



trade union information

No. 1 - 1976

COMMUNITY JOURNAL FOR TRADE UNIONS
produced by the trade union division
(information directorate-general)

REPRODUCTION AUTHORISED

Contents:

1. Employment: European Union demands and Community proposals
2. Directive on equal treatment for men and women workers
3. Council resolution on an action programme for migrant workers and their families
4. Education Ministers adopt action programme
5. Green Paper on employee participation
6. "Europe + 30" begins to take shape
7. Theo Rasschaert leaves ETUC post
8. ETUC meeting stresses public role in nuclear energy development
9. European trade union youth meeting
10. Seminar on trade unions and the Lomé Convention
11. EMF holds women workers' conference
12. Netherlands trade unions and development aid
13. Community labour statistics

OFFICE ADDRESSES:

Dublin:	29 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland.	London:	20 Kensington Palace Gdns, London W8 4QQ, England.
New York:	277 Park Avenue, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.	Edinburgh:	George Hotel, George St., Edinburgh, Scotland.
Washington:	2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 707, Washington 20037. U.S.A.	Cardiff:	The Angel Hotel, Castle Street, Cardiff, Wales.

X/707/75-E

1. EMPLOYMENT : EUROPEAN UNION DEMANDS AND COMMUNITY PROPOSALS

Recent moves at European Community level over the employment crisis (unemployment is now above the five million mark in Community countries) have included:

- (1) decisions by the European Council in July upon the instigation of the European Trade Union Confederation (See "Trade Union Information" No. 8);
- (2) a European trade union mass meeting on the economic crisis, held on 14 November in Brussels. 2,000 trade unionists from France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Italy attended the meeting, which was addressed by Heinz-Oskar Vetter, ETUC President, and by trade union leaders from the different countries;
- (3) the tripartite conference on the economic and social situation held on 18 November in Brussels and attended by ministers of finance and economic affairs, ministers of social affairs, representatives of employers, representatives of workers and members of the European Commission;
- (4) the meeting of the European Council on 1 and 2 December, at which the economic situation was discussed. A delegation of top ETUC officers was received by the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission;
- (5) the meeting of the standing committee on employment, on 4 December in Brussels;
- (6) Council of Ministers of social affairs/labour, held on 18 December in Brussels.

ETUC position

The ETUC statement to the tripartite conference analyses the present economic crisis and affirms its refusal "that European workers should undergo the consequences of the incoherences of a system for which they are not responsible". It proclaims the right to employment for all workers, without distinction of age, sex, origin or capacities. To create sufficient employment, the ETUC proposes:

- (1) a coordinated reflation policy
- (2) measures for the protection of employment;
- (3) measures for the protection of incomes;
- (4) measures to ensure concerted action;
- (5) solutions allowing for avoidance of repetition of the present situation.

Short-term measures

In regard to the first, the ETUC stresses the responsibility to reflate of those countries which have a balance of payments surplus. It considers that expansion should take place mainly in the public sector and in job-creating investments. There should be coordination among EEC countries "so as to avoid any temptation to bring into question the liberation of trade among European countries resulting from the treaties and other existing commitments". More specifically the ETUC wants:

- priority for collective investments and work on infrastructure;
- subsidies and direct assistance - both to firms creating work and those in difficulty - instead of tax allowances. The collectivity and the workers should have, at least during the period of such assistance, the opportunity to exercise influence on and direct supervision of these firms;
- fiscal and other measures encouraging consumption, with priority for disfavoured social groups (for example, reduction or suppression of VAT on certain articles;
- expansionary financial policies;
- selective credit and subsidy policies, in function of the creation of jobs.

The following measures are proposed for the protection of employment:

- development and improvement of measures for the protection of workers in the case of closure of firms, collective and individual dismissals and moving to new types of work;
- sharing of available work among all the workers;
- the utilisation of time not effectively worked for development of training measures inside the firm which could facilitate movement to new types of work;
- intensification of the struggle against clandestine labour.

Employment protection should be accompanied by improvement of working conditions:

- diminution of working time without reduction in salary (weekly, holidays, pre-pension and/or lowering of retirement age);
- supervision by the workers of employment and the organisation of work;
- supervision of overtime.

For the protection of incomes, the ETUC calls for:

- better distribution of incomes and a fiscal policy favouring the lower incomes;
- rapid organisation of a rigorous system of supervision of prices;
- upward harmonisation of periods of unemployment benefit;
- upward harmonisation of pension levels and generalisation of their linkage to the evolution of wages.

Finally in regard to short-term measures, the ETUC calls for a new tripartite meeting to review progress in spring 1976 and for the establishment of joint committees to allow for a global approach and global negotiations in certain industrial sectors, on employment and reduction of working time.

Measures to avoid new crises

The ETUC affirms that "national approaches to the crisis - given the degree of interpenetration of the economies - are insufficient and ineffective by themselves. It is necessary to use to better purpose the instruments already existing at Community level and to create others".

Measures for active employment policy should include the creation of tripartite bodies at regional level for the examination of employment policies, improvement of employment agencies and coordination of their work at European level, as well as reforms in education and vocational training.

In the monetary and financial field, the ETUC proposes the extension of "serpent" type currency agreements to further countries, concertation of monetary and financial policies with a view to a coordinated reduction in interest rates, as well as organisation by the EEC of supervision of capital movements and consequently financial markets (particularly the Eurodollar market).

On investments, prior notification to the EEC of investments above a certain level is called for, on the lines of the system already existing within the European Coal and Steel Community. These should be communicated to a Community Institute to be created, on which employers' and workers' representatives should sit. Forming judgements about investment projects requires on the one hand improvement of the analysis of the evolution of the different economic branches and on the other a clear definition of Community objectives in sectoral policy, regional policy, social policy, protection of the environment, economic administration of energy, policy towards the developing countries.

All Community funds concerned with creating employment should be coordinated, and the ETUC claims the right to participate actively in such a coordination effort.

The ETUC calls for an intensive medium and long-term planning effort. Such planning should have employment as the point of departure.

It is pointed out that the multinational companies cover a large part of world production and world trade: "their importance requires, as a matter of urgency, the establishment of Community rules for these companies, with the setting out of economic, social, fiscal and monetary rights and duties". The ETUC repeats an earlier demand for Community action to permit the formation of trade union committees at multi-national level, having certain rights to information on the running of the firm.

The ETUC document finally calls for partnership between the European Community and developing countries, out of which a new international division of labour can grow.

Development of Community policies

We give below some of the trends emerging from the series of meetings examining the economic crisis. Many of the points mentioned in the wide-ranging document of the ETUC have been taken up, while some others concern matters in the competence of other Community organs.

Vice-President Haferkamp expresses Commission viewpoint

Wilhelm Haferkamp, vice-president of the European Commission, introduced the Commission submission to the tripartite conference. He stressed its view that the difficulties to be overcome were not just current or cyclical, but that longer-term structural problems had to be tackled without delay.

Mr. Haferkamp added that the challenge of inflation and recession could be met only if the need was recognized for closer solidarity between social groups within countries, between the Member States within the Community, and also, between the Community and the rest of the world. The success or failure of this concerted action was of great importance for the future development of the Community.

In the Commission's view, the period of high rates of growth was now past. Conflicts concerning distribution of product and income had brought the national product under strain. This tendency had been accentuated by excess national and international monetary liquidity which had resulted in high rates of inflation. The collapse of the monetary system together with soaring oil prices had turned internal conflicts concerning distribution of product and income into world-wide conflicts.

"Cooperation between unions, management and the governments is a crucial factor in restoring confidence in the economy. But for this to be achieved, the burden of difficulties must first be spread as evenly and as fairly as possible.

"Firms should be expected to improve their financial situation by productivity gains and by greater utilization of capacity and to show the greatest possible restraint in matters of pricing. Price monitoring and rigorous implementation of competition policy would help to limit the scope for passing on price increases.

"If firms are to improve their profit margins and step up investment, the unions should show moderation in the forthcoming rounds of wage negotiations and be prepared to forego, for the time being, the major real wage increases obtained in the last few years, which have outstripped productivity gains and have led to a significant increase in the wage ratio. Any such wage policy is, admittedly, only feasible if workers are involved in the decisions shaping economic growth and kept properly informed of important economic developments.

"In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to the comprehensive study of codetermination and of company structures in the European Community which the Commission adopted last week. The Commission has made its views public:

- in the expectation that they will be able to serve as a basis for discussions matching in quality the importance of the issue, and
- in the hope that these discussions will very shortly produce a political consensus and practical decisions."

Apart from immediate problems of economic recovery, the Community would have to come to terms with the new world economic order which was taking shape. This meant, amongst other things, that

- manufacturing processes previously located in Community countries would now tend to shift to other parts of the world;

- other products would have to be developed in compensation;
- the Community must meet its obligations towards the developing countries and continue to forge bonds of cooperation with them.

There were no easy answers. Solutions must be hammered out by joint consultation. This would work only if the following conditions were met:

1. The Common Market, everything which has been achieved in the Community, must be maintained and consolidated. There must be no resort to protectionist measures.
2. The Community must promote international cooperation within the framework of GATT, the IMF, the North-South Conference and the negotiations with the developing countries.

It was of major importance, Mr. Haferkamp said, that the confidence of the people of Europe be restored, so that families and individuals could be induced to revert to normal consumption patterns and private investment could gather momentum. But there could be no resumption of confidence unless the inevitable sacrifices were shared out fairly and equally.

"It is the duty of all of us to work together, but we owe this effort in particular to those who have lost their jobs because of the crisis, to school- and university-leavers facing an uncertain future, and above all to those socially weak groups which have no organized representation of their own".

The Commission was ready to make a full contribution to this effort.

Conclusions of the tripartite conference

The official communiqué issued after the tripartite conference follows:

The Conference held a frank and searching debate during the course of which the current economic and social situation was analysed, various aspects of the recession examined and future prospects assessed.

The discussion centred mainly on the problems of the recovery of the economy and the employment situation. Several suggestions were made for an active employment policy tailored to present needs.

Other subjects raised were:

- the need to ensure economic recovery without generating another inflationary upsurge;
- the priorities to be given to investment, both on a general level and in undertakings;
- the problems arising from the cost of raw materials and energy;
- the implications of trade policy for economic revival.

At the end of the Conference, the Chairman noted that:

- the Commission would stress in the communication on the economic and social situation, which it would be submitting to the next European Council meeting on 1 and 2 December 1975, the main points which had emerged at the Conference;

- the Commission undertook to examine in further detail the points raised in the day's discussions. For this purpose, the Commission said it would take appropriate steps - in consultation with both sides of industry and within the framework of the institutions - towards finding solutions to the problems facing the Community and its Member States;
- there had emerged a body of opinion in favour of continuing and strengthening sectoral round-table conferences, which the Commission stated it would assist and support to the fullest extent;
- in the light of progress made in the work thus undertaken, a decision might be taken to convene another meeting of the same type as today's Conference.

Trade union representations to Rome summit

Before the opening of European Council in Rome on 1 December, Heinz Vetter, ETUC president, accompanied by ETUC vice-president Bruno Storti, had an interview with the Italian president of the Council, Aldo Moro, the Italian minister of foreign affairs Mario Rumor and with Commission president François-Xavier Ortoli. Subjects of the discussion were the grave economic situation and the need for greater democratisation of the Community institutions.

Mr. Vetter stated afterwards that he had received confirmation of the Community's intention to hold a second tripartite conference on economic and social issues in Spring 1976.

Standing Committee on Employment

After the tripartite meeting the ETUC called for more effective utilisation of the Standing Committee on Employment; governments, Commission and employers' organisations should do everything in their power to speed up the procedures followed by this Committee which had hitherto been too slow. It stressed once again that certain questions had to be examined within joint committees which had still to be created; in this context it recalled the commitment entered into by the European employers' organisation UNICE almost a year ago.

At the meeting of the Standing Committee on 4 December Mr. Toros, president of the committee and Italian Minister of Labour, stressed the importance of holding Committee meetings prior to the session of the Council of Ministers of social affairs; in this way ministers would have available to them during the formal deliberations the opinions both of trade unions and employers.

In relation to employment questions, the two sides of industry gave a favourable opinion on Commission proposals for aid from the European Social Fund for workers in sectors most affected by the present recession. More specifically, they gave a favourable opinion on Social Fund interventions designed to facilitate employment and the geographic and professional mobility of persons employed in the textile and clothing sectors.

Youth employment was discussed by the Standing Committee. An extension of vocational training facilities already provided for under the European Social Fund and the creation of jobs specifically for young people were called for. The discussion showed to the Commission the trends which

it should take into account in the preparation of an instrument in this field which might take the form of a recommendation to member states. (It may be added in this connection that the ministers of education of the nine countries, meeting in Brussels on 10 December, requested the group of educational experts to present by 1 July 1976 a report on cyclical and structural problems of the young seeking employment, to be prepared in conjunction with the employment committee).

Finally, the Commission drew the Committee's attention to the brief given to it by the European Council on 1 and 2 December to prepare a report for the tripartite conference to be held in 1976.

Council of Ministers of Social Affairs

At the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs (Brussels, 18 December) no agreement was reached on Commission proposals for aid from the European Social Fund for workers in sectors most affected by the present recession. The situation is that there are already more demands on the Social Fund than there are resources available to meet them, and needless to say all these demands concern training for new employment. The Council agreed to explore a means of giving more flexibility to the Fund's scope, so that it could provide extra aid for training in industries and regions most affected by the present recession.

The Council prolonged for a further 18 months the decision enabling Article 4 of the Social Fund to be used to aid the textile industry and extending its scope to include the clothing industry.

Other decisions of the Council are reported on separately.

2. DIRECTIVE ON EQUAL TREATMENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN WORKERS

The Council of Ministers of social affairs, meeting in Brussels on 18 December 1975, implementing the principle of equal treatment for men and women workers as regards access to employment, advancement, vocational training and working conditions. With a view to ensuring the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment in matters of social security, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, is later to adopt provisions defining its substance and scope and arrangements for its application.

Under the Directive not only are formal types of discrimination, including those embodied in collective agreements, individual contracts of employment, staff regulations or in rules governing independent occupations and professions to be abolished, but it also makes provision for a positive right to equal treatment in the various fields under consideration. This right is confirmed by the provision that any person who considers himself aggrieved as a result of the failure to apply the principle of equal treatment may pursue his claims by judicial process after recourse, where possible, to other competent authorities. This is to be without prejudice to the freedom granted to certain private educational and training establishments.

Finally, the Member States will have to take the necessary measures to protect employees against dismissal by the employer as a reaction to a complaint or legal proceedings, and are to take care that the provisions adopted pursuant to the Directive, or those already in force, are brought to the attention of employees by all appropriate means, for example at their place of employment.

They have a maximum period of 30 months in which to implement the Directive.

3. COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON AN ACTION PROGRAMME FOR MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Council of Ministers of social affairs, meeting in Brussels on 18 December, approved a directive extending the trade union rights of migrant workers (see "Trade Union Information " No. 9/1975). It passed a resolution on an action programme for migrant workers and their families, the individual items of which will be followed up by Community measures. The provisional text of the resolution follows.

The Council of Ministers:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Commission communication on an action programme for migrant workers and their families;
2. CONSIDERS that in the Community's present economic and social situation, action to benefit migrant workers and their families should concentrate on the improvement of the circumstances of migrant workers and their families within the Member States and in particular on measures which will:
 - (i) continue and enhance the humanization of freedom of movement for workers as provided for in Articles 48 to 51 of the Treaty by means of measures designed to promote, in accordance with the rights deriving from Community acts in force, genuine equality of treatment with national workers, taking into account all the requirements arising in the various stages of migration.

These shall include in particular:

- (a) taking whatever organizational steps are appropriate to, and strengthening cooperation between, national employment services, particularly as regards official compensation machinery, in order to encourage as many migrant workers as possible to use these services;
- (b) offering appropriate assistance to migrant workers and their families to facilitate their integration in the host country, particularly by improving the social infrastructure and making more information available, and by encouraging them to take advantage of the official services available to nationals;
- (c) providing, during the stages of return to and reintegration in the country of origin, as part of the collaboration between the host country and the country of origin, appropriate assistance to those migrant workers and their families wishing to resettle in their country of origin;

- (ii) seek appropriate solutions with a view to eliminating progressively such unwarranted restrictions of the rights of workers who are nationals of other Member States and of their families as may still exist under Community regulations in force.
 - (iii) encourage the achievement of equality of treatment for migrant workers and their families, who are nationals of third countries but legally resident in the Member States, with regard to living and working conditions, wages and economic rights.
3. CONSIDERS that with a view to promoting the social and occupational wellbeing of migrant workers and their families, particular importance should be attached to measures concerning the fields of vocational training, housing, social services, medical and social care schemes including preventive medicine, schooling of children, information campaigns designed to make the general public in the host countries more aware of the problems of migrant workers and their families;
 4. WISHES to see an acceleration of the work undertaken in pursuance of point 11 of the Conference of the Heads of State or of Government in Paris in December 1974, regarding the granting of special rights to citizens of Member States;
 5. CONSIDERS that it is important to
 - (i) concert as appropriate migration policies vis-à-vis third countries.
 - (ii) strengthen cooperation between Member States in the campaign against illegal immigration of workers who are nationals of third countries and ensure that appropriate sanctions are laid down to repress trafficking and abuses linked with illegal immigration and that the obligations of employers are fulfilled and the rights of workers relating to the work they have carried out safeguarded, without prejudice to other consequences of the unlawful nature of their residence and employment.
 6. CONSIDERS that the social problems arising for workers who are nationals of the Member States and their families residing in certain third countries should be examined as necessary;
 7. EXPRESSES the political resolve that the measures referred to in this Resolution be implemented, with due regard to competence of the Community institutions on the one hand and that of the Member States on the other.
 8. CONSIDERS that future developments arising from this Resolution should be examined in the light of the implementation of the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a social action programme.

4. EDUCATION MINISTERS ADOPT ACTION PROGRAMME

Education ministers of the nine countries of the European Community met for the first time as a Council of Ministers of Education on 10 December 1975. It adopted a resolution on a number of European projects and established on a permanent basis an education committee composed of representatives of the member countries and of the Commission. The resolution called by action by the Commission or by member states or by both in the following fields:

- better facilities for the education and training of nationals and the children of nationals of the Member States of the Communities and of non-member countries;
- promotion of closer relations between educational systems in Europe;
- cooperation in the field of higher education;
- compilation of up-to-date documentation and statistics on education;
- teaching of foreign languages;
- achievement of equal opportunity for free access to all forms of education.

5. GREEN PAPER ON EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION

The European Commission has issued a Green Paper on Employee Participation and Company Structure in the European Communities.

The Green Paper (the term is borrowed from British parliamentary procedure) aims to give a new impetus to the debate amongst all interested parties on the decision-making structures of industrial and commercial firms. After the period of debate the Commission will prepare definite proposals for decision by the Council of the European Communities.

The Green Paper itself is divided into two parts. The first part sets out the considerations of the Commission. The second part is a well-researched analysis of the current situation in each of the nine Community countries in regard to employee participation (scope of collective bargaining, consultative bodies, participation on boards, views of employers and trade unions on the existing system) and company structure (present law and practices).

THE TRADE UNION INFORMATION DIVISION WILL BE PUBLISHING

SHORTLY A NUMBER OF "EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION - TRADE UNION

SERIES" SETTING OUT IN DETAIL COMMISSION VIEWS ON EMPLOYEE

PARTICIPATION

6. "EUROPE + 30" BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE

"Europe + 30", the Community's futurology project, is feasible. This is the conclusion of the "Europe + 30" Report commissioned to define the Project and assess it from the point of view of feasibility and profitability. Lord Kennet, a minister in a former British Labour government, who lead the team of scientists responsible for drawing up the Report over the last 12 months, has now presented the Report to the Commission. It was formally accepted by Guido Brunner, the Member of the Commission responsible for research.

The Commission sets great store by an instrument which enables political decisions to be evaluated with reference to their long-term effects. Current discussions on the correct energy, agricultural or regional policy would certainly be facilitated if we had a clearer idea of society's requirements 30 years from now and if we knew the long-term effects of the various policies as a whole. One thing is certain: the earlier we recognize future undesirable trends, the easier it will be for us to forestall them. Accordingly, the "Europe+30" Project constituted an important part of the Commission's research policy programme. The "Europe + 30" Project passed by the Council in January 1974 was initially concerned only with the formulatory stage of the programme.

Under no circumstances should a new body usurp the work of other futurologists, but rather it should utilize this work and adapt it to Community needs. Any gaps should be filled by studies commissioned outside and by the Community's own forecasts. There are 16 priority areas where long-term forecasts would be required and where the interdependence of sectoral trends would need to be demonstrated. These sectors are as follows: climate, population, agriculture, public health, social structure, education, science and technology, industry, energy, raw materials, environment, transport, communications, economics and finance, defence and disarmament and political institutions.

In his speech to the tripartite conference on the economic and social situation (see item 1 above), Heinz-Oskar Vetter, President of the European Trade Union Confederation, stressed the importance to the trade unions of such a body, providing the elements on which medium-term and long-term planning could be based.

7. THEO RASSCHAERT LEAVES ETUC POST

At the meeting of the executive committee of the European Trade Union Confederation, held in Brussels on 12 December 1975, tributes were paid to the work of Theo Rasschaert, whose resignation as ETUC general secretary took effect from that time. Theo Rasschaert is taking up an appointment with the European Commission. He was general secretary of the European Confederation of Free Trade Unions in the Community between 1967 and 1973, when he was elected first general secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation.

Peer Carlsen, deputy general secretary will carry out the duties of general secretary until further notice. (It is a task of the ETUC congress to elect the general secretary: the next congress will be held in London in April 1976).

The executive committee appointed Peter Coldrick as an ETUC secretary. Peter Coldrick was formerly a member of the economic department of the economic department of the British TYC and for the last three years has been secretary of the economic and social committee of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

The meeting issued the following statement on the situation in Spain:

The Executive Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation noted that the change which has taken place in the political leadership in Spain simply means the continuation of a regime which is imposed on the people to prevent democracy from becoming established.

The anti-terrorist law is still in force, and most political prisoners are still in custody; peaceful demonstrations are repressed and democratic delegations from abroad are even harassed, as was the case with the recent visit of a delegation from the Dutch Trade Union Confederation.

In these circumstances, the ETUC requests the Spanish Government once again to take immediate decisions with a view to:

- releasing all political prisoners and granting general amnesty;
- giving all political refugees the opportunity of returning to Spain in freedom;
- granting political parties and free and democratic trade union organisations absolute freedom of action;
- organising free elections by universal direct suffrage and at all levels of political and social life;
- giving absolute guarantee of all human rights.

The ETUC will act in close cooperation with its affiliated trade union confederations inside Spain to:

- denounce all manipulation of international public opinion by so-called liberalisation measures;
- pursue the establishment of true democracy in Spain which will give the people supreme political power and place the control of the trade union movement exclusively in the hands of the workers.

8. ETUC MEETING STRESSES PUBLIC ROLE IN NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The trade union organisations in the energy sector belonging to the European Trade Union Confederation held a session in Florence on 25, 26, and 27 November 1975, at which they outlined the preconditions on which the increased utilisation of nuclear energy must be based. The session was held in collaboration with the Commission's trade union information division.

In the opinion of the Energy Group of the European Trade Union Confederation, the development of all forms of nuclear activity must promote a maximum of economic prosperity and social progress in Europe. This development must consequently be placed under the direct responsibility of the local, national, and European authorities so as to guarantee the public interest.

Moreover, the construction and financing of plants and the research which is necessary if techniques are to be "Europeanised" must be based on extensive cooperation at European level and overlap with a Community development programme.

The trade unions in the Energy Group of the European Trade Union Confederation are also of the opinion that the European Community must carry out technical and socio-economic research in order to solve the problems which the utilisation of nuclear fission energy still involves, and on the other hand to promote the exploitation of alternative energy sources and techniques.

The trade unions of the Energy Group are indeed aware of the important rôle of nuclear energy in present economic circumstances, but they also emphasise the necessity of joint action to develop other traditional or new sources of energy.

As to nuclear energy in particular, the trade unions insist that optimal safety must be guaranteed for both the workers and the populations involved in this sector. From this point of view the trade unions want to be closely associated with the operation and further development of the system of protection against radiation which they insist should be harmonised at European level.

Henri Simonet, member of the European Commission, addressed the meeting as did Fernand Spaak, director general for energy in the Commission.

9. EUROPEAN TRADE UNION YOUTH MEETING

More than 150 trade unionists took part in the first conference of European trade union youth, held on 29 November in Düsseldorf. The conference was organised by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), in collaboration with the trade union information division of the European Commission. The main topic was the growing proportion of young people among those unemployed in the European Economic Community. The conference proposed the creation of a special ETUC commission to deal with the problems of unemployment amongst the young and the reform of vocational training. Heinz-Oskar Vetter, President of the ETUC and the German federation DGB, assured the conference of his support.

10. SEMINAR ON TRADE UNIONS AND THE LOMÉ CONVENTION

On 15 December the information office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Brussels held a seminar for trade union leaders from various teachers' unions in Africa. The theme of the Conference was the participation of trade union organizations in the implementation of the provisions of the Lomé Convention.

Ten trade union leaders from West, Eastern and Southern Africa, and Mauritius, took part in the seminar. The speakers included Jan Kulakowski, who put forward the views of the European Trade Union Confederation and Carl Wilms-Wright, who spoke on the prospects of the International Confederation of Free Trades Unions after its 11th World Congress in Mexico. The European Commission was represented by Giovanni Live, the Division Chief dealing with training in the Directorate General for Development, and by Terry Lacey who deals with Trade Union Liaison for the same Directorate-General.

Aside from a general discussion on attitudes towards the Lomé Convention, there were practical discussions on the aspects of the Convention that will be of interest to the trade unions of the ACP and the EEC. These topics included possible trade union involvement in training schemes and in micro-projects; special provisions for trade union participation in the implementation of industrial cooperation policies and finally the arrangements for consultation with trade union organizations in the carrying out of the different provisions of the Convention.

The seminar reflected the heightened interest of ACP trade unions in the opportunities opened up by the Lomé Convention and was a pointer to the increased contacts that are being established at present between trade unionists of the EEC and ACP countries as a result of the Lomé Convention. The participants made it clear that they welcomed these developments and would like a lot more information to reach the grass root organizations in the ACP countries so that knowledge about the Convention could reach workers, especially in the countryside, who really needed to know about these new opportunities.

11. EMF HOLDS WOMEN WORKERS' CONFERENCE

The European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) held an information session on women workers' problems in Brussels on 11 November 1975. Delegates came from Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Subjects discussed included:

- (1) the economic crisis and employment of women in the European Community;
- (2) conditions of life and work of women in the world;
- (3) situation in the European Community countries concerning:
 - the problem of equality of remuneration between men and women;
 - reduction of working time, without loss of salary, both for men and for women;
 - measures taken or envisaged regarding collective equipments and services.

12. NETHERLANDS TRADE UNIONS AND DEVELOPMENT AID

From its overall budget for 1976 the Netherlands ministry for development has placed at the disposal of the trade union confederations NVV-NKV-CNV the sum of 5 million florins (£913,000). In 1975 the unions received 3 million florins.

the NVV, NKV and CNV decided to divide the amount as follows:

- 1.75 million florins for projects chosen by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions;

- 1.75 million florins for projects of the World Confederation of Labour;
- 1.50 million florins for projects of the Netherlands trade union foundation for aid to development.

13. COMMUNITY LABOUR STATISTICS

The European Community has published in its series on social statistics, a volume on "Population and employment in the countries of the Community 1970-1974". This contains statistics on population, on the civilian labour force (including employment by sector of activity, occupational status and sex, manual and non-manual employees by International Standard Industrial Classification branches of activity, as well as employees, persons working on their own account and family workers by sector of activity), on the labour market (employed and unemployed), on industrial disputes and on results of Community surveys on employment in the ECSC industries. This publication can be obtained from the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Boîte postale 1907, Luxembourg.

In the same series the Community has produced a "Labour force sample survey 1973", published in 1975. This covers all Community countries except Denmark and Ireland. The chapters are labour force principal results; population and activity; structure of employment; hours of work; unemployment and search for work; professional and territorial mobility; regional data; trends in employment 1960, 1968-1971, 1973. This publication can be obtained from HM stationery office, Irish stationery office, or the European Community information service, Washington, U.S.A.

Any further information regarding this bulletin can be obtained from either Alan FORREST (Tel. ext. 2346) or Charlotte PLUNKETT (Ext. 2488), Trade Union Information Division, Directorate-General for Information, Commission of the European Communities, Berlaymont 2/96, 200 Rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.