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** EURO-BAROMETER No 3 has established that rising prices, nature conservation and consumer protection are the three most important problems being tackled by the Community.

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The information published in this bulletin covers the European Communities' activities in the fields of industrial development, protection of the environment and consumer welfare. It is therefore not limited to recording Commission decisions or opinions.

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ANNEX 1 gives the main findings of this opinion poll carried out by eight specialist institutes in the nine member countries.

** Europe has tended to place so much emphasis on trade that Europeans have so far failed to feel that they are CITIZENS OF EUROPE. Two recently released documents should restore the balance. One considers the possibility of a uniform passport for all Community nationals, the other discusses the "special rights" that might be accorded to Community citizens living in a Community country other than their own.

ANNEX 2 explains these two proposals.

** MEASURING INSTRUMENTS of all kinds play a vital role in trade and industry.

ANNEX 3 gives two examples of the harmonization of legislation on measuring instruments.

** This week the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT adopted Mr Bertrand's report on European Union. The report outlines the competences of the Union in foreign policy, defence, social and regional policy, economic and monetary policy, budgetary policy, energy and raw materials and science and technology. The European Parliament recommends the creation of a central decision-making body, independent of national governments and responsible to the Parliament. This report on European Union, like the report prepared by the European Commission (see I&S No 27/75), is to be passed to Mr Tindemans, Prime Minister of Belgium, who has been asked to draw up a summary report on the outlook for European Union.

** THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX stood as follows at the end of May 1975:

(1970 = 100)

	<u>May 1975</u>	<u>April 1975</u>	<u>April 1975/May 1975</u>	<u>May 1974/May 1975</u>
Belgium	147.9	146.7	+ 0.8%	+ 13.7%
Denmark	155.8	153.8	+ 1.3%	+ 11.9%
France	150.5	149.5	+ 0.7%	+ 12.1%
Germany	134.4	133.6	+ 0.6%	+ 6.1%
Ireland	188.6	177.8 ¹	+ 6.1% ²	+ 24.5%
Italy	169.4	168.0	+ 0.8%	+ 19.7%
Luxembourg	140.1	139.2	+ 0.6%	+ 10.1%
Netherlands	150.7	149.7	+ 0.7%	+ 10.1%
United Kingdom	184.0	176.0	+ 4.2%	+ 25.0%

¹February 1975.

²Change between 15 February 1975 and 15 May 1975.

** The PRICE OF DRINKING MILK is still governed by national legislation. At present the prescribed minimum fat content for full milk is 32 g/l in Belgium, 34 g/l in France, 32 g/l in Luxembourg. In Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Italy fat content is related to weight, the percentages being 3.5%, 3.2%, 3.5% and 3.0% respectively. In Ireland and the United Kingdom the fat content of full milk is equivalent to that of untreated milk. This information is essential to make milk prices in the nine countries comparable. The only Member State which does not fix a retail price for a litre of pasteurized milk in bottles or disposable containers is Germany where prices, early in March 1975, varied between DM 0.95 and 1.15 for full milk, DM 0.85 and 0.95 for semi-skimmed milk and DM 0.75 and 0.85 for skimmed milk. In Belgium the retail price for full milk was fixed at Bfrs 13.50 from the end of February 1975. In Denmark the price has been Dkr 2.05 since November 1974 and in the Netherlands Fl 0.96 since mid-March 1975. A litre of pasteurized milk, taxes included, has cost FF 1.46 in the Paris region since early February 1975. In Italy a litre of full milk cost Lit 260, semi-skimmed milk Lit 240 and skimmed milk Lit 220 in March 1975. In Luxembourg a litre of pasteurized milk is priced at Lfrs 15.25 in bottles and Lfrs 17 in disposable containers. A gallon of pasteurized milk now costs about 48p in the United Kingdom and 68p in Ireland.

** How should RESIDUAL HEAT from conventional and nuclear POWER STATIONS be used? Work done by expert working parties and by its own staff has given the Commission a fairly comprehensive picture of what is being done in the Member States and in a number of non-member countries in this field. At present a number of possible applications, including fish farming, agriculture, and the heating of premises with the help of heat pumps, are being studied. Although some of these techniques are already being tested in pilot schemes it is too early to assess their viability. Results to date are reasonably encouraging however and the residual heat available for exploitation is extensive enough to repay further research and development. One very promising technique, the combined production of heat and electricity, is worth noting. This has been used for a number of years by industry and some distribution companies to provide heating for towns and factories. A combined electric power station cuts back its production capacity to produce heat in the 80-160°C range which can be used directly. Power stations which generate electricity only produce heat at the lower temperature of 30°C which is difficult to exploit economically. The sharp rise in the price of fossil fuels has increased the potential scope of this technique which has been tested and tried by the numerous plants already in service.

** The first meeting of the Advisory Committee on FOODSTUFFS was held recently in Brussels. This Committee, set up to advise the European Commission on all problems associated with the harmonization of food legislation, devoted its first meeting to a proposal on food labelling. Seats on the Committee are not filled by individuals but by representatives of

agricultural, industrial, trade, labour and consumer organizations who send along the person they consider most competent to deal with the items coming up for discussion at a given meeting.

** Electrically-operated LIFTS are commonplace and hundreds of thousands of them are installed in the Community every year. Apart from a handful of medium-sized firms with a fairly local market, lifts are by and large produced by a few big decentralized firms which manufacture the components, or have them manufactured, in a number of factories scattered throughout the Community, the appliances being ultimately assembled in yet another factory. Differences in national design and safety specifications are therefore adding an estimated 8-10% to production costs, an increase which is obviously reflected in the final cost. Action by the Community in this field could pay dividends which is why the European Commission has put forward a proposal to approximate legislation on electrically-operated lifts in the Member States. Five areas are singled out for special attention - locking devices for landing doors, fire resistance of landing doors, safety gears, speed governors and hydraulic buffers.

** This report on the latest developments on the CONSUMER front in France was supplied by the Institut National de la Consommation:

On the whole the French Press is not over-enthusiastic about consumer problems. Nevertheless most papers have supported the proposals put forward by eleven national consumer organizations for an outline law to protect consumers. Obviously the significance of this development did not escape them.

And it is significant because these organizations have forgotten their differences to produce the text.

And significant also because consumerism extends beyond the market place and its specific (highly sensitive) problems of price and quality to goods and services supplied by the private and public sector which everyone "consumes" regularly or occasionally - health and transport services, education, information, leisure...

In fact, as the explanatory memorandum to the text points out, consumer policy must allow consumers and their recognized organizations to play a full part as social and economic partners. If this is to be achieved a number of rights must be recognized - the right to information, to education, to health and safety, to equal treatment in the matter of contracts, the right to a fair deal, the right to defend oneself, the right of appeal and the right to representation. These rights are guaranteed by Article 1 of the draft law.

The annexes to this text contain proposals for the creation of special bodies or for the reorganization of the Institut National de la Consommation. All of these are ideas which Parliament may well have to consider.

Henry Estingoy, Director of the Institut National de la Consommation, hopes that the measures proposed in the text will be examined as soon as possible so that consumers in all walks of life will be guaranteed the recognition they deserve in a society where a new way of life is synonymous with a new way of consuming.

** The Council of Ministers recently adopted a directive on SPEEDOMETERS and REVERSE GEARS. It specifies that all motor vehicles must be equipped with a speedometer and a reverse gear which can be operated from the driver's seat. Technical specifications and testing procedures for speedometers are designed to ensure complete accuracy, not only of the speedometer itself but also of the equipment on which it depends. Vehicles are tested with the tyres normally fitted on a new vehicle when it is presented for EEC approval. Tests are carried out at three speeds - 40 km/h, 80 km/h and 120 km/h - which cover most driving conditions. The only exemption is for vehicles fitted with recording equipment (tachographs) which must conform with the specifications already laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 1463/70.

** Readers will know of the European Commission's concern to protect the population from EXPOSURE TO LEAD (see I&S No 18/75). In fact it has submitted a proposal to the Council of Ministers for a directive on biological standards and screening for lead exposure. A seminar on the subject was held recently in Galway, Ireland. The venue was particularly appropriate since a local hospital - the Western Health Board's Regional Hospital - has considerable experience in the field situated as it is close to a number of lead mines. At the seminar, specialists discussed a number of epidemiological studies on lead which have been carried out in Europe in recent years. The Regional Hospital in Galway is to undertake a pilot project on biological sampling to determine blood lead levels and enzyme activity.

** The European Commission feels that the Community as such should accede to the European Convention for the PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT. This Convention was drawn up under the auspices of the Council of Europe and signed in Paris in December 1968. It contains provisions relating to feeding, watering, health and welfare, loading, unloading, etc. The Commission has been urging Member States to ratify the Convention and most of them have already done so. Now it is proposing to the Council of Ministers that the Community accede to the Convention. This, it feels, would ensure uniform interpretation of the Convention and rule out problems arising from divergent interpretations.

** The European Commission recently published the findings of a study on cyanides, phenols and hydrocarbons in SURFACE WATERS. This report gives details of comparative studies carried out at European level. The author, Mr Sonneborn, from the Institut für Wasser-, Boden- und Lufthygiene of the Bundesgesundheitsamt in Berlin worked in conjunction with the Commission's Directorate for Health Protection.

EURO-BAROMETER No 3

The results of this poll are particularly interesting because it was conducted in a period of economic difficulty, on the eve of the British referendum, and a few months before the debates on European Union and direct elections to the European Parliament got under way. About 9 500 people of 15 or over were questioned by eight specialist institutes in the nine Community countries.

The main results were as follows:

1. The most important problem faced by interviewees in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Italy and France was inflation (prices, wages, family budget). Only one in ten (two in ten in France) felt that unemployment was the major problem.
2. The most important problem facing the Community at present was felt to be the common fight against rising prices. Next came nature conservancy and consumer protection. Energy policy, which lay second in November 1974, now lies fourth. A common European front in discussions with the United States and Russia is regarded as very important and comes fifth.
3. Most interviewees favoured concerted European action rather than independent action by each government to deal with these problems.
4. In spite of the socio-economic difficulties most countries are facing, the general attitude to the European Community remains very favourable, particularly in the six founder members: 63% think the Community is "a good thing".

Support for the Common Market is increasing rapidly in the United Kingdom; the results of the poll, conducted in May, were confirmed by the referendum on 5 June: 47% of British interviewees felt that the Community was a good thing, as opposed to 36% last November and 33% in May 1974.

Attitudes in Ireland have scarcely changed: 50% were in favour of the Community. In Denmark, the percentage in favour has increased slightly: the figure is now 36% as against 33% in November 1974.

5. For the first time since September 1973, interviewees were asked what they thought about direct elections to the European Parliament.

In the six founder countries 71% of those interviewed were either "completely in favour" (31%) or "in favour on the whole" (40%). Only 11% were completely against and 18% "didn't know".

In Ireland only 22% were against and 55% were in favour, a 10-point increase on September 1973.

The percentage in favour has risen in the United Kingdom too: 41% are for and 43% against compared with 33% for and 49% against in September 1973.

In Denmark 35% are for and 33% against, the only significant change on September 1973 being the increase in the number of "don't knows" and the drop in the number of unfavourable replies.

6. Lastly the interviewees were asked whether they were for or against the European Community developing into a political union.

Here again the six founder countries were the most enthusiastic: 67% were for and 13% against. In Ireland there was almost a photo-finish: 37% for and 38% against. In the United Kingdom (36% for and 46% against), and even more so in Denmark (21% for and 54% against), people were decidedly less enthusiastic.

A number of questions were asked on the attitudes of men and women to society, to the situation of women and to the unification of Europe. One of the questions was: "Do you think the development of the European Community would have a good or bad effect, or no effect at all, on the situation of women?". Only in Italy and in Ireland did 50% or more of interviewees feel that it would have a good effect. On the whole, a lack of information and a failure to see any connection between the development of the Community and changes in society made interviewees rather non-committal.

If a referendum along the lines of the recent British one were to be held it is probable that most Europeans would support the Community though there might not be a majority in all Member States (see table below).

	Out of 100 opinions expressed ¹				
	The Six	Ireland	United Kingdom	Denmark	Nine
Is the Common Market a good or a bad thing?					
• A good thing	93	71	69	59	87
• A bad thing	7	29	31	41	13
Should a European Parliament be elected by universal suffrage?					
• Yes	87	71	49	51	78
• No	13	29	51	49	22
Should progress be sought towards political union?					
• Yes	84	49	44	28	74
• No	16	51	56	72	26
¹ Excluding abstentions, indifferent replies and "don't knows".					

CITIZENS OF EUROPE

Europe has tended to place so much emphasis on trade that Europeans have so far failed to feel that they are citizens of Europe. Two recently released documents should restore the balance. One considers the possibility of a uniform passport for all Community nationals, the other discusses the "special rights" that might be accorded to Community citizens living in a Community other than their own.

Passport Union

The idea of a passport union was first mooted at the Paris Summit in December 1974 by the Heads of State and Government. Three courses of action were proposed: the introduction of a uniform passport, the harmonization of legislation affecting aliens and the abolition of passport control within the Community.

The new passport would be issued by each Member State to its own nationals. Passports throughout Europe would look the same and demonstrate a connection not only with a given country but also with the Community. The new Community passport, like existing national passports, would be valid not only within the Community but also vis-à-vis non-member countries.

The psychological effect of this venture would be lasting if the nine Member States were to affirm the Community's existence as an entity vis-à-vis non-member countries and in time get them to agree to according identical treatment to the all Community nationals.

Once the Community is regarded as an entity, moves could be made to abolish passport controls within the Community. The passports of non-Community nationals would then be checked on entry into the Community, the country of entry carrying out the check on behalf of the Community. Logically, non-Community nationals would then have to be accorded equal treatment by all Member States. This is an obvious corollary of the equal treatment which the Community would hope to secure for its citizens travelling in non-member countries. This raises the question of harmonizing legislation affecting aliens. Because so many problems are involved, the European Commission has already sent a memo to the Council of Ministers, setting out some of the points which will need to be studied by an ad hoc working party.

Special rights

The "special rights" mentioned at the Paris Summit in 1974 are rights which would be accorded to European citizens living in a Community country other than their own. These special rights are basically political and include the right to vote, to stand for election and to hold public office in the Member States.

It might be possible initially to grant everyone the right to vote and to stand for election at municipal level, together with right of access to public office dependent on election at this level. But even here there are a number of problems. In some Member States the mayor is elected directly by the citizens, in others by the municipal councillors, in others he is nominated by the central authority. If non-nationals were eligible for direct election only they would not have the same rights in all Member States. Moreover, the right to stand for election is meaningless without right of access to public office. Lastly, the right to stand for election implies the possibility of conducting a campaign and raises the problem of the right to found a political association.

The Commission has indicated a number of issues associated with "special rights" which will have to be referred to an ad hoc working party.

MADE TO MEASURE

Measuring instruments of all kinds play a vital role in trade and industry, which is why the European Commission is endeavouring to have minimum Community standards incorporated into national legislation. "Continuous totalizing weighing machines" and "taximeters" are two topical examples.

The man-in-the-street is scarcely aware of the existence of continuous totalizing weighing machines which are used to measure bulk goods loaded onto or unloaded from ships, lorries or trucks, without wasting time or slowing down the work. The European Commission however is very much aware of the importance of these machines and its proposal for harmonized technical specifications was recently adopted by the Council of Ministers. This will facilitate free movement of these machines - and the goods they weigh - to the benefit of consumers everywhere.

The European Commission based its examination of the problem of taximeters on a recommendation recently adopted by the International Organization of Legal Metrology (IOLM). The IOLM specifications were based on broad international agreement which means that European firms would be able to market their taximeters outside the Community if they met these specifications.

Free movement of taximeters has been hampered until now by vastly divergent national regulations, not only in the matter of technical specifications relating to manufacture, materials, scales and labelling but also the question of accuracy criteria and metrological methods used to check meters before they are sold and used.

This situation has been forcing manufacturers to diversify production to comply with regulations in each country and to submit to a variety of checks carried out in different ways.

The proposal produced by the European Commission covers technical specifications, the height of the figures on the dial, the sealing of certain components, etc. Nothing can be left to chance with measuring instruments: the proposal even finds it necessary to specify that "reversing the vehicle must not result in a reduction in the fare or distance shown". If all goes according to plan, the Council of Ministers should adopt the Commission's proposal before 1 January 1976.

Below is a list of Directives on measuring instruments already adopted by the Council of Ministers:

	<u>Date of adoption</u>	<u>OJ</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Measuring instruments and methods of metrological control	26.07.1971	L 202/1	06.09.1971
2. 5 to 50 kg medium accuracy rectangular bar weights and 1 to 10 kg medium accuracy cylindrical weights	26.07.1971	L 202/14	06.09.1971
3. Gas volume meters	26.07.1971	L 202/21	06.09.1971
4. Meters for liquids other than water	26.07.1971	L 202/32	06.09.1971
5. Ancillary equipment for meters for liquids other than water	12.10.1971	L 239/9	25.10.1971
6. Measuring the standard mass per storage volume of grain	12.10.1971	L 239/1	25.10.1971
7. Calibration of the tanks of vessels	12.10.1971	L 239/15	25.10.1971
8. Units of measurement	18.10.1971	L 243/29	29.10.1971
9. Non-automatic weighing machines	19.11.1973	L 335/1	05.12.1973
10. Material measures of length	19.11.1973	L 335/56	05.12.1973
11. 1 mg to 50 kg above-medium accuracy weights	04.03.1974	L 84/3	28.03.1974
12. Cold water meters	17.12.1974	L 14/1	20.01.1975
13. Making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids	19.12.1974	L 42/1	15.02.1975
14. Bottles used as measuring containers	19.12.1974	L 42/14	15.02.1975
15. Continuous totalizing weighing machines	24.06.1975		