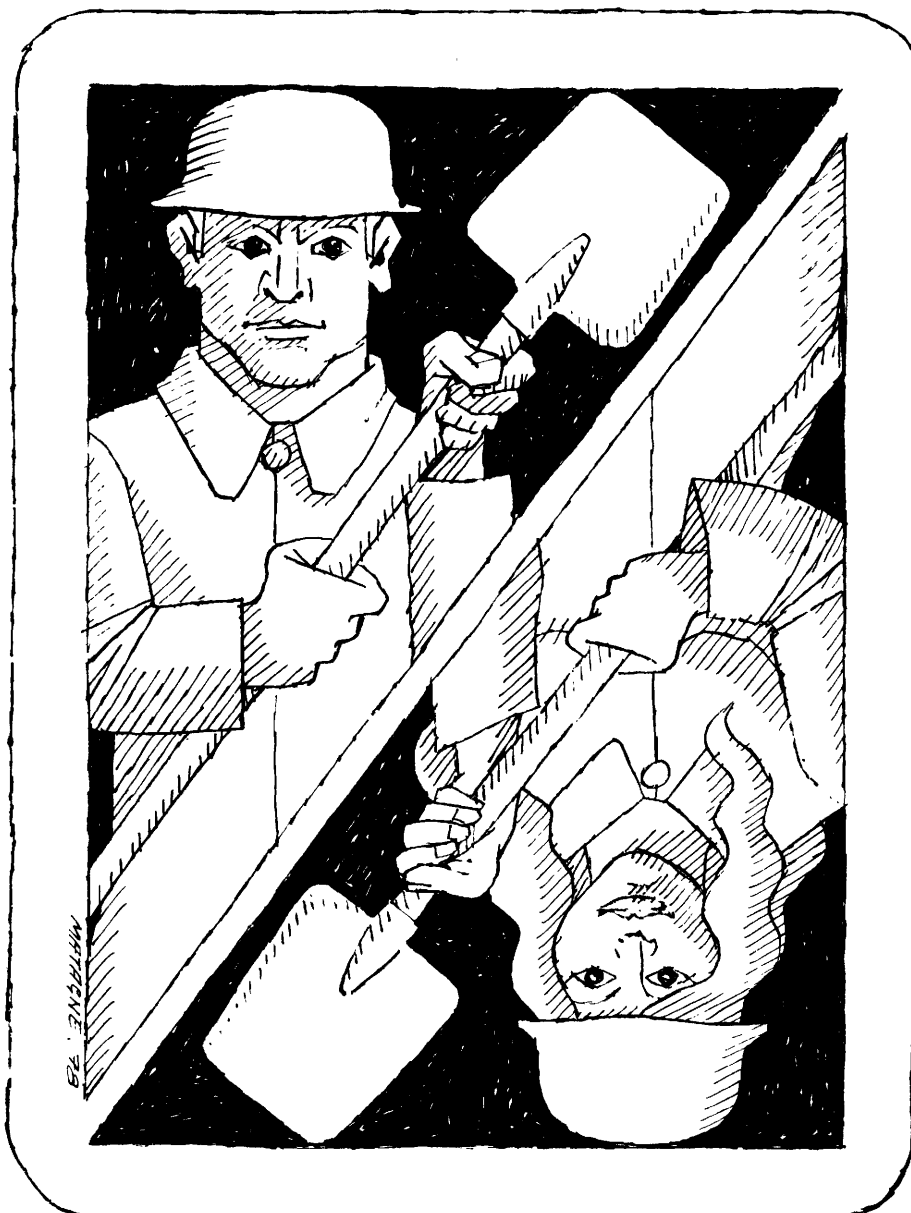


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Female equality : the long road (see page 3).

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++ COMMUNITY HELP FOR NEPTUNE

Riddled with pollution, defiled by industry and by tourists, Europe's coast is in a bad way. Action has to be taken before it is too late.

Proposals from two research centres who have been examining the problem are presented in Annex 1.

++ AN END TO PROTECTIONISM

In the midst of the economic crisis, public authorities in the European Community are increasingly tempted to help their own national industries by inhibiting imports from other EEC countries. The European Commission is currently dealing with over 400 such complaints.

A number of examples of infringements are discussed in Annex 2.

++ FEMALE EQUALITY : THE LONG ROAD

Do men and women have equal opportunity at work? All too often the facts say no.

An outline of Community measures to bring about equality at work is presented in Annex 3.

++ EUROPEAN ECONOMY IN TRANSITION

European economy is currently in a phase of transition characterised by moderate growth, improved control over inflation and a stabilisation of unemployment at an unpleasantly high level.

Increased coordination of economic policies in the Nine and the introduction of a durable, European monetary system are still the principal means of achieving satisfactory and effective results in the future.

Economic development between now and 1979 is unlikely to absorb much of the unemployment. A slight rise in gross domestic product (GDP) in the Community is anticipated.

	<u>1977</u>	<u>'78 (est.)</u>	<u>'79 (est.)</u>
Growth of GDP (volume)	2.3%	2.6%	3.5%
Rise in consumer prices	9.1%	6.9%	7.0%
Proportion of unemployed in working population	5.5%	5.7%	5.6%

++ WAGES AND THE COST OF LIVING

A study has just been published by the Community's Statistical Office on wage trends among European workers in relation to the cost of living. Taking 1972 as the base year (index = 100, and cost of living = 100), the situation in 1977 was as follows:

	<u>Average gross hourly earnings (manual workers)</u>	<u>Consumer prices</u>
Germany	156	130
France	208	165
Italy	-	216
Netherlands	182	151
Belgium	205	159
Luxembourg	203	149
United Kingdom	213	208
Ireland	244	211
Denmark	205	172

These figures have been taken from the study 'Hourly earnings - working hours' published by the Community's Statistical Office (ref.: CA-AC-78-002-6A-C) and can be obtained from Community sales offices listed on the back page, priced £6.40.

++ HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES : EUROPEAN GUARANTEE FOR ZANUSSI WARES

From now on anyone who buys household appliances from Zanussi will benefit from a guarantee valid throughout Europe no matter what it is or where they buy it.

The Zanussi group, a well known manufacturer of appliances such as refrigerators, cookers, washing machines and TVs, etc. distributes its products through subsidiaries in each Common Market country under brand names such as Rex,

Castor, Zoppas, etc. as well as Zanussi. Up until now, the European consumer was unable to get a manufacturer's guarantee when the appliance was used in a country other than the one it was intended for (and adapted to local technical standards and safety regulations). According to Zanussi, such an appliance could have been dangerous to the user and Zanussi would be responsible in case of accident.

But according to the European Commission, the disparities between the existing standards (both technical and safety) in force in the Nine cannot justify such a practice. Also the impossibility of obtaining a guarantee in the case of a parallel import or an export constitutes a serious obstacle to the growth of Community trade.

Following the Commission's intervention, Zanussi has been obliged to modify its conditions of guarantee. Customers can now buy an appliance in any country without risk of losing the right to a guarantee. The European Commission is currently examining guarantee systems applied by other European appliance manufacturers to ensure their guarantees are applicable throughout the Community.

++ COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SOLAR ENERGY

Ministers of the Nine have agreed to the Commission's proposal to accord financial support to projects to exploit alternative energy sources such as solar energy.

Industry is conscious of the value of solar energy which is rapidly becoming a viable and competitive energy source. The market for solar heating appliances is also attracting great interest. Possible solar energy applications include the reheating of water used by industry and public utilities, biomass applications (including commercial forestry) and the production of electrical energy. Several of these applications are to receive financial aid from the Community to encourage industry and public authorities to invest in capital-intensive solar energy applications.

++ PRICE OF CIGARETTES

"Can the Commission state whether the French Government is fixing the price of cigarettes manufactured by SEITA and 'Gauloises' in particular, below SEITA's production costs, with the result that the sale price of these cigarettes is far below that of imported cigarettes"?

In reply to this question from Mr. Notenboom of the European Parliament, the Commission states that it does not at present have sufficient information to be able to confirm whether the French Government is pricing SEITA cigarettes below cost. Whilst admittedly 'Gauloises' have been among the cheapest brands on the French market for a long time, it must be stated that French-made cigarettes are sold at prices both above and below those of imported brands. Also SEITA's profit and loss account (which showed a slight profit in 1974 and 1975) fell into deficit in 1976. The Commission will continue its efforts to obtain complete information on the matter.

++ GDR FIRMS ADHERE TO EEC RULES

For the first time, the European Commission has intervened to bring state-trading companies into line on Community rules. The Commission's investigations have centred on the licensing agreement concluded by the East German companies VEB Pentacon Dresden and Elbe - Kamera GmbH, and a company in W. Germany (Carl Hostert KG). This contract gave the licensee exclusive rights to use the GDR companies' patents for a device for transferring exposed film into developing machines. The agreement also specified that the licensee must not contest the validity of the patents covered by the arrangement. Such clauses may be 'anti-competitive' in the Commission's view and following the Commission's intervention, the GDR firms agreed to settle out of court and adhere to Community regulations.

++ WHEN THE EURO-DRIVING LICENCE?

Why exactly do we not have a European driving licence asks Mr. Radoux of the European Parliament. The proposal for introducing such a licence was agreed to in principle by the Council of Ministers in June 1978 but there are still numerous obstacles in the way. National legislation covering driving licences vary considerably from European country to country. Some Member States will not automatically issue driving licences to people from other Member States who settle in their country, but insist that they first take their own driving test.

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COMMUNITY HELP FOR NEPTUNE

The Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the North Sea and the Adriatic are all sick. Europe's fragile coastline is riddled with pollution and is being poisoned by tourists and industry (the Amoco Cadiz disaster is still fresh in the minds of those in Brittany, and the 'red sludge' is still well remembered in Corsica and Italy). The coastline is now a battle ground for the agents of economic development, nature protectionists and the general public.

Concerted action

This dramatic situation has already been vividly highlighted in the Community's first environmental action programme, but whilst there is still time, action must be taken.

Following the spirit of the new Community environment programme (1977-81) the European Commission charged two specialised research centres - one French (the Rennes Centre des régions peripheriques maritime) and the other Italian (Centre Studi ed Applicazioni in tecnologia avanzate, in Bari) - to draw up a series of concrete proposals for concerted and integrated development of Europe's maritime heritage. (This study only represents the views of its authors and does not in any way commit the European Commission on future action in this field).

This study entitled "The integrated development of the European Community's coastal areas" (edited by J. Duminy) has been published by the European Commission (ref : EUR 6105) and is available from Community bookshops (listed on last page), priced £6.

Two development models : Brittany and Pouille

The researchers have taken a close look at two 'model' regions : the coast of Brittany and the coast of Pouille. These two areas have been deliberately selected for their differing economic activities, ecological situations and autonomous administrative structures which make them a suitable testing ground for most of the problems facing the Community's environment policy in the north and south of Europe.

Action before it's too late

The conclusions from these two detailed and complex studies have led the researchers to propose a number of concrete measures which would enable the Community to implement the European Commission's principles reconciling economic development with the necessary protection of the coastal areas. The suggestions put forward by the researchers are in no way binding on the European Commission however.

A number of their ideas aim at taking action before the brink is reached and Europe's coastline is simply destroyed.

The researchers suggest the following remedies and stress the urgency of action:

- the creation of research institutes and data banks in each Community country which can collate, among other things, statistics on urban and ecological developments (climatology, geology, fauna, countryside) in each region, using for instance aerial photos. This sort of information should enable the Community to draw up a general inventory and an ecological map of its coastal zones;
- drawing up development plans for each coastal zone, specifying, with the help of the data bank, future objectives for each area (rural planning and protection, reorganisation of traditional industries, outlook for new activities, creation of new ports or new non-polluting industries linked to the sea etc.);
- information campaigns both by national authorities and by the Community : TV programmes highlighting the problems of our coasts and the tourist industry, educational courses for the general public and local elected representatives, organisation of scientific meetings, etc.;
- the creation of national funds permitting local authorities to purchase endangered coastal areas, or to finance integrated development plans;
- strengthening controls : all infringements of the development plans (unauthorised development, environmental destruction, over-exploitation of natural resources, etc.) should be heavily penalised, before the environment is beyond help;

- strengthening legislation : Community countries should be invited to introduce standardised legislation to fill the gaps in current regulations. Such common legislation would cover, in particular, the organisation of public coastal areas, building permits, anti-pollution measures etc.

The two case-studies have demonstrated that the essential problems lie in the discrepancies between the laws and regulations and their effective application.

Urgency of collective action

The matter is now in the hands of the European Commission which will evaluate the suggestions put forward by the research centres. It should be recalled that in a number of fields - pollution control for instance - the European Commission has already taken action. The Nine have also taken measures relating to national coastal policies.

It is now vital for all Community countries with coastal waters to seriously consider measures to save their maritime heritage. There is still time. But not much.

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AN END TO PROTECTIONISM

The unrestricted movement of goods between members of the European Community is one of the basic objectives of the Treaty of Rome - the foundation stone of the Common Market. Nevertheless, this principle is being violated by the increasing number of restrictive measures introduced by national authorities to help their own industrial sectors by restricting imports from other Community countries. In many cases these measures have been the subject of complaints to the European Commission and the sources have been varied : members of the European Parliament, national governments, industrial associations and even individuals.

The problem is, however, neither new nor surprising. But the growth in such protectionist measures over the last three years, the importance of the sectors concerned and its extension throughout the Community has obliged the European Commission to undertake a close examination of the problem (Four hundred complaints are currently being dealt with).

In five years the number of complaints has quadrupled and even the current total only represents a modest proportion of the restrictive measures operating throughout the Community. A brief look at the complaints shows that all countries are equally as guilty, and restrictions cover a vast, diversified range of products.

Amongst complaints dealt with by the Commission in 1977 were:

- a ban in Germany on the marketing of spirits such as anisette;
- the requirement of a technical visa to import phosphates into France;
- the licence required in Italy to export oil products etc.

Complaints dealt with this year cover:

- automatic licences, technical visas, certificates of origin and other documents which national authorities require for imports or exports. For example, one country introduced an obligation to furnish a technical visa for shoe imports just before the autumn collections were about to come on the market. The intention here was to protect the national industry and this effectively inhibited trade in shoes from other Community countries.

- national regulations specifying technical standards or quality norms applied to goods imported for local sale. These regulations have, technically, a legitimate objective (health protection, consumer information, quality control etc); nevertheless the intention is in some cases to inhibit or discourage imports from other Community countries. For example, one Community country set limits on the quantity of germs permissible in mineral water. This measure effectively kept out non-fizzy mineral waters produced in other countries.

- "Preferential systems" for national industries in public supply contracts : the size of this sector is important : only 17% of total consumption in Community countries is composed of goods which are purchased. Public supply contracts, though often organised as trans-national tenders, often conceal various preferential systems for specific regions, sectors, social groups, etc.

The situation is aggravated by the multiplication of campaigns to promote purchases of nationally produced goods, conducted not only by private organisations but by national authorities as well.

The Commission is intent on preserving the free trade principle in the EEC, which it regards as essential for the growth of the domestic market.

The Commission has also simplified and accelerated the complaints procedures to cut processing times down by half.

The Commission has decided to continue working in this way with increased vigilance and perseverance. The economic crisis currently affecting the Community, the risk that Community countries turn their backs on each other, the danger of restricting access to markets - which would imperil the growth of the EEC's domestic market - makes such action more urgent than ever.

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FEMALE EQUALITY : THE LONG ROAD

Are men and women treated equally at work. Let the facts speak for themselves:

Equal pay

- France : the difference between hourly rates for men and women is about 22% and the situation has scarcely changed for a number of years.

The monthly publication "F. Magazine" undertook a survey among its readers and found that 86% were certain that for the same work women earned less than men.

- U.K. : in 1976 the average wage for women was one third less than that for men. Only 5.2% of men working full-time were earning less than £40 per week, whilst the "Equal Opportunities Commission" identified over 43.2% of working women in the same position.

- Europe : women in Europe think equal pay for equal work is the most urgent problem to be resolved, it was revealed in an opinion poll conducted by 8 European magazines and the European Commission.

Equal access to jobs?

- Germany : young women have limited their choice to only 30 possible careers whilst the full range is over 400. This was the sad fact revealed by the Federal Ministry for Education. The ingrained prejudice which directs girls towards "women's jobs" explains why so many girls under 20 years are unemployed - they are trying to get the jobs which are worst affected by the economic crisis.

Equal treatment?

- France : whilst there are more women than men out of work, social payments received by women only amount to one third of the total. Unemployed women are also more pessimistic than men. Close on 60% do not know when they will be likely to find a suitable job. Less than 15% think they will find a job within three months.

Three equality directives

Europe is a long way from equal treatment for men and women, even though this principle is an integral part of the Treaty of Rome which is the basis of the European

Community. To change this situation, the Commission has been working in three areas:

1. Equal pay for men and women

This directive proposed by the European Commission was adopted by the Council of Ministers on February 10th, 1975 and came into force on February 12th, 1976. By this date national governments should have made the necessary legislative arrangements to apply the directive to their countries. Member States have reported to the Commission on measures they have taken and the Commission is currently evaluating the national reports. Their findings will be transmitted to the Council of Ministers during the course of the month.

2. Equal treatment in access to jobs, vocational training and working conditions

Adopted on February 9th, this directive came into force on August 12, 1978 when the period of grace for introducing the appropriate changes in national legislation ended. Two countries, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, have yet to notify the Commission of the measures they have introduced. Mr. Henk Vredeling, Commission Vice-President has just sent them a reminder and the two countries have until November 12th to state what they have done to conform with the directive.

These national measures will be reviewed after four years to ensure that they still provide the protection for female workers which the directive intended (night work, ban on certain types of work etc.). If this is not the case, modifications may be made.

By August 12th 1980, national authorities should send the Commission all relevant data enabling Commission experts to report to the Council on the application of the directive.

3. Equal treatment in social security

This third directive proposed by the European Commission was presented to the Council of Ministers on December 31st 1976. It will probably be examined at their Council meeting on November 27th.

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