

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

June 7-10, 1979



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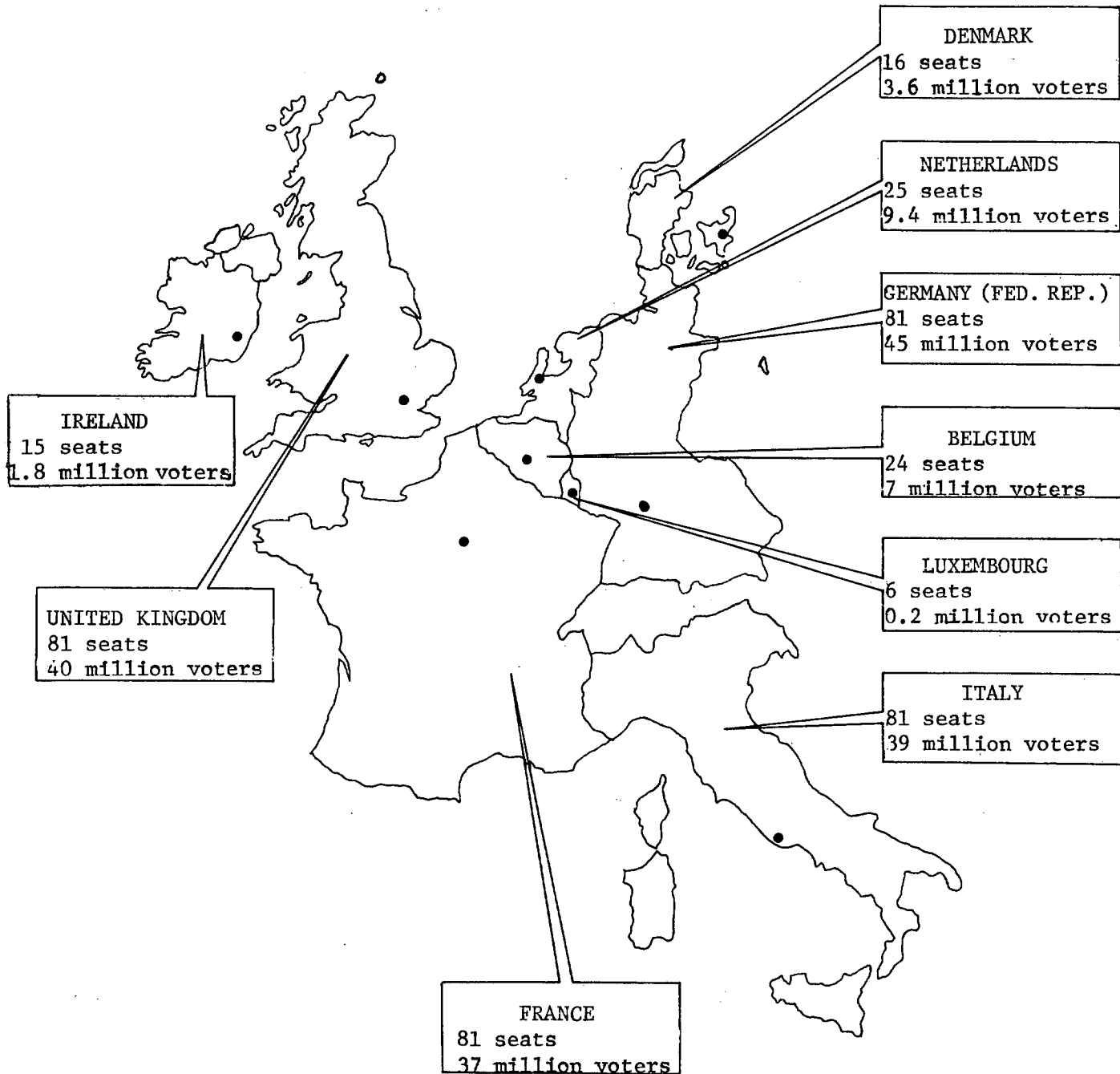
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JUNE 1979--180 MILLION EUROPEANS WILL ELECT 410 REPRESENTATIVES





European Parliamentary Assembly Headquarters in Strasbourg

RULES GOVERNING EUROPEAN ELECTIONS
COMPARATIVE SURVEY

Voting Day

Thursday, June 7: Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, United Kingdom

Sunday, June 10: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, West Germany

Electoral System

Proportional representation except for the United Kingdom (majority vote system). In Northern Ireland proportional representation is used.

Constituency Boundaries

Denmark, France, Luxembourg, The Netherlands: the whole country forms a single electoral area;

Belgium, Ireland, Italy, the United Kingdom: the country is divided into a number of constituencies;

Germany: the parties may submit either tickets for small areas (Länder) or a single ticket for the whole federal area.

Order of Names on Tickets

Germany and France: no split tickets or preferential votes.

Belgium, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands: the order of names on the tickets may be changed.

Luxembourg: voters may in addition vote for candidates from different tickets.

Ireland and the United Kingdom: electors vote for the individual candidates.

Voting Age

Eighteen years except for Denmark (20 years).

Eligibility to Run

Germany: 18 years; Denmark: 20 years; Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom: 21 years; France: 23 years; Italy and the Netherlands: 25 years. Candidates must be a citizen of the state in which he or she runs.

Nominations

In three states only--Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands--the nominations are restricted to political parties and political organizations.

France, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom require a deposit.

To Qualify for Seats

France, West Germany: the ticket must receive at least 5% of the valid votes cast. In the Netherlands: 4%.

DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY: A LONG ROAD

Between June 7 and 10, 1979, for the first time ever, 180 million Europeans will directly elect 410 representatives to the European parliamentary assembly. Up to now members of the parliamentary assembly have been appointed from their national parliaments.

A Long Road

There have been plans to hold direct elections from the very inception of the Community, and the possibility was provided for in the Treaty of Paris of 1951. It was also expressly incorporated into the Treaty of Rome in 1958 of which Article 138, paragraph 3 reads:

The Assembly shall draw up proposals for elections by direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all member states.

The Council shall, acting unanimously, lay down the appropriate provisions, which it shall recommend to member states for adoption in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

In 1960 the parliamentary assembly produced a draft convention, but it was never really seriously considered by the EC council of ministers.

The Paris Summit Conference, December 9-10, 1974

At the Paris summit in 1974; it was decided to institutionalize meetings of the European heads of state and government and the result was the European council. At the same meeting the decision was made to go ahead with European elections by universal suffrage. Point 12 of the final communiqué reads:

The heads of government note that the election of the European Assembly by universal suffrage, one of the objectives laid down in the Treaty, should be achieved as soon as possible. In this connection, they await with interest the proposals of the European Assembly, on which they wish the Council to act in 1976. On this assumption, elections by direct universal suffrage could take place at any time in or after 1978.

Since the European Assembly is composed of representatives of the peoples of the states united within the Community, each people must be represented in an appropriate manner.

The parliamentary assembly wrote a new draft convention and throughout 1975 and 1976 it was subject to long and detailed discussions at successive summit meetings and by the council of ministers. At last, agreement was reached and on September 20, 1976 the European council signed the final document.

The European Elections Act of September 20, 1976

Act concerning the election of the representatives of the assembly by direct universal suffrage:

"Article 1: The representatives in the assembly of the peoples of the states brought together in the Community shall be elected by direct universal suffrage.

"Article 3: Representatives shall be elected for a term of 5 years.

"Article 4: Representatives shall vote on an individual and personal basis. They shall not be bound by any instructions and shall not receive a binding mandate....

"Article 5: The office of representative in the Assembly shall be compatible with membership of the parliament of a member state."

The first elections will be held under national election rules, but a uniform procedure for 1984 will then be adopted on the basis of a draft prepared by the first directly elected Parliament.

COMPOSITION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The European parliamentary assembly consists, in the words of the founding treaties, of the representatives of the peoples of the nine countries brought together in the European Community. From the outset the parliamentary assembly has taken this to mean that its main obligation is to ensure that the Community does not become solely the concern of economists, industrialists, trade unionists and civil servants but seeks to involve the peoples of Europe through their chosen representatives.

Members

Up to now the parliamentary assembly has consisted of 198 members nominated by and from the national parliaments of the member states:

France, Germany, Italy, U.K. respectively	36
Belgium, the Netherlands	14
Denmark, Ireland	10
Luxembourg	6

On June 10, with direct elections, the membership will be increased to 410:

France, Italy, Germany, U.K. respectively	81
The Netherlands	25
Belgium	24
Denmark	16
Ireland	15
Luxembourg	6

Political Groups

As in the existing parliamentary assembly, members will sit in the chamber not according to nationality but according to political persuasion.

Fourteen members are needed, as a general rule, to form a group. However, ten are enough if they come from at least three different countries.

As of March 1977 there were six political groups:

- the Socialists: 63 members from 12 Socialist, Social-Democrat or Labor parties in all nine countries;
- the Christian Democrats: 52 members from 12 parties in Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Luxembourg;
- the Liberal and Democrat Group: 27 members from 13 parties in all member countries except Ireland;
- the European Progressive Democrats: 17 members including members of the French Rally for the Republic, the Irish Fianna Fáil, and a representative of the Danish Progress Party;
- The European Conservatives: 16 British Conservatives, 1 member of the Danish Center Democrats;
- the Communists and Allies: 17 members, of which 12 are Italian, 4 French and 1 Danish.

Members of the parliamentary assembly are not of course obliged to join a group. As of March 1977, five members were unaffiliated.

Though multinational, the groups each try to present a common political front on the issues which come up for debate. At group meetings, therefore, the working out of a joint approach usually takes precedence over national preoccupations.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY: ORGANIZATION AND POWERS

Organization

The European parliamentary assembly meets about once a month throughout the year for roughly one week at a time. Special meetings may be convened by the president at the request of the majority of its members or at the request of the commission of the European Communities and the council of ministers of the European Communities.

The Bureau

All activities of the parliamentary assembly and its various bodies are under the direction of the president, assisted by 12 vice presidents. Together, they form the bureau, an annually elected body which is responsible for the day-to-day running of the parliamentary assembly. The chairmen of the political groups usually attend the general meetings of the bureau.

The Committees

The parliamentary assembly has 12 specialized committees, each dealing with particular areas of the Community's activities. Their spheres of interest broadly match the distribution of responsibilities among the members of the commission.

Politically and nationally, the membership of the committees generally reflects that of the chamber as a whole. This is important because their work consists not only in preparing the groundwork for debates before the whole house but also in keeping in touch with the European commission, and in some cases with the council, between sessions.

The parliamentary committees usually meet in Brussels. This makes for easy contact with the council and with the commission, which is obliged to provide information on its plans and policies. Members of committees may also go on special missions to study problems on the spot, both inside the Community and beyond.

The 12 committees cover: political affairs; legal affairs; economic and monetary affairs; budgets; social affairs, employment and education; agriculture; regional policy, regional planning and transport; the environment, public health and consumer protection; energy and research; external economic relations; development and cooperation; rules of procedure and petitions.

Most of the parliamentary assembly's meetings are held in Strasbourg at the Palais de l'Europe. Other meetings are held at the Centre Européen in Luxembourg where the assembly's administrative offices are located.

Powers

- The parliamentary assembly takes part in the drafting of "Community laws" in that it voices an opinion on the commission's proposals before they are adopted by the council. In this work the parliamentary assembly has substantial influence rather than power.

- The parliamentary assembly draws up the Community budget in conjunction with the council. It may reject the budget entirely, but in the case of serious differences of opinion, conciliation is sought with the council. The parliamentary assembly has the final say in certain "non-obligatory" expenditures, so-called because they are not laid down in the Treaty. These expenditures represent 17% of the budget and the parliamentary assembly can increase them by as much as 20%. They affect mainly regional affairs, social questions, energy, and problems of environment; these issues did not seem to be of such prime importance when the Common Market was first formed. Now they are major issues.

- The parliamentary assembly monitors the activities of the commission, which is responsible to it:

- The parliamentary assembly can force the commission to resign (motion of censure). In such a case the motion of censure must be carried by two-thirds of the votes cast, representing a majority of the parliamentary assembly's members. In the past 20 years a number of motions of censure have been proposed, most of them quite recently. While such a motion has not yet been passed, it nevertheless constitutes a weapon that the parliamentary assembly can use at any time.

- The parliamentary assembly can submit written or oral questions to the commission.

The parliamentary assembly's dealings with the council have greatly increased since it gained new budgetary powers (1970). The president of the council reports on its budget studies and answers representatives' questions.

● The parliamentary assembly plays a considerable part in the Community's relations with the rest of the world.

- Since 1976 it has had the right to ask parliamentary questions bearing on political cooperation, in which it regularly participates through the committee on political affairs.

- The parliamentary assembly is kept informed of the trade negotiations held by the commission and can monitor them by means of reports from its committee on external economic relations.

- The parliamentary assembly maintains contact with the parliaments of other countries whose delegations it receives and visits.

- Contacts between parliaments are organized in the framework of the agreements signed by the Community: trade pacts, associations agreements, the Lomé Convention (which has its own consultative assembly, with equal representation from the EC and ACP* states).

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*African, Caribbean and Pacific

B E L G I U M

ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Major Participating Parties

The Flemish-speaking Social Christian Party (C.V.P.) has elected Mr. Leo Tindemans to be the number one on their list of candidates. Mr. Leo Tindemans who is the President of that party is also the President of the European Christian Democratic parties. He has headed the Belgian Cabinet from April 1974 until October 1978.

French-speaking Social Christian Party (P.S.C.): Mr. Ch. F. Nothomb, Speaker of the House of Representatives, is the first candidate on the "European list" of this party. The main objectives of the PSC are the following: full employment; free enterprise; reinforcement of the democracy; improvement of the "quality of life" for all citizens of the European countries; constitution, on the long term, of the "United States of Europe".

The French-speaking Socialist Party (P.S.) will have at the head of its candidates to the European elections, Mr. Ernest Glinne, former Minister and presently Member of Parliament. The program of the French-speaking Socialist Party is for "A democratic and progressist Europe for European workers".

Flemish Socialist Party (B.S.P.): the first candidate on the list of this party is its President Mr. Karel Van Miert, who has declared that "Europe must be really democratic, more progressist and more social". He also stated that Europe must affirm itself more autonomous vis-a-vis the superpowers.

Flemish Liberal Party (P.V.V.): the number one on the list of candidates is Mr. Willy DeClercq, former Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. The European program of the PVV emphasizes the enforcement of the human rights. Within the framework of a "modern market economy" at a steady and balanced growth, the restoration and presentation of full employment and the stimulation of free enterprise.

The French-speaking "Party of Reforms and Liberty" (P.R.L.) has elected as its first candidate Mr. André Damseaux.

French-speaking Brussels Party (F.D.F.) and Walloon Rally (R.W.): the common list of these two regionalist parties is headed by Antoinette Spaak, President of the FDF, daughter of the late P.H. Spaak, co-signer of the Rome Treaty creating the European Economic Community. The candidates of the FDF and the RW intend to sit under their own label in the European Parliamentary Assembly and to focus their activities on the European solidarity in favor of the regions of the Member States experiencing economic difficulties.

The Flemish-speaking People's Union "Volksunie" (V.U.), has elected Mr. Maurice Coppieters to head the list of candidates for its party. Mr. Coppieters is in favor of a bicameral system: a Chamber of Representatives to be elected by proportional representation and a Senate which would be based on regions, i.e., along the lines of the American system.

The French-speaking Communist Party (P.C.B.) has elected as its first candidate Mr. Claude Renard.

Flemish-speaking Communist Party (K.P.B.). The first candidate of this party is Mr. Jan Debrouwere.

French-speaking "Party of Freedom" (P.L.W.): Mr. Claude Hubeaux is the first elected candidate of this party.

The Flemish-speaking "People's Party" (V.V.P.) has elected as its first candidate former Senator Mr. Lode Claes.

* * * *

D E N M A R K

ELEVEN DANISH TICKETS--PLUS GREENLAND

Denmark elects 15 of its 16 members to the European Parliament on June 7, 1979, and the voters in Greenland go to the polls two days later to fill the one Danish seat set aside for them. While each Danish member is going to "cost" an average of between 150,000 and 200,000 votes, a special provision of the law regulating the European election in Denmark secures the election of one representative of Greenland's approximately 50,000 inhabitants.

During the phase leading up to the decision by the Nine to have direct elections to the EC parliament, Denmark changed her long-standing preferences for double mandate in the national and the EC parliaments and for letting the European elections coincide with national election dates.

The election bill, which became law in October 1978, thus makes no such provisions, while, on the other hand, it does not prevent membership of both parliaments. In practice both members and non-members of the Folketing (parliament) are currently in the running for the 16 seats, most of the MF's apparently intending to leave the Folketing should they obtain election to the EC body.

While national elections in Denmark are conducted proportionally, the 179 members of the Folketing being elected from a large number of districts, the prospect of electing only 15 (16) European delegates in the same manner was not considered practical. Instead it was decided to let the entire country (with the exception of Greenland) form one election district, thus making the EC elections technically more resembling a municipal vote. The law further made all political parties presently represented in the Folketing eligible to submit tickets. Other groups wanting to run may do so by submitting a petition supported by the equivalent of 2% of the national vote, i.e. the minimum requirement for representation in the Folketing.

Ten of the 11 parties presently represented in the Folketing appeal to the voters with their own tickets. The 11th party--the Communists--decided to run on a joint anti-EC ticket with various groups outside parliament. That particular ticket ("Folkebevægelsen mod EF"--the popular movement against EC) is the only one without a direct basis in the existing Danish party structure.

Vying for the opponents' vote are, however, also some of the party tickets, including the Left Socialists, the Socialist peoples' party and the Single Tax party. Including the Communists, these parties represent less than 15% of the vote at the latest general election. Taking a split view of European cooperation is one of the "old" parties, the Radical Liberals (3.7%) while the Christian People's party (3.4%) supports Denmark's participation. The Center Democrats (6.4%) clearly express their stand as a "European party." The Progress party (14.6%) under Mr. Glistrup is for the EC as far as it directly benefits Denmark, while the Conservative People's party (8.5%) "wholeheartedly endorses the EC and would like to see the economic cooperation of the EC develop into a political union as rapidly as possible." Its top candidate is Mr. Poul Moeller, former minister of finance.

The Social Democrats (37%) and the Liberal Democrats (12%), who currently govern Denmark in a coalition, are both taking a positive line. The Social Democrats proceed on "the foundation laid for the party's EC policy in 1973, i.e. its aim is, as far as possible, to bring Social Democratic views to bear on the further development of the EC." The Liberal Democrats (Venstre), whose top candidate is the well-known journalist, Niels Joergen Haagerup, "unconditionally support the Danish membership of the EC [and] have maintained a constructive and active posture." In a recent campaign speech Mr. Haagerup stated his party's desire for a stronger EC, "including increased influence of the EC parliament. This, however, does not mean that the Liberal Democrats demand a series of new powers for the EC parliament or changes of the basic EC treaties. Although that may in time achieve actuality, it remains in a somewhat distant future."

Both parties have their own election platform, which, like some of the smaller parties, complement and supplement their respective European sister parties' joint platforms.

The Social Democrats--the party most frequently in government position--list their priorities for the EC parliament in these points:

- to counter the current economic crisis and the severe unemployment;
- to strengthen control of the multinational corporations and limit their influence;
- to promote workers' co-determination, job security and better working environments;

- to promote solutions of problems of industrial resources, environment, consumer protection, etc.;

- to advocate that the EC, through its economic, trade and political initiatives, lead the efforts towards global economic equalization and take a positive attitude vis-à-vis the developing countries' demand for a new economic world order;

- to promote equality irrespective of sex, race or religion;

- to make increased European cooperation beneficial for the individual person;

- to change the present EC agricultural system in such a way that the current surplus problem is solved effectively and stable food prices achieved.

The leading Social Democratic candidate, Kjeld Olesen, plans to leave the Folketing while retaining his position as deputy chairman of his party if elected in the EC body.

A poll of the prospects for the various tickets is not available at the time of writing. It may, however, be worth noting the outcome of a recent survey of the Danes' attitude to the question: "Would you be for or against increased political cooperation within the EC?" Forty-seven percent were for, 28 percent against and 25 percent undecided.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AT THE FIRST ELECTIONS

TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: June 10, 1979

On June 10, 1979 the people of the Federal Republic of Germany will participate in the first direct elections to the European Parliament. Eighty-one German deputies are to be elected. Anyone aged eighteen or older is eligible and entitled to vote--some 42 million Germans out of 61.5 million. Citizens who have been residing for at least three months in one of the other EC countries will be eligible to vote by letter ballot.

A bill setting forth the electoral process was unanimously adopted by the Bundestag (Lower House of Parliament) on March 16, 1978 and passed the Bundesrat (Upper House) on April 21, 1978. The bill provides for proportional representation and a mixed slate of Land (state) and nationwide candidates. Political organizations can choose whether to run candidates nationally or locally in the Laender (states).

Candidates and substitute candidates have to be members of political parties or of organizations with political objectives and must have headquarters in the Federal Republic of Germany. Political parties or organizations must receive at least five percent of the total votes cast in the Federal Republic in order to be represented in the European Parliament. Of the 637 candidates nominated by nine political parties, 78 will be elected to the European Parliament by popular vote. Because of West Berlin's special status, it will be represented by 3 deputies who will not be elected, but nominated by the Berlin legislature. These three deputies will, however, have full voting rights.

The CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDU) and its sister party in Bavaria, the CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION (CSU) are the only parties to run candidates only in the Laender (states). The CDU's 129 candidates appear on the ballots in nine German states. The CSU's 23 candidates comprise their electoral ticket in Bavaria. Both parties are affiliated with the Christian Democratic Group in the European Parliament.

The slogan of the Christian Democrats is: "For a Free and Social Europe--Not a Socialist Europe"

Their aims are:

- more security for Europe without neutralization
- more freedom for individuals
- less bureaucracy
- more partnership in Europe
- against the concept of the class struggle

Their leading candidates are:

- CDU: Hans Katzer (60) member of Bundestag since 1957, former Federal Minister for Labor and Social Affairs (1965-69)
- Egon A. Klepsch (49) Chairman of the Christian Democratic Group in the present European Parliament
- CSU: Alfons H.C. Goppel (73) President of the Bavarian Red Cross, former Minister President of Bavaria (1962-1978)

The SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD), is running 78 candidates on a nationwide ticket and is affiliated with the Socialist Group in the European Parliament.

The SPD slogan is: "For a Europe as the Fatherland of Peace" (Fuer Europa als Vaterland des Friedens)

Its aims are:

- full employment
- social democracy as the foundation of European society
- greater solidarity and justice in European society
- Europe as a community for all of its citizens
- Europe as a power for peace

Its leading candidates are:

- Willy Brandt (65) National Chairman of the SPD, President of the Socialist International, Former Federal Chancellor (1969-1974)
- Heinz Oskar Vetter (62) Chairman of the Federation of German Trade Unions (DGB), Chairman of the Federation of European Trade Unions

The FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FDP) has nominated 106 candidates and is affiliated with the Liberal and Democratic Group in the European Parliament.

Its slogan is: "The Liberal Europe" (Europa liberal)

Its aims are:

- a tolerant Europe shaped by its citizens
- expansion of the authority of the European Parliament
- a democratic European Constitution

Its leading candidates are:

- Martin Bangemann (44) Member of Bundestag since 1972, member of the European Parliament since 1973, Deputy Chairman of the Liberal and Democratic Parliamentary Groups in the European Parliament
- Mechthild von Alemann (42) Librarian

Political parties and organizations which have appeared on the ballots in German state or national elections, but have never achieved parliamentary representation because they could not garner more than 5% of the popular vote have also nominated candidates. These parties are:

Die GRUENEN (an association of six different environmentalist groups) with 78 candidates.

Their slogan is: "For a New Europe--an ecological, social, rank-and-file democratic and non-violent Europe"

Their aims are:

- the preservation of the ecological basis of human, animal and plant life
- a Europe of regions, to be ruled by the will of the people
- the abandonment of nuclear energy

Their leading candidate is:

Petra Karin Kelly (31) since 1971, administrative advisor in the European Community's Economic and Social Committee. Ms. Kelly is active in the Womens Peace and Anti-Atom movements

The substitute candidate* for Ms. Kelly is Herbert Gruhl, former CDU Member of Parliament, who left the CDU in order to organize the environmentalists. He is the founder of one of the major environmentalist groups.

DEUTSCHE KOMMUNISTISCHE PARTEI (DKP) (German Communist Party),
78 candidates.

The goal of the German Communist Party is a class-free Communist society.

Its leading candidate is:

Herbert Mies (50) Chairman of the DKP since 1973

EUROPAISCHE ARBEITERPARTEI (EAP) (European Labor Party) 25 candidates

Its slogan is: "Now comes Schiller's time" (Nun kommt die Schiller-Zeit). The German poet Friedrich Schiller had hoped for an American-style revolution in Europe in his lifetime (1759-1805).

Its aims are:

- a Europe of sovereign humanistic republics
- for the European Monetary System (EMS)
- against the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- for detente

* a substitute candidate will succeed to the European Parliament if the elected candidate does not accept his mandate, resigns or dies.

Its leading candidate is:

Helga Zepp-La Rouche (30) journalist

CHRISTLICH BAYERISCHE VOLKSPARTEI (CBV) (Christian Bavarian People's Party), 11 candidates.

Its slogan is: "We are the fourth party from Bavaria--a vote for us is a decision between Kohl and Strauss"

Its leading candidate is:

Ludwig Volkholz (60) member of the first German Parliament
(1949-1953)

DEUTSCHE ZENTRUMSPARTEI (DZP) (German Center Party), 9 candidates.

Its leading candidate is:

Dr. Bernd Reismann

* * * *

Statements about the European Parliamentary election

Helmut Schmidt, Federal Chancellor (Social Democrat):

"Direct elections to the European Parliament will heighten the ideal of democracy and contribute to making Europe more democratic".

Helmut Kohl, Chairman of the Christian Democratic Party:

"Only a policy of the center is capable of achieving a majority on its own. Only our people's party which embraces the three major basic political currents--liberal, Christian-Social and conservative--is capable of achieving a majority in our democracy".

Willy Brandt, Chairman of the Social Democratic Party:

"In this part of the continent, Europe has begun to become a reality. There are many encouraging signs for social democrats all over, that a strong parliamentary, a strong social democratic representation will be achieved".

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Chairman of the Free Democratic Party:

"The future belongs to liberalism. Its validity lies in the freedom, values, rights and responsibilities that it devolves upon human beings. Liberals are for a pluralistic Europe".

F R A N C E

FRANCE AND THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

"Election by universal suffrage will fulfill, when the time comes, an intention proclaimed from the start by the Community's founders.... Democracy in the Community does not restrict or adulterate democracy in our states but extends and enriches it." (Foreign Minister Jean François-Poncet, European parliamentary assembly, January 1979)

Election of the European parliamentary assembly by universal suffrage was opposed by the French government for many years: General de Gaulle and his successor, President Pompidou, feared that in the absence of a European executive body, a direct election might lead to rule by an assembly system. French opposition was withdrawn when an executive body was formed in 1974 at the Paris summit meeting. This body, the European Council of heads of state and government, signed a final agreement for direct election of a European parliamentary assembly on September 20, 1976. Although approval of this agreement by national parliaments is not mandatory under Article 138 of the Rome Treaty, President Giscard d'Estaing decided to ask French parliament for its official support by submitting the document for ratification.

The President signed the law of ratification on June 30, 1977. On Sunday, June 10, 1979, 37 million French citizens will elect their 81 representatives to the European parliamentary assembly.

The Electoral Procedure

French citizens become eligible to vote at 18 and eligible to run for the parliamentary assembly at 23. French citizens living abroad can vote by proxy.

The voting method is proportional representation; no split tickets or preferential votes are permitted. Each national ticket will have 81 names for the 81 seats to be filled; the seat allotment for each winning ticket will be assigned to candidates in the order in which they are listed. Tickets winning less than 5% of the votes forfeit the mandatory electoral deposit of 100,000 francs (approximately \$23,000).

The elections will be governed by the French electoral code. Accordingly, the government will pay part of the campaign expenses for those tickets that receive a minimum of 5% of the vote. It will also make free radio and television time available to tickets of the parties or groups represented in French parliament.

Groups in the Running

The election campaign in France officially opens on May 26, but European affairs have been a central focus of discussion in French political circles for more than a year.

All the parties except the Communist party are in favor of the existing European Community and its enlargement to 12 countries; they differ, however, on the issue of how to organize Europe and what the limits of national sovereignty should be.

Four main tickets will represent the basic political groupings in France. The voting method--proportional representation--and the minimum qualifying vote of 5% tend to favor the big political groups. The smaller parties or movements have therefore had to join forces to have a chance in the elections.

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has made it clear that he is removed from any party affiliation in these elections and is not supporting any one ticket (speech in Alsace on May 15). He defined his personal conception of Europe thus:

"I have long held the clearest possible position in favor of the application of the [Rome] Treaty--nothing more and nothing less--from the perspective of a confederal organization."

He added that he hoped the French representatives, once elected, would "defend France's interests and the confederal approach," whatever party they belonged to.

Defense of French Interests in Europe Ticket

Leaders: Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris and former Prime Minister
Michel Debré, former Prime Minister

Prominent candidates on the ticket: writer Maurice Druon; former ambassador to the United States Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet; former Prime Minister Pierre Messmer and Concorde test pilot André Turcat.

This ticket represents the Rally for the Republic (RPR), the Gaullist party that wishes to remain faithful to General de Gaulle's ideas on Europe. Its candidates have all pledged to step down after only one year of the five-year term so that their fellow candidates on the ticket can also serve. (Only a fraction of the 81 candidates on a winning ticket are actually assigned seats, the number of seats being dependent on the proportion of the vote the ticket receives.)

They believe the present organization of Europe has moved away from the spirit of the Rome Treaties and has not been able to adapt to the evolution of the member states, thus undermining their sovereignty. Among other things, they fear that once elected by universal suffrage, the European parliamentary assembly will try to increase its powers.

Those running on this ticket have therefore signed the "Charter of the 81" which sets down the aims they will defend in the European parliamentary assembly. They propose that all the member states adopt a "European orientation pact" to guard against future impingement on national sovereignty by:

- making existing provisions more precise;
- determining clearly areas of joint action (common agricultural policy, etc.)
- further defining the role of Community institutions.

Union for France in Europe Ticket

Slogan: "Act Within Europe for France"

Leader: Simone Veil, Minister of Health and Family Affairs.

Prominent candidates on the ticket: political figures Jean 'Lecanuet, Edgar Faure, Jean-François Deniau and Michel Poniatowski.

The above ticket represents the Union for French Democracy (UDF), a pro-government political group which since March 1978 has included among its ranks the Republican party, the Center of Social Democrats and the Radical party.

They too remain faithful to the Gaullist conception of Europe, but defend its present organization and hold that the performance of the last 20 years has been positive.

According to this group, Europe has contributed to the development of France and is essential to France's future, but France must have a leading role in Europe, proposing action and introducing new ideas.

The members of this group are for a confederated Europe--meaning a union of states that are associated but still preserve their independence, that consent to make concessions in their sovereignty in specific areas and by carefully defined agreements, as required by the ties of association.

- They are for an assembly elected by universal suffrage in a Europe that is growing, but an assembly that under no circumstances should be allowed to overstep the legal limits of its powers.

Socialist Ticket With the Leftist Radicals

Slogan: "For a Europe of the Workers"

Leader: François Mitterrand, General Secretary of the Socialist party

Prominent candidates on the ticket: National Assembly deputy Jean-Pierre Cot, deputy and mayor of Marseilles Gaston Defferre and biologist Alain Bombard.

This ticket is a coalition of the Socialist party and the Leftist Radical movement. The Leftist Radicals' leading candidate is Maurice Faure, one of the original signers of the Rome Treaty.

The Socialist party was strongly in favor of setting up the European Communities, arguing that:

- Europe can facilitate better economic growth and reduce social inequality;

- An organized and strong Europe will enable world power to be redistributed vis-à-vis the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A.

The Socialist party believes that the Europe now being formed is more a Europe of technocrats and giant cartels than of the workers. This ticket therefore seeks:

- to change the course of the Community's evolution from within. The coalition is not averse to enlarging certain of the Community's powers in due course;

- to reach this goal, the Socialist-Radical coalition wants to heighten existing cooperation between the various left-wing groups in Europe.

Communist Party Ticket

Slogan: "For an Independent France in a Democratic Europe"

Leader: Georges Marchais, Secretary General of the Communist Party

The ticket is composed of workers from every part of France.

The Communist party is opposed to the present concept of Europe and its institutions. It believes that:

- the Europe under construction threatens the independence and sovereignty of France by placing it under American domination;

- the opening of national frontiers to goods and workers has created a Europe of multinational companies which jeopardize the safety and full development of France's economic potential.

The Communist party declares nonetheless that it will take part in the campaign in order to make its voice heard, and especially to militate against the enlargement of the Common Market, which they feel would adversely affect the economy of southern France. In its manifesto, "20 Proposals for Europe," it defines its concept of Europe as one of social progress and cooperation, but one where national sovereignty would be strictly protected. The Communists stress that in their view, the interests of France's workers must come before the interests of Europe.

Other Tickets

Other tickets include:

- French Union for European Rightist Parties (right-wing)
- Workers' Struggle with Communist Revolutionary League (left-wing)
- Europe-Ecology
- Regional Europe (federalists)

A LATE STARTER

5th Ticket: Employment-Equality-Europe

Slogan: "For a Europe of Full Employment"

Leader: Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, President of the Radical party

This ticket is made up of radicals of all persuasions. Among them are Françoise Giroud, former minister and journalist, and Jacqueline Thome-Patenôtre, vice-president of the European Movement.

The presentation of this ticket on May 21, has disturbed the political checkerboard set up by the four main formations. By presenting it, Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber has sought to break away from the UDF movement and to present an alternative ticket that positions itself between the Giscardist centre and the socialist left. Those candidates who are elected will join with the Social Democrats in the European parliamentary assembly.

This ticket, proclaims itself to be the most European of all, by calling for:

- the construction of a balanced Europe which enables the life and work of its inhabitants to be better organized, especially with regard to the distribution of employment;
- the construction of the economy of the future in a European framework, with the active participation of Europe's citizens in making major decisions. This must be done through elected regional assemblies.

I R E L A N D

DIRECT ELECTION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Ireland has been allocated 15 seats in the new parliament and over two million people will be eligible to vote on Thursday, June 7 in four separate constituencies: Dublin, Leinster, Connaught-Ulster and Munster.

There are over 40 candidates declared who have each paid a deposit of £1,000 (approximately \$2,000). There are three major parties in Irish politics and they are contesting every constituency along with a number of minor parties, none of whom have representatives in the Irish parliament. The three major parties are as follows with their European party affiliation given also:

Fianna Fáil/European Progressive Democrats

Fine Gael/European Peoples' Party

Labour Party/European Socialists

Because the system of election is Proportional Representation with a single transferable vote, each constituency has more than one vacancy. The tickets of the candidates of the major parties is as follows (TD denotes member of parliament):

DUBLIN: 4 SEATS, ELECTORATE 603,000

European Progressive Democrats:

Senator Ruari Brugha; Sile de Valera, TD; Joe Fox, TD;
Senator Michael Yeats.

European Peoples Party:

Nuala Fennell; Maurice Manning; Richie Ryan, TD.

European Socialist Party:

Jane Dillon-Byrne; John O'Connell, TD; Michael O'Leary, TD.

LEINSTER: 3 SEATS, ELECTORATE 472,000

European Progressive Democrats:

Patrick Lalor, TD; Tom Nolan, TD; Patrick Power, TD.

European Peoples Party:

Monica Barnes; Mark Clinton, TD; Senator Charles McDonald.

European Socialist Party:

Liam Kavanagh, TD.

CONNAUGHT-ULSTER: 3 SEATS, ELECTORATE 436,000

European Progressive Democrats:

Jim Doolan; Sean Flanagan; Sean McEniff.

European Peoples' Party:

Senator Patrick Cooney; Senator Joe McCartin; Senator Myles Staunton.

European Socialist Party:

Michael D. Higgins.

MUNSTER: 5 SEATS, ELECTORATE 631,000

European Progressive Democrats:

Jeremiah Cronin, TD; Noel Davern, TD; Sean French, TD;
Michael Herbert, TD; Tim (Chubb) O'Connor.

European Peoples' Party:

John Blair; Alan Dukes; Tom O'Donnell, TD; Jim O'Keeffe, TD.

European Socialist Party:

Eileen Desmond, TD.

Fianna Fáil/European Political Democrats have produced a detailed policy statement for the election covering every aspect of European development including relations with the Third World and other areas. The document stresses that the EEC has made it possible for the peoples of Europe to enjoy an exceptional period of peace, freedom and economic development. Direct elections to the European Parliament in accordance with the Treaties must help to ensure the protection of the Community achievements, the development of common policies and the reduction of regional imbalances. The election of the Parliament of the Nine should be a step, the document says, towards the achievement of an independent Europe master of its own destiny with due regard for traditional ties.

The European Peoples Party/Fine Gael, in conjunction with its associate parties in six other member States, calls for Europe to speak with one voice. The European Political Co-operation mechanism is seen as an encouraging step in this direction. The party programme calls for the following institutions to bring about a united Europe:

- a European Parliament directly elected which expresses the wish of the people;
- a State Assembly which represents the legitimate interests of Member States;
- a European Government which can and must govern in the proper sense of the term.

The European Socialist/Labour Party like the other two parties has emphasised the need for balanced growth and development within Europe accompanied by strong social and regional policies.

Many of the candidates have been very prominent in Irish politics and also in academic circles. There are nine ex-members of government, 18 members of the Dail (lower House) and six senators. All but one of the Irish members of the outgoing European Parliament are standing for election. The Government Chief Whip, Mr. Patrick Lalor, as well as two former members of Fianna Fáil cabinets - Mr. Jeremiah Cronin and Mr. Sean Flanagan - are amongst the candidates. Senator Michael Yeats, a Vice-President of the European Parliament and a son of the poet, William Butler Yeats, is also standing. Four members of the former Irish government, including its Minister for Finance, Mr. Richie Ryan; its Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Mark Clinton; and its Minister for Labour, Mr. Michael O'Leary, are also seeking election.

The youngest candidate is Miss Sile de Valera of Fianna Fáil who is 25 and the grand-daughter of a former President of Ireland, Eamon de Valera; the oldest is Mr. Tim O'Connor who fought in the Irish War of Independence, 1919/1921. A well-known writer and lecturer in political science, Mr. Maurice Manning, as well as an economist who worked for the Irish Farmers Association in Brussels, Mr. Alan Dukes, are also candidates.

* * * * *

I T A L Y

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS IN ITALY

Of the nine member countries of the European Community, Italy is certainly one of those where the ideals of European integration have reached the widest diffusion among the public opinion. This is shown by the attention given by the Italian media to European problems, or the support that in recent years all Italian political parties have voiced for an acceleration of the process of political integration.

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, in a recent speech given on the occasion of the opening of the Frejus Tunnel, linking Italy and France through the Alps, has defined the European elections as a "truly revolutionary act in the history of international relations."

Practically all Italian political parties have submitted lists of candidates for the elections of the European Parliament. Those of nationwide importance are:

DEMOCRAZIA CRISTIANA (Christian Democratic Party)

The Christian Democrats have been able, together with correspondent political parties in other European countries, to organize the European Popular Party, that has presented a common program. Among its major issues are the increase of the power and authority of the European Parliament. The Christian Democrats also--as stated in "Il Popolo"--support an increase in the overall E.E.C. expenditure, which should attain at least 2 to 2.25% of the total GNP of the member countries (presently 1%), and a common policy in the fields of industrial restructuring and energy.

PARTITO COMUNISTA ITALIANO (Italian Communist Party)

As has been stressed in the P.C.I.'s organ "L'Unita", the P.C.I. believes in the necessity of increasing the impact of the European Parliament in such areas as international treaties, legislative activity, E.E.C. budget etc. They also state their support for an extensive revision of the

agricultural policy, so as to spur the development of Mediterranean rural areas. The importance of joint industrial planning, in order to cope with the problems of unemployment is also stressed.

PARTITO SOCIALISTA ITALIANO (Italian Socialist Party)

The program of the P.S.I. for the European elections underlines the importance of some issues concerning the external relations of the E.E.C. As stated by the party's newspaper, "L'Avanti", they are in favor of a switch in the economic relations policy, that should increase the role of Third World countries as economic partners of the Community. They also believe in strengthening the role of the Community in promoting disarmament and detente, as well as in increasing the economic relations with non-member countries on the basis of special agreements.

Other parties that have presented their lists, are the following:

MOVIMENTO SOCIALE ITALIANO (Italian Social Movement)

DEMOCRAZIA NAZIONALE (National Democracy)

PARTITO LIBERALE ITALIANO (Italian Liberal Party)

PARTITO REPUBBLICANO ITALIANO (Italian Republican Party)

PARTITO SOCIALDEMOCRATICO ITALIANO (Italian Social Democratic Party)

PARTITO RADICALE (Radical Party)

DEMOCRAZIA PROLETARIA (Proletarian Democracy)

The interest of the Italian people in these elections is also shown by the fact that a number of prominent personalities in different fields, such as the arts and sciences, are candidates for the European Parliament, although most of them are not members of the parties in whose lists they are included.

Among them, we may mention the following:

Rinaldo Ossola (PRI), economist, ex Director General of the Bank of Italy, founder of the so-called "group of Ten", an economic council composed of representatives of the ten most industrialized countries. In this capacity, he was, in 1965, the author of the well-known "Ossola report" that formed the basis of the institution of the Special Drawing Rights as an international currency. Minister of Foreign Trade in 1977-1978.

Carlo Ripa di Meana (PSI), ex Manager of two of the most important Italian publishing societies; member of the regional government of Lombardy; since 1974, Director of the most prestigious Italian cultural event, the "Biennale" of Venice.

Renato Guttuso (PCI), born in Bagheria, Sicily in 1912. Considered by many critics as the most important living Italian painter.

Leonardo Sciascia (PR), born in Recalmuto, Sicily in 1921. Writer and literary critic, winner of many literary awards.

Giorgio Bassani (PRI), born in Bologna in 1916, fiction writer and novelist, winner of the prestigious "premio Strega" in 1956, author of the worldwide known novel "The Garden of the Finzi-Contini".

Also to be mentioned, among many others, the economist Giorgio Ruffolo (PSI), the physicist Giuseppe Ippolito (PCI), the theater director Giorgio Strehler (PCI), the biologist Adriano Buzzati-Traverso (PR), Ambassadors Piero Vinci, Roberto Ducci and Eugenio Plaja (DC).

As far as the political personalities are concerned it may suffice to recall that the Secretaries of the major political parties are all heading their respective lists, as is Emilio Colombo (DC), current president of the European Parliament.

L U X E M B O U R G

THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS IN THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

"Europe will only be able to exist if it is carried by the sense of responsibility and by the solidarity of all its citizens, and this means of each individual. Europeans need the Community, and the Community needs responsible and solid European citizens."

Gaston Thorn
Prime Minister of Luxembourg
Les Cahiers Europeens No.279

Voting Procedures

The Luxembourg people will elect six representatives to the European Parliament. These elections will be held on June 10, 1979, simultaneously with the Luxembourg National legislative elections.

Every Luxembourg citizen of 18 years of age is entitled to vote. Those over 21 years are eligible for election.

The six Luxembourg representatives are elected by direct universal suffrage which is carried out under the party ticket system in accordance with the rules of proportional representation and the principle of the smallest electoral quota. The representatives will be elected for five years.

Each political party is entitled to present a ticket containing a maximum of twice the number of seats to be allotted to Luxembourg in the European elections (6x2 = 12). This doubling in the number of seats will avoid exhausting the lists of delegations.

For the European elections Luxembourg will be considered as one electoral district. For national elections there are four electoral districts. Thus it is expected to guarantee a fair representation of all political tendencies.

Voting is compulsory. Each elector has six votes which he is free to attribute to a single ticket or, if he prefers, to six different candidates on one or several tickets.

In order to avoid that the single electoral circonscription gives advantage to candidates coming from regions with great density of population over those coming from regions with low population density, the elector is allowed to give one vote only for each of the six candidates contrary to national elections where two votes are possible.

Voting tickets are taken into account only for the allocation of seats among the lists but not for the classification of the candidates within the tickets. This classification is established on the sole basis of nominal votes obtained by each candidate.

Luxembourg citizens residing in the other eight countries of the European Community are entitled to vote in a special poll station installed by the City of Luxembourg. To this end they had to register personally or by mail on a special electoral list available before March 31st, 1979, at Luxembourg City's Town Hall. The Luxembourger who has the possibility to vote in another member country of the European Community must pledge to use his voting right only in Luxembourg.

As for financing the campaign for the European elections the Luxembourg Government does not intervene.

Political parties and organizations participating in the European elections, their leading political figures and their European policies.

The five parties represented in the Chamber of Deputies:

Ticket I The Luxembourg Socialist Party (Parti Ouvrier Socialiste Luxembourgeois, POSL).

- Mr Bernard BERG, Vice-President of the Government
- Mr. Joseph WOHLFAHRT, Minister for Interior, former Vice-President of the European Parliament
- Mr. Willy DONDELINGER, Deputy, Member of the European Parliament

The Luxembourg Socialist Party is a member of the European socialist and social democratic parties whose program it supports. This party wants to grant more power to the European Parliament. It is willing to give up

certain sovereign rights in order to achieve a strong Europe. Their goal is a dynamic Europe serving its citizens and not a Europe dominated by multinational corporations.

Ticket II The Luxembourg Social Democratic Party (Parti Social Démocrate Luxembourgeois, P.S.D.)

- Mr. Henry CRAVATTE, former Vice-President of the Government, President of the P.S.D.
- Miss Astrid LULLING, Deputy, former member of the European Parliament

The Luxembourg Social Democratic Party although not represented at this time in the European Parliament is of European tendency. The P.S.D. is not a Marxist party. It stresses the importance of the individual for whom it wishes to ensure development thanks to a genuine social solidarity.

Ticket III The Luxembourg Communist Party (Parti Communiste Luxembourgeois P.C.L.)

- Mr. René URBANY, Deputy, President of the P.C.L.
- Mr. Zenon BERNARD, Deputy

Presently the Luxembourg Communist Party is not represented in the European Parliament. Its policy is anti-european, refusing "Euro-Communism". It maintains relations with communist parties of Eastern Europe.

Ticket IV The Luxembourg Democratic Party (Parti Democratique Luxembourgeois, P.D.L.)

- Mr. Gaston THORN, Prime Minister, President of the P.D.L., President of the Federation of European Democratic and Liberal Parties.
- Miss Colette FLESCH, Mayor of the City of Luxembourg, member of the European Parliament.
- Mr. Carlo MEINTZ, Deputy, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

The Luxembourg Democratic Party, of liberal tendency, is openly pro-european and supports the program of the Federation of European Democratic and Liberal Parties. Its goal is the realisation of a democratic balance between the institutions by diminishing somewhat the power of the Council of Ministers. Full employment, unemployment of the young, relations between men and women in a modern society, a European environment policy are some of the main goals of the P.D.L. It approves the extension of powers of the European Parliament and those of the Community institutions in general.

Ticket VI The Luxembourg Christian Social Party (Parti Chrétien Social, PCS.)

- Mr. Pierre WERNER, Deputy, former Prime Minister
- Mr. Jacques SANTER, Deputy, Member of the European Parliament, President of the P.C.S.
- Mr. Camille NEY, Deputy, Member of the European Parliament.

The Luxembourg Christian Social Party is openly pro-european and is a member of the European Popular Party. It is in favor of extending the powers of the European Parliament as well as those of other Community institutions. The P.C.S. is strongly advocating the realization of the "European Union". It advocates a Europe of the citizens and not a Europe of technocrats.

Parties and Organizations not represented in the Chamber of Deputies

Ticket V Alternative ticket "DEFENDEZ-VOUS"
Ticket VII Revolutionary Communist League
Ticket VIII Liberal Party

Members of these three tickets are critical towards the European ideas. They only have in the political life of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg a very minor importance.

THE NETHERLANDS

JUNE 7, A DAY LONG ANTICIPATED BY THE NETHERLANDS' VOTERS

Nine Dutch parties vie for
25 seats in European Parliament

If Netherlands voter-interest in the first direct election of members of the European Parliament equals the keen interest the Dutch have shown in their 1972 and 1977 national elections, some 85% of the roughly 9,750,000 eligible voters will go to the polls in The Netherlands on Thursday June 7, 1979.

While the results of Netherlands national elections are generally known within 3 hours after the last polls close, Dutch candidates and the politically keen Netherlanders will have to wait 5 days before they'll learn on Monday, June 11, in what strength the 9 parties competing for the 25 Netherlands seats in the European Parliament will be represented.

On June 7, together with the Dutch, the Danes, the Irish and the British will cast their votes. The remainder of the European electorate will not vote until Sunday, June 10. To avoid possible influence of the early votes on the latter--and certainly, too, not to spoil the impact of this unique European happening--election results in all 9 EEC member states will be disclosed as a package on Monday, June 11.

For people of The Netherlands it will be a day long anticipated. The number one issue of the European integration process in Dutch opinion has, indeed, been to make the European Parliament truly representative of the peoples of the European Community, by having its members directly elected, rather than appointed by national parliaments.

Perhaps the most striking indication of the importance attached in The Netherlands to a direct, popular influence on the future of Europe can be seen in the decision of Dr. Anne Vondeling to step down as chairman of the Second Chamber of the Netherlands States General--one of the most prestigious and influential political offices in The Netherlands--in order to stand as leader of the Netherlands Labour Party's (P.v.d.A.--the largest party in the Dutch parliament) list of candidates for the June Euro-elections. Similarly, a former chairman of the non-elected European Parliament,

Dr. Cornelis (Kees) Berkhouwer, is expected to give up his powerful senior position in the Dutch lower house if elected as leader of the (third largest) Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) list in the new Euro-parliament. Leading the European list for The Netherlands second largest political party, the Christian Democrats (CDA) is prestigious Second Chamber member Mrs. B. Beumer. For the currently fourth-ranked Democrats '66, State Secretary for Finance in the former Dutch Cabinet, Mr. A. De Goede, is heading his party's list for the Euro-elections.

In her speech from the Throne, opening the current session of The Netherlands States General, Queen Juliana said, "Direct elections to the European Parliament will at last form a bridge between the institutions of the Communities and the public."

As in most of the other EEC countries, regulations for the European elections in The Netherlands are laid down in a separate law, which has been passed by large majorities of the Second and First Chambers of The Netherlands States General. This law provides that the European elections be held in a manner similar to those for the Second Chamber, with a few technical changes.

Since the 25 Netherlands Euro-MP's will represent the country as a whole rather than as separate districts, the usual 18 constituencies for a Second Chamber election will be replaced for the European elections by a single national constituency. Political parties will put up national lists of candidates, each containing no more than 40 names. In a national Second Chamber contest an election deposit of 1,000 guilders is required for each of the 18 constituencies in which a party puts up a list of candidates.

In the June Euro-elections a single election deposit of 18,000 guilders (some \$9,000) is required of each party putting up a list.

The minimum number of votes to elect a Euro-MP in The Netherlands will be considerably higher than in a Second Chamber election, depending on the turn-out of voters. Between 256,000 and 330,000 votes will be required for a Netherlands candidate to take a seat in the European Parliament. In the 1977 Netherlands parliamentary elections, 87.6% of the some 9,500,000 eligible voters went to the polls. Voting age is 18 in The Netherlands. There is provision for abstentee voting but only for government personnel serving the country abroad. They can vote by proxy.

Candidates for the Euro-elections must be Netherlands citizens of at least 25 years of age. There are some functions incompatible with membership of the European Parliament, such as civil servants, members of the Council of State, the High Court, the General Accounting Office, and those who are the Queen's Commissioner in one of the Provinces. If someone holding one of these offices is elected to the European Parliament, and decides to take his seat, he will have to vacate his office.

Significant also of the considerable interest in Dutch political circles for the European elections, there has been considerable debate over the question of "double representation," that is whether a Member of the Second Chamber may sit simultaneously as a Member of the European Parliament, as has been the case in the past. "Double representation," indeed, is not forbidden by the Netherlands law governing the European elections. It is expected, however, that most Dutch parties will in practice urge their representatives not to combine seats in the national and in the European parliament.

Among other notable Dutch political figures who will stand for the Euro-elections are the Christian Democrat's chairman W.J. Vergeer and Second Chamber members J. Tolman and Mrs. H. Notenboom; Labour Party chairman Mrs. Ien van den Heuvel and Second Chamber member Piet Dankert; for the Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) the present secretary-general of the European Parliament Mr. Hans R. Nord, Netherlands First Chamber member H. Louwes, and Second Chamber members Mr. A. Geurtsen, Mr. F. Bolkenstein and Mrs. Theo Joeekes. The other parties seeking seats are: The Radical Political Party (PPR), The Pacifist Socialist Party (PSP), The Communist Party of The Netherlands (CPN), The Calvinist Political Union (GPV), and the Calvinist Political Party (SGP).

European integration, itself, has never been an object of political controversy in The Netherlands, the private action-group "European Movement," which has been conducting a nation-wide information campaign in March and April, has called for a stronger European Parliament: one which would exploit to the fullest its present powers.

From the September 1944 signing of the Benelux agreement, the 1953 European Coal and Steel Community, and the 1958 EEC, to the present, The Netherlands has been at the forefront of each successive step on the long road to European integration. It has fought a long and exhausting battle to open the original Community of Six to Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark, while at the same time stressing that the Community should live up to its essentially democratic nature and have a freely elected Parliament with real powers.

In its Foreign Policy statement to the States General in the autumn of 1978, The Netherlands Government expressed its satisfaction that the democratic basis of European integration would find expression in the 1979 direct elections for the European Parliament. "The Government hopes, with the political parties, that participation in this election, here at home, will do justice to the fundamental issue the European cooperation represents."

UNITED KINGDOM

DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY

Voting Procedures

1. All British and Irish Republic citizens resident in the UK who are entitled to vote in Parliamentary elections, (with the addition of members of the House of Lords), totalling some 41 million people, will be entitled to go to the polls for the European elections between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. on June 7, a Thursday--Britain's traditional voting day. As in all types of British elections, voting is voluntary.
2. As in a domestic election, Government officials and members of the Armed Forces serving abroad will have proxy votes. Other British subjects resident outside the country, however, will not vote except in special cases.
3. In principle, the rules governing the elections will be the same as for national General Elections. For example, polling stations will be the same and even the returning officers who count the votes will be the same people as in a domestic election, but will be called "verifying officers."
4. The electorate will vote for a total of 81 members in 79 constituencies throughout the United Kingdom to represent the country in the 410-member European Assembly for the next five years. (Currently the UK's allocation is 36 out of a total Assembly of 198.) Northern Ireland is to be treated as a single constituency returning three members. All other constituencies will be represented by one member each. Members will be called MEPs to distinguish them from MPs in the national Parliament.
5. With only 79 constituencies (compared with 635 for national elections) the constituencies are very large. The Boundary Commissions in England, Scotland and Wales, drew up the European constituencies, each of which is made up of between seven and nine parliamentary constituencies. The average number of electors in each constituency will be 500,000 instead of the accustomed 60,000 for national elections.

6. The 81 seats are divided thus:

66 for England	(average electorate of 524,000)
8 for Scotland	(average electorate of 480,000)
4 for Wales	(average electorate of 521,000)
3 for Northern Ireland	(single constituency of 1 million)

7. England, Scotland and Wales will use the "first past the post" electoral system--the customary system for national General Elections--but Northern Ireland will elect its 3 members by proportional representation, which is the normal method for local government elections in the province.

8. The European election campaign will last longer than the three weeks of a national campaign to allow candidates to cover the much larger constituencies. Publication of the notice calling the election was on May 2. The closing date for delivery of papers nominating candidates is May 12. During the election campaign the candidates will be able to claim for free postage of manifestos to voters and for the use of meeting halls as in parliamentary elections.

9. After the close of polling on June 7, returning officers will verify the ballot papers but the votes will not be counted until the night of June 10. (To ensure there is no risk of malpractice between the close of the polls and the count, there is this separate verification stage following the close of the polls to check the number of ballot papers against the ballot paper accounts.)

10. Eligibility for candidacy is broadly the same as for parliamentary elections with the addition of peers and clergymen of the Churches of England, Scotland and Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church.

11. A candidate needs 30 signatures to be nominated.

12. All candidates must deposit £600 (compared with £150 for a national election). This is returnable to any candidate gaining a minimum of 12 1/2% of the valid votes cast in each constituency in England, Scotland and Wales; and one quarter of the electoral quota in Northern Ireland.

13. The allowable campaign expenses for each candidate are £5,000 plus £1 for each 50 names on the constituency electoral register. Some candidates could thus spend more than £15,000 on their campaign. The European Assembly and the European Commission have made available jointly £1.25 million to their offices in Britain for an information campaign on the holding of elections. Also, certain sums available to political groupings in the Assembly will be passed on accordingly to the British political parties.

14. Election results can be contested in the High Court.
15. Vacant seats will be filled by means of by-election.

Major Party Attitudes/Policies

1. The major parties differ in their policies on eligibility to be a candidate for the European Assembly. The Labour Party will not allow the so-called dual mandate of a candidate sitting in both the national Parliament and the European Assembly. The Conservative Party will acquiesce if the candidate's constituency association agrees to it. The Liberals and other minority parties agree to dual mandate.

2. As a result, there will be few experienced parliamentarians contesting seats. However, many candidates are eminent in other walks of life.

3. The UK MEPs will not sit as a national bloc but as members of party groups in the European Assembly following the pattern of other countries' members. The Labour MEPs will sit with the European Socialist group, and the Liberals with the European Liberal group. The Conservative MEPs will continue to sit as an independent group, but will maintain their informal working arrangement with the Christian Democrats.

4. All three major British political parties will have manifestos on the elections, although the Liberal Party has joined with the other Liberal parties in Europe in publishing a combined pamphlet not specially directed to Britain. The Conservative manifesto will be published shortly.

The Labour Party's booklet "European Assembly Elections" sets out Labour's policies for the fundamental reform of the EEC. Its foreword states:

"This is not a program of government--for the European Assembly does not have, and must not have, the right to override our own Parliament and decide matters of government policy. But Labour members of the European Assembly--elected with your support--will be able to help all of us in our campaign to bring greater justice and common sense to the way the EEC operates."

The Conservative Research Department has issued a book "Campaign Guide for Europe 1979", which, in the section on direct elections to the European Parliament, states:

"Although it lacks sovereignty as that term is understood at Westminster, the European Parliament has extensive powers of inquiry into the operations of both the Council and the Commission, and it exercises these through question and debate in plenary session and in committee. The Conservative Party believes that a European Parliament, elected rather than nominated by national Parliaments as hitherto, will carry out these essential democratic functions with increased influence and effectiveness."

It quotes Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Britain's Prime Minister, in Rome, June 24, 1977, on the decision to have direct elections:

"Anyone with a sense of history must recognize as a remarkable advance the prospect that in a single election, nine European countries will go to the polls to elect representatives to a single democratic assembly."

And further quotes her:

"These elections are of major importance not only for our party and for our country but also for the Community and the world." (Conservatives in Europe, European Conservative Group, 1979.)

Candidates for European Assembly

a) Eminent political figures

1. Because of the Labour Party's attitude to dual mandate, Labour's delegation to the Assembly will be almost totally lacking in parliamentary experience. Only 3 out of the almost 70 candidates chosen to date have sat at Westminster.

2. The most notable, and the probable leader of the delegation if elected, is Mrs. Barbara Castle, the former Secretary of State for Health and Social Services and retiring MP for Blackburn after 33 years at Westminster. She is Labour candidate at Manchester North. Besides her parliamentary positions, she has been a member of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party since 1950; the Vice Chairman of the Labour Party in 1957-58 and Chairman in 1958-59. Her husband, Lord Castle, has been a member of the European Assembly since 1975.

3. Two former Labour Party ministers will be contesting on behalf of other parties. Lord George Brown, former Labour Party Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, will be contesting Derbyshire as an Independent. Mr. Christopher Mayhew, a former Labour MP and Minister, is the Liberal candidate for Surrey.

4. The Conservative candidates include 7 existing members of the European Assembly including Mr. John Scott-Hopkins, current deputy leader and whip of the British Conservative group in the Assembly. He was MP for West Derbyshire, but stood down in order to contest Hereford and Worcester in the European election. Mr. Jim Spicer, MP for West Dorset and a member of the current Assembly, will contest Wessex. The possible leader of the Conservative delegation is Baroness Elles, Chairman of the Conservative Party international office, and candidate for Thames Valley.

5. The Liberal Party is fielding an experienced candidate in Mr. Russell Johnston (Liberal MP for Inverness and member of the present Assembly) in the Highlands and Islands constituency.

6. Two Scottish Liberal Party members are standing: Mr. Robert Smith, President of the Scottish Liberal Party, is contesting Lothians; and Mr. David Miller, organizing Secretary, is contesting Strathclyde East.

7. Baroness Seear, the Liberal Party spokesman on employment and prices, is contesting Wight and Hampshire East.

b) Eminent non-political candidates:

1. Labour Party

Dr. Ernest Wistrich, Director of Britain's branch of the European Movement, is contesting Cleveland; Mr. Patrick Gray, formerly with the International Confederation of Trade Unions in Brussels, is a candidate for Upper Thames; Mr. Reg Scott, Deputy Lord Mayor of Plymouth and member of the Labour Party's EEC Safeguards Committee, is contesting Devon.

2. Conservative Party

Sir Henry Plumb, retiring President of the National Farmers Union, is a candidate for the Cotswolds; Sir Fred Catherwood of the

British Overseas Trade Board, is contesting Cambridgeshire; Mr. Basil de Ferranti, Chairman of Ferranti and former head of the EEC Economic and Social Committee in Brussels and junior Minister under Sir Harold Macmillan, is a candidate for Hampshire West.

3. Liberal Party

Mr. Anthony Morris, Press Officer at the EEC Commission in Brussels, is contesting Kent East.