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A PEOPLE'S EUROPE

(Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The idea of a People's Europe evolved in parallel to that of European Union. Following the 1973 report on the European identity, the Heads of State or Government agreed at their summit in 1974 to have a study carried out of the special rights which could be granted to the citizens of the Member States as members of the Community.

The Tindemans Report on European Union, noting that Europe must be close to its citizens, advocated the following courses of action:

- protection of the rights of Europeans
- concrete manifestation of European solidarity in everyday life.

This idea was given a considerable boost by the introduction of elections to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage. In its resolutions Parliament has laid particular stress on devising a policy which involves European citizens in the creation of a living Community and on transforming the technocrats' Europe into a people's Europe.

The Fontainebleau European Council in June 1984 undertook to give the Community a new dimension which would bring it closer to the citizens of Europe. To this end it instructed an *ad hoc* committee to pinpoint action which would enable the Community to respond "to the expectations of the people of Europe by adopting measures to strengthen and promote its identity and its image both for its citizens and for the rest of the world".

The *ad hoc* Committee on a People's Europe, chaired by Mr Adonnino and made up of representatives of the Heads of State or Government and of the President of the Commission, spent over six months at work, and drew up two reports for the European Council.

The first of these, which was presented in March 1985, pinpoints practical measures which would enable individual European citizens to enjoy freedom of movement and right of residence throughout the Community, whether in a private or professional capacity.

The second report, presented in June of the same year, was designed to give the Community a new political, cultural and social dimension by proposing specific measures such as new citizens' rights, increased mobility for young people and Community-level, action geared to health protection and the promotion of culture.

The Milan European Council approved the proposals of the *ad hoc* Committee on a People's Europe and called on the Community institutions to adopt measures to implement them as soon as possible.

A large number of proposals and initiatives have since been launched by the Commission to give effect to the recommendations contained in both reports.

Since it took office in 1985, the present Commission has demonstrated the importance it attaches to a People's Europe by giving one of its Members special responsibility for policy in this area, which has also been placed on the Commission's list of priorities following the decisions of the Brussels European Council in February of this year.

1.2. Entry into force of the Single Act and the 1992 deadline for achieving an area without frontiers have lent further impetus to a People's Europe. The removal of physical, technical and fiscal barriers is bound to improve the Community's image in the eyes of its citizens.

This applies equally to the flanking policies, such as economic and social cohesion, which reflects the spirit of solidarity with the less prosperous regions, and the new spheres of activity opened up by the Single Act, such as social, environmental and monetary policy, which directly affect the citizen as an individual and not just as an actor on the economic stage.

The widening of horizons strengthens the sense of a common identity, the feeling of belonging to the same Community. But it also calls for a greater effort on the part of the Community institutions to increase public awareness and information. Community activities in future will have a far more direct impact than in the past on all European citizens. The citizens themselves must be aware of this. Not only will this enable them to benefit from the European dimension, but it is also essential if they are to defend their interests and express their political aspirations at Community level as they are accustomed to doing at national, regional and local level.

1.3. For this reason the third elections to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage due to be held in 1989 provide an ideal opportunity to forge closer links with the people of Europe.

The elections will give Europeans a chance to express their views on the future direction of Community policy. It is essential that they are motivated and made aware of the significance of this event. Only by turning out to vote in large numbers can they be sure of making a real impact on European policy.

The task of motivation falls primarily to the Members of the European Parliament and the political groups.

For its part, the Commission will do everything it can to step up its action to heighten public awareness.

The decisions of the European Council of February 1988 have given concrete form to the revitalization of the Community, which began with the setting of the 1992 deadline and the Single European Act. The people of Europe are at the centre of this revitalization process, and it is important that they should play the leading role.

1.4. Against this backdrop, this communication is designed to review the action taken in relation to a People's Europe and consider the way ahead.

The main object of the exercise is to assess the follow-up to the two Adonnino reports. Most of the measures advocated in the first report were incorporated in the programme to implement the White Paper. The second report focuses in particular on action to enhance the sense of belonging to and identifying with the Community. This sense of European identity has begun to take shape thanks partly to the concrete measures taken by the Community, notably to achieve a frontier-free Europe, and partly to the use of symbols and the numerous and varied initiatives to heighten awareness of different issues among specific sections of the population.

The area without frontiers which the Community is striving to create by 1992 lends a new dimension to the People's Europe. The approach advocated by the Adonnino Committee in relation to frontier crossings was based simply on the easing of formalities. The target laid down by the Single European Act is both more ambitious and more radical: the complete abolition of such formalities, for the individual citizen as well.

It is important for citizens to be informed of their rights and to be able to exercise them fully. They must also be aware of their special rights. In this respect, the Commission's legislative proposals for granting Community nationals the right to vote in local elections in their country of residence are an important manifestation of the People's Europe.

It is also essential that the Community's activities reflect the major preoccupations of everyday life.

2. AWARENESS OF THE EUROPEAN IDENTITY

2.1. European identity is the result of centuries of shared history and common cultural and fundamental values. But awareness of it can be strengthened by symbolic action, consciousness-raising campaigns and the growing convergence of European ambitions.

By doing all it can to promote and consolidate this awareness, the Commission is fulfilling the wishes expressed by the Fontainebleau European Council in June 1984 and by the Adonnino Committee.

The main aim in the fields of culture and communication is to emphasize the essential elements of the European identity and the Community image, both at home and in relations with the rest of the world, particularly the developing countries. European integration will not and cannot be a success unless our young people are interested and involved as well. Hence the value of education, foreign language teaching, exchanges and sport, and the need for Community action to look beyond economic issues to the major concerns of day-to-day life.

2.2. SYMBOLS

2.2.1. The most successful of the European symbols is unquestionably the Community flag. It was Parliament which took the initiative on this front by tabling a motion for a resolution in 1979, which led in April 1983 to the adoption of a resolution advocating the adoption by the Community of the flag used by the Council of Europe.

Once the European Council had agreed to its introduction and the Council of Europe had sanctioned its use, the flag became the symbol par excellence of Community identity and European unification.

The flag and the emblem were adopted by the Community institutions at the beginning of 1986. At the same time they noted the Adonnino Committee's proposal that the prelude to the "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, introduced as the European anthem by the Council of Europe in 1970, be adopted as the Community anthem as well.

The Community flag was hoisted for the first time outside the Community headquarters in Brussels at a formal ceremony on 29 May 1986; it had already been flown to mark the Community's presence at the economic summit in Tokyo in March of the same year. Since then the flag, the emblem and the anthem have all been used more and more widely both inside and outside the Community. The flag flies at the seats of the institutions and outside their information offices and delegations. The Member States have agreed that their diplomatic representations will display the European flag at European events. It is also flown in a number of municipalities and regions and is arousing growing interest from the man in the street. The Commission welcomes this spontaneous development, which signals an awareness of belonging to the Community. It is working with Parliament to encourage the use of both flag and anthem by the people of Europe.

The Commission makes sure that the Community symbols are properly used and plans to take any action needed to prevent abuse, particularly of the emblem.

2.2.2. The European passport is based on an initiative by the Heads of State or Government, who at their 1974 summit asked for a study to be made of the possibility of establishing a passport union and, in anticipation of this, of introducing a uniform passport. The European Council agreed to the introduction of a standard passport in December 1975.

In a resolution adopted on 21 June 1981 the Member States undertook to start issuing this passport from 1 January 1985, a target date confirmed by the Fontainebleau European Council in June 1984.

The European passport has now been introduced in all the Member States except the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, where it should be introduced in late 1988 or early 1989. It was introduced in Germany on 1 January 1988 but has not yet been issued to members of the public because of technical problems. The Commission welcomes the decision of Spain and Portugal to discontinue the stamping of the passports of nationals of the other Member States.

2.2.3. Parliament has always shown particular interest in the issuing of a European postage stamp and in the alignment of postal rates.

The Commission's first initiative on postal rates goes back to the early sixties. Internal rates are now applied to standard letters to destinations throughout the Community by all the Member States except, for the time being, Greece, Spain and Portugal. The Commission considers that there is every reason for all the Member States to apply their internal rate to all letters and postcards to all Community destinations and will continue to work to this end.

The Commission has kept in regular contact with the postal authorities of the Member States in an attempt to clear the way for the joint issue of a stamp with the same design to commemorate a European event. In 1988 four Member States (Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg) will be issuing a stamp commemorating the centenary of the birth of Jean Monnet.

The Commission is continuing to press for a joint Community issue, if possible with the same design, to mark the third elections to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage in 1989.

The ultimate aim is to programme a whole series of "European" stamps.

The Commission is already setting its sights on a joint Community issue, if possible with the same design, to mark the 1992 deadline for the frontier-free area. As for its design, the Commission could organize a European competition in conjunction with the postal authorities and invite artists throughout the Community to participate.

The Commission is obviously aware that to fix the same value in the twelve Member States for a stamp valid throughout the Community would give rise to problems due to variations within the European Monetary System, as well as to problems of standardization. But it would be feasible for each of the Member States to introduce at least one stamp indicating the equivalent value in ECU, as was recently done in France. The symbolic and publicity value of such a stamp is self-evident.

2.2.4. The replacement of customs signs at the Community's internal frontiers is one of the symbolic measures advocated by the Adornino Committee and approved by the Milan European Council in June 1985. At the end of 1986 the Council adopted a resolution on the introduction of appropriate signs at external and internal Community frontiers. The aim is to replace the "customs" signs at internal frontiers with standard signs indicating the name of the Member State against the background of the European flag.

Despite the Commission's efforts to encourage the application of this resolution in the Member States - it should have taken effect from 1 January 1988 - the necessary action has still not been taken. The most that the Commission has been able to ascertain is that technical meetings have been held between the Member States signatory to the Schengen agreement with a view to its gradual implementation.

The Commission has also made an effort to promote awareness at certain representative crossing points at internal borders. It has commissioned a number of full-size signs, which have been available since December 1987. The first ceremony was organized recently at the Caia/Badajoz border post between Portugal and Spain.

The Commission is aware of Parliament's interest in this resolution and would call on it to persuade the Governments of the Member States to do everything in their power to implement it before the summer holidays.

2.2.5. Harmonization of some technical aspects of car number plates has been on the agenda for many years; an initial Directive on the subject was adopted as long ago as 1970. And the European car industry is in favour of harmonizing dimensions on both economic and technical grounds.

The Commission and the Member States are currently looking into the feasibility of harmonization with regard to dimensions, improved readability, more or less standard presentation and the incorporation of a European symbol.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has taken the lead by changing the design of its number plates in October 1987 to incorporate the Community emblem.

2.2.6. Our common history is also reflected in Europe-wide celebrations. The first Europe Day was celebrated on 9 May 1986, the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration. The centenary of the birth of Jean Monnet, another of the founding fathers of Europe, which is being celebrated this year, is a similar affirmation of our common history. The Commission is planning a major event to mark this centenary on 9 November.

Similarly, the symbolic value of the large-scale campaigns and events organized over the years (music, road safety, the environment, cinema and television, the fight against cancer, tourism, etc.) strengthens the feeling of belonging to one and the same "community".

2.3. CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING

2.3.1. Symbols play a key role in consciousness-raising but there is also a need to make the European citizen aware of the different elements that go to make up his European identity, of our cultural unity with all its diversity of expression, and of the historic ties which link the nations of Europe.

Since the Brussels European Council in February, the 1992 deadline - with all that this implies for people's daily lives - and the genuine prospect of a common economic area have acquired a higher profile.

But the Commission would stress that it is only one of the agents in the campaign to mobilize the European public and that it has no wish whatever to monopolize the dissemination of information on European affairs. Quite the reverse. This function must be shared with the other political forces in the Community and the Member States, with the press, and with the many associations and organizations involved in the building of Europe.

2.3.2. Ever mindful of the individual's right to information, the Commission is keen to ensure that all Community citizens are familiar with all its policies. The citizen-consumer is thus kept up to date with everything that is going on in the Community. In addition to this general information the Commission has also taken care to focus its efforts on specific target groups such as women, young people and consumers. It also provides daily information on what it is doing and on the main issues of the moment.

It is up to Parliament to add the essential dimension of political awareness. The campaign for the third direct elections offers a golden opportunity. And, moreover, this time round, the Community appears before the electorate with new vim and vigour and genuine prospects for integration and unification.

As far as women are concerned, since 1986 the Community has been implementing the second action programme on equal treatment for men and women with regard to access to employment and vocational training, as well as to pay and working conditions. The programme clearly slots into a People's Europe and seeks both to consolidate past achievements and to promote positive change by practical and pragmatic action.

Young people too, with exchange schemes for young workers and the YES for Europe programme are a priority target of Community action.

In addition, on the cultural front the Commission has organized a number of projects for young people, including the Youth Orchestra and the 'Europe of Tomorrow' young scriptwriters competition.

It is in their role as consumers that the public is especially affected by Community action. There is therefore everything to be gained by drawing its attention to the fact that the health, safety, information and economic interests of the consumer have been the main focus of legislation that goes back to the early seventies. Adoption by the Council of the Regulation on toy safety and the Commission's proposals relating to harmonization of the methods for calculating interest rates on consumer credit and to package holidays are significant in this respect. The Commission has also recommended that the Council increase consumer involvement in standardization. In some Member States the Commission is also involved in pilot projects to improve consumer redress. The prospect of the large single market adds a new dimension to the increasing awareness of the European consumer.

2.3.3. The Commission stimulates awareness and raises consciousness in a number of ways.

It makes its presence felt at fairs and exhibitions and at specifically Community events. The European festivities in Brussels in May 1987 and in Hannover in June are an example of this, as were the major events to round off the European Year of the Environment in March 1988 in Brussels and in the Member States.

As for the written word, the Commission has published mass circulation booklets such as Travelling in Europe, Europeans, You have Rights, and European File, as well as mounting poster campaigns.

Film, radio and television can speak to a huge audience 'face to face'. The Commission has capitalized on this by producing its own films, clips and audiovisual material designed to illustrate the Community's institutional mechanisms and highlight the special features of European identity. The Commission also provides support for television broadcasts on Europe; these include documentaries, cultural programmes and light entertainment, such as the Eurovision Song Contest and Europe-Europa.

A feasibility study has been carried out on the planning and operation of a Euro-lottery, as advocated in the Adonnino report, but unfortunately, imaginative though the idea is, the Member States seem reluctant to put it into practice for the time being.

Then there are the general information campaigns mounted in a number of Member States, in which the Commission focuses more specifically on the preoccupations of everyday life.

The environment and the quality of life are top of the list, as a recent survey revealed. As part of an action programme for European Year of the Environment, which has just ended, the Commission organized a whole series of events and one-off projects throughout the Community.

The Commission has also set up and encouraged a wide range of specific activities in which the public has played an active part: town twinning has been encouraged; European sports events have been supported (the European Community Games, the European Cycle Race and the European Yacht Race, to name but a few); and the European City of Culture project also reflects the desire for participation by and direct communication with the public. Finally, mention must be made of the regular Eurobarometer surveys, which monitor Community public opinion and are given widespread coverage by the media.

2.4. CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

Since 1977 the Commission, with the steadfast support of Parliament, has developed a "cultural policy" which has helped to boost people's awareness of a European cultural identity. This policy was given formal recognition by the Heads of State or Government at the Stuttgart and Milan European Councils in 1983 and 1985 respectively.

Besides the initiatives taken by the Commission in the exercise of its economic, social and legal responsibilities in the cultural field, this "cultural policy" has concentrated on training for young artists, encouragement for the most representative sectors of cultural activity, the promotion of European cultural events, and the protection of our architectural heritage.

At the instigation of Parliament, this last has been an especially important area of action. By developing training in arts-related crafts within the Community, restoration in particular, the Commission has helped preserve a number of monuments that form part of our European cultural heritage, such as the Acropolis, the Parthenon and Mount Athos. Every year it gives financial support to some twenty pilot projects selected by a panel of international experts to help promoters throughout the Community preserve and keep alive monuments and sites as part of the local environment and as tourist attractions.

Anxious to enhance Europe's cultural potential in all its diversity, the Commission has embarked on a long-term operation to mobilize wider audiences, decentralize the arts and develop exchanges within the Community (free movement of cultural goods and services, improved living and working conditions for artists, etc.). The best examples are the setting up of the European Youth Orchestra and the development of the European City of Culture project.

In the light of the experience gained over the years, the Commission has presented the Council and Parliament with a plan to give a fresh boost to cultural activity in the Community during the period 1988 to 1992. This plan, which fits in with the twin goals of completing the frontier-free area by 1992 and progressing from a People's Europe towards European Union, focuses on the following priorities: creation of "a European cultural area", promotion of the European audiovisual industry, access to cultural resources, training in the arts, and dialogue with the rest of the world. Its implementation should in time help heighten the sense of belonging to a European culture and thereby strengthen the European identity.

In a communications society such as ours, this implies mobilizing public opinion. Though all channels of information, all the media, are important for attaining this goal, current technological progress inevitably involves a growing concentration on the audiovisual industry.

One of the ways in which the Community can facilitate access to culture within the large internal market is the free movement of television services and, by extension, the complete freedom of cross-frontier broadcasting. Hence the publication by the Commission, with the support of Parliament, of a Green Paper on television without frontiers and its subsequent implementation in a proposal for a Directive designed to remove certain legal barriers to the transmission of television programmes throughout the Community, both direct and by cable. This has been supplemented by a Directive harmonizing the technical specifications for satellite broadcasting to enabling freedom of reception thanks to the use of a common standard. Apart from that, 1988 has been declared European Cinema and Television Year in an attempt to bring the problems in this area of activity to the attention of politicians, professionals and the public at large.

The Media programme has also been launched to encourage the development of the audiovisual industry: aimed at professionals in the industry, it involves the setting up of projects for training and for the production, distribution and funding of European cinematographic and audiovisual material. On the basis of the programme the Commission intends to make concrete proposals in the coming years.

The Commission is also planning to present a comprehensive communication on audiovisual policy to the Council (Culture) before the end of the year.

2.5. EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE, EXCHANGES AND SPORT

2.5.1. Education: the cornerstone of Europe

A People's Europe, deadline 1992 and the adoption of the Single European Act confer on education and training a central role in the building of Europe.

From now on systems of education and training must contribute to the Community's economic and social cohesion. A Europe which fails to invest in its human resources, in its skills, in its adaptability and in its entrepreneurial spirit will find that its capacity for innovation, its competitiveness and its ability to create wealth and prosperity have been undermined.

2.5.2. Higher education

Recent Community measures in the field of education are very much the result of the impetus provided by the Adonnino Committee and of Parliament's consistent support for the Commission's proposals.

In July 1986 the Commission adopted the Comett programme for cooperation between universities and industry in the field of advanced technological training and its applications.

This Community programme, which has been in operation since 1 January 1987, has been welcomed in all the Member States. So far more than 4 000 projects have been submitted to the Commission encompassing over 10 000 training periods for students in firms in other Member States and over 500 links between universities and industry for training purposes. Applications for financial support from the Comett programme from 2 000 firms, 1 000 universities and 750 other bodies associated with these projects total almost 360 million ECU - ten times the appropriations granted by the budgetary authority in 1987 and 1988!

Because of the interest shown in the programme, the Commission plans to announce its proposals for a Comett II programme to take over from the present one on 1 January 1990, before this summer.

On 15 June 1987, in response to the recommendation by the Adonnino Committee advocating student mobility, the Council adopted the Commission proposal for the Erasmus programme. This is a permanent programme with a budget of 85 million ECU for the initial three-year period. Its great success in the first two years of operation demonstrates the growing interest among academics and students in better and wider-ranging cooperation between universities and in increased mobility for staff and students.

The Commission has received 2 900 applications for interuniversity cooperation programmes for the 1987/88 and 1988/89 academic years, requiring a total of 134 million ECU from a budget of only 40 million ECU.

The Commission has financed 1 480 of these programmes involving over 1 000 higher education establishments, awarded over 10 000 student grants and made over 5 000 awards to enable university staff to teach on study visits.

The interest aroused by the Erasmus programme clearly demonstrates that the estimates of the finance required, set out by the Commission in its proposal for a Council Decision and endorsed by Parliament, were well-founded (the Council granted only 85 million of the 175 million ECU requested).

The programme is also giving a fresh boost to the recognition of diplomas and periods of study as Community financing has been made conditional on recognition by the student's university of origin of the period of study elsewhere.

2.5.3. The European dimension in education

On 24 May, reaffirming their resolve to strengthen the European dimension in education, the Ministers of Education adopted a resolution designed to strengthen in young people a sense of European identity and to prepare them to take part in the economic, social and cultural development of the Community, thereby contributing to concrete progress towards European Union.

This resolution reflects the desire expressed by young people themselves in a recent Eurobarometer survey, in which they criticized the lack of information on and familiarity with the European Community.

The Member States and the Commission have consequently undertaken to launch a series of measures designed to strengthen the European dimension in education by adapting school curricula, preparing teaching material and organizing teacher training accordingly.

2.5.4. Language teaching

Learning languages is a cornerstone in the construction of Europe. Freedom of movement and establishment cannot be fully realized until as many Community citizens as possible have learned to express themselves in other languages. In the second half of 1988 the Commission will present proposals for a Community programme aimed at promoting foreign language teaching in the Community and increasing the spread of languages. The object of the exercise is to offer as many pupils as possible the opportunity to acquire a working knowledge of at least two other languages in addition to their mother tongue during the period of compulsory education.

2.5.5. Activities for young people

Since the Hague Summit, the Community has sought to associate young people with the European venture and to do something about their special problems. To begin with, the Community has allocated a significant proportion of Social Fund appropriations to measures designed to halt the rise in youth unemployment and, even better, to eliminate it altogether. Secondly, decisions have been taken to encourage vocational training for young people. The action programme adopted by the Council on 1 December 1987 seeks to ensure that all young people who so wish can receive vocational training for one year and if possible two years in addition to their compulsory education. This is precisely what was proposed in the Adonnino report.

On the exchanges front, the Commission has taken action in response to the wishes expressed by the Adonnino Committee and the resolutions passed by parliament. A budget item introduced by Parliament in 1983 has made it possible to finance an increasing number of exchanges of young people, even though the resources available are extremely limited. In March 1986 the Commission proposed a genuine Community programme of youth exchanges (YES for Europe). The programme, which was adopted by the Council on 24 May 1988, has been allocated 18.5 million ECU for 1988 to 1991.

The Commission is now administering the third programme of exchanges for young workers. Since 1984 the programme has enabled young people between 18 and 28 years who have completed their schooling and vocational training to undertake periods of training in other Community Member States in order to perfect their occupational skills and increase their understanding of the culture and society of the host Member State. Generally speaking, the Commission has observed an increasing demand from young people to participate in the European venture through their own personal mobility.

2.5.6. The Commission attaches great symbolic importance to the creation and introduction of a 'youth card' pursuant to the resolution of the Ministers for Cultural Affairs meeting within the Council.

This youth card would be a valuable aid to facilitate access to cultural resources, particularly when young people travel to other countries to improve their knowledge of languages.

The Commission departments have been endeavouring for some time to establish the necessary links between the authorities and the specialized agencies in various Member States. These efforts led in particular to the signing in June 1987 of the Lisbon Convention, which provides for the first steps in harmonization and mutual recognition.

2.5.7. Sport

One of the Community's basic tasks is to "communicate" with its citizens. It cannot therefore ignore the very important place which sport occupies in everyday life. The Commission feels that sport provides an excellent means of communicating with people and making them aware of the European idea.

The Commission's involvement in sport can also be seen as a response to one of Parliament's frequently expressed wishes. The European Council confirmed the Community's commitment to sport at Fontainebleau in June 1984 and at Milan in June 1985, when it endorsed the measures contained in the report by the Adonnino Committee. The Commission tries to encourage the Member States' sports federations to organize sports events at Community level and is striving to have Community teams formed to take part in certain major international events. It would also like to see Member States' national teams wearing the Community emblem on their shirts together with the national colours. Finally, by acting as sponsor, the Commission is trying to "Europeanize" a number of major sports events already in existence.

The Commission has already been involved in a number of such events, including the European Community club swimming championships in Leeds in 1987 and in Luxembourg in 1988, the Constitution Yacht Race in 1984, the Community Cycle Race in 1986 and 1987, the European Community Championships tennis tournament in 1986 and 1987, and Sail for Europe in 1985 and 1987.

As a follow-up to these initial experiments, the plan is now to improve and intensify relations with the sports federations of the twelve Member States and, in particular, with the national Olympic committees. The Commission has recently set up a joint committee on which both it and the sports authorities are represented. The Commission also considers that there should be a Community presence at the Seoul Olympics and in particular at the games to be held in the Community in 1992 in Barcelona and Albertville. The organizing committees have already been contacted. The Commission regrets the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the Olympic committee of most of the Member States.

The Commission will be preparing a comprehensive communication for the first informal Council meeting of Ministers for Sport to be held in Athens in July 1988.

2.5.8. Development volunteers

The success of the development volunteers movement is growing steadily and a large number of operations involving volunteers are under way or at the planning stage.

At present the Commission is looking at the results of the Franco-German volunteer programme. It was asked to examine the possibility of a Community volunteer system by the Council (Development) on 31 May.

2.6. COMBATING THE MAIN PROBLEMS OF OUR TIME

2.6.1. If Europe is to mean something in the lives of its citizens, Community action must also address major everyday concerns. Of prime importance is respect for human dignity and the elimination of expressions of racial discrimination. Accordingly, on 11 June 1986, Parliament, the Council, the Representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council and the Commission signed a Joint Declaration against racism and xenophobia, in which they stressed the need to fight the segregation of foreigners in any form. Health, safety and wellbeing are also particularly important. Community-level action is the right answer for two reasons: the direct public impact and the effectiveness of the measures planned. It is an objective fact that the problems of cancer, AIDS and drugs can be tackled most effectively at European level with prevention, information, education and research programmes. The problems have assumed such proportions, sometimes with all kinds of cross-frontier implications (drugs, disasters), that a Community approach is now a necessity.

2.6.2. At the end of 1985 the Commission consequently launched the "Europe against cancer" programme with proposals for cancer prevention, public guidance, training of health workers and coordination of medical research. The idea for this European anti-cancer programme came from the Milan European Council in June 1985.

Despite difficulties (inadequate appropriations and delay in the adoption of Council decisions) a number of measures have been undertaken.

As regards cancer prevention, the campaign against smoking has been given priority. Three proposals which the Commission has sent to the Council as part of its action to complete the internal market by 1992 are of relevance to this campaign: one concerns the approximation of taxes on manufactured tobacco and the other two the harmonization of the labelling of tobacco products and of national rules on the maximum tar content of cigarettes.

In 1987 the Commission made a start on the coordination of medical research with the decision to grant fifty scholarships a year for the exchange of researchers in Europe and to improve coordination of hospital research on the effectiveness of treatment.

Substantial progress has also been made on the prevention of cancer as an occupational disease (56 carcinogenic substances are now classified). In autumn 1987 the Commission also sent the Council a new proposal for a Directive on the protection of workers.

Finally, in 1987 the Commission secured the approval of the Health Ministers and anti-cancer organizations for a European anti-cancer code setting out, in language which everyone will understand, the best scientific advice on cancer prevention. The object of the public awareness campaign, which began in 1988 with European anti-cancer week (1-8 May), is to distribute this European code through all possible channels: anti-cancer organizations, health workers, teachers, the press, radio and television. The campaign will be built up gradually, culminating in European Cancer Information Year in 1989.

The Commission will be able to draw on its experience with the "Europe against cancer" programme in the measures it is planning to combat drug abuse and AIDS. Although little has been achieved in information and health education in this sector for want of an adequate budget, some progress has been made in the research sector. The subject was given priority in the third programme for the coordination of medical research. The Commission proposes to step up its action against drugs and AIDS in 1988 and will undertake studies and measures in the field of prevention, information and health education.

The Commission attaches great importance to Community measures in this sector which are of direct benefit to the public. As regards health in general, the Council adopted a resolution on the emergency health card in May 1986. This resolution considers that the availability of a standard health card on a voluntary basis would be of considerable benefit to all Community citizens whose state of health should be known in the case of emergency treatment (e.g. allergies or incompatibilities, haemophilia, diabetes, heart disease). As a result of this resolution, a number of measures have been introduced in the Member States to distribute the card free of charge, to provide medical staff with sufficient information to allow widespread use of the card and to examine various problems of medical secrecy.

2.6.3. Civil protection is also of everyday concern to Europeans, particularly in the event of major natural or man-made disasters which continue to hit our modern society. Since 1987 a number of measures have been adopted under a Council resolution. These include the establishment of a guide, the creation of a group of national liaison officers to promote exchanges of personnel, simulation exercises and better use of data banks.

The Commission has been encouraged by its success in 1987 and intends to pursue its commitment to civil protection by increasing the resources for combating natural or man-made disasters and reinforcing resource management capacities. Various practical measures will therefore be proposed in 1988, including the interconnection of data banks, the creation of a standard emergency number to be used in the event of a disaster, the introduction of a Community logo for civil protection and the standardization of technical vocabulary and multilingual terminology so that a standard dictionary can be drawn up for civil protection. All these measures will be accompanied by adequate information for the general public and specialized personnel.

Since 1977 the Community budget has contained an entry for emergency aid to those affected by natural disasters. This enables the Commission to act rapidly to assist Community citizens involved in disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and floods.

2.6.4. Environment

Protection of the environment and the quality of life are of growing concern to the general public. The people of the Community have frequently been a step ahead of the authorities and public opinion has been a positive force behind Commission action.

The Single European Act has given a fresh boost to action in the field of the environment by recognizing its importance in the EEC Treaty, by facilitating the decision-making process and by stressing the need for the environmental dimension to form an integral part of the Community's other policies.

Commission proposals of evident importance to Community citizens include measures for the protection of the ozone layer and for the reduction of air pollution caused by discharges from large industrial plants.

The protection of fresh water and oceans against discharges of dangerous substances, the management of toxic and dangerous wastes and nature protection are also priority action areas of direct concern to Community citizens.

The Commission is also preparing proposals to improve the public's right to information on the environment.

2.6.5. Public awareness of matters concerning nuclear safety has increased considerably in the wake of the Chernobyl accident. The Commission has not been idle and has secured the adoption of measures such as the Community system for the early exchange of information and a Regulation on the radioactive contamination of foodstuffs. It recently sent the Council a proposal to improve public information and protection in the event of a radiological accident.

3. DEADLINE 1992 AND A PEOPLE'S EUROPE

3.1. A FRONTIER-FREE EUROPE

The completion by 1992 of the single European market means, as provided for by the Single Act, the creation of an area with no internal frontiers, in which goods, people, services and capital will be able to move freely. This objective adds a new dimension to a people's Europe and will entail the adoption of new regulations concerning the movement of persons and the crossing of frontiers with a view to their gradual removal so that citizens can really feel that they belong to one large economic and social community.

3.1.1. Crossing frontiers

3.1.1.1. Simplification of formalities

In 1984, on a proposal made by the Commission in 1982, the Council and the Member States adopted a resolution recommending that special checkpoints be set up for the nationals of Member States and that, wherever possible, frontier formalities be limited to spot checks. As a result, in July 1984 France and Germany concluded the Saarbrücken Agreement simplifying checking procedures at borders between the two countries. Since the adoption of the Adonnino report, other steps have been taken to simplify such procedures.

The Council has not yet been able to adopt the Directive proposed by the Commission in January 1985 to abolish all systematic checks at internal frontiers, whatever the means of transport used. This is because, at the same time, it is necessary to tighten up checking procedures at external frontiers and some of the Member States consequently believe that the adoption of this Directive should go together with a resolution dealing with cooperation between the Member States on visa and re-entry policy. The Commission's view is that an interim measure of this sort will only serve a purpose if it is adopted quickly. Otherwise, it would be better to concentrate on the gradual abolition of frontier formalities between now and 1992 (see 3.1.1.2).

As part of the Schengen Agreement concluded in June 1985, the Benelux countries, France and Germany adopted the principle of visual checks at road frontiers between the five signatories, with possible spot checks as well.

In 1985, following the Adonnino Committee's suggestion that the personal allowance (for goods purchased including tax) for travellers within the Community should be increased, the Council adopted a decision raising this allowance for the first time since 1972, setting the amount at 350 ECU. The Council also decided to review the allowance every two years.

3.1.1.2. Abolition of checks

Since the objective for 1992 is the removal of all checks at the Community's internal frontiers, following the meeting of Ministers of the Interior in October 1986 work has begun on a set of measures to allow both nationals of Member States and nationals of non-member countries to move freely anywhere within the Community.

The Commission is actively involved in helping the Member States reach an agreement which will include all the necessary measures.

3.1.1.3. Administrative aspects

As indicated in its annual report to Parliament on the application of Community law, the Commission has taken steps to ensure that citizens' complaints are investigated more thoroughly.

Consistent efforts to streamline the complaints procedure, including the initiation of infringement procedures, under Articles 30 and 95 of the EEC Treaty in particular, should lead to the removal of obstacles at frontiers and ensure greater fiscal neutrality.

With regard to customs disputes (penalties, checks, formalities, procedures), the intervention of the Commission on the basis of Article 30 of the EEC Treaty, by invoking in particular the principles of proportionality and equal treatment, will continue to make a positive contribution to completion of the internal market.

By way of example, intervention on the basis of Article 30 has resulted in a considerable reduction - and in some cases the reimbursement - of fines which were unjustifiably heavy or disproportionate to the offence in question, such as overlooking a detail in the small print of a customs document or failing to present a licence.

In most cases, Commission intervention leads to a satisfactory solution and there is no need to bring the case before the Court of Justice.

These measures will all help to ensure that citizens are better protected.

3.1.2. Free movement of persons

The possibility for any Community citizen to go to another Member State of the Community, to study there, to work there and to stay there without restrictions based on nationality is an essential feature of both the single market and a People's Europe. A good deal of progress has been made on this front, but other measures still have to be taken before the final objective is achieved.

The right of establishment and freedom of movement for all workers - those in paid employment and the self-employed - are principles enshrined in the Treaty and secondary Community legislation, but in some cases enjoyment of these rights is hampered by national rules relating to the recognition of diplomas and qualifications or to social security.

3.1.2.1. Right of establishment

As regards the professions, recognition of diplomas is now a reality for architects and for most of the medical and paramedical professions (doctors, dentists, nurses, veterinary surgeons and midwives).

In 1986, in response to the conclusions of the Fontainebleau European Council and the Adonnino Committee, the Commission proposed a Directive setting up a general system for the mutual recognition of higher-education diplomas which would provide access to all the regulated professions (other than those covered by specific directives) and thus freedom of establishment for members of the professions throughout the Community. The Council has just adopted a common position, for transmission to Parliament, on this key proposal.

3.1.2.2. Free movement of workers

As regards persons working for an employer, it can be said that, by virtue of existing Community rules, freedom of movement is almost complete, at least as regards legislation. Nevertheless discrimination still persists in the form of inequalities in the treatment of nationals and of workers from another Member State and there are loopholes in Community legislation. For this reason, earlier instruments are being adapted, supplemented and brought up to date.

The Commission will endeavour to have all national provisions seen as incompatible with the rules of freedom of movement eliminated and, at the same time, to amend existing Community legislation on several points. Among the improvements it will be seeking are an extension of the range of persons protected by Community law (to include in particular the members of workers' families), stricter definition of the principle of equality of treatment between nationals of the host Member State and nationals of other Member States, and enhancement of the right of stay for Community workers who are unemployed or in insecure or short-duration jobs in another Member State.

In addition, the Commission will take the necessary steps to ensure application of the Directive which guarantees the children of migrant workers the right to receive appropriate instruction in the language of the host country and which requires host Member States and Member States of origin to cooperate with a view to promoting the teaching of the language and culture of origin.

In this field of social security, the Commission is trying to improve existing regulations on points where they may constitute an obstacle to freedom of movement.

The Commission is likewise continuing its endeavours to complete the work under way on the comparability of occupational qualifications.

The freedom of movement of workers is limited by the application of Article 48(4) of the Treaty, which reserves access to employment in the public service to nationals. Basing itself on the rulings of the Court of Justice, which place a restrictive interpretation on this exception to the general principle of freedom of movement, the Commission has decided to take systematic action with the object of eliminating restrictions based on nationality and thus of liberalizing the conditions for access to employment in a large number of public sectors (agencies managing commercial services, operational public health services, teaching in public establishments, non-military research).

The Commission's first step has been to publish a notice in the Official Journal announcing its intention of bringing about such liberalization.

3.1.3. Right of residence

3.1.3.1. Recognition of the right of residence

For many years the Commission has been trying to obtain the right of residence for all Community citizens in all the Member States. In the case of those who already enjoy this right - notably those in paid employment and the self-employed - the Commission intends to propose extending the scope of the current regulations to include all relatives of workers and of

their spouses in the ascending or descending line. It will also propose measures to eliminate certain administrative difficulties which still persist in connection with residence permits.

Since 1979 a Commission proposal has been on the table to extend the right of residence to all Community nationals who do not yet have it (in particular, students and pensioners). Despite the Commission's endeavours, the Council has not yet reached agreement on this proposal, which is of major importance to the man in the street. Some Member States require proof of a student's means of subsistence before they will grant the right of residence, while others are opposed to recognizing this right for pensioners on the grounds that they would not be economically active.

3.1.3.2. Removal of obstacles to the right of residence

Exercise of the right of residence is hampered by a whole range of administrative rules and regulations imposing a variety of formalities in respect of personal effects, cars and driving licences. As recommended by the Adonnino Committee, the Commission has presented a series of proposals to the Council designed to simplify the administrative arrangements for the movement of goods on changes of residence between Member States and for the temporary import of motor vehicles for private use with a view to avoiding double taxation on personal effects, in accordance with the rulings handed down by the Court of Justice. But the Council has not yet adopted these proposals, some Member States arguing that they would lose revenue as a result and that there is a danger of abuse.

The Commission will continue pressing the Member States to accept the proposed measures in preparation for completion of the internal market by 1992 and the associated approximation of VAT rates and harmonization of excise rates.

Implementation of the 1980 Directive on the introduction of a community model driving licence has simplified the administrative formalities for people taking up residence in another Member State. However, the fact that drivers are obliged to exchange their licence for one issued by the Member State of residence within a year of moving is a source of irritation. The Commission will therefore be presenting a proposal shortly to do away with this obligation, another of the desiderata of the Adonnino Committee.

3.2. THE CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY LAW

3.2.1. After thirty years of European integration, the steady - and sometimes spectacular - development of Community law has produced a legal order which affects the whole of society: those in business, industry and

commerce just as much as the ordinary citizen in his day-to-day life. Community legislation offers him new opportunities, opens up new perspectives and confers on him specific rights which he may exercise both in his private and in his working life if he so wishes. But in order to do so he has to be aware of them.

Community law must therefore be made accessible and brought closer to ordinary people through development of the possibilities for access to the authorities and the courts. People should be able to take action against any kind of administrative harassment. They should also be made aware of their special rights as well as their economic and social rights. and in this connection, the right to vote in local elections for all Community nationals would be the best way of demonstrating the creation and existence of a People's Europe.

3.2.2. The prospect of the unified internal market by 1992 and implementation of the Single Act offer enormous potential for a People's Europe. But they still have to be able to exploit it and must see themselves as benefiting from closer European integration. That is why information, motivation and publicity campaigns on the major aspects of 1992 are so important. One of the major efforts undertaken by the Commission since 1985 has been to ensure full transparency on progress towards completing the internal market, as regards both the proposals it intends to make and the decisions required from the Council.

3.2.3. As far as increasing knowledge and awareness of the law, the Commission has made numerous efforts to inform people of their individual and collective rights, both in general terms and in relation to the large internal market.

Its action has been aimed at people both as private individuals and, through its small business policy, as economic operators (managers in particular). The introduction of the Euro-info centres, although intended only for small businesses, in fact affects millions of European citizens in their day-to-day working lives. These centres are a valuable tool in the effort to alert the ordinary businessman to the prospects and potential of 1992's large single market.

The Commission is also in the process of setting up citizens' advice services in its Information Offices in the Member States.

Radio programmes such as European Law in Action form part of the same drive to publicize the rights of the European citizen.

3.2.4. The role of the citizens' advice services is to inform people about and help them exercise the individual and collective rights - relating to civil liberties, social welfare, taxation or whatever - which they are guaranteed under Community law. They are also designed to encourage and assist interested bodies (such as trade unions, professional associations and women's and youth organizations) to publicize aspects of Community legislation which might be particularly relevant to their members. The services, to be set up in every Information Office, will be manned by an adviser on Community law, who initially will be available for consultation by the general public one half-day per week, with another half-day set aside for follow-up action (research, intervention, etc.).

The loose-leaf folders of "People's Europe information sheets", which will be regularly updated, constitute another valuable source of information. These sheets are currently being put on computer and this will make it possible to increase the number of users considerably. Once the data are on computer, it will also be possible to disseminate information about Community law more widely, in particular among business and legal circles.

The Euro-info centres for small businesses and the European documentation centres to be found in many universities could in time also exploit the data, thereby helping to create an information network for ordinary people to meet the challenge of the single European market.

3.2.5. The setting-up of the Euro-info centres for small businesses fits in perfectly with the drive to publicize and spread awareness of Community law. Their main function is to inform businessmen about the objectives and potential of the internal market and on Community programmes to help small business. So far, some forty of these centres have been set up within existing structures, such as chambers of commerce. The idea is to increase the number substantially from this year. There are also plans to launch a monthly periodical (Euro-info Bulletin), which will include full briefings on the internal market. Individual brochures on specific aspects of the internal market of particular concern to small business are in preparation and will be distributed direct by the info centres. Special publications and a monthly newsletter Target 1992 are planned as part of the same operation.

3.2.6. As far as the transparency and accessibility of Community law are concerned, the Commission has taken a number of steps to consolidate Community legislation in response to the request by the Adonnino Committee. It now consolidates systematically at the latest when the legislation is amended for the tenth time, and earlier wherever there is an urgent need because of the importance of the legislation and the scale of the amendments.

Quite a large number of acts have been consolidated or recast in this way. Also in the interests of accessibility, the Commission has issued a new edition of the Treaties. Various compendia of consolidated secondary legislation have been published (e.g. guides for the professions with a view to the large single market) and a new compendium on the subject of rights of entry and residence is in preparation. Here again, the Commission wishes to give priority to the areas of most relevance to people's day-to-day lives.

Lastly, the Commission remains favourably disposed to any initiative designed to facilitate the decentralized application of Community law by national judges in cases with implications for the Community or to extend individual access to the courts, along the lines of the initiatives taken under the programme for the protection and promotion of consumer interests to improve consumer redress.

3.2.7. The application of Community law by the Member States is also a matter of concern to the individual. The growing number of infringements demonstrates the shortcomings of the Member States and damages the Community's image. This is why the Commission systematically takes action against breaches of Community law by the Member States, either through preliminary measures or, if these fail, by instituting proceedings before the Court of Justice. The Commission's workload has grown steadily in the last ten years, a great deal of it in response to complaints made by individuals. And a growing number of these infringements are of concern first and foremost to the individual citizen: obstacles of various kinds to freedom of movement, right of residence and freedom of establishment; taxation; and environmental and consumer protection. The Commission gives these cases priority treatment.

Since 1983 the Commission has produced an annual report to Parliament on the monitoring of the application of Community law and this has been published in the *Official Journal* since 1986. It enables citizens to keep a close eye on the application of Community law, either directly or through their elected representatives.

3.2.8. If people are to avail themselves of their rights, they must know how the Community works.

This implies easier access to the Community administration, which must become more open to the public and be strong enough to counter any bureaucratic foot-dragging. Both the Commission and Parliament have a role to play on this front. In the case of Parliament the trump card is the right of individuals to petition. The Commission supports the efforts of parliament's Committee on Petitions to strengthen this right by means of an interinstitutional agreement with the Commission and the Council.

For its part, the Commission endeavours to respond as best it can, whether to straightforward requests for information or to actual complaints. The Commission is well aware of the need to make the Community's administrative system more accessible to citizens and complainants. To this end it is planning to adapt its internal administrative structures in order to deal more efficiently with citizens' problems. In particular, it intends to appoint a liaison officer to facilitate and improve contact between the administration and the citizens of Europe.

3.2.9. To turn to specific rights, the right to vote in local elections in the Member State of residence is an important manifestation of a People's Europe. It is also an important adjunct to the free movement of persons, which is one of the objectives of the Treaty, and encourages democratic participation in the life of the local community. The Commission has accordingly proposed that citizens of one Member State resident in another Member State should have the right to vote and stand for election there.

It is regrettable that a large number of Community citizens are deprived of the right to participate in the European elections. Formulation of a uniform electoral procedure, as required by Article 138(3) of the Treaty, should resolve this problem.

4. PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE ACTION

4.1. FOLLOW-UP TO THE ADONNINO REPORTS

4.1.1. The two reports from the Adonnino Committee have been instrumental in generating the political momentum needed to get a People's Europe off the ground. And the Commission has not been slow to take up the baton. In June 1985, soon after it took up office, the new Commission adopted a vast work programme based on the reports.

The Commission has now tabled all the proposals announced in its programme, with the sole exception of the one on driving licences. It has also begun work on all the major initiatives advocated in the work programme, with particular attention to symbols (flag, emblem, anthem, postage stamps, replacement of customs signs) and health (cancer, AIDS).

The 1992 deadline for completing the internal market has provided another boost for a people's Europe. And the Commission has responded by stepping up its awareness campaigns, both through information and through training for young people.

Finally, there is no doubt that the new dynamism which has characterized the Community recently (following the success of the Brussels European Council) has caught the public's imagination too.

4.1.2 More generally then, quite a number of initiatives have proved successful, especially those involving Community symbols (the flag and the anthem) and Community programmes such as Erasmus and Comett.

Other efforts currently under way, such as the cancer programme, are also meeting with a measure of success.

The Council has adopted some of the proposals on the free movement of persons (tax-free allowances, equivalence of professional qualifications, etc.). Persons in paid employment now enjoy almost complete freedom of movement.

However, some proposals are still running into serious problems within the Council. This is particularly true of the right of residence, the easing of frontier checks and Europe-wide television. There is still a considerable discrepancy between the political speeches and the subsequent reactions of the representatives of the Member States in the Council. This is reflected in the persistent refusal by the Member States to recognize that the Community has any powers in respect of individuals.

4.2. COLLABORATION BETWEEN PARLIAMENT AND THE COMMISSION

A people's Europe is produced not by legislation but by day-to-day endeavour. Closely linked to the degree of political, economic and social integration within the Community, it is also the product of the forces activating the European process. Implementation of the Single Act and completion of the large economic area by 1992 are also bound to provide even greater impetus. Dismantling the Community's frontiers will not only affect the economy but will also revitalize European society, which is already in the throes of rapid change.

European integration has been seen hitherto as the product of a certain ideology and of the action of certain political and economic elites. It is now time for it to be associated more closely with ordinary people. In a Europe without frontiers, where increased competitiveness and cooperation will go hand in hand, the individual and his actions will carry far more weight, both economically and socially, in determining our common future. At the same time, awareness of a Community identity based on common values and cultures will be boosted and will gradually reinforce the idea of European citizenship.

It is important for the man in the street to be able to play a full part in this process of change and to identify with a society which is the product of closer and closer European integration. This identification will depend both on the "quality" of the integration and on people's awareness of their economic and social rights and the potential of the large European area.

Public support will be forthcoming only if the Community scheme and commitment to it are clearly demonstrated.

The European elections, now just a year away, provide us with a perfect opportunity to do just this. The Commission is well aware of the importance of this event and is proposing to Parliament that there should be increased cooperation and consultation on the best means of contributing to the creation of a genuine people's Europe. It has already indicated the priority targets of such action.

4.3. EUROPEAN IDENTITY

4.3.1. Cultural measures and Europe-wide television

Revitalization of the cultural sector has been given a boost by the recent decisions of the Ministers for Cultural Affairs meeting within the Council, who have set four priorities for Community action: promotion of the audiovisual industry, a policy on books, training in the cultural sector and business sponsorship. The Commission intends to capitalize fully on activities in these areas and to work towards the creation of a genuine "European cultural area", which would at the same time be open to dialogue with the rest of the world.

The technological revolution in telecommunications, which is breaking down frontiers and creating international audiences, is offering the European venture in general and the audiovisual industry in particular a golden opportunity. The Commission believes that Europe should seize this opportunity to stand up to world competition and thereby preserve its independence and identity. There are three major requirements which the Commission will certainly take into account in the proposals it plans to put forward: support for non-documentary cinema and television productions; the need to provide Europe with an integrated, multilingual television information system; and the challenge of high-definition television (HDTV). The aims of Community policy as proposed by the Commission are therefore:

- to protect and revitalize the European audiovisual industry ("hardware" and "software");
- to safeguard the different national and regional cultural identities, and by extension, the European identity;
- to promote the Community's image in the rest of the world.

4.3.2. Information and communication

In an advanced and complex society like ours, information is an essential tool of integration. If it is to play its part to the full, it must do more than produce facts; it must also provide explanations. And it must become an active medium for dialogue and discussion, so that the people of Europe are more closely involved in the creation of the 1992 single market. Hence the Commission's intention to encourage action:

- to improve knowledge of European affairs by attempting to present Community institutions and decisions in a less technocratic and more digestible fashion;
- to foster mutual understanding of the social, economic, political and cultural situations in the Member States;
- to provide greater insight into public attitudes through opinion polls and to use the findings as a basis for information campaigns on specific subjects such as cancer, AIDS, drugs and education.

4.3.3. Specific initiatives

Experience has shown that positive perception of the existence of the Community has been aided by the introduction of symbolic and tangible expressions of belonging to the said Community. The Commission intends to pursue its efforts on car number plates and on the European driving licence.

4.4. CITIZENS' RIGHTS

As we move nearer completion of the large frontier-free area, greater efforts are needed to encourage the recognition and exercise of citizens' rights.

4.4.1. Political rights

If ordinary citizens are to be involved in the building of Europe, they must gradually be granted at European level the political rights enabling them to do so. The Commission is aware of the importance of this issue, as it demonstrated in its report to Parliament in 1986, and fully respects the wishes expressed by Parliament in this connection. It is consequently proposing a Council Directive on voting rights for Community nationals in local elections in their Member State of residence.

As for direct elections to the European Parliament, it is regrettable that a large number of Community citizens are being deprived of their right to vote. The Commission feels that the introduction of a uniform electoral procedure in conformity with Article 138(3) of the EEC Treaty is essential.

4.4.2. Better protection for citizens' rights

The Treaties, legislation and case law of the Community safeguard the rights specific to the European citizen, such as freedom of movement for persons and goods, equal treatment for men and women, freedom of establishment and consumer protection.

The Commission attaches great importance to the exercise of these rights, particularly with a view to the 1992 deadline. It intends to act not only to increase public awareness of these rights but also to improve their accessibility. It will therefore be reinforcing the role of the citizens' advice services in its Information Offices and stepping up initiatives to provide information on citizens' rights, such as the consolidation of Community law and the publication of guides to specific areas of Community law which have a direct bearing on everyday life.

In order to facilitate public access to the Community administration, the Commission is planning to adapt its internal structures and to appoint a liaison officer, whose remit will be to improve contact with the public and deal more efficiently with the vast variety of inquiries received from the people of Europe.

4.4.3. Charter of Citizens' Rights

The fundamental rights recognized and safeguarded by the constitutions of the Member States form an integral part of the Community's legal system. They are complemented by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Community law has given concrete expression to these rights and can boast an impressive achievement on fundamental rights. It has incorporated classic human rights, created new specific rights and enshrined a number of legal principles.

Parliament's Committee on Institutional Affairs has recently produced a White Paper on this subject, which will provide an excellent basis for further discussion.

The Commission fully supports Parliament's initiative. It has already come out in favour of Community accession to the European Convention on Human Rights and is willing, in parallel with Parliament's efforts in this area, to look into the feasibility and content, possibly wider in scope than the 1950 Convention, of a Community Charter.

In the same spirit, the Commission could consider taking part in certain initiatives to mark the bicentenary of the French Revolution and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizens.

4.5. SOCIAL PROBLEMS

While the Community as a whole enjoys a privileged position with all the benefits of freedom, democracy and social progress, the rapid transformations it is currently undergoing are creating new problems.

These problems are many and varied, and include combating marginalization, developing training and dealing with the consequences of scientific and technological innovation.

These social issues are admittedly very sensitive and complex but we cannot afford to ignore them. Some of them have already been covered by Council of Europe declarations and studies. Others will need to be dealt with in due course by the Community as well.

The Commission feels it is important for Europe to take a serious look at this type of problem, especially with a view to the frontier-free area, and area, and is prepared to work jointly with Parliament to this end.

4.6. CONCLUSION

This paper has shown that a People's Europe is gradually beginning to take shape. The policies of the Adonnino Committee and Parliament's unstinting efforts have certainly contributed to this, and the Commission has demonstrated its unswerving commitment. And now a people's Europe is one of the Council's priorities too. Even more important is the new impetus provided by the Community in stimulating public interest in the European venture, an interest which must now be fostered by the development of Community policies and by the direct involvement of the people in their own destiny.

The Commission has set out in this paper its objectives and priorities for future action. It has also had its say on fundamental rights and on social change. To prepare the ground for a debate on all the issues involved, the Commission is proposing discussion and consultation based on dialogue with Parliament; it consequently attaches great importance to what Parliament has to say.

As for the immediate future, progress needs to be made in a number of priority areas:

- in the field of political rights, Community nationals must be guaranteed voting rights in local elections in their Member State of residence;
- the completely free movement of persons must be guaranteed in its entirety; this means that Member States must recognize the competence of the Community in this area; it also means that certain deadlocks in the Council must be broken; in this context, introduction of a European driving licence is not merely symbolic of belonging to the Community but is also of considerable practical importance to the people of Europe;
- on the education front, the Commission continues to attach great importance to the development of Community training programmes, particularly for young people; the need for action of this sort has been proven by the success of the Erasmus programme;
- action is needed in the cultural sector to make people more aware of their European identity in anticipation of the creation of a European cultural area.

Valuable though it may be to develop Community policies with an economic impact on everyday life, if we are to achieve a genuine People's Europe, it is action that is needed.