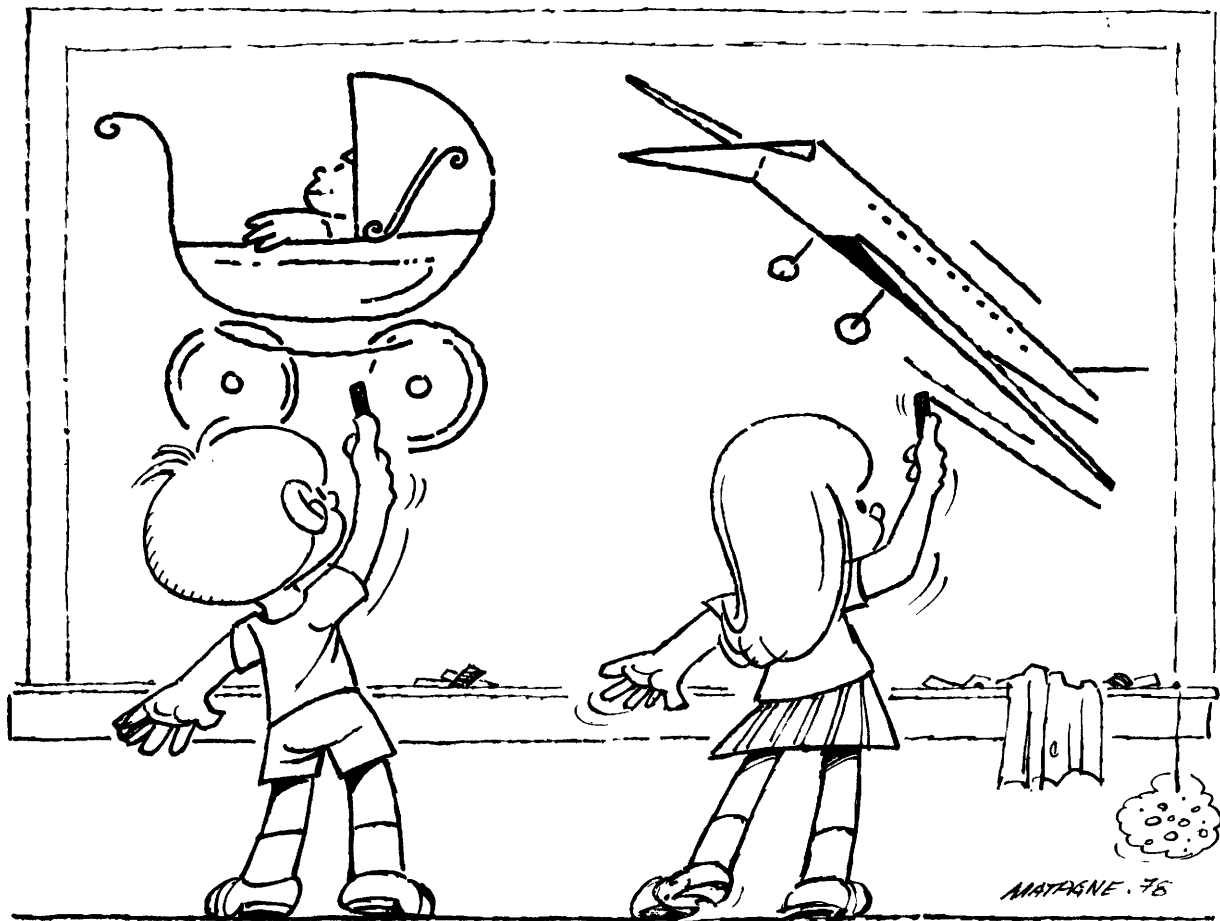


Brussels, 10 October 1978

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Equal education should mean equal opportunity -
but does it? See page 3.

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++ WOMEN : EQUAL EDUCATION - INEQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Teachers are increasingly concerned about the "under-achievement" of abilities by girls aged 10-18 years who are all too often prepared to settle for domestic science courses or be trained for so called "women's" jobs - usually the worst paid - or to leave school as soon as possible. How can girls be assured the same education as boys to give them the same chance in life?

Annex 1 discusses the European Commission's proposals.

++ SHOPPING BAG OR TROLLEY FOR THE FUTURE

What will our retail shops look like in the future - giant out of town shopping centres surrounded by a multitude of public facilities? And will the small retailers disappear or become integrated into town centres along with pedestrian precincts?

A look at the retail industry today by Community experts is presented in Annex 2.

++ EDUCATION : STUDENT "IMPORT-EXPORT"

Too many obstacles are in the way of students wishing to follow courses in other Community countries.

The measures suggested by the European Commission to increase the mobility of students in Europe are presented in Annex 3.

++ VACANCIES AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Vacancies registered at labour exchanges and unfilled after one month stand at:

	<u>1977 (annual average)</u>	<u>April 1978</u>
Belgium	3 400	3 100
Denmark	1 600	1 900
Germany	231 000	257 100
France	103 000	90 600
Italy	n.a.	n.a.
Ireland	1 800	1 900 (Feb.)
Luxembourg	187	300
Netherlands	55 400	66 900
United Kingdom	154 000	204 100

The distribution of these vacancies by industrial sector is difficult to calculate. It appears however that the unfilled vacancies are mostly for office jobs, retailing and restaurants, metal working, non-specialised manual work and the building industry.

The total number of vacancies is much lower than the total of unemployed registered in the Community : 5.8 million in April 1978, and is also well under the total vacancies filled by labour exchanges (2.1 million for Germany, 1.2 million for the United Kingdom, 0.5 million for France, 180 000 for Denmark, and 115 000 for Belgium in 1977).

The European Commission stresses that this figure should not be seen as a shortage of labour. Companies have to cover themselves for the turnover and flux in labour. Also some workers do not easily change from one industry to another. Qualified labour, in particular, cannot be easily recruited from workers changing jobs.

Finally the structure of vacancies does not totally coincide either at the regional or the occupational level with the structure of unemployment. Certain vacancies call for unusual specialisations, offer unattractive working conditions or exclude certain categories of workers (by imposing age limits, no part-time, etc.)

++ CAR INSURANCE IN THE EEC

In 1972 a Community directive obliged EEC car owners to take out accident insurance which covered accidents in other Community countries as well as their own. After an agreement worked out by car insurance companies in the Nine, there is no longer any need for drivers to carry the international "green card" insurance certificate if they are travelling in another EEC country.

In an effort to improve the rights of road accident victims the European Commission has just worked out a plan to eliminate the divergences that still exist between car insurance systems in the Nine relating to civil liability.

++ COMMUNITY FARM WORKERS

In 1976 there were 520 000 full-time farm workers in the European Community employed throughout the year. In 1974 they numbered 590 000. But only an average 7% of them are women - from 2% of the working population in agriculture in Ireland to 13% in Germany.

A large majority of agricultural workers are employed in farms with a permanent workforce under ten. Small farms with only one or two labourers employ more than half the farm workers in five countries.

An average two workers in three are employed in the general agricultural sector - from 17% in the Netherlands to 75% in Luxembourg. Stockbreeding employs less than 10% of workers in France and Germany; specialist crops are very important in the Netherlands and Belgium and account for 67% and 63% of the working population in agriculture respectively.

Hours vary from 160 a month in Belgium to 205 in Luxembourg. If wages are linked to the rise in consumer prices between 1975 and 1976 workers have had a real increase of 2% in the Netherlands, 4% in Germany, 5% in Belgium and Italy, 7% in France and 10% in Luxembourg. In most cases, pay and conditions for agricultural workers have followed the same pattern as those for industrial workers.

These figures are taken from "Earnings in Agriculture" published by the European Community's statistical office. It can be bought from Community bookshops listed on the last page of Euroforum, price £6.30.

++ NEW LOOK CONSUMER

Economic crisis, industrial change, mass production, planned obsolescence - are consumers being forced to change their habits and way of life?

A high-level conference being organised by the European Commission for October 23-24 in Brussels should provide a few answers to this question. Some fifty political personalities will be discussing the following three topics:

- "Production, industrial change and the way of life of European consumers" (rapporteurs : Mr. Colombo, director at Montedison, and Mr. Jacques Delors, professor at Paris university).
- "Consumers, incomes and inflation" (rapporteur : the Pr. van Rijckeghem)
- "Consumers, public authorities and the European Community" (rapporteurs : Mr. Michel Carpentier, Director General of the Environment and Consumer Protection Service, and Mr. Michael Shanks, national Chairman of the Consumer Council and former Director of Social Affairs in the European Commission.

This conference, entitled "The consumer in a changing world", will be the occasion for the European Community and public authorities in the Nine to set guidelines and priorities for consumer protection policies in Europe. It will also be an effective way to remind politicians that consumer problems should not be absent from the debates leading up to the first direct election of the European Parliament.

++ ENERGY : REBIRTH OF COAL

We published in Euroforum N° 33/78 an article supporting the promotion of European coal (annex 2). This new boost is all the more necessary since the growth of the nuclear industry is slower than expected - forecasts of a doubling of nuclear capacity in the Community between 1985 and 1990 are now viewed with considerable scepticism. The European Commission considers that nuclear capacity should be expanded steadily in accordance, of course, with popular consent and consideration for the environment.

++ FARM PRODUCTION IN THE NINE

In the last fifteen years final agricultural production has decreased in five Community countries and increased in four others. In percentage terms at 1970 prices, the variations in production from 1963-67 and from 1973-76 give the following results:

	<u>1963-1967</u>	<u>1973-1976</u>
Germany	12.2	-0.7
France	15.2	-5.8
Italy	22.3	3.9
Netherlands	22.7	9.6
Belgium	18.3	-4.2
Luxembourg	5.8	-8
United Kingdom	-	-7
Ireland	-	0.3
Denmark	-	0.9

(Two different series of data were used for France which are not fully comparable. 1963-67 figures are not available for the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark.)

++ SAFETY OF TV SETS

The cartoon published in Euroforum N° 32/78 on accidents in the home has led France's Syndicat des constructeurs d'appareils radio récepteurs et téléviseurs to request us to stress that television manufacturers observe particularly stringent safety standards and for the last fifteen years have only used safety tubes whose production and use is governed by strict controls.

++ MEDICAMENT REGULATIONS

"The rules governing medicaments in the European Community" is the title of a new booklet just published by the European Commission covering Community directives on the manufacturing and marketing of specialty pharmaceuticals in the Nine. These directives provide certain guarantees for public health and also help improve trade in medicaments within the Community.

The booklet is available from Community bookshops listed on the back page of Euroforum, priced £3.25.

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WOMEN : EQUAL EDUCATION - UNEQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Most educationalists recognise today that education should give girls as well as boys the right to the same opportunities :

- full or part-time work;
- to provide the family income or stay at home;
- to be able to change roles at various stages of a career or married life.

Schools are obliged to prepare all their pupils and not only the boys to earn a living during some, if not all of their lives. Conversely all young people, both boys and girls, should be taught to share the responsibility for managing a house and educating children. It is also accepted that educational possibilities offered to children should correspond to individual needs and abilities, and not be attributed in function of prejudice regarding sex or race.

Under-achievement in schools

Faced with non-sexist objectives, the reality is somewhat different. Girls between 10 and 18 years tend towards not fully realising their abilities at school. And educationalists are becoming increasingly concerned. Scholastic inequality shows itself in a number of ways:

- in secondary commercial or technical education, female participation is much lower than male. The courses followed by girls tend to be oriented towards traditional female employment and less specialised courses;
- in classical or general education , girls often choose shorter courses or leave school as soon as possible. When girls finally move into higher education, choice of subject is all too often a function of their sex and their conditioning.

Inequality at school is one of the main factors in unequal opportunity. The European Commission wishes to put this to rights and along with its programme to reduce the inequality of treatment between men and women, it has sent the Council of Ministers a report on the inequality of opportunity in education and training for young women.

The aim of this is to identify the nature of the inequality to which 10-18 year old girls are subjected (secondary education) and to identify areas where European action could be useful.

Inequality at school

The European Commission has been reviewing various factors inhibiting a greater degree of equality, in particular:

- the existence of girls schools which offer limited courses in the fields which, through prejudice, are generally reserved for boys : mathematics, sciences, and technical subjects. The introduction of coeducational teaching could remove some of the obstacles by giving equal access to all courses;
- systems of early specialisation which permit girls to abandon basic subjects such as maths or physics and cannot help but have repercussions on the choice of further study and, in the long term, on employment. The existence of options between technical subjects and domestic sciences is a frequent cause of inequality. Domestic sciences which are chosen by a large proportion of less intellectually gifted adolescents rarely lead to jobs. This area of study could be fruitfully replaced by courses involving both boys and girls with the accent on the interchangeability of domestic and external tasks;
- vocational aspirations of girls are all too often determined by stereotypes from their own environment, backed up by family, the media and school books etc. In consequence they tend to harbour ideas such as "men's work" and "women's work", and "housework is the responsibility of the woman" etc. To try and alleviate such conformism, the Commission has proposed "anti-stereotype" courses for pupils, and the establishment of a better balance between the sexes in different branches of study (manual jobs and scientific courses included) and in positions of authority.

Concrete measures

The European Commission has proposed a number of objectives as a basis for joint action:

- expanding coeducation;
- developing compensatory education programmes for girls;

- developing basic compulsory but balanced study programmes thus delaying the moment of specialisation;
- introducing compulsory new material for both sexes such as technology or home economics;
- establishing a better balance between the sexes in the teaching force, particularly through recruitment and promotion policies;
- developing educational concepts which will make pupils as well as educationalists conscious of the stereotype images that should be removed;
- improving research and statistical data on the inequality facing girls in the educational system.

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SHOPPING BAG OR TROLLEY FOR THE FUTURE?

From specialist shops in town centres to hypermarkets on the outskirts, retail trading in the post-war period has changed dramatically. Changes in purchasing habits have been linked to three factors:

- standard of living : from 1966 to 1975 personal consumption per head has increased more than 33% in volume in the whole of Europe;
- city expansion : population growth combined with the rural exodus has accelerated the growth of Europe's cities. New residential areas have been set up well away from city centres. Small shopkeepers have not always survived the change;
- the car : the number of automobiles in the Community amounts to some 68 million, equivalent to one car for every four persons. Despite a certain disaffection for the car, it seems that we are heading towards the American average of one car for every two persons.

Comeback of the small retailers

These three phenomena and a few other factors have resulted in a boom for supermarkets, hypermarkets, cash and carry shops and other cut-price outlets for mass market goods. Yet the small specialist retailer seems to be coming back into favour and city centres may soon regain their old popularity.

What is the future of small retailers in the Community? Where will they locate and in which form? What national laws cover the commercial development of cities and what does the consumer want? A new brochure drawn up by national experts and published by the European Commission under the title "Aspects of establishment planning and control of retail outlets in Europe" provides some answers to these questions. The document is available from Community bookshops listed on the back page of Euroforum, price £0.85.

Super or Hyper

Even if the consumer regains the taste for old-style, more personal shops, the new large shopping centres on the outskirts of cities (where land is cheaper) is the key element in current commercial life. Establishments between 400 m² and 2500 m² are defined as supermarkets. Anything above this is a hypermarket.

The trend towards increased shop size is less prevalent in countries such as Luxembourg and Italy (which had only 11 hypermarkets and 1 029 supermarkets in 1977) and Denmark (17 hypermarkets and 559 supermarkets in 1978) since these countries apply stricter regulations.

Ireland also has a low number of supermarkets on account of the low level of urbanisation. Numerous shopping centres with retail shops have been created during city renovation operations, though trade through itinerants (who often pay no tax) is still substantial.

Supermarkets, pedestrian zones and green belts

Other countries show trends towards a reduction in the number of shops and an increase in their size.

In the United Kingdom this is very much the case in the food and household goods sector. The UK counted 125 hypermarkets in 1976 and 2 800 supermarkets in 1975. The growth of out-of-town superstores or hypermarkets has been held back by "green belt" policies. In city areas shopping centres have been extended and modernised.

In Germany new planned commercial centres have emerged alongside traditional establishments, such as the Ruhrpark near Bochum (70 000 m²). In 1960 self-service shops accounted for some 11% of the market (1,100 shops in 1976). The non-food sector is growing in importance with the range of items offered. Traditional retail trade in city centres is fighting back through the introduction of pedestrian precincts : currently Germany has 400 pedestrian zones. Construction costs have been shared between local authorities and the businesses concerned.

Towns in the country

In Belgium the city centre has long lost its privileged position due to the creation of giant shopping centres in the suburbs. At the beginning of 1975 the country tallied 709 supermarkets and 70 hypermarkets. Shopping centres tend to be built around large areas of land.

Hypermarkets in France have been built right out in the country and at the beginning of 1977, 353 hypermarkets accounted for 8% of retail sales whilst the 3 157 supermarkets were responsible for 9%. The current trend is to concentrate a hypermarket and a collection of service shops and boutiques in the same area.

Healthy lively city centres

In 1945 the Netherlands attempted to integrate retail shops into the urban fabric. Shops were often regrouped together with other public services near new residential areas. Since 1970 the self-service outlets have tended to be built on the outskirts. Public authorities have tended to oppose construction in green belt areas and have been studying the effects of the large outlying centres on the retail trade, the environment and on traffic before giving building permission.

Back to city life

The desire to reanimate city centres is common through the European Community - new parking and traffic arrangements and pedestrian areas are evidence of this. To achieve this objective, Germany, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the Netherlands support their efforts with city regulations: sectoral plans and rural planning at the regional and local level. For their part, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Italy have special regulations covering the creation or conversion of commercial establishments.

It is in the interest of both retailers and consumers to find a just balance between the different forms of distribution.

Shops closer to main centres

What will the shop of to-morrow in the Community be like? The growth in size of retail establishments will not continue at the pace of recent years. Cities should experience a return to small shops near social, cultural, leisure and service establishments. The supermarket will be forced to boost its image and improve its techniques and become more of an attraction-pole, surrounded by complementary shops. The expansion of hypermarkets will doubtless slow down by 1980 when old equipment will need replacing.

There is a universal wish in rural areas to put the brakes on the decay of community life. This should hopefully lead to a diversification of retail establishments (with State aid if necessary) sufficient to neutralise the attraction of neighbouring towns without harming the small trader in the corner shop.

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EDUCATION : STUDENT "IMPORT-EXPORT"

In the academic year 1974-75, French universities received more than 2 000 British and German students. Conversely the following year more than 2 000 French students decided to study in the homeland of Goethe but only 300 spent a year at Oxford or Cambridge. The venerable walls of Trinity College Dublin housed some 1 000 European students in 1975-76, most of them German. Belgian universities took in an equal proportion of Italian and Luxembourgish students (500 - 600 in 1975-76). A slightly smaller number of French and Belgian students were more willing to go to French universities.

These student migration patterns are the result of multiple factors - geographical, historical, linguistic, academic and financial. The net result however is an imbalance in the movement of students between Community countries to the detriment of European culture and the improved mobility of Community citizens. The European Commission has proposed a series of proposals aimed at improving opportunities for study in other European countries. These proposals respond to the various obstacles currently facing students who wish to study abroad.

- numerical limits on admission

When a country restricts the numbers of students it should save a reasonable number of places for non-national students.

- admission criteria

Candidates from other Community countries should not have to fulfil non-academic entrance requirements not applicable to national students, nor be obliged to pass additional tests or exams that national students do not need to take.

- study fees

Students from other Community countries should not be obliged to pay higher study fees than national students. Scholarship systems which are individually available to national students should also apply to other European students. National grants should also be available for study in other Community countries (on condition that these are part of the course for which the grant is given).

- linguistic requirements

The linguistic knowledge required for national courses should relate to the needs of the chosen course. The Community should devise accelerated language courses for foreign students according to needs.

- administrative procedures

All information on possibilities open to European students should be drawn together and meetings regularly organised for those responsible for receiving students, to pool experience and solve existing problems.

- information and consultation

Regular exchanges of information should enable trends in European study to be periodically examined. Any Community country wishing to change its admission policies should consult the education Committee before acting.

These proposals drawn up by the European Commission will be examined by the Nine's education ministers at their next meeting 27th November 1978.

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