people under 25 years old were out of work. In spite of the expected improvement in the economic situation, the outlook for young people remains uncertain. Between 1977 and 1980 the labour supply is expected to increase by about 2 million while there will be a drop in the number of people retiring. In the medium term, youth unemployment could become more acute.

To try and counter this, the European Commission has recommended Member States to promote appropriate vocational training for young people who are unemployed or threatened with losing their jobs.

Each year a large number of young people arrive on the job market without adequate preparation for the world of work. They leave school at the minimum age (EEC average 14-16) and often with poor command of the basic skills. Since they at present receive little guidance or training, they have difficulty in finding a job. It is this category of people which needs the help of well integrated guidance, training and placement services.

The recommendation suggests special help for those young people who, without any prior vocational training, have found unskilled work. Such work is often threatened by redundancy at short notice. By enabling young people who risk losing their job the possibility of following training courses during work hours, the Commission aims to improve their chances of both keeping their jobs or of finding new ones.

If necessary, priority should be given to those who leave school with no formal educational qualifications. The training these people should receive would cover : vocational guidance, reinforcement of the basic oral and written skills, practical training in a broad area of job skills, practical experience of work and an understanding of the basic principles of economic and social organisation.

++ CUSTOMS BORDER CROSSINGS

On the 1st of July 1977 the last tariff barriers disappeared for almost all trade between the Nine. The European Commission has chosen the moment to draw Member States' attention to the full extent of their obligation to liberalise their border-checks.

The Commission recommends them to avoid systematic stops at borders between Member States and to inform persons crossing of their duty-free allowance entitlements and obligations on entering the country concerned. Checks on private cars and travellers at borders between countries of the Nine should only be made in exceptional circumstances.

++ FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

The Community's social affairs ministers have just come to an agreement of principle as to the direction of the European Social Fund in 1977. The social problems caused by the economic crisis are getting worse every day and this has made a review of the management of the social fund an urgent necessity, since the basic purpose of this Fund is to alleviate Europe's social problems. The resources available to the Fund are, however, strictly limited and the number of projects requiring financial support is increasing. Decisions had to be made as to how the funds should be distributed and which areas should take priority.

The European Social Fund was set up with the basic aim of providing financial support to remedy problems and distortions arising from the setting up of the Common Market and arising from Community activity (known as article 4) and also to aid structural change in the economy.

The ministers agreed to continue giving aid to young people, migrant workers and workers in the textile industry. In addition, they invited the European Commission to examine how it would be possible to extend the benefits available under article 4, to women.

With regard to article 5, the ministers decided to concentrate the Fund's resources on the regional priorities with the principal aim of reducing the imbalance between the Community's rich and poor regions.

++ INCOME TAX : HOW DO YOU COMPARE?

According to information available to the European Commission the minimum rate of income tax in the nine countries of the European Community is as follows:

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Germany | 22% |
| UK | 35% |
| France | 5% |
| Italy | 10% |
| Netherlands | 20% |
| Belgium | 0.4% |
| Denmark | 40% |
| Ireland | 20% |
| Luxembourg | 18% |

A straight comparison of these figures does not, however, give a complete picture of the situation as they refer to different income brackets. Also the minimum taxable income depends on the number of dependents etc.

++ CONSUMER INFORMATION

Mr. Pierre-Fernard Couste of the European Parliament wishes to know if the European Commission envisages coordinating the work of those responsible for national TV and radio consumer information programmes.

For the moment the Commission does not envisage action of this precise nature. The Commission is operating in other ways to achieve a similar objective. As outlined in the Community's preliminary consumer protection and information programme, the Commission is actively trying to encourage the production of TV and radio programmes, films, newspaper articles, etc. on subjects of consumer interest.

The Commission's information services regularly meet the Community's TV and radio producers responsible for consumer affairs, those responsible for consumer affairs in the written press, and the editors of specialist magazines.

These international meetings enable views to be exchanged, experiences shared and they encourage a mutually beneficial comparison to be made of the different approaches used by each participant. The occasion is also used to keep the consumer specialists informed of the latest Community activity in the promotion of consumer interests (see Euroforum N° 8/77, 12/77, 14/77, 17/77).

++ REGIONAL FUND IN 1976

Two to three months at the most is how long it takes the European Regional Development Fund to agree to requests for aid. This emerges from the conclusions of the Commission's annual report for 1976 on the operation of the Fund.

To make the aid from the Fund more effective, the Commission insists that it is used as a supplement and complement, and not as a substitute for national regional aid.

The Commission is however surprised that in 1976 as in 1975 not one Member State has used the Fund's facility for providing a rebate of the interest rate on loans made by the European Investment Bank. The procedure offers the possibility of increasing the impact of both the European Regional Fund and the European Investment Bank.

In 1976 the Fund amounted to 500 million units of account (1 u.a. = 1.12 US dollars approx.). The Commission decided in favour of 307 applications which themselves covered 1,545 investment projects and total investments of 4,732 million u.a. Twenty five percent of the projects were in the industry and services sector and enabled 55,000 jobs to be created or preserved. Seventy five percent went to infrastructure projects.

Payments made by the European Commission in 1976 amounted to 227 million u.a., bringing the overall total since the Fund was set up in March 1975, to 368 million units of account.

++ THE FOOD WE EAT

Often the food we eat contains emulsifiers, stabilisers, thickeners and gelling agents which have to be strictly controlled at the Community level. To ensure that additives in our food present no health risks, the European Commission has proposed to update the directive on the subject which has been in force since June 1974.

It proposes to make a clear distinction between amidated pectins and non-amidated pectins. The Scientific Committee for Food has advised the Commission to make a distinction between the two substances for toxicological reasons. From now on they will bear the reference numbers E 440(a) and E 440(b).

With regard to polyphosphates (E 450) a list of all products commercially available has been drawn up. Some other products have disappeared from the market or have been deleted as is the case with tamarined seed flour (E411).

SOCIAL FUND PILOT-SCHEMES

Italian migrant workers living in Belgium are to benefit from special educational courses, financed by the European Social Fund, to help them integrate in Belgium from the language, employment and socio-cultural points of view. Aid for this project will amount to 5.7 million Belgian francs and, if it succeeds, the Belgian experience may be used as a model for other countries.

In Ireland £50,000 is being allocated by the European Social Fund to train teachers specialised in social development at the regional and local level.

Data processing in the UK is an area with a certain imbalance with regard to employment. A pilot project specially designed to put this imbalance to rights will be allocated £15,200 by the Fund. £21,000 is also being allocated to the UK by the Fund to develop systematic vocational profiles for qualified technicians and workers.

++ EUROPEAN NURSES IN TWO YEARS TIME

Within the next two years the Community's 700,000 nurses will be able to freely look for work in any Community region of their choice. Though freedom of establishment has been recognised in principle for a long time, national legislation has in fact been a real obstacle. However, the Community has brought about the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other titles and has organised the coordination of national provisions governing the activity of nurses.

A minimum level of training will be guaranteed in every Community country and will comprise general school education of at least ten years and specific professional training for 3 years or 4,600 hours. Currently the length of training varies from country to country between two to three and a half years.

To prevent national legislations diverging in the future, the Community has set up an advisory committee for the training of nurses, which will ensure that nurses in every country are trained to meet the required standard.

++ ACTION ON PLUTONIUM RADIATION

An important question in the field of radioprotection is the long term effects of plutonium on the environment. Also, what is the exact mechanism through which radiation causes damage and what is its biological significance? In the Community's 'radioprotection' programme 1976-1980, six research contracts totalling 500,000 units of account (1 u.a. = 1.12 US dollars approx.) have been included to examine these problems.

The long term effects of radiation need careful study. It is known that radionuclides discharged into the environment find their way back to man through various elements of the food chain. The transfer patterns of several radionuclides are well known. Some of the radionuclides with a very long half-life are not well known since their behaviour can change according to local conditions. The problem is

particularly relevant to waste plutonium which is often dumped by the nuclear industry in deep geological formations in the sea.

Among the research being carried out in the Community's 'radioprotection' programme, six of the contracts deal totally or partially with the transfer parameters of plutonium. This research also complements the theoretical research work being undertaken at the Community's Joint Research Centre at Ispra (Italy).

++ MAN AND HIS ENVIRONMENT

Man and his environment is the title of the congress to be held in Luxembourg September 15-18 1977 by the international society for research into the ailments of civilisation and environment. Three topics for discussion at the congress will be the place of milk in civilisation, science and the crisis of civilisation, and finally chronobiology and the ailments of civilisation.

The last day of the congress will be devoted to a forum which will discuss, for example, whether an old castle which has become the centre of a city of 20,000 inhabitants can still offer a balanced living environment from both the economic, social, architectural and health points of view.

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RESEARCH - THE HUNT IS ON

What is the point of scientific research? was the question put to Charles Thibeault, the French zoologist some years ago by France's then Prime Minister, Georges Pompidou.

It provides us with solutions that are not already printed, was Thibeault's reply. He quoted the case of France which has too much milk and too little beef. The politicians take measures to encourage beef production. The economists try to lower the price of milk. The zoological technicians study ways of increasing the birth-rate among cows. When a cow produces two calves, there are two mouths instead of one to drink its milk, and two animals to go to the slaughterhouse instead of one.

The Summit of the Community's leaders which met in Paris in 1972 with Georges Pompidou, at that time France's President, as host took the decision which laid the foundations for a Community science and technology policy.

Just over one year later the Community's Council of Ministers took up the challenge and defined more clearly the nature of such a common policy. Their aim was to coordinate national policies at the Community level and define which activities would be of Community interest.

There are many arguments in favour of coordinating national policies. One is to avoid wasteful parallel research where different national research programmes would be unjustifiably working in the same field. Another reason is to prevent research trends from diverging and working against the Community interest. It was also seen necessary to increase the effectiveness (or reduce the cost) of national and Community activities by sharing out the research work or possibly by concentrating resources and research teams. Finally the need has been felt to progressively harmonise the procedure for drawing up and implementing the Community's scientific policies.

Europe's future

One more step at least has now been made. The European Commission has put before the Community's Council of Ministers a series of proposals to expand the common research policy. These take the form of guidelines for the next phase (1977-1980) of the policy. In the Commission's view, research and technology have a key role to play in European policy.

The common research policy is not simply an exercise to occupy the intellects of Europe's scientists. Today a research policy has to deal with the real needs of Europe's population.

The present situation is critical and the seriousness of economic crisis has become increasingly obvious. Belief in unlimited economic growth has faltered. The limits of growth have become apparent. Certain indicators point to a severe structural crisis which could rapidly become worse by way of the interdependence of the economic systems at the world level.

The general public - directly affected by the crisis - is taking more interest in the idea of a European research policy. It does, however, ask a number of vital questions: why should the Community, as such, intensify its activity in the field of research and technology? how can the Community help at all in resolving Europe's long-term problems? who benefits from the public funds spent on large-scale technological projects? what use does it serve? and does research policy take into consideration the needs of Europe's people and how can some of the research programmes be justified?

The European Commission has tried to answer all these legitimate questions, not with words but through direct action. This has not been easy. The common research policy is still greatly under the influence of its recent past when it was limited to the areas laid down in the Treaty of Rome. For many years research has been limited to the nuclear sector. On top of this national research policies have themselves been sometimes less than coherent. However, the financial resources available to the Community are still very modest and only amount to 1% to 2% of the total funds spent by the various Community countries.

Joint Research Centre

A research institution little known to the general public is the Joint Research Centre (abbreviated J.R.C.) which consists of four research establishments at Ispra in Italy, Geel in Belgium, Petten in the Netherlands and Karlsruhe in Germany. Originally, the JRC was set up as part of an independent Community research and development policy in the field of nuclear energy. Since 1973, the JRC has been able to expand its activities to non-nuclear fields such as new energy sources (hydrogen production, solar energy, etc) and environmental problems (air and water pollution, remote sensing techniques, etc.)

The JRC has four main functions: it provides the Community with its own independent research and development potential; it makes available for Community use major testing facilities which could not be afforded or fully exploited by individual Member States (one example is the European helioclimatron which will be able to simulate very extreme weather conditions, and has no equivalent in Europe); another important function is to provide services, and the environmental data bank at Ispra, for example, will provide an information network open to

politicians, research scientists and industrialists, as well as to the general public; the JRC also functions as an instrument of cooperation with the Third World (particularly in solar energy research).

The Community's Council of Ministers has just agreed on the JRC's new multiannual research programme and the fusion research programme at Ispra. The financial resources involved which amount to some 346 million units of account are now available. The uncertainty which has prevailed since March is now over for the 2,000 researchers at the Joint Research Centre.

Energy

The JRC's main activity concerns one of the Community's major preoccupations - energy. This sector will absorb more than 50% of the funds of the Community's research and technology programme.

Research in the energy sector is not only aimed at developing new sources of energy (nuclear fission, solar energy, geothermal energy etc.) or increasing the exploitation of traditional resources (coal, lignite, hydrocarbons). The prospects for the different types of energy sources also have to be examined and the Community's future requirements have to be considered as well. How much energy will the Community really need? who will be the main consumers? what will be the long term effects on the environment?

COMMUNITY R & D APPROPRIATIONS BY SECTOR

(cumulative figures 1977-80)

(estimates in '000 u.a., current prices)

A. DIRECT, INDIRECT AND CONCERTED ACTION PROJECTS

| Sectoral policies | Direct action projects | indirect and concerted action projects | Total | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------|-------|
| | | | in '000 u.a. | in % |
| Energy policy | 187.600 | 378.260 | 565.860 | 58.8 |
| Industrial policy | - | 136.985 | 136.985 | 14.2 |
| Environment policy | 28.144 | 13.397 | 41.541 | 4.3 |
| Resources and raw materials | 7.036 | 20.900 | 27.936 | 2.9 |
| Transport policy | - | 18.600 | 18.600 | 1.9 |
| Agricultural policy | - | 14.416 | 14.416 | 1.5 |
| Social policy | - | 8.620 | 8.620 | 0.9 |
| Development aid | - | 4.500 | 4.500 | 0.5 |
| Public services and other | 126.973 | 17.015 | 143.988 | 15.0 |
| TOTAL | 349.753 | 612.693 | 962.446 | 100.0 |

The results of research are sometimes unexpected. Solar energy research for example, does not only deal with heating houses. If the research succeeds, European industry will then have some good exporting to do. In the state of our balance of payments, this is not a minor point.

Raw materials

In a world of finite resources and growing material needs, the European Community is in a delicate situation. It has to import 70% - 100% of its raw materials. It is therefore essential for the Community to increase its potential for self-sufficiency and on the other hand make savings through recycling, substitution and improved production design.

This is the field where research can be of incalculable value. The Community's research programme caters for prospecting for new mineral deposits within the Community, in particular copper,

zinc, lead, phosphates and uranium. The programme also covers new methods of processing, for example, aluminium-rich rocks. Finally, a third area of the programme concerns mining technology and the exploitation of deep deposits and low-tonnage deposits which are currently uneconomical. New mining and extraction techniques have to be developed to make these profitable.

Another Community research programme will deal with secondary raw materials. Its aim is to improve the technical basis for increased recycling of domestic and industrial waste materials e.g. paper and non-ferrous metals, increased recovery of old tyres and the full exploitation of agricultural and forestry wastes through the production of valuable organic materials and products.

Agriculture and food

Research in the agricultural field must not only support and develop the common agricultural policy, it must also support the Community's environment and regional policy. The Community's research effort into swine fever (African and European), for example, gave results which will enable the disease to be eradicated from the Community. A similar programme is scheduled for animal leucoses.

The existing programmes which run from 1975 - 78 also cover the use of livestock effluents as a fertiliser and examine its effects on agricultural production from the environmental and energy saving point of view.

In the Commission's view, technological progress in agriculture need not be achieved at the expense of the environment or the consumer.

Water

Water may become a critical resource even in the regions of the Community which are usually well-endowed in this respect. This was clearly demonstrated by the 1976 drought. Greater attention must therefore be given to the problem of ensuring adequate supply and quality.

In addition to water pollution research already underway in the Environmental Protection Programme, new studies and research are needed to improve our knowledge in areas such as the water cycle of various Community regions; water management; recharging groundwater; water treatment technology and the possible desalination of sea and brackish water.

Environment

Since 1973 the European Community has been engaged in environmental research. The current programme which continues till

1980 covers areas as varied as the effect of pollution on man and the environment (through epidemiological surveys and ecotoxicological research), improving methods for measuring pollution including remote sensing techniques, improving anti-pollution technology (in particular the treatment of industrial effluents, sewage sludge and the development of clean technologies).

Social life

European unification requires a common social policy and detailed knowledge of the present situation and future trends. In this respect the common research programme could produce considerable benefits by looking at, for instance, the social consequences of technological development.

Under the heading of 'social systems', comparable problems in Member States will be investigated such as the lot of the underprivileged, prisoners, drug addicts and the mentally disturbed. So far, there has been little research into the conflict between town and country and the social difficulties caused by migratory movements, including migrant workers.

Town and Country planning

In all Community countries the towns are becoming both larger and poorer. Community research on town and country planning is looking for a new approach. Within the framework of an action programme, the Community will bring together national urban planning experts who have, up until now, been rather isolated in their work, and often only able to react rather than anticipate problems.

The main activity is concerned with the growth of conurbations and the consequences. The various town planning policies and the activities of public authorities will also have to be evaluated. A comparison of their experiences should produce a new overall picture that social scientists in individual Member States cannot obtain for lack of adequate empirical material.

Health

The area of medicine is one where the results of concerted action at the European level can be most fruitful. Rather than concentrate resources on areas which are already being heavily researched (e.g. cancer), priority has been given to the prevention and early detection of diseases, and on rehabilitation.

As a first stage of a common research programme the following three fields have been chosen: the registration of "congenital abnormalities" (the statistical problems cannot be handled by one country alone); "cellular ageing and the decreased functional capacity of organs" (since the physiological processes

of ageing have been rather neglected); and finally "extra-corporal oxygenation" (concerning heart and lung machines).

The importance of medicine and health is increasing in Community research. It is an area which doctors recognise can benefit greatly from a pooling of research and resources and is an example of the benefits that can be obtained from a Community-level research programme. Community research in itself symbolises the advantages which can be obtained from the growth of the Community.

Community expenditure in the research field has been only modest. In 1976 the USA spent 35 units of account per person on research in the civil field whilst Europe of the Nine spent only 21.5 u.a. per head (1 u.a. = 1.12 dollars approx).

A comparison of the share of R+D expenditure in the Community's budget and national expenditure on R+D shows how modest the Community effort really is.

| | <u>Community - CEC</u> | <u>Eur - 9</u> |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | % | % |
| 1974 | 1.82 | 3.70 |
| 1975 | 2.06 | 3.36 |
| 1976 | 1.87 | 3.25 |
| average 74-76 | 1.90 | 3.44 |

(data based on 1970 prices and exchange rates)

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SOCCKER : ARE FOOTBALLERS EUROPEANS?

Keegan, Beckenbauer, Rocheteau....and the rest are the stars of European soccer. Not only are they stars, they are also professionals who may be inclined, like the rest of us, to wish to change their employer when the offer is right. They can also be induced to change country as well if a foreign club makes a good offer for them. Kevin Keegan went to Hamburg, Johann Cruyff to Barcelona, Raymond Kopa to Real Madrid, Franz Beckenbauer to Cosmos in New York. Such international transfers are becoming commonplace but are footballers subject to the Treaty of Rome's free movement of labour provisions as people in other jobs? Yes, soccer players are Europeans like the rest of us, the European Commission has affirmed.

However, what happens in reality is that certain national football federations forbid their clubs to have more than a certain number of foreign players in their team. In France, for instance, the French Football Federation has set a maximum of three foreign players to be employed under contract by each club, and even then only two are permitted to play in the same league match.

In Germany, a similar rule applies and not more than two foreign players are allowed in any first or second division team. The Italians are even more restrictive - no foreign players are allowed at all. In Belgium the rules are slightly less harsh since a player is not considered as a foreigner once he has lived for a certain number of years in Belgium.

For several years now, the Community's institutions, and in particular the Court of Justice and the European Commission, have been battling to have these federation rules changed. The rules are quite simply against the basic principle of the Common Market: Europeans have the right to free movement in any Community country and the right to work in any of them. This is true for a construction worker, it's true for a company executive, it's true for an engineer and it should also be true for a footballer.

On the 14th of July 1976 the European Court of Justice ruled quite categorically that no football club should be prevented from taking on a player from another Community country simply on the grounds that he was foreign or that the team already had two or three foreign players in it. This Court ruling is valid in all nine Community countries.

In reply to a written question from a member of the European Parliament, the European Commission which acts as watchdog over the Community regulations, has confirmed this judgement. Soccer players have the right to free movement and establishment in any Community country. The only time he may be refused a

place on a team is in an international match when teams only represent their own countries.

The logic is as follows : a London club can sign up any player it likes from Lancashire, Wales, Yorkshire, Scotland, etc. A Bavarian club can sign up any player it likes from the Ruhr region, Saxony, etc. These clubs do not have to limit the numbers of Welsh or Saxonians they have playing in their team, so why should the number of Italian or Danish players be restricted. In the Community, the Treaty of Rome rules give a Danish player the same job status as a French player. The law of the land - for the Community - has been agreed, now it should be accepted.

The Court has passed its judgement, what will now happen? Will customs officials or Common Market civil servants ban certain matches under the pretext that a club is not adhering to Community rules? Of course not.

The services of the European Commission have already met on a number of occasions, the directors of the European Football Union. It is possible that a mammoth "round-table" session will be held in October to bring together managers, players, European and national authorities etc. to try and find a solution. But a solution will not be easy to find.

Naturally enough, Europe's football managers wish to respect the European regulations. They also know that foreign players can be a benefit to all : better for the team, better for the quality of football and better for the spectators. Taking on a foreign player and integrating him in a team also helps to diminish prejudice among players and supporters. They are also concerned about enabling their younger players to develop as well as possible. A team needs good up-and-coming players from its own stable as well as good foreign players.

Another tricky problem is that not all foreign players who go to France, Germany or Belgium are necessarily all from the Community. Some of the best players in French football, for instance, come from Poland, Hungary and Argentina. Community regulations do not cover such players, but is it possible to avoid discriminating against them? The debate is open. Truly European football will come about, but with difficulty. Let us hope that the discussions will also lead to a more general discussion of the future status and role of not only football but of the whole of professional sport in general.

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