

WEEKLY

industry and society

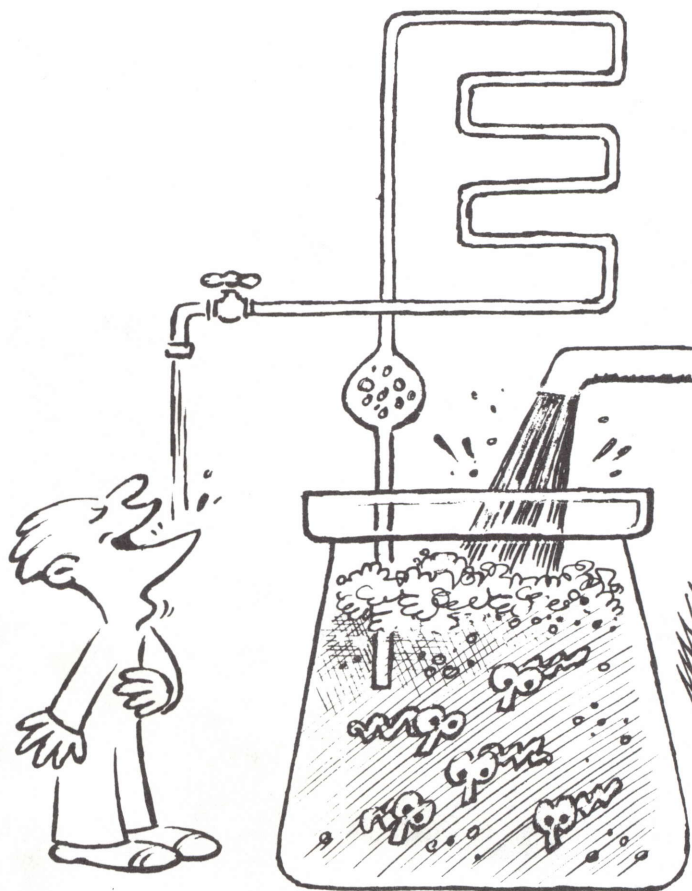
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**The average amount of WATER used per head of population per day varies from one Community country to another, ranging from less than 150 to more than 500 litres. This being so the importance of the proposal drawn up by the European Commission for a directive on the quality of water for human consumption is self-evident.

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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.

PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BELGIUM

1049 BRUSSELS
Rue de la Loi 244
Tel. 735 00 40

DENMARK

1457 COPENHAGEN
4 Gammeltorv
Tel. 14 41 40

FRANCE

75782 PARIS CEDEX 16
61, rue des Belles-Feuilles
Tel. 553 53 26

GERMANY

53 BONN
Zitelmannstraße 22
Tel. 23 80 41

1 BERLIN 31
Kurfürstendamm 102
Tel. 886 40 28

GREAT BRITAIN

LONDON W8 4QQ
20, Kensington Palace Gardens
Tel. 727 8090

IRELAND

DUBLIN 2
29 Merrion Square
Tel. 76 03 53

ITALY

00187 ROME
Via Poli, 29
Tel. 68 97 22 à 26

LUXEMBOURG

LUXEMBOURG
Centre européen du Kirchberg
Tel. 479 41

NETHERLANDS

THE HAGUE
29, Lange Voorhout
Tel. 070-46 93 26

SWITZERLAND

1202 GENEVA
37-39, rue de Vermont
Tel. 34 97 50

UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037
2100 M Street, N.W.
Suite 707
Tel. (202) 872-8350

NEW YORK 10017
277 Park Avenue
Tel. 371-3804

**Annex 1 outlines the Commission's proposals.

**Now that unemployment is a burning issue throughout the Community, what can the EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND do to help?

The aims and achievements of the Fund and a number of suggestions for possible improvements are set out in ANNEX 2.

**If present trends continue, PRIVATE CONSUMERS' EXPENDITURE could well pick up in the months ahead. Consumers are now more optimistic than they were in January, not only about the general economic situation in the past year, but also about the prospects for the coming year. This was the general picture to emerge from the European consumer survey carried out in May 1975 for the Commission of the European Communities.

In Denmark 30% of those interviewed felt that the general economic situation would improve over the next twelve months, as against 24% at the beginning of the year. The corresponding figures for Germany were 28% and 18%, for France 14% and 12%, for Italy 23% and 15%, for the Netherlands 17% and 11% and for Belgium 12% and 6%. Irish consumers expected no change while in the United Kingdom confidence was on the wane (17% in May as against 21% in January).

The growing confidence of continental consumers was also reflected in their views on the future unemployment trend. British consumers however were more pessimistic than in January.

European consumers' views as to future trend of prices showed a greater degree of divergence. In Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and above all Belgium, there was a drop in the number who felt that prices would continue rising as rapidly as or even more rapidly than up to now. In France and the United Kingdom confidence was less marked, while in Denmark and especially in Ireland the feeling tended to be that inflation would accelerate.

In almost every country there was an increase in the percentage of those questioned who felt that there would be a slight improvement in their financial situation, and in the percentage of those who felt that there would be no change. This did not apply to the United Kingdom, where the mood remained pessimistic.

**The main fact to emerge from the survey of social accounts carried out by the Statistical Office of the European Communities is that SOCIAL EXPENDITURE has been increasing steadily in all nine Community countries in recent years. Expenditure between 1970 and 1972 was

as follows (in milliards of national monetary units):

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Germany	141.3	160.9	183.2
France	148.0	166.4	187.5
Italy	10 912	12 715	15 446
Netherlands	23.84	28.41	34.07
Belgium	233.9	260.3	304.7
Luxembourg	8.80	9.95	11.31
United Kingdom	8.24	9.42	10.67
Ireland	0.214	0.252	0.299
Denmark	23.21	27.30	30.54

The survey (Eurostat 3/74) is obtainable from the Publications Office of the European Communities, Boîte Postale 1003, Luxembourg.

**Most Member States apply very strict rules to FRUIT JAMS, JELLIES AND MARMALADES. But because national rules on ingredients and labelling differ free movement is being hindered. However, if all goes well small children throughout the Community will soon be faced with a tempting array of European jams when they raid the family larder. The European Commission has included definitions of "jam", "jelly", "marmalade" and even "chestnut puree" in a recent proposal for a directive. Products manufactured and presented as required by the directive will be able to move freely from one Community country to another. Adoption of the Commission's proposal by the Council of Ministers will mean a moral victory for the United Kingdom since it specifies that marmalade, which takes pride of place on the British breakfast table, must be made from citrus fruit. The only exception to this rule will be Denmark for the simple reason that in Danish "marmelade" is applied to all jams with a pulp base, irrespective of the fruit used.

**Figures for registered UNEMPLOYMENT in Member States are given below:

Country	Month	1974	1975	1975/74
Belgium	June	89 858 (3.6%) ³	162 000 (6.2%) ³	+ 72 142 (+ 80%)
Denmark	May	25 300 (3.0%) ³	93 200 (10.3%) ³	+ 67 900 (+ 268%)
Germany	June	450 684 (2.0%) ²	1 002 135 (4.4%) ²	+ 551 451 (+ 122%)
France	May	389 300 (2.3%) ²	736 900 (4.4%) ²	+ 347 600 (+ 89%)
Ireland	June	65 701 (5.9%) ¹	96 250 (8.5%) ¹	+ 30 549 (+ 46%)
Italy	March	1 031 800 (5.3%) ¹	1 090 200 (5.7%) ¹	+ 58 400 (+ 6%)
Luxembourg	May	15	124	+ 109
Netherlands	June	110 500 (2.9%) ²	176 510 (4.6%) ²	+ 66 010 (+ 60%)
Great Britain)	June	515 773 (2.3%) ²	831 316 (3.7%) ²	+ 315 543 (+ 61%)
Northern Ireland)				
UK	June	27 306 (5.2%) ¹	38 506 (7.1%) ¹	+ 11 200 (+ 41%)

¹% calculated on basis of working population.

²% calculated on basis of total number of wage-earners.

³% calculated on basis of persons registered for unemployment insurance.

**The European Commission is at present devoting considerable time and attention to ONE AND A HALF MILLION 4- to 18-year-olds, the CHILDREN of the Community's 6 250 000 migrant workers. The Commission is anxious to ensure that these foreign children, from member and non-member countries alike, are provided with an education geared to their specific requirements and guaranteeing them the same opportunities as children of the host country. To this end the Commission recently put forward proposals to the Council of Ministers for a three-point action programme. The first proposal deals with the introduction of a system of intake teaching whereby migrant children would be given a crash language course to help them to integrate into their new educational and social

environment. The second proposal relates to instruction in the language and culture of the country of origin: these courses are essential if the child is not to be isolated from his family background and a knowledge of his mother tongue is indispensable if a young migrant is to be reintegrated into the school system and the social and economic life of his native country. The third proposal covers teacher training: teachers responsible for migrant children must be made aware of the particular problems confronting their pupils; those in charge of intake classes must also be trained in the practical aspects of crash language teaching methods and in the psychology and culture of the children entrusted to them; since no Community country has enough teachers capable of giving instruction in the language and culture of every migrant group, the directive urges Member States to recruit foreign teachers where necessary.

**If REHABILITATION OF THE HANDICAPPED is to succeed, priority must be given to increasing their mobility and to rethinking basic architectural concepts with this in mind. This is why the European Commission is planning to contribute to the financing of various building projects aimed at eliminating architectural barriers to the mobility of handicapped persons. A group of independent experts convened by the Commission less than a year ago has produced a set of minimum requirements (non-skid floor coverings, electric switches and sockets at door-handle level, etc.) to be incorporated into the design of dwellings for wheelchair-users. The Commission's next step will be to organize a meeting of government representatives to examine how these requirements can best be applied within the framework of national legislation.

**The Community's Joint Research Centre at Ispra, Italy, has been carrying out research into the physico-chemical behaviour of SULPHUR DIOXIDE in the atmosphere and the analysis of ORGANIC MICRO-POLLUTANTS in water for a number of years now. This is why the European Commission has proposed that the Community as such should accede to the cooperation agreement which has just been signed by a number of European States in these two sectors.

**The European Commission has been looking into the industry producing SAFETY GLASS FOR AUTOMOBILES and in particular the very close links between Saint-Gobain-Pont-à-Mousson and BSN. Following representations by the Commission the two groups prepared a divestiture plan which they formally undertook to carry through. Alarmed at the threat to the free play of competition the relevant Commission department will be keeping an eye on the various transactions provided for by the plan and will check for compliance from time to time. At the end of last year, the two groups informed their customers that they would be marketing their products separately from 1 April 1976.

**The European Parliament has examined the proposal for a directive drawn up by the European Commission relating to materials and articles intended to come into contact with FOODSTUFFS. Although the general principles underlying the Commission document were approved (see I&S No 31/74), a number of amendments were tabled. Parliament was particularly anxious to exclude the possibility of materials and articles intended for export (and consequently not affected by the directive) finding their way onto the Community market through a back door. The Commission proposal has been amended accordingly.

**It is probable that THE EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS in Dublin (see I&S No 22/75) and the EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE in Berlin (see I&S No 7/75) will be in operation by the end of the year. The European Commission will be represented on the Administrative Boards of both institutions and has now been given the task of preparing lists of candidates for the Committee of Experts to be attached to the Foundation and for the director and deputy director posts. Pending the appointment of their governing bodies, the European Commission has been authorized to deal with any matters which may have a bearing on the aims or future activities of these institutions.

**LAWYERS should be able to practise their profession within the Community regardless of national frontiers. This is the objective of a draft directive recently presented by the European Commission to the Council of Ministers. Basically, any lawyer who is authorized to practise in one Member State should now be able to practise his profession in the other eight. Admittedly the new proposal deals solely with services provided on a case by case basis on visits to other Member States. Right of establishment, i.e. freedom to establish a permanent legal practice in another Member State, involves additional problems which can only be tackled gradually. In actual fact, however, many lawyers are already unaffected by national frontiers: it has become quite commonplace, for example, for lawyers to accompany their clients abroad and advise them in the negotiation of contracts. What is new is that lawyers are now to be allowed to appear before the courts in other Member States, in both civil and criminal hearings. The European Commission has not forgotten that there are differences in national legal systems: Member States will be free to require a foreign lawyer, who wishes to appear in court, to do so by arrangement with a locally established lawyer.

**Low-interest loans are to be granted to part-finance the construction and modernization of some 9 000 DWELLINGS for workers in the ECSC industries. The European Commission has recently approved the allocation of 25 million units of account (1 u.a. = approx. US \$1.3) for this purpose between the nine Member States. Although requirements in the nine Member States are five times in excess of available funds, ECSC assistance will not only provide solid backing but will in many cases act as an initial incentive to go ahead with

planned housing schemes. The Community's low-interest loans usually cover about 15% of the cost of new housing and 30% of the cost of modernization.

**The European Commission is organizing a symposium on "Judicial and Quasi-Judicial Means of CONSUMER PROTECTION" in Montpellier on 10-12 December. The aim of the three-day meeting will be to compare and analyse the characteristics and effectiveness of judicial and quasi-judicial measures adopted in recent years in member and non-member countries in an effort to protect consumers. Information on the symposium can be obtained from the Centre du Droit de la Consommation, 39, rue de l'Université, 34000 Montpellier, France.

1975: A GOOD YEAR FOR WATER

The average amount of water used per head of population per day varies from one Community country to another and ranges from less than 150 to more than 500 litres. This being so the importance of the European Commission's proposal to the Council of Ministers for a directive on the quality of water for human consumption is self-evident.

At the outset the Commission demonstrates the high value it sets on public health by adopting the World Health Organization's definition: "Health is not merely an absence of illness or infirmity, but also a complete state of physical, mental and social well-being".

An analysis of existing national legislation has revealed that the rules applicable to drinking water are neither comprehensive nor at the same stage of planning and development. Some refer extensively to the European standards laid down by the World Health Organization; others are based on national legislation.

The parameters selected can be classified under six headings - organoleptic factors (colour, turbidity, palatability, etc.), physical and chemical factors, biological factors, undesirable or toxic factors, bacteriological and virological factors, and radiological factors. Although there is some measure of convergence on toxic substances, organoleptic factors are seldom taken into account. On the question of microbial contamination, all regulations emphasize bacteriological properties, but there is no systematic attempt to deal with the virological aspects. On radioactivity, Member States generally refer to the measures recommended by the agencies specializing in this field, and in particular to the basic standards drawn up under the Euratom Treaty.

The discrepancies between national rules and regulations inevitably hinder trade within the Community and thus have a direct bearing on the functioning of the common market. It is therefore essential that standards be harmonized. It is also worth noting that some countries are not entirely autonomous as far as water supplies are concerned and are forced to fall back on surface water. Rivers and streams must therefore cope simultaneously with widely differing requirements including those of navigation, disposal of industrial and urban waste and water supplies.

Where international rivers are concerned, it is clearly essential to compare the measures needed and to coordinate facilities for appraising the situation. This explains the continuous efforts over the past 20 years to maintain or restore a raw water quality consistent with the production of drinking water.

Considerable reserves of ground water are now also being drawn on, supplied on a commercial basis and exported to Community and non-member countries. This is particularly true of table waters. In recent years this trade has raised a number of technical, legal and medical problems.

The Commission's proposal lists 62 parameters ranging from calcium content to the presence (or rather absence) of protozoa. The World Health Organization's recommendations have been taken into account as have the findings of the latest investigations into the toxicity of heavy metals. The conclusions of the symposium organized by the European Commission on the effects on health of interfering with water hardness have also been incorporated (see I&S Nos 18/75 and 22/75).

For each parameter values have been given to indicate maximum admissible concentrations (i.e. concentrations below which there is no health hazard), minimum required concentrations (i.e. concentrations essential to health) and guide levels (i.e. concentrations which should not be exceeded).

Provision has also been made for borderline cases to allow for special local situations or natural disasters such as floods. In such instances exceptional maximum admissible concentrations could be applied subject to authorization from the competent authorities.

To ensure that the prescribed standards are adhered to, a complete monitoring programme, indicating the sampling methods to be used and analyses to be carried out, is annexed to the proposal.

Member States will have two years in which to comply with this directive once it has been adopted by the Council of Ministers.

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Now that unemployment is a burning issue throughout the Community, what can the European Social Fund do to help? The general task assigned to the Fund is to promote employment facilities and geographical mobility of workers within the Community. The Third Report on the Activities of the New European Social Fund was recently submitted by the European Commission to the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. It covers the 1974 financial year and provides us with an opportunity of taking stock of the Fund's achievements to date.

The areas in which the Fund can intervene are defined in Articles 4 and 5 of the Council Decision of 1 February 1971 on the reform of the Fund:

"The Fund can take action when the employment situation:

- is affected or in danger of being affected either by special measures adopted by the Council in the framework of Community policies, or by jointly agreed operations to further the objectives of the Community; or
- calls for specific joint action to improve the balance between supply of and demand for manpower within the Community." (Article 4)

"The Fund can also take action where the employment situation in certain regions, in certain branches of the economy or in certain groups of undertakings is affected by difficulties which do not arise from any particular measure taken by the Council within the framework of a Community policy, but which result indirectly from the working of the common market or impede the harmonious development of the Community. In any such cases, assistance shall be granted to eliminate long-term structural unemployment and underemployment, to train a highly-skilled labour force and, furthermore, for measures for the absorption and reabsorption into active employment of the disabled, and of older workers, women and young workers." (Article 5)

These rather lengthy quotations are essential to an understanding of the machinery and scope of the Fund as well as an appreciation of its evolving and open nature.

A breakdown of commitments, expressed in millions of units of account (1 u.a. = approx. US \$ 1.3), for operations carried out in 1972, 1973 and 1974 is given below:

Member States	Operations Article 4	Operations Article 5	Total	%
Belgium	1.6	13.8	15.4	3.30
Denmark	-	17.3	17.3	3.68
Germany	18.8	39.1	58.0	12.36
France	30.7	64.0	94.7	20.17
Ireland	7.9	18.7	26.6	5.68
Italy	4.8	117.3	122.1	26.03
Luxembourg	-	0.07	0.07	0.02
Netherlands	1.07	13.7	15.4	3.28
United Kingdom	9.9	109.7	119.6	25.48
Total	75.4	393.7	469.4	100%

(Figures and percentages have been rounded)

A total of 254 546 131.38 units of account was committed under the 1974 budget for projects put forward by the Member States, 47 437 267.75 being authorized for operations under Article 4 and 207 108 963.63 for operations under Article 5.

In June 1974 the Community decided to open the Fund to two new sectors. In the first place it was agreed that assistance should be provided for migrant workers, the main aims being to improve the conditions accompanying the migration of workers and their integration into a new social and working environment, and to ensure a better balance in the case of Community manpower, taking account both of the need for growth in the central areas of the Community and of the priority to be given to the development of backward areas.

The second new category to be helped were the handicapped, such assistance being mainly directed to improving the quality of teaching methods and materials used to assist handicapped persons to integrate into social and working life.

In response to a request from the European Parliament, the report includes a critical review of the real impact of the Fund on Community employment policy. One of the facts to emerge is that the Fund accounts for between 5 and 10% of total public spending by all Member States on adult vocational training. This percentage is sufficiently high to provide Member States with an incentive to take action in this field. The fact that the Fund has little real impact on national policies is explained by:

- (1) the limited resources available to the Fund;
- (2) the fact that only Member States are entitled "to forward to the Commission applications for assistance from the Fund";
- (3) the legal, material and psychological restrictions encountered by the Commission in its efforts to coordinate employment policy at Community level.

The European Commission's forecast of expenditure over the next few years has been based on an annual average rate of increase of 20-25% for the present areas of intervention. The Fund's budget for 1975 is 355 million units of account. In view of the critical economic and social situation the Commission has asked that a total of 500 million units of account be allocated to the Fund in 1976.