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TRADE UNION INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Trade Union Information

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The views expressed
in the Bulletin are those
of the Editor
and are not necessarily
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SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

At the request of the President of the EEC Commission Mr Jacques DELORS, Mr Wim KOK retired chairman of the Dutch Federation of Trade Unions, F.N.V., and vice chairman of the ETUC, has undertaken an enquiry into the social aspects of the introduction of new technology.

The enquiry, whose findings were published in a Report in April 1986 entitled "Social Aspects of the Introduction of New Technology and Prospects for a more Fundamental Approach to the Social Dialogue", is concerned with how the EEC could both promote and accelerate the process of technological and economic renewal whilst at the same time devoting more attention to its wider social aspects.

It is clear that the development and implementation of new technology is essential if the European Community countries are to achieve the continuing social and economic renewal necessary for lasting economic growth, creation of new products and services, new and better job opportunities, and improved working and living conditions. For these objectives to be achieved technological, economic and social innovation must go hand in hand, and whilst a great deal remains the responsibility of national governments, there are sound reasons for a joint European approach.

The Report looks at the significance of new technology for the economy, employment, social policies, education and training, the labour market, and consultation between employers and workers and their representative organisations. Particular attention is given to the need for joint approaches to the challenges of new technology resulting in tripartite agreements concluded at the lowest possible level in the industrial relations system.

The central conclusion of the Report is that the European Community can achieve far more technological, social and economic areas if the Member States and the social partners work in closed cooperation and if progress in these fields is geared to move forward simultaneously and at a faster pace. Moreover the Report concludes that the European Community:-

- needs to pursue and accelerate an innovation orientated policy, involving investment under an expansive economic policy.
- needs to formulate social targets for technological renewal (" a Social Space programme") likely to increase enthusiasm for and facilitate social acceptance of technological change.
- needs a long term plan to raise the level of training and knowledge, and deal with such issues as the redistribution and reorganisation of work.
- needs to promote employee and trade union participation at all stages and at all levels, as well as socially responsible introduction of new technology.

The time is considered ripe for a tripartite recommendation from employers, employees and the European Community regarding technological and social renewal, and that there is a case for creating a European Office of technology and labour to deal with technology assessment and other matters.

Finally, the report sees the improvement in education and training as a key theme for the rest of this century, being determined by the new demands made of the working population by our rapidly changing society as well as the desire by individuals to build their own future and contribute to prosperity and welfare in the world.

Ref: " Social Aspects of the Introduction of New Technology and Prospects for a more Fundamental Approach to the Social Dialogue". W.KOK. EC Commission Document V/557/86. Brussels 1986.

HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTES

NEW TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATOR STRESS.

An article in the January issue of 'Social Europe' (*) examines the health and safety effects of the introduction of new technology. The article is based on the work of a European Commission working party established in response to a call by the European Council to initiate research into the ergonomic implications of technological change. Ergonomics - defined as the study of physical relationships between man and the machines he uses, with the object of reducing strain, discomfort and fatigue in the former - can make an important contribution to the design and installation of computer hardware and software systems. The first report of the committee called for Community action to regulate, harmonize and make effective across Member States, ergonomics requirements in information technology with regards to:-

- (i) the design of equipment
- (ii) its installation and the consequent work environment
- (iii) the subsequent task and job design and organisation.

The Social Europe article looks in particular at the problems of operator stress in the use of new technology. It calls on the social partners to avoid certain situations which give rise to stress, in particular:-

- * operator overload which can be occasioned by time pressures.
- * operator underload which can come from poor job content.
- * lack of operator control on work pace and working method.

The article concludes that the development of new technology has brought about the emergence of a new area of industrial health, an area which is complex, where the various interests are numerous and the incidence of risk is virtually universal.

(*) "ERGONOMICS AND HEALTH IN NEW TECHNOLOGY" by John G. Fox. Social Europe 1/1986.



European Parliament

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS FOR WOMEN

A Parliamentary question by French MEP Mrs Nicole Chouraqui asked the European Commissioner for information on the change in the size of the female working population between 1974 and 1984. Commissioner Pfeiffer provided the following figures in his answer.

FEMALE WORKING POPULATION 1974-1984

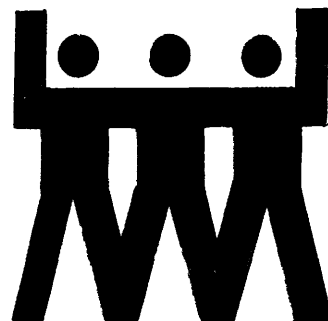
	('000)	1974	1984
Federal Rep. of Germany		10,110	10,564
France		8,228	9,866
Italy		6,246	8,132
Netherlands		1,341	1,996
Belgium		1,354	1,656
Luxembourg		44	54
United Kingdom		9,590	10,828
Ireland		306	386
Denmark		1,015	1,269
Greece		n/a	1,320
EUR 10		39,184	46,071

MULTIFIBRE AGREEMENT

Belgium MEP Luc Beyer de Ryke asked European Commissioner De Clercq what negotiations had taken place within the framework of GATT over the renewal of the Multifibre Agreement.

Mr De Clercq replied that the Community representative at the preliminary discussions concerning the future of the MFA had expressed the opinion that in the present circumstances the extension of an appropriate multifibre framework was necessary. It was, however, made clear that the Community was ready to apply the multilateral and bilateral provisions to be agreed in a more flexible manner, providing that the other countries participating in textile trade made an effort commensurate with their level of development and economic capability, to open their markets. Meanwhile detailed proposals on the negotiating directives are being prepared by the Commission.

ETUC REPORT



THE APRIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION, MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON THE 17th AND 18th APRIL 1986, ISSUED A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS ON IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES. THIS ARTICLE SUMMARISES SOME OF THE MAIN POINTS FROM THESE STATEMENTS.

ENVIRONMENT YEAR - TRADE UNION ACTION

The Executive Committee of the ETUC underlined the importance which the European Trade Unions attribute to an environment policy contributing to job action. The ETUC emphasised job creation through environmental protection and the role of trade unions in ensuring that environmental policy is compatible with labour objectives. The ETUC further called on the Commission to compile educational material and information for trade unionists representing workers interests at plant level explaining EC Directives on environmental policy so that trade unionists can influence their employers environmental policy.

INTERNAL MARKET - SOCIAL DIMENSION.

The ETUC statement on the Internal Market recorded the ETUC's support for the completion of the Internal Market provided that certain conditions are met. These conditions include; the creation of the social dimension; the coordination of economic policies; the need for increased public and private investment and the coordination of industrial and research policies. The Executive Committee reported recent progress on some of these demands. The Commissions cooperative strategy for job-creating growth and the Val Duchese social dialogue were mentioned as examples of progress. However the Executive Committee recorded that no progress had been made as regards the Community instruments under examination with the Council of Ministers (Vredeling, working time, temporary work and fixed-term employment contracts, part-time employment, equal opportunities etc)

THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY OF THE EEC.

The European Trade Union Confederation is prepared to endorse the Commission's proposal for "maintaining the common prices applied to the majority of products in 85-86", provided that firmer socio-structural policies are also introduced. In its statement, the ETUC is critical of the Commission for not expressing clearly the type of socio-structural policies which should be introduced in its document on the follow up to the Green Paper - as in fact it had promised to do. The statement says that it is particularly regrettable that no new progress has been made on the introduction of direct income aids. The ETUC called for the convening of an inter-governmental conference whose mission would be to ensure that the EEC vests itself with the agricultural and food policy it needs in the 1990s.

STANDARDISATION AND TECHNICAL BARRIERS.

The ETUC summarised its position as follows:-

- * The removal of "technical barriers" must not result in some States obtaining a competitive advantage over others at the price of social regression and of the reduction of the protection of workers' health and safety.
- * The trade union movement wants to have decisive influence on the substance of the essential safety requirements to be harmonised and on the results of the proceedings of the technical standardisation institutes.
- * Future directives must not prevent the Member States from applying more advanced measures for protecting workers.
- * In order to achieve these objectives, a tripartite European institution must be set up whose mission is to elaborate the essential requirements and to check that standards comply with those essential requirements. An institute of that nature should also play a role in the research and development of safer plant and equipment.

6 New Publication

1986 sees a new publication from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. "EF News" is a bi-monthly newsletter which focusses on key issues and events concerned with living and working conditions. The first issue published in January 1986 looks at a European Foundation Conference on hazardous wastes, a series of Foundation Reports under the general heading of "Activities for the Unemployed", and the Foundation's new research programme on biotechnology. Concise and attractive, the newsletter provides a useful addition to information sources on European living and working conditions.

Four Year Programme

For its third four-year programme, covering the period 1985-88, the European Foundation has identified three major themes:-

- * PEOPLE AT WORK
- * TIME
- * THE ENVIRONMENT

Under the heading "People at Work", the Foundation intend to look at the effects of new technology on the structure of industry, change in work and changes in industrial relations.

The effective use of time spans the Foundation's concern with both living and working conditions. Recent developments in Europe include the trend towards the reduction in working time, the unequal distribution of working time and "free time" between different groups within society and the extent to which the demands of work impinge on "free time", for example in the case of commuting. The 1985-88 programme is considering how a better organisation of time, coupled with changes in society and its sense of social obligation can lead to a more satisfactory use of "free time".

The final area of work within the four-year programme is the relationship and interaction between people and their environment. This research will concentrate on three main areas:- the urban environment; the effect of biotechnology and non-nuclear wastes.

Vocational Training and Job Creation

Towards the end of 1985 the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) organised a Conference under the title "Vocational Training and Job Creation Schemes in the European Community". The Conference came at the end of a project on vocational training and job creation under the 1983-85 Work Programme. One of the objectives of the Conference was to draw up proposals and strategies for the more effective linking of job creation schemes with vocational training or qualification schemes. The first day of the Conference was devoted to the critical analysis of the research report on the project whilst the second day examined a series of individual topics.

In summarising the results of the research the Conference examined some of the main criticisms of job creation schemes. These were:-

- * The misuse of schemes by private and public enterprises sometimes using them to "crowd out" normal employees.
- * The creation of "exaggerated earning expectations" amongst qualified people, especially in the social services field, recruited from the ranks of the unemployed.
- * The spread of job creation schemes can conceal the need for expansionist policies to rid society of the problem of mass unemployment.
- * Some people would criticise job creation schemes for creating second-class workers in a second-class labour market.

The Conference considered the broad aims of job creation schemes and saw them in the following terms:-

- * Relief for the labour market.
- * Social security and reintegration for the unemployed.
- * The maintenance and extension of the vocational skills of participants.

The Conference emphasised the need to set the correct measures for each individual objective and to achieve a balance between them.

The Role of the Parties:

During 1982 and 1983 the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions carried out a major multinational research project entitled "The role of the Parties concerned in the Introduction of New Technology". Detailed accounts of the findings of this research can be found in five national reports and a consolidated report which have been published by the Foundation. However a summary of the entire research project is presented in the first of a new series of pamphlets published by the Foundation under the general heading of the Information Booklet Series.

Some of the main findings of the research are summarised at the beginning of the booklet in the following terms:

- * Trade Unions are in a more difficult position than management in negotiating new technology agreements as a result of little or no external support or suitable training available to them concerning new technology developments.
- * Without an environment already conducive to good industrial relations in which management is prepared to present full, frank and timely information and in which unions are intent on developing effective cooperation, there is little hope of real success accompanying technological change.
- * Workforce requirements tend to include job protection and retraining guarantees and a share in accrued benefits.
- * With the appropriate information, workers do have a high motivation and can become actively involved in supporting the changes brought about by technological innovation.
- * There is evidence to support that some managements are afraid of the possibility of losing power to the workforce by supporting the participatory process.
- * The economic recession has a greater influence on the attitudes of workers towards new technology vis-a-vis job security than the actual prospect of coping with the technology itself.

"THE ROLE OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY" Published in Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek and Italian by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Loughlinstown House, Shankill, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

The New Technologies - Social Aspects

The 233rd Plenary Session of the European Economic and Social Committee adopted a report on the social aspects of new technology which it forwarded to the European Council and the European Commission. The Report emphasised the importance of considering the social consequences of new technology - "technological determinism without social priorities will not work", stated the report. The key theme of the Report was that in themselves new technologies are neither positive nor negative, their impact depends purely and simply on the way people apply them.

The social acceptability of new technology is defined in terms of one in which the situation of those concerned is not worsened but as far as possible improved by the innovation. The Report reminds us that 40%-50% of all jobs will be affected by the introduction of new technology. It concludes by warning against the consideration of the economic challenge of new technology in isolation from the social objectives and the progress which their introduction ought to bring about.

REDUCTION IN

One of the key objectives of the European Trade Union movement is to bring about a reduction in working time, an objective which was underlined by last years Milan Congress of the ETUC which called for the introduction of the 35 hour week without loss of pay. Last year also saw the importance of reductions in working time emphasised by the European Commission. A Decision of the 30 April 1985 meant that one of the new priority areas for the European Social Fund is "reorganisation and redistribution" of work which creates new full-time and part-time jobs. Secondly, the programme for specific employment measures, adopted by the Council on 13 June 1985, calls upon the Commission to examine the possibility of promoting and developing experiments in the reorganisation of working time. An article in a recent issue of 'Social Europe'(*) examines recent trends in the various Member States of the Community with regard to the reduction of working time. There follows a summary of some of the main points from the article.



Federal Republic of Germany

* By mid-1985 some 275 collective agreements had been concluded on early retirement - generally providing for payments of between 70% and 80% of full pay - under the framework law of 1984 which provides State subsidies for employers expenditure on early retirement benefits.

* A draft law on working time provides for changes in respect of the maximum permissible working day, minimum rest periods etc.

* Plans to further limit the use of overtime in certain regions of the country, by means of the following measures:-

- (a) pay for overtime hours not to be tax-deductible as company expense,
- (b) overtime pay supplement should be raised to 100%,
- (c) all overtime hours should be compensated for by time off to be taken within three months.

* As from 1 Jan 1986 a 38.5 hour week has been agreed for the 2.3 million employees in the retail trade.

* A number of recent estimates have been produced on the effect of working time reductions. The German Institute for Economic Research looked into the effects of a gradual reduction in weekly working hours to 35 over the next five years with no cuts in wages and suggests a positive employment effect of over 1 million jobs. Other recent research by the Institute of Economic Research, the Economic Research Institute of the Rhineland and the Science Centre in Berlin also suggest significant positive employment effects from reducing working time.

The Netherlands

* Early retirement schemes at present cover about three million employees. Retirement is at 60 or 61 with following ten years service.

* 95% of all collective agreements 1983-84 included reductions in working time.

* In the public sector working hours fell 1.3% in 1983 and 1% in 1984.

* The Ministry of social Affairs estimate that all measures in respect of re-organising working time have created 150,000 full-time and part-time jobs since 1982.

France

* Since the statutory reduction in working time to 39 hours in February 1982 there has been a survey by the Statistical Office that shows that of these changes has been the saving of between 50,000 and 100,000 jobs.

* During 1982 and 1983 "solidarity contracts" to early retirement and providing for covering over 300,000 workers have been concluded. These contracts provide early retirement for a proportion of the "reference salary" in return for agreeing to recruit replacement employees in designated priority categories.

* Early retirement possibilities provided through the National Employment Act for the age group 55-60 years. This has led to early retirements in the public and

WORKING TIME



Belgium

* During 1983/84 about 800 agreements were concluded in line with the Government policy providing for reductions in working time of 5%, additional employment of 3% and government-imposed wage restraint of 3%. A first assessment indicates that about 33,000 jobs have been created in this way.

* The employment agreements of 1983/84 have been prolonged for the period 1985/86 thus continuing the reduction in working time and generalising the 38-hour week with pay restraint and additional employment.

* In 1984 a new regulation on overtime was introduced providing for free time compensation in lieu of longer hours worked, which must not exceed - in specific cases - 65 hours over a period of three months to be recuperated in the following quarter. Overtime rates were increased to 50%.

Denmark

* A voluntary early retirement scheme financed by contributions from the social partners on top of what is saved by an overall decrease in unemployment expenditure is open to all members of the unemployment insurance fund over the age of 60. Early retirement pay corresponds to 90% of previous earnings (subject to a ceiling) reducing to 70% over time.

* In the framework of the two-year pay settlement imposed by the government and ratified by Parliament in April 1985 it is stated that in December 1986 the working week is to be reduced from 40 to 39 hours in the private sector with full wage compensation. In the public sector a corresponding reduction is scheduled for January 1987.

Italy

* A joint statement by the three main trade union organisations issued in July 1985 sets out that in the coming three year period annual working time should be reduced by 90 hours (on average 2 hours per week) compared with current normal working time.

* During 1985 about 350 'solidarity contracts' were signed designed to maintain jobs which have become redundant by reducing the actual volume of work through a more or less proportional cut in individual working hours.

* A law has been passed which has introduced early retirement for iron and steel workers from the age of 50 who have a social insurance contributions record of at least 15 years.

* The union 'CISL' has calculated that the introduction of the 35-hour week would create an additional 300,000 jobs.

(*) "ADAPTIONS IN THE LABOUR MARKET WITH REGARD TO REDUCTIONS IN INDIVIDUAL WORKING TIME" Klaus Kading. SOCIAL EUROPE, 1/86. January 1986

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10 TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SECTOR

A recently published* Report by the Public Service International, gives a comprehensive overview of trade union rights in the public sector in several European countries. The Public Service International (P.S.I.) is a major international trade union organisation to which unions organising public sector workers can affiliate. There are presently 247 affiliates representing over 10 million members in 80 countries throughout the world. In Western Europe PSI and its affiliates, together with the European region of the Christian International EUROFEDOP and its affiliates, form the European Public Services Trade Union Committee (E.P.S.C.).

The 53 page PSI report covers a wide range of issues including the right to organise, scope of organisation, protection against the employer, collective bargaining rights, disputes procedures, the right to strike etc. The report is based on questionnaires returned by PSI affiliates and the resulting information is presented in comparative tables. The table below gives an overview of the right to organise by public service workers, and it is clear that no restrictions exist in the Scandinavian countries and four EEC countries for which information was available.

Do public service workers in your country have the right to form and join trade unions of their choice? If so what is this right based on?.

COUNTRY	Right to organise	Constitution	Legislation	Collective agreement	Other
AUSTRIA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
CYPRUS	Yes	Yes	Yes		
DENMARK HK and DS HKKF	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Yes	Yes	
FINLAND KAT and TEHY KTF	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Yes No	Yes No	
FRANCE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
GERMANY	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
GREAT BRITAIN CPSA NUPE	Yes Yes	No No	Yes No	No Yes	
IRELAND	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
ITALY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
MALTA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
NETHERLANDS	Yes	Yes	No	No	
NORWAY	Yes	Yes		Yes	
SWEDEN SKTF and SHSTF SF	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Yes	No	
SWITZERLAND	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	

* "Report on Trade Union Rights in the Public Sector". PSI, 45 Avenue Voltaire, 01210 FERNAY-VOLTAIRE, France

Sexual Equality in Greece

A General Secretariat for Sexual Equality has been set up in Greece in accordance with article 27 of Law 1558/85. The Secretariat is attached to the Prime Minister's Department and Ms Laiou-Antoniou has been appointed as the first General Secretary for Equality. The establishment of an advisory body to include representatives of women's organisations and trade unions is currently under discussion. Further information about this development and other developments relating to women's rights and sexual equality can be found in the European Commission publication "Women of Europe", Issue No 42.

Job Creation in Germany

The Federal Employment Institute of West Germany has released figures on the employment impact of various Government labour market instruments. The figures relate to the job creation programme (ABM), the training and retraining programme (FuU) and the short-time working programme (KuG). The figures are in thousands of persons and the figures for 1985 are estimates.

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
ABM	63	46	67	100	116
KuG	108	202	216	138	138
FuU	111	120	117	124	134
Total:	282	368	400	362	388

European Social Fund

Figures were recently released concerning the distribution of European Social Fund resources in 1985. Total funding was distributed between the various schemes in the following way:-

Schemes to benefit young people under 25.....	75.9%
Schemes to benefit persons over 25.....	20.6%
Special Schemes.....	3.5%

ESC and the Disabled

Despite much talk about solidarity, the number of social, economic and cultural outcasts is constantly increasing at a time when "progress" should be reducing it. This was the key finding of the Economic and Social Committee in its Opinion on the Employment of the Disabled in the European Community adopted at the April session of the Committee.

In the light of this situation, the Committee took the view that the concerted implementation of an overall economic and social policy aiming at more qualitative growth and fuller employment is the precondition for the adoption of measures capable of improving disabled people's employment prospects in practice and in depth. The Committee stressed that any solution to the problem of employment of disabled people depends on a better knowledge of the nature and scale of the problem, particularly in statistical terms. The Committee asked the Commission to encourage research in this field, taking its inspiration particularly from the work carried out by local authorities in some Member States.

In its Opinion, which was adopted unanimously, the Committee reiterated that everyone should have an equal right to work, and shares the Commission's view that disabled people have the same rights as all other workers to equal opportunities in training and employment. The aim is to bring the disabled person to the maximum level of physical and intellectual development he or she can reach in order to enable him/her to integrate with non-disabled persons.

The Committee urged that incentives be provided for firms which provide conditions suitable for employment of the disabled. One form of incentive might be either to reimburse companies the costs incurred in adapting premises and equipment for everyday use by the disabled, or to grant them tax concessions.

Finally, the Committee hoped that the Community's funds - particularly in the context of their future restructuring - will be orientated to take account of priority measures in favour of the disabled, and especially for their vocational and social integration.



Recent Publications from the Commission of the European Communities

COMPETITION POLICY

One of the most confusing aspects of the various European Community treaties has always been the rules dealing with competition policy. The competition policy pursued by the European Commission on the one hand seeks to eliminate barriers to free competition between firms within the Community whilst at the same time encourages co-operation between European firms and in particular small businesses. These two policy objectives can appear to be in conflict and the Commission has to keep the European market under constant scrutiny in order to avoid any such conflict and attempt to meet both objectives.

This scrutiny is largely based on the powers of investigation possessed by the Commission and provided by the Treaty of Rome and the various subsequent Regulations of the Council of the European Communities. These powers of investigation are fully explained in a new pamphlet in the European Documentation series (*). The pamphlet starts by examining the two key sections of the EEC Treaty - Articles 85 and 86. These articles prohibit all agreements between undertakings which restrict the free interplay of competition which in turn affects trade between Member States. The pamphlet goes on to examine the ways in which the Commission applies these rules and the precise powers of investigation possessed by the Commission.

The pamphlet, in describing what are relatively complex and technical rules, avoids too many technicalities and thus provides a useful guide not only to businessmen but also to trade unionists who have an interest in understanding the competition rules and the way they are interpreted and applied.

(*) "THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S POWERS OF INVESTIGATION IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF COMPETITION LAW" European Documentation, Periodical 1985.

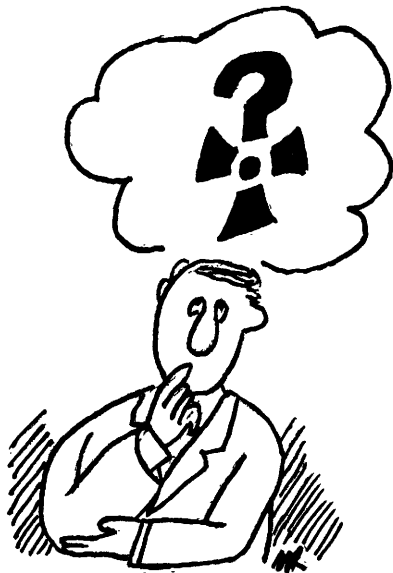
INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

A new publication in the European File series (*) examines the industrial strategy of the European Community against the background of the continuing economic problems which still face Member States. These are the problems of technological change and rising energy costs which - according to the pamphlet - are largely responsible for the continuing high levels of unemployment and poor economic performance within European countries. The pamphlet examines the two main strands of current Community industrial policy - the completion of the internal market and the promotion of industrial regrouping and the new technologies. In common with other pamphlets in the European File series a brief, clear and concise picture is painted of current Community policy and the programmes which have been introduced in order to advance these policies.

There is a useful summary of the current programmes on new technology - ESPRIT, RACE and BRITE as well as a brief resume of the key measures aimed at the completion of the internal market. Thus it provides a useful introduction to current Community industrial strategy. Trade unionists may feel that the problems facing Member States go further than those listed in the introduction to the pamphlet and the solutions lay more in fundamental economic policies than industrial strategies. However, industrial strategy can provide one element within a solution to the pressing problems of unemployment and low economic growth.

(*) "AN INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY FOR EUROPE" European File No 4/86, February 1986.

NUCLEAR SAFETY



During recent months - in the aftermath of the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor disaster - nuclear safety has become a key topic of interest. A new publication in the European Documentation series (*) on nuclear safety in the European Community predated the events in Russia, however its comments and findings are even more important in the light of recent events. Nuclear safety was one of the issues covered by the 1957 Treaty which established the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). This requires the Member States to ensure that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy have no adverse effects on man or the environment.

The booklet examines the problems and risks of nuclear energy generation, both the hazards to the industries workers and the hazards to the general public. It then goes on to examine the role of the European Community in promoting safety of nuclear equipment, the transport of radioactive substances and the safe disposal of radioactive wastes. The booklet concludes with a useful glossary of terms used in the nuclear industry.

The Chernobyl disaster is likely to change completely our view of acceptable risks in the use of nuclear energy and this will no doubt lead to changes in Community policy. This new booklet should help people to understand the debate which undoubtedly will be taking place.

(*)"NUCLEAR SAFETY IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY"
European Documentation Periodical 5/1985.

EEC BUDGET

It seems to have become an annual event for a dispute to break out - in the European Parliament and in the national Parliaments of Member States - over the size and composition of the European Community's budget. A new pamphlet in the European Documentation series (*) looks at the Community budget and the procedure by which the budget is agreed. The Community budget not only finances the various agricultural support measures but also provides the basis of the Regional and Social Funds. In addition the budget pays for the various administrative services provided by the European Commission (including the publication of this Bulletin for trade unionists). The pamphlet examines sources of income as well as items of expenditure, including the 1% levy on VAT agreed by the Decision of April 1970.

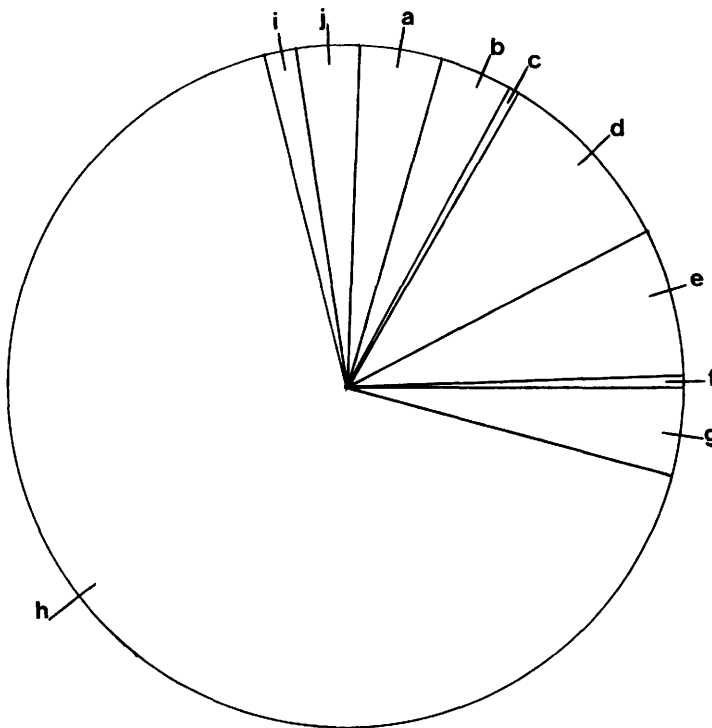
An important role in the budgetary process is reserved for the European Currency Unit (ECU) and the pamphlet explains the composition and development of this unit. Also the effect of Community enlargement on the budgetary process is considered. But perhaps the most interesting section of the booklet is that which looks at the budget process - the method by which decisions are reached on the size and scope of the Community budget. The role of the Commission, the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament and the Court of Auditors is considered in detail.

The figures provided by the booklet help to overturn a number of myths, for example what some people regard as an expensive bureaucracy - the European Commission - takes up less than 3% of the total Community budget! The breakdown of expenditure within the 1985 Community budget is represented by the diagram reproduced on the statistical page of this Bulletin.

In order to understand the economics of the Community one needs to understand the Community budget, and for this reason the pamphlet provides a useful source of information for European trade unionists.

(*)"THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S BUDGET" European Documentation Periodical 1/1986

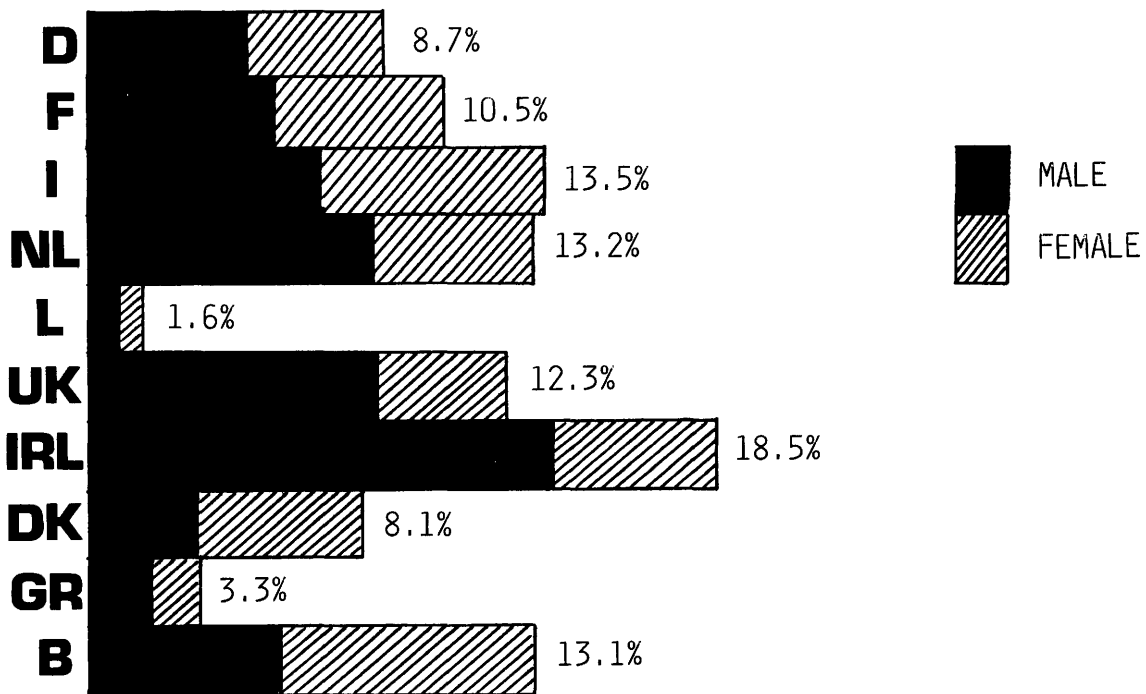
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BUDGET 1985 : COMMITMENTS



<u>PROGRAMME</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u> (million ECU)
<u>Intervention appropriations:</u>	
A DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION	1,322.8
B RESEARCH, ENERGY AND INDUSTRY	1,046.9
C TRANSPORT	91.6
D REGIONAL POLICY	2,497.1
E SOCIAL POLICY	2,231.3
F FISHERIES	154.5
G REPAYMENTS AND RESERVES	1,271.8
H AGRICULTURE	20,667.7
<u>Administrative appropriations:</u>	
I OTHER COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS	447.9
J EUROPEAN COMMISSION	884.5

Source: "The European Community Budget" European Documentation 1/1986.

UNEMPLOYMENT - MALE AND FEMALE COMPOSITION, DECEMBER 1985.



SOURCE: EUROSTAT.

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THREE COUNTRY FOOD WORKERS CONFERENCE

The European Trade Union Committee for the Food, Catering and Allied Industries, the ECF, held a five day conference at the new GMTU Education and Training Centre at Manchester, U.K. on 22-27th June. ECF affiliates from Ireland, Italy, and the United Kingdom met together to discuss common trade union issues in each country, union organisational and structural matters, as well as discussion with EC Commission officials on aspects of the Common Agricultural and other policies which affect workers interests. This type of bilateral/trilateral conference involving ECF affiliates from different Member States of the European Community has become a regular feature of ECF activity in Europe and is frequently undertaken in conjunction with the Trade Union Information Division of the EC Commission.

HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT

A recent OECD Study (Social Policy Studies No 2) shows that the volume of employment in the health services has grown in all Member States of the European Community over the period 1978-83: in the UK from 1.136 to 1.246 million, Netherlands 290 to 322 thousand, Italy 468 to 539 thousand, and Spain 293 to 329 thousand. The EC Commission forecasts that the employment growth will continue, though at slower pace than over the last ten years.

GROWTH IN MERGERS

The EC Commission's recently published 15th Report on Competition Policy shows that the annual number of mergers has increased from 117 in 1982/3, 155 in 1983/4, to 208 in 1984/5. Mergers have been most numerous at national level increasing from 59 in 1982/3 to 146 in 1984/5.

CHANNEL TUNNEL

In a recent Eurobarometer survey undertaken by the EC Commission, an average 58% of interviewees thought the Channel Tunnel was a "good thing", ranging from 64% in France, Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands to the lowest of 31% in the United Kingdom.

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