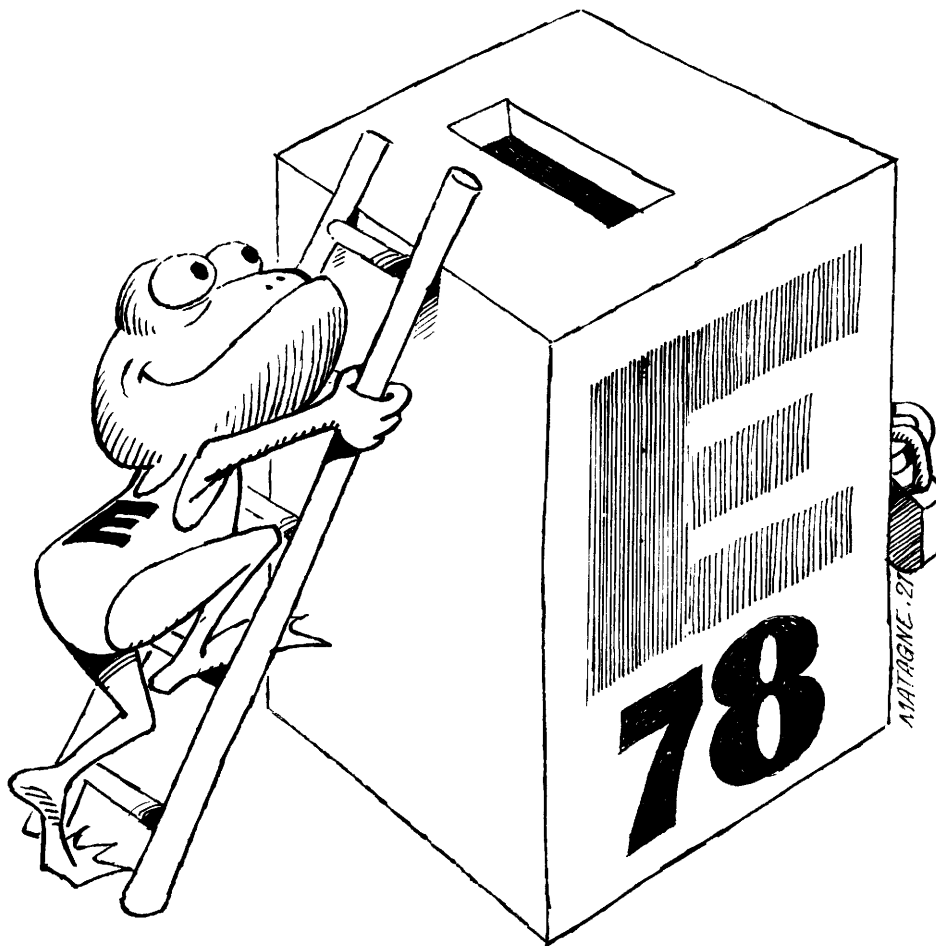


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N° 28/78



With direct elections in the offing, Eurobarometer finds Europe's temperature stable (see page 3).

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++ BAROMETER OF EUROPE

Community membership is a good thing, reply more than half of Europe though numbers are slightly down on 1977, and a large majority still are in favour of direct elections to the European Parliament. Views are divided however about introducing a fully fledged European government.

The results of the latest Eurobarometer opinion poll are presented in Annex 1.

++ LANGUAGE BARRIERS : A EUROPEAN PROBLEM

To really feel part of a united Europe, Community nationals need to know more than one language to be able to communicate with each other, and also to be able to take up jobs in other Community countries.

The European Commission's programme to promote foreign language teaching at all levels is outlined in Annex 2.

++ EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT

Leaders of the nine Community countries meeting as the European Council in Bremen, Germany, July 6-7th reached agreement on the principle of introducing a European monetary system by the end of the year. The basis of the system would be the 'European Currency Unit' which would be used for monetary transactions between Community countries. A European monetary fund is also to be introduced. Though a number of technical points still have to be worked out, this decision represents a major step forward for the Community.

++ JOB LOSSES IN STEEL

Employment in the European steel industry in 1973 stood at 751 000. By 1977 it had fallen to 704 000 and forecasts for 1980 predict a further drop to between 580 000 and 624 000. To reestablish the financial viability of the industry, productivity has to be raised and labour costs reduced - this implies further job losses.

The European Commission considers it necessary to strengthen the social provisions to offset the consequences of the steel crisis. In 1978 Community aid for

retraining steel industry workers amounted to 44 million European units of account (1 EUA = + 1.2 dollars). More effort is needed, in the Commission's view, and action should be taken in three directions:

- improving Community coordination of social measures being introduced at the national level to help steel workers;
- the level of Community aid to steel workers in the worst hit areas has to be reconsidered and a minimum level of aid introduced;
- Community aid should be given to examine better ways of sharing out work within the steel industry : lowering the retiring age, rearranging shift work, shorter working week, overtime bans, etc.

The inevitable reduction of the labour force in the steel industry must, the Commission thinks, be organised in the most socially acceptable way, and the cost of this distributed between all interested parties : public authorities, industry and workers.

++ ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS

Engineers in the Community need to be trained in environmental techniques and at its Ispra research centre in Italy the European Commission is currently organising high level courses in techniques for dealing with water pollution, air pollution, mathematical models linked to pollution mechanisms, noise, etc. It will also assist in organising summer courses in the same techniques at different European universities.

++ INDUSTRIAL WAGES

Wages in industry have been rising at different rates in European countries in recent years. Taking 1964 as the basic point of reference (= 100), average gross hourly wage rates in April 1977 were as follows:

<u>Germany</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>Belgium</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>
290.6	429.5	480.2	419.5	432.6	345.7

Taking the reference point as October 1972, average increases in April 1977 were:

<u>Germany</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>
147	198.7	206.8	174.2

<u>Belgium</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>United Kingdom</u>	<u>Denmark</u>
196.1	193.5	196.5	196.6

(gross earnings implies the remuneration paid by the employer at each payment before deduction of tax, social security contributions etc.)

These figures are taken from a recent publication from the Community's Statistical Office entitled 'Hourly earnings' IV - 1977, which is available from the Community offices listed on the back page of this bulletin. Price BF 400 or equivalent.

++ COMMUNITY AND CANCER

The campaign against cancer is not just a question of medical treatment, many of the factors involved are to be found in our polluted and living environment. To prevent cancer from these sources, the Community has already undertaken a number of measures:

- in its environmental protection directives, there are various provisions to limit or ban the presence of certain carcinogenic factors (arsenic, cadmium, hydrocarbons, etc.)
- the Community's health and safety at work action programme which has been submitted to the Council of the Nine should strictly limit permissible levels or completely ban certain carcinogenic pollutants which are linked both to work and to the environment. On the other hand, the Council is currently examining proposals for directives covering pesticides and also the health of workers exposed to vinyl chloride monomer;
- the European Commission intends to present the Council with an action programme on asbestos. The implementation of this programme - as with the health at work

programme - will depend on the speed of action of the Council of Ministers.

++ NEW AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The European Commission has just proposed a new five year programme for agricultural research to begin in January 1979. Amongst the ten projects proposed, they have suggested:

- a programme of rural development which would look at the balance between forestry land and pasture in poor areas (restoring wild life, fire control etc.) developing methods for protecting land and water resources, analysing the relationship between individuals and their environment, etc.;
- the programme to study more rational use of pesticides and to progressively substitute chemical pesticides with other methods which are less harmful to the environment and less energy consuming;
- studies on tree diseases, (particularly Dutch elm).

The estimated cost of this programme which has yet to be given green light by the Council of Ministers is 3.7 million European units of account (1 EUA = + 1.2 dollars) per year.

++ IS SMOKING DANGEROUS?

Following the article published in Euroforum N° 38/77 on the dangers of smoking, we have received a lengthy statement from associations representing the tobacco industry affiliated to ETUCF (European Trade Union Committee of Food and Allied Workers in the Community).

The statement which we can only summarise here, opposes the view of the Consumer Consultative Committee which supports anti-smoking legislation in the Community. According to the associations, it has not been established as a scientific fact that smoking, and only smoking, is the cause of various illnesses. Banning cigarette advertising would not have any effect on health. Banning cigarette sales from automatic machines would not reduce

the volume of sales. In conclusion, the member associations of ETUCF praised the European Commission for undertaking a study of the situation as it really is in Community countries, and identifying measures which would provide the public with better information on the dangers of smoking.

++ EUROPEAN CENSUS

The Community's Statistical Office has just published the results of a population census carried out in the Nine between 1968 and 1971. Most Europeans, it appears, work in the service sector : 47.2% as against 43% in industry and 9.8% in agriculture. The numbers employed in the service sector is highest in the Netherlands (54%) and lowest in Italy (42%).

The percentage of men working in the Nine is 56.3% and for women 25.3%. The percentage of married (and separated) women who work per 100 married women stands at:

<u>Germany</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>Belgium</u>
34.1	34.2	21.3	15.6	27.1
<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>United Kingdom</u>	<u>Ireland</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	
15.8	41.9	7.5	41.8	

The full results of the census can be obtained from the EEC press and information offices listed on the last page, priced FB 500 or equivalent.

++ LEAD IN WINE

According to surveys undertaken in France, Denmark and Norway, amongst others, the use of lead caps to crown wine bottles risks raising the lead content of wine over the limit set for human health safety.

The danger emerges when the wine comes into contact with the lead and the reaction creates lead acetate, a toxic substance, according to Mr. Anderson of the European Parliament who has asked the Commission whether it intends to take any preventative measures.

The use of lead caps to crown wine bottles can, in the Commission's view, raise the lead content of wine in certain cases and after a period of several years. However, in the current state of knowledge, the Commission cannot confirm whether this constitutes a danger to health.

The Commission and the Nine are currently monitoring populations which consume large quantities of wine, in the framework of its directive on the surveillance of lead risks. In addition, the Commission is engaged in standardising legislation on materials which come into contact with foodstuffs. These directives also aim to protect the health of consumers.

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BAROMETER OF EUROPE

Community membership is a good thing in the view of most Europeans, though the number of those in favour has decreased over the last year (with the exception of the Netherlands).

Public support for direct elections to the European Parliament is still widespread and there was little change between 1977 and 1978.

European countries are divided however on the question of introducing a European government. A large majority of French and Italians say yes, whilst the Irish, British and Danish take the opposite view. Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands are evenly divided.

These are the main findings of the latest Eurobarometer N° 9 opinion poll which was conducted between May 25th - June 5th throughout the nine Community countries at the initiative of the European Commission. Some 9118 people were interviewed in their homes by specialists from eight national opinion research institutes.

Community membership is good but.....

Support for the European Community in the six founder members remains fairly stable - and 60% of interviewees felt that the "Common Market is a good thing", 6% took the opposite view and 34% did not know. In most countries except the Netherlands and Luxembourg, enthusiasm has waned slightly since last year.

The picture is pretty much the same in Ireland where 54% of those interviewed expressed support for the Community. In Denmark and the United Kingdom, things are much gloomier and opinions appear split evenly between "pros", "cons" and "don't know".

	B	DK	D	F	IRL	I	L	N	UK	EEC (1)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
(a)	37	54	21	12	40	10	40	46	33	22
(b)	51	39	61	59	50	53	50	47	52	55
(c)	9	5	14	19	7	26	9	6	11	16
(d)	2	1	3	9	3	11	1	1	4	6
(e)	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(1) Average weighted according to the population covered in each country (15 years and above).

(a)	Very satisfied
(b)	Basically satisfied
(c)	Basically not satisfied
(d)	Not satisfied at all
(e)	Don't know

Common Market membership is a good thing
(6 founding EEC countries)

	Autumn 1977	Spring 1978
Belgium	60%	58%
Germany	59	58
France	57	54
Italy	70	65
Luxembourg	73	73
Netherlands	74	78
EURO 6	63	60

Common Market membership is a good thing

(3 new members)

	Autumn 1977	Spring 1978
Denmark	37%	34%
Ireland	59	54
United Kingdom	35	29

It is worth noting that although ignorance and scepticism are still fairly widespread amongst the general public, opinion leaders (i.e. those who are well informed, discuss politics and participate more than others) are still more in favour of the Common Market in all member countries except Denmark.

Europeans divided on the future of the CommunityTWO VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

	B	DK	D	F	IRL	I	L	N	UK	EEC (1)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
(a)	36	16	40	45	18	57	42	41	28	41
(b)	35	65	40	34	68	29	47	49	56	31
(c)	29	19	20	21	14	14	11	10	16	18
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
(1) Weighted average										
(a) Directly elected Parliament and a truly European Government with the last say in certain important areas.										
(b) The last say given to national governments.										
(c) Don't know.										

Direct elections to the European Parliament

Public support for direct elections is widespread but has not increased much since previous polls. In certain countries the reverse is true and the slight rise in the number of don't knows reflects a measure of public ambivalence towards an event which is now regarded as inevitable and raises little emotion.

Support is now strongest in Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Italy where approximately eight in ten are "for". Germany, which was a leading supporter in 1973 (69%) has now dropped back to fourth position (74%). The least enthusiastic countries are Denmark and the UK, but even here only one in five is still against.

Between 1973 and 1978, the number of replies in favour of direct elections increased particularly strongly in the United Kingdom (33% to 65% : + 32 points) and in Ireland (45% - 71% : + 26 points).

FOR AND AGAINST DIRECT ELECTIONS

	B	DK	D	F	IRL	I	L	N	UK (1)	EEC (2)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
For	64	54	74	67	71	77	82	80	65	71
Against	14	22	7	12	10	7	11	9	17	11
Don't know	22	24	19	21	19	16	7	11	18	18
(1)	UK in 1973									
(2)	Weighted average									

Just under half of those interviewed (46%) stated that the election would give them a stronger feeling of "European citizenship". The only exception was Ireland which recorded 66%.

Information about Europe

In 1978, as in 1975, more than four persons in ten think that newspapers, TV and radio do not talk enough about European questions, and five out of ten think they are dealt with too superficially.

The replies to these two questions should be examined separately since one is probably influenced by recent events such as the British referendum in 1975, whilst the other represents a perhaps somewhat confused judgement on information about Europe and on sources of information.

Only in the UK and Italy were the people who thought there was insufficient information on the Common Market also against Community membership. This was also the case in 1975.

The view that information is superficial is most widespread in France and Italy, and is also strongly held in the UK and Ireland though less so than in 1975.

Contented Europeans

Views on the quality of life in Europe are similar in 1978 to 1977. Small countries are more satisfied whilst France and Italy in particular are less contented.

Revolution or reform?

Are Europeans revolutionaries or reformists?

Data available since 1970 (for the 6 founding countries) or since the end of 1976 (for all countries) reveals that the revolutionary attitudes have increased considerably (having reached 13 - 14% in France and Italy) perhaps as a reaction to the growth of terrorism. Highest levels recorded were 8%. As a consequence, the view that we must be defended against subversive forces has continued to grow in most countries and now represents one in three, on average. In Germany it stands at one in two. The reformist outlook still remains stable at around 55%.

And now.....

In less than a year direct elections will be with us. They will mobilise the major political parties and information resources before, it is hoped, mobilising 180 million European voters.

Doubtless everyone will be interested in reflecting on the results of this survey; after all, what is the use of uniting Europe if the needs of its citizens cannot be met. What is the use of direct elections to the European Parliament, if it does not produce any reaction among the Europeans themselves.

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LANGUAGE BARRIERS - A EUROPEAN PROBLEM

A week with a family in France, a summer course at a German University - with long summer school holidays approaching, many parents have considered sending their children abroad to learn one or two foreign languages which are likely to come in useful when they start looking for jobs. All too often children who have studied languages leave school with a head full of grammatical rules but are incapable of even answering the phone in a foreign language.

Language teaching is particularly important for the Community since the different peoples of Europe cannot really understand each other unless they can communicate with each other effectively. Also, the free movement of Europeans and their right to work in the Community country of their choice is largely dependent on their ability to speak languages.

In 1976, the Council of Education Ministers gave its agreement to the first measures to be taken to encourage language education in the Community. Upon this basis, the European Commission is now proposing a programme to ensure the continuity of language teaching through all levels of education - from primary school to higher education and adult education. Community countries need to look at the following nine points:

- Basic training of foreign language teachers
- In service training of foreign language teachers
- Early instruction on foreign languages
- Travel and exchange programmes
- Teaching of foreign languages to less gifted pupils
- Teaching of 'living' languages to 16-25 year olds in full-time education
- Teaching of languages to adults for professional reasons
- Measures to favour schools which teach several languages
- Information and documentation services on language teaching

Basic training for language teachers

All future foreign language teachers should be obliged to spend a certain amount of time studying in the country whose language they intend to teach. This objective could be more easily achieved if Community countries could cooperate to balance the availability of places with requirements. This would enable existing exchange schemes for language assistants to be expanded. In 1976, there were 7 000 exchanges and the preliminary programme for 1980-83 aims at raising this figure to 10 000. In the long term, each school, primary or secondary, should have the services of at least one person whose mother tongue is the language being taught, and can reflect the society and culture of that country.

The Community will help encourage these exchanges in three ways:

- Aid for receiving language assistants and aid (somewhat smaller) for sending assistants.
- Special aid for receiving more language assistants than the previous year.
- Financing half the cost of pilot projects (e.g. sending assistants to technical schools).

Continuous training of language teachers

All foreign language teachers should have the officially recognised possibility of being able to refresh their knowledge by returning to the country whose language they teach. To extend this possibility to the greatest number of students, the Community should, in the European Commission's view:

- Adopt a long-duration exchange programme (3-5 years) for language teachers. This programme should be implemented in 1980.
- Extend medium-length teacher visits and exchanges (1 term to 1 year) with financial support from the Community. The Nine should eliminate all legal or administrative obstacles preventing this.
- Should facilitate short study visits (one to three weeks) in other Community countries for language teaching specialists. The Community contribution should cover 50% of travel and living expenses.

Early language training

The nine Community partners should examine more effective ways of extending the teaching of at least one foreign language to primary schools. This could be accomplished through pilot projects undertaken with financial assistance from the Community.

Travel and exchange programmes

All language teachers recognise that if a pupil is really motivated, half the teaching battle is over. Motivation can be instilled through visits to appropriate foreign countries and making contact and friends with nationals. Such possibilities are rarely offered to children from deprived areas.

For this reason, the Community should promote the following activities:

- Visits and group exchanges for pupils aged 11-16 years doing general or technical studies.
- Holiday projects to mix together students from various countries aged 18-19 years.
- Pilot projects for the least favoured categories : handicapped children, etc.
- Information and consultation services on pupil exchanges.

Language teaching for less gifted pupils

The pilot projects should identify teaching approaches and assist the Community in drawing up directives for future action.

Language teaching for 16-26 year olds

Community countries should examine ways of integrating foreign language courses into vocational or higher education study programmes for 16-25 year olds.

Adult language teaching

The Commission proposes that the linguistic requirements of the liberal professions (doctors, nurses, architects etc.) be examined. Without a good knowledge of other Community languages, people who exercise these professions will not be able to set up shop in other Community countries, as is their right under Community law.

Multi-language schools

The Commission is proposing to encourage the extension of the "European" or "International" schools where lessons are taught in several languages. Meetings with experts organised by the Commission have concluded that these schools offer exceptional possibilities for learning about languages and cultures.

The idea is not to create new schools but to give support (mostly financial) to existing schools to help them modify their courses to offer high-quality language teaching to pupils, and cope with the linguistic and cultural requirements of pupils from other countries.

Information and documentation

From January 1979, a Community educational information service will be introduced by the European Commission and the Nine. One priority will be to supply information on foreign language teaching in the Nine.

Budget

If the Commission's proposals are approved by the Council of the Nine, preparations will begin in 1979. The various actions proposed should cost 6.5 million European units of account (1 EUA = + 1.2 dollars) in 1980 according to the Commission and more than 8 million EUR in 1982.

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