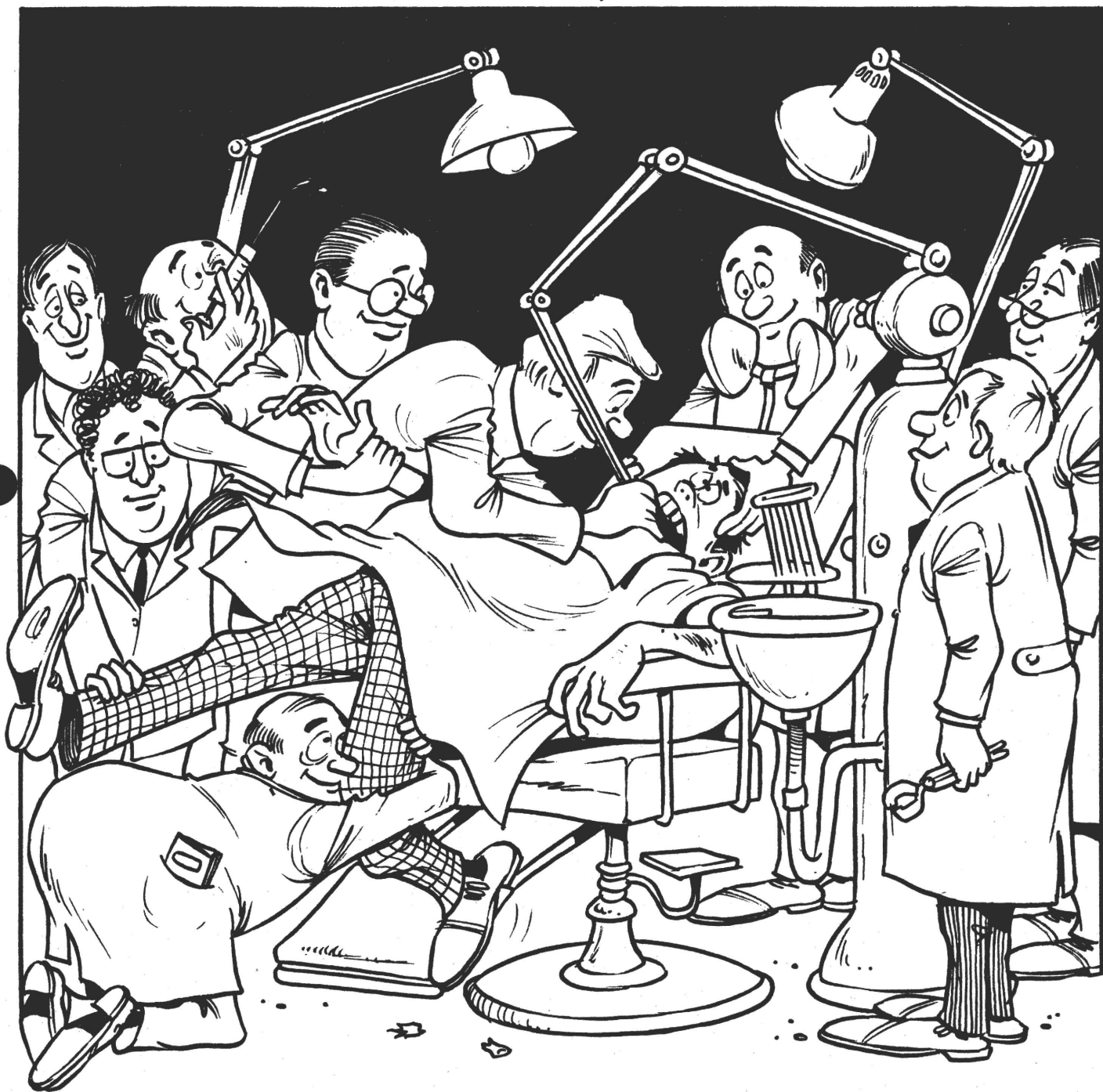


# Euroforum



Tomorrow to fresh woods, and dentures new. See page 3.

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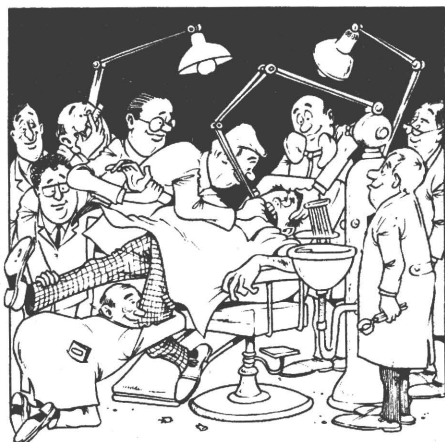
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### Tomorrow to fresh woods, and dentures new

Are you a dentist with itchy feet? Then take heart: there's now a dentist's Europe to explore. A Community law on the free movement of workers which has just come into force means that some 100 000 dentists now have the chance blue and white collar workers have had for over a decade—the possibility of choosing a place to work from nine countries rather than 'ust one.

The free movement of people is one of the four fundamental principles on which the European treaties are based. For employed people and some self-employed people in industry and crafts the right to work in another Community country, to be treated equally with nationals, and to remain in the country after having been employed there has been secure since 1968. But until 1974 discrimination remained against a whole range of the liberal professions. These jobs require widely differing national qualifications and those who work in them are usually self-employed.

But in 1974, the European Court of Justice handed down two judgments that were to have far-reaching effects. Jean Reyners, a lawyer who had trained in Belgium though he kept his Dutch nationality, took the Belgian State to court when he was refused the right to practise his profession on the grounds that he wasn't a Belgian. Later that year came a similar case:

Dutchman called Van Binsbergen gave a Dutch lawyer the right to represent him. At the time, both of them lived in the Netherlands, but when the lawyer moved to Belgium, he found the Dutch authorities refused to let him appear in court in the Netherlands.

In both cases, the Court of Justice declared that, irrespective of directives and regulations, 'all national legislation providing restrictions on grounds of nationality was actually abolished in the application of the Treaty' except for special provisions in the civil service where public security and so on might be endangered.

Applying this principle to the professions is no easy matter, though. Different countries have different ideas about who should be allowed to call themselves dentists, or architects or midwives, and what sort of training they should have. So one of the main needs is for professional training in Community countries to have sufficient basic standards in common for diplomas to be mutually recognized.

In Italy, to take an extreme example, this meant legislation the creation, in fact, of a whole new profession. Some 18 000 doctors who were permitted to carry out dentistry there have had to choose between the two professions and a new diploma is being instituted.

From now on, a dentist's training anywhere in the Community will have to last at least five years at university level and cover certain common areas of study. A consultative committee made up of experts in the subject from all Community countries has been created to help and advise the European Commission, as is the case for each of the professions affected in this way.

Doctors were the first to benefit from an agreement on free movement. Since the end of 1976, some 500 000 of them have been able to treat patients anywhere in the Community, either occasionally, where cases cause them to cross frontiers, or by going to settle in another Member State.

This applies to both self-employed and salaried doctors, and to general practitioners as well as specialists—so long as they are recognized doctors in their own countries and have at least six years or 5500 hours of university level training providing a specified body of knowledge.

According to the branch of medicine, specialists need a further 3-5 years training on top of that. Where necessary, would-be migrants have to demonstrate competence in the language of the country they are considering going to. In this way,

fears that migrant doctors may not be so competent as the home-grown variety should be dispelled.

Not that there has been a great rush of doctors keen to migrate. In 1977, the first full year doctors benefited from the legislation, fewer than 1000 of the half million eligible took advantage of it, and a third of them were Irishmen going to Britain, a traditional move long before the law was changed. It was the same story the following year.

Lawyers were the next group to benefit from a Community law on freedom of movement, though their rights are restricted to being allowed to appear in courts in other countries but not to establish a practice.. With the increased international legal activity caused particularly by cross-frontier trade and other business developments, this is obviously an important field, but giving lawyers the right to establish their own practices wherever they wished is not yet practical in a profession so closely connected with local customs and procedures.

Lawyers who do offer their services in other Member States are subject to a dual code of professional conduct: their own, and that of the host country. To make free movement easier, the Consultative Committee of the Bars and Law Societies of the European Communities has issued the first Community 'passport' establishing the credentials of a lawyer when acting abroad.

Since last June, 700 000 Community nurses have also enjoyed rights similar to those of doctors. Next in the health field will come vets—at the end of this year, and then midwives in January 1983.

In the legal field, work is at a fairly advanced stage in providing accountants and tax advisors with similar rights; architects too. Preliminary work has been done on others in the technical professions like engineers, physicists and geologists.

In some fields, the obstacles to free movement are not very severe, in others they are virtually insurmountable at present—proposals for opticians have had to be withdrawn and it is not clear when they will be re-submitted.

One group which must have been surprised to discover it could be covered by this sort of Community legislation is footballers. When it

appeared that officials in certain countries were banning clubs from hiring foreign players for fear they would swamp local talent, the Commission stepped in and pointed out that, within the European Community, discrimination on the grounds of nationality was illegal. Now teams can hire two non-national Community players, as well as any who have lived in the country for more than five years.

With workers' freedom of movement increasing it is obviously important that people should be adequately covered by reciprocal sickness and social security benefits when they travel or work in other countries. Community legislation allows tourists and others from Member States travelling in the Community to get the same medical treatment and benefits as anyone else working in that country, provided they are armed with an E111 form. Families are likewise covered. Proposals have also been put forward to cover the tax difficulties of frontier workers and those with similar problems.

To help job-seekers get to know what other countries have to offer a system called SEDOC has been set up to ensure that information on job opportunities can be exchanged rapidly between the employment agencies of Member States. Though the system is still at the experimental stage, with half a million job vacancies unfilled in the Community today it obviously has an important role to play. When people can move as freely as goods across borders, the Common Market will be an important stage nearer the ideal of the European Community.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### French Communist leader defeated after outburst

Georges Marchais, the French Communist Party leader, failed in his attempt to persuade the European

Parliament during its March session to set up an *ad hoc* committee to investigate violations of human rights in the Community. His demand for an emergency debate was also rejected by the MEPs, many of whom booed him.

The cause of their ire was the contention by Mr Marchais, supported by other Communist members, that the Parliament was hypocritical in that, since direct elections last June, it had discussed 89 proposals condemning human rights violations in the world, all but one of which concerned countries outside the Community.

'This hypocrisy must end', declared Mr Marchais who then went on to attack his parliamentary colleagues of different nationalities.

He accused the Germans of excluding people from the public service on political grounds. He called on the British members to shed light on Northern Ireland where he condemned British 'occupation, torture and camps'.

The 'French bourgeoisie' he accused of attacks on trade union and political rights, discrimination against women, young people and immigrant workers, as well as manipulation of the media and 'machinations' against public figures.

Only a few days before Mr Marchais made his outburst, the French magazine 'L'Express' had raised questions about his record in Germany during the last war.

A number of speakers contested Mr Marchais' stance, but perhaps the most heartfelt commentary came from the doyenne of the Parliament, Louise Weiss of the European Progressive Democrats, who dug deep into her memories to recall personal friends who had disappeared in the Soviet Union.

'Be quiet, therefore, young man', the 87-year-old Mrs Weiss, quoting Victor Hugo, counselled Mr Marchais.

## TRAVEL

### Brighter prospects for Community passport

A European passport by the end of the year could be a reality if the European Parliament has its way. It is urging all Community governments to agree to this measure, which was first suggested six years ago.

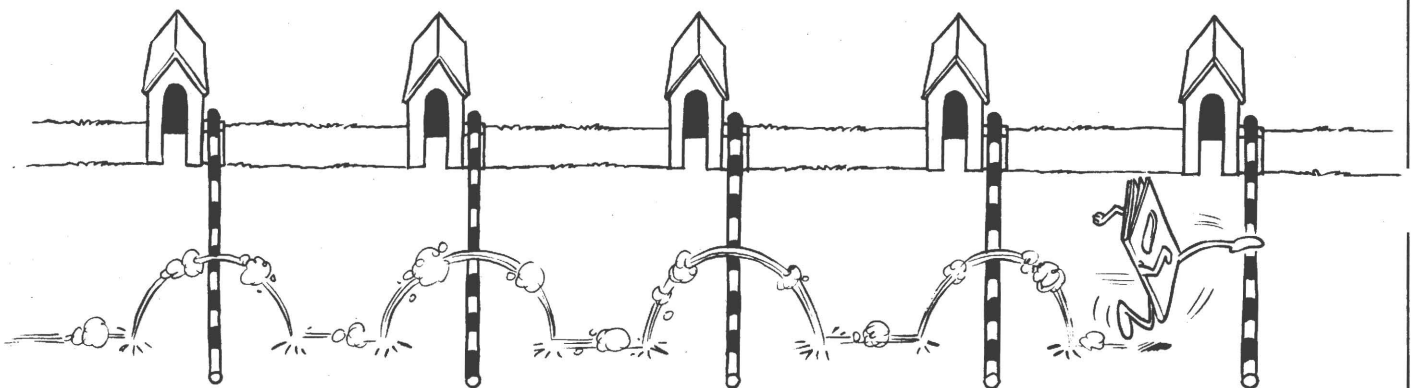
The passport has a number of enemies, who see it as an unnecessary step towards a federal Europe. But it has a larger army of supporters, who consider it would provide tangible evidence of the common identity shared by Community citizens.

But discussions in recent years have been bogged down in technicalities, behind which often hid more deep-rooted political considerations.

There is agreement that the colour of the passport should be burgundy, but points of difference still exist on most other points, including the language and wording to be used.

The Italian Government, which currently holds the presidency of the Council of Ministers, appears to be committed to the idea. The junior Italian Foreign Minister, Guiseppe Zamberletti told Euro-MPs at their March session that the remaining difficulties were about to be ironed out and that the government would push for agreement during its six month presidency.

But demands from MEPs that passport controls at borders within the Community be reduced are unlikely to be accepted; not for reasons of administrative officialdom, but because governments consider that it would be far harder to fight terrorism if they were to disappear. But the introduction of the European passport could speed up the checks and cut down the time spent waiting in line.





## New controls needed after another oil tanker accident

Yet another disastrous oil spillage off the coast of Brittany at the beginning of this month underlines once again the urgent need for tighter controls over international shipping.

The break-up of the Madagascar tanker *Tanio* with the loss of eight lives and untold damage to the Brittany coastline and tourist industry was just another in a long series of mishaps in European Community waters.

The most calamitous was the explosion on board the French tanker *Betelgeuse* as she unloaded her cargo of crude oil in Bantry Bay in the south of Ireland last year. Fifty people were killed and an investigation is still going on to establish the causes.

The previous year the *Christos Bitas* was stranded off the coast of Wales and in 1977 the *Amoco Cadiz* caused millions of pounds worth of damage when it ran onto rocks near Lorient in Brittany.

It was as a direct result of this costly accident that the European Commission decided to tighten up on the Community's shipping regulations, particularly in regard to oil tankers,

and presented a number of proposals to the nine Member State governments.

As a result, the Nine agreed to enforce certain minimum standards for ships entering or leaving Community ports, as well as accepting recommendations on the standards of crews and the ratification of a number of international shipping conventions.

However, the law governing the minimum standards of ships is a limited one and the Transport Commissioner, Richard Burke, is currently preparing a proposal which would call for much tighter regulations.

This proposal, which is expected to be ready in the coming weeks, will, in addition to imposing much stricter standards for the condition of ships, particularly tankers, and the qualifications of crews, establish a computerized information system which will be used to operate an effective blacklist of suspect vessels or owners.

It will also introduce measures governing ships sailing under flags of convenience which account for around a quarter of the world merchant fleet and as much as one-third of all oil tankers.

Community measures for more stringent controls over ships using its ports, whether of Community or third-country origin, have received considerable support from the European Parliament.

## More information for the public

The European Parliament has given its support to draft legislation setting out the kind of information that will have to be supplied by companies on official stock exchange listings. It considers the proposal to be an important element in ensuring that the public is kept adequately informed.

Under the scheme, companies would have to provide every six months a report on their activities.

But the Parliament objects to an exemption in the draft legislation, which would allow a company to withhold information if it was considered to be of minor importance and unlikely to influence assessment of the development of its business.

It considered this to be contrary to the aim of the proposal of ensuring maximum disclosure. Instead, it recommended that information could be omitted if it were contrary to the public interest or seriously detrimental to the company.

## THE ECONOMY

### Progress last year, but 1980 expected to be difficult

The 1979 'oil shock' resulting from another round of OPEC price increases is expected to undermine the progress registered in the Community last year, according to an economic report released by the European Commission.

The report noted that, despite a 50% increase in the price of crude oil in dollar terms, the Community economy performed better than expected in 1979. Its gross domestic product increased by 3.3% during the year and employment increased nearly 1%. However, inflation rose 9% for the year and 12.4% in the second half.

For 1980, the report foresees even higher rates of inflation in the Member States, with some near 20%. Economic growth may be expected to hit an average of 1.2% for the year and unemployment, as a result, will probably increase.

## Nudism: is it time for the Community to legislate?

As the grey pall of winter begins to lift, most of us are already looking beyond the spring to what we hope will be golden summer days. The more organized and farsighted among us have already booked our holidays.

Tourism is one of the European Community's most thrusting growth industries. Since the fifties, the industry has been developing at an average rate of around 15% a year and, despite the energy crisis, there appears to be no significant slackening of demand.

European countries, including the nine Community Member States, are among the world's most popular holiday destinations. Every year, around 100 million Community citizens—nearly one-third of the total population—spend some time in a Community country other than their own.

The creation of the Community has, of course, helped the tourist industry to expand by making it easier for people to move from one country to another in search of sun, ski slopes or solitude.

However, while it is pleasant to be able to go abroad on holiday, problems can arise for the unsuspecting because of different customs, traditions and national laws. While one of Europe's attractions is its diversity, this may be no consolation if you end up in jail because of some obscure by-law which you have infringed.

One group of Community holiday-makers who are particularly vulnerable in this way are nudists, whose numbers are growing year by year and who are becoming more and more vocal in their demands for liberty and the protection of their fundamental rights.

Although topless bathing is now almost commonplace in some parts of the Community, particularly around St. Tropez and other Meccas of the lotus eaters, full-frontal nudity is quite another thing and is still considered offensive and even a little kinky in many places.

Certain countries are more advanced in their thinking than others. Naturists—

they generally object to the world nudist—can find a number of beaches set aside for them in the Netherlands. A couple of discreetly-tucked away islands are available to French and German practitioners and there are about half a dozen special spots in the United Kingdom for those who like to bare all.

Although nudism is prohibited in Italy, some Italian naturists have taken to discarding their fig leaves; Belgians can always go to a Dutch beach and the landlocked Luxembourgers can take their pick of the available Community beaches if they feel so inclined.

Although nude bathing is not allowed in Ireland, there are so many long stretches of deserted beach (as advertized regularly by the Irish Tourist Board) that a determined naturist who takes a minimum amount of precaution can usually expect to disport himself or herself undetected. Usually, however, it is too cold for even the most ardent stripper.

The Danes, on the other hand, have adopted a most liberal attitude. It is simply a matter of personal choice whether you wear a two-piece, a one-piece or a no-piece.

But what happens when an unwary Dane who is accustomed to shedding everything, particularly his inhibitions, goes to Ireland, say, on holiday? Problems could also arise if a conservative Luxembourger picked at random a North Sea island such as Sylt where German naturists flock in their alltogether.

With the growth in intra-Community tourism, there is clearly a need for some kind of Community-level action to ensure that there is some degree of common standards and that the unfortunate naturists are not discriminated against.

As a result, the European Commission has presented the Council of Ministers with a proposal for a directive which would lay down acceptable standards for nude bathing throughout the Community.

Naturally, the Commission is not suggesting that the Community should legislate for national morality and, in preparing this proposal, it had exhaustive consultations with national government experts and with all interested bodies (or should that be groups?) such as the local authorities which administer the beaches, the national tourist organizations, the life-

saving associations, the clergy and, not least, the European Association of Naturists which maintains a bureau in Brussels to lobby the Commission and other Community institutions on legislative proposals in which it has an interest.

The gist of the Commission proposal is that certain beaches in each Member State should be 'designated' in much the same way as poorer regions are classified as 'designated areas' to qualify for grants from the European Regional Fund. These designated beaches would be set aside for the exclusive use of naturists.

In this way, naturists who travel to another Community country particularly one where they do not understand the language and cannot read signs, can feel free to take off their clothes on beaches reserved for them without running the risk of arrest.

To point them in the right direction, a handy guide to the designated beaches may be published in the Official Community language, with a special index of standardized signs printed in local dialects which foreign visitors might find on certain out-of-the-way beaches.

During the past few months, Commission experts, with the help of national representatives, have been charting a map of Europe which is marked with the chosen stretches of beach. The main criteria for their choices have been areas of least wind, fewest jellyfish and maximum isolation to discourage voyeurs. Distance from monasteries and convents has also been a determining factor.

Since many of these beaches are in rather underdeveloped areas, it is proposed that Regional Fund money could be made available to part-finance the necessary infrastructure, such as new roads to cope with the expected increase in traffic, new hotels and grants to local tourist boards to promote the attractions of their 'nudist-only' beaches.

There may also be grants available for the erection of signs and the building of special screens to shield the naturists from prying eyes, and the Social Fund could provide money for the training of lifeguards specialized in the gentler techniques that would be required to save nude swimmers.

Said a Commission spokesman: 'Our job is to propose legislation that is in the common interest and this is a

problem which we have been hoping to tackle for some time because of the growth in intra-Community tourism and the confusion that can inevitably result from different national standards.

'Under the Treaty of Rome one of our responsibilities is to promote harmonization in the interests of free competition, though we are not intent on harmonization for its own sake. This is clearly a valid case because unless there are common standards the Member State with the most liberal laws will attract the majority of the naturists and this could result in a loss of revenue to the rest.

'In accordance with our harmonization guidelines, our aim will be to bring the other Member States' laws up to the standard of the best; in other words, the most liberal country. However, this is something that will have to be thrashed out by the Council of Ministers.'

The Environment Ministers are due to meet on April 1 to consider this proposal among others on their agenda. However, because of the nature of the proposal and the difficulty of overcoming certain national prejudices, it may be some time before it is adopted. Normally, Member States would have around two years to incorporate the terms of an eventual directive into national legislation.

The Commission spokesman added: 'We will have to be patient because this is a fairly novel proposal. However, we feel that it is important for us to make the Community more relevant to the man-in-the-street and this would certainly be tangible evidence, so to speak, that the Commission understands the normal daily problems of the average citizen.'

The proposal has, naturally enough, been welcomed by the European Association of Naturists which has been pressing for several years for Community action to sort out the confusion.

Said a spokesman for the Association: 'The Commission is to be congratulated on its initiative.' If the legislation emerges from the Council in the form that we would wish it will be a true European Naturists' Charter'.

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## TAXATION

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### Stricter Community laws likely to beat the dodgers

International tax evasion is flourishing. Estimates put the loss annually to the British Exchequer at £ 100 million, while in France it is thought to range between about £ 3000 million and £ 5000 million a year. The figure for Belgium in 1979 is put at around £ 3000 million.

Tax evasion takes several forms, either through transfer pricing by multinational companies or individuals having bank accounts in tax havens. There are said to be anywhere between 25 000 and 40 000 letter box companies in the tiny country of Liechtenstein alone. In the Dutch Antilles there are 7000 offshore finance companies.

These and other details were spelt out at a major seminar organized by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in early March, at which European Commission officials gave details of the measures the Nine have introduced to stamp out international tax fraud.

Legislation came into force in January 1979 which makes it easier for tax authorities in the different Community countries to collaborate in their fight against crime.

They are now able to contact each other and ask for any details they consider necessary in order to assess that the correct rate of tax is being paid. In fact, tax authorities in one country may even spontaneously hand over information, if they feel it would be useful.

But individuals and companies do receive some protection from the ever hungry hand of the tax collector. A request for information may be refused if it would mean the disclosure of a commercial, industrial or professional secret or would be contrary to public policy.

The European Commission intends to make the legislation even more effective by proposing later this year that the Nine spend more time pooling their experience in this area.

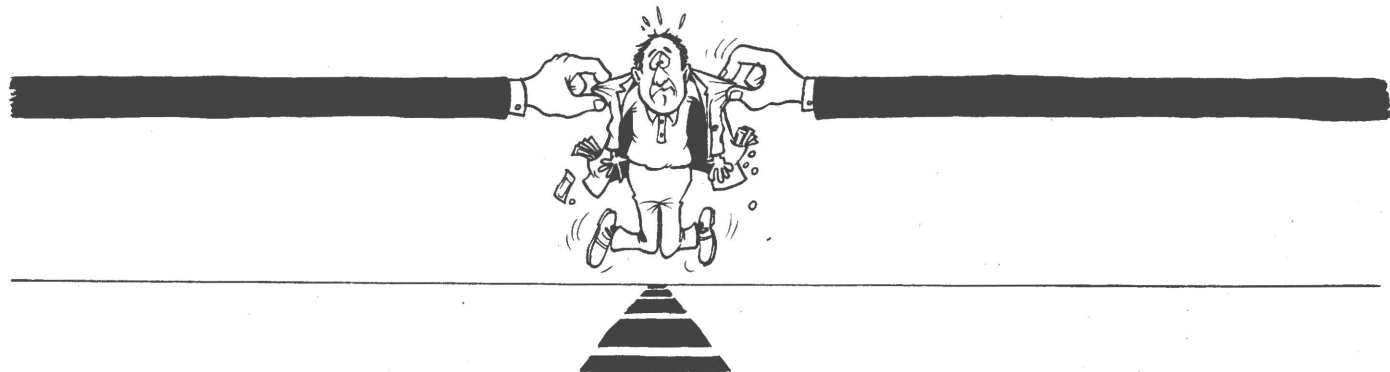
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## IN BRIEF

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### Satisfactory year

The European Monetary System (EMS), in which Community currencies, excluding the British pound, limit fluctuations between them, was a year old on 13 March. According to the Commission, the EMS has performed satisfactorily in achieving its main aim of creation a zone of monetary stability in Europe. However, its further development is less predictable, with some Member States reluctant to move onto the second stage quickly.





## JET aims to provide cheaper and cleaner nuclear power

Nuclear fusion has come to be recognized as one of the most promising sources of energy potentially available to post-oil crisis Europe. The European Community Member States recently adopted a thermo-nuclear fusion programme for 1980-83 worth around £ 520 million, probably the most ambitious programme of its kind in the world.

The main aim of the programme, which is being carried out in the Community's own laboratories at Culham near Oxford, in research laboratories throughout the Nine and in Sweden and Switzerland, is to harness nuclear fusion on a widespread and commercially viable scale.

At present, oil provides 55% of the Community's energy requirements and, despite an increase in North Sea production, 85% of our oil still comes from outside the Community.

In 1975, the Community's oil bill amounted to more than £ 20 000 millions (40 000 million dollars). (The total cost of five years of nuclear fusion research under the European programme represents the costs of less than four days' oil imports!). Price increases in the last six months will add around £ 60 million extra to our import bill.

Faced with that sort of expenditure and the level of energy consumption per square kilometre in Europe (four

times that of the US), the safe use of nuclear energy—fission and fusion—would appear to be essential to the solution of the energy problem. Even if fast breeder development cures some of the uranium supply dependence headaches which are currently threatening nuclear fission, fusion offers longer term advantages:

- it is cleaner; the ultimate fusion products are non-radioactive, and there is no radioactive waste to be disposed of;
- the amount of fuel needed is small and thus no dangerous nuclear 'runaway' is to be feared;
- the two basic gases required in the process, deuterium and lithium, are both plentiful (deuterium can be found in unlimited quantities in the oceans) and geographically well distributed. Extraction costs are also low, currently being comparable with those of coal for equivalent energy content;
- 1 gramme of lithium in a fusion reactor is equivalent to 85 grammes of uranium in a conventional fission reactor, or to 1.5 metric tonnes of coal, which corresponds to the production of 10 000 kilowatt hours of electricity.

The cornerstone of the fusion research programme is the Joint European Torus (JET), located at Culham. JET is an experimental apparatus, based on a Russian invention called a tokamak. It is confidently expected to provide Community scientists with answers to the remaining technical design and development problems standing in the way of the world's first fully-fledged thermo-nuclear fusion reactor.

Very basically, JET is a giant ring-doughnut shaped electromagnet some twenty feet across. Within the hollow ring (the torus) two gases, deuterium and tritium (produced from lithium) will be pressurized and subjected to temperatures of up to 100 million degrees, at or near which point nuclear fusion should occur. The small, light nuclei at the heart of the gases' component atoms will fuse to make heavier nuclei. This fusion process releases vast amounts of energy.

The energy will be contained in a large material blanket surrounding the torus, where it will be converted into heat which will in turn be used to generate electricity by conventional means.

Fusion of the two gases will only occur if the nuclei collide at high speed, since they are both positively charged and therefore mutually repellant (like the same poles of two magnets). Although 100 million degrees or more may be needed to achieve this, at considerably lower temperatures the gases become ionized, that is their nuclei move more freely, to become what is called 'plasma'.

The controlled release of energy by nuclear fusion requires that this plasma be kept well clear of the torus' walls, and this is where the electromagnet comes in. The plasma, being a good conductor of electricity, can be effectively held in a highly flexible magnetic field (a process termed 'magnetic confinement'). If the plasma were to touch the torus walls, its heat would escape and damage the pressurized container.

The essential aim of JET is to obtain and study plasma in conditions as near as possible to those that will be required in a fullscale fusion reactor. Among the main areas that the Culham scientists will be looking into are the interaction between the plasma and the torus walls and methods for heating the plasma to the necessary temperatures.

Over £ 125 million of the total amount set aside for the fusion programme is to be devoted to JET. Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner laid the foundation stone for the buildings that will house and surround JET at Culham on 18 May last year, and the experts hope that the torus itself will be ready to go into action sometime in 1982.





## Super Sara could help prevent nuclear accidents

A year has passed since the day described by the American Energy Secretary, James Schlesinger as the 'blackest day in the history of nuclear energy'. The unfortunate day in question was 28 March 1979, the date of the Three Mile Island USA nuclear power station incident.

The events of that day have hung a new question mark over the long-standing problem of the safety of nuclear energy development. The European Community's newly adopted £330 million multiannual Joint Research Centre (JRC) programme for 1980-83, continues, as in previous years, to devote priority to the question.

The Joint Research Centre consists of four research establishments at Ispra, Italy, Karlsruhe, Germany, Geel in Belgium and Petten in the Netherlands.

The key nuclear safety project in the new programme is an experiment simulating the behaviour of light water reactor fuel in the event of a loss of coolant accident such as occurred at Three Mile Island.

The project is called Super Sara, and is at present being built within the ESSOR at Ispra. ESSOR had been supported by the Italian Government until the adoption of the new programme.

Super Sara has a sister project with the somewhat less glamorous name

of Lobi, which is another study of the same loss of coolant phenomenon. The Super Sara project will receive about £32 million under the new JRC programme, and will be implemented in two parts, allowing the nine Member States to re-think in 1981 should the project not prove its worth.

The remainder of the nuclear safety programme is geared to work currently going on in the national research centres, but the JRC's own work on the safety of the plutonium cycle and long term storage of radioactive waste will also be continued.

Another priority under the new programme is the development of alternative energy sources, especially solar energy, where expenditure will be nearly doubled. This included a project studying systems that will allow the use of solar energy during all seasons, and of high temperature systems for industrial and agricultural applications, as well as a basic research project on new processes for the conversion and storage of solar energy. Provision is also made under the solar energy programme for technical assistance to developing countries.

The JRC's work is closely linked with the Community's fusion programme (see accompanying article) and concentrates on technological problems, chief among which is the design of NET (Next European Torus), the successor to JET (Joint European Torus).

A large part of the new programme will be devoted to environmental protection and the projects envisaged

include one on the impact on the environment of coal-burning power stations, especially the air-pollution that they cause, and five technical projects connected with the problems of the discharge of toxic chemical substances into the environment.

Protection of the sea is one planned JRC project with an environmental aspect that will be carried out by means of remote sensing by space satellite. The viability of using remote sensing in the agricultural field will also be studied.

## IN BRIEF

### Transfer strategy

The European Commission is currently having discussions with UEFA, the Union of European Football Associations, on the problems connected with the transfer of footballers. It announced this in response to a British Conservative member of the European Parliament who suggested that high transfer fees now being paid for soccer players might limit fair competition between clubs.

### Prospecting funds

£3.25 million will be available this year for the continuation of the Community's programme to encourage uranium prospecting. Once the Community's 1980 budget has been approved the Commission will be calling for tenders from interested firms.

### A new fuel idea

As part of its search for new energy resources, the European Commission is currently considering almost 100 tenders to produce energy from biomass. One example of man's ingenuity is a proposal to produce petrol made from Jerusalem artichokes.

### Renewing the dialogue

Community and Arab League representatives met in Rome early this month for discussions on the renewal of the Euro-Arab Dialogue which has been inactive for more than a year. Contacts will continue but no date has been set for a resumption.

## HEALTH



### Parliamentarians urge Community action to combat drug abuse

The European Parliament has called for a Community policy to combat the use of drugs, particularly heroin, as well as trafficking in drugs, both between the Member States and internationally.

The House approved a motion proposed by Italian Communist Vera Squarcialupi, who said that 1000 people died from drug abuse in the Community each year. She predicted that unless something was done at Community level the numbers would rise while the age of the victims fell.

Another member, British Conservative William Newton-Dunn, claimed that marijuana could harm sexual prowess.

The approved motion called on the Commission to draft proposals for extensive cooperation between the Member States to combat drug trafficking. In addition, the majority of the parliamentarians would like the Community to work out a strategy with countries—for example, in South East Asia—where the drugs are produced 'to strike at the very heart of the traffic in drugs'.

One novel suggestion from Italian Radical Emma Bonino was that some Community help could be provided to encourage farmers who grow poppies—the basic ingredient of heroin—to switch to other crops.

A proposal from Mrs Bonino to have cannabis legalized and to have drug offences descriminalized, was defeated.

During the debate, Social Affairs Commissioner Henk Vredeling said it was hoped to convene a meeting of Health Ministers in the coming months. Drugtaking and drug trafficking are among the problems they plan to discuss.

## THIRD WORLD

### New departure as pact is signed in Kuala Lumpur

The European Community has by now entered into formal agreements with so many developing countries that the signature of yet another is no longer headline news. And yet a ceremony which took place in Kuala Lumpur on 8 March was remarkable for a number of reasons.

The agreement which was signed in the Malaysian capital was the first between the Community and another regional grouping, the 5-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

ASEAN's members are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. It was established in 1967 to accelerate the economic growth of its Member States, promote regional peace and stability and cooperate with other regional organizations with similar aims.

The new, 5-year agreement is also the first to provide for both commercial and economic cooperation, thus combining in one agreement the main features of the Community's agreements with India and Canada. Like them it is non-preferential, in that it does not grant the ASEAN countries preferential rates of duty for their exports to the Community.

But the new agreement also breaks fresh ground: it is the first with the so-called 'non-associate' countries to contain specific provisions relating to development cooperation. For the Community, therefore, its agreement with ASEAN represents a bridge between the 'non-associate' countries in Asia and Latin America and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries that are linked to it through the Lomé Convention.

Like the Lomé Convention, the agreement with ASEAN was signed in the capital of one of the developing countries party to the agreement. The political significance of this break with tradition (all previous non-preferential

agreements had been signed in Brussels) was reinforced by the presence in Kuala Lumpur of the foreign ministers of all the Community countries.

They had journeyed to the Malaysian capital for a 2-day meeting with the ASEAN foreign ministers, their second in 15 months. In their Joint Declaration, the foreign ministers 'confirmed that the Cooperation Agreement is a strong manifestation of the political will of both sides to intensify ASEAN-EC cooperation'.

Under their new agreement the Community and ASEAN will try to raise their 2-way trade 'to the highest possible level'. They will encourage closer economic links through industrial and technological cooperation, reinforced by mutually beneficial investments.

The Community will 'intensify its support... for ASEAN development and regional cooperation', essentially through its programme of aid for non-associate countries.

Inevitably, the successful implementation of the agreement will depend also on developments in the world economy. Through their Joint Declaration the 14 foreign ministers in fact underlined 'the urgency of engaging in a new joint effort at international level to deal with major economic issues, including those in the field of raw materials, energy, trade, development and finance.

Their commitment to 'cooperate constructively' is all the more important, coming as it does on the eve of two major exercises in the UN framework: the relaunching of the North-South Dialogue and the formulation of a new international development strategy for the Third UN Development Decade.

The commitment is not limited to economic matters; it is reflected in the Joint Statement on Political Issues which the foreign ministers adopted at the conclusion of their 2-day meeting.

After analyzing recent international developments the ministers 'expressed deep concern over the emergence of new and dangerous sources of tension'.

Together they strongly deplored 'the open armed intervention by foreign powers against two non-aligned countries in Asia'. Kampuchea and Afghanistan, and called for the total

withdrawal of foreign forces from both countries.

This identity of views extended to the future of the two countries. The ministers favoured 'the emergence of a neutral, non-aligned Afghanistan, outside competition among the powers'. They also called for 'the early establishment of an independent and neutral Kampuchea, with a genuinely representative government'.

The Joint Statement also dealt at some length with the problem of Vietnamese refugees and international aid to Kampuchea. The ministers agreed on the urgent need for both 'a durable solution' to the problem of the 'land' and 'boat' refugees and to ensure the success of the international efforts to bring aid to the stricken people of Kampuchea.

## New trade link to be forged with the Andean chain

Seen from within, the European Community may sometimes look like a house divided. But this has in no way diminished its attraction for those outside its walls.

More than 100 developing countries have established diplomatic relations with the Community, and the list of countries that have taken the next step, and concluded formal trade and co-operation agreements with it, continues to grow.

On 7 March the Community signed with the five members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) what is the first of a 'new generation' of cooperation agreements. Negotiations are expected to begin shortly with Brazil and India for similar agreements, and the European Commission has just recommended to the Member States the conclusion of a cooperation agreement with the Andean Group.

As the world's largest trading unit, with imports of \$226 000 million in 1978, the Community inevitably acts as a magnet for countries seeking to raise living standards through increased trade. But in many cases the attraction is political also.

This is true of the ASEAN countries. And it is equally true of the 5-nation Andean Group. In seeking to establish closer ties with the Community the Andean Group, like ASEAN, wants to improve the balance of its external relations.

The process was set in motion last July when the President of Colombia, acting as spokesman for the Group, proposed a cooperation agreement between it and the European Community. Exploratory talks between the European Commission and a delegation from the Andean Group followed, and it is on the basis of these talks that the Commission is now seeking the Council of Ministers' authorization to open formal negotiations.

The cooperations agreement envisaged by the Commission would be very similar to that concluded with the ASEAN countries. It would therefore be a 5-year, non-preferential, framework agreement (in Community jargon).

The Community, in other words, would study with the Andean Group ways and means of overcoming trade barriers, but it would not apply a preferential rate of duty on imports from the Group (as it does on imports from the Lomé Convention countries, for example).

The member countries of ANDEAN are Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. They have a population of over 70m. and a combined land area of 5m. sq.km., which is more than three times the area of the Community. The *per capita* income was \$1100 in 1977, but income in Venezuela is four times that in Bolivia.

The Andean Group countries would continue, however, to benefit from both the most-favoured-nation clause, which would be inserted into the agreement, and the Community's generalized system of preferences.

As in the case of the ASEAN agreement, the Commission has proposed that no potential area of economic cooperation within the sphere of Community competence be excluded in advance.

Economic cooperation would aim at closer links between industries in the Community and Andean Group countries, including mining, especially in the form of joint projects. To this end, the two sides would accept the need to maintain and improve further a favourable investment climate, especially by concluding investment promotion and protection agreements.

The agreement would also encourage cooperation in science and technology, transport and communications, agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Cooperation in the field of energy would include the development of new energy sources.

The agreement would additionally provide for financial cooperation. Whether this would extend to development assistance remains to be seen. Development cooperation is a key element of the ASEAN agreement.

## Commission proposes extension of trade concessions

The language of foreign trade includes not only abbreviations well-known to every exporter or importer like FOB and CIF but also GSP. A British importer of pocket calculators, for example, will want to know not only whether the price is CIF or FOB but also whether the country of origin is a GSP beneficiary.

If it is a GSP beneficiary, he need not pay import duty on the calculators, a concession which should help him to sell more of them on the UK market.

The letters GSP stand for generalized system of preferences and refer to a system of duty-free entry for Third World exports to the Community. Its aim is to encourage imports of manufactured and semi-manufactured products, thus helping developing countries to industrialize.

The system has been adopted gradually by the major industrialized nations, with the European Community leading the way in 1971. The European Commission, which devised the Community's GSP scheme, has now proposed to the nine Member State governments that they extend the system up to the year 2000.

The fact is that over the year the GSP has developed into one of the key Community instruments for helping developing countries raise their living standards. But it is politically important also: through the GSP the Community has been able to extend to the non-associated developing countries in Asia and Latin America tariff preferences which are more or less in line with those granted to other developing countries through such preferential agreements as the Lomé Convention.

The Commission's recommendation that the European Community

maintain its GSP scheme, now 10 years old, for the next 20 years is therefore of great political as well as economic importance.

No less important, however, is the recommendation that none of the present beneficiaries, which include all the members of the Group of 77 developing countries, as well as the People's Republic of China and the dependent territories, including Hong Kong and Macao, be excluded.

Inevitably, a number of Third World countries, with the help of the GSP to some extent, have become increasingly competitive as regards certain of their exports. In some cases the Community's own manufacturers are finding it difficult to meet the competition from these countries. The Commission nevertheless has resisted the temptation to exclude them from the list of beneficiary countries. It has proposed, however, that the GSP regulations, which are adopted on a yearly basis, be drawn up in a way that will scale down the benefits to the countries which can compete successfully on their own, at least in certain products.

The Commission believes that by scaling down the benefits to the more competitive countries the Community could help the others, especially the 25 least developed countries, more effectively.

In 1977 fewer than 20 Third World countries accounted for 85% of the Community's imports under the GSP; only 7 of them accounted for 60% of such imports. One reason for this is that the very complexity of the Community's scheme has discouraged countries from taking advantage of it. The Commission, therefore, has proposed a greatly simplified scheme.

Since the GSP was intended from the start to foster the industrialization of the Third World, the tariff concessions have focused on manufactured and semi-manufactured products. With a few exceptions, the Community has granted developing countries duty-free entry for all such products since 1971 as a matter of principle.

As a result, the Community, unlike some industrialized countries, has extended duty-free entry to textiles and clothing. The Commission has now indicated that the few products excluded from the GSP might be brought in.

The industrialized countries introduced the GSP in response to concerted demands from the Third World. But

they did so on their own initiative. Legally speaking, therefore, all GSP schemes, including the Community's, are autonomous, which means that the donor countries may consult the beneficiaries—something the European Commission does regularly—but need not negotiate with them on GSP matters.

This inevitably has resulted in widespread uncertainty among the developing countries as to the intentions of the donor countries. If adopted, the Commission's proposals would put an end to this uncertainty.

Adoption by the Council of Ministers would also underline the GSP's importance in the context of the efforts of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to foster the industrialization of the Third World through a programme running to the year 2000.

### Centre designed to help promote trade with India

Developing countries would much rather pay their way than live on handouts from the rich countries, an attitude which is summed up in the slogan 'Trade, not Aid'.

The European Community, for its part, has accepted the need to help Third World countries build up their exports and thus earn the foreign exchange they need to pay their import bills. This, in turn, helps the economies of the industrialized countries and international trade in general.

The latest trade promotion venture to receive Community backing is the Trade Centre which the Indian authorities have opened in Brussels, on the basis of a study carried out by the European Commission.

The Centre was formally inaugurated by Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, last month, at a ceremony attended by the Secretary to the Commerce Ministry in New Delhi and India's Ambassador to the Community.

India's Commerce Secretary, A.S.Gill, described the Trade Centre as 'an exciting venture' and 'a major achievement of Indo-EEC cooperation in the field of trade promotion'.

The Indian Government, he declared, wanted the Centre to play 'an important role in developing trade flows in both directions'.

The Community's imports from India amounted to round £ 1000 million in 1978; its exports were around £ 1200 million. As Vice-President Haferkamp reminded his audience, the majority of India's exports enter the Community duty-free.

The Centre is being jointly financed by India and the Community. The latter is contributing about £ 700 000 over a 3-year period. This is the largest sum committed by the Community to a single trade promotion project.

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## AGRICULTURE

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### Embargo on sales to Soviet Union not an option

A row over exports of surplus Community farm produce to the Soviet Union continued at this month's session of the European Parliament, which had called in February for an embargo on all sales because of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

The position remained unresolved, however, as Farm Commissioner Finn Olav Gundelach pointed out to the parliamentarians that the Commission had no power to impose an embargo.

He said that the Commission was limited to proposing Community policies to the Council of Ministers and implementing them once approved.

Within these confines, the Commission took steps after the invasion to introduce tighter controls on this trade and to ensure that Community produce did not fill the gap left as a result of American action.

While no surplus butter has since then been sold to the Russians, where it would fetch only 40% of its market price within the Community, Mr Gundelach pointed out that the Community did have the problem of a massive surplus to face. This surplus had to be disposed of and one way of doing it was to subsidize sales outside the Community.

He viewed this as subsidizing Community producers rather than the Russians or anyone else. What's more, he pointed out that it costs more to stock surpluses in the Community than to sell them cheaply abroad.



## Making life a little easier for the handicapped

All too often handicapped people find themselves leading lonely, difficult lives cut off by unsuitable housing from social contact with other people and unable to find jobs because they lack the necessary skills. For handicapped people in the poorer regions of the European Community which cannot afford expensive special training schemes and where jobs for even the able-bodied are hard to come by, the prospect for the handicapped can be very bleak indeed.

For this reason, the Community's action programme of help for the handicapped gives high priority to integrating handicapped people into society and making professional training and re-adaptation programmes available to them.

In the past, even when they could get jobs, handicapped people had to be content with manual work, although frequently they were capable of something much more demanding. Now modern technology is opening up new job possibilities for even the most severely handicapped.

The programme has already has some significant results. With support from the Commission, there is now a network of specialist institutions in some 30 European centres, with regular exchanges of information and experience and a number of pilot projects and studies.

Other work has been done in making the homes of handicapped people more adapted to their needs—removing architectural barriers for wheelchair users, for instance, to improve their mobility at home as well as outside.

Community grants have helped several countries build or adapt special accommodation for handicapped people enabling them to lead more normal lives and mix easily with other people.

On the employment side, the Social Fund has special responsibility for encouraging re-training in the less-favoured parts of the Community. In Ireland, for instance, only 8 of the 26 counties were able in 1973 to offer training programmes for handicapped people, now they all do, and the number of people benefiting has more than tripled. What is more, maintenance allowances have also been increased. As the Irish are the first to point out, none of this would have been possible without Community help.

The amount set aside in the Budget for handicapped people is fairly small, but growing. Last year it was around £42 million. This year the European Parliament has asked for the funds to be increased to £53 million representing 7.8% of the Community's Social Fund. The Commissioner responsible Henk Vredeling, doesn't underestimate the importance of the programme, though. In a recent speech he called it 'a matter of European solidarity. Handicapped people in less-favoured regions must not be the poor relations in European integration', he said.

## THE REGIONS

### Coping with a Community of 12

The problems the enlargement of the Community poses for less-developed regions in the present nine Member States was stressed by Regional Affairs Commissioner Antonio Giolitti at an international congress on regional policy in Paris earlier this month.

He pointed out that, of the 53 million new Community citizens that would arrive with the accession of Greece, Spain and Portugal, two-thirds live in regions where the *per capita* annual income is similar to that of the Italian Mezzogiorno or the West of Ireland, the present Community's two poorest areas.

To put the problem further into perspective, Mr Giolitti said that if 1975 figures, the most recent comparable ones, were taken and the Community's average *per capita* GDP were put at 100 for that year, Portugal came out at 32, Greece at 44 and Spain at 54, while Italy managed 47 and Ireland 59.

He also noted that the three intending Member States all have massive concentrations of industry and population co-existing with under-populated areas.

Nevertheless, he said that enlargement of the Community was a challenge that could not be postponed. It should, he insisted, be used as a testing ground for the survival of western Europe, both as an economic reality and as an element in the new international order.



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

**Congratulations**

The European Commission has sent warm wishes to Robert Mugabe, the victor in the Rhodesian elections. In a telegram sent soon after the results were known, Commission President Roy Jenkins said: 'On behalf of the Commission and myself I congratulate you most warmly on the result of the elections in your country. We look forward to working closely with you and your government and take this opportunity to convey our best wishes for the peaceful and prosperous development of Zimbabwe'. The way is now open for independent Zimbabwe to become a signatory of the Lomé Convention.

**Talking trade**

Industry Commissioner Etienne Davignon has been to Washington for talks on differences between the Community and the US over trade matters, notably in the steel and synthetic fibres sectors.

**No more Sevesos**

The European Environmental Bureau has come out in support of a proposal made by the European Commission for tighter controls over the production of dangerous substances. The so-called 'post-Seveso' proposal has been before the Council of Ministers since last July.

**Contraception call**

A French Socialist member of the European Parliament, Mrs Yvette FUILLET, has started a petition which calls for uniform Community legislation on contraception and abortion.

**Back to the Court**

The European Commission has asked the Court of Justice in Luxembourg to give an early ruling on the failure of the French government to implement the Court's decision of last September against the French refusal to allow sheepmeat, particularly from the United Kingdom, to circulate in France.

**Indian protest**

Representatives of two North American Indian races, the Iroquois and the Lakota, were in Strasbourg during the last session of the European Parliament to draw attention to their dispute with the American government. Independent EP member Mario Capanna has been promoting their case, claiming that the US Government is systematically violating two treaties concluded with the Indians 200 years ago.

**59th member**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has become the 59th member of the group of ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) who are signatories with the Community of the Lomé trade and aid convention.

**New president**

Former Dutch Prime Minister Joop Den Uyl has been elected president of the Union of Socialist Parties in the Community. Among the speakers at the Socialists' conference in Luxembourg was former German Chancellor Willy Brandt who urged an acceleration of European unification and a better functioning of Community institutions to enable Europe to become a more important factor guaranteeing world peace.

**Boycott demand**

The political committee of the European People's Party has said that the Olympic Games should not be held in Moscow because of the Soviet Union's failure to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. It also adopted a resolution on the appointment of the European Commission, one clause of which calls for its president-designate to have his nomination approved by the Parliament.

**Aid for Indians**

India is to receive £ 110 000 in Community aid to help overcome drought.

**Cheaper flying**

Many of the major figures in European and international air travel were in Brussels recently when the European Parliament's Transport Committee began hearings on the industry. The Commission has already made proposals for cheap fares similar to those run by Laker Airways and others on transatlantic flights. During the hearing, Sir Freddie Laker accused the big European companies of having 'a cosy little monopoly'. He has threatened to take his case for cheap services before the European Court of Justice if necessary.

**Discussing Lomé**

Parliamentarians from the Nine and from the ACP countries met in Arusha, Tanzania at the end of last month to examine the workings of the Lomé Convention which was recently renewed after five years of operation. They adopted a strongly-worded resolution calling for more concrete results from the new Convention.

**Women's conference**

The Secretary-General of the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women, Mrs Lucille Mair, had talks in Brussels recently with Social Affairs Commissioner Henk Vredeling. Their talks focused on ways of improving women's rights in the Community and improving the status of women in developing countries. Mrs Mair's visit was part of the UN's preparations for a second world conference on women which takes place in Copenhagen next July.

**Aid pledge**

External Affairs Commissioner Wilhelm Haferkamp, during a visit to Bangkok where the Commission has just opened a delegation, reassured the Thai government that the Community would continue to help refugees in South-East Asia. Aid already granted amounts to more than £ 30 million.

## FOCUS

## Winning friends and influencing people

*We all like to know what others think of us. So here, for your delectation, is how a group of American elementary school-children see us. The quotes were collected lovingly over a period by their teacher Ken Wilson.*

'Europe was all united under a man named Charlemagne until he died in 843. But I forget whether this was in AC or DC times'.

'When they were first starting the Common Market, the men who started had to work around the clock, 12 days a week'.

'The Common Market started in the pre-me times'.

'They have had the Common Market for as long as I can think to remember'.

'The Common Market is a market of a bigly size'.

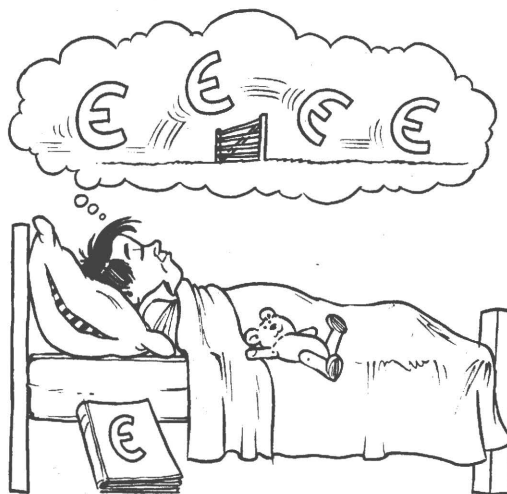
'The Common Market is even more important than its name sounds'.

'I read an article about the Common Market last March the somethingth'.

'Did I pass that test about the Common Market and why not?'

'One way we could be sure that the Common Market countries would always be happy and never poor is oh I forgot what I started to say'.

'ZZZZ. You would be sleepy too if you stayed up and read as much as I did last night about the Common Market'.



'When you are in too big a hurry to say European Economic Community, you can say EEC'.

'One of the most important jobs of the European Economic Community is to try to find out what is meant by the secret letters E and E and C'.

'Jean Monnet was one of the four fathers of the Common Market'.

'Both sides of Jean Monnet were well educated'.

'This story I read was about a Mr Schuman who helped start the Common Market. Another Mr Schuman was a famous composer, but I do not know whether it was he or him or who'.

'Europeans are rather continental in their customs'.

'It is always a few hours later in Europe than it is here in America because people have not lived here as long'.

'France has pyrites. Pyrites are something only encyclopedias know for sure'.

'Belgium grows hops. Hops can't really do what their name says they do'.

'I read somewhere that Belgium is the most densely populated country in Europe. But just

because Belgium's population is dense does not mean its people are'.

'One thing I don't know about Belgium's industries is plenty'.

'They have found a lot of petroleum under *the Netherlands*. So far, petroleum is the most valuable thing on which the hand of man has ever set foot'.

'Luxembourg could just as well be called something else if they could only think of a simpler name for it'.

'Luxembourg is not as big as its name sounds'.

'There is a lot of farming done in *Denmark*. Another name for farming is agriculture, but I think I will just stick with the first name and learn it good'.

'Because of the glacial period, the soil in *Germany* is not fertile. The main value of the glacial period in Germany is yet to be discovered'.

'Germany's chickens have a plural known as poultry'.

'Appenines is the name of a monster in *Italy* that has 9560 feet'.

'The Appenines mountains have been there forever and maybe even longer'.

# Euroforum

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