



EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

N° 2/88

TRADE UNION INFORMATION BULLETIN

In This Issue:
Internal Market
Employment Growth
Structural Funds

Published by the Trade Union Division of the Directorate-General for Information, Communication and Culture

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (DG X) 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels

Trade Union Information

TRADE UNION INFORMATION BULLETIN

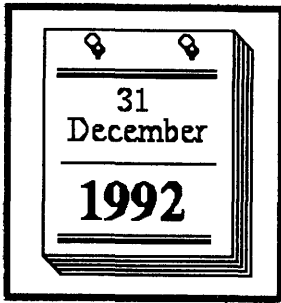
CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| The Benefits of a United European Market | 3 |
| European Parliament Report | 4 |
| New Forms and New Areas of Employment Growth | 5 |
| European Structural Funds | 6 |
| News From Europe: | |
| Working Hours in Greece | 7 |
| Railways | 7 |
| Val Duchesse Social Dialogue | 7 |
| 1988 ETUC Congress | |
| Review of Congress Resolutions | 8 |
| The Death of Trees - the effects of transboundary pollution on the pulp and paper industries | 10 |
| Young Worker Exchange Programme | 10 |
| Health and Safety: | |
| Health hazards in rubber industry | 11 |
| Protection against biological agents | 11 |
| New Publications from the European Commission | 12 |
| Industry File - The Automobile Industry | 13 |
| Eurodata - Statistics | 14 |
| Bulletin Board | 15 |

Editor:
Alan BURNETT
Sheffield, U.K.

The views expressed
in the Bulletin are those
of the Editor
and are not necessarily
those of the
European Commission.

**PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES PER YEAR IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN
BY THE TRADE UNION DIVISION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES.**



The Benefits of a United European Market

New Commission Report

The completion of the European internal market could lead to faster economic growth, economic gains of up to 250 billion ECU and the creation of five million additional jobs. These are some of the key findings of a special Report produced for the European Commission by a research team led by the Italian economist Paulo Cecchini. Details of the main findings of the research were announced at a press conference by Commission President, Jacques Delors.

The Commission has been convinced for many years that there were potentially great economic benefits to be gained by the Member States from the creation of a totally unified Community market. It was such a belief that led to the 1985 White Paper "Completing the Internal Market" with its three hundred proposals for harmonisation. In 1986 Lord Cockfield, the Commissioner with special responsibility for the internal market, invited Mr Cecchini to organise a comprehensive enquiry into the likely economic impact of completing this programme of actions. A large number of independent economic experts, consultants and research institutes contributed to the project, and the full Report will be published in all Community languages during the next few months.

The effects of completing the internal market were examined from both a micro-economic and macroeconomic point of view. The study found that the direct cost of current frontier formalities accounts for about 1.8% of the value of goods traded within the Community. Other costs associated with differing standards likewise account for about 2% of value. However the potential microeconomic benefits of the internal market are far greater than simply the neutralisation of these costs. In some cases costs are expected to be reduced by anything up to 10%. For all sectors and taking into account all types of cost savings and potential price reductions, the study suggests total economic gains of the order of 4.5% to 6.5% of Community Gross Domestic Product - at 1988 prices anywhere between 170 and 250 billion ECU.

The study used the microeconomic projections to estimate the effects of the completion of the internal market on the general level of prices and employment. It found that in the medium-term (within five to six years of completion) the positive impact on employment could amount to about 2 million additional jobs. An important section of the Report states that if a specific macroeconomic policy that recognised the potential for faster economic growth is pursued the gains could amount to a 7% growth in Gross Domestic Product and a 5 million increase in employment.

The study confirms that if Europe is to get the most out of its large home market the internal frontiers must truly disappear and radical political and social changes will need to be introduced. The study specifically urges management to reduce conflict in industrial relations, encourage employee involvement in the life of the enterprise and ensure that workers share in jointly achieved productivity gains. The study also stresses the importance of a supportive economic policy - that is a growth-orientated macroeconomic policy.

European trade unionists will be well aware that the ETUC and other trade union organisations have supported the idea of the completion of the internal market so long as it is accompanied by the necessary economic and social policies to ensure a growth in employment and a greater say for workers in their enterprises. The study underlines the validity of such demands by emphasising that the full benefits of a large internal market can only be obtained if such measures are introduced.

BESSE REPORT ON NEW TECHNOLOGY

The European Parliament will discuss a report on the economic impact of new technology during their plenary session in May. The report, produced by the French Socialist MEP Jean Besse, calls upon the European Commission to draw up a "European Technology Project" to ensure that the results of new technology not only make European industry more competitive but also fulfil the needs for social and regional solidarity.

The Besse Report states that regulations should be introduced on a European level to facilitate the conclusion of collective agreements on the introduction and extension of new technology. Moreover the Report calls for action by the Commission to ensure that the less-developed regions of the Community are not by-passed by technological developments. The Report underlines the potential benefits of developing new technologies, a recent FAST report claimed that such developments could lead to the creation of an additional 4 to 5 million jobs in Europe.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights has adopted a Report on equal opportunities for boys and girls in education and vocational training. Amongst other things the Report calls for the Commission to produce a list of innovative programmes from the experience of Member States and allocate specific funds in 1989 to run a series of information seminars throughout all twelve Member States.

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

The European Parliament has approved two measures aimed at reducing the hazards associated with dangerous substances. They have reached agreement with the Council of Ministers on new rules on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances. Parliament has also approved a proposal to add Hexachlorobenzene to the annexe of the 1986 Directive on the use of dangerous substances in the workplace.

EUROPEAN CULTURAL POLICY

Parliament has adopted a Resolution in favour of a European cultural policy. The Resolution stresses that such a policy is an important accompaniment to the people's Europe policy and the drive towards the completion of the internal market. The Resolution was put forward by the Belgium MEP Lambert Croux, who called for a policy which encouraged both creativity and employment in the cultural sector. The Resolution emphasises that cultural activities and investment in the regions of Europe must aim both to conserve and promote specific regional identity.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND GUIDELINES

The Social Affairs Committee of the European Parliament has welcomed the decision by Commissioner Marin to withdraw the guidelines for the operation of the European Social Fund during the period 1989-91. The Committee had previously passed a resolution stating that the guidelines were unacceptable in their current form. The guidelines have also been rejected by the consultative committee of the Social Fund.

New Forms and New Areas of Employment Growth

Perhaps the greatest problem facing European workers in the nineteen eighties is the problem of unemployment. The effects of unemployment are far from being limited to the unemployed workers themselves - the repercussions permeate throughout society, leaving no family, no company, no industry unaffected. And whilst the level of unemployment varies in different Member States, it is a problem that is common to all countries; and in turn each Member State is searching for ways of increasing potential employment prospects. In such circumstances the European Commission has a clear role - a role which includes helping to analyse potential areas of employment growth and helping to disseminate positive experiences from the programmes and policies of individual Member States.

Some time ago the European Commission (Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Education - DGV) funded a review of new forms and new areas of employment growth within the Community. The review examined the current situation in five Member States - France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom in terms of two areas of development. The work on new forms of employment examines the way in which characteristics of jobs are changing in terms of both the skill requirements and the contractual and organisational arrangements within which they are offered to members of the labour force. The analysis of new areas of employment attempts to identify those areas of the economy where employment opportunities are increasing.

The Commission has recently published a comparative study of employment growth based upon this research ("New Forms and New Areas of Employment Growth - A Comparative Study" by Robert Lindley, Institute for Employment Research, Warwick, UK. European Commission Document CB-49-87-624, available priced 8.70 ECU). Some of the main conclusions of this Study can be summarised as follows:-

- * The growth of new forms and areas of employment will fail to compensate sufficiently for the loss of jobs elsewhere and the growth of labour supply.
- * Industrial structure is expected to continue to change in favour of the service sector of the economy but the change will not be as marked as that experienced between 1975 and 1985. The growth of the service sector is expected to be hampered by the effects of restrictive budgetary policies on the development of public services.
- * The main projected areas of employment growth common to all five countries are business and related services, tourism and leisure activities, and health care. The occupations most likely to expand are the more highly qualified groups of managers and other professionals.
- * Further increases in the employment of women are predicted along with further modest reductions in working hours.
- * The Study predicts that different forms of self-employment and off-site working are likely to develop along with more "flexible" contractual forms and working patterns. Temporary work is also likely to expand.

These and the many other conclusions of the Study have important implications for European trade unionists and the publication of the study is to be welcomed.

European Structural Funds

ERDF

FIRST AND SECOND ALLOCATION FOR 1988 OF GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS

Grants of over 500 million ECU to Greece, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, and the United Kingdom have been announced by the European Commission as part of the first and second 1988 allocation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The projects assisted by the Fund include the following:

GERMANY: Over 300 jobs will be created thanks to two industrial investment projects in Lower Saxony and Rhineland-Palatinate. The projects involve the manufacture of integrated circuits and turned components.

SPAIN: The financing of a new rail link between Madrid and Andalucia - one of the largest infrastructure projects in Europe - is amongst the projects being supported by the ERDF in Spain. Grants of 134m ECU are being provided to support projects in Castilla - La Mancha, the Canary Islands, Andalucia, and Extremadura.

FRANCE: ERDF financing will be used to assist road-building projects and a number of tourism projects, particularly as part of the integrated Mediterranean Programme. Specific grants will go to the creation of a research institute in Arles and the establishment of a national strip cartoon and image centre in Angouleme.

IRELAND: Five grants will be allocated to waste water purification plants located in the Dublin area.

UNITED KINGDOM: Grants are being provided for a number of road building projects including the construction of a new by-pass west of Newcastle and the improvement of major roads in Wales.

ITALY: More than 170m ECU is being provided by the ERDF for projects which include the expansion of the Naples underground system and the construction of a new landing strip at Cagilari.

ESF

TWO AND A HALF THOUSAND MILLION ECU ALLOCATED BY SOCIAL FUND DURING 1986.

The final returns for the allocation of funds during 1986 by the European Social Fund (ESF) have been published by the European Commission.

During the year applications for Fund assistance increased by over 4% on the 1985 total and by more than 50% on the 1984 figure. The ESF total budget represented 6.35% of the general Community budget and the volume of applications submitted corresponded to 168% of available resources.

A total of 2,340,000 persons received Fund assistance, of whom 880,000 were women. Under Community rules at least 75% of all available appropriations must be allocated to operations on behalf of young people under 25 and 44.5% of the appropriations available must be allocated to operations providing employment in absolute priority regions.

The breakdown of total allocations for the year is as follows:-

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| TOTAL ASSISTANCE | |
| APPROVED | 2,554,000,000 ECU |
| AID TO OPERATIONS IN | |
| ABSOLUTE PRIORITY | |
| REGIONS | 1,138,600,000 ECU |
| AID TO PROJECTS FOR | |
| YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE | |
| AGE OF 25 | 1,917,000,000 ECU |
| ALLOCATIONS FOR | |
| TRAINING AND VOCATIONAL | |
| GUIDANCE | 2,084,000,000 ECU |
| ALLOCATIONS TO RECRUITMENT | |
| SUBSIDIES AND WAGE | |
| SUBSIDIES | 343,000,000 ECU |

NEWS FROM EUROPE

GREECE: Working Hours

Major changes in shop opening hours in Athens were introduced earlier this year. A new law restricts the opening hours of shops, cutting the average working week of shop workers from 44 over a six day working week to 40 spread over five days. Besides creating more jobs, the Act will contribute to decreasing air pollution and alleviating traffic congestion - both of which are major problems in the Greek capital city.

A new Government scheme has been established to provide financial aid to small shops to employ extra workers to meet the requirements of the Act. It is expected that the Act will soon be extended to apply to the rest of Greece.

RAILWAYS

European railway workers gathered in Frankfurt in the German Federal Republic in March to call for greater investment for the European railway system. "More Railways - Protect Europe's Environment" was the slogan adopted by the meeting and demonstration which was attended by representatives of railway trade unions from Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Denmark, France, and Belgium. Speakers at the rally referred to Government funding which is being made available for road building whilst the railway systems are allowed to deteriorate. The completion of the internal market in 1992 and the substantial increase in European trade that is bound to follow could make the situation worse if extra investment is not directed towards the railway network. Ernst Haar, President of the German railway workers union GdED, declared that European railwaymen must fight to defend the railways, to improve the environment and to create new jobs. He reminded delegates that his own union had recently taken strike action for the first time in many years in support of shorter working time and the creation of 4,200 new jobs on the German railway system. Rene Bleser from the Luxembourg railwayworkers union also referred to 1992 and the liberalisation of transport. He stressed the importance of the development of an integrated European transport policy for both road and rail.

VAL DUCHESSE

Progress in the "Val Duchesse" social dialogue talks between representatives of European trade unions and employers is continuing although both parties accept that discussions are still some way from any firm agreement. Over the past few months talks have centred around the problem of labour market flexibility and the necessary protective measures to ensure that workers benefit from gains in the competitiveness of European industry.

Earlier this year it became apparent that fundamental differences between the employers (represented by UNICE and CEEP) and the unions (represented by the ETUC) existed. The differences concerned the order in which decisions should be made - the employers wanted to adopt a joint opinion on the principle of flexibility before examining various themes such as hours of work, the distribution of gains, etc. The ETUC were of the opinion that the specific themes should be discussed before fixing an overall framework.

A working meeting of the social partners took place in April to consider compromise proposals put forward by the European Commission. The compromise suggests that the general text should be used as guidelines for the discussion of six specific flexibility themes. The ETUC submitted a number of amendments to the general text; for example the demand that flexibility in the hours of work should be accompanied by the guarantee that flexibility should not be detrimental to worker's health nor their social and family life. At the time of writing UNICE has not yet decided whether it is prepared to accept the ETUC amendments.

Despite the differences that undoubtedly do exist between the two sides, both UNICE and the ETUC are certain that the continuation of the "Val Duchesse" social dialogue is essential. ETUC General Secretary, Mathias Hinterscheid, stated that the debate is now better defined and both parties are aware of the possibilities and the limits of action. The next stage of the dialogue will be concerned with the consideration of a Commission report detailing the range within which flexibility is possible for each of the six themes.

6

CONGRES STATUTAIRE
STATUTORY CONGRESS
SATZUNGSGEMÄSSER
KONGRESS
ORDINÆRE KONGRESS
9-13/05/88
STOCKHOLM

CES
ETUC
EGB
DEFS



rue Montagne aux herbes potagères, 37 - 1000 Bruxelles ☎ (02) 218 31 00

1988 ETUC CONGRESS

The Sixth Statutory Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation takes place in Stockholm, Sweden in May 1988. The Congress is the supreme policy making body of the ETUC and meets every three years. Delegates at Stockholm will represent over 43 million organised workers from 21 Western European countries.

The next issue of the Bulletin will provide a detailed analysis of the decisions of Congress. In this short article we examine some of the key resolutions due to be debated by the delegates.

The theme of the Congress is "For a Social Europe with the ETUC: Employment, Justice, Solidarity". Congress will consider five key reports and debate resolutions based on these reports. The subjects of the reports are as follows:-

- * THE ECONOMIC POLICY FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT.
- * INVESTMENT IN EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS.
- * JUSTICE AND SOCIAL SECURITY.
- * DEMOCRACY IN THE ECONOMY AND IN SOCIETY THROUGH THE EXTENSION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS.
- * THE PERSPECTIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPE IN THE WORLD.

There follows a brief summary of some of the main points from these five reports.

THE ECONOMIC POLICY FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT:

The Report sets out the ETUC's strategy for a return to full employment. The strategy is based on the improvements in qualitative and quantitative economic growth stimulated by an active public sector interventionist policy. A precondition for such a policy is the effective co-ordination of measures at European level which will enable industry to achieve total exploitation of the European dimension. The full participation of the social partners in developing such a policy is called for. The co-operative strategy for growth and employment should not be abandoned, its failure so far, according to the report, comes from a lack of seriousness with which some governments have applied it and a lack of investment by employers. An important step should be the creation of a European monetary environment which will lead to economic growth, and the expansion of the activities of the structural funds of the European Community.

The power of European trade unionists must be optimised by gathering its force behind compatible claims and policies which aim to achieve the objectives of full employment, greater equality and an improvement in the standard of living. Specific policies should include a reduction in working hours to improve social conditions and support the fight against unemployment and the creation of a more balanced world economy which will foster the accelerated growth of the developing countries.

The report stresses that the fundamental goal of all European trade unions, the return to full employment and the fight against inequalities, is based on the need for economic and social cohesion. Policies must ensure a reduction in inequalities between people through a system of taxation and social security, through better social protection for the less-favoured groups in society, through the strict application of legislation on equal opportunities for men and women, and by the banning of all forms of discrimination.

INVESTMENT IN EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND IMPROVED LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS:

The second report suggests that an employment policy which is dynamic would be a way of improving the functioning of the job market and reducing unemployment, at the same time as representing a huge contribution to balanced economic and social policies. Such a policy should have a tripartite basis (workers, employers, public authorities) and be helped by various support measures and training programmes and be in close relations with investment programmes and regional policy.

Increased management of employment is called for and the report notes that such moves would be against the current deregulation policies. The objective of a 35 hour working week is still seen as essential, even if the reduction in working hours may take on a variety of forms. In terms of labour market flexibility, the report calls on the European Community to adopt instruments guaranteeing the rights of workers. Further education has a vital role to play in the creation of a dynamic employment market. The most vulnerable groups in society (the young, women, immigrants, the handicapped and the long-term unemployed) should be the subject of specific measures with regard to employment and training and the European Social Fund should help in the financing of such measures. The report also calls for the adoption at Community level a range of framework directives on health and security at the workplace.

JUSTICE AND SOCIAL SECURITY:

The report on Social Security notes that social security schemes are currently the object of multiple attacks aimed at dismantling and privatising them. The ETUC, states the report, opposes any attempt to weaken social security schemes, especially as there is a relation between social protection levels and economic performance. It is the responsibility of government and the social partners to guarantee that the revenues of social security schemes increase by at least the same proportions as national wealth. The report calls for the creation of a "social base" of fundamental rights and benefits below which no Member state should go as part of the process of harmonisation in anticipation for the 1992 deadline for completing the internal market. The report also calls for specific actions in favour of migrant workers and consumer interests.

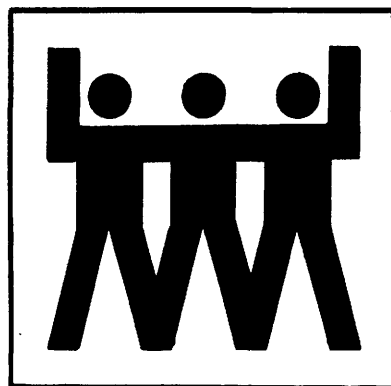
DEMOCRACY IN THE ECONOMY AND IN SOCIETY:

The fourth report underlines the importance of the participation of trade unions in decision-making processes both at an industrial, national and European level. It proposes a number of specific measures including a programme of information exchange between European trade unionists and a better flow of information on the activities of multinational companies and collective agreements at sectoral level.

THE ROLE OF EUROPE IN THE WORLD:

The ETUC sets out six priority objectives for Europe in the fifth and final report to be discussed at the Stockholm Congress. These are:

1. Safeguarding democracy throughout the world,
2. Peace, security and disarmament,
3. An improvement in east-west relations,
4. Solidarity with developing countries,
5. A bolstering of Europe's place within the industrialised countries,
6. Environmental protection as a means of improving the quality of life.



The Death of Trees

A REPORT ON THE EFFECTS OF TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION ON THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY

Trees are the earth's most significant land cover, accounting for 40% of the total land area of the planet. Important industries have developed around this major, renewable natural resource, giving employment to hundreds of thousands of people throughout the world and touching every aspect of modern life. Now the abundance of this resource is seriously threatened and along with it the health of other natural life - not least of all humanity itself. Over half the German and Swiss forests were officially recorded as diseased or damaged in 1986.

It is to this problem that a new publication of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions (ICEF) addresses itself. "The Death of Trees" has been produced for the ICEF by Vic Thorpe and it considers the effects of transboundary pollution on the pulp and paper industries. The most obvious cause of such pollution is, of course, acid rain, but the study examines the whole range of polluting agents including nitrogen overdose, soil acidification, nutrient starvation, and the decay of the ozone layer which is a useful approach as there are too many mono causal explanations of what is a complex problem.

The implications for the wood and pulp industry are obvious - the industry depends on a renewable supply of healthy trees for its very existence. One of the main paradoxes identified by the study is that it is the pulp industry itself which is one of the main producers of air pollution. The study suggests that whilst many of the steps necessary to stem the output of polluting agents are outside the control of the industry, there are steps which can be taken by the industry to put its own house in order. The study also examines the wider actions that need to be taken by other process industries including the control of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide emission. Perhaps the most difficult problem associated with the effects of pollution on Europe's forests is that it is by its very nature an international problem. Solutions can not exist within national boundaries as air pollution does not respect geographical divisions. Thus there is an important role for the European Community to play and equally an important role for the European trade union movement.

The publication of this study is an important step forward, illustrating as it does the concern of the movement for the environmental effects of the activity of industry. The measures the study calls for are in line with the established policy of the ICEF, a policy designed to protect jobs and protect the environment.

THE DEATH OF TREES by VIC THORPE is published by the International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions, 109 Ave Emile de Beco, B-1050, Brussels, Belgium and is available priced 300 Belgium Francs.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY YOUNG WORKER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The European Community Young Worker Exchange Programme is open to all young people between the ages of 18 and 28, who are in a job or looking for one, and who have had vocational training (preference is given to those who have not been to University) or practical working experience. The programme, open to all Member States' nationals, covers a wide range of activities in crafts, trade, culture, industry, leisure, health, services and agriculture. The Community will contribute to the costs of accommodation, meals and up to 75% of travelling expenses. Both long term and short term exchanges are available. The European Community, which is in charge of the programme, has delegated local running of the scheme to promoting organisations. A full list of promoting organisations and further details of the programme can be obtained from the Commission of the European Communities: Directorate General, Employment, social Affairs and Education, 200 Rue de la Loi, B - 1049 Brussels.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH HAZARDS IN THE RUBBER INDUSTRY

The health and safety hazards facing workers in the rubber industry are examined in a new report published by the International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions (ICEF). The report comments that for years the rubber industry has been known by workers as one of the potentially most hazardous of the process industries. Investigations originally targeted at discovering the incidence of a special range of rubber-related cancers (notably bladder cancers) have revealed high rates of other diseases amongst rubber workers - heart disease, nervous disorders, contact dermatitis and other cancer types.

The new ICEF report, which has been written by Jeffrey Harrod, seeks to define areas of risk, the accepted control limits to occupational exposures and approaches to risk limitation for workers in the industry. Following a general review of the major areas of hazards in the industry and an examination of the problems of risk management, the report reviews the known dangers faced by workers. Such dangers are particularly related to a whole range of cancers - evidence referred to in the report suggests that certain workers in the rubber tyre industry face risks of between 2 and 6 times that of the general population of contracting such diseases as stomach cancer, prostate cancer, skin cancer and leukaemia.

The report attempts to identify the main categories of chemicals used in the industry and their associated hazards. Of particular benefit will be the detailed table of rubber industry chemicals which is produced at the end of the report. This table examines some one hundred and seventy chemicals used in the industry and for each one it provides the following information:-

1. The standard international abbreviation.
2. The class of chemical.
3. Section of the rubber industry the chemical is associated with.
4. Type of use in the rubber industry.
5. Level of toxicity.
6. Sensitisation effect.
7. Irritant effect.
8. Carcinogenic, mutagenic, teratogenic and neuro-toxic effects.
9. Best prevailing TLV-TWA.

Drawing as it does on evidence and experiences from a number of different countries, the report once again demonstrates the uniquely important role that can be played by the international trade union movement in providing the evidence workers need in order to protect their own health and safety at work.

"HEALTH HAZARDS IN THE RUBBER INDUSTRY - AN INTERNATIONAL REPORT" by Jeffrey Harrod. Published by the International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions, Avenue Emile de Beco 109, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium. Price 300 Belgium Francs.

PROTECTION OF WORKERS AGAINST BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

The European Commission has approved a draft directive on the protection of workers against the risks of exposure to biological agents at their place of work. The draft directive, which has now been submitted to the Council of Ministers, is part of the overall attempt to harmonise standards on the protection of workers in line with the movement towards the completion of the internal market by 1992.

The proposals make a clear distinction between activities which entail a conscious decision to work with biological agents, and activities which involve accidental exposure to them. Separate provisions have been foreseen for these two groups. The Commission has based its proposals on the fact that a large number of biological agents have a harmful effect on health and that exposure to them therefore increases the risks of illness. The proposals cover biological agents which have already been listed as being dangerous in either their natural state or following genetic modification.

NEW

Recent Publications from the Commission of the European Communities

1988 has seen the introduction of a "new look" to the pamphlets in the European File series. These information pamphlets are produced by the Commission of the European Communities and they are designed as brief guides to important areas of Community policy. The "new look" incorporates the twelve star symbol of the Community. Within the newly-designed covers, the pamphlets maintain their reputation for conciseness and clarity. European Files published during the early months of this year include the following:-

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN DIAGRAMS : Files 1-2, January 1988

This is a new edition of a European File originally published during 1986. It provides a statistical portrait of the Community through a series of maps, graphs and charts. It covers such issues as landmass and climate, population trends, standards of living, regional disparities, consumption, education, unemployment, inflation, agriculture, energy, and industry. The maps, charts and diagrams are in full colour and are relatively easy to follow. The pamphlet thus provides a useful introduction to the scale of the Community, its policies and its problems.

THE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS: ACTION PROGRAMME FOR SMEs : File 3, February 1988

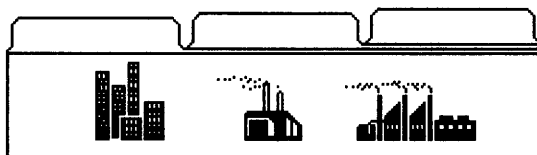
For some time the Community has dedicated particular resources to helping small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) as these have a vital role to play in the development of the European economy and the fight against unemployment. This new European File examines the way in which Community policy is directed at SMEs and the challenges which will be presented to SMEs by the completion of the internal market in 1992. The importance of SMEs within the European economy can be gauged by the fact that they account for 95% of all companies within the Community and provide more than two-thirds of total employment. As well as reviewing Community policy towards SMEs, the pamphlet looks at the new network of "Euro-Info Centres" which have been established to provide information on such things as legislation, Community funds, research programmes and markets.

TOWARDS A LARGE EUROPEAN AUDIO-VISUAL MARKET : File 4, February 1988

1988 is European Cinema and Television Year therefore it is appropriate that there is published a new edition of the File which examines the European audio-visual market. The pamphlet examines the European audio-visual industry in terms of technological change, harmonisation, and the move towards the creation of a European audio-visual area

The full listing of European Files published during 1987 is as follows:-

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|--|
| 1/87 | The External Trade of the EC | 12/87 | The EC and consumers |
| 2/87 | European energy policy | 13/87 | Europe: our future |
| 3/87 | Europe and nuclear fusion | 14/87 | European regional policy |
| 4/87 | The Community combats poverty | 15/87 | The EC and the third world |
| 5/87 | The EC and the environment | 16/87 | Generalised preferences for the third world |
| 6/87 | European identity: symbols to sport | 17/87 | Europe without frontiers |
| 7/87 | EUR 12: Daily life in diagrams | 18/87 | Nuclear energy in the EC |
| 9/87 | The EC and tourism | 19/87 | Research & technology for Europe |
| 10/87 | Equal opportunities for women | 20/87 | European File catalogue, 1979-87 |
| 11/87 | New rights for European citizens | | |



INDUSTRY FILE

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

The European Metalworkers' Federation in the Community (EMF) recently organised a number of seminars which considered the changes currently taking place in the European automobile industry. These changes concern the product itself, the production process, and the organisation of work. From the conclusions of these seminars the EMF has produced six propositions on the future of work in the industry. These six propositions can be summarised as follows:-

PROPOSITION 1 : CRITICISM OF FORDISM AND TAYLORISM

Fordism and Taylorism - increased output through mass production and "scientific management" - were the key philosophies which influenced work organisation in the automobile industry until well into the seventies. Such theories have always been criticised by the trade union movement because of their de-humanisation of work and their failure to develop the full potential of workers.

PROPOSITION 2 : DECENTRALISED STRUCTURES GAINING GROUND

Over recent years the highly fragmented work patterns associated with Fordism and Taylorism have been losing ground and decentralised structures are increasingly becoming the norm. The corner-stone of this development in work organisation is team work and various types of groups are emerging. Such trends have been particularly influenced by two sources - the Japanese influence and the influence of new technology.

PROPOSITION 3 : MANAGEMENT CAMPAIGN

Until recently management has promoted the use of teamwork on economic grounds. Decentralised structures and more team work mean productivity and profitability. This is why management is attempting to speed of this trend. However management also see these new forms of work organisation as a means of weakening trade unions.

PROPOSITION 4 : THE RISKS OF THIS TREND

It is extremely dangerous for both workers and their trade unions if management are allowed to proceed without control. New structures tend to jeopardise existing trade union structures. Also the resulting increased productivity achieved by such patterns of work organisation merely serves to accelerate the world-wide productivity race. Uncontrolled management procedures mean that there is a risk of employees rationalising their own jobs.

PROPOSITION 5 : THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THIS TREND

Whilst trade unions have always rejected the work organisational patterns associated with Fordism and Taylorism, decentralised structures can provide an opportunity to unions to obtain what they have been demanding for many years. The aims of group work include the ability for workers' creative and innovatory potential to be fully realised. This involves workers having a greater influence on work organisation, the production process, and the product itself. Team work can also provide an invaluable opportunity for spreading the basis of work qualifications through on-the-job training. This is essential to ensure that less productive workers are protected.

PROPOSITION 6 : WORKER CONTROL OF PRODUCTIVITY

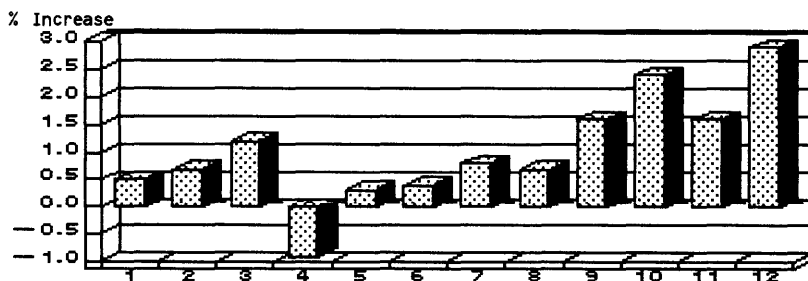
Since decentralised work patterns under present conditions are economically superior, a defensive "no" from trade unions would not be the appropriate response for it would leave developments in the sole hands of management. The risks inherent in the trend towards decentralisation can only be controlled if the trade unions use the opportunities it offers with determination. The trade union strategy of worker control of productivity must now be given concrete form. The aim cannot be productivity with increasingly fewer workers, it should be rather to improve the quality of existing products, to diversify the product range and develop new products with the existing workforce. Increased worker participation within the team and at the workplace implies the intelligent organisation of work and the intelligent organisation of work is the key to a successful future. Worker control of productivity ranks with the other two central trade union demands of full employment and a policy for reducing working time. It is a further EMF goal that the individual should achieve personal fulfilment through his or her work.

INCREASES IN CONSUMER PRICES - FIRST QUARTER 1988

SOURCE : EUROSTAT.

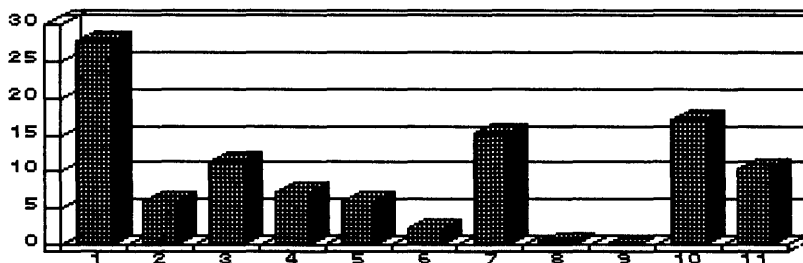
KEY

- 1. WEST GERMANY
- 2. FRANCE
- 3. ITALY
- 4. THE NETHERLANDS
- 5. BELGIUM
- 6. LUXEMBOURG
- 7. UNITED KINGDOM
- 8. IRELAND
- 9. DENMARK
- 10. GREECE
- 11. SPAIN
- 12. PORTUGAL



STEEL PRODUCTION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
% increase in production - first quarter 1988 compared with first quarter 1987.

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE

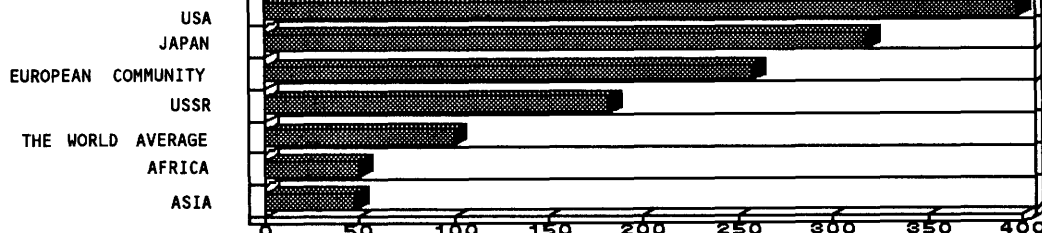


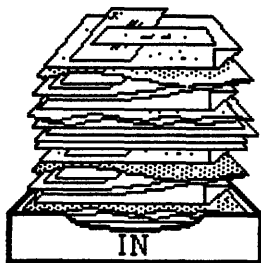
KEY:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. BELGIUM | 5. ITALY | 9. SPAIN |
| 2. DENMARK | 6. LUXEMBOURG | 10. UNITED KINGDOM |
| 3. WEST GERMANY | 7. THE NETHERLANDS | 11. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AVERAGE |
| 4. FRANCE | 8. PORTUGAL | |

COMPARATIVE STANDARDS OF LIVING:
Gross Domestic Product per head [World = 100, 1984]

IN VOLUME TERMS, BASED UPON PURCHASING POWER PARITIES AND CONSTANT PRICES. SOURCE: EUROSTAT





BULLETIN BOARD

1988 WORK PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The 1988 Work Programme of the European Commission includes the following items which will be of interest to trade unionists:-

- * Publication of study on the benefits of the internal market.
- * Continuation of the work concerning the correspondence of vocational training qualifications (hotel and catering trade, construction, motor vehicle industry)
- * Effective application of the co-operative growth strategy at Community and local level.
- * Launching of Community regional development programmes (STRIDE, ENVIREG, RESIDER, RENAVAL)
- * Action programme for the long-term unemployed.
- * Completion of European list of occupational diseases.
- * Continuation of the fight against xenophobia: presentation of a proposal on the integration of the immigrant community.
- * Communication on the motor vehicle industry.
- * Communication on ageing and the elderly

FUTURE OPINIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Community is expected to adopt Opinions on the following subjects during the coming few months:-

- Protection of workers from carcinogens.
- Social developments in the European Community.
- Relations between the Community and state-trading countries.
- Social aspects of sea fishing.
- Training and supply of researchers.
- Poverty.

ETUC 6th STATUTORY CONGRESS STOCKHOLM, MAY 1988

The Sixth Statutory Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation will be held in Stockholm, Sweden between the 9th and 13th May 1988.

The next issue of the European Trade Union Information Bulletin will contain a special report on Congress and an analysis of the decisions taken.

2nd EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Second European Congress on Continuing Education and Training will take place in Berlin on the 27th and 28th October 1988. The provisional programme includes workshops on continuing education as an instrument for regional structural development, the long-term unemployed, continuing education and equal opportunities for women, and continuing education and the training of employees and industrial change. Further information about the Congress can be obtained from: Spectrum Communications, GmbH, Xantener Strasse 22, D-1000 Berlin 15.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

INFORMATION

Commission of the European Communities 200 Rue de la Loi - 1049 Bruxelles

Informationskontorer Presse- und Informationsbüros Γραφεία Τύπου και Πληροφοριών
Information offices Bureaux de presse et d'information Uffici stampa e informazione
Voorlichtingsbureaus

BELGIQUE — BELGIË

Bruxelles/Brussel
Rue Archimède/Archimedesstraat, 73
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel
Tél.: 235 11 11
Télex 26657 COMINF B

DANMARK

København
Højbrohus
Østergade 61
Postbox 144
1004 København K
Tél.: 14 41 40
Télex 16402 COMEUR DK

BR DEUTSCHLAND

Zitelmannstraße 22
5300 Bonn
Tel.: 23 80 41
Kurfürstendamm 102
1000 Berlin 31
Tel.: 8 92 40 28
Erhardtstraße 27
8000 München
Tel.: 23 99 29 00
Telex 5218135

ΕΛΛΑΣ

Οδός Βασιλίσσης Σοφίας
Και Ηρώδου Αττικού
Αθήνα 134
τηλ.: 724 3982/724 3983/724 3984

FRANCE

61, rue des Belles Feuilles
75782 Paris Cedex 16
Tél.: 451.58.85

C.M.C.I./Bureau 320
2, rue Henri Barbusse
F-13241 Marseille Cedex 01
Tél. 91 91 46 00
Télex 402538 EUR MA

IRELAND

39 Molesworth Street
Dublin 2
Tel.: 71 22 44

ITALIA

Via Poli, 29
00187 Roma
Tel.: 678 97 22
Corso Magenta 61
20123 Milano
Tel.: 80 15 05/6/7/8
Telex 316002 EURMIL I

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Bâtiment Jean Monnet
Rue Alcide de Gasperi
2920 Luxembourg
Tél.: 43011

NEDERLAND

Lange Voorhout 29
Den Haag
Tel.: 46 93 26

UNITED KINGDOM

Abby Building
8, Storey's Gate
Westminster
LONDON — SWIP 3AT
Tél.: 222 81 22
Windsor House
9/15 Bedford Street
Belfast BT 2 7EG
Tel.: 40708
4 Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF1 9SG
Tel.: 37 16 31
7 Alva Street
Edinburgh EH2 4PH
Tel.: 225 2058

ESPAÑA

Calle de Serrano 41
5A Planta-Madrid 1
Tel.: 435 17 00

PORTUGAL

35, rua do Sacramento à Lapa
1200 Lisboa
Tel.: 60 21 99

TÜRKIYE

15, Kuleli Sokak
Gazi Osman Paşa
Ankara
Tel.: 27 61 45/27 61 46

SCHWEIZ - SUISSE - SVIZZERA

Case postale 195
37-39, rue de Vermont
1211 Genève 20
Tél.: 34 97 50

AUSTRALIA

Capitol Centre
Franklin Street
P.O. Box 609
Manuka ACT 2603
Canberra ACT
Tél.: 95 50 50

UNITED STATES

2100 M Street, NW
Suite 707
Washington, DC 20037
Tel.: 862 95 00

1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
245 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
Tel.: 371 38 04

CANADA

Inn of the Provinces
Office Tower
Suite 1110
Sparks Street 350
Ottawa, Ont. K1R 7S8
Tel.: 238 64 64

AMERICA LATINA

Avda Américo Vespucio, 1835
Santiago de Chile 9
Chile
Adresse postale: Casilla 10093
Tel.: 228 24 84

Quinta Bienvenida
Valle Arriba
Calle Colibri
Carretera de Baruta
Caracas
Venezuela
Tel.: 92 50 56

NIPPON

Kowa 25 Building
8-7 Sanbancho
Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 102
Tel.: 239 04 41

ASIA

Thai Military Bank Building
34 Phya Thai Road
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel.: 282 14 52

TAJ MAHAL HOTEL
Suite No. 222/1
Mansingh Road
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110011
India
Tel. 38 66 62