Euroforum

Community citizens go their nine separate ways. See page 3.

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Euroforum

Contents

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Community citizens go their nine separate ways

Every nation has its popular stereotypes. Reading the latest Eurostat statistics on social indicators for the European Community, it comes as no surprise to learn that Italy is the hottest Community country, Denmark the coldest, and Britain the wettest; or to discover that the French drink more wine than anyone else, the Italians use more olive oil, and the Irish eat more potatoes; or that the Dutch cycle to work; or that the British drink the least wine and read the most newspapers.

But statistics can produce surprises too. For instance, Denmark is the dryest as well as the coldest Community country. The Danes may be the biggest users of central heating and they may spend the highest proportion of their incomes on fuel and power, but they also top the list for the proportion they spend on water and rents.

On the other hand, in spite of the cold, they come bottom of the list for expenditure on clothing and footwear, and own the fewest washing machines. It's also perhaps surprising to learn that they are the biggest owners of fridges and freezers.

Denmark has the highest educational expenditure per head in the Community, but fewer Danes work in industry than anywhere else. 60.9 per cent of Danes work in the service sector—the second highest percentage in the Community, and they also have the second highest rate of trade union membership and Sunday working.

Then again, though they are the Community's biggest fish eaters, the Danes also consume the largest quantity of sugar—48 kilos per person per year. They also eat the fewest vegetables.

In the transport field, although the Danes spend a higher proportion of their income on transport than anyone else and are the Community's second biggest car users, they are also the second keenest riders of bikes and motorcycles. They also have more telephones than anyone else.

Life styles in all Member States are a similar mixture of the expected and the unexpected. The Dutch fondness for bicycles is well known, but the Eurostat figures show that the Dutch are also more prepared than anyone else to travel for more than two hours on the train to get to work.

Even more than the Danes, the Dutch work primarily in the service sector but, unlike the Danes, they have the second lowest rate of Sunday working and trade union membership in the Community. They also have the fewest public holidays, and the second lowest number of days lost in industrial disputes.

The rate of consumption in the Netherlands is exactly the Community average, but the things the Dutch choose to spend their money on may come as a surprise: they spend a higher proportion of their income than anyone else on clothing and footwear, and own the most refrigerators and colour TVs. Given the popularity of TV ownership, it's perhaps not surprising to find the Dutch rarely go to the cinema—less than twice a year on average—the lowest rate in the Community.

In the field of social services, the Dutch have proportionally fewer hospital beds than anyone else. They also have the lowest rate of hospital admissions and the shortest average length of stay when they are admitted. However, they also live longer than anyone else in the Community.

The Germans, on the other hand, have the Community's lowest life expectancy (for men at any rate), lowest birthrate, and proportionally highest number of hospital beds.

They have more people working in industry than anywhere else in the Community and, perhaps surprisingly, by far the highest number of married women working in agriculture. It may also come as a surprise to learn that they enjoy the most public holidays and the longest annual vacations—up to 27 days a year for some categories of workers. They also hold the Community record for the lowest incidence of Sunday working.

When it comes to travelling to work, the Germans run a close third to the Danes in their preference for the private car, but they are also the Community's second keenest users of trams, buses and the underground.

Germany has one of the highest rates of private consumption in the Community. Yet, Germans spend proportionally less on food, drink and tobacco than any other Community citizens, and the largest amount on medicine and other goods and services.

As far as consumer durables are concerned, they are particularly keen owners of refrigerators and freezers. When it comes to owning their own homes, though, they aren't so keen—Germany has the fewest owner-occupiers in the Community.

The keenest home owners are, in fact, the Irish. Less surprisingly perhaps, they also hold the Community record for people working in agriculture, as well as for the consumption of dairy products.

Fewer married women work in Ireland than anywhere else, perhaps because the birthrate is the highest in the Community. Irish workers have shorter annual vacations than anyone else, and the highest rate of Sunday working. They also have the 1978 record for the most days lost through industrial disputes—overtaking the Italians for the first time in many years.

More people in Ireland walk to work than anywhere else, and the Irish are prepared to take longer than most Community citizens to get to work: nearly 20 per cent cycle for $\frac{1}{2}$-1 hour, nearly 30 per cent have car journeys of over half an hour (for over 3 per cent it's 1-2 hours), and by bus and train they are second only to the French—over 12 per cent expect to take between 1 and 2 hours to get to work.

On the other hand, Ireland has the Community's lowest level of private consumption. The Irish spend the highest percentage of their income on food, drink and tobacco, and the least on rent, fuel and power. They also spend the least on other goods and services, and have least use for freezers and telephones. When it comes to education, though, they have more pupils and students than anyone else.

Luxembourg has proportionally fewer students than any other country, and the fewest doctors per head of population. After Germany, it has the most people working in industry, but it also has the lowest number of industrial disputes. On the other hand, more Luxembourgers work nights than anyone else, and they are the Community's second keenest group on travelling to work by train.

This seems wise, since they also had the Community's highest rate of fatal road accidents in 1974 (the most recent figure available). Luxembourgers have the highest rate of private consumption in the Community, but spend less than anyone else on entertainment.

The biggest spenders on entertainment are the British. They also pay proportionally more of their income than anyone except the Danes on rent, fuel and power. On the other hand, they pay least for medical treatment and stay longer in hospital than anyone else.

Fewer people in Britain work in agriculture than in any other Member State, but they hold the Community record for married women working in industry and the service sector. Britons work longer hours than anyone else; they also enjoy fewer public holidays than anyone except the Dutch, and shorter annual vacations than anyone but the Irish.

They are the Community's most frequent users of buses and the underground to get to work, and have the lowest rate of car ownership. They also have the Community's lowest road accident rate.

Britons also seem to be the least keen on owning TV sets, or at least black and white ones, and dishwashers. In all, they have the Community's third lowest rate of private consumption.

Italy has the second lowest rate of private consumption in the Community. Italians spend proportionally more of their income than anyone else but the Irish on food, drink and tobacco, and as much as the Dutch on clothing and footwear. On the other hand, they spend less than anyone else on furniture and household equipment. They own fewer colour TVs than anyone else, but more black and white sets. They also hold the record for dishwashers and come second only to the Belgians in owning cars. Italians are not keen newspaper readers, but they are the most active cinema-goers in the Community.

More Italians than anyone except the Irish work in agriculture, and fewer than in any other country work in the service sector. Then again, the Italians have more doctors per head of population than anyone else, but spend the least on education. On the other hand, Italy has shown the biggest increase in recent years in the number of married women working in industry. Fewer Italians work nights than anywhere else.

Italians have a reputation for enjoying good food, so it comes as no surprise to learn that their traditional pasta makes them Community leaders in the consumption of cereals—a hefty 122 kilos per person per year. They also eat more vegetables than anyone else, and come a good second to France in wine consumption—and a rather poorer second for eating meat.

The French, in fact, eat one-third more meat than the Italians—104 kilos per person per year. As well as drinking more wine, they eat more cheese than anyone else. In terms of private consumption, they come second only to the Luxembourgers.

It's perhaps surprising to learn that more married French women work in industry than in any other country except Britain, and more in agriculture than anywhere else except Germany. France has by far the lowest rate of trade union membership.

French people are prepared to spend longer travelling to work by bus or underground than any other Community citizens—nearly 15 per cent have a journey of 1-2 hours. This may be linked with the fact that they have the Community's second worst accident rate, and the worst in 1978.

The Belgians are not far behind. They own more cars than anyone else, and are the keenest on using them to travel to work. Along with the Irish, over 3 per cent of them are prepared to spend 1-2 hours travelling to work by car. But they are also the Community's keenest users of trains.

Fewer Belgians than anyone else but the British work in agriculture, and they come a close third for employment in the service sector. Belgians work shorter hours than anyone else and have the highest rate of trade union membership.

In private consumption they are above the Community average, with the highest proportional expenditure on furniture and household equipment. On the other hand, it's surprising to learn that Belgian homes are the least likely—or at least were in 1970, the last date with comparable figures—to have inside toilets and bathrooms.

One thing, though, will come as no surprise to anyone who has enjoyed Belgian 'frites'—Belgians come second only to the Irish in their consumption of potatoes.

PUBLICATIONS

Education and training 1970/71 - 1977/78, Commission of the European Communities. Catalogue number: CA-29-79-295-6A-C. Price: £7.40 or $15.80.

The 1980 edition of 'Education and training contains the principal data on the pupils, students and teachers in the school and university systems in the Member States. The series given cover the school years 1970/71 to 1977/78. Also published is expenditure by general government in the Member States on school and university education. This edition of 'Education statistics'—which in previous years contained data only on ordinary school and university education—includes for the first time data on staff and expenditure in other forms of educational training.

1979 Report on 'The Agricultural Situation in the Community'. This report is unique in giving a complete view of agriculture, food and the agricultural markets in 1979, the developments which led up to the situation of 1979 and, the outlook for 1980 and the following decade. Drawing on a wide range of material, much of which was previously unpublished or scattered through specialised documents, it collates the most relevant into a succinct text of about 150 pages supported by 250 pages of key statistical indicators. Catalogue number: CB-29-79-134-EN-C. Price: £13.20.

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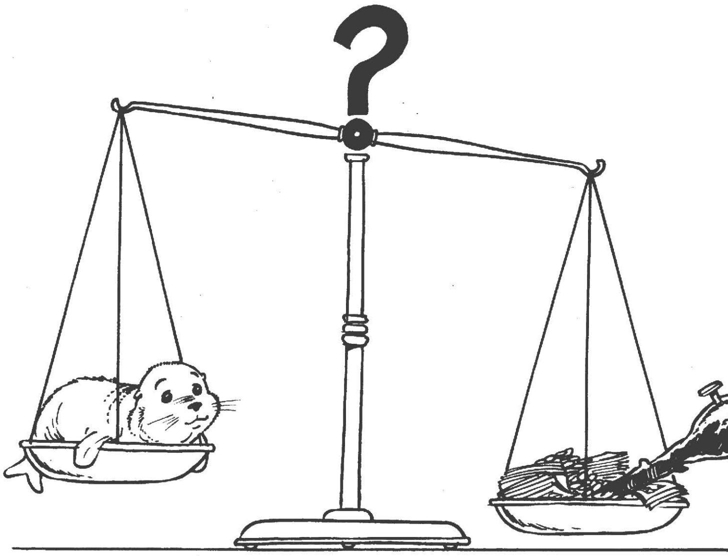
ENVIRONMENT



Parliamentarian urges Community action to save the seal

The annual slaughter of baby seals has been the subject of a study made on behalf of the European Commission and in the light of its findings, which are currently being studied, Community measures could be taken.

The existence of the study emerged in the Commission's reply to a written question from a Dutch member of the European Parliament, Suzanne Dekker (Democrats '66), who said she had received a petition from 25 000 Dutch citizens to save the seals.

Mrs Dekker cited a report on the international trade in harp and hooded seals which revealed that all but a fraction of the world 'production' of these animals was accounted for by Canada and Norway.

But she also pointed out that between 1971 and 1977 some 77 per cent of the combined Canadian and Norwegian exports of both untreated seal pelts and other by-products of what she termed this 'annual commercial massacre' went to the European Community.

'The manner in which these seals are killed each year in their thousands is utterly reprehensible', said Mrs Dekker. 'In order to protect the valuable pelts the seals' skulls are smashed with pick-axes.'

Mrs Dekker feels that one of the problems in saving the seals is that they are not officially protected under the terms of the 'Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna' on the grounds that they are not currently threatened with extinction.

Nevertheless, she called for a Community ban on imports, regardless of whether or not the seals' plight is internationally recognized. She pointed out that the United States had taken similar action as far back as 1972.

While the Commission is prepared to consider legislative measures in the light of the findings of the study carried out on its behalf, it also takes the view that self-restraint shown by the public in the buying of baby seal pelts—reinforced if necessary by a voluntary limitation on imports by the European for trade, as has been done for some time in the Netherlands and in France—could be an important first step.

CONSUMERS

Inflation: is there room for hope?

Are we beginning to beat the battle against inflation? In August the rate of increase in the consumer price index slowed in all nine Community Member States.

For the Community as a whole, the increase was a mere 0.6 per cent over July. And in the United States there was no increase at all in June or July, the first time that this has happened for 13 years.

To put that 0.6 per cent in perspective, it is better to compare the August increase with the July increase for individual Member States. For example, the Belgian rate dropped from 1.2 per cent in July to 0.2 per cent in August. Italy managed 0.9 per cent instead of 1.7 per cent. Denmark did even better—0.4 per cent compared with 1.8 per cent.

Despite this encouraging performance for the Community as a whole, there is no room for complacency and considerable efforts will have to be made before double digit inflation is no more than a distant memory.

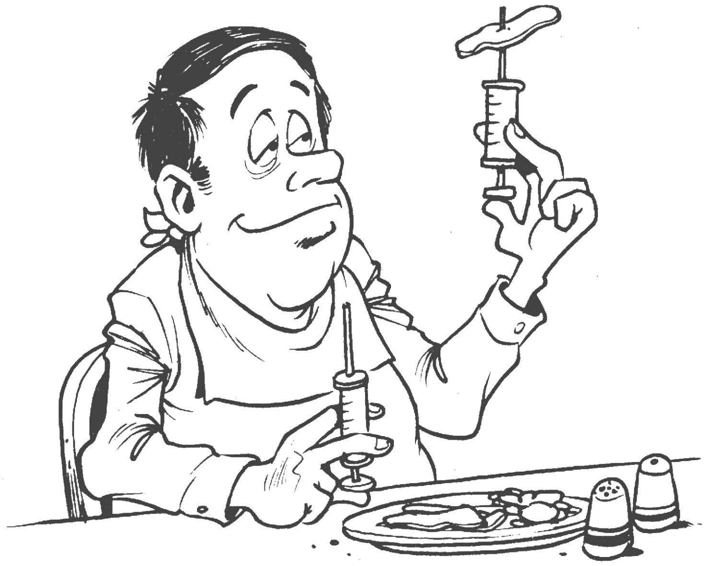
The year-on-year increase was still 21.6 per cent for Italy, with Ireland (18.8%) and the United Kingdom (16.3%) not too far behind. France (13.6%) and Denmark (11.2%) were also in double figures while Germany managed a comfortable 5.4% with the Benelux not too far behind.

IN BRIEF

A game of chance?

A group of lawyers known as the European Consumer Law Group, which was set up in 1977 to keep an eye on the legal protection of consumers in the European Community, has published a report on the hazards of buying a new or used car. On new cars, they suggest among other recommendations that a car salesman should give a buyer a fixed price and a fixed date for delivery, as well as more information about safety, petrol consumption and service costs. They would also like the buyer to be given the widest possible scope for redress in the case of faults. Among the recommendations on used cars are the introduction of mileage recorders which cannot be tampered with, the banning of the sale of cars which are not roadworthy, and a period of reflection for the buyer to give him time to test the car fully before finally committing himself to buy.

HEALTH



Tastiest morsels may not always be the safest

Alarmed at the growing public concern about the detrimental side-effects on humans that the use of hormones in meat production may cause, Community governments have called on the European Commission to bring forward proposals to control their use before the end of this year.

The campaign for tighter laws was first launched in France where consumer organizations called for a national boycott of veal, following the arrest of eight people charged with administering hormones into the animals directly.

This is intended to make the young animals gain weight, but it is claimed that the residues left in the meat can cause cancer and deformities in humans.

The sale of veal was later banned in Italy by a judge after residues were found in a number of veal and poultry-based baby foods.

With veal consumption in Europe taking a drastic plunge, and under pressure from consumer organizations and the trade unions, the Nine's Agricultural Ministers decided at the end of September to call for Community-wide measures.

Under existing Community laws, hormones and oestrogens may not be used as additives in animal feed but, as most of these are now administered directly into the animal, this protection is felt to be inadequate.

Nor do the Community's health regulations on trade in fresh meat cover hormones. This is subject to national laws, which in some countries are stricter than in others.

Consumer affairs commissioner Richard Burke would like to see the draft legislation go even further and refer not just to meat production but also to the use of hormones in dairy farming.

The Brussels-based Bureau of European Consumer Organizations (BEUC) goes even further again and in an open letter to Commission President Roy Jenkins called for a dangerous products Interpol established for the fast exchange of information on any animals or foodstuffs that present health risks.

BEUC welcomed the initiative of the Agriculture Ministers.

IN BRIEF

Phony packages

The results of an investigation into the extent of consumer dissatisfaction with package holidays are expected to be ready shortly. In the light of the findings, the European Commission will decide what measures are necessary at Community level to protect travellers. It provided this information in reply to an Irish member of the European Parliament, John O'Connell who claimed that because of the boom in package holidays many travellers had found themselves a ripe target for exploitation and shoddy business practices. There have also been complaints from consumer organizations.

EMPLOYMENT

Keeping workers informed may help to quell unrest

An ambitious new plan to give workers in large companies a greater say in major business decisions taken by their management has been unveiled by the European Commission in Brussels.

The new proposals apply to all multinational companies operating in the European Community, whether they have their headquarters in a Community Member State or not, and to all Community firms employing more than a 100 workers and having one or more subsidiaries in a single Member State.

The proposals, which now go to the Council of Ministers for approval would oblige the management to inform and consult workers' representatives on a wide range of issues.

Every six months, the management of the parent multinational company would have to circulate information to the management of its subsidiaries in the Community giving a clear picture of its activities and those of the subsidiaries taken as a whole.

This information would cover: structure and manning; the economic and financial situation; the situation and probable development of the business and production and sales; the employment situation and probable trends; production and investment programmes; rationalization plans; manufacturing and working methods, particularly the introduction of new technology; all procedures and plans liable to have a substantial effect on employees' interests.

The management of each subsidiary would then be responsible for passing this information on without delay to its workers' representatives. If it could not do so for any reason, the workers' representatives could ask the parent company directly for the information.

Once the proposal is approved, the Member States would provide for 'appropriate penalties' for firms that failed to comply with these obligations.

When the management of a parent multinational company planned to take a decision which could have a significant effect on workers either in the parent company itself or in any of its subsidiaries, it would have 40 days in which to forward precise information to the subsidiaries' management before carrying out its plan.

This could be a decision to close or transfer all or part of a given plant, to cut back, extend or change a plant's activities, to carry out major organizational changes or to enter into a long-term cooperation agreement with another company (such as a merger or joint venture).

Whatever the decision, the parent company management would have to inform the subsidiaries of the grounds for the proposed decision, the legal, economic and social consequences it might have for the workforce and any subsequent measures planned for the affected workers.

The management would then pass this information on to the workforce and ask for its reaction within 30 days.

If the employees representatives felt that the proposed decision was likely to have a direct effect on the workers terms of employment or working conditions the management would be required to open consultations with them with a view to finding a mutually acceptable settlement on the measures to be taken for affected workers.

Again, the Member States would ensure 'appropriate penalties' for companies which fail to inform or consult their workers along these lines. In particular, the national authorities should take steps to guarantee workers' representatives the right of appeal to the courts to secure fair treatment.

Much the same provisions are laid down for national companies with a number of subsidiaries in a single Member State, with identical information and consultation procedures required as for multinationals.

The Commission feels that, with the structure of many companies becoming more and more complex and spread out, old consultation and information procedures have become outdated. Employees are affected by decisions taken increasingly further away from the shop floor—sometimes even in another country. The local management may in some cases be unsure itself of the reasoning behind a decision.

For multinational companies the situation is even more complicated because the application of labour laws, particularly those guaranteeing trade union rights, tend to be confined to the territory of one country and there is a risk of workers in the same company being treated differently in different subsidiaries in different Member States.

The man behind the new Commission plan, Dutch Social Affairs Commissioner Henk Vredeling, himself a former trade unionist, described the proposals as 'precautionary rather than revolutionary'.

At a press conference introducing the proposals, Commissioner Vredeling said that they could make an important contribution to improving industrial relations, especially at a time of economic crisis when firms were being forced to rationalize.

One of the major causes of industrial unrest was uncertainty among workers about their future, he felt. If management consulted its workforce along the lines proposed by the Commission, it would help workers to understand better the motives behind decisions and perhaps remove some of the more irrational fears, the Commissioner said.

Mr. Vredeling also countered fears that the planned consultation proce- expressed by some sectors of industry dures might frighten off foreign, especially American, investment in the Community.

He pointed to the experience of Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark, which all have stricter consultation requirements than the Commission is proposing, and which do not lack foreign investment.

Talks will continue now with employers and trade unions at Community level on the new proposal, which links in with two existing Community directives, one protecting workers' rights in cases of collective redundancy, the other safeguarding employees' rights in transfers and mergers.

Discussion is also continuing on the Commission proposal for greater worker participation in companies, which is currently being studied by the European Parliament.

Building up credit in the job market

It is quite often difficult, if not impossible, to quantify the advantages of various Community policies. For example, how much have prices been kept down because the removal of tariffs and other barriers to trade between the Nine has led to greater competition between manufacturers? Or, to what extent has the fact that the Community acts as a unit in international trade helped our exporters and saved jobs?

The work of the Investment Bank, which provides long-term loans at favourable rates of interest in areas faced with regional development and industrial conversion problem, is an exception.

It has been possible for the Bank to estimate the number of jobs which were created or safeguarded by projects which the Bank helped to finance from its establishment in 1958 until the end of last year. During this period the Bank lent around £5 000 million.

Figures released by the European Commission show that the Bank's loans held to create 192 443 permanent jobs and safeguarded a further 83 576.

Here is the breakdown:

Country	Total jobs	
	created	safe-guarded
Belgium	1 396	1 398
Denmark	3 268	1 264
Germany	22 753	7 623
France	21 607	22 116
Ireland	13 846	969
Italy	108 393	31 831
Luxembourg	12	—
Netherlands	456	—
United Kingdom	21 388	18 375
Total	192 443	83 576

Heading GATT

A 48-year-old Swiss, Arthur Dunkel has taken over as director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. He succeeds Olivier Long, another Swiss, who has retired after 12 years in the job.

TECHNOLOGY

Plans to extend Euronet to meet demand

The European Commission is proposing to develop further the newly-operational European telecommunications network Euronet over the next three years. Its proposal now awaits approval by the Council of Ministers.

Euronet already has 700 subscribers and demand since it came into operation last April has been running high. In order to meet the demand, the capacity of the networks switching equipments has been more than doubled and some lines have been upgraded.

Sixteen host information services are now connected to Euronet offering more than 100 data bases containing an estimated total of 40 million bibliographic references.

The budget for the organization of the European information network through the rapid creation of data banks and bases and a selective application of new information technologies is estimated at £10 million. So far around £13 million has been spent, four-fifths of it coming from Community funds.

Euronet-Diane is a Community—wide network of computerized information which enables subscribers to extract information from data bases and data banks in different Member States simply by picking up the telephone.

The new network opens up vast possibilities in the increasingly-important field of information. The world's store of computerized information is equivalent to 50 000 volumes the size of the Bible.

While not all this information is as yet available to Euronet-Diane subscribers, the system already covers the broad spectrum of human knowledge—scientific, technical, economic, legal and social.

Subscribers can switch into this vast store of valuable information whether they are 20 or 2 000 miles from the computer. What's more, subscribers can have this access for the cost of a local telephone call.

Based on common tariffs, Euronet is to become a public network managed exclusively by the national PTT administrations by the end of 1983 at the latest. Euronet's processing capacity will be increased under the new action plan in order to meet the rapid growth in demand and to ensure that it is linked to other computerized networks, mainly in Europe.

The creation of a large number of high quality data bases and banks will be attained either by shared cost contracts or through cooperation with specialized centres in the Member States.

Action will also be taken to help and train users and intermediaries, to facilitate access to the networks for small-and medium-sized enterprises, to reduce linguistic barriers and to stimulate the export of European information products and services.

New technologies will be promoted which are designed to improve the equality, increase the efficiency, reduce the costs, and improve the competitiveness of European information systems and services and to widen substantially the circle of users.

The Euronet network spans the whole Community. There is a monitoring centre in London and four packet switching exchanges in Frankfurt, London, Paris and Rome. These exchanges are equipped with computers which are connected through high-speed links which have been doubled in case of breakdown. 'Host' computers throughout the Community, as well as 'user' terminals in Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin and Luxembourg, can be connected to the nearest switching exchange.

If a subscriber (known in the trade as a user) in London wants to find out what research has been done recently in France in a certain subject and where this information is available he can simply pick up the telephone.

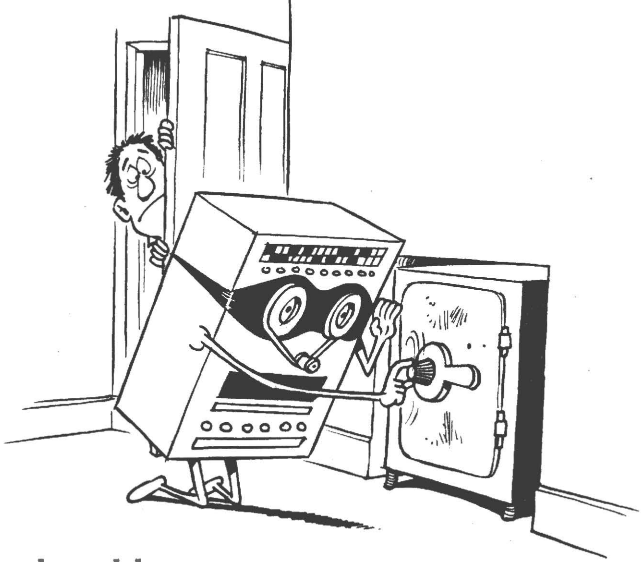
The user terminal transmits the request to the switching exchange which relays it to the host computers linked to the network. The hosts are the information centres—data bases and data banks.

Each subscriber is given a password which gives him access to the whole network. He or she is also given a short training course to learn how to use the system and to get the best out of it.

As a result of Community-financed efforts, host computers of different makes have been connected to the network. A common command language has also been created so that it is not necessary for the subscriber to learn the language of different host computers to make his requests understood.

It is thus possible for a subscriber to use only one terminal for access to any of the 23 host computers connected to the network and to speak one 'computer language' only with the approximately 130 data banks and data bases stored in the memories of these computers.

Having created, so to speak, a true esperanto of computer jargon, the Commission, mostly thanks to the help of the European Parliament, has launched a programme for computer-assisted translation of actual data. It covers all the official Community languages but, for cost reasons, it has been limited to certain fields.



Convention heralds more protection for the individual

The text of an international convention to protect the rights of individuals in the face of rapid technical developments in the field of data processing has been agreed by the ministerial committee of the Council of Europe.

Although work on this subject has made some progress at Community level, the European Commission had decided to await the outcome of the negotiations within the Council of Europe before proposing any action by the Nine.

The new convention will be open for signature at the beginning of next year and it will enter into force once it has been ratified by five of the Council of Europe's member governments.

While a number of Community countries—all of which are also members of the Council of Europe—have already adopted legislation to protect the privacy of individuals, others have not yet done so. The Commission is therefore waiting to see how quickly the Nine move towards ratification of the Convention.

Control of the transmission of data could be particularly effectively carried out at Community level because so much of it is international and differing national legislation only leads to confusion.

This was one of the points brought out by the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament in a report it drew up last year on the subject.

The parliamentarians called on the Commission to prepare a proposal for the harmonization of legislation on data processing to provide citizens of the Community with maximum protection.

They also urged the Nine to ratify the Council of Europe Convention once it was signed and to encourage as many third countries as possible to follow their example.

Skies look blue for European aerospace firms

The aerospace industry is one of the few industries to survive today's gloomy economic climate, and show signs of solid growth.

A new assessment of the trading position of the European industry has just been drawn up for the Council of Ministers by the European Commission.

The document shows that last year the volume of scheduled traffic increased worldwide by 13% over 1978, with 747 million people travelling the world's airways.
Just as important for the airlines' accountants, the world fleet load factor, which is basically an indicator of how full planes are when they take off, reached an all time record in 1979 of 66%. Both the increase in the number of passengers (99 million more last year) and the improved load factor can be largely put down to cheaper air fares.

The Association of European Airlines, which includes Community Member States' airlines, carried 180 million passengers per kilometre flown, out of a world total of over a billion. Although 10% up on last year, this figure only maintains Europe's share of world passenger traffic at 17% with the US keeping its dominant 40% share.

The 'balance of power' in the international air corridors on the world scene has shifted quite drastically over the past decade. The dominant US fleet has been whittled down by 23% to hold around 40% of the total aircraft flying, while the relative size of the Community fleet has increased by 3.1% to 27.8% of the world total. The 'Rest of the World' fleet has grown rapidly by 19.7% to 34.8% of the total world fleet.

As for the actual sizes of the individual Community Member States's fleets, the UK still has by far the biggest civil air fleet with 34.6% of all Community aircraft. Germany (21.5%) and France (19%) are the other two major operators.

European-built aircraft such as the A300 and the A310 Airbuses (see *Euroforum* 14/80) and the Fokker F23 appeared to be losing ground until recently in an expanding European market. But the trend has been reversed with sales of both the Airbuses and the Fokker expanding on the home front.

The US aircraft industry's domination of the world market remains unassailable with 90% of the aircraft flying the globe built by one of the three US giants, Lockheed, Boeing or McDonnell Douglas. But on the European market US sales have dropped to 79%.

The main area of Community manufacturers' sales expansion has been in short- to medium-haul aircraft like the Airbuses.

In 1978, Community-built aircraft took 44.6% of the Community market for this range of aircraft, 15.7% of the non-Community European market, 3% of the US market (an increase of 2.2% on 1977) and 25.2% of the rest of the world market.

In all, European manufacturers built over 16% of the short- to medium-haul aircraft in service or on order in 1978.

With the sales outlook good, it is perhaps small wonder that the turnover in the European Community aerospace industry is healthy.

Between 1970 and 1978, turnover in the Community industry grew by 41.1% at an average annual growth rate of 4.4% to top £6 500 million. (During that same period Community GDP rose by 26.7% and annual growth rate was 3%).

Turnover was highest in the Community's two aerospace manufacturing giants France and the UK, with the French overtaking the British in the mid-Seventies for the No 1 spot.

The French industry was worth some £2 600 million in 1978, compared with around £2 400 million for the UK industry.

About 72% of all contracts going to the Community's aircraft manufacturers in 1978 were from the military (compared with 65% in the US).

In all Community Member States, governments provided their aerospace industries with nearly half their business, the majority of it military purchase and maintenance contracts and research.

One important factor in the success of the European aerospace industry has been the increasing productivity of its workforce. Higher turnover has been achieved with relatively stable employment figures.

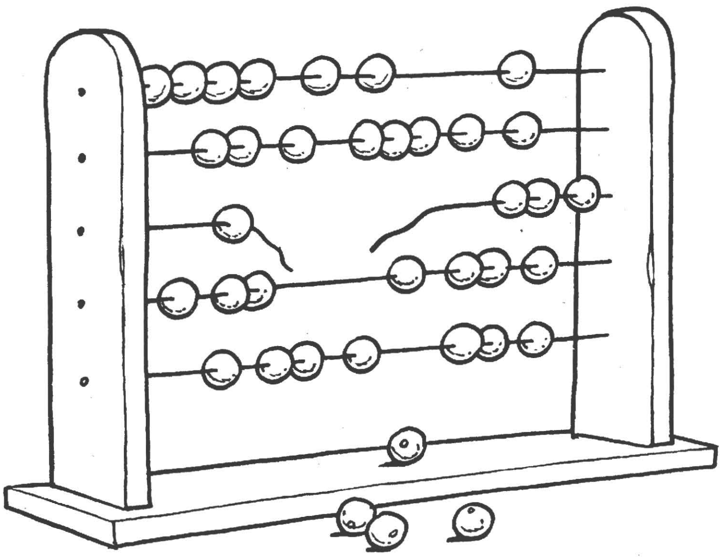
Over 420 000 people are employed in the industry in the Community, compared to 977 000 in the US. By far the largest workforce is in the UK industry, which employs some 215 000 people.

France, which has a higher turnover than Britain, employs less than half that total.

Market trends and market share won by Community built aircraft

(% value)

	Relative size of the Market						Market share won by aircraft built in the Community					
Market (Fleets)	1970	1974	1976	1977	1978	Trend 70/78	1970	1974	1976	1977	1978	Trend 70/78
Community	14.7	18.0	17.6	17.7	17.8	+ 3.1	33.0	21.4	22.3	23.2	25.7	− 7.3
Other European countries	6.3	8.0	7.9	7.8	6.7	+ 0.4	23.1	7.7	4.6	6.0	9.3	− 13.8
Europe	(21.0)	(26.0)	(25.5)	(25.5)	(24.5)	(+3.5)	(30.1)	(17.2)	(16.9)	(17.9)	(21.2)	(−8.9)
United States	63.9	45.4	42.8	40.7	40.7	−23.2	2.1	0.4	0.2	0.6	2.2	+ 0.1
Rest of the World	15.1	28.6	31.7	33.8	34.8	+19.7	12.1	12.6	10.9	12.7	11.9	− 0.2
World	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	9.5	8.2	7.8	9.1	10.2	+ 0.7



Council cuts may spark repeat of 1980 clash

The European Commission has taken the unprecedented decision of 'dissociating' itself from the consequences of the decision of the Nine's Budget Ministers at the end of September to cut next year's estimated spending on regional, social and energy policies by almost £500 million.

Spurred on by the need to economize as much as possible, the Commission proposed only modest increases in the budget. However, the Ministers this year were far more savage than usual in the cuts which they make annually at this stage of the budgetary procedure.

The major casualty was the Community's energy policy. The Commission, keen to promote alternative sources of energy and encourage greater saving, saw its financial forecasts slashed from £82 million to £26 million. This sum is considerably lower than this year's £60 million.

The aid the Community gives to developing countries was halved to £60 million, while the Regional Fund, which had been increased to take account of Greece's membership of the Community next year, was reduced from the forecast £944 million to £840 million.

Spending on social policies which promote job retraining schemes and help tackle unemployment was trimmed from £600 million to £550 million.

A further blow was struck to the Commission's attempts to develop a common transport policy. Ministers refused to set aside any money, not just for Community infrastructure schemes (for which no legislation yet exists), but also for the studies to determine the viability of such projects. The £840 000 they gave to transport represents only 0.0003% of the £12 300 million budget.

Once the results of the all night ministerial meeting were known, the Commission took the unusual step of issuing a public statement, saying it did 'not consider that the draft . . . represents a suitable basis for Community activity in 1981 and dissociates itself from the consequences of the Council's decisions'.

It claimed that governments had destroyed the careful balance in proposed expenditure, which the Commission had made between the need for strict economies, the economic situation and policy requirements.

First reactions from the European Parliament, which shares the Community's budgetary powers with the Council of Ministers, have been hostile and there is a fear that last year's protracted and bitter clash between the two institutions, which blocked the 1980 budget for several months, may be repeated.

The Parliament is almost certain to increase the funds allocated to the so-called 'non-compulsory' items in the budget, like regional, social and energy policies, when it debates the draft budget, although it has no control over agricultural spending which still accounts for almost two-thirds of the budget.

Thereafter, the new draft will be examined once again by the Nine's Budget ministers, before being sent back to the Parliament for final approval—in theory, just before Christmas.

ENERGY

More money soon for uranium prospectors?

The European Commission wants to double the money available in Community grants for indirect support of research and development (R & D) into uranium exploration and extraction.

It is proposing expenditure of £4.8 million through research contracts over the next four years (1981-84), compared with £1.8 million in the current three-year programme which ends next December.

The programme, which now goes to the Council of Ministers for approval, allows for the completion of continuing projects, the application and evaluation of results obtained during the first programme in industrial pilot plants, as well as the initiation of new projects.

The programme has twin objectives: to make the Community more self-sufficient in uranium, and to develop techniques to be used by Community industry in its world-wide operations.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Community stance on Middle East reaffirmed at UN

Luxembourg's Foreign Minister, Gaston Thorn, who is currently President of the Community's Council of Ministers, has called in the United Nations for urgent international action to solve the Middle East crisis.

In a speech in which he covered a broad range of international issues, Mr Thorn, who is also President-elect of the European Commission, reaffirmed the Community's commitment to a peace initiative to end the confrontation between Israel and the Arab states.

The Community's position remains as outlined in the communique issued after the last European Council meeting in Venice in July which reiterated two fundamental principles—'the right to existence and to security of all the states in the region, including Israel, and justice for all the peoples, which implies the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.'

The Nine declared that the Palestinians must be enabled fully to exercise their right to self-determination, including association with peace talks, and they called on Israel to end its occupation of the West Bank.

In recent weeks, Mr Thorn, in his capacity as President of the Council of Ministers, has been visiting the Middle East for talks with leaders on both sides.

Community concern over war between Iran and Iraq

Foreign Ministers of the Nine have expressed their concern at the hostilities between Iran and Iraq which threaten stability in the Persian Gulf area and pose serious problems for oil importing countries.

The nine Ministers, meeting in New York where they were attending the United Nations, warned of the danger of the conflict spreading to involve other countries and they urged against interference by any of the major powers in what at the moment is a localized clash.

The Nine supported the peace initiative undertaken by the Islamic Conference and similar moves by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kurt Waldheim, and declared themselves ready to support any international initiative that would bring peace.

They also underlined the importance for the international community of maintaining the freedom of movement of ships in the Persian Gulf on which so much of the world's oil traffic depends.

In 1979, the Community imported 62 million tonnes of oil from Iraq, which represented 12 per cent of its total oil imports. A further 8 per cent, amounting to 34 million tonnes, came from Iran.

During the first six months of this year, 23 million tonnes or 10 per cent of total oil imports have come from Iraq and 9 million tonnes or 4 per cent of the total from Iran. However, the Iranian exports fell by a quarter in September.

Saudi Arabia is the leading exporter to the Community, accounting for 37 per cent of its total oil purchases. Kuwait supplies about 13 per cent, the United Arab Emirates around 6 per cent and Qatar 2 per cent.

Although the Community has reserves of oil amounting to 120 days consumption, a long-drawn-out war between Iran and Iraq could have serious consequences for its supplies.

As a result of the last OPEC price increases, bringing the price to around $32 a barrel, the Community's oil bill will rise over a year by around $2 000 million.

THIRD WORLD

Asia is main target of proposed aid to non-associates

The European Commission has sent the Council of Ministers an outline of what it thinks the Community should do over the next three years for developing countries which are not associated with it through comprehensive multilateral trade and aid pacts such as the Lomé Conveniton.

The Commission's proposal for aid—£120 million in 1981, £150 million in 1982 and £180 million the following year, will be discussed by the Nine's Development Ministers when they meet on November 18.

The Ministers will also review the operation of the aid programmes since they began in 1976. In that time they have grown in value from £12 million in the first year to £83 million this year.

The latest Commission proposals are aimed primarily at promoting rural development in the Third World countries, although energy projects will also have a high priority.

The Commission has proposed that 73 per cent of the aid over the next three years should be concentrated in Asia, with a particular effort being made in Bangladesh and in Pakistan.

A further 20 per cent should be devoted to Latin America, notably Nicaragua which has suffered from both natural and political crises, and 7 per cent would be earmarked for Africa.

In the latter case, the Commission had Zimbabwe in mind. Negotiations on the accession of the newest independent state in the continent to the Lomé Convention have progressed satisfactorily, but the aid could be used in the pre-accession period if need be. Most of Africa is already covered by the Convention.

AGRICULTURE

Quieter pastures after agreement on sheepmeat

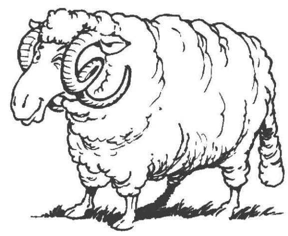
The much publicised 'lamb war' between France and the United Kingdom is now over, following agreement by the Nine's Agricultural Ministers to establish a Community-financed common sheepmeat regime.

Despite the highly-developed nature and extensive range of the common agricultural policy, it did not cover sheepmeat—more commonly known as lamb and mutton. Another product which is still organized nationally is the humble potato.

The Nine have been arguing for over a year on the final shape of the new sheepmeat regime, which was due to come into operation as *Euroforum* went to press.

Negotiations were complicated by a dispute between the French and British governments. Worried that the cheaper British lamb would flood the lucrative French market, force down prices and hence the incomes of their producers, the French government imposed an entry tax and at times a total ban on British imports.

But such drastic action should no longer be necessary under the new scheme. Many of the details still remain to be worked out, but governments are being offered a number of options that should help stabilize the market.



Either they plump for an intervention system which would operate at certain times of the year and would allow producers to sell lamb into storage when market prices fall too low, or they may take the option favoured by the British government, based on variable premia, whereby the Community guarantees to finance he difference between a set price and he going market price.

Many of the final technical details still remain to be hammered out by national officials, but the Commission estimates that the scheme will cost the Community £150 million next year.

One of the final hurdles that had to be cleared by Ministers was the insistence by the French that no more than 3 000 tonnes per year of the 234 000 tonnes New Zealand may export annually to the Community would be able to enter France per year for four years. This arrangement will be reconsidered when the whole system comes up for review in four years time.

The Community gave New Zealand, Australia and other lamb-producing countries in the world the commitment that it would not sell Community lamb, backed with export refunds, in any greater quantities on the world market than it does at present.

This is so as not to undercut these countries' attempts to break into new narkets outside the Community. But this guarantee is seen as being more academic than real at the moment. The Community currently produces only 65% of the lamb it eats and hence at the moment tends to import rather than export the product.

In turn, New Zealand has demanded, and received, improved terms for its butter exports to the Community. In exchange for reducing these by 20 000 tonnes this year to 95 000 tonnes, producers will gain a better income from their sales following the approval by the Nine to reduce by almost half the levy the butter has to pay on entering the Community.

The sheepmeat and butter agreements, which have dogged Ministers through many months of, at times, bitter negotiations, are seen in Brussels as a further sign of the willingness of Community governmenst to compromise and settle many of the Community's outstanding problems.

FISHERIES

Nine en route to agreement on common policy

The possibility of the Community agreeing to a common fisheries policy by December 31—the deadline set by the Nine's Foreign Ministers earlier this year—received a major boost at the end of last month.

For the first time, the Fisheries Ministers agreed on a wide range of conservation measures designed to protect the Community's dwindling stocks. These will be introduced gradually between now and Christmas.

The consensus on the measures leaves the way open for the Ministers to tackle more contentious aspects of the common policy at their three remaining meetings this year.

The most important of these will be the highly political issue of how to allocate the amount of fish which all countries agree can be caught in Community waters this year among the various national fleets.

The Commission is currently devising a complex system designed to take the various interests of the different industries into account in the final shareout, and these are expected to be examined by Ministers in mid-November.

Of crucial imporatnce also is the extent to which one fishing fleet should be able to catch fish in the waters of another Community country.

The third key element in the overall fisheries policy is the way in which the various measures, especially those designed to prevent over-fishing, should be policed.

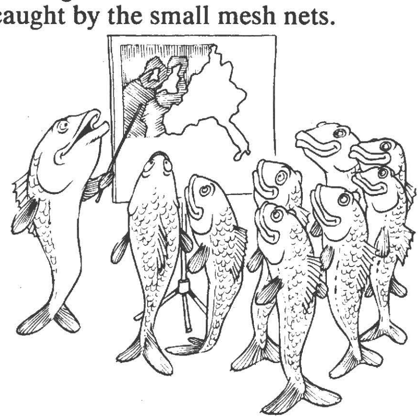
Despite the often conflicting interests of their countries, Fisheries Ministers have been set a deadline of the end of the year to agree the shape of the new measures.

This target was set by the Nine's Foreign Ministers on May 30 as part of the overall agreement which gave the go-ahead for the United Kingdom to receive a rebate of its payments into the Community budget.

The key issue for Fisheries Ministers at their September meeting was to agree on the limits that would apply to the fishing of Norway pout—an inedible species that is turned into fishmeal—in the North Sea.

Agreement was vital following a ruling by the Court of Justice that the measures introduced unilaterally by the United Kingdom were illegal and should be lifted.

The London government had previously decided to extend the area covered by a ban on Norway pout fishing during the winter months in order to protect stocks of young whiting and haddock which are also caught by the small mesh nets.



After a number of meetings over the summer between the Danes, who are the main hunters of Norway pout, the British and the European Commission, a compromise was eventually reached, which led to a small reduction in the area under the ban, and which was finally agreed by the other Community countries in September.

The Ministers also settled their differences on a whole range of measures setting down minimum mesh sizes for nets used to catch white fish in the North Sea and prawns in the Irish Sea.

The conservation package includes certain trawling restrictions and sets down limits on the size of fish that may be landed at Community ports.

THE NEWS AT A GLANCE

A later date?

It may now be difficult to meet the original target date of January 1, 1983, for Spanish accession to the Community. 'It would be unrealistic to say otherwise', Commission President Roy Jenkins told journalists following talks with the Spanish government. The main problem areas indicated by Mr. Jenkins were agriculture, fish and budgetary questions. In relation to Portuguese accession, he said that the Commission still held the view that Portugal and Spain should both join on the same date.

New shareout

When Greece joins the Community on January 1 next it will become entitled to a 15 per cent share of the Regional Fund if a proposal of the Commission's is adopted by the Council of Ministers. This will mean a fall in the quotas of the existing Member States, although not an actual decrease in money terms if the Commission's proposals for the size of the Regional Fund in the 1981 budget are retained. Under this, Greece would be entitled to around £137 million out of a total of £912 million. The sharecut is based on the variation betwen national GDPs and the Community average.

Crisis in steel

As *Euroforum* went to press, the European Commission was working out the details on which it proposes taking emergency powers to control Community steel production and prices. Under the Paris Treaty which established the European Coal and Steel Community in 1952, the Commission has the power to declare a 'manifest crisis', but so far it has not found this necessary. The treaty gives it power to settle production quotas, as well as to fix minimum steel prices and control imports into the Community. It can also fine companies for breaking the rules. The Commission's move has broad support among the Member States.

Talks with ASEAN

The first joint cooperation committee meeting at ministerial level between the Community and ASEAN, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, with which the Community recently signed a cooperation agreement, will take place in Manila on November 27 and 28. Commission Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp will lead the Community side in the talks.

Broader link-up

The Community's Statistical Office has signed an agrement with one of the world's largest data bank service companies which will mean a far wider dissemination of its socio-economic information on 23 different subjects. The new service will be called 'Chronos-Eurostat' and will be available on the Euronet and Transpac networks next year.

December date

The 'Three Wise Men' report on reform of the Community institutions will be on the agenda of the European Council meeting on December 1-2. It has already been discussed by the Foreign Ministers.

Eurochannel

A number of European Parliamentarians have called for the European Community to have its own television and radio company with its own channel. They believe that Community citizens cannot take their full share of political responsibility at Community level unless they have enough information. They envisage that the channel would cover politics, education, cultural information and, entertainment, would carry advertising to provide finance and would, of course, be multilingual. They urge that equal weight be given to all regions of the Community to increase mutual understanding among Europeans.

Better balance

The United Kingdom increased its exports to its eight Community partners by 30 per cent last year. The rise in its trade with the rest of the world was only 8 per cent. In all, the eight took 45 per cent of the UK's exports, although this still left the UK marginally in deficit. However, initial figures for this year indicate that the UK's exports are growing twice as fast as imports. Some of this is due to oil which accounts for around 17.75 per cent of the total volume of exports.

Impact of oil

Oil price increases contributed an average of just over 1.1 per cent to the consumer price index in the Community last year. The overall increases in the index was 8.8 per cent. However, the impact of oil prices varied considerably from one Member State to another, ranging from a mere 0.3 per cent in the Netherlands to 2.3 per cent in Denmark. However, that may not be the end of the story. Experts estimate that a 50 per cent increase in the price of imported crude oil would add around 1 per cent to the index, but that by the time this initial increase worked its way through the economy the impact would be more than 2 per cent.

Youth view

The European Youth Forum's permanent committee, which groups 35 delegates from the nine Member States, devoted a large part of its recent meeting in Bonn to the enlargement of the Community. It also passed motions critical of the Community's attitude to Turkey following the recent coup d'état and Community relations with South Africa. The Forum, which was established as a political platform for youth organizations at Community level, will hold its next general assembly meeting in Luxembourg in December.

FOCUS

The Queen's English: a pronounced success?

English is by far the leading second language learned by pupils in second-level schools in all but one of the non-English speaking Member States of the European Community.

Unfortunately, comparable figures which pay the Queen's English such a compliment are not currently available for the United Kingdom, where French has traditionally been a popular second language.

Figures compiled by *Eurostat,* the publication of the Community's Statistical Office, reveal that almost six million German children are learning English out of a total of around 7 million learning another Community language. Around 1.2 million learn French.

In France, around 3.8 million learn English out of a total of 5 million who study another Community language. Only in Italy does French run English a close second—2.8 million plumping for English and about 2 million for French.

Approximately three out of every four Danish children learn English, with German and French following far behind. On the other hand, the vast majority of Irish children who study a Community language learn French to the virtual exclusion of all others.

The one exception to the general rule is Luxembourg, where children are required to learn German and French to supplement the Grand Duchy's own language.

The figures, which relate either to 1976/77 or to 1977/78—and one can assume that the same pattern still applies—are not available for the Netherlands where English is also the most important second language.
By far the highest number of foreign pupils attending school in a Community country is in Luxembourg, reflecting the high degree of immigrant labour, a little under one in four of the population.

In the 1977/78 academic year, Ireland and the Netherlands had the highest number of students in the 5-24 age group. In relation to the population as a whole, the proportion in both countries was 22.6 per cent. Luxembourg recorded a low of 16.6 per cent.

In some Member States, it is quite clear where the teachers come from to handle what has been a steadily growing proportion of the population receiving some form of education. In others it is not.

For example, in Germany in 1976/77 no less than 28 per cent of third level students were training to be teachers. Compare this with around 6 per cent in Italy and Luxembourg.

A closer look at the pattern of third level education reveals a great deal about differing priorities in the Member States. In Germany, for instance, 15.5 per cent of students chose engineering, compared with only 3.6 per cent in France. On the other hand, only 4.8 per cent of Germans were attracted by the humanities, compared with almost 26 per cent of French students.

The most agricultural country in the Community, Ireland, had a lower proportion of students specialising in agriculture, forestry and fisheries than Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy or Germany.

The Dutch, the British and the Belgians were keenest on social sciences. Over 23 per cent of Belgians and Luxembourgers chose medical science, compared with just under 7 per cent in the United Kingdom and just over that figure in the Netherlands. The Italians and the French were on their way to producing the most lawyers and the British and the Irish the fewest.

The Dutch appear to be keenest of all on education. Government expenditure on all forms of education in 1977 represented 7.2 per cent of gross domestic product. In Denmark it was 6.4 per cent, Ireland 6.2, Belgium 6.2 (1975 figure), United Kingdom 5.6, Luxembourg 5.3, France 4.9, Italy 4.8 and Germany 4.6.

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