

Euroforum



Can life be made easier for the handicapped? See page 3.

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Can life be made easier for the handicapped?

It's a tough life being handicapped. Not only do you have the disability to contend with, but problems in communicating with other people, or getting from place to place, difficulties in getting work and the stigma of being 'different' all conspire to cut disabled people off from their able-bodied fellow citizens and make a difficult life a lonely one as well.

With the aim of increasing public awareness of the needs of disabled people and stimulating greater participation by the handicapped in society, as well as encouraging more efficient prevention of disablement, the United Nations has designated 1981 International Year of the Handicapped. It's an area in which the European Community has been interested for some time.

There may be many as 23 million handicapped people in the Community—statistics vary according to the nine Member States' different legal definitions of what constitutes a handicap.

Every country makes special resources available to help the disabled to overcome the practical and social problems they face in housing, transport, access to public buildings and employment. The Community intervenes to complete and reinforce these efforts and try to bring about a convergence of national policies.

For one thing, these problems overlap with almost all sections of Community social policy—employment, vocational training, social security and assistance,

health and so on. For another, it's felt that many of the actions needed can only be fully effective if they are implemented at a Community level.

Since 1970 Community action has been concerned with the social and vocational integration of handicapped people, the aim being to eliminate all discrimination against the disabled, helping them to develop their potential, to be as independent as possible, and to participate in all aspects of social and economic life.

In 1974, the Nine's Council of Ministers adopted a European Action Programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons. Through the programme, a network of 30 rehabilitation and training centres has been set up throughout the Community to plan and teach new rehabilitation techniques.

The European Social Fund offers financial aid to operations concerning vocational rehabilitation, especially in the less prosperous regions of the Community, and for projects demonstrating new methods.

In 1978, 72 000 handicapped people benefited from this aid and around £ 42 million has been requested by the Commission for this work in 1980.

A certain number of studies have been carried out on the employment of handicapped people, their education, and so on.

Although considerable progress has been made as a result of Community effort and funding—Ireland, for instance, has been able to triple the numbers benefiting from training programmes—a lot remains to be done, especially in employment. Sadly, even good vocational training is no guarantee of a job.

In its report on the action programme—at present being considered by the Council of Ministers—the Commission underlines the problem and calls for companies, employers and trade unions to be involved in finding solutions.

Other recommendations include increasing the effectiveness of general vocational guidance and job placement facilities to make them more accessible to handicapped people. The emphasis in guidance, the Commission believes, should be shifted from people's deficiencies towards identifying and developing their individual abilities.

Important though it is, vocational rehabilitation is by no means the only area of Community activity concerning the handicapped. In the field of education, the Commission has undertaken a detailed analysis of the problems faced by handicapped youngsters, especially those making the transition from school to working life.

After consultations with specialist organizations all over the Community, it's hoped that a series of proposals will be put forward early next year covering areas like improved teacher-training and the integration of handicapped children in ordinary schools.

Further studies may cover areas like the importance of pre-school education for disabled children and the potential impact of micro-processors on the sophisticated technology many handicapped children—and grown-ups—depend on.

The special equipment used by disabled people in teaching, health care and in various aspects of everyday life is another field of Community action. To ensure that people can get the most efficient equipment at the lowest possible price, action in progress covers duty-free imports of certain articles made outside the Community, and encouraging research, production, distribution and maintenance of specialist equipment.

Medical research is another important field, and a series of research projects conducted in Community countries is supported with Community subsidies and co-ordinated at a European level.

The Community has also been active in the area of accommodation one of the most important keys to independence for handicapped people.

The Community has collaborated with the Council of Europe in drawing up minimum accessibility standards for houses, and has given financial support to several projects and pilot studies which aim to improve housing conditions suited to the handicapped. Disabled people are also being considered in a draft directive on driving licenses.

However, as the Council pointed out in its Community action programme, if handicapped people are to become really integrated, society as a whole

has to adopt a more understanding and responsible attitude.

The Council mandated the Commission to undertake information campaigns to improve public knowledge about handicapped people and their problems, and to stimulate communication between the handicapped and the able-bodied.

One way of doing this has been through giving financial support to a film in which 20 handicapped people and those around them talk about what it's like to be disabled and the effect it has on their everyday lives.

The film is expected to have a wide showing on television and in schools and clubs. It has already been shown at the Cannes film festival where it was well received.

The film is the first Community-aided project to come to fruition with the Year of the Handicapped in mind. Information meetings involving people from different Commission directorates and independent organizations have already taken place. More is being planned, both in the context of the Action Programme for Vocational Rehabilitation, in Education and in scientific and technical information.

In the Year of the Handicapped, it is up to everyone to ensure that our handicapped citizens are recognized as full members of society.

EMPLOYMENT

Commission urges more cooperation between Nine

The labour force and authorities in Europe may be sitting on an employment time bomb that could be triggered in the coming years to create unprecedented levels of unemployment.

With joblessness already at crisis levels — around the six million mark, — in the European Community, officials, trade unionists and industrialists have been actively seeking ways of remedying this dismal situation.

But, despite their efforts, current and future trends are largely at the mercy of almost uncontrollable social and economic forces. For instance, population trends dictate a rapid increase in young newcomers to the work force exactly at the same time

as there are fewer older workers retiring.

A process of worldwide economic adjustment is also taking place that is expected to lead to a new international division of labour and considerable disruption for some European industries facing competition from the Third World.

In addition, the Community is facing an influx of new workers from the incoming member countries of Greece, Portugal and Spain.

These prospects, according to a new report prepared by the European Commission in Brussels mean that truly European labour market policies will have to be established in the near future to more effectively channel jobless workers into useful occupations.

This report, produced by the Commission's Social and Employment Affairs Directorate, reviews the difficult situation, makes general recommendations and requests guidance from the Ministers of the nine member countries on priorities so that work can begin on the formulation of concrete steps in this war against employment.

A number of the recommendations contained in the report deal with the improvement of vocational programmes, the possible creation of jobs through a reduction in working time, and special aids to underdeveloped regions or to youth and women.

This can already be accomplished by getting the most out of existing European Community, national or even local or regional programmes.

But beyond those measures, there are a number of other steps designed to promote better operations in the national employment services to improve the current mismatch between the persons unemployed and looking for work and the number of unfilled vacancies.

An important part of any such new policy would have to be a re-inforcement of the principle of free movement of labour within the Community for its citizens. This means more cooperation on training, mutual recognition of diplomas, apprenticeship standards or other requirements.

Side by side with this type of improvement, the report also advocates better information and studies about the real job picture throughout the Community countries, so that job needs and opportunities can be pinpointed.

Some of the machinery for the establishment of a Community-wide clearing house of information is already in place. An intensification of the existing cooperation between employment exchanges and authorities will have to be undertaken, and the need for improved coordination between investment and aid programmes is also stressed in the report.

This action programme on a labour market policy has been formulated at the same time as the European Commission has adopted its policy guidelines for the European Social Fund for the 1981-1983 period.

The Fund, in operation for several years, helps national and other authorities to finance their training and other programmes for the young, the handicapped, migrant and other workers. In 1979 alone, some one million people were aided by money from this Fund.

Over the next couple of years, the Fund will set a high priority on providing greater assistance to the young and to certain particularly underdeveloped regions.

Among the specific programmes visualized are combination work-study projects for the young and others as soon as the results of a new study on youth unemployment are known. The new plans also declare that special attention will be paid to the situation in Greece, which will join the Community in 1981, when the funds and programmes are being decided upon.

But this special emphasis will not mean a reduction in the attention also focused on other traditional beneficiaries of the Fund such as migrant workers and their families, women, the handicapped and workers in specific troubled industries such as textiles.

The nine Ministers responsible for Social Affairs are due to meet in Luxembourg this week. The employment situation will be an important item on their agenda.

Help for orphans

The Community's Paul Finet Foundation is to provide educational grants totalling £ 450 000 for 272 orphans of workers in the coal, iron and steel industries. The Fund concentrates on helping the neediest and most deserving candidates. The grants are renewable provided a recipient continues to achieve good academic results.



Major step taken to clean up the Mediterranean

Forty-four million inhabitants of Mediterranean coastal cities, towns and villages, as well as an estimated 100 million tourists who visit the Mediterranean annually should at last have cleaner beaches and safer waters to swim in, following the recent signature of a major new anti-pollution treaty in Athens.

The European Community as a unit joined 11 Mediterranean coastal countries, (Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia) in signing the treaty, which aims to control pollution from land-based sources. Roughly 85% of Mediterranean pollution comes from the shore, principally from factory waste, municipal sewage, agricultural fertilisers and pesticides.

The treaty was drawn up by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and is the third protocol to the framework Barcelona Convention on Mediterranean pollution, signed in 1976. (The other protocols cover oil pollution and dumping from ships and aircraft respectively).

Under the treaty, the signatories are left considerable discretion in the interpretation and application of controls. General environmental targets, such as ensuring that water is

safe enough for bathing and for breeding shellfish, are sought rather than strict technical standards.

Like certain of the Community's own water pollution directives, the Athens treaty fixes two lists of pollutants—a 'black list' of toxic, persistent and bio-accumulable substances (such as cadmium carcinogens, used lubricating oils, mercury, plastics and radioactive materials) which will eventually be banned altogether, and a 'grey list' of less toxic substances such as crude oils, detergents, copper, lead, tin and zinc. These will be controlled by national licensing.

The clean up effort will cost the Mediterranean countries £400 million a year, and may take up to 15 years to yield tangible results.

Enforcing controls will be the responsibility of the signatory countries, which have undertaken to exchange information on monitoring and dumping authorizations, and on the amount of pollution discharged. UNEP will collect and analyse this data, and every two years the Mediterranean countries will meet and the worst offenders can be identified.

The treaty is open for signature until 16 May 1981. Four more Mediterranean countries, Algeria, Israel, Turkey and Yugoslavia, who were at the Athens meeting have promised to sign shortly. Two others who were not present, Egypt and Syria are also expected to sign. This will leave only Albania of all the 18 Mediterranean countries not party to the new treaty.

Keeping Europe clean: what progress at Community-level?

The European Community's environment policy has a two-fold aim: to ensure the sound management of natural resources and to bring qualitative aspects into the planning and organization of economic and social development. The tool for achieving this twin objective is the Community's second environmental action programme, which comes up for renewal next year.

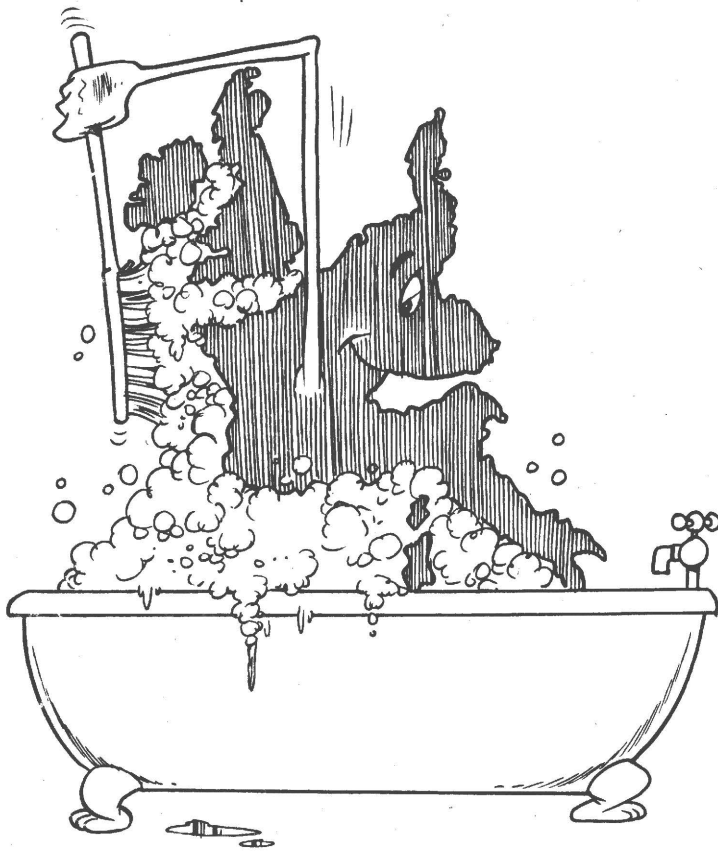
The European Commission has just sent a progress report on the action programme to the Nine's Environment Ministers who meet in Luxembourg on 30 June. The document assesses the progress made in each of the various fields covered by the action programme, the difficulties encountered by the Commission and future prospects.

Community activities under the programme are broken down into four central objectives:

- the reduction by remedial or, where possible, preventive measures of pollution and nuisances damaging to natural resources, the environment and the quality of life;
- the protection of natural resources and the natural environment by regulating certain activities, such as waste disposal;
- the organization of back-up measures, such as research, economic studies, educational and information campaigns;
- the search for international solutions to certain problems.

The policy observes a number of principles, the chief ones being the Polluter Pays Principle (whereby the polluter is held financially responsible for making good any damage he does to the environment), the principle that priority is given to prevention, which is more efficient and less expensive than cure; and the principle that the most appropriate geographical level (be it local, regional, national, Community or international) must be sought for each type of action. The Community will only step in if action at national level needs to be placed in a wider perspective to become fully effective.

The Commission feels that substantial results have been achieved in a very short space of time. In less than



seven years, the Community has adopted 58 pieces of legislation on the reduction of pollution—15 on water pollution, 10 on air pollution, seven on waste, eight on noise pollution and four on the environment, land and natural resources.

In addition, implementation or study of new means of action to protect the environment is underway. Ecological mapping, for example, which describes the existing environment in a scientific manner and can be used to assess the suitability of certain areas for economic and social purposes, is now being used experimentally in 10 Community regions.

The Commission will shortly be submitting a proposal on environmental impact assessment, which will become part of the planning process for development projects likely to have significant effects on the environment. Less wasteful and less polluting technologies are also being actively promoted.

Meanwhile, the more traditional courses of action continue. The Community set aside more than £ 13 million for research last year.

Various public education and training campaigns have been successfully completed. In particular, a network of pilot schools keen to teach environment-related subjects to children has been established in all the Member States.

The Community actively participates in the implementation of international agreements: on the protection of the sea against pollution, the conservation of animal and plant species threatened with extinction, and action to combat transfrontier pollution, for example.

The Commission also cooperates closely with international organizations dealing with environmental problems, including the Council of Europe and the United Nations. Regular exchanges of information are held with third countries such as the United States, Japan, Canada and Switzerland.

Turning to the relationship between national and Community environment policy, the Commission notes five roles that Community environment policy plays:

- it helps to define a common approach, common objectives and principles;
- it harmonizes national environment policies whenever there is a risk that individual action might cause economic difficulties or be insufficiently effective;
- the very fact that it exists at all gives encouragement and acts as a driving force. It provides a focus for dialogue and exchange of information;
- It can give specific measures the most appropriate geographical and political dimension (crossborder problems, research coordination and so on);

■ lastly, it strengthens the position of the Member States at international level by putting forward a common Community position.

The main hurdle that the Commission has had to surmount in implementing the action programme has been, and remains, the considerable imbalance between the vast amount of work involved and the small number of staff in the Commission's Environment and Consumer Protection Service.

This has considerably slowed down some programmes (reducing water and air pollution, for example), seriously hampered others (e.g. waste) and is making it hard for the Commission to fulfil its obligations in others.

Difficulties may also arise, the Commission says, if the political will backing a measure is uncertain. Oil pollution is a case in point. It took a series of catastrophes such as the Ekofisk and Amoco Cadiz disasters to provoke even a half-hearted political response from the Nine.

Added to this, Member States have different environmental priorities according to geographical, political and economic circumstances, and their responsiveness to environmental problems varies. Differing administrative, institutional and legislative procedures also affect the implementation of Community environment policy.

Looking at the direction that environment policy appears to be taking, the Commission detects a shift from measures aimed chiefly at cure, to a more aggressive, preventive approach, based on clean technologies and renewable raw materials. Increasing concern about conservation has also led to calls for a qualitative approach to development, to which environment protection and planning can contribute.

Since 1975, environment policies have had to contend with unfavourable conditions of economic growth, characterized by energy problems. Increasing attention has been focused on the economic consequences of implementing an environment policy. The costs, however, appear to be marginal.

The overall, short-term impact of environment policy on employment seems to have been a net creation of jobs, although this has included gains and losses from one region or industry to another.

The inflationary effect of environment policies has, on average, been around

0.2% to 0.3%, using the consumer price index as a yardstick. The Polluter Pays Principle has had a positive effect on prices by encouraging efficiency.

The percentage of GDP spent by governments on environment is minimal (1% to 2%), whereas the damage caused by pollution adds up to between 3 and 5% of GDP.

The Commission concluded therefore, that the economic impact of environment policy has not so far caused conflict between environmental and economic objectives or between the policies pursued to achieve these objectives.

What, then, of the future? The Commission restricts itself to initial thoughts. One of the first things to be done will be to finish the vast amount of work under the current programme.

A new list of priorities must be drawn up in the light of economic changes and with special emphasis given to prevention rather than cure.

Among these priorities should be listed:

- control of dangerous substances, their transport, manufacture and use;
- fighting marine oil pollution;
- control of air pollution, particularly cross border pollution;
- measures designed to ensure greater consistency between environment and other policies, especially agriculture, regional, energy and transport policies;
- economic impact assessments;
- a waste management policy;
- development of low polluting and non-waste technologies.

Paper mountain: hurry while stocks last

The European Community is quite literally throwing away over £ 300 million a year. This is what it costs the Nine to dispose of the 15 million tonnes of waste paper annually dumped in the Community's dustbins and not recycled.

At present, the Community consumes around 30 million tonnes of paper a year; 5 million tonnes of this total is either used for long-lived products or is not re-usable. The remaining 25 million is waste paper and potentially recoverable. But, on present per-

formance, only 10 million tonnes is being re-used.

The sight of such an enormous potential benefit going up in smoke can no longer be ignored in our current economic straits. Because of this, the European Commission has adopted a new set of measures aimed at encouraging far wider use of waste paper.

Chief among its recommendations are that the nine Member States implement policies which:

- give high priority to use of recycled, and recyclable, paper and cardboard, especially in public administrations, which can and should set a good example;
- encourage as far as possible the use of recycled paper and cardboard that contains a high percentage of mixed waste paper;
- re-examine the factors which currently militate against the use of re-cycled paper for certain jobs (e.g. minimum hygiene or quality standards);
- develop and promote uses for waste paper other than simply as a raw material for making paper and cardboard.

The advantages of re-using waste paper are not only financial. The recycling of paper is a fundamental plank in the Community's efforts to cut waste in general. It has important environmental consequences—the use of recycled paper in paper-making is

less polluting than the use of virgin pulp, and also consumes less energy.

Recycling is good for the Community's balance of trade figures, too. The Member States currently have to import 16 million tonnes (paper equivalent) of the 30 million that they consume annually. Most of the imports come from Scandinavia and Canada.

The future quantities and price of these imports will largely be determined by the domestic demand in the supplier countries.

Given this uncertainty, it is all the more urgent for the Community to develop its own resources policy to the fullest possible extent, especially since further expansion of the Community's domestic wood pulp production will only enable the deficit to be kept at its present 16 million tonnes level.

Recycling paper is also recognized as an important factor in reducing the Community's dependence on imported timber for all uses. Between 55 and 60% of the Community's timber needs have to be imported each year, at a cost of about £ 5 400 million.

With demand rising at roughly 2% per year, and Community production only matching half this increase, this import bill is likely to rise to £ 8 000 million a year by the turn of the century.



As yet, none of the Member States have legal obligations requiring the use of waste paper. In Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy and Germany, the use of recycled paper in public administration is 'recommended'.

In the UK, the authority responsible for buying paper and cardboard for central government gives a 'measure of preference' to products with a recycled content and the authorities' technical staff work together with the paper industry to develop specifications which will enable a greater use to be made of products containing recycled fibres.

France, however, stands out as the country with the most active policy to increase the recovery and reuse of waste paper. The Industry Ministry recently earmarked some £400 000 to promote recycling. A number of new de-inking plants have been opened and public services are encouraged to use recycled paper.

Ireland and the Netherlands are the only two Member States not to have taken any steps so far in this field.

As for the European Commission itself, some 35% of its paper needs are covered by recycled paper.

ENERGY

Ministers display determination to cut oil imports

The European Community took another significant step towards freeing itself from excessive dependence on imported oil at a meeting of the Nine's Energy Ministers in Brussels recently.

Although the Community expects to import 15 million tonnes less oil than its self-imposed target of 472 million tonnes for this year, the instability on the world's oil markets is a cause for serious concern.

The fact that heating oil prices on the Rotterdam market have increased by 23% since the beginning of April is eloquent enough proof of this instability.

It was against this background that the Energy Ministers met. They decided that each would submit annual energy programmes up to 1990 to the European Commission for examination.

The Commission's task is to see that these nine individual national programmes add up to one coherent Community policy.

A number of guidelines have been agreed by the Nine for the Community programme:

- Member States should aim to use less energy in promoting economic growth; the aim is to increase energy consumption by no more than 0.7% for every 1% of economic growth by 1990;
- oil must only account for around 40% of primary energy consumption in the Community by 1990;
- solid fuels (particularly coal) and nuclear energy will have to be expanded to cover between 70 and 75% of the Community's electric power needs;
- the use of renewable energy sources (solar, wind, etc) should be further encouraged;
- finally, an energy pricing policy geared to achieving these objectives should be pursued.

In order to know just where to pitch energy prices, it was agreed that the Member States should bear a number of general principles in mind.

Firstly, consumer prices should reflect representative conditions on the world market, with an eye to long-term trends. Secondly, the cost of replacing and developing energy resources should be one of the factors determining consumer prices. Finally energy prices on the market should be as 'transparent' as possible; in other words, price levels and the various factors that determine their make-up should be clearly set out.

Maximum attention is to be given to encouraging rational use of energy in the home, at work and in transit between the two.

In the home, the Ministers recommended a variety of measures, including:

- a substantial upward revision of compulsory minimum performance requirements for new housing and heating systems ;
- the reintroduction, of more stringent campaigns along with the setting up of advice centres to show householders how to conserve energy ;
- financial aid for any necessary conversion of existing houses, especially local authority houses;
- more informative labelling to indicate the energy consumption of household appliances (such as refrigerators, freezers, washing

machines and dishwashers) permitting the buyer to make the most 'energy conscious' choice.

For industry, the Ministers recommended the keeping of energy consumption accounts, especially in industries that consume large amounts; financial aid to help small and medium-sized businesses to become more energy efficient; financial and tax aid to encourage investment to save energy; financial aid for demonstration projects and commercial promotion generally of new energy saving technologies, equipment or methods.

The European Commission has sent the Council of Ministers a proposal to extend the Community's energy-saving labelling system to cover refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and dishwashers. The idea is to provide the public with as much information as possible about the energy consumption of such appliances to encourage shoppers to buy the one that uses least electricity. The system already applies to electric ovens and will in due course be extended to other electric appliances such as TV sets, tumble dryers and vacuum cleaners.

It was agreed that governments and public authorities in general should be the first to set a good example by putting their houses, or rather, offices in order.

On the farm, too, savings can and must be made—through promotion of energy-saving machinery and cultivation techniques, and by encouraging better use of locally available alternative energy sources (solar, wind, peat, various forms of waste, etc.) to heat farm buildings and greenhouses.

Publicity and information campaigns are seen as the key to cutting energy costs in transport. Car manufacturers have already agreed to cut fuel consumption in new cars by 10% between now and 1985. The Commission has proposed a standard method for measuring fuel consumption to ensure that everyone's 10% reduction means the same thing and this will be in use as soon as possible.

During their meeting, the Ministers also discussed the general energy situation in the European Community and the world at large, which remains characterized by considerable uncertainties on prices and supplies. They

stressed the role that the Community, because of its size, could play in helping to stabilize the oil markets.

The ability of the Community to react to short-term energy supply problems was another topic on the Minister's agenda and the Commission was asked to examine a number of problems, including how to improve the management of oil stocks, how to ensure speedy exchanges of information between Member States and how to increase the Community's own production of oil and gas in the event of shortage.

The Commission will submit the results of its study to the Council by September.

Meeting the cost of bringing us new oil and gas

Looking for oil and natural gas has always been a costly and risky business. And as the search has moved from land to sea the oil industry has been forced to develop new techniques of exploration and production. As a result, both costs and risks have become unpredictably high.

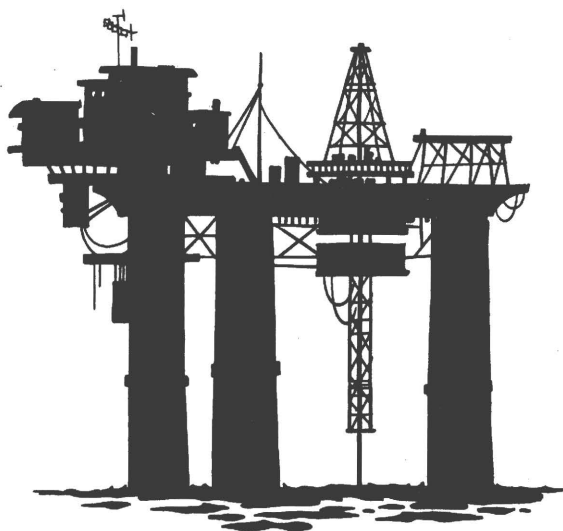
This means that, if the European Community is to have security of supplies, it must share with industry at least some of the costs and the risks of the development of new techniques.

This was recognized by the Community in 1973 when it undertook to provide financial backing for projects likely to lead to greater security of supplies of oil and natural gas.

Since then the European Commission has examined 250 projects, submitted by 150 companies. As many as 144 projects have been selected, involving a total investment of £240 million.

The Community's contribution has totalled £98 million and has averaged 35% of the projected costs. Under the regulation adopted in 1973, the maximum support the Community can give to a single project has been set at 40% of the total investment required. The regulation also stipulates that the funds provided by the Community must be repaid in the event of commercial success.

To date, 31 projects have been completed; 13 of them are being commercially exploited already and the rest will be in time.



The Commission maintains that, but for Community backing, many projects would not have been implemented at all, or only after considerable delay, because of the high technical and financial risks involved.

Not surprisingly, two-thirds of the projects backed by the Community relate to the development of production technology. They should lead to the opening up of new oil fields and a higher rate of recovery from existing fields.

The Community has also provided funds for developing more sophis-

ticated exploration techniques. Several new pieces of equipment for deep-sea drilling have been developed, including controls to prevent costly environment-polluting blow-outs. Some of this equipment was developed for two drillships now in service.

New transport techniques have also been developed with Community backing. Tests at laying and repairing pipelines in the Straits of Messina and the Sicily Channel were so successful that they have led to the proposed natural gas pipeline between Algeria and Italy.

IN BRIEF

Boost for science

The European Commission is proposing to double the value of grants available for scientific and technical training. Around £6.5 million would be available for a four-year programme starting next year. Most of the money would be used to provide 430 grants for scientific research. The proposal now goes to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Not true

The European Commission has once again scotched a hoary rumour that in order to cut down on noise from mechanically-driven lawn mowers it intends to suggest that we should all cut our grass at the same time. The Commission pointed out that the sole object of its proposal was to enable lawnmowers to circulate freely throughout the Community. The resulting increased competition between manufacturers should help to keep down prices to gardeners.

Safety at sea

The European Parliament at its May session approved a motion calling on the nine Member States to step up the fight against pollution caused by oil tankers.

Money for the NIC

The Community has launched a bond issue of \$75 million which is being managed by a number of international banks. The money will be used under the terms of the New Community Instrument (NIC) to promote energy and infrastructure investment.

Rising prices

Prices increased in the Community in January by 2% over December. Increases ranged from 0.8% in Denmark to 3% in Italy. The January/January increase ranged from 5% in Germany to 20.4% in Italy.

THIRD WORLD

Laying ground rules to promote and protect investments

Foreign investments, once viewed with hostility by most developing countries, are now accepted as an important factor in economic growth. They provide not only much needed capital but also access to technical know-how and managerial and marketing skills.

Not surprisingly, many developing countries now offer foreign investors a wide range of incentives, including tax holidays. Some major industrialized countries, such as the UK and Germany, consider foreign private investment as even more effective than official development assistance in raising living standards.

The European Commission also recognizes the important role which foreign investments can play in developing countries; in fact it regards the private investor as essential to the success of any programme of economic cooperation between the Community and Third World countries and is a firm advocate of a policy of investment promotion and protection.

The Commission's ideas crystallized in a communication it sent to the Council of Ministers in January, 1978, in which it outlined two courses of action.

The first was for the Community to negotiate agreements with individual developing countries (or regional groupings) covering the ground rules for the treatment of foreign investments or, as a first step, to include provisions for investment promotion and protection in the cooperation agreements to be negotiated with developing countries.

The second course of action favoured by the Commission involved measures on a case-by-case basis, notably agreements aimed at promoting specific investment projects of particular interest to both the Community and the host country—in mining and energy, for example.

The Commission reported to the Council last month on the results to date. At the same time, it outlined guidelines for implementing the investment clauses already negotiated and for the forthcoming negotiations

with India and the Andean Pact countries.

The investment clauses vary considerably from agreement to agreement. They reflect the differing standpoints of the developing countries themselves, their prior commitments to individual countries of the Nine, and the Community's own interests.

In one case—the Euro-Arab dialogue—the Community succeeded in concluding a draft Convention on investments. It could be adopted by the two sides once the Dialogue is resumed and would cover both the Gulf States and those of the Mashraq and Maghreb.

The second Lomé Convention devotes no more than two brief articles and a joint declaration to the subject. But even so it manages to set a precedent: it contains a non-discrimination clause which seeks to ensure equality of treatment for investors from all nine Member States. The new Convention also provides for measures specifically aimed at encouraging European investments in the mining and energy sectors.

The cooperation agreement with the five South-East Asian members of ASEAN contains provisions of a rather different sort. The fact is that individual Member States have concluded bilateral agreements with individual members of ASEAN. The cooperation agreement therefore encourages them to continue the process by concluding agreements which reflect the twin principles of non-discrimination and reciprocity.

The fact that Yugoslavia should have agreed to include in its cooperation agreement with the Community a clause on the promotion and protection of foreign investments is significant in itself. The Yugoslavs have already concluded bilateral agreements with two Community Member States and under the new agreement the two sides will try to conclude further mutually beneficial agreements.

Finally, the recent cooperation agreement with Brazil contains a clause which opens the way to an examination of measures aimed at encouraging investments. It is couched in general terms but the Commission is hopeful that its implementation could take the form of agreements covering specific projects,

especially in the mining and energy sectors.

As the Commission has pointed out, the position of India and the Andean Pact countries is somewhat similar to that of Brazil: they are open to foreign investments but reluctant to subscribe to investment promotion and protection agreements.

The Commission believes that the five Latin American countries, as major producers of raw materials, should be interested in agreements covering specific projects.

In the case of India, it has proposed a clause similar to that contained in the agreement with Brazil and this, in fact, is the basis on which the negotiations for a new cooperation agreement are to open.

Among the other developing countries with whom the Community could usefully raise the question of investments is China. As the Commission points out, now that Peking has revised its position on foreign investments the Community should see to it that its firms can take part in the country's development on the best possible terms.

Unfavourable balance

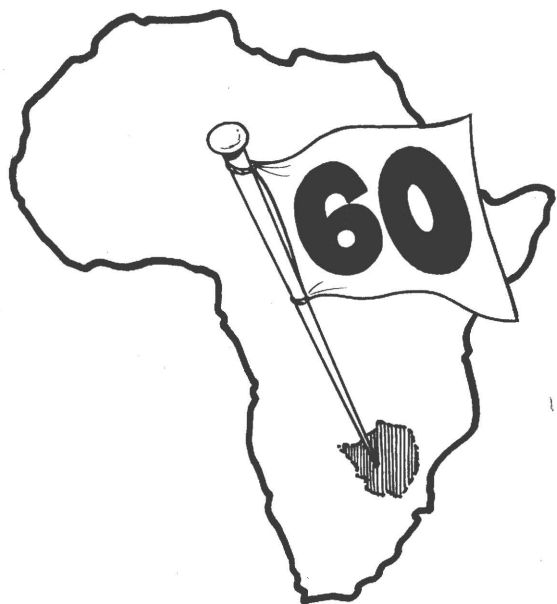
The Community's continuing trade deficit with Japan was the main subject of talks held in Brussels on 19-21 May between high-ranking European Commission and Japanese government officials. Japan had a trading surplus with the Community of almost \$6 900 million in 1979, according to Eurostat figures. Trade has shown a similar pattern in the first quarter of this year.

New pact?

Exploratory talks are likely to take place shortly between the Community and the Gulf states to investigate the possibility for the eventual conclusion of trade and economic cooperation agreements.

Help for economy

The Community is making a grant of £4 million to help put the economy of Equatorial Guinea back on its feet. The money will be spent on public health, agriculture, public works, fisheries and energy projects.



Zimbabwe to be 60th member of Lomé Convention

What started out as largely a routine working session of the Ministerial Council of the European Community and the 59 developing countries that participate in the Lomé Convention in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi recently actually became a major turning point in their relations.

First of all, the gathering at the modern Jomo Kenyatta conference centre on 8 and 9 May served as a welcoming session for the new independent government of Zimbabwe as the 60th member of the Lomé accord. It also represented an important historical bridge between the first Lomé accord coming to a conclusion and the recently-negotiated Lomé II convention now awaiting ratification by all the signatories.

In addition, it became a major preparatory meeting on the way towards the resumption of the stalled North-South dialogue on the creation of a new international economic order.

All this was incorporated into the regular work of the Ministerial Council of coping with the details of trade between the Community and the ACP (African-Caribbean-Pacific) states of the Lomé Convention.

The importance of the meeting was underlined quickly in the opening address by Kenyan President Daniel

Arap Moi, who told the participants that 'the economic situation of some of the member states of the ACP is precarious. Unless special measures are taken within the general framework of the Convention, their very existence is jeopardized'.

He also warned that 'as we meet, the world is facing its most trying moments since the second world war. Aggression, force and violence are being used increasingly as a means of solving political disputes'.

In addition, he asserted that political instability in the world was largely a consequence of economic difficulties facing the Third World.

Among the concrete examples of this link between economic and political issues, the meeting was presented with the case of Zimbabwe seeking membership in the Lomé Convention as a means of strengthening its economic and newly-independent status after years of internal conflict. Without hesitation, the meeting enthusiastically welcomed it as the 60th member into the Lomé process. Even prior to this Nairobi meeting, the European Community had begun the process of integrating the new country Zimbabwe into the world system. The Community had started granting trade concessions to Zimbabwe earlier this year following the normalisation of relations between the United Kingdom and its last African colony.

On 22 April, just a few days after its independence, the Community Council of Ministers also approved in principle a plan to furnish aid for the country's economic and refugee needs. This

aid will amount to around £ 8 million in food and financial assistance from Community funds, as well as bilateral aid by the Nine Governments for a total of around £ 35 million.

If all parties in the Lomé Convention derive benefits from their association, they also understand that in these difficult economic times there are also problems. These were at the heart of the discussions in Nairobi.

In general, the ACP countries expressed concern about their deteriorating trade deficit in recent years with the Community. This turned around in 1979, but this was largely as a result of oil shipments from Nigeria. While Europe is thirsting for oil, however, some of the ACP countries voiced their disappointment about the access of other products such as sugar and cocoa to Community markets.

This situation is crucial to ACP countries, whose needs are for both greater industrialization and more food resources. Some of the discussions centred on possible ways of increasing funds for the industrialisation of the ACP states and others examined the possibility of channelling some of the European Community's surplus agricultural production to feed their populations.

Following the Nairobi welcome for Zimbabwean membership of the Lomé Convention, the European Commission has asked the Council of Ministers for the green light to open negotiations with Zimbabwe for its accession to the trade and aid pact.

Another important chapter was devoted to the possible coordination of views between the Community and ACP countries in preparation for the important world-wide meetings to be held in the United Nations on the North-South dialogue between industrialized and developing countries.

Since they represent about half of the total membership of the United Nations, the Lomé Convention partners could have a large role to play in these talks on the future economic relationship in the world.

Both sides in Nairobi agreed that these future United Nations encounters would have to be well-prepared if they were to succeed and that the Community and ACP States would try to deepen their own dialogue on the difficult issues involved.

TRADE

Contacts increase between China and Community



There's an old Chinese proverb which says that a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. This ancient adage is currently being fulfilled at an accelerating pace as China develops its relations with the outside world and with Europe in particular.

Since the entry into force of an historic trade agreement between the European Community and China in June 1978, the number of contacts between the two have increased dramatically and will multiply in the coming months.

These encounters will consist of a trip by a delegation from the Chinese National Peoples' Congress to the European Parliament in Strasbourg in June and a visit by some 100 Chinese trade officials to Brussels late in the year for a special Community-China Business Week. Also in the autumn there will be a meeting in Brussels of the EEC-China Mixed Commission which was formed in 1978 to oversee the application of the trade pact.

The parliamentary visit in June will be the most important political contact since the tour in Europe last autumn of Chinese leader Hua Guofeng. Along with the trade mission and the meeting of the mixed commission, the visit is expected to provide an important stimulus to commercial relations.

These meetings follow on the heels of a high-level Community mission to Peking that discussed Chinese industrial and trade plans. This delegation was headed by the European Commission's Director-General for Internal Markets and Industrial Affairs Fernand Braun.

The team was told by Chinese officials that Peking wanted to increase its exports to the Community in order to balance out its existing trade deficit.

In the first nine months of last year China exported goods worth £ 547 million to the Community and took just over £ 1 000 million worth of Community exports in return.

China is primarily interested in developing light industry and the exploration and exploitation of oil and raw material deposits. It will also seek to encourage buy-back transactions whereby foreign businesses supply the plants and equipment in return for finished Chinese products.

Since 1 January 1980, China has also become a beneficiary of the Community system of generalized tariff preferences which are available to developing countries.

The Commission recently told the European Parliament that it was constantly monitoring and studying existing patterns to strengthen the Community's trade relations with China and to face the very strong export performance of Japan and the entry of the United States to the Chinese market.

One area of trade which is being subjected to close scrutiny by both sides is the commerce in textile products, which accounts for nearly one-fourth of China's exports to the Community but which represents some difficulty for the recession-hit textile industry in Europe.

This trade is subject to the terms of an agreement negotiated last year between the two and initialled in Peking in July 1979 increasing the number of items which are subject to quotas.

European officials are conscious that the volume of Community exports to the promising Chinese market is partly dependent on the amount of export earnings realized by China itself and foresee the need to develop both sides of the trade picture.

As another part of the effort to increase ties, the Commission has provided funds to about 10 Chinese students to study in Europe for two years and has acted as host to a number of Chinese officials who have come to Europe to study Community institutions.

ACP boost trade with Community

Just how effective is the Lomé Convention in helping the 59 ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries boost their exports to the European Community?

The question is one which developing countries are always asking themselves. Those which have signed the Convention want to know whether its trade provisions really are as effective as claimed by the Community. Non-signatories, on the other hand, are generally anxious about its effects on their own exports to the Community.

Both should be encouraged by estimates for trade figures for last year which have just been released.

They show that ACP exports jumped by 24% to nearly £ 9 000 million. But developing countries as a whole increased their exports to the Community by a substantial 22% to £ 52 000 million—as did all third countries taken together (to £ 132 000 million).

The biggest gains were made by the oil exporting countries, however. If oil is excluded from ACP exports to the Community, then the growth rate last year was a more modest 10%, with non-oil exports amounting to just over £ 5 400 million.

The balance of trade was in favour of the ACP countries by a record £ 2 000 million—if you include oil exports in your calculation. Leave them out and it is the Community which enjoyed a surplus of £ 1 500 million.

Fewer jobless

Unemployment in the Nine fell by just over 100 000 between March and April. The April figure stood at 6.2 million, representing a rate of 5.7%.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UK contribution

Sir,

It appears to me that the current arguments over the UK contribution to the Community budget are the result of a fundamental error in the way the Community is financed. Rather than negotiating for a short-term solution, Mrs Thatcher, and indeed all her colleagues in the European Council, should seek a complete overhaul of the budgetary system. I am not, as might appear to be the case so far, another British nationalist who would use every method at his disposal to obtain a reduction in the UK contribution; far from it. Rather I believe that such changes would benefit the whole Community.

The recent bartering at the Luxembourg Council shows that the European Community can never be a totally autonomous body as long as finance is controlled by the national governments. British politicians have recently talked of altering our net contribution by directing more Community spending to the UK, but this makes a mockery of the whole system. Community funds should be allocated according to need, not politics. If one is to suggest that a Member State only pays money to the Community on condition that the Community spends an equal amount in that country (thus reducing all nine net contributions and net gains to zero) there seems little point in the Community's continued existence.

It has been suggested that Britain's high contributions are partly a result of import duty levied on goods from outside the Community, especially as the UK imports such a large number of these goods. If this is the case, then surely a reduction in non-European imports would reduce the amount of Community money raised. Perhaps instead of engaging in the cause of Britain's 'unfair contribution'?

Perhaps instead of engaging in the same short-term, selfish and obstinate tactics of which she accuses British trades unions, Mrs Thatcher should divert even more of her attention to getting the UK trade balance right.

Regarding the solution to these problems, I fully agree with Commissioner Davignon who stated in a recent TV interview that the Community needs its own independent sources of finance so that the money would belong to Europe rather than to any Member State. I would add that this finance should be controlled not by national governments or the Council of Ministers but by the European Parliament. The most obvious system seems to be a form of the present VAT levy and duty on imports into the Community.

Only through a revision of Community finance and control (or even collection) by a European agency will these funds be regarded as really belonging to the Community, thus removing the possibility of the sort of ridiculous package deals that link, for example, such diverse issues as the UK budget contribution, fish and farm prices. Such deals benefit no-one but the politicians opposed to the Community.

M. Barton,
Student, Dept. of Town Planning
Oxford Polytechnic
Oxford OX30BP

Youth

Sir,

Your article on funds for international youth work (*Euroforum* 7/80) is unfair to the Council of Europe. The Young European Federalists, like many international youth organizations, benefits greatly from the European Youth Foundation and the European Youth Centre, both of which are funded by the Council. The Foundation supports international seminars and conferences attended by hundreds of grass-root members not just 'meetings of officials' as your article states. Furthermore, the Youth Centre at Strasbourg, as a matter of policy, is not available for statutory meetings of committees and executive bureaux, i.e. 'officials'.

Unlike many Community bodies, our meetings regularly involve newly recruited members as well as old hacks like myself! This is not to disparage the support which the Community gives to youth work but to do justice to the Council of Europe.

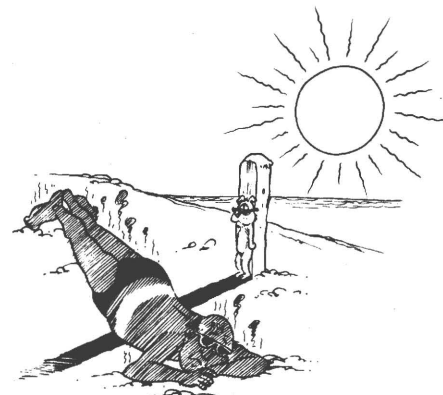
David Grace
Secretary-General
Young European Federalists
Rue de Toulouse 47
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Summer Time

Sir,

How short are people's memories? Under the headline 'Reducing Barriers'—GMT, plus or minus, that is the question', (*Euroforum* 7/80) you suggest as novel the idea that there should be a European Standard Time.

Be reminder that Britain tried the idea ten years ago and, after an experimental period we reverted to GMT and British Summer Time following an overwhelming vote in Parliament.



It really does seem that some of the ideas being canvassed in the EEC are designed to make the whole organization so unpopular that the British Government will be forced to negotiate for withdrawal.

Let us, at least, consign this idea to the dustbin.

R.S. Redmond,
Director,
The National Federation
of Clay Industries Ltd.,
Weston House, West Bar Green,
Sheffield,
South Yorkshire S1 2DA

The Commission is not proposing a European Standard Time, simply that the nine Member States, when switching to Summer Time, should do so on the same date—Ed.



THE NEWS AT A GLANCE

Royal visit

The Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg paid an official visit to the European Commission in Brussels last month.

Explaining sales

As long as the Community has agricultural surpluses it will have to export, Farm Commissioner Finn Olav Gundelach told the May session of the European Parliament. He was defending the decision to export 21 000 tonnes of butter from intervention stocks to the Soviet Union. Mr Gundelach pointed out that the deal was in line with guidelines laid down by the Council of Ministers.

Wives protest

A majority of the wives of European Parliament officials who are based in Luxembourg have signed a petition of the Parliament's President Mme Simone Veil, protesting at the decision to hold all of the Parliament's week-long monthly plenary sessions in Strasbourg this year instead of splitting the sessions between Strasbourg and Luxembourg. More than half the staff of 2 000 have to make the monthly trip and about half of these are married.

Iran sanctions

The Community's Foreign Ministers, meeting in Naples on 17 and 18 May, agreed on economic sanctions to block trade with Iran, excluding food and medicines. Eight of the Nine—the exception is the United Kingdom—are applying the sanctions to contracts backdating to 4 November, the date on which the hostages were seized in the US embassy in Tehran.

Fighting poverty

The European Parliament has declared its support for new measures proposed by the European Commission to combat poverty in the Community. The Parliament favours a sum of around £ 5.5 million for the programme.

New President

Commission President Roy Jenkins has sent a congratulatory telegram to former Greek Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis on his election to the Greek Presidency last month. In the telegram, Mr Jenkins described Mr Karamanlis, who is largely responsible for Greece's impending accession to the Community, as 'a convinced European'.

Lamb on the menu

New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Brian Talboys spent 13 May in Brussels, mainly at the European Commission discussing the problem of his country's lamb exports to the Community. A common Community policy for sheepmeat is currently under discussion and the New Zealanders are anxious to protect their access to the Community market.

Cheering statistics

The Community may be running a trade deficit but in one area at least we are coming out on top. It seems our trading partners in the rest of the world have a weakness for our strong drink. In the first six months of last year, the Community exported £ 360 million worth of spirits out of total exports of £ 120 000 million. Scotch whisky was the leader, accounting for more than half of total sales, followed by cognac, liqueurs, gin, rum, vodka and fruit-based spirits.

More legal protection

European lawyers grouped in the Consultative Committee of the Bars and Law Societies of the Community have called on the Nine to set up effective cooperation in civil procedure. They are particularly anxious to give more protection in civil matters to individuals, particularly children illegally removed from the jurisdiction of their home courts, individuals deprived of financial support, and those who are owed matrimonial payments. They also want to help all those who are victims of countless obstacles and barriers which result in their being deprived of effective judicial remedies.

Help for Greece

The Community is making grants worth about £ 4.3 million to Greece for agricultural project and the construction of a law centre. Under the terms of the EEC-Greece financial protocol, the Community is providing Greece with about £ 168 million worth of financial assistance up to the end of this year, when Greece will become the tenth member of the Community.

For the regions

The European Commission has approved the second allocation for 1980 from the Regional Fund. It totals £ 145 million for 322 projects in the Member States to promote industrial and infrastructural investment. One of the projects is a new bridge over the River Foyle in Londonderry, which is receiving assistance at the maximum rate of 40%.

Guillotine urged

The European Parliament, which last December threw out the Community Budget for 1980, has called for a final decision on a redraft to be taken by the Council of Ministers—which exercises budgetary authority with the Parliament before the summer holidays.

Role of multinationals

10 million people are now employed by multinational corporations, according to the latest UN statistics. They account for 18% of jobs in France, 22.4% in Germany and as much as 33% in Belgium.

Useful role

Since the beginning of last year, 56 000 young people have been helping their fellow citizens (e.g. redecorating old folks homes) through jobs created with the help of the Community's Social Fund. The Fund provided £ 22 million last year. The results of the project are currently being assessed.

FOCUS

Smoking and the role of the Hidden Persuaders

Smokers, be they addicted to the weed or the pipe, are daily coming under increasing pressure to give up their 'filthy habit'. They are bombarded with advice and dire warnings, not only by doctors and their families and friends, but also, more and more, by public authorities.

In many countries, governments have obliged tobacco manufacturers to give prominent display on cigarette packets to government warnings about the dangers of smoking to health.

More than a dozen countries have banned all cigarette advertising. Other countries have banned advertising in selected media, such as television, which is a powerful motivating force in consumer behaviour.

Much of this effort is being coordinated at international level, particularly under the aegis of the WHO, the World Health Organisation. Work is also being done at European Community level following meetings of the Nine's Health Ministers at the end of 1977 and 1978, when they placed paramount importance on the role of health education in overall health policies.

Last year, the WHO staged a major international conference on tobacco use and health at

which a number of recommendations for a rolling four-year plan to combat smoking were adopted.

The plan calls, among other things, for the banning of tobacco advertising. It also calls on governments to devote a significant proportion of the taxes they levy on tobacco to finance information campaigns on the harmful effects of smoking.

The WHO's attitude is summed up in its 1980 slogan: 'Tobacco or health—the choice is yours'.

Not much concession in that blunt message to what Vance Packard in 'The Hidden Persuaders' identified as the subliminal power of advertising. But, subtle or sharp, does advertising play a major role in determining whether we smoke or not?

A survey carried out last year which examined cigarette-smoking patterns in the United Kingdom over a 20-year period claimed to find no evidence that the level of advertising had any measureable effect on the total consumption of cigarettes.

What about the other side of the coin, the success of anti-smoking advertising? This was a question which was raised in the European Parliament recently by an Irish member, Sile de Valera.

According to figures supplied to her by the European Commission for the trend of cigarette sales in 1977 and 1978, the most recent years for which complete statistics are available, sales dropped in all Community

countries except in Germany and in Ms de Valera's own country. However, the drop was marginal.

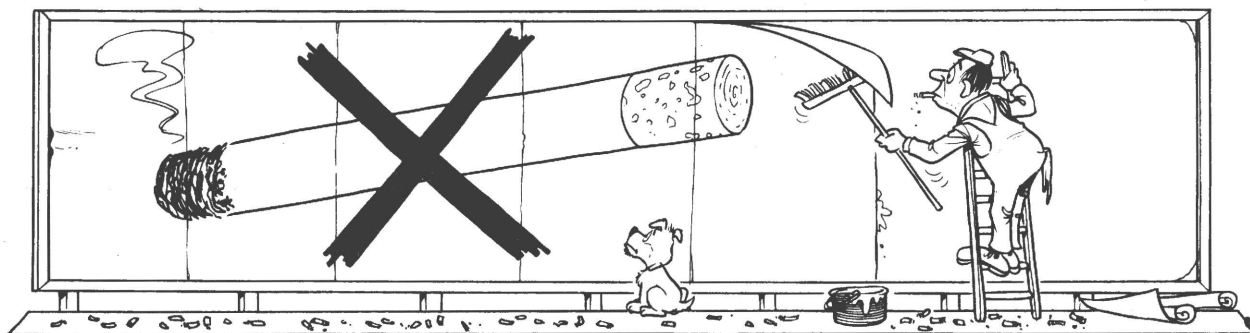
While the Commission was able to come with the figures, it was not in a position, without carrying out a consumer behaviour study, to assess what part of the small decline in cigarette sales could be attributed to anti-smoking publicity and what part to other factors, such as increases in excise taxes.

The Commission is currently carrying out just such research following the green light given by the nine Health Ministers at the end of 1978. This work is concentrating on working out a methodological procedure which can be applied throughout the Community for comparing the results and effectiveness of the health education campaigns conducted in the different Member States.

The research is also aimed at finding out more about the complex problem of motivation—why we smoke or don't smoke—and how to change attitudes towards smoking. The researchers are also trying to assess the impact of health warnings.

In addition, there is an increasing exchange of information between the nine Member States and, because of the considerable trade in tobacco products across Community frontiers, efforts may be made to work out a common attitude on advertising.

Until this work is complete, the effects of advertising seem likely to be blurred behind a smokescreen.



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