

# TRADE UNION INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## Employment in Europe: **THE CHALLENGE AHEAD**

The European Community still faces serious difficulties in sustaining economic growth and generating sufficient employment to meet demands. This is one of the main conclusions of the European Community's Third Annual Employment Report.

Whilst the latter part of the 1980s was a time of economic optimism in Europe, the first year and a half of the 1990s had indicated that the Community remains vulnerable to external events. Equally, it is clear that the fundamental problems which faced the European economy in the early eighties - low growth and high unemployment - had not been completely eradicated. The Report concludes that although the fundamentally healthy growth trends are likely to reassert themselves in the medium term, there remains a risk that the current downturn could turn into the beginning of another prolonged period of slow economic growth.

The Report contains a detailed analysis of a number of key areas of the European economy and the problems and challenges it faces on the eve of the Single Market. Particular attention is focused on the results of a detailed sectoral analysis of the European economy and the potential problem of future skill shortages.

*Continued on page 2*



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

**COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (DGX)**  
200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.

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

## EMPLOYMENT IN EUROPE

Highlights from the Third Annual Report on Employment in Europe include:-

### External Problems

The Community economy remains vulnerable to external forces. The Gulf War and the downturn in the US economy have both had an adverse effect on employment within the Community. The Central and Eastern European countries have encountered severe problems in making the transition from control to market economies. Such problems are deterring many Western European companies from investing in these countries and serving to limit the market for Western European goods.

### Internal Challenges

The difficulties of achieving increased employment throughout the Community are greater than seemed to be the case a year ago. The Report concludes that this makes it all the more important that progress towards economic and monetary union is sustained, since this offers the best opportunity for strengthening the European economy and reducing its vulnerability to external shocks.

A second challenge facing the Community is ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are widely distributed so that all areas of the Community, and all social groups, share in the employment and income opportunities which growth makes possible. The Report states that unless this occurs, social cohesion will be threatened and progress towards economic and monetary union impaired.

Since 1985 there has been clear evidence of a convergence in levels of income per head of population between the less developed Member States and the rest of the Community. Nevertheless, this convergence followed a ten year period of divergence, and the gap between rich and poor within the Community remains as wide now as it was 25 years ago. Economic and social cohesion remains one of the major challenges facing the Community.

### Employment Outlook

Between 1985 and 1990, over 9 million new jobs were created in the European Community. Although the growth in employment did lead to a fall in the Community unemployment rate from 11% in 1985 to 8% at the end of 1990, the reduction in unemployment was not as great as the employment creation figures might suggest. Many of the new jobs were of a part-time or temporary nature and many of them were taken by people joining the labour market after being inactive. Long-term unemployment and the unemployment of young workers remain major problems.

Within the Community as a whole the rate of unemployment among young people aged under 25 is over twice the rate for other age groups. Equally, around half of all those unemployed at the beginning of 1990 had been unemployed for more than one year.

### Sectoral Analysis

Agricultural employment in the Community continues to decline. It has been in continual decline, by almost 3% per year, since 1960. Considerable differences remain in both employment and productivity in the agricultural sector between northern and southern Member States. Whilst the manufacturing sector is equally in decline it remains responsible for the major proportion of net export earnings. Virtually all the additional jobs created between 1985 and 1990 were in the service sector, which remains the major area of growth within the European economy. The Report includes an analysis of three industrial sectors faced with considerable change - the defence industries, the automobile industry and the textile, clothing and footwear industries.

The Report emphasises the importance of a workforce with the education and training required to handle new and constantly changing techniques and suggests that skill shortages in certain sectors have become more acute since the mid 1980s.

# Health and Safety News

## Exposure to Asbestos

The Council of Ministers adopted a new Directive in June on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to asbestos at work. The new Directive amends the 1983 Community Directive on exposure to asbestos at work and updates and extends its provisions. The new Directive amends the 1983 Directive in a number of ways:-

- (a) It improves protection by reducing action levels and limit values.
- (b) It introduces a direct prohibition on the application of asbestos by means of the spraying process and working procedures which involve using low density insulating or soundproofing materials which contain asbestos.
- (c) It amends the information to be contained in detailed plans of work involving asbestos which have to be submitted to the competent authorities.

The Directive also provides for a further review of standards to take place before the end of 1995. It also calls for a decision to be made on the adoption of a single method for the measurement of asbestos-in-air concentrations by that date.

Member states are required to introduce national legislation to comply with the new Directive by 1 January 1993, except in the case of Greece where the relevant date is 1 January 1996. The deadline within the asbestos mining industry for the incorporation of the new standards is 1 January 1996 (1 January 1999 in Greece). The complete text of the Directive can be found in the Official Journal L206, 29 July 1991.

## Atypical Work Directive

The Council of Ministers have finally adopted the directive on health and safety at work for workers with atypical work contracts (temporary and fixed duration contracts).

The objective of the Directive, which forms part of the Social Charter Action Programme, is to ensure that workers with atypical contracts are afforded, as regards safety and health at work, the same level of protection as that of other workers in the user undertaking or establishment. The provisions of the Directive apply to employment relations governed by a fixed term contract and temporary employment relationships between a temporary employment business which is the employer and the worker, where the worker is assigned to work for, and under the control of, an undertaking or establishment making use of his services.

The general provisions of the Directive include:-

- the right of atypical workers to information concerning the health and safety risks of any establishment making use of his services.
- the right of atypical workers to sufficient and training appropriate to the particular characteristics of the job.
- the right of atypical workers who are used for work which normally requires special medical surveillance, to such medical surveillance, and in certain circumstances to continued medical surveillance beyond the end of the employment relationship.

The Directive includes an important "more favourable provisions clause". This clause stresses that where provisions more favourable to the health and safety protection of workers apply in individual Member States these will not be detrimentally affected by the provisions of the new Directive.

Under the terms of the Directive, Member States are required to introduce the necessary laws to comply with the provisions of the Directive by 31 December 1991. Further details of the Directive can be found in the Official Journal L206 29 July 1991.

# NEWSBRIEF

## TUDIC Project

The European Community, through the COMETT II Programme, is helping to fund an important transnational project which is examining the potential use of high technology computer communications equipment by the trade union movement. The TUDIC Project has two main aims:-

- to explore the use of computer communications as a course development and delivery tool in trade union education;
- to develop computer conferencing as a method of project management to strengthen international co-operation in the trade union movement.

The three trade union organisations involved in the TUDIC project - the Danish LO, the Swedish LO and the British TUC - will be using computerised conferencing facilities for the development and delivery of trade union education courses. Two new courses will be developed by the participating organisations:-

- a course on computer applications and communications for trade union representatives who want to improve their use of personal computers in their day to day trade union work;
- a course on trade unions and Europe, with particular emphasis on the implications of social and economic integration.

Both courses will be delivered by a mixture of normal face to face meetings and by computer mediated distance learning. Trade union tutors from each participating country will be closely involved in both course development and course delivery.

Further information about the TUDIC project can be obtained from the following contacts:-

### Denmark

LO, Bernt Fallenkamp  
Buddinge Hovedgade 80,  
2860 Soborg.

Tel: +45 3167 5333

### Sweden

LO, Runo G Larsson,  
Barnhusgatan 18,  
S-10553 Stockholm,

Tel: +46 8796 2500

### United Kingdom

TUC Education, Malcolm Ball,  
York Place, Leeds,  
LS 12ED

Tel: +44 532 429296

## ETUC Calls for Employment Strategy

The new General Secretary of the European Trade union Confederation, Mr Emilio Gabaglio, has called for the Community to adopt a specific employment strategy aimed at groups and regions likely to be adversely affected by the creation of the Single Market and the move towards economic and monetary union. Mr Gabaglio stated that the Economic and Social Committee report on employment in Europe and the Commission's own Employment Report have both underlined the importance of job creation. "Job creation has to become a central objective of the economic policy and cannot remain a secondary aim"

The ETUC statement claims that there is a danger that the political successes of the Single Market programme have detracted attention from the lack of success in employment policy. Whilst 9 million new jobs were created between 1985 and 1990, there are still another 12 million unemployed and this fact makes a rethink and re-orientation of employment policy essential

# Background Briefing

*In this issue of the Trade Union Bulletin we examine a major new proposal from the European Commission which forms part of the Social Charter Action Programme*

## The Rights of Workers Temporarily Posted to work in Other Member States

### REFERENCE

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services. COM(91) 230 final 1 August 1991.

See also Official Journal of the European Communities C 225 30 August 1991.

### BACKGROUND

With the completion of the Internal Market and the growth of a Community-wide service market, the number of workers who find themselves temporarily posted to work in Member States other than their country of residence is increasing. Considerable confusion still exists as to the rights of such workers. There is also legal uncertainty about which national labour legislation applies to them.

Such uncertainty and confusion can give rise to distortions of competition within the Single European Market. A particular problem also arises where a Member State places obligations with regard to pay and working conditions on firms based in, and working within, its territory, and such firms are faced with competition - for a specific task to be carried out within the same Member State - from firms based elsewhere and not subject to the same obligations. The European Commission have therefore decided that a co-ordination of the law of the Member States is needed.

### VARIATIONS IN TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Clearly, legislation would not be needed if the Single Market brought with it a complete unification of national social laws. This, however, is not the case. Significant differences still exist between Member States in terms of both pay and working conditions. The following figures are taken from the Explanatory Memorandum issued by the Commission.

#### Hourly Earnings of Manual Workers in ECUs All Industries : April 1989.

Belgium	7.3
Denmark	11.1
FR Germany	9.1
Greece	3.1
Spain	5.3
France	5.9 (a)
Ireland	6.5
Italy	6.2 (b)
Luxembourg	8.1
Netherlands	7.7 (c)
Portugal	1.6
United Kingdom	7.3

- (a) April 1988
- (b) Eurostat estimates
- (c) October 1988

There are also significant differences between Member States in other areas. A statutory

## The Posting of Workers in Other Member States

minimum wage exists in five Member States - France, Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal and Luxembourg. A minimum wage level laid down by collective agreement exists in a further five Member States - Belgium, Greece, Denmark, Italy and Germany. The United Kingdom and Ireland have a system where minimum wage levels are established only for a few limited industrial sectors.

### THE AIM OF THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL

The proposal does not seek to harmonise pay and working conditions between Member States. It merely attempts to remove the current uncertainties as to the application of labour law to temporarily posted workers. It also established a list of mandatory rules which should be complied with in the host country by undertakings posting workers to perform temporary work. It therefore would oblige foreign undertakings to observe a minimum core of protective working conditions in force in the host country.

### SCOPE

The Commission proposals apply to all undertakings based in Community Member States or other States which post a worker to carry out temporary work in another Member State of the Community. Undertakings covered by the proposal fall into one of three categories:

- main contractors or subcontractors who, in the course of carrying out a contract, post a worker to carry out temporary work on their behalf in a Member State of the European Community.
- temporary employment businesses which place a worker with a user undertaking operating in a Member State to carry out temporary work, insofar as there is an employment relationship between the temporary employment business and the worker concerned.
- undertakings which place a worker with one

of their establishments or with another undertaking, whether an associated undertaking or not, established in another Member State to carry out temporary work.

### THE KEY PROPOSAL

Article 3(1) of the proposed Directive states:-

*Member States shall see to it that, whatever the law applicable to the employment relationship, the undertaking does not deprive the worker of the terms and conditions of employment which apply for work of the same character at the place where the work is temporarily carried out...*

There are two conditions to this general requirement.

1. The terms and conditions in the host country must be laid down by laws, regulations, administrative provisions, collective agreements or arbitration awards covering the whole of the occupation or industry concerned and having the effect of being binding on the sector concerned.

2. They must be concerned with a range of issues specified in the proposed Directive.

### THE CORE CONDITIONS

The range of issues are referred to as "core conditions" and they are set out in Article 3. 1(b) of the proposals. They are:-

- (a) maximum daily and weekly hours of work, rest periods, work on Sundays and night work;
- (b) minimum paid holidays;
- (c) the minimum rates of pay, including overtime rates and allowances, but excluding benefits provided for by private occupational schemes;
- (d) the conditions of hiring out of workers, in particular the supply of workers by temporary employment businesses;
- (e) health, safety and hygiene at work;

## The Posting of Workers in Other Member States

- (f) protective measures with regard to the working conditions of pregnant women or women who have recently given birth, children, young people and other groups enjoying special protection;
- (g) equality of treatment between men and women and prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, religion, opinions, national origin or social background.

### THE EXCEPTIONS

There are only two exceptions to the general requirements of the proposed Directive and the list of "core conditions". The requirement that temporarily posted workers should have their rights to minimum paid holidays and minimum rates of pay based on the practices of the host country does not apply where the length of posting is less than three months. The three month exception is based on a reference period of one year from the beginning of the posting.

### TIMESCALE AND LEGAL BASIS

The proposed Directive calls on the Member States to bring into force the necessary laws to comply with the proposals by the 31st December 1992.

The legal basis of the proposal is Article 57(2) and Article 66 of the Treaty of Rome. The proposal is therefore subject to the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament and subject to qualified majority voting on the Council of Ministers.

### IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADE UNIONISTS

The proposal's objective is not the harmonisation of labour law, but the determination of the law applicable to temporarily posted workers. This group of workers is becoming increasingly important within the European Community and will continue to do so after the creation of a Single Market. It is important to ensure

that such workers are not used to undermine established terms and conditions within Member States. It is also important to ensure that posted workers are able to enjoy the same protective standards as domestic workers.

Consequently the proposals have been generally welcomed by the European trade union movement. The European Trade Union Confederation were fully involved in the consultation process leading up to the publication of the proposals, as were the various employers' organisations. The various employers' organisations have been more guarded in their reaction to the Commission proposals, the majority of them being uncertain of the need for Community legislation.

Trade unionists will undoubtedly welcome the fact that yet another provision of the Social Charter Action Programme has been translated into a legislative proposal. The vast majority of the fifty proposals contained in the Action Programme have now been formally introduced by the Commission, although the adoption of the proposals by the various institutions is still markedly behind schedule. The use of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament and qualified majority voting in the Council of Ministers should help to ensure that the proposals on posted workers are translated into Community legislation with the minimum of delay.

### THE FUTURE OF THE PROPOSALS

At this stage the various requirements relating to the working conditions of temporarily posted workers are only proposals. They will be subject to discussion in the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, and, finally, within the Council of Ministers. It is suggested that the Directive should come into force to coincide with the completion of the internal market and this will mean that a final Directive must be adopted by the early months of next year.

# A SOCIAL PORTRAIT OF EUROPE

Statistics provide an important means by which we can not only achieve an overall picture of the European Community, but also highlight the significant differences that still remain between Member States. This is particularly true in the field of economic and social affairs. Economic and social cohesion remains one of the main objectives of the Community and economic and social statistics provide a useful measure as to how far such an objective is being realised. Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Community, have just published "A Social Portrait of Europe" which, through an array of statistical indicators, will help us to deepen our understanding of social conditions throughout the Community. The publication provides statistics on a whole range of social indicators including education, social protection, health, housing and leisure activities. The following statistics are taken from the Chapter on working conditions.

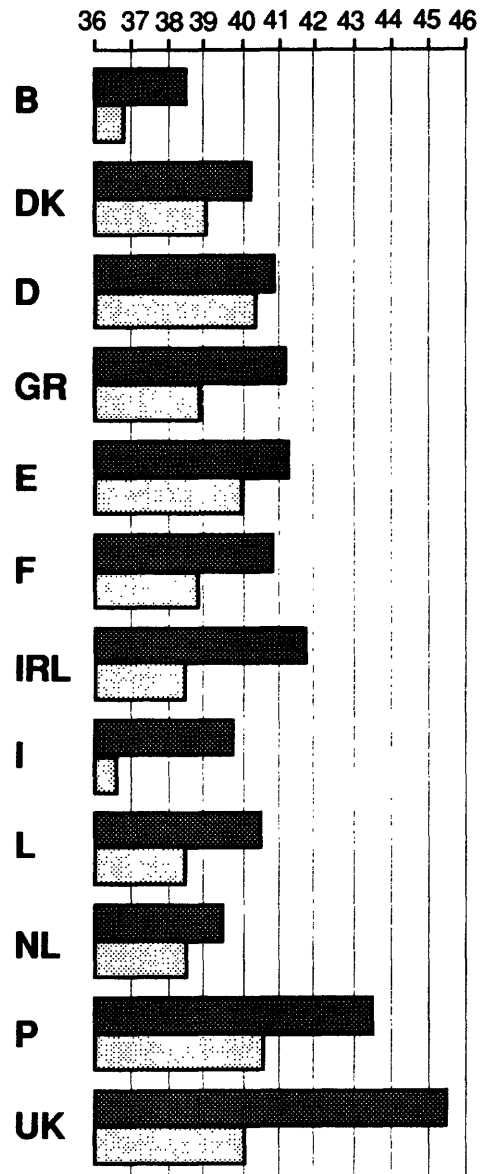
## HOURS OF WORK

Hours usually worked per week,  
1988 - EUR 12

	Part time	Full time
Self-employed	18.4	50.8
Employees	19.4	40.7
Unpaid family workers	20.3	48.4
Agriculture	22.5	50.9
Industry	20.7	41.6
Services	18.9	42.0
Men	19.7	43.4
Women	19.4	40.5
Total	19.4	42.5

Men   
Women 

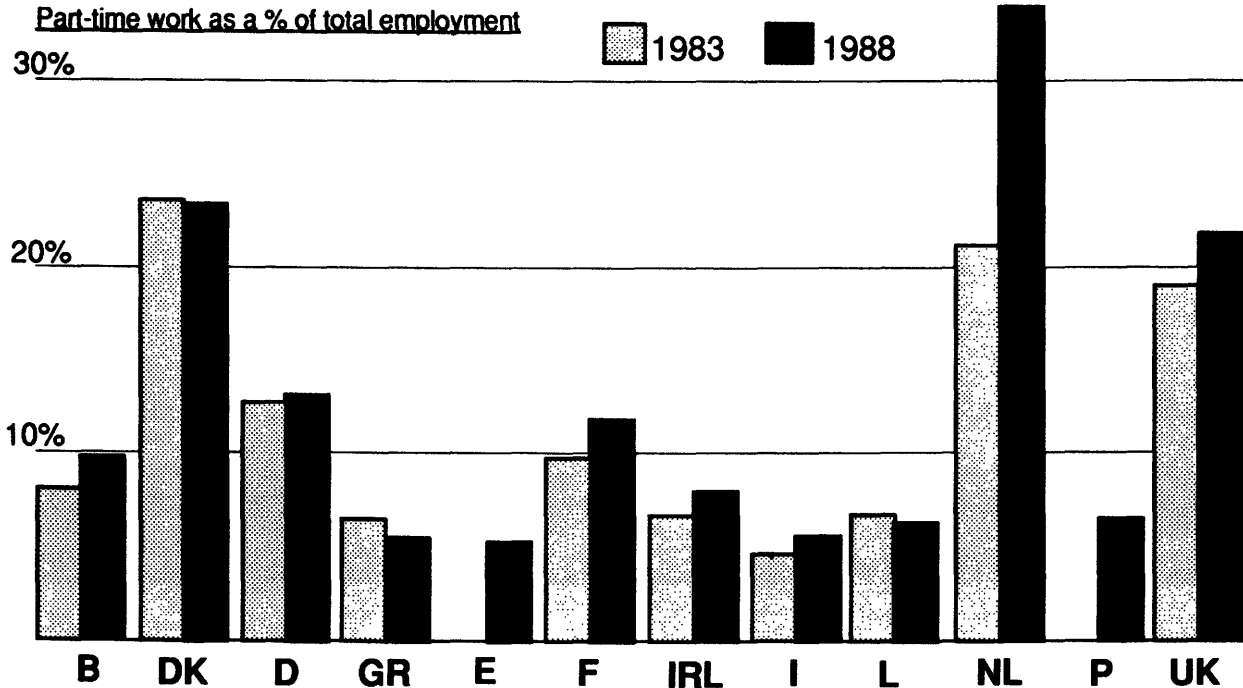
## HOURS USUALLY WORKED PER WEEK BY FULL TIME EMPLOYEES - 1988





# A SOCIAL PORTRAIT OF EUROPE

## PART-TIME WORKING



## WORKING HOURS LOST

The following figures are based on a standard reference week in the Spring of 1988. Absence from work can be due to any of the factors listed in the second table.

	% of hours lost due to absence
B	2.3
DK	13.7
D	4.6
GR	8.4
E	9.2
F	7.7
IRL	4.3
I	4.2
L	3.3
NL	13.4
P	5.7
UK	13.1

Reasons for Absence - EUR 12	%
Annual Leave/Public Holiday	43.7
Sickness or accident	24.3
Variable working hours	4.4
Short-time work	4.0
Maternity leave	3.6
Bad weather	3.5
Education/Training	1.9
Labour dispute	0.8
Other reasons	11.1
No answer	2.6

"A Social Portrait of Europe" is available from the Office for Official Publications of the European Community in all Community languages, price ECU 10

## Economic and Social Committee Report

### Social Development in the Community

Each year the Economic and Social Committee of the European Community adopts an Opinion on social developments within the Community during the previous year. The Opinion on social developments in 1990 was adopted by the May 1991 Economic and Social Committee with just two votes against and ten abstentions.

After briefly reviewing a number of economic trends in the Community, the Committee notes that the employment situation is once again deteriorating in several economic sectors. Thus, in the view of the Committee, the Community must therefore maintain and, if necessary, increase the level of its economic and social support with a view to halting this deterioration.

Turning to the Social Charter and the Commission Action Programme, the Committee is critical of the lack of progress being made in terms of the implementation of the Charter. It believes that the problems associated with the legal basis for many of the Social Charter proposals is fundamental and feels that this is an issue which must be addressed by the intergovernmental conferences.

The Economic and Social Committee Opinion also makes a number of recommendations in relation to the future development of the social dialogue. Recalling that Article 118b of the Treaty (as amended by the Single European Act) states that "the Commission shall endeavour to develop the dialogue between management and labour at European level which could, if the two sides consider it desirable, lead to relations based on agreement", the Committee points out that "relations based on agreement" might also include European-level framework agreements. Accordingly, the Committee believes it is now necessary to go beyond the simple dialogue stage and seek to make negotiated agreements a key element of efforts to achieve European integration.

The Committee Opinion calls on the intergovernmental conference to examine the social dialogue as an instrument of progress and examine the most suitable role for the Economic and Social Committee within this context. It also calls for a re-examination of the principle of subsidiarity to social issues in order to ensure that basic social rights are protected under the Member States' legal systems and in order to facilitate the implementation of social measures which are a necessary part of the smooth working of the Single Market.

The wide-ranging Opinion on social developments goes on to consider a number of other important areas of concern including economic and social cohesion, the elderly, child support measures, and the campaign to eliminate poverty.

### Safe Transport of Workers with Reduced Mobility

The May Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted an Opinion supportive of the Commission proposals for a Directive on minimum requirements to improve the mobility and safe transport to work of workers with reduced mobility.

The Committee, however, suggests a number of possible amendments to the Directive including a number which widens its application and others which tighten the deadlines for the adoption of the requirements of the Directive by Member States.

The Economic and Social Committee also call for widespread public information campaigns to be launched by Member States to improve the understanding of the problems caused by reduced mobility.

# A Trade Union Perspective of Community Regional Policy

During 1990 the European Commission initiated a process of consultation within the European trade union movement regarding the operations and effectiveness of Community regional policy and the possibility of exerting a trade union influence on the operation of the structural funds. Regional policy, and the structural funds as the main instrument of regional policy, have a key role to play in achieving economic and social cohesion within the Community. Such a role is likely to take on an even greater importance in the future following the creation of a Single Market and the probable enlargement of the Community. During October 1990, the Commission helped the ETUC organise a major conference of trade union representatives from throughout Western Europe to bring together the results of different national experiences and formulate views on the future development of regional policy. The European Trade Union Institute have now published the background documents prepared for this conference as a ETUI Research Report.

## **A Guide to Regional Policy**

The first Chapter of the new Research Report provides a useful guide to European Regional Policy. It examines the various objectives of the Community structural funds and reviews the major reforms in the funds. It also includes a preliminary critical assessment of the workings of European regional policy. The inability of the structural funds to adopt a preventative approach to regional disparities is emphasised as is the lack of a wider evaluative analysis of the economic relationships within regions.

The important role of trade unions in regional policy is highlighted within the opening Chapter. A decisive argument in favour of the basic demand for full participation by trade unions in the activity of the structural funds is the fact

that a number of approaches to regional development have been devised by the trade unions themselves or have been developed at their instigation. A demand for trade union participation within the operation of the structural funds is one of the major demands of the European Trade Union Confederation. This demand must be given practical support by trade union participation at all levels and a coordination of regional policy activities.

## **Objective 1 and Objective 2 Regions**

The second chapter looks at the particular problems of the regions whose development is lagging behind - the Objective 1 regions, whilst the third chapter examines the particular problems of regions in industrial decline - Objective 2 regions. In both instances a strong case is made for full trade union participation in, not only the operation of the structural funds within these areas, but within the wider task of economic reconstruction.

A strong case is also made for the preparation of a Community regional policy which is based on more than just the operation of the structural funds, one which mobilises all the other Community policies, including agriculture and research policies, policies in favour of SME's, energy policy, social policy and industrial and monetary policy.

## **Regional and Environmental Policy**

The final chapter looks at the relationship between regional policy and environmental policy and includes a review of the work of the Environmental Task Force and the European Investment Bank.

"EC Regional Policy - A Trade union Perspective"  
Published by the European trade Union Institute. 66,  
Boulevard de l'Imperatrice, Bte. 4 B - 1000 Brussels.  
Price 1,000 BF (special rates available for trade union  
organisations)

# European Year of Health and Safety

The Council of Ministers announced, in a decision of 25 July 1991, that 1992 should be declared the "European Year for Safety, Hygiene and Health at Work". The Year, designed to heighten public awareness of the importance of health and safety issues and knowledge of European legislation on health and safety at work, will in fact run from 1 March 1992 until 28 February 1993.

The Community is providing ECU 12 million of funding to support a series of coordinated actions which will be carried out by the Community itself, Member States, the social partners, and public and private organisations.

Trade Unions may apply for funding to support actions undertaken as part of the European Year for Safety, Hygiene and Health at Work. Applications for funding should be submitted to the Commission via the Member States. A Steering Committee, composed of a representative from each Member State and chaired by the representative of the Commission, will assist the Commission in selecting suitable actions to be financed or co-financed by the Community.

## Criteria for Selection

In selecting projects for financial support, the following criteria will take precedence:-

- (a) projects producing results that can be turned to practical use;
- (b) projects involving the organisation of working meetings with a limited number of participants so that each individual can take an active part (workshops);
- (c) projects to benefit small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (d) projects to benefit high-risk workers;
- (e) projects which foster transnational exchanges;
- (f) projects which can be continued after 1992.

## Content of Actions

Three types of action are listed in the Council Decision of 25 July. The first type of action will be supported entirely from the Community budget and it includes the organisation of a series of conferences and the publication of supportive material. A second type of action will be supported by the Member States themselves and this includes promoting the European Year in national campaigns.

A third type of action will receive financial support from the Community budget of up to 70% of the total cost of projects. It is this third type of action which will be of particular interest to trade unions. Potential projects can be aimed at:-

1. improving and promoting the dissemination of information on occupational risks and their prevention, and in particular the influence of work organisation on safety, hygiene and health at work;
2. giving greater importance to the training of workers and employers in the field of safety, hygiene and health at work;
3. integrating instruction in safety, hygiene and health at work into teaching and training programmes aimed at employers and workers;
4. improving the understanding of problems of safety, hygiene and health at work in small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting specific solutions;
5. improving the exchange of information on good enforcement practice in Member States regarding Community legislation on safety, hygiene and health at work.

At least 50% of the total appropriations available will be used to support the actions described above. The protection of the health and safety of workers remains one of the main priorities of the European trade union movement and many trade unions want to help make the European Year a positive success.

# Action Programme for Vocational Training of Young People - PETRA

The Council of Ministers adopted a Decision on the 22 July 1991 which will have the effect of extending the PETRA Programme for a three year period from the 1 January 1992. The PETRA Programme was established in 1987 in order to encourage the development of technical and vocational education amongst young people in the Community. In 1989 the Council of Ministers invited the Commission to prepare proposals for measures to adapt and reinforce existing Community programmes in technical and vocational training and initial training. The Commission stressed the importance of a comprehensive and coherent policy at Community level and identified a number of priorities of such a policy. These included:-

- improved access and participation;
- improved response to demographic trends;
- new forms of training partnership;
- a reduction in regional disparities;
- raising the status of technical and vocational education and training;
- increased cooperation with industry;
- training more girls in technical and scientific fields;
- increasing the European dimension.

The Commission eventually decided that the main thrust of Community initiative in the field of initial training should be achieved through the further development of the PETRA Programme. The new proposals are designed to enhance the coverage of the existing PETRA Programme and incorporate into it the Young Worker Exchange Programme.

## Objectives

The objectives of the new Programme are:-

- to compliment and support Member States' policies to raise the standards and quality of initial vocational training;
- add a Community dimension to vocational qualifications;

- stimulate and support practical cooperation and the development of training partnerships transnationally between training providers, industry and other local promoters;
- provide opportunities for young people to benefit from periods of training or work experience in other Member States;
- foster Community cooperation in the sphere of vocational information and guidance.

## Community Measures

A variety of potential measures are eligible for support under the new PETRA programme. Eligible measures include:-

- vocational training or work experience placements in other Member States;
- joint implementation of vocational training modules;
- joint training of trainers;
- additional training of guidance counsellors;
- the exchange of vocational guidance data and information.

## Eligibility

The programme is intended for young people aged up to 28 in any of the following categories:-

- (a) young people receiving initial vocational training;
- (b) young workers who have received training or work experience;
- (c) young people taking part in advanced vocational training programmes.

## Funding

The Commission has allocated funding of approximately ECU 180 million for the three years of the programme (1992-94). 30% of the total appropriations are intended to be made available, first of all, in support the second and third category of young people described above.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### **Europe On The Move** **Economic and Monetary Union** **The Social Challenge** **What is the EMS?** **The ECU**

The European commission have launched a new series of information booklets under the general heading "Europe on the Move" they deal with the major challenges facing the Community both in the field of social policy and economic and monetary policy. The booklets, which form part of the European File series, are brief, concise and well illustrated. They provide a useful introduction to some of the main themes of Community policy in a format which is both informative and inviting.

The booklet on the Social Challenge looks at both the Social Charter and the main strands of Community social policy. Individual sections examine the protection of workers, equal opportunities for men and women and worker consultation and participation. A section of the booklet also looks at the operation of the European Social Fund.

The booklet on economic and monetary union not only examines the reasons for creating a single currency and greater economic and monetary union, but it also examines the background to the current debate and assesses the current position. Likewise, the booklet on the ECU reviews the current use of the European Currency Unit along with its future role.

Each of the booklets is available, free of charge, in all official Community languages. Copies can be obtained from Commission national information offices or from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985, Luxembourg.

### **Europe : World Partner** **The External Relations of the** **European Community**

The European Community is not, nor can it ever be, an island. The Community exists within a wider world, a world it is partly dependent on for its own economic well-being and a world to which it owes responsibilities. As the Community becomes more of a coherent world economic and political power, the external relations of the Community become even more important.

This new pamphlet in the European Documentation series, looks at the various aspects of Community external relations both in terms of the other major economic powers of the world and in terms of the developing countries of the Third World. Two separate factors have recently served to heighten the international importance of the Community within the world order. The first is the growing internal strength of the Community as an economic power - it is now the world's biggest trading entity. The second is the breathtaking pace of global geopolitical change. Both factors require the Community to expand its international role and assume new responsibilities. Its economic role within the world carries major political responsibilities, and these are forcing the development of a greater degree of foreign policy co-operation.

The pamphlet examines the role of the Community as both a political and an economic force and looks at the nature of the relationship between the Community and organisations such as GATT, EFTA and the United Nations.

The pamphlet is available free of charge in all official Community languages from Commission national information offices.

# NEW PUBLICATIONS

## Guide To Community Initiatives Taken Under the Reform of the Structural Funds (Second Edition 1991)

A new edition has been published of the Guide to the various initiatives taken under the reform of the structural funds of the European Communities. The Guide covers the various funds launched since the 1 January 1989 and provides details of the objectives of each initiative, the funding available and the timescale for implementation. As well as a summary of each initiative, the Guide contains the full text of the various official notices and Decisions. The funds covered within the Guide are:-

<b>RECHAR:</b>	Economic and social conversion of coal-mining areas
<b>ENVIREG:</b>	Environmental and economic development in coastal regions covered by Objective 1 of the Structural Funds.
<b>STRIDE:</b>	Science and technology for regional development in Europe.
<b>INTERREG:</b>	Preparation of border areas for the Single Market.
<b>REGIS:</b>	Improving the socio-economic integration of remote regions.
<b>REGEN:</b>	Extending the internal market in energy to Objective 1 regions.
<b>PRISMA:</b>	Helping Objective 1 regions improve infrastructure and related services.
<b>TELEMATIQUE:</b>	Promoting the use of advanced telecommunications services in Objective 1 regions.
<b>LEADER:</b>	Encouraging an integrated approach to rural development.
<b>EUROFORM:</b>	The development of new qualifications, new skills and new employment opportunities.
<b>NOW:</b>	Enabling women to share the benefits of the Single Market.
<b>HORIZON:</b>	Initiative for the handicapped and certain disadvantaged groups.

Copies of the Guide are available from the Office for Official Publications, Luxembourg or from Commission national information offices.

## Footnotes

The ETUC has presented to the Dutch presidency of the Council a Memorandum calling for a European consumer defence policy as an integral part of the Treaty on political union.

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The July plenary session of the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling for the definition of a modern industrial policy for the European Community.

Opinion in favour of European political union, with a Government responsible to the European Parliament, has reached its highest point yet according to the latest Eurobarometer survey. 59% of those questioned throughout the 12 Member states are in favour of European union.

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The Commission has proposed to the Council of Ministers a draft Recommendation concerning the problems of childcare. It calls for the Council to recommend measures to set up childcare services, provide parental leave and bring about a better sharing of family responsibilities between men and women.

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