



EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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TRADE UNION INFORMATION BULLETIN

IN THIS ISSUE

Single European Act
Long-term Unemployment
Women In Trade Unions

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Trade Union Information

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The views expressed
in the Bulletin are those
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COMMUNITIES.**

THE SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT

On the 1 July 1987 the Single European Act came into force throughout the twelve Member States of the European Community. The coming into force of the Act followed nearly four years of intense discussion and debate, both at Community level and within the national Parliaments of the various Member States. The final hurdle to the implementation of the Act was overcome when a clear majority of the Irish electorate voted in favour of accepting the Act in a national referendum. Just over a month later the Act formally came into force.

The Single European Act brings about a major amendment to the Treaty of Rome - the Treaty which established the European Economic Community - and prepares the way for the development of the Community over the next decade. The most important implications of the Act can be summarised as follows:-

1. The Act changes the way in which decisions are made at the level of the Council of Ministers, replacing the need for unanimity with voting by "qualified" majority on all but the most important issues.
2. The Act increases the powers of the European Parliament, replacing its consultative status with the power to amend or reject proposals by the Council where these have been made by a "qualified majority"
3. The Act calls for a comprehensive reform of the structural funds of the Community - the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund - in order to further aid regional economic and social development.
4. The Act creates an administrative framework for European co-operation in the sphere of foreign policy.
5. The Act formally adopts the 31 December 1992 as the deadline for the completion of the internal market, that is the creation of a Europe without frontiers or barriers to the free movement of people, goods and services.

The implications of the Act are considerable and it undoubtedly marks a major step in the direction of economic union and the beginnings of the process which will lead to greater political union within the Community.

As far as trade unionists are concerned, their attention will be particularly drawn to Subsection III of the Act which supplements the EEC Treaty with a number of new provisions. Article 118A calls upon Member States to pay particular attention to encouraging improvements, especially in the working environment, as regards the health and safety of workers. It sets as an objective the harmonisation of standards whilst maintaining improvements which have already been made. One important point which will be welcomed by trade unionists is the provision in clause 3 of Article 118A which stresses that the provisions adopted in order to harmonise standards shall not prevent any Member State from maintaining or introducing more stringent measures for the protection of working conditions.

Equally important is Article 118B which calls on the Commission to develop the dialogue between management and labour at European level. This is calling for an extension to the process of discussion which has taken place over the last two years under the title of the Val Duchesse Meetings. Thus the Single Act is clearly calling for an extension of the role of trade unions in shaping the future of the Community and its Member States.

It will be some time yet before the full effects of the Act are felt, however over the next five years we are likely to witness a considerable increase in activity as the deadline for the completion of the internal market approaches. It is only right that the trade union movement of Europe should have an important say in this continual process of harmonisation, and the commitments to a European level dialogue which are contained in the Act are to be welcomed.

NEWS FROM EUROPE

PLANS FOR TAX HARMONISATION

The European Commission has published its proposals for the harmonisation of tax rates within the twelve Member States of the European Community. The harmonisation of VAT rates and excise duties is one of the fundamental conditions of the completion of the internal market, the deadline for which has been set for the beginning of 1993. Support for the process of harmonisation was contained within the Single European Act which has been approved by all twelve Member States.

The Commission's proposals for tax changes are contained in a report prepared by the British Commissioner, Lord Cockfield. The plan suggests two bands of VAT, a standard rate which can be between 14% and 20% and a reduced rate of between 4% and 9%. The Commission believes that variations of up to 6% between countries will not seriously interfere with the concept of a single market. The current rates of VAT applied in Member States are as follows:-

COUNTRY	REDUCED RATE	STANDARD RATE	INCREASED RATE
Belgium	1% & 6%	19%	25% & 28%
Denmark	-	22%	-
France	2.1%, 4%, 5.5% & 7%	18.6%	33.3%
Germany	7%	14%	-
Greece	6%	18%	36%
Ireland	2.2% & 10%	25%	-
Italy	2 & 9%	18%	38%
Luxembourg	3 & 6%	12%	-
Netherlands	6%	20%	-
Portugal	8%	16%	30%
Spain	6%	12%	33%
U.K.	-	15%	-

The standard VAT rates of only Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain and Ireland would be affected by the changes, but there would be a number of changes needed in the other rates. In particular, concern has already been expressed about the removal of zero rates which apply in the UK, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Denmark and Belgium.

The Cockfield Plan suggests a total harmonisation of excise duties, with the same rates applying in all Member States. These duties would apply to petrol, tobacco, beer, wines and spirits. The plan will be discussed by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament before any final decision is made.

NEW QUOTA SCHEME FOR STEEL INDUSTRY

The European Commission has published its proposals for the future of the troubled European steel industry. The plans cover the years 1988-90, a period when once again the industry will face large-scale restructuring which will inevitably lead to job losses. The problem is a familiar one - overcapacity and the Commission has tried to produce plans which will lead to a reduction in production capacity but at the same time help workers who will be faced with job losses.

The quota system which has existed for some time now will be continued, but firms will now be able to buy and sell quotas on the open market. The Commission is also proposing the creation of a new 600 million ECU fund, financed by a levy on all firms covered by the quota system, to be used to pay closure premiums and pay benefits to redundant workers. One of the most important elements in the new proposals is the plan to establish a new regional action programme - to be known as RESIDER - which will give financial support to those areas worst hit by steel closures. The programme will receive 300 million ECU from the Community budget and this will be matched by similar financing from national budgets.

CONTROLLING MERGERS IN EUROPE

The sixteenth report on Competition Policy was presented by the Commission in July and the Commissioner responsible for competition policy, Mr Peter Sutherland, used the opportunity to stress the view that a law is urgently needed to control the large-scale merger activity of many European firms.

The Commission has made several proposals in the past ten years for Directives on merger controls but these have not been adopted by the Council of Ministers. Mr Sutherland stated that he intended to contact the Danish presidency of the Council in order to renew the discussion on the need for merger controls. In the event of these not being adopted the Commission has already got certain powers under the Treaty of Rome and they intend to make wider use of these in order to prevent mergers which are against the public interest.

Long-term Unemployment

New Commission Memorandum

One of the most serious aspects of the current European unemployment crisis is the continuing increase in the proportion of long-term unemployed, that is workers who have been unemployed for at least a year. The increase in long term unemployment as a percentage of total unemployment can be seen from the following statistics.

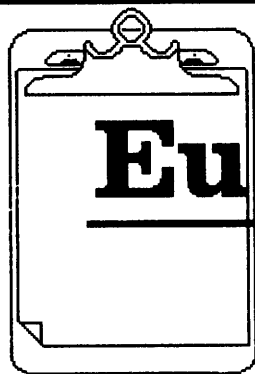
LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT 1983-85			
COUNTRY	1983	1984	1985
GERMANY	38.4	43.4	46.9
FRANCE	39.6	39.1	43.8
ITALY	54.6	60.5	63.6
NETHERLANDS	46.9	na	56.4
BELGIUM	64.1	67.1	68.3
LUXEMBURG	32.7	29.2	36.8
UNITED KINGDOM	44.8	45.5	48.7
IRELAND	35.3	44.5	62.2
DENMARK	32.2	30.9	32.0
GREECE	32.3	37.1	43.4
SPAIN	52.5	53.4	56.3
PORTUGAL	45.2	43.5	48.4

The European Council, meeting in the Hague in June 1986, expressed its concern over this growth in long-term unemployment and welcomed proposals made by the Commission on exchanging information on successful national experiences, conducting pilot actions under the European Social Fund and co-ordinating actions under the Community structural instruments in regions in need of further restructuring. A further resolution from the European Council issued in December 1986 identified once again the long-term unemployed as being in need of particular help.

Responding to these calls for aid to the long-term unemployed the European Commission has now produced a new Memorandum [Com[87] 231 final] which is aimed at stimulating discussion, in particular on the adoption of the instruments proposed by the Commission. The first part of the Memorandum gives a broad overview of both the approach to the problem of long-term unemployment favoured by the Commission and the policy responses of the twelve Member States. It also establishes a Community target for the reduction of long-term unemployment from its current level of over 50% of total unemployment to 30% by 1990. If the overall level of unemployment remains the same this would have the effect of reducing the number of long-term unemployed from about 8 million to about 5 million. The Commission stress in the Memorandum that a prerequisite of effective action to prevent the growth of long-term unemployment is a system of monitoring which can identify and follow up both individuals at risk of prolonged unemployment and the labour market conditions which might aggravate the problem.

The second part of the Memorandum examines the range of measures that are currently used by Member States to combat the problem of long-term unemployment. Support is provided mainly through three types of measures - direct public job-creation programmes; training and retraining courses and recruitment subsidies. All Member States now operate at least one measure specifically targeted at the long-term unemployed and most Member States have a range of measures of one or more of the types listed above. The country-by-country examination of measures provides a very useful comparison of the type of programme that can be introduced, and each programme is listed in terms of aims, content, number of beneficiaries and total budget.

The main aim of the Memorandum is to stimulate a further response from the European Council which it is hoped will help to achieve the target of reducing long-term unemployment which the Commission has now set.



Eurobarometer

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Ever since 1973 the European Commission has arranged a regular series of public opinion surveys throughout the European Community, the results of which are published in the "Eurobarometer" publications. The latest survey was conducted between March and May 1987 amongst nearly twelve thousand citizens from all twelve Member states of the Community. The results provide a useful picture of opinion on a series of issues related to the Community and its policies.

People were asked in this latest survey in which ways they felt "European". Asked to name the most important element of such a "European feeling" only 5% of respondents saw Europe as merely a geographical fact. 15% saw the creation of a united Europe as an "adventure", 17% listed travel between Member States without difficulties. The answer which got most frequent support was the fact that past rivalries had been left behind and Europe was now living in peace. Over 40% of all those questioned saw this as the most important element. The survey also asked the respondents to look forward and say what developments they would like to see regarding the future of Europe. They were given a list of five options and the results were as follows:-

OPTION	PERCENTAGE SUPPORT [EEC12]
1. The European Community should be scrapped.	6%
2. The European Community should continue to run as now.	18%
3. The European Community should become a place within which economic, scientific and cultural exchanges between Europeans occur more and more.	36%
4. The countries of the European Community, whilst still governing themselves, should form a European federation with a Federal Government with responsibility in certain important areas.	21%
5. The frontiers between the countries of the European Community should completely disappear and the Community should become one single large country.	20%

One interesting set of questions related to the criteria we use to judge the success of a country. The respondents were asked "What shows best that a country is doing well?". Well over half of those replying stated that employment was the most important factor, with social security being the second most popular choice.

One set of questions related to the role of women in society. Given the statement that "politics should be left to men", the following views were given:-

Agree a lot.....	8%	Disagree a little.....	21%
Agree a little.....	14%	Disagree a lot.....	54%

Finally there was overwhelming support [61%] for more expenditure by the European community on research and development. At the moment only 2% of public expenditure on research and development comes from Community sources, the survey showed a large body of support for increasing this amount.

The full report of the opinion survey has been published by the European Commission as Report No. 27 in the Eurobarometer Series. Its findings certainly lend support to those in the European trade union movement who are anxious to see European co-operation continued and expanded.

COMMUTING

A STUDY OF ITS IMPACT ON LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS

A large number of European industrial workers are confronted daily with long travelling times from home to work. Approximately 25% of workers travel one hour or more each day in order to get to work and one fifth of that group travels more than two hours a day. For some time now the problem of commuting has been recognised as an important social, economic and environmental issue facing the Member states of the European Community and the problem has been reflected in the research programmes of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

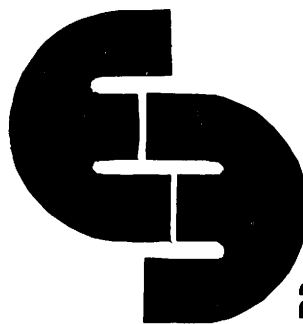
The Foundation has just published, along with the Instituto Italiano Di Medicina Social, a full report of the proceedings of an International Conference held in Rome last year. The report, which is partly in English, partly in French and partly in Italian covers all four major sessions of the Conference and contains the texts of the key speeches along with a report of the round table discussion which constituted the fourth session.

The first session examined the state of the art in terms of current research into the problems of commuting. One contributor commented in this session on the vagueness of current trade union policies on commuting, although some European trade unions are beginning to press for the recognition of commuting as an employer responsibility.

The report of the second session will be of particular interest to trade unionists as it deals with the impact of commuting on the health and safety of workers. Amongst the reports in this section are two reviews of a major Dutch study which found a clear relationship between commuting and the health of workers. The third session examined problems of transport, regional planning, urban and industrial development.

The report, copies of which are available from the European Foundation, Loughlinstown House, Shankill, Co. Dublin, Ireland, constitutes perhaps one of the most valuable sources of information yet published on this important subject.

 **EUROPEAN
FOUNDATION**



**Economic
And Social
Committee**

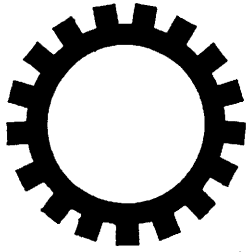
247th Session

The 247th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee was held in Brussels on the 1 and 2 of July 1987. One of the main items on the agenda was a discussion on the economic and social situation in the Community. Opening the debate, Commissioner Alois Pfeiffer referred to the major difficulties being encountered by the economically disadvantaged regions in their attempts to catch up and by declining industrial regions in their attempts to restructure their economies. He said that the Community must make a determined contribution, above all by expanding and strengthening its structural funds and financial instruments.

Commissioner Pfeiffer emphasised the importance of the social dialogue and within that dialogue the contribution that the Economic and Social Committee could make. Mr Francois Staedelin, the French Chairman of the Workers' Group of the Committee, called for swift action to fight unemployment. It was necessary to give people hope that the great internal market would lead to more social justice, he said.

The Spanish trade unionist, Mr Calvet-Chambon stressed that the Community did not necessarily have to follow the same employment policy as the United States. Wage cuts were not the only way to increase company competitiveness, he said, there were other ways such as taxation, commercial efficiency and vocational training. The German trade unionist Mr Geuenich expressed regret that governments ignored Council level agreements on the European social area when their ministers returned home. The only way to combat unemployment was to increase the volume of work or reduce working hours.

The Committee also adopted a number of opinions including ones on social developments, the carriage of goods by road, disadvantaged island regions, small and medium sized enterprises and the environment.



6th EMF General Assembly

Over 180 delegates gathered in Seville, Spain in June to attend the sixth General Assembly of the EMF - The European Metalworkers' Federation in the Community. Together they represented some six million European metalworkers grouped within 29 trade unions from all twelve Member States of the European Community as well as Sweden, Norway and Finland. The theme of the Assembly was "Campaign Together for Employment, Social Justice and Peace" and the delegates adopted a wide-ranging Action Programme and resolutions on a variety of subjects including collective bargaining, equal opportunities, training, new technology and peace and disarmament. In this issue of the Bulletin we are summarising the key points of the Action Programme and the resolution on European Policy.

EMF ACTION PROGRAMME - ADOPTED BY THE 6TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JUNE 1987

The Action Programme starts by analysing the current economic and social situation in Europe. The key problems that face Europe are examined, these being;

- * The high levels of unemployment in all European countries,
- * Attacks on social and trade union rights,
- * Mounting violence and the resurgence of extremist, xenophobic and racist tendencies,
- * Increases in poverty,
- * The deterioration and destruction of the environment.

In addition to these general problems there are specific problems facing European trade unionists and these include the power of multinational companies and the forced introduction of new technology. Commenting in particular on the role of multinationals the Action Programme states that they continue to take advantage of the weaknesses in national and European social legislation in order to maintain and increase their dominant position and maximise profits at working people's expense.

However the Action Programme clearly states the attitude of the EMF to the future of Europe. Despite all the problems and contradictions the EMF believes that there is no credible alternative to pursuing the further construction of Europe. The objective must be to build a democratic free, social, united and peaceful Europe.

The Action Programme establishes a number of short and medium term goals in order to work towards this objective. These are:-

1. The reduction of unemployment by the development of an active employment policy, implementing job-creating investment programmes and reducing working time.
2. The reduction of working time. The programme calls for the establishment of a 35 hour working week, increased annual holiday entitlement, the lowering of the retirement age and a restriction on the use of overtime.
3. Making the introduction of technological change socially acceptable by a policy of prior information, consultation and negotiation with trade unions so that new technology leads to improved working and living conditions and improved job content and job satisfaction.
4. Establishing ways of increasing the role of trade unions in the various European institutions and increasing contacts with the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.
5. Establishing better contacts with European employer organisations in the metal-working industry, including the creation of a permanent committee made up of representatives of the EMF and the West European Metal Trades Employers' Organisation, WEM.
6. Intensification of action with regard to multinational companies in Europe. The Action Programme in particular calls for a continuation and intensification of the exchange of information between trade unions and the development of joint claims

continued from page 8.

RESOLUTION ON EUROPEAN POLICY

One of the key resolutions approved by the 6th EMF General Assembly was the resolution on European Policy. The tone of the resolution reflected the theme of the Assembly - the continued fight against unemployment in western Europe. The resolution reaffirmed the EMF's commitment to the proposals adopted by the ETUC Milan Congress which called for measures to boost public and private investment and their co-ordination at European level; the introduction of a shorter working week; socially acceptable technology and the development of initial and further training for workers.

Accepting that the fight against unemployment involves the search for more balanced economic growth, the resolution recognises the importance that the European Commission attaches to the completion of the internal market. However the EMF stresses that measures to develop the internal market must:-

- * be accompanied by macroeconomic policies geared to employment growth, restoring the balance of regional development and steadily overcoming regional disparities;
- * simultaneously promote the creation of a European social dimension aimed at harmonising progress in respect of employment and working conditions and workers' social benefits, and also in respect of equal treatment and equal opportunities for women.
- * stimulate the development of industrial policies which go beyond national frontiers, are innovative and provide a means of strengthening Western Europe's competitive position whilst safeguarding workers' interests.

The resolution comments that the adoption of the Single European Act has given the Community new responsibilities especially as regards the internal market, economic and social cohesion, research and technology, the European monetary system, the social dialogue and the environment. The resolution states that the EMF insists on the need for reform of the Common Agricultural Policy [CAP] on economic and social as well as financial grounds. It also insists that Member States must give the Community institutions the means to carry out their responsibilities.

Commenting on the expansion of the European Community, the resolution welcomes the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community and reaffirms its belief that the Community must remain open to membership by any Western European country. However the resolution states the EMF's firm opposition to Turkey joining the EC, saying that their application for accession can only be accepted if Turkey restores true political democracy, including the full respect of human and trade union rights, and rescinds the judgement reached in the trial against the trade union organisation DISK and its officials.

The resolution concludes by instructing the EMF Executive Committee to take the necessary steps at European level to promote and co-ordinate efforts to mobilise the workers and ensure that appropriate action is undertaken at this level to secure the objectives set out in the resolution.

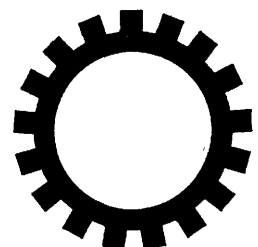
and mutual support in the event of action undertaken within multi-national companies.

7. The elimination of discrimination against women, young people and migrant workers.

8. The co-ordination of national trade union policies of common interest. Here the Programme calls for a rejection of any national or European incomes policy, the encouragement of trade union initiatives in favour of health and safety at work and increased employee influence on the decision-making processes within firms.

9. The development of metalworkers joint demands for future negotiations. These would include the rejection of all Government and employer attempts to restrict collective bargaining, abolition of lock-out practices and the removal of legal barriers to sympathy strikes on an international scale.

The final section of the Action Programme deals with the means of action available to achieve these goals. It calls on unions to make full use of collective bargaining and urges the use of the simultaneous presentation of common demands in different countries. It also calls for European trade unions to work together, exchanging information and establishing European level working parties. The Programme calls on unions to encourage the exchange of young trade unionists in the metalworking sectors with a view to further trade union education on a European level. Finally the Action Programme calls for joint demands to be put forward to the European institutions and the development of further contacts with such institutions.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REPORT

PLENARY SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The July Plenary Session of the European Parliament was held between the 6 and 10 of July. Coming as it did at a period of change-over between the Belgium presidency and the Danish presidency, the session provided an opportunity to both review the first half of 1987 and preview the second half. The session was also important because it marked the coming into effect of the Single European Act and provided MEPs with an opportunity to comment on the likely effect of the new procedures which have been introduced by the Act.

The Belgium Prime Minister, Mr Wilfried Martens, spoke to Parliament about the achievements of the Belgium presidency in general and the Brussels summit in particular. Mr Martens gave particular emphasis to the continuation of the social dialogue especially in terms of basic social rights within the context of the flexibility of the labour market. He welcomed the fact that the social partners were "unanimously and unreservedly in favour of the integral, and if possible accelerated realisation of the single market".

A particularly important debate took place on Friday when the Parliament discussed a report prepared by the Portuguese Socialist MEP, Mr Crespo, on social balance sheets. A resolution was adopted which invites the European Commission to present to the Council as soon as possible a draft directive to oblige all companies and groups of companies with more than a certain number of employees to draw up and publish a "social balance-sheet". The concept of the social balance-sheet, social audit or social assessment originated in the United States but has already been adopted by companies in Portugal and West Germany. It is a method by which companies are obliged to quantify their social rather than economic obligations to society in terms of employment and also potentially in areas such as the environment. Commissioner Clinton Davis told Parliament that the Commission will carry out an in-depth study of existing systems and report on the need for a Directive by June 1988.

During the plenary session Parliament also discussed the Delors plan for the future financing of the Community and the Cockfield proposals on the harmonisation of VAT rates and excise duties within the Community.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

A question by Mr Roelants du Vivier, an MEP from Belgium, asked the Commission whether it intended to introduce a ban on the chemical Phosgene throughout the Community. Commissioner Narjes agreed that the chemical was very toxic and outlined the two Directives which control the production of Phosgene; Directive 80/1107/EEC which was concerned with the protection of workers, and Directive 82/501/EEC which was concerned with the safety of chemical installations. However he concluded by saying that as things stand the Commission does not plan to prohibit the manufacture of Phosgene.

[Qu. 2622/86]

Mr Marin, answering on behalf of the Commission a question from MEP Mrs Reymonde Dury, stated that the Commission intends to submit before the end of 1987 a proposal to the Council for a Directive aimed at improving the protection of workers exposed to carcinogenic substances.

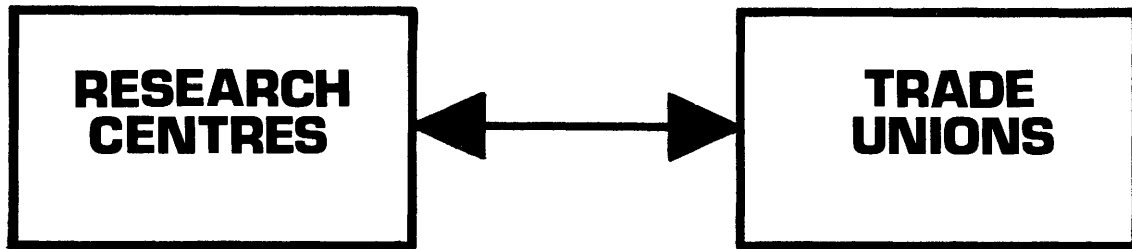
[Qu. 2770/86]

The British MEP, Stephen Hughes, asked a question concerning measures to assist areas which have been affected by closures in the shipbuilding industry. Commissioner Narjes stated that between 1975 and June 1986 over 1,000 million ECU has been made available from the European Regional Development Fund towards 2,283 projects. He also stated that operations for persons unemployed or threatened with unemployment in shipbuilding closure areas may well qualify for priority under one or more headings under the Guidelines of the European Social Fund.

[Qu. 616/86]

British MEP Alexander Falconer asked the Commission to advise on the possible harmful effects on workers of the chemicals Santobrite and Metasole which are used in the printing industry. Mr Marin, answering on behalf of the Commission, stated that Pentachlorophenol [Santobrite] and Methazol [ureic compound] have similar effects but Methazol is less toxic. Irritation of the skin, eyes and upper respiratory tract has been observed and in cases of intoxication symptoms include loss of appetite, difficulty in breathing, sweating, hyperpyrexia, digestive problems and, in extreme cases, a rapidly worsening coma.

[Qu. 1990/86]



**CO-OPERATION BETWEEN RESEARCH CENTRES AND TRADE UNIONS
A CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
15-16 JUNE 1987 IN BRUSSELS**

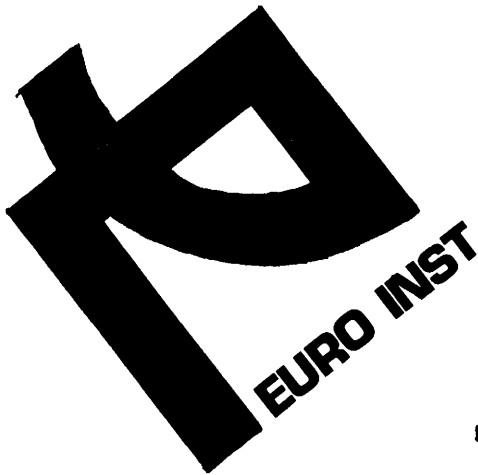
As we announced in the March edition of the Bulletin a major Conference, organised by the Commission of the European Communities, was held in Brussels in June. The Conference, entitled "Co-operation between Research Centres and Trade Unions", had the objective of promoting further co-operation between bodies carrying out research and the representatives of working people - their trade unions. Much emphasis has been placed recently on co-operation between research establishments and industry but little has been done to involve trade unions in research activities, although very often the result of research work has a major influence on the lives of workers.

The Conference was based around a number of contributions from people who had already had practical experience of the type of links that could be developed between research workers and trade unions and which could be of benefit to both parties. A number of speakers referred to the experience of German trade unions who since the early seventies have been developing links with higher education establishments. Jurgen Weissbach described a project supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Science and the DGB which was aimed at opening up academic research to the problems of workers. As a result of this and other similar problems the readiness of many institutes of higher education and researchers to deal with issues relating to workers and the world of employment has grown, the Conference was told. Many examples of the type of issues tackled by such co-operative research ventures were given, including health and safety issues [stress caused by shift working, damage to limbs caused by the weight of building materials etc], economic and labour market policy. Jurgen Weissbach concluded by saying that the experience of trade union co-operation with institutes of higher education and scientists had led to an improvement in the defence of workers interests, however such co-operation is only just beginning and further advances could undoubtedly be made.

A speaker described the experience of trade unionists in London who have been involved in what are called "technology networks". These networks, which were sponsored by the Greater London Council, are organised on either a geographical basis so that they cover a specific catchment area of the city or a product basis so that they cover distinct industries. The networks provide a facility so that academics, industrialists, trade unions and members of the community can meet together and discuss ways in which research can be of value to all. One example of this co-operation is the involvement of the transport unions in the development of new types of vehicles which embody medical services such as a mobile Cardio Vascular System.

A further speaker described the experience of the "Instituts Du Travail" in France, the first of which dates back to the mid fifties. There are now nine "Instituts" operating in France, two of which recruit at national and seven at regional level. The "Instituts" all form part of University departments but they have a large degree of autonomy within the universities themselves. They are managed by a joint administrative board consisting of university staff and trade unionists appointed by the three trade union confederations. The main function common to all the "Instituts" is to organise advanced training courses for trade unions on a number of specialised topics. Each "Institut" has also developed additional activities such as documentation centres, research programmes and the development of teaching materials.

At this stage a detailed report of the Conference is not yet available but details of the report will be included in a future issue of the Bulletin.



Women In Trade Unions In Western Europe

The proportion of women in European trade unions is increasing and women are becoming more active within trade union organisations. This is one of the main findings of a new research report published by the European Trade Union Institute, the research body of the European trade union movement. The Report entitled "Women and Trade Unions in Western Europe" examines the current position of women in the trade unions of 18 Western European countries. It also examines the steps various unions are taking to increase representation of women on trade union bodies and reviews recent developments. The following statistics on the percentage of women in the working population and within trade union organisations are taken from the Report.

WOMEN IN TRADE UNIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE			
COUNTRY	% Of Women in total Working Population	Trade Union Organisation	% of female members
Austria	40.9	OGB	31
Belgium	32.8	CSC	33**
		FGTB	33**
Denmark	46.0	LO	46
		FTF	56
Spain	28.0	UGT	12
		ELA/STV	21
Finland	48.0	SAK	44
		TVK	83
France	40.8	CFDT	32
Great Britain	40.0	TUC	33
Greece	33.0	GSEE	*
Ireland	29.0	ICTU	32
Iceland	39.3	ASI	46
Italy	36.0	CGIL	32**
		CISL	32**
		UIL	24**
Luxembourg	31.6	CGT-LUX	17
		LCGB	10
Norway	43.3	LO	36
The Netherlands	33.0	FNV	16
		CNV	20
Portugal	40.0	UGT-P	46
Fed. Rep. of Germany	38.0	DGB	22
Sweden	47.0	LO	43
		TCO	57
Switzerland	33.0	SGB	12
		CNG	11

NOTES: * figures not available ** approximate percentage.

Copies of the full Report are available from the European Trade Union Institute, Boulevard de l'Imperatrice 66 [Bte 4] 1000 Brussels, Belgium. The price is BF 700, however special discounts are available to trade union members and organisations.

NEW

Recent Publications from the Commission of the European Communities

THIRD REPORT ON THE REGIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Commission has just published their third periodic report on the social and economic situation in the regions of the Community [*]. The Report provides a comprehensive picture of the disparities between regions in the Community, a picture which has recently been influenced by the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal and the adoption of the Single European Act which sets the task of improving regional policy to achieve convergence and cohesion within the Community.

In summarising the effects of enlargement on regional disparities the report notes that the accession of Spain and Portugal has greatly accentuated the problem. In the enlarged Community about a fifth of the total population live in regions where income levels, measured in terms of GDP per head of population, trail the Community average by up to 60% and more. Income per head of population in Portugal is only one half, and in Spain three quarters, of the average of the other ten Member States. The report goes on to examine some factors which can account for these regional disparities and looks at the role for an enhanced European regional policy. In particular the role of the internal market is considered, and the opportunities this might provide for the underdeveloped regions as well as the risks which inevitably accompany such opportunities.

The main body of the report contains a mass of statistical information on the current state of social and economic activity within the European regions. The most recent results of the Community's Synthetic Index of Regional Problems are contained within the Report. This index attempts to quantify the scale of the regional problems by using an index made up from various factors including unemployment and income levels. The average for the Community as a whole is 100 and the lower the figure the greater the extent of regional problems. The most recent index varies from a value of 36.9 for the Basilicata region of Italy to 171.8 for the Darmstadt region of the Federal Republic of Germany. This third report, like its two predecessors, is essential reading for anyone concerned with the problems of regional imbalance in Europe.

[*] "Third Periodic Report From the Commission on the Social and Economic Situation and Development of the Regions of the Community" Com[87] 230 final. May 1987.

INFORMISEP - ISSUE 17, MARCH 1987

The Bulletin has in the past frequently referred to the information on employment policies published by the Commission in the InforMISEP series. One of the real values of the European Community is the ability to be able to compare experiences and share information and nowhere is this more important than in the field of employment where one of the chief aims of the Community must be to reduce the level of unemployment throughout Europe. InforMISEP is a regular series of reports published by DGV of the Commission which examines comparative developments throughout all twelve Member States. This most recent issue examines such subjects as aid to the unemployed, training, job creation and working time. It contains information on the new overtime regulations in Spain, the new job creation programme in Belgium and the extension of unemployment benefits for long-term unemployed in Germany: and indeed many other policies and developments from all the Member States.

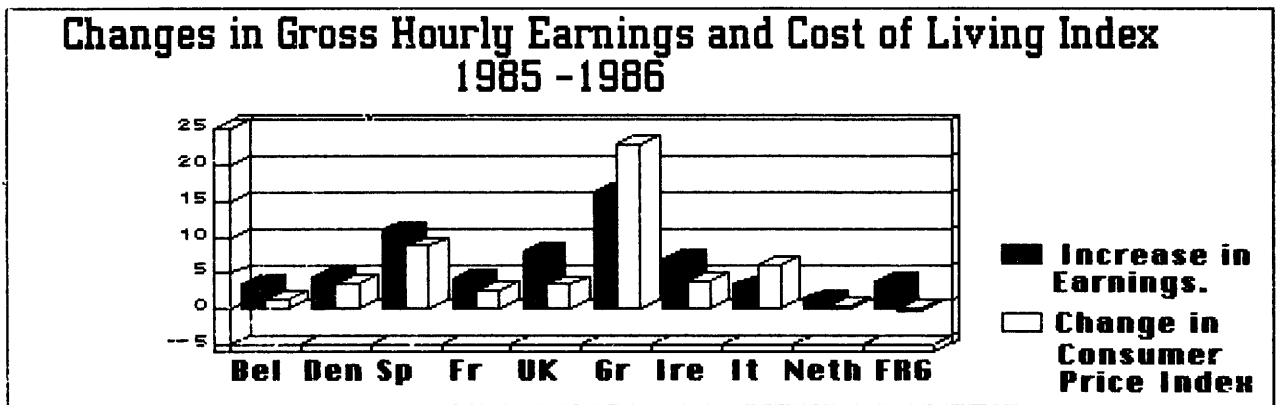
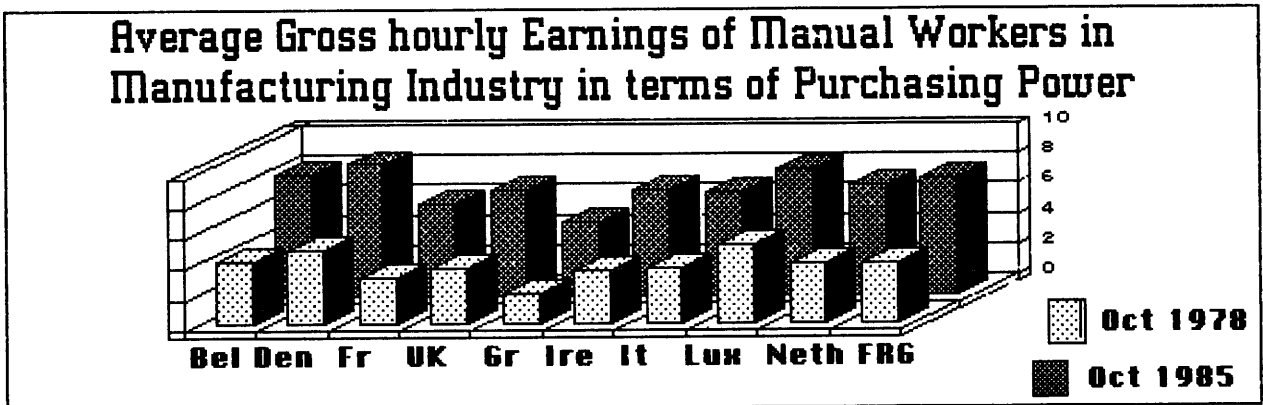
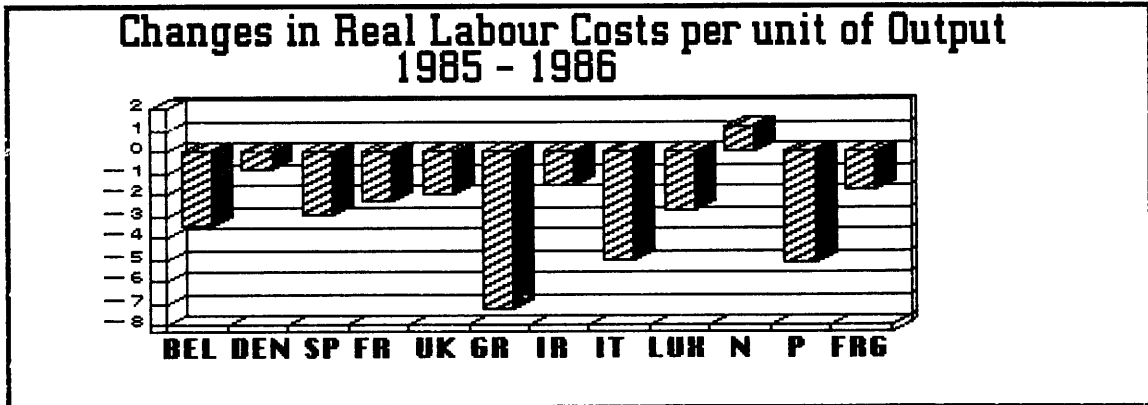
Such information will be of great value to trade unionists throughout Europe in helping them to frame their own policies. Copies of InforMISEP are available from the Commission of the European Communities.

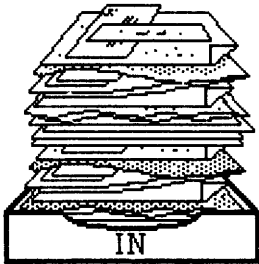
EURODATA

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN WESTERN EUROPE IN 1986 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1987

The three tables printed below are based on statistics taken from the new European Trade Union Institute publication "Collective Bargaining in Western Europe in 1986". This annual report, which is available in French, German and English, examines the main trends in collective bargaining in all Western European countries. The four sections of the report examine the background to collective bargaining in 1986; wages, purchasing power and payment systems; working time; and future prospects for 1987. The report contains a wealth of statistics on all these issues and as usual the current edition is an invaluable source of information for European trade unionists.

It is available from the ETUI, Boulevard De L'Imperatrice 66 [Bte 4] 1000 Brussels, and costs BF 700 although there is a reduced price of BF 300 to trade unions and trade unionists.





BULLETIN BOARD

MEETINGS

Forthcoming meetings of the ICEF
[International Federation of Chemical,
Energy and General Workers' Unions]

- * **XIX STATUTORY CONGRESS**
Tokyo, December 7-9, 1988.
- * **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
Brussels, December 16-17, 1987.
Brussels, May 26-27, 1988.
- * **SECTION CONFERENCE**
Womens Group:
Brussels, October 13-15, 1987.

ETUC NEWS

The ETUC **WORKING PARTY ON THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL PROGRAMME** met in May and considered a first draft of the ETUC's European Social Programme. A revised document was presented to the ETUC Executive Committee meeting in June. It will be considered further at the October Executive Committee meeting.

A meeting of the ETUC **WORKING PARTY ON RESEARCH AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT** took place in Brussels in April and discussed the European Commission meeting on co-operation between trade unions and research centres [see report in this issue of the Bulletin]. The meeting also considered possible follow up to the Conference and the institutionalisation of co-operation at European level.

The ETUC **STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT** met in June to consider the question of adaptability. It examined the Commission document on internal and external adaptability of the enterprise in relation to employment.

TRADE UNIONS IN FRANCE

The latest in the series of reports produced by the ETUI on the trade union movements in the various Western European countries has just been published as "Info 20". "The Trade Union Movement In France" gives a clear, concise analysis of the French trade union movement, examining the history of trade union organisation, the level of trade union membership, and the structures and programmes of the trade union confederations.

The section on the history of French trade unions provides the background to the emergence of the five confederations which make up the trade union movement today. The objectives of each confederation are examined along with the relationship between the confederation and its' constituent unions. A separate section of the report examines relations between the confederations themselves and relationships with political parties. The French trade union movement is perhaps one of the most complex in Europe and this new report provides a welcome guide to the complexity.

Info 20: The Trade Union Movement In France:
Published by the European Trade Union Institute [1987]

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