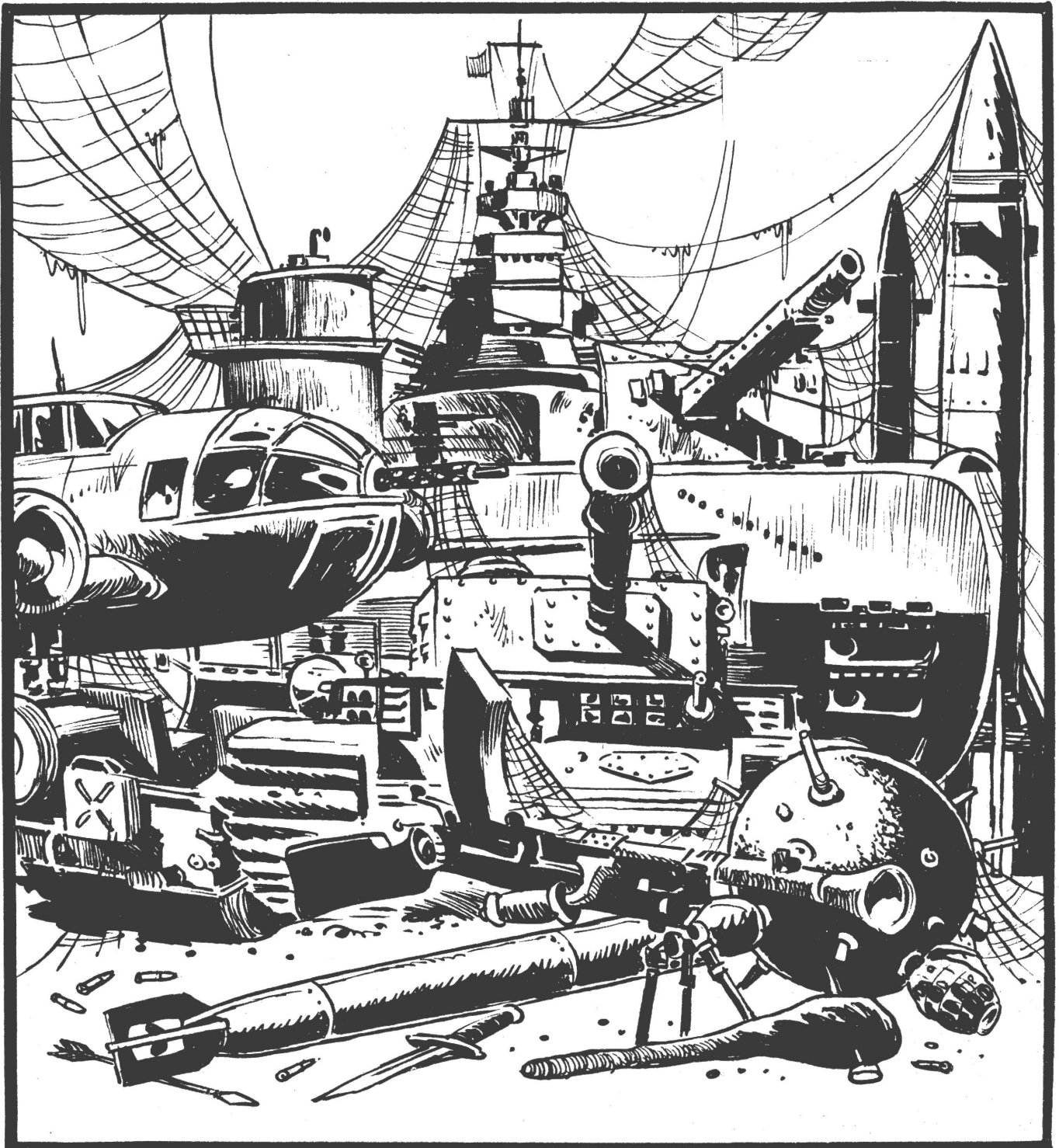


# Euroforum



A world without weapons: is it wishful thinking? See page 3.

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# Euroforum

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## RESEARCH



## A world without weapons: is it wishful thinking?

When Aristide Briand, quoting Talleyrand, told Lloyd George during the 1914-18 conflict that war was much too serious to be left to military men, he was, of course, merely articulating the politician's natural desire to run things.

But, even as he spoke, a subtle change was taking place that was to challenge the pre-eminent position of the soldier in society. The technical innovations introduced in the war, such as poison gas and mechanized transport, foreshadowed the future importance of the inventor and the scientist in the esoteric arts of war.

Today, although the ultimate decisions still rest—we hope—with the politicians, who can deny that the factors which influence their decisions are no longer how many divisions can be put in the field but how sophisticated are the nuclear deterrents available to them?

The acquirement of such sophistication does not, of course, come easily or cheaply. Massive injections of government funds into research and development (R & D) are needed to keep pace with the arms race.

Ever since the term 'Cold War' was first coined, the pace seems to have been hotting up. But a report on R & D expenditure in the European

Community\* which has just been published, indicates that this trend is being reversed.

The report looks at how governments spend their R & D funds and shows that only in the United Kingdom has there been a rise in the percentage devoted to defence R & D: from 41% in 1970 it rose to 50% in 1977, a percentage which is comparable to that of the US.

Elsewhere in the Community the percentage share of defence R & D has declined since 1970. The decline was fairly small in the case of France (from 32% of total R & D expenditure to 29%). It was somewhat bigger in Germany (from 18% to 13%), but as the total had increased substantially meanwhile, German expenditure has been roughly constant in real terms.

For the Community as a whole the decline in defence R & D was from 26% to 23% of total R & D investment but expenditure is now levelling off.

Expenditure on R & D in general accounts for between 1% and 6% of total government budgets. In 1977 it came to £8 000 million in current prices for the Community as a whole. While this is considerably less than the amount committed that year by the US Federal Government £13 000 million, a more valid comparison probably would be in terms of Gross Domestic Product. Expressed as a percentage of GDP, government financing of R & D came to 1.02% for the Nine and 1.22% for the US in 1976.

(Unfortunately the survey contains no information on R & D expenditure in either the Soviet Union, where there is a great emphasis on defence spending, or Japan which is gradually earning a reputation as an innovator rather than a plagiarist of Western invention.)

The data for 1976 suggested that government spending on R & D in the Community and the US might be on convergent tracks, with the one rising and the other falling. But it is now clear that expenditure in the Nine has begun to level off while the downtrend in the US has been reversed since 1976.

On the basis of statistics for the period 1970 to 1978, the European Commis-

sion has concluded that most Community countries have not given a very high priority to R & D expenditure, whatever their assessments before 1970. Although central government budgets grew much faster than GDP in all the Member States, the share of R & D in these budgets fell in all of them except Ireland.

Even so, for the Community as a whole, the volume of government expenditure on R & D rose in 1978 by an estimated 3% in real terms (as against 2% to 3% in the US). The biggest increase—nearly 16% over 1977—was recorded by Ireland, followed by Italy (8.5%). Increases of between 5% to 6% were recorded by Germany and France. However, spending declined in real terms in the UK, Denmark and Belgium.

How do the Nine governments allocate their R & D funds? The differences from one Member State to another are striking and there is no firm Community pattern. For example, nearly 40% of Irish R & D spending is on agricultural productivity and technology as against 5% for the Community as a whole.

In all Community countries (with the exception of Ireland) the largest share of government R & D financing is devoted to the 'general promotion of knowledge'. It accounts for half the total financing on civil R & D, in fact, and is more than four times the expenditure on energy R & D, which is the next largest sector.

It has been estimated that the world's research and development effort now employs upwards of 3 million scientists and engineers.

'The general promotion of knowledge' refers, in fact, to research financed in universities and other institutions of higher education. The importance of such research cannot obviously be under-estimated.

Germany, for example, devotes large sums to medical research and both Germany and France spend a lot on research in the exact and natural sciences. In the UK a large proportion of government R & D spending is reported under the heading 'Research of a general nature'.

Because research is often classified under such broad objectives, it is more difficult to establish the exact pattern of expenditure. It is therefore likely that expenditure on the production, distribution and rationalization of energy and on industrial productivity and technology, both of which are of primary importance today, represents a higher proportion of total civil R & D for the Community as a whole than the 1977 figures indicate—13.4% and 10.4% respectively.

'Our weapons were deliberately designed starting in the Sixties, so as not to threaten the weapons of the other side. Under the doctrine of assured destruction, nuclear war became not a military problem but one of engineering.' (Dr Henry Kissinger at a recent symposium in Brussels on the future of NATO).

The total national expenditure on energy R & D varies from country to country. It was 24% of the total in Italy, 17% in Belgium, 14% in the UK and Germany and just under 1% in Ireland in 1977. Some two-thirds of the European Commission's total R & D budget is spent in the energy sector, much of it on thermonuclear fusion. In the Member States the emphasis is on nuclear fission.

Over 10% of civil R & D in the Community as a whole goes on improving our environment and protecting and improving your health and mine. So at least part of GNP does not go on what the ecologists claim the initials stand for—Gross National Pollution!

(\*) 'Government Financing of Research and Development, 1970-78', published by the Statistical Office of the European Communities. Catalogue No CA-25-78-251-6A-C. Price: £ 8.40.  
From the national sales offices (for addresses see back cover).

## IN BRIEF

The European Commission has given the go-ahead for the granting of almost £ 3.5 million to help uranium prospecting programmes in the Member States. This is the fourth series of grants made under a Community programme which began in 1976.

## THE INSTITUTIONS

### Commission examines suggestions for its own streamlining

A lack of cohesion in the college of Commissioners; an imbalance between their portfolios; insufficient coordination among senior officials; a bad distribution of staff between departments and shortcomings in the career structure for civil servants—these are the main findings of a report prepared by a group of five outside consultants who were asked by Commission President Roy Jenkins and his colleagues to give an independent view of how they and their staffs function.

The group, which took nine months to complete its report, was headed by a Dutch diplomat, Ambassador Dirk Spierenburg, a former Vice-President of the European Coal and Steel Community.

The other members were Mr Karl Buschmann (Germany), Mr Paul Delouvrier (France), Mr Giuseppe Petrilli (Italy) and Mr Dick Taverne (United Kingdom).

Perhaps the most radical suggestion in the report, which was due to be considered by the Commission this weekend, is that the number of commissioners should be reduced to 10 and the number of portfolios to 8, effective from January 1, 1981, when the new Commission will take office and Greece will become a member.

This will mean that Member States will nominate only one commissioner each, instead of the present practice where the four larger Member States—France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom—can nominate two each.

The report also recommends that the number of Vice-Presidents of the Commission be reduced from five to one and that this Vice-President should be responsible for the systematic, day-to-day coordination of the Commission's work, leaving the President free to preside over the Commission's work and to represent it in important matters both inside and outside the Community, e.g. at summits.

The group believes that the number of the Commission's administrative departments—directorates-general—should be reduced and the role of

directors-general enhanced. On the other hand, it would like to see 'cabinets', which are the Commissioners' private offices of aides whom they appoint personally, having a more limited role to play.

The report is also critical of the career structure for regular Commission civil servants who are often frustrated by the lack of mobility and promotional prospects.

However, the group points out that the Commission is still a relatively new creation working under a number of severe handicaps—nine nationalities, different traditions and styles of administration, six working languages and budgetary limitations.

'In spite of these constraints', the report adds, 'one should not underestimate the success of the Commission in fulfilling its duties under the Treaty.'

## ENVIRONMENT

### Cross-frontier pollution: a pan-European concern

'Acid rain' and 'black snow' in recent years have taken their places in the vocabulary of environmental accidents that already included such inelegant couplings as 'red mud' and 'mercury poisoning'.

All these are the results of industrial activity which, unfortunately, may also produce pollution that affects innocent victims a long distance away.

Acid rain and black snow are weather disturbances which have afflicted Scandinavian countries for several years and which have been blamed for the death of salmon and vegetation which are among these countries most valuable resources.

The cause of these polluted rains and snows is a subject of constant concern and study for scientists in these countries, but many of them seem to believe that the environmental pollutants which fall on them from the skies originated in other European countries or even in North American plants and factories and are carried by wind currents to their Nordic destination.



There have been high-level contacts involving government ministers of the various countries involved but no firm decisions have been reached so far. One major difficulty, of course, is that few countries want to invest in major industrial modifications to prevent pollution that doesn't affect them even though it affects countries hundreds or even thousands of kilometres away.

Now, however, after years of discussion, nearly all the countries of Europe have participated in the drafting of an international convention on the prevention of long-range transfrontier pollution. The treaty will bind the countries that sign it to a serious effort of research and, hopefully, the eventual elimination of this problem.

The accord also represents a major diplomatic achievement because it involves virtually all the countries of Eastern and Western Europe. It is one of the more striking examples of East-West cooperation foreseen in the historic 1975 Helsinki Agreement on security and cooperation in Europe.

Conducted under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, the negotiations which have paved the way for the agreement have spotlighted one of the few areas that unites European countries of such diverse ideologies and economic systems. Both the Communist and market economy countries of Europe have agreed that this new form of industrial hazard is a problem that concerns everyone.

This document is expected to be ready for signature following a major ministerial meeting of all countries involved set for 13-16 November in Geneva. The European Commission in Brussels feels that the European Community as an entity should sign the new pollution convention as well as its individual Member States and has requested that the member governments give it the authority to do so.

Both the member countries and the European Commission have been participating in the preparation of this meeting on trans-frontier pollution and

on other issues which the meeting will examine as potential areas of East-West environmental cooperation.

The other main theme of the Geneva meeting will produce a document that the European Community countries may also want to sign as a block and which deals with another universal problem—the prevention of waste and the preservation of natural resources.

The European countries have also agreed to undertake a special cooperative effort to research and encourage low and non-wasteful technology and the recycling of waste products. They all feel that raw materials are too scarce and valuable to continue to be thrown away as in the past. They want to enlarge the use and re-use of materials that have previously been dumped as industrial waste because they now realize that this is an inefficient and polluting practice that can no longer be tolerated.

### 'Save the Whale'— Commission urges Nine to act

The international struggle for the survival of endangered wildlife has sometimes reached dramatic proportions. The efforts by a hardy group of seafaring protectors of whales have made headline news as they resorted to direct attacks on whaling ships. These same conservationists have also helped expose the continuing illegal slaughter and sale of one of the earth's most impressive creatures.

Centuries of harpooning of these huge mammals has so decimated the number which roam the oceans that restrictions have had to be imposed on whaling ships. Quotas for the number of whales to be caught by the major whaling nations, surveillance of the actual catches and other restrictions on the sale and use of whale products have been agreed to.

But still the number of whales diminishes. It's partly because of the per-

sistent illegal fishing by unscrupulous whalers and partly because of other technical and scientific reasons.

That's where the quiet, less dramatic fight to protect whales takes over from the more adventurous exploits on the high-seas.

Technicians and experts from the interested countries have to determine what measures are possible to strike a balance between the survival of whales and the jobs and economic interests at stake in the whaling, processing and distribution industries. Since a number of nations with different interests are involved, the process can be a lengthy one.

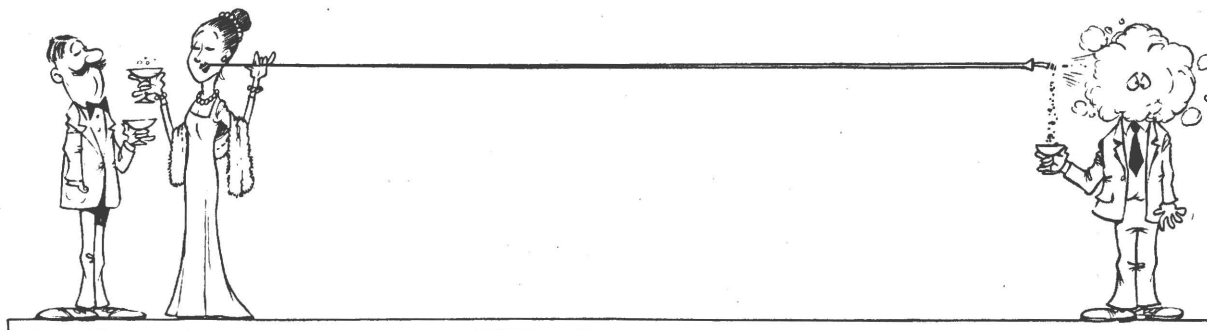
The International Whaling Commission was created in 1946 and groups 16 countries, including 4 countries belonging to the European Community (Denmark, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom). The participants meet regularly to study scientific data and establish an international system that will not only help to preserve whales but stimulate an increase in the herds.

One of these meetings was held in Copenhagen last year to plan steps to revise the existing treaties on whaling quotas and other restrictions. Another gathering is scheduled for later this year.

As a means of simplifying and better protecting the interests of the four Community countries involved in this process and of the others which have not been directly concerned up to now, the European Commission in Brussels has proposed that the Community as an entity should take part in these deliberations.

Such a step, it observes, would be in keeping with the aim to establish a joint Community fishing policy. It would also be in step with the ever-growing interest of the Community in the environmental protection field.

Community involvement has already taken place in bilateral fishing treaties



with other nations and in participation in other international accords on the protection of endangered species.

In its recommendation to the Council of Ministers, which must agree to a Community stance, the Commission also notes that while the whaling industry is of marginal importance in most Member States it is vital to the inhabitants of Greenland which is, of course, part of the Community.

For example, Greenland's fishermen have caught an average of some 14 large whales and nearly 2 000 smaller ones each year.

The aim is to have the member countries agree to work out a common position for the important questions that will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting with other nations, a meeting which could be crucial to the future of this majestic creature which has been so defenceless against the onslaught of modern fishing technology.

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## TECHNOLOGY

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### Did Old McDonald know just what he had on his farm?

It's not everyday that the average person, or even the professional expert is confronted with the need to know how many cattle or chickens or other two or four-legged friends are walking around in Europe. The question would probably not come up in a quiz show or in most normal situations. But for some important and detailed work conducted by large agricultural organizations, governments or research institutes, the need to know quickly could be crucial.

For instance, what if a disease were affecting cattle herds throughout Europe and health authorities wanted to know how much serum would be needed to bring the plague to a halt? Or what if the jobs in a major textile plant depended on the manufacturer finding out whether there would be enough chicken feathers available to continue to stuff his regular output of pillows?

Even in these extreme and hypothetical situations, it would be invaluable to know that, in a pinch, the answer could be available at your fingertips.

A recent census taken of barnyards throughout the nine European Community countries produced the information that there are 80 million cattle, 70 million pigs, 43 million sheep and 600 million poultry animals, but finding this out might be as hard as looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack.

A solution discussed and worked on within the Community has been the installation of a computerized data bank containing all kinds of facts and figures on agriculture.

This includes farming and meat production disease experience, animal husbandry, prices and trends and import-export figures. These facts are easily updated and are now within the reach of experts throughout the Community.

In addition, the details of their discussions on the subject have been published under the title 'Factual Data Banks in Agriculture'. The material, which includes a wide range of subjects under main headings: animal production (including food technology); plant production (including soil science; and agricultural management information systems, is available from Euronet DIANE News, Jean Monnet Building B4 009, CEC Luxembourg. This is the Community organization responsible for creating the European-wide computer network system that includes such farm information as well as data on a number of other important subjects.

### What will computers talk themselves into next?

Nothing seems impossible in the world of computer technology anymore, so it's not surprising to see that there exists a system that can translate complex documents in three languages.

This new gadget, know as Systran, is part of a European Commission project to develop translations with the help of computers.

This is hardly surprising when you consider that the European Community has six working languages and faces the prospect of three more when Greece, Spain and Portugal become members. For the first time anywhere, Systran came up recently with English-Italian translations of Community documents. And it also has produced French-English translations.

Programmers have been storing words from a dictionary in Systran, but there are still gaps in its growing vocabulary, as our illustrated example shows.

Therefore, when it gets stuck for a word it doesn't know, Systran merely types in the word which appears in the original language and underlines it, leaving it up to the human collaborator to translate or search for an alternative in the dictionary.



## REDUCING BARRIERS



### Some new signs of movement in the Community clocks

Even with the assistance of the most sophisticated digital clocks and watches capable of calculating the last fraction of a second, very few people would be prepared to state accurately the time, at any one moment, in each of the European Community countries.

There are two different zones in the Community, which can mean complications for businessmen, confusion for travellers and constant re-scheduling for airlines, shippers and the like.

While the European Commission would like to simplify matters, it has no intention of proposing a single time zone for the Community. The east/west spread of the Community over 29 degrees of longitude makes it completely impracticable to have the same time on, say, the Danube and the Thames.

But where the difficulties start to occur is over summer time—a concept first introduced in Britain over 60 years ago. By putting clocks forward one hour in the summer months, people can make greater use of the extra daylight and help to reduce energy consumption.

But when do you introduce summer time? As any traveller who has had to pore over highly-complicated train and plane timetables knows, there are no uniform dates. This can lead to missed connections and outbursts of anger.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that while seven Community countries now have summer time, Germany and Denmark do not. (Denmark recently decided to introduce it in 1981).

France, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg already have summer time that starts and ends on the same dates (for 1980, it will run from April 6 - September 28). Italy also has summer time, but for a shorter period... although next year it plans to extend this to be in line with France and the Benelux.

In Ireland and the United Kingdom, where summertime has been long established, it also runs for a longer period: March 16 to October 26, next year.

Short of wearing several watches set at different times the possibility for error is enormous—and the time when clocks go back one hour for winter—on different dates—is fast approaching.

In an attempt to reduce the complexities and costs involved for airlines and railways and their travelling customers

the Commission has put forward two possible solutions. Either all member countries should adopt summer time for a given period each year (a proposal so far being resisted by Germany) or those countries with summer time should introduce and end it on the same dates.

Progress is being made. Now that Italy has decided to adopt the French and Benelux dates and Denmark has decided to introduce summer time, there are good hopes that travel between Community countries will be considerably simplified over the next couple of years.

## EMPLOYMENT

### More jobs created but unemployment is still rising

Despite the fact that unemployment is at a record level—5.4% or 5.9 million jobless—the percentage of the Community's 260 million citizens at work has risen from 41.2% to 41.7% over the last five years.

This is mainly due to the fact that more women are going out to work. Between 1974-78 the percentage of working women rose from 28.6% to 30.6%. On the other hand the percentage of men at work fell marginally.

The civilian working population has also been growing at a faster rate than that of the total population. Between 1974-78 it grew by 2.2% to 108.2 million whereas the total population increased by only 0.7% to 259.6 million.

In 1978 civilian employment in the Community rose by 0.4% despite the fact that the number of jobless continued to increase. This apparent paradox was due to a 0.7% increase in the number of working women.

Last year 52.6% of the work force was employed in the services sector, 39.5% in industry and only 8% in agriculture. Over the past five years service sector jobs have increased by about 1.5% annually, industrial jobs have decreased slightly and about one million farm workers have left the land.

## The harsh realities of imported oil price increases

Every schoolboy knows that the European Community is dangerously dependent on outside energy supplies, especially oil. The energy situation is already serious, particularly since the events in Iran last winter.

But there might be a real shortage by 1985 when the world demand for OPEC oil is likely to be three to four million barrels a day in excess of production. It follows that prices would be even higher than they are now.

An idea of what is likely to be in store for us can be had from a glimpse at how increased oil prices have eaten into the exchequers of the Nine despite successful efforts to cut down on the amount of imported oil we use.

In 1973, oil imports of 580 million tonnes cost about \$15 000 million dollars. Last year imports of 472 million tonnes, a drop of around 20%, cost \$50 000 million or more than three times as much. The bill for the same amount this year could top the \$70 000 million mark.

These figures alone demonstrate recent warnings by Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner that the Community's dependence on outside energy supplies, not just oil, could cripple our economic progress if something is not done soon.

He told the European Parliament's energy committee that a vigorous effort must be pursued if we do not want the commitment made by the Nine heads of government in Strasbourg to limit oil consumption this year to 500 million tonnes to be exceeded. And measures would have to continue into next year anyway to be effective.

It is obvious that greater effort must be made to save energy and to increase home production if things are to improve. This is what Mr Brunner recommends:

- that the Community increase its capacity to consume coal, especially in power stations;

- that greater progress should be made in developing nuclear energy;
- coal rather than oil or gas should fill the gap caused by delays in developing nuclear energy;
- the Community should make a bigger effort to be more efficient in the way it uses energy;
- the Nine should concentrate more on ways of saving energy.

Mr Brunner also recommends close collaboration between the Community, its overseas energy suppliers, non-oil developing countries and other industrialized nations if a solution to the world energy problem is to be found.

As Mr Brunner pointed out, if everyone in the Community subscribed to today's best practices and cost effective technologies and design it would even now be possible to save 15-30% of energy used in industry, 20-35% in transport and up to 50% in the domestic and other areas.

The Commission can only make proposals. It is up to national governments to carry them through and for all of us to act sensibly. But if something isn't done soon we may all find ourselves discussing energy-saving by candlelight.

## Greater research funds allocated to bridge the gap

With oil now likely to be in permanent short supply, efforts to save energy and develop alternative sources have become much more urgent.

The European Community's four-year energy research programme for the period July 1979 to June 1983 has nearly been doubled to £70 million. The funds will be shared between industrial laboratories, universities and research centres.

The lion's share of the programme is devoted to solar energy which will receive £31 million, nearly three times as much as in the previous programme.

Research will continue into converting the sun's rays into energy by means of photovoltaic cells and into using solar energy for domestic heating.

A 1 MW solar power station in Sicily will be completed and tested.

Work will also continue into producing energy through biomass—that is, by burning vegetable and waste organic matter. This offers considerable potential in the Community.

Research into energy-saving techniques for household and industrial consumers as well as for road, rail and other transport will be greatly increased. Energy saving has been allocated £18 million compared with £7.6 million in the previous programme.

Geothermal research—harnessing underground reserves of hot air and water into energy—has been allocated £12 million. The money will be spent in identifying regions with geothermal potential, assessing the value of these resources and developing techniques for extracting energy from dried hot rocks.

Less money will be spent on research into hydrogen as an energy source. (£5 million). Although it already has an important role in the chemical industry it is unlikely to compete with other forms of energy for some time to come.

Finally £4 million will be spent on analysing energy systems and studies on energy strategies.

## Cutting back: can Eurocrats give a lead?

The energy message this year is 'Save' and the European Commission recently set a good example to other authorities by appointing an Energy Manager.

His name is Mr Antoine Verhaegen, and his task is to introduce energy-saving measures in the Commission's own labyrinthine buildings. With their enormous plate glass windows, many of the offices are extremely costly to heat and cool.

Mr Verhaegen will be assisted initially by an outside firm of energy-saving specialists which will conduct a detailed study in preparation for a long-term energy-saving programme.





The Commission will also be organizing an International Seminar on 'New Ways to Save Energy' in Brussels from October 23-25. The seminar will be opened by Dr Guido Brunner, European Energy Commissioner, and will be attended by leading government, industrial and academic energy experts.

The seminar will examine the results of energy conservation research carried out within the framework of the Community's first research and development programme (1975-79). During this period the Community financed over 100 contracts with European research bodies.

Research covered among other things the possible applications and evaluation of alternative air, soil and sewerage heat sources.

Studies were carried out into more energy-efficient production methods in the chemical, textile and food industries. Heat storage and recovery systems were also developed.

Ways of improving wall and window insulation in houses and buildings were also examined. More economic heating and ventilation systems were developed.

The motor car was not forgotten either. Research was conducted into developing a less thirsty international combustion engine.

No opportunities were wasted, nor was household and industrial rubbish, a major potential energy source given the right technology!

### Experts confer on the future

Uncertainty about world energy supplies has made the assessment of future energy demand and supply policies of vital importance.

Investments in new energy technologies, whether the commercial exploitation of solar energy or cars which use less petrol, are now of great government concern.

Industrial, university and government energy experts will be attending an International Conference on Energy Systems Analysis in Dublin, Ireland from October 9-11.

The experts will assess methods for analysing the relative merits of various energy systems, including oil and gas, nuclear and coal. They will discuss computer models for examining energy resources, technologies and environmental effects.

The experts will look at the European Community's programme of energy systems analysis which is designed to help prepare energy research and development policies.

The International Conference, one of the first of its kind, is being sponsored by the European Commission and the Irish National Board for Science and Technology. Further details can be obtained by telephoning Dublin 68 33 33 Ext. 227/288. Telex: 30327 NBST EI.

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### IN BRIEF

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The European Commission has granted emergency aid worth around £ 134 000 to Nicaragua. This is in addition to food aid of 1650 tonnes of cereals and 100 tonnes of skimmed milk which the Community sent to Nicaragua through the Red Cross. The Commission has also agreed to earmark around £ 1.3 million to provide financial and technical aid to Nicaragua. In addition, it has allocated around £ 67 000 to help refugees from Nicaragua's political strife.

Management Centre Europe is holding a three-day meeting for senior managers to bring them up to date on major areas of planned and pending Community legislation affecting multinational corporations. It will be staged in Brussels on October 24-26. Further details from American Management Associations International, avenue des Arts 4, B-1040 Brussels.

The European Commission has granted exceptional aid to three members of the Lomé Convention to help them overcome natural disasters. Fiji and Mauritius are to receive £ 470 000 each to recover from hurricane damage, and Sudan is to receive around £ 660 000 for rebuilding following floods which swept the country.

## BUSINESS

### Marriage Bureau is playing Cupid further afield

Small and medium-sized firms in the European Community often complain that not enough is done to help meet their specific needs. They argue in particular that it is often difficult for them to take advantage of the benefits of the Common Market as their bigger brethren, do.

After all, many small companies often cannot carry out market research surveys on possible sales abroad, or hire lawyers specially versed in the law of other Community countries where they would like to do business.

But such firms have an important ally in Brussels: the European Business Cooperation Centre. More widely — and aptly — known as the Marriage Bureau, the Centre helps put small and medium sized companies in contact with their counterparts in other Community countries to develop specific ventures.

In this way, the Bureau which was set up by the European Commission in 1973, aims to match the requirements and expertise of each partner. Initially, the Bureau had to wait until it was approached by a firm with a particular project and then set out to find a suitable match. But its counselling powers have now been extended and it is able to initiate the marriage process itself.

In recent months, the Bureau has concentrated its efforts on four priority sectors: regional banking, hospital equipment, regional link-ups and subcontracting.

For example, regional banks from France, Belgium and Italy came together in April in the newlyformed European Banking Group. And it is hoped that British and German banks will also apply for membership soon.

Cooperation at the moment is purely technical and concentrates on credit lines, mutual preference and so on. But this may well be extended to include customer service exchanges and joint financing operations.

The Bureau has contacted 200 manufacturers of hospital equipment and 50 of these are interested in clubbing together in order to put in collective bids for export tenders.

But the Marriage Bureau does not limit its efforts to transfrontier cooperation in Europe. It has also expanded to include small and medium-sized companies in non-Community countries.

The greatest success has been met with Scandinavian countries. Finland, for instance, has sent the Bureau a list of areas where it would like greater cooperation: medical and hospital equipment, environmental protection, waste-processing equipment, farm machinery and consulting engineering.

Cooperation with other parts of the world, notably Israel, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the South East Asian countries has been slower to get off the ground. This would appear to be

largely caused by the sheer distance involved and basic differences in trade objectives.

## THE REGIONS

### New grants bring 1979 spending to £265 million

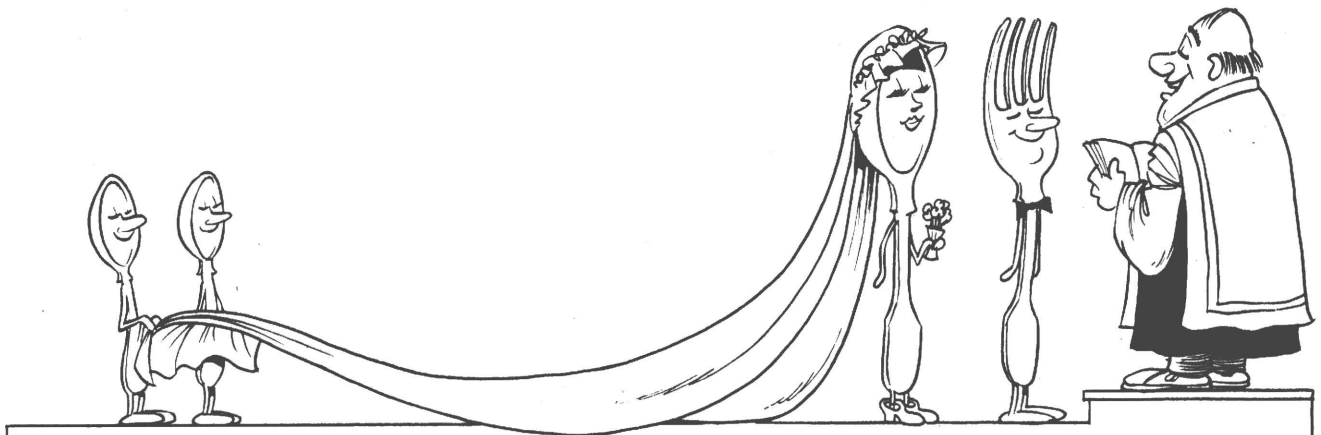
The European Commission has just approved the third allocation of grants for this year from the European Regional Fund to help finance 600 investment project in six of the nine Member States.

This latest allocation of around £133 million brings the total of Regional Fund grants this year to around £265 million, and the total since the Fund was established in 1975 to £12 000 million.

The grants go this time to the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. Two thirds of the projects are for the improvement of infrastructures and the rest for industrial investment.

The total for the United Kingdom is around £30 million, bringing its allocations for 1979 to £67 million and its total grants since 1975 to around £306 million.

Ireland is to receive £13 million, which is around half of its total receipts from the Fund this year. Since 1975 it has received around £82 million.



## Community aid for recovery after hurricane havoc



Here in Europe we might be inclined to believe that hurricanes were invented by Hollywood. But in the Caribbean they are a regular and an unwelcome visitor.

However, the recent fury of Hurricane David staggered even hurricane veterans of the Caribbean. The havoc it wrought in its rampage through the islands will take many months to repair.

Damage in terms of lives lost, homes and churches blown down, sugar and banana plantations flattened is incalculable. Not only is a tremendous reconstruction programme needed but alternative jobs have to be found for plantation workers. It could be up to a year before the next sugar cane crop is gathered.

The European Community has reacted swiftly with emergency aid for ACP States in the area to which it is formally linked through the Lomé Convention. It has given £200 000 to Dominica to buy food and materials to repair house roofs. This is the maximum amount the Commission can release without seeking approval from the Nine Community Member States.

Another £200 000 may be given to other disaster stricken ACP States, such as the Bahamas, once they have put in aid requests.

Further aid could be provided under the Community's System for the Stabilization of Export Earnings (STABEX) for losses in banana and other export earnings in ACP countries.

The Community has also provided £670 000 of aid for the French overseas departments of Martinique and Guadeloupe. More aid could follow from the Community's Regional and Farm Funds.

Non-associated States, such as the Dominican Republic and Haiti, have not been neglected either. Aid totalling £670 000 will be released once the needs of these countries have been assessed.

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## MONEY

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### New Community lending facility gets underway

The announcement by the European Commission in mid-September that £140 million was being lent to the British, Irish and Italian governments at a low rate of interest marked the first use of the much-heralded 'Ortoli facility'.

The money is being used to help finance energy and infrastructure projects. Four schemes in Ireland, for instance, to raise the output of a power station, and to improve roads, water supply and telephone systems are being aided to the tune of Ir£58 million.

In the United Kingdom £50 million is being used to help build a power station in Wales and £16 million to improve Edinburgh's water supply by building a dam nearby.

A total of 45 000 million lire is being lent to the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno to help finance the extension of an aqueduct. The scheme is important in overcoming water supply problems that have handicapped economic development in Puglia and Basilicata.

The money so far paid out represents under half the £305 million the Ortoli facility has available. When this is exhausted the Commission intends to raise a similar amount on international capital markets.

The official title of this new Community lending mechanism is 'the new Community borrowing and lending instrument', but it is known more familiarly as the 'Ortoli facility' after Economics Commissioner François-Xavier Ortoli.

The idea was first put forward in June 1977 as a way of stepping up Community action to tackle unemployment, sluggish investment and overcoming the differences in national economic performances.

The finance is being supplied by using the Community's 'triple A' rating in money markets to raise funds which would then be employed for investment in certain key areas, on top of money provided from other Community sources of finance.

At the outset, it was decided that the priority would be given to energy and infrastructure projects.

Energy was chosen to help reduce the Community's dependence on imported energy and increase security of supplies. Special reference has been made to energy-saving and the development of alternative energy sources.

The kinds of areas covered by infrastructure are: transport, telecommunications, agricultural improvements, and environmental protection. These are considered as being of paramount importance for the economies of Member States.

Loans from the 'Ortoli facility' are made by the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg. The Commission decides on the eligibility of the projects, the EIB decides on the conditions attached to the loans and administers them.

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## IN BRIEF

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Euronet, the Community's data transmission network (see Euroforum 10/79), is to be extended to Switzerland.

The situation of railways in the Community is continuing to cause concern, according to a recent report drawn up by the Commission. Their share of the transport market continues to drop, they are continuing to lose money and State subsidies, which in some Member States represent the bulk of the railways' incomes, are growing year by year. The Commission has suggested a number of ways of improving the situation which it would like the Council of Ministers to take up as a matter of urgency.

The European Commission has granted aid amounting to £65 million from the Farm Fund for projects in the Member States to improve agricultural infrastructures such as drainage, farm roads and water supplies.

**EDUCATION**

**The happiest years of their lives?**

School pupils in Denmark would appear to be much more fortunate than their counterparts in other European Community Member States if the attention they get in class is anything to go by.

According to figures produced by the Statistical Office of the Community, there were only 13.5 pupils—in primary and secondary schools—for each teacher in Denmark in the 1976/77 educational year, the latest for which figures are available.

At the other end of the scale is Germany where there were 24.4 pupils to one teacher during the same period. In the United Kingdom, the ratio of teachers to pupils was 1 to 18.9, in Belgium, 1 to 14.8, in France, 1 to 16.7 and in Italy, 1 to 13.8. Comparable figures for the other Member States are not available.

The statistics also reveal some other interesting facts about education in the Nine. For example, the student population increased from 18.2% (of the total population) in 1970/71 to 19.9% in 1976/77. This increase could probably be attributed to the relative increase in the number of births in the 1960s.

It is also worth noting the education trends concerning university and college students in the Member States. In Germany, teacher training attracts most of these students—28.0% of the country's university and college population. The humanities feature in France, attracting 26.5% of the country's students. Doctors would appear to be in abundance in Belgium, Italy and Luxembourg, where most of the students choose medical science as their field of study.

In the United Kingdom, 24.4% of university and college students go in for teacher training and in Ireland and Denmark the humanities feature prominently, attracting 23.6% and 26.7% of students respectively.

The field of study that attracts the least number of students in all Member States is agriculture, as well as forestry and fishing. One area of agriculture, at least, where there is no surplus!

**CONSUMERS**

**Checking out is costing more**

Housewives and other consumers in the Nine had to dig deeper into their pockets in July as the Community's consumer price index accelerated sharply, jumping 1.7% from June and 10.4% from July last year.

However, the inflationary spiral affected some Member States much more than it did others.

In the United Kingdom, there was a record rise of 4.3% which was the main cause of the overall index increase. The UK rise was the largest ever recorded in the country and was largely due to an increase in some VAT rates from 8 to 15% in July.

Higher energy prices caused a sharp rise in Denmark (2.3%) and significant increases were recorded in France (1.3%), Italy (0.9%) and Belgium (0.8%).

Other increases, though moderate were registered in Germany (0.6%) and Luxembourg (0.5%) while the index in the Netherlands remained unchanged.

In the United States, the corresponding increase from July last year was 11.1%.

**Shoppers to benefit from sales of surplus butter**

Europe's shops will be stocked with more than 150 000 tonnes of cut-price butter during the next 4 months, thanks to a decision of the Community's Farm Ministers earlier this year.

A total of 70 000 tonnes is to be made available to Germany, while in France housewives will be able to snap up 46 400 tonnes. In Italy 19 000 tonnes will be placed on the market, in Belgium (14 000 tonnes) and in the Netherlands (7 500 tonnes).

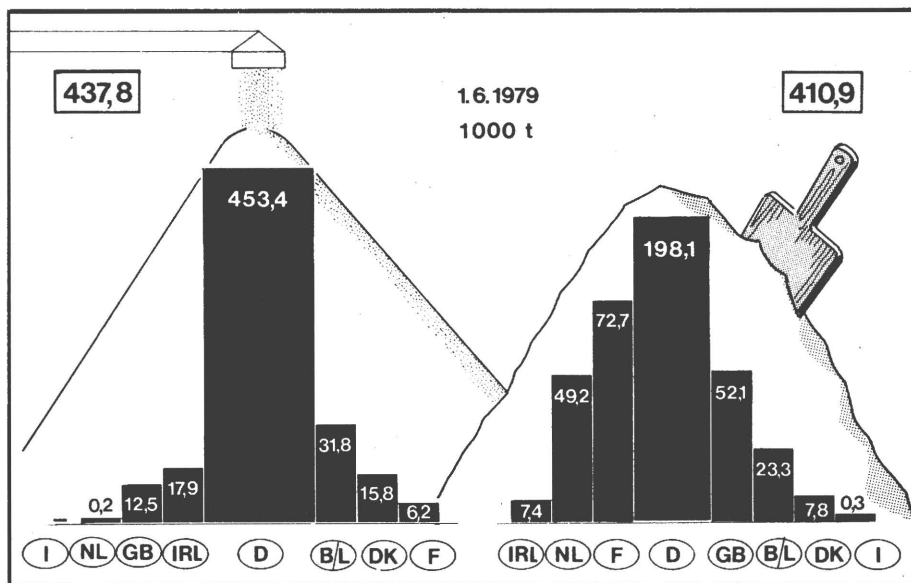
The price reductions should be quite considerable, since the subsidy will be 900 European currency units (ECU) per tonne. This works out at 25p per pound, if all the reductions are passed on to the shopper.

The butter will be recognizable by the words 'Special Sale EEC' or 'Intervention Butter' which will have to be marked on the packaging.

The United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as Denmark and Luxembourg, have chosen other measures for subsidizing butter consumption.

In the case of the United Kingdom, for instance, there has been a Community subsidy of 456 ECU per tonne from

**Surplus milkpowder and butterstocks in the Community, mid-1979**





2 July which will last until the end of 1979/80 milk year. This is worth 12p on a pound of butter.

Ireland has decided to apply a general consumer subsidy to butter. The amount is being fixed by the Government and 75% of the cost is being borne by Community funds.

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## AGRICULTURE

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### Gundelach repeats call for curb on farm surpluses

Agriculture Commissioner Finn Olav Gundelach has once again come out strongly against persistent farm surpluses that last year cost the Community almost three-quarters of its budget of £75 000 million.

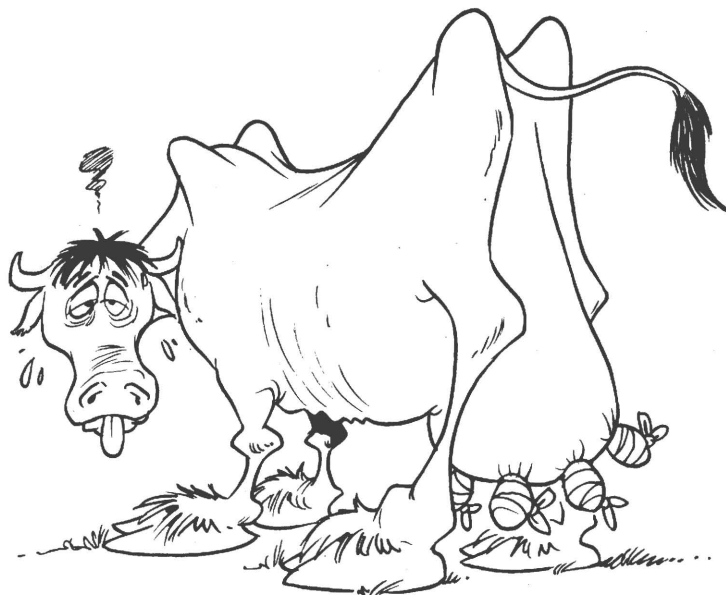
'I shall continue to demand that public money, apart from that required by social necessity and for the financing of improvements in working conditions and marketing, should not be put into an industry which is in permanent structural surplus', Mr Gundelach declared.

The commodities Mr Gundelach had in mind were dairy products and sugar, where in both sectors Europe produces more than it can use. Nor is it possible to continue to export them with the help of export restitutions, while the world market is saturated.

'We are conducting an effective export policy, going to the utmost limits of what the European taxpayer is willing to pay—and in the case of butter and sugar, beyond them,' he told the audience at a symposium on the CAP organized by the College of Europe in Bruges.\*

With 70% of the Community's total expenditure accounted for by agriculture, and 42% of that amount by the dairy sector alone, the Commissioner stressed the need for restraint before the Community's 'own resources' of financing the budget were used up.

Nevertheless, dairy production continues to rise. Last year production rose between 4 and 5% and this year predictions are running at a further 3%. At the same time consumption continues to fall at a steady 0.5% per month.



The situation for butter in particular looks grim. 'We may conceivably prevent consumption of dairy products from falling even more dramatically by promoting consumption of cheeses, yoghurts and other products, but these do not weigh sufficiently to outbalance the fall in the consumption of butter. Production has to be stopped,' Mr Gundelach said bluntly.

'People must understand that we have reached such a point that, given a normal growth of expenditure, agriculture will exhaust the Community's own financial resources. And the date at which this will take place is near at hand. If we are to save the agricultural policy—and with it the free market for goods and services—we must take steps to put a finite limit on the open-ended guarantee given to producers of surplus products.' (Commissioner Gundelach at the ANUGA Food Fair in Cologne.

Nor did he make any bones about where the crunch has to come.

'The deterrent measures,' he said, 'have to be borne by the more efficient producers, for the simple reason that this milk surplus is not produced by the small farmers with precious few alternatives to milk production.

It is not the small farmers that are causing the butter mountain.'

Some 33% of dairy farmers are currently producing less than 12% of total milk production, and he had absolutely no intention of imposing heavier taxes on them to force them to

change their only form of livelihood, he said.

(\* The complete text of Mr Gundelach's speech entitled 'Europe's Role in World Agriculture' is contained in the new series 'Green Europe Newsletter', which is published by the Commission's Agricultural Information Service.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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Wall map of the European Community (110 × 148.5 cm, colour)

This wall map shows the European Community and its Member States; their regions; administrative subdivisions; the 13 countries that surround the Community (simplified details) and the most important rivers. Conurbations with populations of more than one million are also given. The overseas départements belonging to the Community, Greenland, the Faroe Islands and countries that have applied for Community membership are shown in insets. The map is published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (Boîte postale 1003, Luxembourg). It has been prepared by the Commission of the European Communities, Coordination and Preparation of Publications Division (IX-D-11), Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels, Belgium. Copyright is owned by IBF Kormoss, BEICIP and Editions Technip, and the Commission of the European Communities. The map can be obtained from the two addresses given above, and from the Commission's information offices in the capitals of the Member States and in certain non-member countries.

## THE NEWS AT A GLANCE

A Liberal member of the European Parliament, Ulrich Irmer, has suggested that the Parliament should establish its seat in Venice. He said that this would solve the current controversy over the rival claims of Luxembourg, Strasbourg and Brussels. Mr Irmer also believes that the Parliament could help save Venice by bringing the city much-needed revenue. Only a few days previously, the Mayor of Strasbourg, Pierre Pflimlin, who is also a member of the Parliament, said that, in the interests of economy and rationalization, a building should be put up in his city, where the Parliament meets for about half its sessions, to house its members and secretariat, which he said should be partially or completely transferred from Luxembourg. Meanwhile, Venice has proposed itself as the seat of the European Court of Justice which at present sits in Luxembourg.

Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner travelled to the ancient Dutch town of Delft on September 21 to attend the inauguration of a pilot plant for testing solar energy. It is one of eight being built with the aid of Community funds of more than £ 600 000 to carry out research in the field of solar heating and cooling.

Negotiations have begun at Community level to help the Nine's motor manufacturers to implement their undertaking to their governments to reduce fuel consumption in their cars and other vehicles by 10% between now and 1985.

The European Commission has approved a series of long-term loans worth a total of £ 34 million to help workers in the coal and steel industries to build or modernize their homes. The loans are provided at a nominal rate of interest—1%—repayable over 20 years. These latest loans will be made available to workers in the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

Industrial production in the Community has risen by 6% in the past year (June to June), according to the latest Eurostat figures. The yearly rise has been at least 4% in all but one month, since October 1978.

The European Commission has sent the Council of Ministers a new proposal dealing with the liability of manufacturers who market products which turn out to be defective. The manufacturer will be liable even if scientific knowledge at the time of manufacture was insufficient to reveal that a product was a hazard. The Commission wants a ceiling of 25 million European units of account fixed for the manufacturer's liability in the case of bodily harm to a consumer.

Negotiations for Spain's accession to the Community have begun in earnest, having been formally opened in February. The Spanish Minister handling the negotiations, Mr Calvo Sotelo, indicated at a meeting with the Council of Ministers in Brussels that Spain would like a transition period after accession of not less than five years and not more than ten.

The European Commission has asked the Council of Ministers to approve a sum of more than £ 9 million in its 1980 budget for the co-financing of projects in the Third World with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The amount it has spent in this way has been growing since 1976 when cooperation with the NGOs got off the ground—from £ 1.5 million to £ 7.5 million this year. The NGOs are a particularly valuable partner for the Commission in the distribution of aid because they have extensive networks on the ground in many developing countries.

The second Lomé Convention is to be signed by the European Community and the 57 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States in Lomé, the capital of Togo, on the 31 October. Outstanding points in the trade and aid pact, which has been the subject of negotiation for most of this year, are expected to be cleared up before then.

Commission Vice-President Lorenzo Natali has signed a new international convention on the conservation of wildlife and natural habitats on behalf of the Community. It was drawn up under the aegis of the Council of Europe.

The European Commission has expressed its sympathy on behalf of missing Chileans whose families have

staged a hunger strike at the Danish embassy in Santiago. It hopes the Chilean Government will rapidly clarify the situation.

The value of world trade last year amounted to \$1 300 000 million, an increase of 16%, according to GATT. The increase in volume was 6%. The biggest increase was in agricultural trade—up 8%. Trade in industrial products rose by 6% and in minerals by 1%.

Grants from the European Social Fund for training of migrant workers are on the increase. They totalled £ 11.5 million last year but this year they will be worth more than £ 14 million, the European Commission announced in reply to a European Parliament question.

While the long-term oil supply situation is precarious, the Community is reasonably well cushioned against a short-term cut in supplies. Current stocks amount to 110 days' supply, about the same as this time last year. The nine Member States have an agreement to keep stocks at a minimum of 90 days' supply.

The Council of Ministers has asked the Commission to draw up proposals to promote the Community's micro-electronics technology to ensure the industry's competitiveness in the 1980s. Part of its brief is to submit Community-level projects which might get financial backing from Community funds.

The number of coal mines operating in the Community fell by 73 between the beginning of 1974 and the end of last year. There were 39 closures in the United Kingdom, 12 in Germany, 11 in France, 9 in Belgium and 2 in the Netherlands. Production in the same period dropped from 273 to 253 million tonnes.

'New ways to save energy'. No, we are not about to bring you a startling revelation. That's the title of a seminar which the European Commission is organizing in Brussels next October 23-25. If you have any bright ideas to contribute, you should contact Mr P. Zegers at the Commission, Directorate-General XII C I, (address on back cover).

## Bridging information gap for the women of Europe

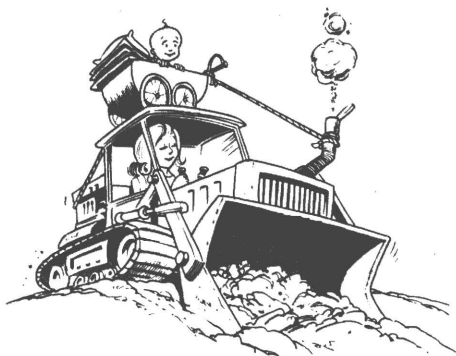
'European women have your say,' 'Women, vote for Europe'. Slogans like these became familiar during the election campaign for the European Parliament, and they reflect the increasing interest being taken in women's affairs by the European Community.

Why the emphasis on women? For one thing, as 52% of the electorate, the European Community's 130 million women could obviously carry quite a lot of democratic weight if they wished. What is more, there are aspects of Community policy which affect women in just about every area of their daily lives—from agricultural policy and the price of milk, to social policy and vocational training for unemployed young people, or consumer protection policy and door-to-door salesmen.

Added to this, there are the areas of Community legislation specifically aimed at women: equal pay for instance, equal treatment and working conditions and, most recently, equal treatment in social security matters.

Given all this, why does the majority of women's interest and participation in Community affairs seem to be so low? Of course, there is the historical reason that women have traditionally tended to be less active politically than men, though this has been changing over recent years—16.34% of the members of the new European Parliament are women, compared with only 6% before the elections in June. But the reason felt most strongly by the women themselves is a lack of information.

When they met in Brussels in March 1976 to assess the results of the European Commission's first survey on 'European Men and Women—A comparison of their attitudes to some of the problems facing society' which was carried out during International Women's Year—1975—delegates to a symposium on 'Women and the European Community' highlighted this information gap.



As a result, they put forward a series of proposals which led to the setting up of a new section in the Commission's Directorate-General for Information—a section whose responsibility it is to maintain a permanent dialogue with women's organizations and individuals all over the Community.

The Information Department for Women's Organizations and Press provides information and documentation on all aspects of European integration to several hundred women's associations and movements, as well as acting as a channel for the exchange of information from one organization to another and from country to country. It also helps organize seminars and study sessions for lecturers. Through close cooperation with mass-circulation women's magazines, the department tries to reach the large numbers of women who do not belong to any organization.

Heading the team charged with this task is Fausta Deshormes, an Italian by birth, married to a Belgian, and herself formerly a journalist.

She says the Service was originally viewed as something of a novelty, appealing as it did to specifically female public opinion. Some sceptics criticized it as a 'women's ghetto'. But Mme Deshormes sees it as filling a real need and she feels that the Service shows that the Commission considers women as partners in an information policy which was planned and is conducted with their cooperation.

The Service helps to stimulate women's awareness of being citizens of Europe, and to increase the participation of women in political affairs, as, for example, during the first European Parliament election campaign this year.

Documentation on subjects like 'The European Community and Work for Women' and 'Women and the European Social Fund' both of which have just been published, try to give a guide to the complexities of Community legislation affecting women.

In response to requests from national women's organizations for an exchange of information about women's activities between Community countries, the Service also publishes a liaison and information bulletin called 'Women of Europe', with the help of correspondents in each country. The Service has also tried to reach 'unorganized' women by means of competitions launched with the cooperation of women's magazines throughout the Community.

The response to both was very keen. 'There is a real demand for Europe among women' Mme Deshormes feels. 'They want to play a part in events.'

# Euroforum

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