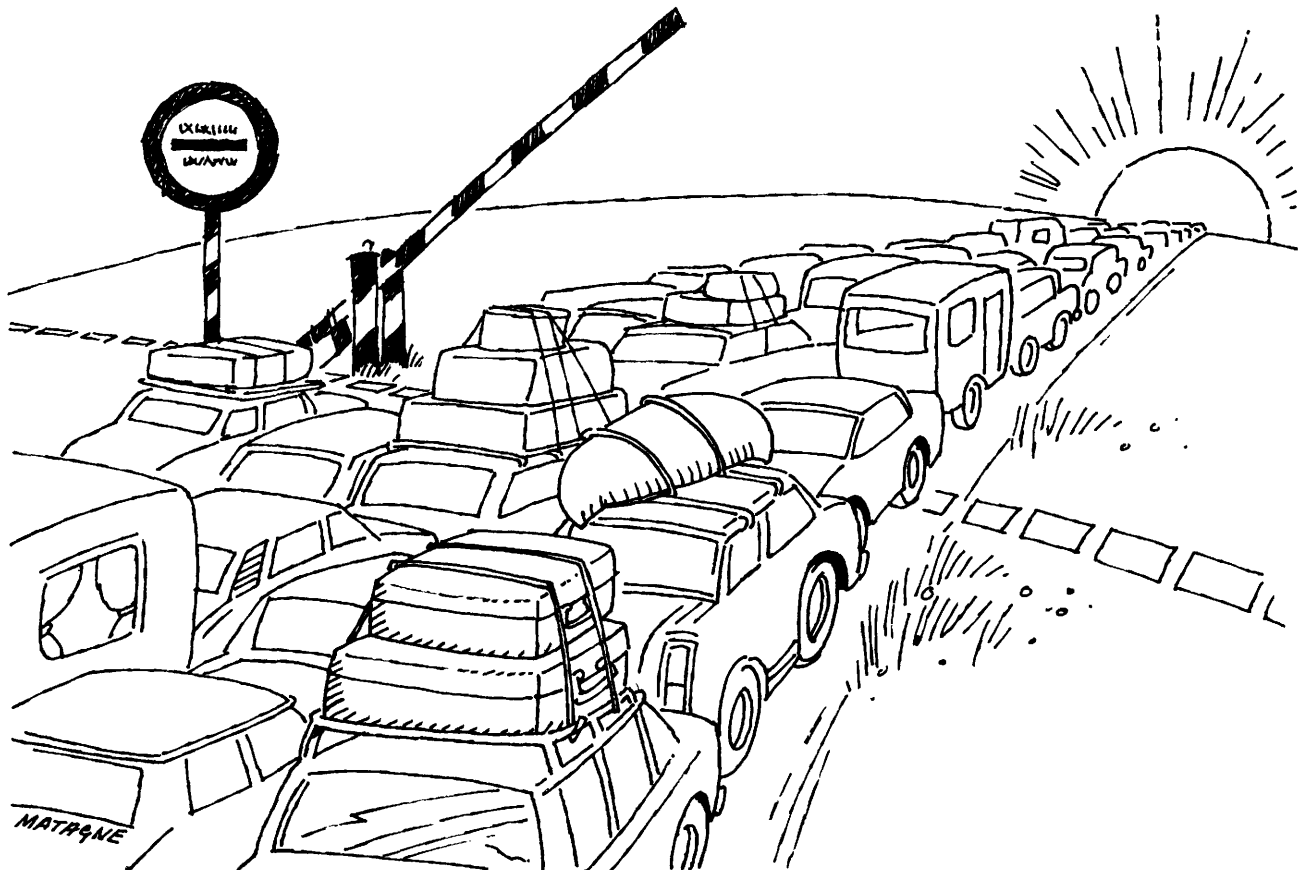


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TOURISM IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



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IN THIS ISSUE

CROSSING COMMUNITY FRONTIERS:

- . Identity cards or passports p. 3
- . Cars : no need to show green card p. 4
- . Goods : limited duty free imports p. 4
- . Currency export restrictions p. 5
- . Vaccinations : no formalities p. 5
- . Animals : two certificates p. 6

SUMMER TIME : NO HARMONISATION p. 6

HOTELS, SHOPS : POT LUCK p. 6

MEDICAL CARE : TAKE YOUR E 111 p. 7

YOUR RIGHTS WHEN MOVING TO OTHER COMMUNITY COUNTRIES : TWO EXCEPTIONS p.10

SECOND HOME IN THE COMMUNITY p.11

TOURISM AND WORK IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

PART ONE : T O U R I S M (x)

The nine European countries which constitute the European Community - Belgium, Denmark, France, W. Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom - form a "Common Market", i.e. people, goods and capital may move freely across the frontiers which still exist between the nine countries.

The introduction of a Common Market has not been fully extended to all areas, so tourists have to be particularly wary.

CROSSING COMMUNITY FRONTIERS

For reasons of public safety, public health and also because taxes such as VAT have not yet been harmonised between Community countries, customs officials are still obliged to check passports, identity cards and goods being imported or exported.

Identity cards or passports

Work is underway on the introduction of a European Passport which will be available to all citizens in member countries of the European Community.

- x Until this comes about, adults will be required to use their passport or national identity card when travelling between Community countries.
- x Children accompanied by their parents should possess an identity document or be included on the passport of their parents. Minors travelling alone are required to have written authorisation from their parents with their passport or identity card when they wish to leave national territory.

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- x The problems of working in other Member States will be dealt with in a later issue.

- * To enter the United Kingdom, non-British citizens are obliged to fill in an immigration form mentioning certain personal details and intended destination (on account of the 1971 immigration laws).

Cars : no need to show green card

On the initiative of the European Community, the Nine (and now Scandinavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and E. Germany as well) have agreed to cover any damage caused by their nationals in other Community countries.

- * There is consequently no longer any need to show the green card issued by insurance companies when crossing Community frontiers. Adequate insurance in your own country is, of course, still obligatory.
- * Work is under way on a possible European driving licence. But until one is introduced, national driving licences are sufficient, also for hiring cars in Community countries where you are staying.
- * Your car (and caravan) have to carry a sticker showing the country where the car is registered : Belgium (B); France (F); Germany (D); Ireland (IRL); Luxembourg (L); Netherlands (NL); United Kingdom (GB).

Goods : limited duty free imports

Customs duties between Community Member States have been abolished but levels of taxes applied to goods (VAT, excise duties) have yet to be harmonised. Limited quantities of goods can be imported without paying taxes.

- * Each traveller over the age of fifteen has the right to take home purchases to the value of : Belgium FB 6 250; Denmark D Kr 950; France FF 690; Germany DM 460; Italy L 78 125; Luxembourg FL 6 260; Netherlands Fl 450; United Kingdom £50; Ireland £52. Children under fifteen are limited to 25% of these values.

It is planned to increase these values by 10-15% on January 1st 1979.

- * Nationals of the Benelux countries (Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) can import more goods if bought in other Benelux countries : maximum value 8 250 Belgian francs as of July 1st 1978. This limit will be raised to BF 9 250 on July 1st, 1979 and FB 10 000 on July 1st 1980.

- * All Community citizens over 15 years (17 years in the UK) can take home the following amounts of goods without paying excise duties : 300 cigarettes or 150 cigarillos or 75 cigars or 400 gr pipe tobacco; 1.5 litres alcoholic drinks over 22° proof and 3 litres of drinks less than 22° (e.g. wines); 75 gr perfume; 38 centilitres of toilet water; 750 gr coffee and 60 gr of coffee essence. Belgians are permitted to take home an extra 10 litres of wine if bought in Luxembourg.

Currency export restrictions

Only three countries - France, Italy and the United Kingdom - impose restrictions on currency exports. There is as yet no common market for money and consequently no European currency.

- * France : nationals are only permitted to take FF 5 000 out of the country.

- * Italy : has imposed a limit of 100 000 lire per person per year in national currency and 700 000 lire in other currencies which have to be declared to the Italian customs.

- * United Kingdom : a limit of £100 sterling and £500 in foreign currencies has been set per person per journey.

Vaccinations : no formalities

All risk of major epidemic has been eliminated from the European continent and no vaccination certificates are now required for internal travel. National authorities have the power to refuse access to their countries when serious epidemics are reported in other countries.

Animals : two certificates

Common Market authorities have already been active in standardising veterinary laws concerning animals for slaughter to facilitate meat trade. Nothing has been done as yet about domestic animals. Member States still apply their own regulations.

- * A veterinary certificate is generally required to testify that the animal being transported is healthy, and another certificate is required to certify vaccination against rabies for dogs and cats and against psittacosis for birds (the type of vaccine has to be mentioned on the certificate).

- * In the United Kingdom, entry is forbidden for practically all animals without quarantine. The British authorities put all animals entering the country in quarantine for nine months. This system has ensured that there have been virtually no cases of rabies reported for more than ten years. The UK intends to maintain this exceptional record.

SUMMER TIME : NO HARMONISATION

The European Community has not yet succeeded in harmonising the various summer time systems, though this should come about within a couple of years.

- * France and the Benelux countries - Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands - already apply the same summer time.

- * Different systems are applied in other countries and summer time is either introduced on different dates (United Kingdom) or not changed at all (Germany).

HOTELS, SHOPS : POT LUCK

Part of Europe's charm is the diversity of national and regional traditions and the Community intends to preserve them come what may.

- * Opening hours for shops and restaurants vary widely from country to country. The best thing is to ask at the place when you arrive.

- * National differences can be annoying. A three star hotel in Germany is not the same standard as a three star hotel in France. Check out the facilities before you book.

MEDICAL CARE : TAKE YOUR E 111

The provisions for the free movement of workers within the Community has encouraged national governments to ensure the same social facilities for other Community citizens as their own nationals. You have the right to receive medical care in any other Community country and benefit from their social security system even if you are only passing through.

- * Before you travel, you need to obtain an E 111 form from social security offices. If you have medical treatment when travelling abroad, you should present this form to the appropriate bodies in the country where you are staying.

- * If you forget your E 111, the local health insurance organisations will have to be reimbursed by your national organisation, and you risk having to pay the medical costs yourself and asking for money back later, which could take time.

- * Travellers in the United Kingdom do not require an E 111 since medical care is a free service.

Belgium : for general health care, including dental treatment, you may go to any doctor or dentist. You will need to pay directly and request a receipt for the treatment given. He will give you a prescription to be taken to the chemist of your choice, where you will have to pay directly and obtain a receipt. You will be reimbursed (in part) by your local social security office.

For special treatment (X-rays, analysis, hospitalisation, surgery etc.) you are advised to approach the Belgian health

health insurance organisation who can indicate where you can obtain treatment at lowest cost and, in certain circumstances, give you a payment authorisation.

Denmark : outside the large towns you are not required to pay for general medical treatment since the doctor is paid directly by the local district (Amtskommununen).

Specialist treatment, dental care and medicine will be reimbursed by the local social security services upon presentation of the E 111 form. Hospitalisation is free in Denmark as is transport by ambulance in an emergency.

UK nationals do not need the E 111 to receive treatment in this country. They require only a passport and a temporary residence permit or an embarkation ticket issued by the boat.

Germany : you need to take your E 111 to the local health insurance office which will issue you with the appropriate form which you can then take to a doctor or dentist who will treat you free of charge. Medicines are purchased from chemists at nominal prices.

Hospitalisation is also free as long as the local health insurance office gives you a certificate confirming the need for hospital treatment.

France : the E 111 is also required in this country. You have to go to the doctor or dentist who will issue you with a certificate of treatment. Preferably select an "approved" doctor or dentist to ensure maximum reimbursement. The chosen doctor will issue a receipt specifying treatment and costs and you must pay him directly. Medicines are also paid by you. Collect the tags attached to the medicine boxes and present them with the doctors certificate and the E 111 to the health insurance organisation for reimbursement. 75% of the doctor's charges will be reimbursed and 70% of the cost of medicines.

Hospitalisation will be paid for (80-100%) by French social security services upon presentation of the E 111.

Ireland : medical treatment is supplied free by general practitioners approved by the Health Board upon presentation of an E 111. Medicines and hospital treatment are also free. As in Denmark, UK citizens do not require an E 111.

Italy : the E 111 has to be presented to the INAM (National Institute for Health Insurance) who will issue a form certifying the right to free treatment. For dental care and specialist medical treatment you should go to practitioners who are directly controlled by INAM. Medicines are supplied free on presentation of the INAM certificate and a doctor's prescription. You will have to contribute to the cost of special medicines.

Hospital treatment will be free upon presentation of a certificate from INAM confirming the need for such treatment.

Luxembourg : the E 111 form is generally required. Doctor's fees are paid directly and money reimbursed (not always 100%) by the national health insurance organisation upon presentation of receipts.

Netherlands : treatment is given free by doctors and dentists upon receipt of an E 111 form, which also gives you the right to free medicines. Specialist treatment will also be free if requested by a Dutch general practitioner.

Hospital treatment is free if you obtain authorisation from the national health insurance organisation (Algemeen Nederlands Onderling Ziekenfonds Anoz). Cost of ambulance transport is only partly reimbursed.

United Kingdom : the E 111 is not required to receive treatment under the National Health Service. All treatment except by private practitioners is free, medicines are charged at a nominal non-reimbursable rate (free for men over 65 years and women of more than 60).

Dentists are not required to operate under the National Health system and you should check that your dentist agrees to treat you under the NHS. You will still be required to pay some dental costs without reimbursement. Hospital treatment is free.

YOUR RIGHTS WHEN MOVING TO OTHER COMMUNITY COUNTRIES :
TWO EXCEPTIONS

The creation of the Common Market has of course enabled people to move freely to other Community countries in search of a job. It also gives people the right to leave their national territory and enter any other Community country and stay in the country of his/her choice without prior authorisation.

All Community nationals have the right to stay up to three months in another Community country on the strength of their passport or national ID card. Some countries, France and Italy in particular require individuals to register their presence with the local authorities in accordance with traditional national control of foreigners. In these countries you are also being monitored when you register at a hotel.

At the end of the first three months of stay, individuals are required to obtain a residence permit for Community nationals (this card is valid for five years and is renewable). The local authorities are obliged to supply the card if you are employed by a company in the country or if you are self-employed or if you are the spouse or dependent of a holder of a residence permit.

There are nevertheless a number of restrictions apart from those contained in the Community's founding Treaty of Rome (articles 48 and 56).

Public order and public safety : national authorities have a certain amount of discretion in issuing residence permits when questions of public order or safety arise.

- * a permit cannot be refused for economic or financial reasons;
- * refusal must be based exclusively on the personal behaviour of the individual concerned;
- * a criminal record is not necessarily sufficient grounds for refusing a permit or limiting somebody's stay;
- * the withdrawal or expiry of the identity document which enabled entry of a foreigner into another country is not sufficient grounds for the authorities to expel that person.

Up until now, the European Court of Justice has had to deal with four cases concerning public order and safety. Each time the Community judges have accorded the competent national authorities with a margin of discretion and have thereby recognised that a country has the right to defend itself against a person it considers a social danger. They did point out however that expulsion cannot be used as an attempt to dissuade other foreigners.

In summary, national authorities have tended to retain their sovereignty in this field even though Community jurisprudence has tried to prevent abuses which can arise.

* Public health : the authorities of one country can invoke this reason to prevent the entry of, or expel individuals from their territory. Under Community law there are limits to this right and it can only be used when the person concerned is a carrier of a particularly serious or contagious disease (cholera, typhoid etc.).

SECOND HOME IN THE COMMUNITY

If you wish to acquire a second residence in the Community either for holidays or to retire to, Community regulations leave the matter up to the discretion of national authorities. Up until now, there has only been one case (in Denmark) where another Community individual (a German) was refused permission to buy a residence when he did not intend to work in the country. The Treaty of Rome only deals with free movement of people in the context of exercising a living.

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