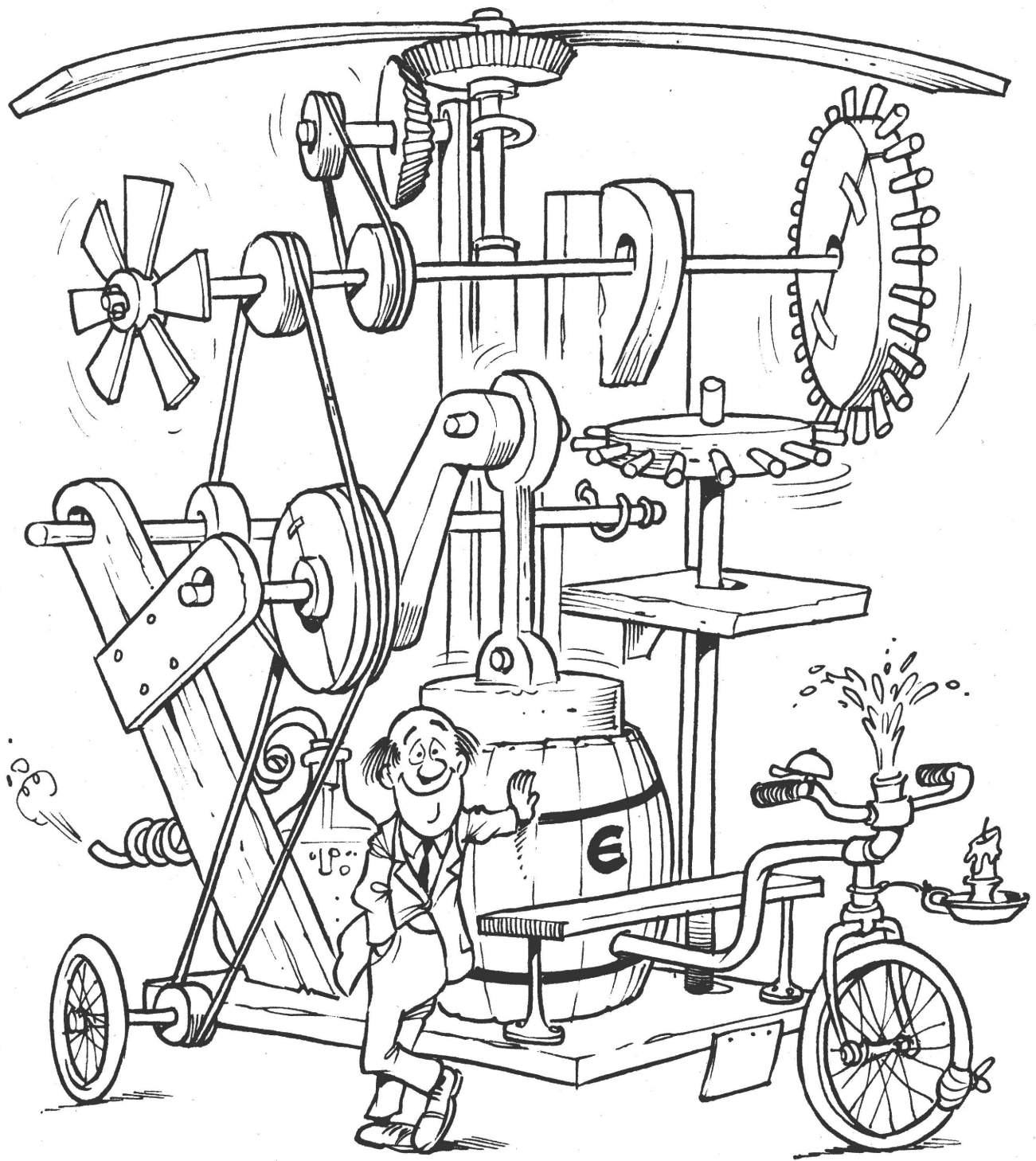


# Euroforum



Towards a Community trade mark. See page 3.

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# Euroforum

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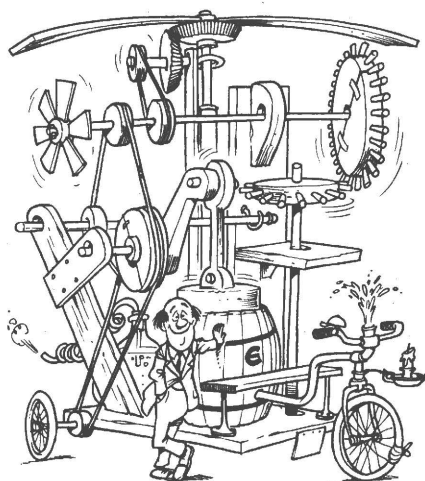
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## REDUCING BARRIERS



### Towards a Community trade mark

Many people nowadays distinguish and refer to products solely by their trade marks. Think how many everyday goods you know only by that special name or insignia which is instantly recognizable to all!

For this very reason, trade marks are highly valuable to their owner—the manufacturer. Their success in becoming 'adopted' by the public can be the product of substantial investment, not least on advertising, and they are therefore a jealously guarded asset.

To date, rules governing the registration and protection of trade marks have been a purely national affair. A trade mark registered in the United Kingdom, for example, is not necessarily legally recognized in France, say, where another identical or very similar trade mark may be registered. There is a danger that consumers will be misled into buying what they

The publication of *Euroforum* in its present form will cease at the end of this year.

A restyled *Euroforum* will appear as an insert in the monthly magazines published by the Community information offices in the Member States. From next January, you will receive the publication of your national information office for a three-month trial period.

believe from the trade mark to be their favourite brand of a given product only to find out that it is in fact a different product.

There could be as many as 450 000 such confusing trade marks in the Community at present.

The risk of confusion, legal disputes and the resulting loss of the competitive edge that a trade mark can give a manufacturer, have tended to keep marked goods securely within their home country's frontiers.

The result is that the freedom of goods and services, one of the principal aims of the Community's founding treaties, is effectively denied to marked goods. Free and fair competition suffers, and so too do Europe's consumers.

Certain European Court of Justice rulings have helped to free trade in marked goods. But Court rulings alone cannot provide a lasting solution—legislation is required.

This legislation, as proposed recently by the European Commission, is two-tiered. Firstly, the Member States trade mark laws must be aligned and secondly, a Community trade mark created, with a Community trade marks office established to handle registrations and disputes.

The first step, the alignment of Member States' trade mark laws seeks to ensure that the same criteria for granting registration of trade marks, and declaring them invalid, apply throughout the Nine. It also aims to ensure that the Member States have rules which are as similar as possible governing the scope of protection afforded to trade marks, their use and the means for settling disputes between manufacturers over trade mark ownership.

But such measures alone will not, the Commission feels, be sufficient to guarantee free movement in marked goods. For example, several manufacturers in different Member States could still register the same or similar trade marks and any one of them could then use the threat of legal action to block imports bearing the confusingly similar trade marks, legally registered elsewhere.

The obvious answer is a Community trade mark, valid equally throughout

the Nine, with one Community trade marks office handling all the necessary paperwork.

Although the task of handling the registration of Community trade marks could conceivably be given to the national trade marks offices, conflicts of jurisdiction, problems of co-ordination in handling the estimated 10 000 applications per year and the numerous contested decisions and assorted technical difficulties are bound to arise in practice.

A Community trade marks office, supervised by the European Commission, emerges as the cheapest and most effective means of handling a new Community trade mark.

Any manufacturer in the Community would be able to obtain one trade mark valid for the whole Community by means of one application submitted to one office following one procedure and governed by one law.

Manufacturers would no longer be burdened with a multitude of applications, procedures and national laws which multiply the administrative costs of obtaining a trade mark at present.

But the new benefits to manufacturers would also be of benefit to consumers and the economy as a whole. The Community trade mark would help develop new markets for new products and expand existing national markets into European ones.

The production of and trade in marked goods account for a large part of the Community's economic activity. In Germany, for example, the value of goods produced by the marked goods industry contributes around 13% annually to the country's gross domestic product. Some 45% of the German retail trade's turnover in recent years has been in marked goods.

Representatives of the marked goods industry, trade mark lawyers and agents, consumers and national government experts have all been consulted during the preparation of the Commission's plan. The response in general has been very favourable. It is now up to the Council of Ministers to give the Community trade mark the go-ahead, and give Europe's consumers an even wider choice of goods.

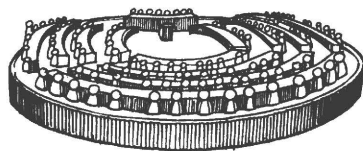
## BUDGET

## Parliament once again disputes Council's cuts

Next year's estimated spending on Community policies is now very much along the lines originally proposed by the European Commission after the European Parliament in Luxembourg earlier this month reinserted most of the funds drastically cut by governments in September.

The Euro MPs decided to add £500 million to the draft they received after governments had applied their financial stringency, raising the 1981 budget to £12 430 000.

The main beneficiary from the Parliament's determined stand was the Regional Fund which was increased to £472 million next year after the Parliament had added an extra £164 million.



Social spending, including aid to the handicapped, vocational training for women and job creation schemes rose by £156 million.

Throughout their four-day debate, the Euro MPs were particularly scathing at the cuts ministers had inflicted on the Community's energy policy at a time when security of energy supplies is so uncertain. To show their attachment to a real Community policy, they allocated £63 million towards encouraging new energy initiatives and a further £95 million towards a reserve fund.

Recognizing the Community's responsibility to developing countries they increased overseas aid by £124 million.

The Parliament also demonstrated its recognition of the need to make the average citizen more aware of developments at Community level.

It voted £6 million for the Commission's Information budget, thereby restoring a £1.8 million cut by the Council.

One of the most innovative acts taken by the Parliament was to agree to transfer £160 million from next year's farm spending to a special reserve fund. This, it specified, would be used to pay for any fluctuations in prices next year.

Accompanying this decision, the members supported a statement which insisted that any price increases awarded to Europe's farmers in 1981 would have to be paid for from savings in the existing spending estimates rather than by introducing another budget, as has frequently happened in the past.

In a move which is certain to be ill-received by governments, the Parliament voted to cut by half—£275 million—the allowances States receive from Brussels towards the collection of the Community's three forms of finance—agricultural levies, customs duties and up to 1% of value added tax.

But their tight bookkeeping did not extend to their own pockets. The Euro MPs rejected a suggestion that their administrative and secretarial expenses should be cut if they failed to attend 50% of the Parliament's meetings.

The final shape of next year's Community's spending will only be known shortly before Christmas, when both governments and the Parliament have had another opportunity to examine the draft budget.

In the meantime, there will be a number of close consultations between the two institutions, especially as governments consider that the Parliament has increased the budget by more than it is allowed.

But despite these differences, the Euro MPs are unlikely to resort to the blunt instrument they used last year when they showed their dissatisfaction with the fact that agriculture accounts for almost 70% of all Community spending by rejecting the budget for the first time.

There is a widespread feeling that the 1981 budget is merely an interim exercise and that the real debate on the shape of Community expenditure will only be tackled next year.

## THE INSTITUTIONS

## European Parliament's powers confirmed in legal ruling

The European Parliament received a major boost last month when the Community's Court of Justice in Luxembourg ruled that Community legislation adopted in 1979 was illegal and should be revoked because the Parliament had not been consulted.

The Court's judgment confirms the consultative powers which the Parliament was given in the Treaty of Rome.

It noted that consultation was the way in which the Parliament could participate effectively in the Community's legislative procedure and that this competence was an essential element in the Community's institutional balance.

Going even further, the Court said that this meant that the Parliament had to actually give its opinion and that it was not enough for the Council of Ministers, which decides Community legislation simply to ask for its advice.

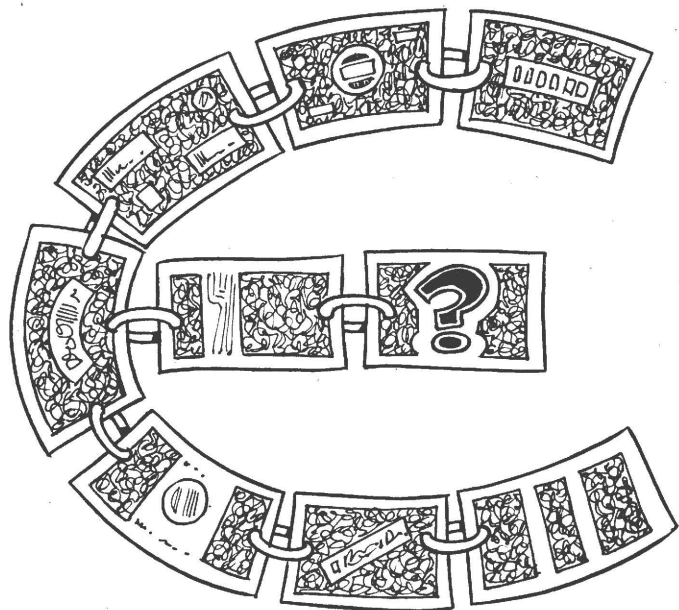
The ruling, which could give the Parliament the power to block legislation indefinitely if it wished, came about from a case involving isoglucose.

Back in 1977 a German company, Maizena, complained to the Court of Justice against Community legislation which imposed a tax on the production of isoglucose.

The Court accepted its argument that the tax was discriminatory as it fell more heavily on isoglucose rather than sugar producers, both of whom are in competition, and annulled the legislation towards the end of 1978.

Attempts were then made to pass new legislation as soon as possible and certainly before July 1, when the new sugar season opened.

But in its hurry, the Council of Ministers failed to wait for the opinion of the European Parliament, which claimed that it needed more time to examine the proposal. It was this failure which caused the Court to rule the measures illegal.



## Jenkins urges UK to play full role in EMS

European Commission President Roy Jenkins has once again urged the United Kingdom to become a full partner in the European Monetary System (EMS), under which the eight other Member States observe agreed margins of fluctuation between their currencies.

The idea for establishing the EMS came from Mr Jenkins in a speech in Florence three years ago. It came into operation in March of last year. Although sterling is formally included in the system it does not participate in the exchange rate arrangements.

'I continue to believe that this is a great mistake, both for the Community and still more so for the United Kingdom,' Mr Jenkins declared at the annual meeting of the Association of European Journalists in Rome.

'If the British do not become full members of the system, if they do not accept the same risks and responsibilities and enjoy the same advantages as the other members, then they must not complain if the system evolves in a fashion which does not necessarily take account of the particular characteristics of sterling and the particular underlying economic circumstances of the United Kingdom.'

Mr Jenkins said that greater exchange rate stability would be good for the

British economy and would be particularly welcomed by British exporters who are currently finding it difficult to compete in international markets because of the high value of sterling.

The President, who is a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that monetary union between the Member States favours a more efficient and developed rationalization of industry and commerce.

He also believes that closer union would help to combat inflation, to reduce unemployment and to promote a more equitable distribution of economic welfare within the different regions of the Community.

Mr Jenkins said that he would now like to see greater use made of the ECU, the system's currency unit, as well as the establishment of a European Monetary Fund which would have some of the features and functions of a central bank.

In his view, the Fund would determine the quantity of ECUs to be issued and control the timing of issue. It should also have the task of co-ordinating the monetary policies of the Member States and in addition should control intervention policies with regard to third countries.

Mr Jenkins called on the nine Community Heads of Government to give strong political backing at a forthcoming meeting of the European Council for taking the system a step further towards completion.

## Plan to step up recycling of petrodollars

European Community countries suffering from severe balance of payments problems because of the continuing rise in the price of oil may soon be able to draw on a £4 000 million fund to help them over their difficulties.

The European Commission is proposing that a fund which was set up in 1975 to recycle petrodollars be more than doubled from its present ceiling of around £1 800 million to around £4 200 million.

The Community makes use of its 'Triple A' rating on the international money market to borrow money for onlending to individual Member States. So far, Ireland and Italy have borrowed from the fund.

The Commission is proposing that the recycling of petrodollars be stepped up to help stimulate world economic activity and it is asking the Nine governments to empower it to contract loans on behalf of the Community up to the new ceiling.

This money could be raised either directly from third countries and financial institutions, or on the capital markets. The most direct way would be to borrow straight from oil-exporting countries.

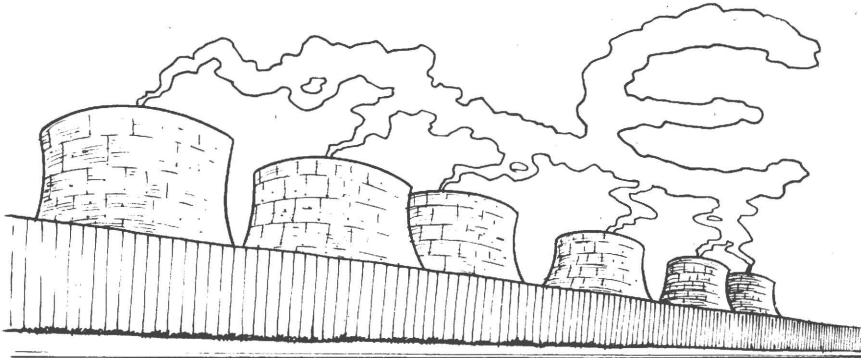
A Member State which borrows from the fund must undertake to pursue whatever economic policy is laid down by the Council of Ministers when it approves a loan.

The Commission has also proposed to the Council changes in a second fund which came into operation last year as a way of stepping up Community action to tackle unemployment, sluggish investment and to bring the economic performance of the nine Member States more into line with one another.

This Community borrowing and lending instrument—known as the Ortoli Facility after Economics Commissioner François-Xavier Ortoli—raises money on the international capital markets and lends it to Member States, particularly for the development of infrastructure and domestic sources of energy to replace costly imported oil.

So far, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Italy have availed of loans from the fund, which has a borrowing ceiling of £600 million. The Commission is now asking the Council to remove this ceiling.

## INDUSTRY



### Nine act together to ride out the steel crisis

For the first time in its 27-year history, the European Community has decided to impose compulsory cuts on steel production.

The decision was taken after four weeks of negotiations between member governments and Industry Commissioner Viscount Davignon.

These managed to overcome earlier objections voiced by the Germans, who felt that the measures would be unnecessarily hard on their own manufacturers.

The production ceilings are seen as a necessary last step to prevent a destructive price war breaking out among steel companies, each trying to hang on to a diminishing share of a declining market. They have been backdated to October 1 and will run until the end of June next year.

The restrictions apply to all steels produced in Europe, although a number of exceptions have been inserted into the scheme. Steel for tubes and rails will not have to respect any ceilings nor will producers of special steels with an output of less than 6 000 tonnes every three months.

As a further concession to the German government, it was decided that among special steels, which represent 15% of all EEC steel production, certain categories should benefit from a relaxation of the restrictions. These include steel with at least a 5% chrome content, and a price 30% above that of a corresponding normal steel.

The ceilings, which the Commission has worked out with the steel industry,

will be policed by a special force of Community officials. Firms which do not keep production within these limits will be fined for each extra tonne they produce.

Because of the steel crisis, the Commission has proposed that an extra £ 67 million be made available to cover the costs of early retirement and short-time work in the industry.

If this amount is approved by the Council of Ministers it would be in addition to a sum of £ 45 million already proposed for this purpose in its draft budget for the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) next year. This proposal was already an increase of almost £ 5 million on the current year's spending.

Under the Treaty of Paris which established the ECSC in 1952, the Commission can raise a levy of coal and steel production, part of which is used to deal with the run-down of employment in these two industries.

The Commission is asking for the extra money to meet demands from the British, French and Belgian governments on behalf of about 70 000 workers who have been forced into early retirement or on to short-time work because of the steel slump.

For next year's ECSC budget, the Commission expects to derive revenue of around £ 97 million from an unchanged production levy and has proposed expenditure of about £ 116 million. It expects to make up the shortfall out of the general Community budget.

In addition to the social measures mentioned above, the money would be spent on research, providing producers with interest subsidies on loans they contract, and aid to investment and conversion.

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### Fund helps train 1 million workers for new jobs

More than 1 million people have benefited this year from grants from the European Social Fund which was set up to retrain redundant workers for new jobs.

The latest series of grants from the Fund totalled around £ 318 million, bringing the figure for the year to £ 580 million.

While the bulk of the grants continue to be made for vocational training programmes in the Member States, the Fund is extending its operations into the area of job creation.

Grants normally amount to half the cost of a programme, but a higher intervention rate of 55% applies in the Community's poorest regions—Greenland, the French Overseas Departments, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Italy's Mezzogiorno.

More than half of the grants this year went to these regions for training programmes benefiting young people under 25—just under 40% of the total amount—women, migrant workers, the handicapped and workers in agriculture and the textile and clothing industries.

#### Aid for disabled

Over the past four years 35 studies and pilot schemes to adapt housing for the handicapped have been carried out in various Member States with the help of £ 1.25 million (2.1 m EUA) in Community funds, the European Commission revealed in reply to a written question in the European Parliament. Next year is the international year of the handicapped.

#### Inquisitive

European parliamentarians are becoming more diligent. According to the European Commission, between July of last year when the first directly-elected Parliament sat and June of this year it had received 2 036 written questions from parliamentarians, compared with only 778 during the same period in 1978-79.

## TAXATION



## New formula aims to give consumer fairer choice

The European Community is well on the way to ending the discrimination caused by applying different excise duties on fortified wines, beer and spirits. After a recent meeting in Luxembourg, the Nine's Fiscal Ministers are now confident of a final decision shortly before Christmas.

The new measures initially attracted vociferous opposition in the United Kingdom, where it was considered they would lead to a seven pence rise in the price of a pint of beer.

This has been hotly denied by the European Commission, which has pointed out that there are a number of ways in which the British government, probably along with the Belgians and Dutch, could change its excise duties—their structure not their rate—to fall into line with probable Community legislation.

The issue came to a head because the European Commission, with some backing from the European Court of Justice, claimed that beer and wine were drinks competing for people's palates and wallets.

Therefore, it argued that the ratio of the excessive duties charged should remain within the ratio of their respective alcoholic strengths of three to one, although it may be prepared to increase this slightly.

The current duty on wine in the United Kingdom is almost five times that on beer and remains, proportionately, the highest in the Community.

If, as is expected, the idea is eventually accepted, then the British government could take the unlikely course of raising the duty on beer, lowering that on wine, or, most likely, introduce a combination of these changes in the next budget.

This last approach, it has been estimated, could mean an extra half-penny on a pint of beer and 21 pence off a bottle of wine if the government does not wish to increase its income. The probable rise in Britain's wine consumption would be of major benefit to French, Italian and German producers.

The new measures, which would have to be implemented by January 1987, would also remove much of the discrimination in the brewing industry.

At the moment, many countries levy their duty on domestically produced beer at an early—worts—stage in production. In some cases, efficient breweries receive an indirect subsidy since allowance is made for a 6% loss from spillage. This concession is not applied to imported beer, where duty is applied on the final product.

The excise package will also put an end to the discrimination currently practised between different kinds of spirits, by insisting that they should be taxed according to their pure alcohol content.

In February this year, the European Court of Justice found Denmark, France and Italy guilty of applying a taxation system that favoured their own locally produced drinks.

These judgments have strengthened the European Commission's hand in its long struggle to harmonize the structure of the Nine's excise duties.

## You pay for your pleasures

Luxembourgers regularly come out tops when comparisons are made between living standards in the different Community Member States. So it will come as no surprise to learn that they also pay the most tax.

Figures recently published by the OECD in Paris show that tax revenue (including social security payments) as a percentage of gross domestic product was highest in Luxembourg and lowest in Italy.

In the case of the Grand Duchy, 1979 figures are not available but in the previous year the percentage of GDP represented by tax was 49.88.

The rest of the figures are for 1979 and show Luxembourg's Benelux partners not far behind with the Netherlands at 47.2 per cent and Belgium at 44.47. The level in Denmark was 44.96, followed by France (41.02), Germany (37.22), the United Kingdom (33.79), Ireland (33.31), and Italy (32.75).

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## IN BRIEF

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### Aid for Portugal

The Community is to give aid worth £ 165 million (275 m EUA) to Portugal to help it prepare for accession to the Community. Almost half of this is in the form of non-repayable grants.

### More protection

Community citizens who are victims of crimes of violence should be entitled to a minimum compensation payment established at Community level, the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament says in a report. The report, which will be debated by the full House also wants a Community law that would oblige each of the Nine to ensure the minimum compensation regardless of the victim's Member State or origin. In addition, it proposes that Member States should facilitate the implementation of judgments in a case where an offender is not resident in the country in which an award for damages is made.

## RESEARCH

## Twenty years a-growing

The European Community's joint research centre celebrated its twentieth anniversary last month. It was founded as a nuclear research centre in 1958 and its four establishments became operational two years later.

To mark the anniversary, Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner paid a visit to one of the establishments, Ispra in the north of Italy, to present long-service medals to scientists and other employees there.

The joint research centre (JRC) also has establishments in Geel in Belgium, Petten in the Netherlands and in Karlsruhe in Germany.

Over the past two decades, the scope of the JRC's research has broadened to include other areas besides nuclear which are of interest to the Community—but always with an emphasis on energy.

In the £ 300 million programme for 1980-83, work on alternative forms of energy has been stepped up and Ispra has recently installed testing facilities for solar energy collectors which are the most sophisticated in Europe.

In another area of alternative energy, the JRC was the first institution to achieve a breakthrough in the thermochemical production of hydrogen from water. Its current programme also includes fusion research, protection of the environment and remote sensing from space. In addition, the centre does specific research for the European Commission in such areas as telematics.

Nuclear safety research still plays a big role in JRC activity with the major SUPER-SARA and LOBI programmes. These simulate loss of coolant accidents in nuclear reactors—of the type highlighted by the Three Mile Island accident in the United States.

During his visit to Ispra, Mr Brunner said that war between major oil producers in the Middle East had again highlighted the need for Europe to safeguard a continued and sure supply of energy.

He said that, for the future, Europe must pursue a fourfold task:

- economize and conserve energy wherever possible
- exploit our own resources to the maximum
- encourage the safe and secure use of atomic energy
- stimulate research and development into new sources of energy.

Mr Brunner has now resigned from the Commission. He was elected for the Free Democrats in last month's German elections and has taken his seat in the Bundestag.

## Joint venture to learn more about radioactivity

A cooperation agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) was signed in Brussels on November 3. It covers environmental impact assessments and research into radioactive waste management.

The cooperation agreement will last initially for five years with automatic renewal on a year-by-year basis thereafter. It fits into the larger context provided by the Euratom-Canada agreement of 1959 and the framework agreement for commercial and economic cooperation between the Community and Canada of 1976. Both Euratom and AECL already pursue programmes of research into the management and storage of radioactive waste and these will now form the basis of their joint efforts.

In its first phase, this cooperation will concentrate on evaluating the environmental impact of storage of radioactive wastes in hard rocks, and on collecting data relevant for developing a sound waste storage system. Decisions on further joint activities may be reached at a later stage.

Envisaged are exchanges of technical information, the organization of joint scientific meetings, and exchanges of scientists between research laboratories in Canada and the Community who are involved in the study of management of radioactive waste. The agreement is designed to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort in this field of research and development.

## ENERGY

## Bright future forecast for solar power

The future of solar energy and the official opening of a completely solar-powered home in southern France were the subject of a major international conference in Cannes on October 27 sponsored by the European Community.

The European Commission Director-General for Research, Science and Education, Günther Schuster, told the gathering that photovoltaic conversion of the sun's rays into electricity was, along with biomass use, the most promising alternative form of energy for the future, despite the still-high costs of these sources.

The conference, the third such European-scale meeting, was attended by some 800 experts for discussions that lasted the entire week.

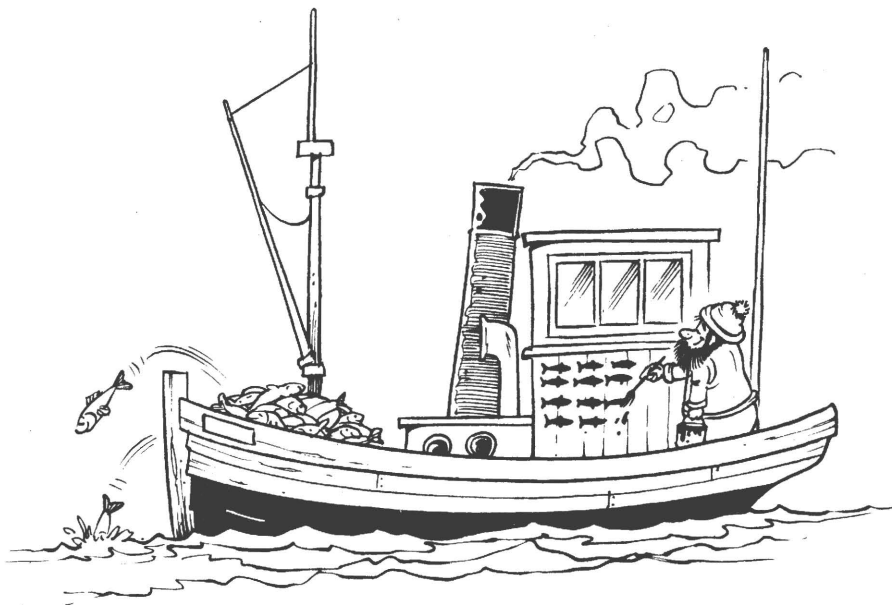
The conference was also the occasion for the official inauguration of a completely autonomous-energy home powered by solar devices and financed by the European Community and the French Solar Energy Commissariat in Sophia-Antipolis, between Nice and Cannes.

Speakers noted that the development of solar energy techniques was expanding and becoming more economically competitive, although it remained considerably more costly than conventional and nuclear energy.

It was widely noted that the solar energy industry in Europe, and especially France, was second only to that of the United States and had become active in exports markets in the developing world, where climatic conditions are more appropriate.

The Community approach to energy problems and some imaginative efforts to find possible solutions are the subject of a sound tape lasting 15 minutes which includes interviews with some Commission experts in the field. The material is available for broadcast purposes and briefings on application to the Directorate-General for Information (TV-Radio-Audio-Visual Department), Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.





### Closer monitoring a step towards common policy

The Community Fisheries Ministers took another step towards a common fisheries policy last month when they agreed on the various enforcement measures which will be applied to make sure that fishermen respect the new rules.

As from January 1, when the policy is due to come into effect, all boats over 12 metres in length, will carry a log book in which skippers will have to enter data on all fish caught.

Final details of the entries that would have to be made still remain to be worked out by national experts although exemptions are expected to be made for vessels making short trips.

The log books would be submitted to national governments, which would forward them to the European Commission in Brussels so that it can determine the amount of fish being caught.

Measures will also be introduced to monitor fish landed at Community ports.

The British Minister, Mr Peter Walker made his approval of the

measures conditional on a European Community surveillance team being established.

He insisted that Community officials should have the power to inspect ports and to board vessels to check that the measures were being applied. He added that his government was prepared to pay its share of the costs incurred.

Fisheries Commissioner Finn Olav Gundelach gave general support to the idea and he agreed to prepare proposals for a meeting later this year.

The Nine's Ministers also asked the Commission to come forward with concrete proposals on the way the Community's available fish resources would be allocated among the national fleets this year.

Although the final agreement is unlikely to have a major impact on this year's catches, its importance lies in the fact that it will act as the basis for share-outs in future years.

Among the factors which the Commission is expected to take into consideration are the losses incurred by fleets that used to fish in Icelandic and Canadian waters; the needs of regions traditionally dependent on fishing, and national fleet's historic levels of catches.

### Ban on hormones in meat proposed for Community

The European Commission, in response to growing public apprehension at their possible adverse side-effects on human health, is recommending a ban on the use of all hormone substances in the rearing of animals.

The ban, which has to be approved by the Nine governments before it can be implemented, would be applied to all domestic animals—cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry—and to the Community's trade in fresh meat.

Full details of the tests that would be applied, their frequency and the level of residues that could be tolerated remain to be worked out.

But to cover the extra cost of the tests, the Commission is proposing that a special tax be paid by all slaughterhouses in the Community.

Any meat or animals found to have more than the permitted level of residue would be confiscated and destroyed and the owners liable to sanctions, including possible fines.

The Commission is prepared, however, to allow the use of natural hormones for therapeutic purposes. But their application would be strictly controlled.

The permitted substances would be set out in a list and only a vet would be able to administer them. The vet would also have to keep a record of the use of the product, including the quantity and the date, and identification of the animal treated.

The Commission was first asked by the Nine governments in September to take measures to control the use of hormones.

This followed several arrests in France of people accused of illegally using the products to boost veal production and the discovery in Italy of hormones in poultry and veal based baby foods.

Veal sales plummeted as a result, and intra-Community trade was thrown into confusion when Italy decided to impose its own tough health measures on all imports. Such measures would no longer be necessary with Community-accepted tests.

## TRADE

### Clash between rich and poor over textiles

A 'textiles war' is looming in Geneva, where representatives of the world's major textile-producing and consuming countries have begun a series of meetings to review the operations of the five-year Multifibres Agreement (MFA) which expires at the end of next year.

The question at the centre of the dispute between Third World textile-producing countries and their major markets in the industrialized countries, including the European Community, concerns the terms and conditions for the second renewal of the MFA.

The arrangement, first signed in 1973, was renewed in 1977, and lays down rules governing trade in textiles and clothing to ensure that developing countries' exports do not grow so fast as to endanger textile manufacturing in the industrialized nations.

The first MFA guaranteed a 6% annual growth rate in imports by industrialized countries of Third World goods. Prompted by fears that exports from such upcoming textile giants as Hongkong, South Korea, Singapore, Brazil and India could further endanger its crisis-ridden textiles industry, the European Community would only renew the MFA in 1977 if a clause which allowed for 'reasonable departures' from the guaranteed 6% growth rate for short periods and for emergencies was included in the agreement.

The clause was accepted reluctantly by the Third World countries but on condition that it would be used only by the Community and not by other importing countries and for a limited time period. As a result of the clause the growth rate for textiles imported by the Community averaged about 4% during the period 1976-79, compared with the annual increase of around 25% in Third World imports during the first three years of application of the first MFA (1973-76).

The Third World textile producers are not happy with the present arrangements. At a recent meeting in Geneva, representatives from the developing countries made it clear that they felt that the Community and other industrialized countries

were not playing the MFA game according to the rules.

They argue that the 'reasonable departures' clause has been used by countries outside the Community and that instead of leading to 'an expansion in trade in textile products, particularly for developing countries' as stressed by the MFA, the agreement has been used by the West to restrict Third World exports. As a result they claim, textiles trade between the Community and the United States of America has grown dramatically in recent years.

As the developing countries see it, the Community should work to improve the efficiency of its textile industry by closing down plants that are no longer productive. Western consumers, they add, have a right to access to cheaper textile goods produced in the developing countries.

It is time, they claim, that an attempt was made to free trade in textiles.

The Community points out that, although its textiles consumption is down, it still takes in 55% of Third World exports, compared with 47% in 1973, and 50% of exports by developing countries that are MFA signatories, compared with 44% in 1973. The Community, they add, ran a trade deficit of \$5.230 000 in 1979, compared with \$1.220 000 in 1973.

The Community's textile industry, as a result of its adjustment to the new market and technological conditions, lost 700 000 jobs between 1973 and 1979, with 4 200 firms going out of business. However, the Community argues that the MFA has worked satisfactorily and has led to a greater stability in international trade in textiles.

## THIRD WORLD

### Zimbabwe signs Lomé Convention accession treaty

Zimbabwe and the European Community have signed a treaty enabling the newly-independent African State to become the sixtieth member of the Lomé Convention, the trade and aid pact which the Community has signed

with countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The Convention gives unrestricted access to most of Zimbabwe's exports to the Community. Special arrangements have been made for Zimbabwean exports of beef and sugar, both of which make a sizeable contribution to the new nation's economy.

Zimbabwe will also benefit from the European Development Fund which is used to help finance industrial, infrastructural and agricultural development projects.

In the area of financial and technical cooperation, the Community is already helping to finance resettlement of Zimbabweans displaced in the civil strife leading up to independence, as well as the economic reconstruction of the country.

Altogether, the Community has provided more than £7 million for emergency programmes, most of it channelled through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In addition, the Community is providing assistance to Community-based non-governmental organizations which are carrying out educational and social work in the townships and rural areas of Zimbabwe. It is also giving food aid.

### More Community aid for Kampuchea

A second instalment of Community aid is to be sent to Kampuchea. It is part of an emergency aid plan which the Nine agreed to last April to help Kampuchean recover from the civil war in their country.

The £12 million in aid will help to finance programmes being implemented by specialized agencies. Most of the money will be spent in Kampuchea but some of it will be used to help Kampuchean refugees in Thailand.

The Community has already sent aid worth around £25 million to Kampuchea this year. Together with bilateral aid from individual Member States, the Community has contributed a quarter of the total aid in a programme for 1980 drawn up by the major international organizations and the non-governmental organizations. Under a preceding programme, the Nine's contribution was around £50 million or just over a third of the total.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Retirement

Sir,

As the result of *Euroforum* exposing the important but neglected subject of retirement, many people have written to me.

May I therefore ask for space in which to answer some queries and comment on points raised by Mr Tim Tanner (*Euroforum* 14/80).

'Successful Retirement (S.R.), by definition, is not a departure or withdrawal from employment or social life. It is a time period offering matchless opportunities for enriching the quality of life by self-fulfilment—by a second career—and by self-employment'.

S.R. can be taught.

Mr Tanner advocates all single retirees getting one-third and all married couples getting half of gross national earnings. This is highly laudable, but this must be earned before it can be awarded, certainly, we in the UK have not earned it. Indeed, year by year over the past ten years we have produced less and less real wealth.

Retirees must therefore be taught how to prepare themselves for a second career—or self-employment—or a lower standard of living.

Your readers may be surprised to learn that a quarter of the European Community's working population (25 million) want to go on working after retirement, not for the money, but to keep their faculties active (see Commission document V/547/78-EN, 'The Attitude of Working Population to Retirement'). There are at least another 15 million Europeans affected, bringing the total to at least 40 million.

In my experience, every person approaching retirement has his or her own mental micro-computer and with it almost unlimited possibilities.

Many of them lack an instructional manual. I modestly claim to provide such a manual.

Tom Moore,  
Senior Lecturer,  
Thames Polytechnic,  
Wellington Street,  
London SE18 6PF.

### World hunger

Sir,

I read with astonishment that the debate on hunger in the European Parliament was turned into a Socialist debate in *Euroforum* (15/80). If you were to take the trouble to consult the minutes of the meeting you would see that not only Mr Brandt and Mr Cheysson aired their views on this issue but also the Christian Democrats. Their spokesman was the vice-chairman of the group of the European People's Party, Willem Vergeer, who was also the author of a position paper for the Committee on Development and Cooperation.

It probably also escaped your attention that the European People's Party Group was the only one to come up with a practical suggestion during the debate. It is asking that 1% of the total Community budget, namely £115 million be set aside as a kind of supplementary emergency contribution towards fighting hunger in the world.

Since *Euroforum* is published by the European Community and not the Socialist Group, I should like to ask you to take account of the presence and the stance of the European People's Party (the Christian Democrats) as well, so as to give a balanced account of events.

Dr Egon A. Klepsch,  
President,  
European People's Party Group in  
the European Parliament.

### Smoking

Sir,

As early as 1974, at the first German non-smokers' congress, an 'emergency programme to fight death as a result of cigarette smoking' was established.

Among other things, the programme contained a demand that subsidies for tobacco growers, which amounted to be cut back progressively and that the funds thus generated be used for a large-scale information campaign in Europe's schools so as to prevent our young people's health being damaged by smoking.

We were very sorry that this demand was not met. In fact, subsidies for tobacco growers, which amounted to DM 270 m (£ 63 m) in 1971, rose to over DM 600 m (£ 140 m) in 1979. The tobacco growers are asking for subsidies of over DM 700 m (£ 164 m) for 1980.



Although it has become even more urgent to inform our young people, since an increasing number of schoolchildren are taking to smoking and the age at which smoking begins is getting lower all the time, as has been shown in a recent study carried out by Heidelberg university's research department for preventive oncology, using some 10 000 anonymous questionnaires, there has been no evidence as yet that the European Community is prepared to accede to this request.

Therefore, those who took part in the international congress 'Smoke or be healthy' on 19 and 20 May this year in Bonn have sent another appeal to the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels asking it to cut the subsidies for tobacco growers by 10%—a very reasonable amount—and make the funds thus released available for an information programme in schools in the Commu-

ity countries about the damage to health caused by smoking.

We have nothing against tobacco growers. Nevertheless, providing subsidies for tobacco growing is tantamount to promoting the production of poisonous luxuries with the taxpayers' money. Nor do we have any objection to direct subsidization of the relatively small group of tobacco growers. But we do think that the Commission in Brussels—and our governments as well—should regard the protection of our young people from disease and death by smoking as an equally pressing issue.

Therefore, we are calling upon the Commission of the European Communities to answer our appeal.

Dr F. Schmidt,  
Maybachstrasse 14-16,  
6800 Mannheim 1,  
Germany.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your article under the headline 'Smoking and the hidden persuader' (*Euroforum* 10/80) may I ask you when the EEC will stop spending millions in aid to tobacco growing? It should have become clear by now that this money is used for the production of a poisonous substance called nicotine.

Furthermore, would it be possible for the EEC to stop cigarette exports to the Third World? Surely there are things which those countries need more urgently.

Werner Reimann,  
Regional Manager of the Doctors' Working Group  
'Smoking and Health',  
Hermann-Piper-Strasse 35,  
1000 Berlin 51,  
Germany.

## Jobs for graduates

Sir,

Regarding your article entitled 'Graduates still a privileged class in the labour market' (*Euroforum* 13/80), I should like to draw the attention of the Commission to the following point.

The unemployment of graduates in the UK may well be 4.3%, compared with 6.2% for all workers, but I feel that these figures are redundant considering that many graduates will accept any job they can get rather than be unemployed.

The survey compiled by the Commission would be more appropriate if it dealt with the percentage of graduates who find employment requiring their particular degree. It is only these privileged few who enjoy 'much higher salaries and greater job security than the norm'. The rest of us take on unskilled or clerical work, rather than being unemployed.

Frances Sibbet,  
14, Finborough Road,  
London SW 17.

## Microwaves

Sir,

In 'Euroforum' 12-9-1980 you report under the 'Health' section about the Commission's proposal for a directive on safety measures against the dangers of microwave radiation. The title of your article on page 6 was 'Microwaves: Can we limit the price of progress?'. The article tries to explain the technical details of the draft directive, which was published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' C 249/6, September 26, 1980.

Litton Microwave Cooking Products, a division of Litton Industries Inc., is one of the world's leading producers of microwave ovens and has always been in the forefront of technical and safety developments for these products. Based on this worldwide experience, we would like to make a few comments on the above article, because your quotes from the draft directive and the context into which you put them can lead to misinterpretations.

We explicitly want to point out that we highly appreciate the efforts of the European Community to create the same regulatory environment for all Community countries and to protect the public against any hazards. We, therefore, also welcome this directive.

But this directive is to protect anybody who is working in an electromagnetic field, and it is aimed to regulate 'exposure' standards. When you talk about the use of a microwave oven in the kitchen (as you do in your article as an example) you have to talk about 'emission' standards. 'Emission' standards are covered by documents like the IEC Publication 335-25 (1976) and several national regulations, which give exact data on microwave leakage levels.

To explain the difference, I would like to use an example: if you have a factory producing microwave ovens and assume there are millions of them switched on at the same time for testing purposes, then each can meet the emission standards. But if you add all together, they may not meet the exposure standards, which are covered by the new proposed directive.

To say it clearly: the manufacturers of microwave ovens for consumer or catering use follow stringent regulations and meet 'emission' standards, which make sure that there is no hazardous exposure for the user. It is, therefore, misleading to mention microwave ovens in the context of this directive and to talk about things like 'medical checks', 'protective clothing', 'restricted areas'. None of them are needed with the use of microwave ovens. What the authors of the directive had in mind here was to protect workers, e.g. in a factory.

It is correct that not all countries in the world and in the Community have enforced regulations. So, if the Community wants to become active to make the most stringent regulations (which by the way, our products meet) standard throughout the Community we would be only too happy to cooperate.

Dirk Koerber,  
Director  
Corporate Public Affairs—Europe  
Litton Industries,  
Gubelstrasse 28,  
8050 Zurich  
Switzerland.

## Tax dodgers

Sir,

I would like to comment on the article on Taxation in *Euroforum* 13/80.

Tax avoidance is a legitimate activity for both companies and individuals. No-one, after all, pays more tax than he absolutely has to.

Tax evasion, however, is quite another matter. It is anti-social and almost invariably illegal.

I think you should distinguish between the two.

M.H. Williams,  
Van Beethovenlaan 69b,  
P.O. Box 105,  
2250 AC Voorschoten,  
Netherlands.

## The Queen's English

Sir,

Following the article under the heading 'The Queen's English: a pronounced success' (*Euroforum* 16/80), I should like to make an observation.

There is no doubt that English is at present the foreign language that is the most widely taught in Europe. However, it would be interesting to know:

- (i) whether the pupils are able to choose another language. In many schools, English is the language dictated by circumstances (lack of teachers for other languages; standards too high to enable another course to be set up; refusal on the part of the headmaster/board);
- (ii) how many of these pupils are able, once their schooling is finished, to carry on a more-or-less correct conversation with an English speaker?

Personally, I deplore this policy of 'ostracizing' languages, this 'racist' attitude, which favours one language and, hence, one race. It is a policy which is advocated and encouraged in certain European milieux!

It would be fairer—and there would be less discrimination—if real diversification were to be promoted in the field of language studies, giving our children a really free choice of the language or languages they wish to learn. Unfortunately I fear that linguistic segregation has a bright future!

Germain Pirlot,  
Kemmelbergstr. 5/b.3.,  
8400 Oostende,  
Belgium.

### IN BRIEF

#### Backing prospection

Almost £17 million in Community funds is being made available to back hydrocarbons exploration. The money is refundable in the event of the commercial exploitation of a find.

#### Out of commission

Seven nuclear power stations have been closed down in the Community over the past 15 years, according to the European Commission in reply to a European Parliamentary question. About ten more are expected to be decommissioned over the next decade.

## CULTURE

### Ensuring artists the fruit of their labours



Coinciding with the announcement of the proposed sale in London later this year of yet another of the world's great treasures—36 sheets of drawings and notes by Leonardo da Vinci—the European Commission has revealed that it is making progress on the protection of artists' rights.

It has been having discussions with interested parties during the past few months in preparation for drafting a proposal on artists' resale rights. The aim is to ensure that creative artists in the plastic arts—or their heirs—will be paid a percentage of the capital gain realised on successive sales of their works.

Following these consultations and discussions with national government representatives to examine the legal difficulties, the Commission plans to make a formal proposal to the Council of Ministers aimed at standardizing practice throughout the Community.

Also on the horizon is the eventual harmonization of the duration of copyright. At the moment there are five different systems in the nine Member States and the duration of copyright varies from 50 to 70 years.

Leonardo's drawings are expected to fetch in the region of £4 million. What a windfall even a small percentage of that would be for one of his heirs!

### Crossing the frontiers of knowledge

Grants to teachers and specialists to enable them to study abroad, as well as grants to promote joint study programmes between higher education institutes have been announced by the European Commission.

The awards have been made under the Community's education action programme which was agreed by the nine Education Ministers in 1976. They are designed to promote co-operation and understanding between the different educational systems in the Member States.

A total of 449 grants have been made to teachers, researchers and administrators for short educational study visits varying in length from one to four weeks. The grants will be available again in the next academic year.

In addition, 85 grants have been made to universities and other institutions of higher education for the development of joint programmes of study. The Commission is now supporting a total of 169 different programmes in most academic disciplines, involving 350 universities and other higher education institutes.



## THE NEWS AT A GLANCE

### Dire prediction

The president of the European Trade Union Confederation, Mr Wim Kok, has warned that unemployment in the Community, currently over 7 million, could double within five years unless governments develop efficient employment policies which are coordinated at Community level.

### Free-wheeling

A list of priority targets to enable the Community's transport system to meet the demands of the 1980s has been drawn up by the European Commission. It will be followed by detailed proposals to the Council of Ministers. Among the main targets are improving the economic situation of the railways and promoting cooperation between the national services, and the development of more efficient air services.

### A woman's place

The European Parliament has once again called for the appointment of the first woman member of the European Commission. The new Commission will be appointed for its four-year term at the end of this year. So far no Member State has nominated a woman for one of the 14 posts.

### New president

An Irishman, Tomas Roseingrave, has been elected President of the Economic and Social Committee for the next two years. The 144-member Committee, which represents trades unions, employers and special interests such as consumer and farming organizations, plays a consultation role in the Community's decision-making process. Mr Roseingrave, who is the first Irishman to hold the presidency, is the head of a youth organization.

### Unequal battle

The slowdown in inflation in August which we noted in our last issue seems to have continued in some Community countries but not in others. In Germany in September the consumer price index was the same as in August, while in France the rate of increase declined from 1% to 0.9% and in Luxembourg from 0.3% to 0.1%. However, in the other Member States there was a considerable increase, ranging from 0.5% as against 0.4% in August in Denmark to 2.1% as against 1.3% in Italy.

### For better communications

Ireland is to receive a low-interest loan of IR £ 18.4 million for the development of its telecommunications. It will go towards the provision of 86 000 new telephone lines and more than 2 000 telex links. The latest loan brings to more than IR £ 100 million the total of Community loans to improve Ireland's telecommunications services since the country joined the Community in 1973.

### Energy review

The Nine's Energy Ministers meet on November 27 to discuss, among other things, the oil supply situation, particularly in the light of the Iran/Iraq conflict which has reduced oil flows, and to review measures to be taken in the event of a crisis. The Community currently has about 130 days' oil supplies.

### Cutting down

As part of its efforts to reduce agricultural spending, the European Commission decided to suspend intervention buying in the beef sector. Between now and next March surplus beef forequarters will not be bought up in a bid to discourage over-production.

### Call for equality

The European Youth Forum is organizing a conference on the theme of 'Employment for Young Women' from December 2 to 4 in Brussels. There will be a public demonstration, as well as theatre productions, television presentations and a number of discussions aimed at the adoption of an action plan. The Youth Forum represents young peoples' organizations of all types including political, social, cultural, religious and educational groups, at Community level.

### Congratulations

The Community has congratulated Ronald Reagan on his election as the next President of the United States. Commission President Roy Jenkins sent him this message: 'On behalf of the Commission of the European Community, I send our warmest congratulations on your election victory. The relationship between the United States and the European Community and its members is vital not only to the prosperity of us both, but to the good health and stability of the world as a whole. We look forward to working closely with you and your administration and send all good wishes for the future'.

### Pact for safety

Euratom, the European Atomic Energy Community, which was set up to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, is to sign an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Their collaboration is aimed at increased safeguards in the research and development of nuclear power.

### More nuclear power

Production of nuclear energy in the Community increased by just over 10% last year to 127 millions net kilowatt hours. This increase reflects the number of new plants brought into operation.

## FOCUS

## Assessing the value of new ways to help the poor

The economic crisis has made us all feel the pinch but, for the very poor, it has been disastrous. As more and a wider range of people are hit by inflation and join the ranks of the unemployed, public expenditure is being cut and many countries are tending to help those most recently caught up in the crisis rather than the traditionally poor. Public opinion is also hardening against those who are seen as profiting disproportionately from public expenditure and social assistance.

It has not been a very favourable climate for the Community's programme of pilot schemes to combat poverty, as an interim evaluation of the programme points out.

Nevertheless, the report is able to show results as well as problems over the five years that the programme has been going. Though the Commission's final report will not be ready until the end of next June, the Council of Ministers requested the interim evaluation six months ago when it found itself unable to approve the proposed interim action programme. In view of this, the evaluation draws some provisional conclusions about the programme as a whole, and makes a series of recommendations for a more limited interim programme.

The aim of the pilot schemes was to test and develop new methods of helping poor people and those threatened with poverty in the Community. Projects were to be planned and carried out as far as possible with the participation of the poor themselves, and deal with problems common to more than one Member State, in order that the lessons learned could be shared.

To a significant extent, it is felt that these aims have been met. The schemes have covered a wide range—in size, methods, and target populations—from community action projects in downtown slum areas to large-scale improvement of social services, and from small self-help groups to international studies on the causes of poverty, unemployment, the plight of gypsies and other nomads, and so on.

The Croydon Gingerbread group in the United Kingdom offers child care so that single parents can work or get training; a group in Germany has been helping refugees and immigrants to integrate; part of the Irish programme includes education about welfare rights; the Marolles Action Committee aims to restore a sense of pride to a rundown area of Brussels; a centre for social medicine has been opened in Naples; the French projects include improving housing and other facilities for the aged.

Mobilizing people who have always been excluded from decision-making even when it affects their everyday lives—housing and education, for example—is also new, and not easy. With very few exceptions, each project encountered obstacles in the reactions of the target population, the general public, or official institutions. The time restriction of the programme was another handicap; so too was the changing economic climate.

In spite of the problems, the provisional assessment of the venture as a whole is favourable. Every project involves some degree of participation by those it is aimed at—in the ATD-Fourth World projects in Paris and Rheims in France, Breda in the Netherlands and London, participation is the golden rule, and in other projects like the Craigmillar Festival in Scotland it is the poor who define what their problems are and what remedies and changes are needed.



Many projects have found that improvements in people's physical and economic situation go hand-in-hand with increasing self-confidence and ability to cope with problems. Traditional attitudes of passivity and resignation are slowly disappearing. One group in Duisberg-Essen noted a decrease in aggressiveness among the young people involved and increased activity in job-hunting. Those working with children found increased emotional stability.

Among others, the Irish programme and the Brussels project felt that the public's attention had been drawn to the new dimension of poverty: it is no longer considered as simply a lack of income but a progressive accumulation of handicaps and exclusions. Particularly in meetings with each other, project leaders have also become conscious of the European dimension of the problems.

The report pleads for the accumulation of results from the programme not to be thrown aside or ignored when political decisions are made and proposes an interim programme including, among other things, analyses in depth of the strategies and major obstacles encountered by the pilot schemes and an inventory of problems faced by immigrants or caused by the shift of population to and from city centres, thereby upsetting traditional population structures.

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