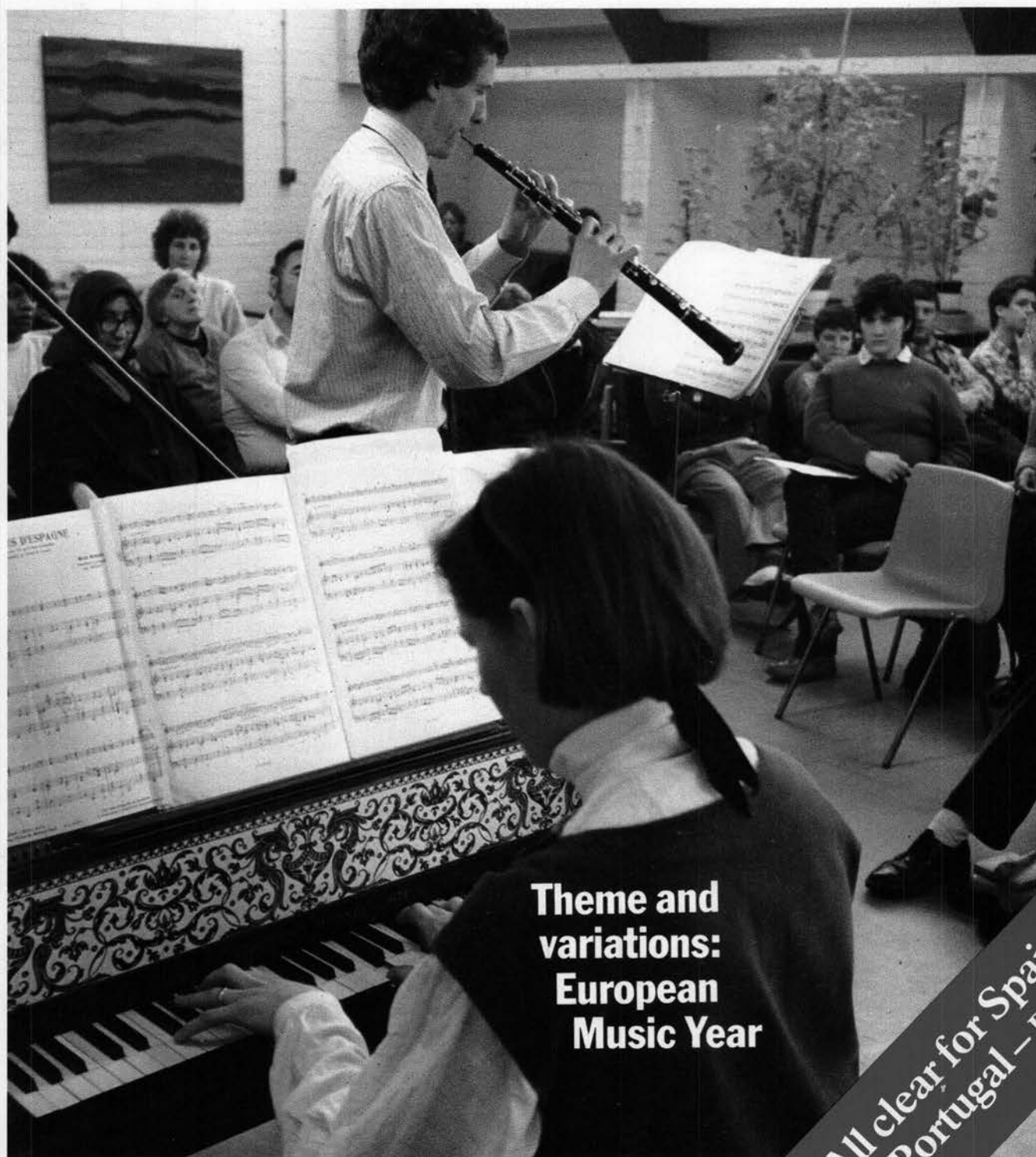


Europe 85

No. 4

April 1985

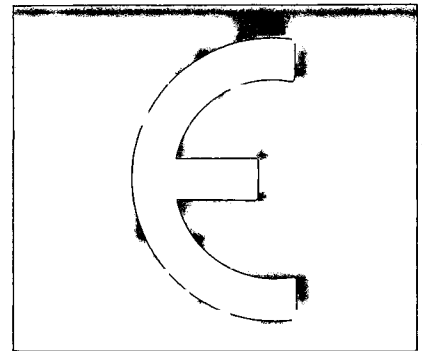


**Theme and
variations:
European
Music Year**

**All clear for Spain
and Portugal — PAGE 8**

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Published by the Commission of the European Communities, 8 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AT.
Tel: 01-222 8122
Editor-in-Chief: George Scott
Associate Editor: Denis Thomas
Printed by Edwin Snell, Yeovil, Somerset

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Tel. (0222) 371631

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Tel. (031) 225 2058

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Tel. 202 8629500

Europe, 350 Sparks Street, Suite 1110, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1R 7S8.
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Saying it with music: thank you, Yehudi



An appreciative audience (top) at the Effra Day Centre, Brixton, run by Doris Richards, seen here with her team.

Bringing live music to people who need it most was Yehudi Menuhin's inspiration. The scheme – known as Live Music Now! – is spreading from Britain to other countries in the European

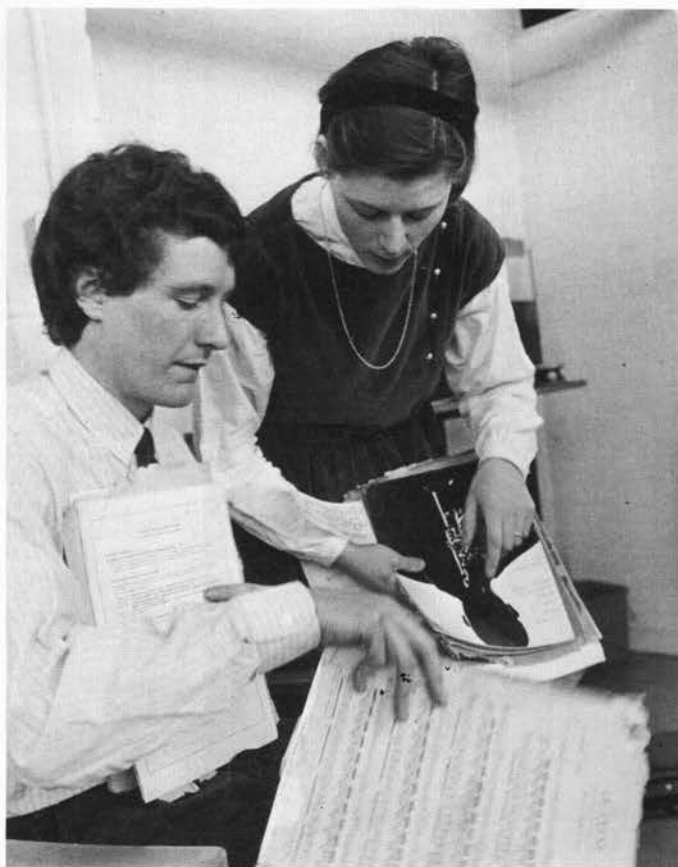
Community. As with many such worthwhile ventures, in all member states, the European Social Fund is making an invaluable contribution, as MORAG ALEXANDER reports

The Rastafarian in the drop-in centre for the unemployed in Haringey was really knocked out by Terence McNamara's harpsichord. He and his friends were equally impressed by Laurence Frankel's technique on the oboe. The unemployed youngsters were more familiar with the works of Bob Marley, but they listened intently to the performance by the two young men from Live Music Now! and pronounced them 'real musicians'.

For the musicians involved, it's all in a

day's work – playing for unemployed Rastas in Haringey, for children in a library in Southend-on-Sea, prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs, homeless men in London, miners' children in Gwent, or music lovers in Inver-gordon.

The scheme is the brainchild of Yehudi Menuhin, whose work with young musicians is legendary. He founded LMN in 1977 to help talented young musicians find audiences and bring live music to the community. 'For decades now', he says, 'it has been my dream



to bring music back into the home. And not only in the home, but also in other places where most of us spend our daily lives, where we work, study, suffer or celebrate.

'This is what it is all about – bringing together excellent young musicians, who must gain their livelihoods and need audiences to find that irreplaceable communion essential to their art, with those who need the refreshment and stimulation of live music, wherever they happen to be.'

Since 1977, more than 300 young musicians have given thousands of concerts throughout Britain. The musicians, all under 27 years old, are auditioned by a panel that includes such renowned artists as Julian Bream, Barry Tuckwell, Jack Brymer, Dame Eva Turner and Yehudi Menuhin himself. The musicians are selected for their exceptional musical talent, and for their ability to communicate musically and verbally with the varied audiences whom they will meet around the country. Each musician receives a fee of £50 plus travelling expenses. Costs are kept down by encouraging organisers to provide hospitality, in private homes or in the institutions where the concerts are held. Fees can be reduced for tours or larger ensembles.

The operation is supported by sponsors who include such companies as Marks and Spencer, Esso, W.H. Smith; as well as local health authorities, the Welsh and Scottish Arts Councils, Edinburgh City Council, the Greater London Council, and private individuals.

To continue and develop its work, LMN

'The musicians, all aged under 27, are auditioned by a panel that includes Julian Bream, Barry Tuckwell, Jack Brymer, Dame Eva Turner, and Yehudi Menuhin himself'

needs new sponsors. So for 1985, European Music Year, it was delighted to receive funding from the European Commission to organise exchange visits of musicians on European tours.

Two instrumentalists who will benefit from the Community grant are a husband and wife duo – Adrienne Black, who plays piano and harpsichord, and Timothy Watts, an oboist.

Later this year they will travel to Europe to give concerts in the Netherlands and France. Nearer home, Adrienne and Timothy in the past year have played for children in Milton Keynes, for students in Ripon, and for elderly people in London.

At a recent concert in the Effra Day Centre in Brixton, they played music by Bach, Handel, Britten, and Marais, and ended with a much-appreciated version of Gershwin's *Summertime*. The audience of 30 – all people

who have had psychiatric problems, and who attend the Centre for support – ranged in age from the 20s to the 60s. The concert given by Adrienne and Timothy Black was the fourth this group had attended. At previous concerts, they had enjoyed a harp and flute duo, a performance of Indian music, and, at Christmas, music from a singer accompanied by lute and guitar.

Doris Richards, who runs the Effra Day Centre, is enthusiastic about LMN. 'Our clients enjoy the concerts tremendously,' she says. 'A lot of the music is new to them, and they say how different it is. And they always ask when they can have another one. We can choose what instruments we want to hear, so we try to suggest ones that are unusual – many of our people had never seen an oboe or a harpsichord. After the performance, they are able to go up and have a look at the instruments and find out how they work. Adrienne and Timothy were good at talking to them.'

Communication, both musically and verbally, is fundamental to the LMN philosophy. For the Effra Day Centre audience, the musicians' ability to choose an appropriate programme, and to explain it and their instruments to the audience, was important. As Doris Richards says: 'The pieces were short and varied, and this was just right for those who find concentration difficult.'

The concert at the Effra Day Centre, which is run by Lambeth London Borough Council, was funded by the Greater London Council. Now, Sheila Gold is having to think of new ways of operating as International Co-



Timothy Watts and Adrienne Black are typical of the young musicians invited to take part in Live Music Now!, which is currently receiving a European Social Fund grant. Below: Sheila Gold, the scheme's director, has set up a series of exchange concerts for European Music Year.




ordinator for LMN: she is writing to sponsors, to tell them of the organisations who want concerts, and is asking for their support.

The money from the European Community was a much-needed boost for the European activities of LMN. The British organisation has been the model for new ones in other European countries. With support from Bernard Haitink and princess Juliana of the Netherlands, Netherlands LMN was set up in 1980. Another, in France, has been launched by Pierre Boulez. Belgium next followed suit; and Sheila Gold herself managed to secure full government funding for a Spanish LMN. Other European countries are now showing interest in setting up their own programmes, also based on the British model.

Sheila Gold has set up the series of exchange concerts for European Music Year. 'The EEC grant will enable the musicians to move from one country to another and play before grass roots audiences,' she says. 'My concern has been to get the exact balance between the aim of bringing live music to the community and of giving the best possible audience opportunities to the musicians.'

Sheila Gold directs the activities of LMN

from a tiny office in Wigmore Street, in London, where the sounds of practising musicians in the rehearsal rooms next to the Wigmore Hall are a constant reminder of the struggle for perfection in the world of music. She has one full-time and one part-time assistant, as well as help from the Welsh Arts Council music officer and the Yorkshire Arts Association. With LMN's growing international interests, and the need to secure new sources of funding for British activities, the organisation is hard-pressed. But Sheila Gold relishes challenge. Instead of limiting LMN's activities, the organisation aims to appeal to a wider audience and to encourage an even wider range of fine young instrumentalists. Auditions are now taking place to find jazz musicians, and the expert panel includes Ronnie Scott and Stephane Grapelli.

Throughout 1985, Live Music Now! will continue to try to meet the increasing demands for concerts in the community. Yehudi Menuhin's dream is now a reality. But it needs the increased support of industry, commerce, public authorities, and individuals to make it grow and prosper. 



All in tune for Europe's Music Year

In all ten Community countries, 1985 marks the biggest musical celebration in European history

Euro-MP Richard Balfe must hardly have believed his eyes, or his ears. At a dinner party in London some five years ago, when the talk turned from politics to music, he tentatively suggested that the tricentenary in 1985 of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frederick Handel and Domenico Scarlatti should be used as the occasion for a European Year with a difference: to celebrate how all kinds of music can help unite Europeans, whether it be classical, jazz, rock, choral, vocal or brass band. European Music Year was born on 1 January this year, and is now alive and flourishing, with a programme of over a thousand events.

These have been chosen, not without heart-searching, by 24 national committees, headed by a European co-ordinating committee.

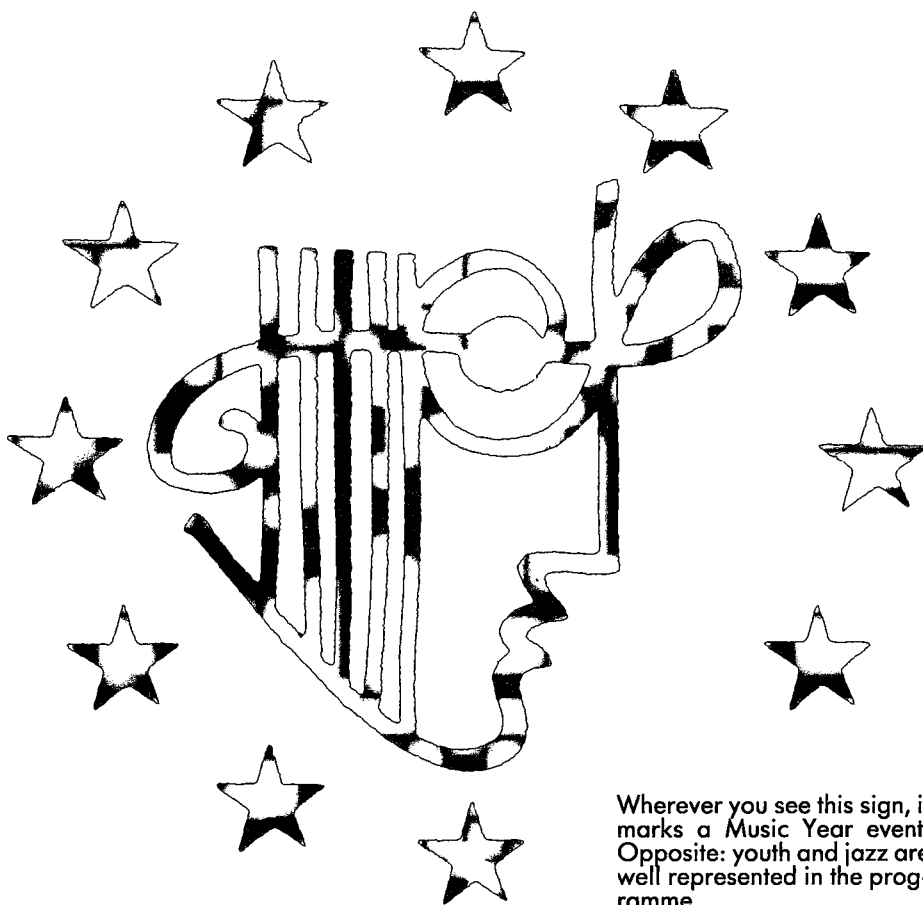
The Year started in a traditional enough way, with a New Year concert given in Vienna by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and transmitted worldwide by satellite on Monday. A few hours later, after the strains of Strauss's 'Blue Danube' had died away, every belfry in Holland began to ring in the Year.

Among items of interest is Mireille Laroche's opera barge, which has cast off from the Quai de Jemmapes in Paris to start a cruise of the rivers and waterways of Belgium, Holland, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Russia, putting on shows in more than thirty towns.

While the opera barge is chugging across Europe, Andrew Parrott in Oxford is lining up a European Baroque Orchestra of young musicians, who will undoubtedly be making their mark, and Olli Mustonen, a 20-year-old Finnish composer totally unknown outside his country, will have completed the work for piano and orchestra commissioned by the French minister for cultural affairs.

Olli Mustonen will play his work in France, with the Paris Conservatoire Orchestra and the National Chamber Orchestra of Toulouse. Naturally, Finland has offered a comparable opportunity to a young French composer.

'European musical life is extraordinarily parochial,' says Maurice Fleuret, chairman of the European Music Year committee in France. 'A handful of international stars travel widely, but countless groups who are very active in their own countries rarely set foot outside.'



Wherever you see this sign, it marks a Music Year event. Opposite: youth and jazz are well represented in the programme.

The programme announced by the Council of Europe promises some impressive events aimed at getting people moving. For example, 8,000 young people from 21 countries, in orchestras, choirs, jazz and folk groups, will assemble in Munich and other German towns from 24 to 26 May. Ten thousand young male voices (*pueri cantores*) will meet in Paris from 2 to 7 July for concerts of sacred music at the

Omnisport Palais and in front of Notre-Dame Cathedral.

Twenty thousand choristers from the school choirs' organisation 'Scholae Cantorum' will assemble before Saint Peter's in Rome from 26 to 29 September; four thousand singers from 20 European countries will be in Strasburg from 18 to 28 July; a thousand music lovers will meet in Stuttgart

WHAT'S ON IN THE UK

European Music Year events in the UK have already included major concerts and recitals in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Glasgow, Brighton, Bristol, Belfast, Oxford and Cambridge.

The musical calendar for the rest of 1985 includes Michael Tippett's 'King Priam' at Covent Garden, opening on 2 May, one of several programmes marking the composer's 80th birthday; the première of a new opera by Philip Glass, 'Akhnaten', at the Coliseum, London, at the end of June; a Handel opera season at Sadler's Wells in mid-July; a Festival of British Youth Orchestras at Edinburgh in August; a Jelly Roll Morton Centenary Concert at

the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 21 September; Scarlatti operas in October at Bath and Southampton; Handel's 'Semele' at the Royal Opera House in November; and in December, the Utrecht 'Te Deum' by Handel and Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio' in Gloucester Cathedral.

In addition, radio and TV networks have drawn up an extensive European programme for Music Year.

For full details and additional information apply to Ian Keith, Secretary of the European Music Year British Committee, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2PS. 01-836 0914.

from 14 to 22 September for a congress on the theme 'Bach, Schütz, Handel: classical music and present-day aesthetic'.

Other events include the Musica 85 festival of contemporary music in Strasbourg in September, and the Metz festival of Gaelic music of Celtic inspiration, put on by the 'Finistères d'Europe' (European Ends of the Earth) organisation, comprising Scotland, (including Orkney and Shetland), Ireland, Friesland, and Galicia in Spain. The Year also deals with the everyday problems encountered by musicians, and emphasises music teaching, with a series of colloquia where teachers will compare their methods and experiences.

Thousands of assorted small bands and orchestras will be playing on street corners in places as far apart as Zagreb, Stockholm, Nicosia, Berlin, Amsterdam and Lisbon.

It will be worth getting to Athens on 21 June. On that day, at the request of Greek minister for culture, Melina Mercouri, Yannis Xenakis is putting on a visual and musical spectacular – in the sky and on the city's hill-sides. It could be the high note of the Year.

LINDSAY ARMSTRONG



Birthday honours for musical masters

In Western Europe, until quite recently, only contemporary works were appreciated, probably because music served a mainly social function, in religious services or courtly entertainment, and was expected to reflect the particular psychological needs of the moment. As musical fashions changed, so pieces which were no longer found pleasing, moving or interesting were relegated to the archives.

It was at the end of the 18th century that a profound change in musical tastes occurred. Music with any artistic pretensions no longer had to fulfil a functional role, and became a pure art form aimed solely at providing aesthetic pleasure. It was then, just as the growth of creative individualism was forcing a rift between the composer and his public, that the music of the past was rediscovered.

Johann Sebastian Bach was probably the first composer to benefit from this revival. When he died in 1750, his music was considered austere and old-fashioned; his passions and cantatas were no longer sung at Saint Thomas's church in Leipzig, where he had been choir-master. He would have been completely forgotten if it had not been for a group of faithful admirers – a few friends and pupils and his son Philip Emmanuel, himself an excellent composer – who continued to play some of his keyboard pieces, mainly at the court of the King of Prussia.

In his lifetime, J.S. Bach only had a local reputation. He had always been attached to churches and minor courts, and composed almost entirely in response to liturgical or courtly needs, and with very few exceptions his works were never published.

If any excuse for European Music Year were needed, it marks the 300th anniversary of three notable birthdays – those of Bach, Handel and Scarlatti

It was the performance of the Saint Matthew Passion in 1829, a century after it was written, under the direction of Felix Mendelssohn, which marked the beginning of the spread of Bach's music. It was from that time that concert rather than church performances of his cantatas were given, that his chorales, toccatas and fugues for organ were played, and likewise his violin sonatas, his two and three part inventions, the two collections of preludes and fugues for the Well Tempered Clavier, and orchestral works such as the dance suites and the Brandenburg Concertos.

Handel, unlike Bach, had an international career and a high reputation in his own lifetime. Born in Saxony, he began as an operatic composer in Hamburg, an important commercial and cultural centre, then lived in Italy, where he composed grand opera, cantatas and religious music, and finally settled in London where he directed the Royal Academy of Music (the Royal Opera). There he put on his own work, mostly in Italian, in the *opera seria*, a genre which was fashionable at the time in many European cities.

Handel's most successful works, however, were his religious oratorios in English, based

on adaptations of Biblical texts – Saul, Judas, Maccabeus and above all the 'Messiah'. It was thanks to the 'Messiah' that his work continued to be played after his death in 1759. It has been continuously performed, with massed choirs, from then to the present day, in England at first and later throughout Europe.

Like Bach, Handel's outmoded musical language was appreciated for its austere solemnity, which contrasted with the style of newer works. His other works were revived only gradually: harpsichord pieces, organ concertos, concerti grossi, dance suites, secular cantatas. His operas, so successful in his lifetime, were not produced again until the 1940s. Still, at least Handel did not have to wait as long as Bach before being acknowledged as one of the great names in the history of music.

The last of the trio, Domenico Scarlatti, was a Neapolitan whose father had been a composer of popular opera. Scarlatti started his career in Naples, then lived successively in Venice, Rome and in Portugal before settling in Madrid, where he lived the last 28 years of his life.

He wrote operas, oratorios and cantatas, but is best known as a harpsichord virtuoso. He composed numerous sonatas for this instrument, of which 555 survive, modestly called 'Esercizi' ('Exercises').

They bubble with inventiveness of tune, rhythm and harmony and above all provide material for virtuoso playing. It is thanks to these qualities that they quickly became standard masterpieces in the harpsichord repertoire.

ROBERT WANGERMEER



On the eve of agreement: Ernani Rodriguez Lopez, Portugal's finance minister; Fernando Moran, Spain's foreign minister; Giulio Andreotti, Italy's foreign minister, currently President of the Council of Ministers; and Commission President Jacques Delors.

At last – the Ten will be Twelve

Although anxieties about its outcome persisted to almost the last moment, the European Council, held in Brussels 29-30 March, succeeded in agreeing the terms for the admission of Spain and Portugal as members of the European Community as from 1 January 1986.

This decision by the Heads of State and Governments must now be ratified by the Parliaments of the present ten member-states which will be presented with the text of a Treaty amendment allowing the entry of Spain and Portugal.

As the *Guardian* commented: 'Accustomed as we are to procrastination and crisis in the European Community, the most remarkable aspect of the Brussels summit was its lack of drama...'

'The final political endorsement of enlargement therefore stands as the milestone of this session of the European Council. With a bit of luck and a lot of hard work on the small print Spain and Portugal will just be able to join on time on January 1. The effects of a failure in this area after eight years of stupefyingly complicated negotiations did not bear thinking about, as the existing Ten clearly realised.'

It was an added bonus, the newspaper remarked, that the summit had been left with no outstanding issues to resolve, thanks to a record series of sessions held by the foreign ministers in the preceding fortnight. The successful conclusion of their negotiations on the very eve of the summit, consummately orchestrated by the Italians, who currently hold the rotating Community presidency, spared the Heads of Government the indignity of having to wrangle about lemons, wine and fishing-boats.

The Prime Minister of Spain, Señor Felipe Gonzales, said: 'Spain should be able to make a great leap forward in the next ten years.'

The Portuguese Prime minister, Dr. Mario Soares, said: 'I think everything will change. In five years Portugal will be a different country.'

One of the last problems to be resolved was that of fisheries. Under the agreement, Spain will become a full member of the Common Fisheries Policy from the date of accession, but restrictions will be imposed on the number of boats allowed, catches and fishing zones. A

basic list of 300 Spanish vessels will be allowed to fish in EEC waters; but, in practice, only 145 will be permitted there at the same time. Spanish boats will be excluded from the so-called 'Irish box' for ten years.

On agriculture, it was agreed that EEC tariffs on Spanish fruit and vegetable exports will be dismantled over a period of ten years. Community products such as wheat, beef and milk, will be restricted by quotas, also over ten years.

So far as Portugal is concerned, it too will have to wait ten years before its agriculture is fully integrated into the Community.

Both countries will have a seven-year transition period

Both the new member states will have a seven-year transition period before entering into a full customs union with their Community partners. Portugal will abolish all duties immediately in many areas, while Spain will remove 52.5 per cent of tariffs in the first three years.

In recognition of the need to help the Mediterranean areas to cope with the competition resulting from Spanish and Portuguese entry into the Community, the European Council reached agreement on Integrated Mediterranean Programmes – IMPs, as they are known. As a result, Greece, which had made such an agreement a condition of its approval of the two member-states, will receive 2 billion ECUs in grant aid to develop its backward agricultural areas over the next seven years. Italy and France will receive similar amounts.

The Council also agreed to set 1992 as the deadline for removal of all remaining barriers to a genuine common market, which would mean the opening up of intra-Community trade in services as well as goods, an objective much stressed by the United Kingdom.

With the agreement on the entry of the new members, the European Council can look forward to its June meeting in Milan, when the major question of institutional reform, including the question of decision making, will be on the agenda. €

Can't we sort out our relations with the United States and Japan?

Despite avowed good intentions, the outlook for relations between the Ten and the two other world economic powers is none too bright. Report on the situation as seen by Willy de Clercq, the European Commissioner in charge of foreign relations

In an interview in Brussels, Willy de Clercq, Belgium's member in the new Commission in charge of foreign relations, has voiced his concern about a new wave of protectionism in the United States.

To some extent, conflicts between the EEC and the US, resulting from differences of interest, perception and attitudes, were unavoidable, he said. But these are not the new Commissioner's only source of concern: de Clercq was also troubled about the Community's relationship with Japan.

Having attended the February meeting in Kyoto between EEC, US, Canadian and Japanese trade chiefs, and having met many Japanese leaders, including the Prime Minister, he said that they were 'men of goodwill who understand the need to open their country to the outside world'. Yet the problem of Europe's huge trade deficits with Japan appeared to be as intractable as ever.

Another important topic now occupying the Commissioner concerns the next GATT round of negotiations. He insisted that the EEC – contrary to some reports – is most anxious to go ahead with it. Yet it was also imperative that it should be preceded by thorough and careful preparations.

Asked where the Commission stood with regard to the East Bloc, and more particularly Comecon, the Commissioner referred to a letter sent by his predecessor, Wilhelm Haferkamp, to the Comecon secretary-general, to which, so far, there has been no reply.

On rising protectionist pressures in the US, he acknowledged that the Washington administration had, until now, been relatively successful in beating them off. Yet now there was the threat of new measures, either already adopted or in the offing. Mr de Clercq mentioned possible fresh moves in the Congress and the proposed farm bill. 'We also hear rumblings about an import surcharge,'

he said. Behind all this, of course, was the giant United States trade deficit, linked in turn to high interest rates and the dollar's strength.

But it was incumbent on the US to take the necessary corrective measures, rather than put the burden on Europe's shoulders, he added. The Community had done its industrial and agricultural restructuring, had gone through painful adjustments in its budget policies, and had worked hard to get rid of the disequilibria which had plagued it until 1982.

'If, because of the US disequilibrium, we would now have to pay a second time,' he pointed out, 'something would surely be wrong.'

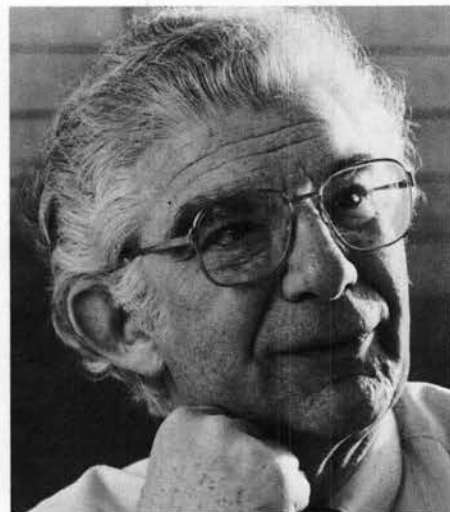
This is also the situation, though its components are different, in respect of Japan. In the discussions he had had there, it had looked to him as if the authorities had their eyes more on the US than on Europe. In part this was probably so because Japan's 1984 trade surplus with the US of 33 billion dollars had been just over three times as big as that with the EEC. But then, the trade flow between Japan and the US was also three times that between Japan and Europe. 'If you are aware how serious this situation is for your relations with the US,' he said he had told Japanese leaders, 'you should realise that it is just as serious for us.'

Mr de Clercq insisted that he was much more interested in trends than in the figures for any one year. Mr de Clercq, who before joining the Commission served as Belgium's finance minister, and also as chairman of the IMF Interim Committee, put great emphasis

Executives for Japan

The Commission of the European Communities invites Community companies to nominate an executive for the 6th Executive Training Programme in Japan. Financed by the EEC, the programme is intended to help companies build up their knowledge of Japan and the Japanese market with a view to increasing exports to it.

For information contact: Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co, Management Consultants, 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD. (01-236 8000, ext 2390).



Commissioner Willy de Clercq

on the fact that, while the trade situation was worrying, it was not without its positive aspects either. So far, he said, the tide of trade had proved stronger than protectionism.

He pointed out that, last year, world trade had increased by between eight and nine per

'If Europe now had to pay a second time, something would surely be wrong'

cent. During the recession years 1979-1983 world trade had nevertheless expanded by 7.5 per cent and actually topped the 7 per cent rise in world production during the same period. Despite the threats on the horizon, it was a mistake to say that an over-protectionist trend dominated the scene. At the same time, the GATT system had been undergoing a slow erosion for several years, and there is a danger of the world relapsing into bilateralism. From that, he thought, neither the Community nor world trade – nor indeed Western solidarity – would have anything to gain.

It was up to the West, therefore, to show that priority must go to removing all doubts and to restoring credibility. This could be done by avoiding all new protectionist action, and by demonstrating that the GATT was not a rich men's club.

Preparations would have to be circumspect and meticulous if this exercise was to be a success. This would include a consensus on the round's objectives, timing and participants. The operation would not have much point, if the developing nations, notably the South Americans, did not show up.

The Commission was confident, he concluded, that the tentative timetable now being talked about could be adhered to. This called for a meeting later this year of senior civil servants, to be followed in 1986 by a meeting at ministerial level, which it was hoped would launch the new GATT round.

H. PETER DREYER

PERSONAL COLUMN

Stanley Clinton Davis, one of the two British Commissioners, outlines his programme



'If the Community fails to respond to the public mood, we shall not escape the charge of irrelevance'

The pursuit of credibility is, as Commission President Jacques Delors underlined in his recent address to Parliament, the prime objective for the European Community as it confronts the many challenges – political, economic and institutional – of the next four years and beyond. I share the view that, if the Community is indeed to prosper as a distinct political entity in the times ahead, it is essential that its policies should relate ever more closely to the everyday needs and hopes of the mass of our population.

The institutional vigour desired by all of us who serve the Community will be generated only through the application of policies that are seen by people to be relevant to their lives. Credibility, as the President said in Strasbourg, will have to be earned the hard way.

The challenges facing the Community are indeed forbidding, not least in the areas for which I have personal responsibility: transport, environment, consumer protection, nuclear safety, forestry and public health. The degradation of our physical

environment, to take one example, is an issue over which there is widespread public concern.

If the Community fails to respond to the public mood, we shall not escape the charge of irrelevance. In Germany some 50 per cent of all the trees have been damaged by pollution – a phenomenon which has resulted in the desecration of sites of great natural beauty. I believe that the Community has already shown itself capable of advancing progressive policies to combat 'acid rain'. Existing directives on sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide reductions, for instance, and last month's agreement on exhaust emissions, reflect the determination of the Community not to leave the next generation of Europeans the ghastly inheritance of a ruined ecosystem.

Similarly, in the complex field of consumer protection I believe that the Community can show that it shares the concerns of ordinary consumers by optimising the rules which protect us from

'If millions of people remain condemned to the margins of economic activity, Community achievements in other spheres will seem positively self-indulgent'

harmful goods or sharp sales practice. It is, of course, right that the voice of consumers should be heard within the Community – a place where they should not only be invited to bring their complaints, but also be consulted about the development of European policy. The Community has given a proper emphasis to worker participation and involvement in recent years; the principle of engaging people in the construction of decisions which affect their lives must be reinforced and extended at every level.

Over the last few years, unemployment in our member states has soared to levels which we would once have thought to be insupportable. The Community contains over 12 million registered jobless – almost 5 million of whom are under twenty-five. These figures represent nothing short of a social catastrophe. It is therefore crucial that the thrust of the EEC's economic policy is to put these people back into productive work. This is a critically important area of policy where the Community has the opportunity to bring hope – to be relevant – to millions of worried Europeans.

Within my own portfolio, I shall of course be looking for new ways to create jobs. Environmental protection, for example, has a significant employment dimension, and I shall be paying particular attention to this. If millions of people remain condemned to the margins of economic activity, Community achievements in other spheres will seem positively self-indulgent.

The difficulties we face are severe. But they represent no more than a daily challenge to our commitment, our enthusiasm, our will. I believe that, under the presidency of Jacques Delors, the Commission will be seen as a force that is turning the Community towards the people, that has an understanding of the changes that have to come, whatever the difficulties. It is my pride and privilege to be a member of that Commission.

The Ten's bank manager pays out

Europe's own bank, the EIB, is at the centre of hundreds of development and investment projects throughout the Community. Here is the latest run-down on where, and to what extent, it has been using its financial muscle.

In 1984, the European Investment Bank granted loans worth more than 6.9 billion ECUs, a rise of 16 per cent on 1983's lending figures. Of this, 6.2 billion ECUs were deployed within the Community's member states, 5 billion coming from the EIB's own resources (principally the proceeds of borrowings on the capital markets) and the remaining 1.2 billion drawn from the resources of the NCI - New Community Instrument for borrowing and lending. Operations mounted outside the Community totalled 708 million ECUs, 620 million of which from the EIB's own resources and 88 million from Community and European Development Fund budgetary resources.

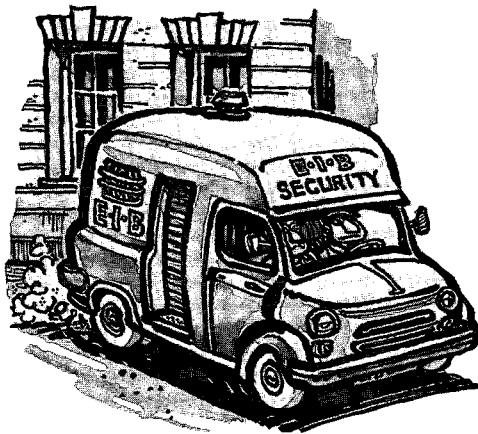
These figures signify a further increase on 1983, despite the continuing economic uncertainty, varying from one country to another. Of particular note was the marked recovery in lending outside the EEC, especially in the form of pre-accession financial cooperation in Spain and Portugal and in the Lomé Convention countries, and a new surge in lending within The Ten, notably in Italy (+15 per cent), France (+34 per cent) and the United Kingdom (+35 per cent).

Borrowings came to 4.36 billion ECUs, compared with 3.62 billion in 1983. The main currencies raised were the United States dollar, deutsche mark, the ECU and the guilder. Two landmarks on the borrowing front were the buoyant growth in ECU-denominated loan issues, to a level of 555 million (+140 per cent), and the Bank's first ever floating-rate note issues (189.4 million ECUs).

Within the Community there was a healthy rise in lending to the industrial sector (up 37 per cent), particularly in support of small and medium-sized enterprises - and development and introduction of advanced technology (+46 per cent). Operations in the energy sector, designed to reduce dependence on imported oil, also performed strongly, up 23 per cent, with energy-saving investment making a particularly good showing, and the EIB was also able to maintain its lending for infrastructure offering intra-Community or regional benefits at a high level, with projects aimed at environmental protection on the increase.

The Bank's strengthened performance was particularly marked in Italy, France and the United Kingdom, but loans were also granted in both Belgium and Luxembourg, neither of which countries had attracted EIB finance in 1983. Activity in Denmark and Germany dipped slightly and whilst operations in Greece and Ireland recorded a rather steeper fall, these countries still remain near the top of the

Where does the European Investment Bank's money go? The figures for 1984 show that there were more satisfied customers than ever



table, together with Denmark and Italy, in terms of the ratio of EIB lending to population.

In accordance with the EIB's principal function, regional development remains at the forefront of the Bank's lending targets; 57.4 per cent of loans under this heading were focused on the countries facing the most severe structural problems (Italy, Greece and Ireland) and those regions battling with an unemployment rate above and average income below the national average.

Continuing a trend which has emerged in recent years, particularly in 1983, financing for industry, and to a lesser extent agriculture, fisheries, tourism and services related to industry, registered a further vigorous expansion (+37 per cent), at 2.14 billion ECUs.

Credit in support of smaller-scale industrial projects occupied, as in the past, a particularly important role: global loans from the EIB's own resources (in assisted areas) and from NCI resources (no restriction on location, but generally outside assisted areas) totalled 1.6 billion ECUs, or three quarters of loans in the productive sector. Small-scale capital investment financed in 1984 broke down as to 88.8 per cent for ventures undertaken by firms with a workforce of less than

'Finance aimed at cutting down the EEC's dependence on oil imports continued'

200 and 63.5 per cent for projects mounted by enterprises employing fewer than 50 people.

Larger industrial projects attracted 550 million ECUs (compared with 370 million in 1983). Some 250 million ECUs (172.2 million in 1983) went towards the development and introduction of advanced technology, in line with the Community's objective to boost the competitive vigour of European companies and foster development of high-tech sectors.

Financing aimed at cutting down the EEC's dependence on oil imports continued to rise, reaching 2.25 billion ECUs: 1,232.7 million was channelled towards developing indigenous resources, with the emphasis on nuclear and hydroelectric power and tapping oil and gas deposits; 762.7 million was focused on investment to make more efficient use of energy and on developing renewable sources of energy: geothermal installations, solar panels, district heating systems, electrification of railway networks. On top of this, 252.4 million ECUs were directed towards diversifying energy supplies by increased recourse to gas and coal.

Added to this sum come a further 248.5 million ECUs - representing 292 allocations granted in 1984 from global loans in support of small and medium-scale schemes to save energy.

At 2,307.3 million ECUs, finance for construction or modernisation of infrastructure essential for the economy to run smoothly continues to hold an important position: transport at 786.4 million and telecommunications at 611.9 were both up on the previous year, while water schemes attracted 304.4 million. Global loans for small and medium-scale infrastructure schemes, roads in particular, again reached a high volume (334.9 million); 634 schemes were financed, for a total of 342.3 million ECUs.

The major part of the infrastructure financed offers regional benefits in terms of upgrading communications in assisted areas; in addition, 245.4 million ECUs (123.4 in 1983) helped in financing roads and motorways in Italy, France and Luxembourg which will mean a substantial improvement to road links between member states.

Another Community priority, environmental protection, was the moving force behind a further 153.9 million ECUs in loans, advanced principally for waste water treatment facilities in Greece, Italy and the United Kingdom. One of the more novel projects financed under this heading related to protection of archaeological sites at Pompeii and Herculaneum, of interest for the Community as a whole.

The EIB puts at some 19.6 billion ECUs the total fixed asset cost of projects financed in 1984. The loans made up about 35 per cent of the cost of the projects and nearly 1 per cent of gross fixed capital formation in the Community in 1984, a figure which rises to 3.6 per

'In Britain, lending by the EIB reached £547 million, of which £338.4 million was to the energy sector'

cent in Ireland, 4.1 per cent in Greece and 3.8 per cent in Italy (as much as 6.9 per cent in the Mezzogiorno). In terms of employment, these projects are estimated directly to have generated more than 44,000 permanent jobs.

In addition to this, there is the impact of improved productivity, particularly as regards global loans for SMEs, which has helped to safeguard employment in firms with a combined workforce of 600,000 people. Moreover, the orders and work relating to the investment schemes financed, particularly in the case of infrastructure, represents a large number of temporary jobs over periods of from two to 10 years, depending on the project.

Taking all these factors together and accounting for loans made in previous years, the number of people in a job in 1984 as a result of EIB financing is put at 500,000.

'Cut-backs in oil imports were attained by energy-saving methods'

The EIB estimates that projects in the energy sectors financed during 1984 should, when fully operational, represent the equivalent of 11.1 million tonnes of oil equivalent per annum, 2.3 million of which was accounted for by energy savings in industry and public infrastructure. Since 1980, the cut-back in oil imports achieved by virtue of EIB operations is assessed at 73 million toe, of which 15.4 million was attained by means of energy saving measures. This represents 20.3 per cent of the Community's projected oil import figure for 1990.

The EIB is continuing its work of deploying funds set aside by the Community to underpin reconstruction work in the regions of Italy struck by the earthquakes in 1980, granting loans totalling 66.5 million ECUs attracting a 3 per cent interest subsidy borne by the Community budget. In all, subsidised lending for earthquake reconstruction by the end of 1984 amounted to 858.6 million ECUs, drawn from an overall package of one billion, including 677.5 million from NCI resources.

In 1984 the EIB made available 547.6 million ECUs in the Mediterranean countries and 160.7 million under the Lomé Convention. As in previous years, numerous co-financing operations were mounted in conjunction with bilateral or multilateral aid, EEC budgetary aid and credit advanced via other banks and international organisations.

In Spain, 140 million ECUs were lent as part of the Community's pre-accession financial cooperation arrangements. The funds

went to finance hydroelectric power generation, development of an off-shore gas deposit, small and medium-scale infrastructure schemes in Spain's less privileged areas and the islands and, in particular, ventures promoted by smaller-scale enterprises in industry and tourism. The purpose underlying this funding is to boost the competitiveness of Spain's industrial sector before it is exposed to the European marketplace.

In Portugal, a total of 80 million ECUs were channelled towards a thermal and a hydroelectric power plant in the Azores, the road linking Oporto and Vila Real (on the border with Spain), a new railway bridge over the river Douro on a line carrying both national and international traffic, and smaller industrial firms.

In the other Mediterranean countries, the EIB advanced: in Yugoslavia, 126.3 million ECUs for improvements to the trans-Yugoslav railway system and the trans-Yugoslav highway, both of immediate importance for traffic to and from Greece; in Morocco, 54 million for a hydroelectric complex in the High Atlas and for small and medium-scale on-farm and agricultural processing schemes; in Tunisia, 10.5 million for fertiliser storage and distribution centres and small and medium-scale agricultural and agro-industrial ventures; in Egypt, 65.5 million for interconnection of the Shoubrah El Kheima power station with the national grid and for manufacture of construction materials; in Jordan, 13 million for water supply and sewerage systems serving two towns and

'38.3 million ECUs were loaned for a motorway between Damascus and the Jordanian border'

for smaller-scale industries; in Syria, 38.3 million for the motorway between Damascus and the Jordanian border and for irrigation and drainage networks in the lower Euphrates valley; and in Israel, 20 million for smaller-scale industrial ventures.

In the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (and the Overseas Countries and Territories), the level of financing staged something of a comeback in 1984, such that the EIB deployed 160.7 million ECUs in support of projects benefiting 22 countries (18 African, 3 Caribbean and 1 Pacific) and one overseas territory. This brings total EIB lending between the entry into effect of the Second Lomé Convention and the end of 1984 to 623.5 million ECUs.

Of those loans granted in 1984, 53 per cent went to manufacturing industry (35 per cent via individual loans for the more major projects and 18 per cent under global loans concluded with development finance companies for smaller businesses). Energy, in

'A loan was made for laying eight underwater cables between Calais and Dover'


particular development of local resources to trim the oil imports bill which is especially burdensome for the developing countries, attracted 29 per cent of lending, water supply schemes benefiting both industry and the local population 15 per cent, mining and quarrying 2.5 per cent and various feasibility studies 0.3 per cent.

In the United Kingdom, lending reached £547 million, of which £338.4 million went to the energy sector. £258.5 million was taken up for construction of the 1,400 MW Torness Point nuclear power station in Scotland, equipped with two advanced gas-cooled reactors, and for installations for storing and handling fuel and treating effluent at the Selkfield plant in Cumbria.

North Sea hydrocarbons development was again a recipient of EIB finance, funds being earmarked for construction of drilling platforms in the Esmond gas field and laying of several gaslines including a 215km line to the Norfolk coast. A further loan was made available for a project to interconnect the French and British high-voltage power grids, by laying eight submarine cables between Calais and Dover. This will enable the two countries to swap supplies when necessary and to cope more smoothly at times of peak demand.

Infrastructure in England's Assisted Areas (mainly the Midlands, East Anglia, the north West, Yorkshire and Humber), Wales and Scotland took up £146.9 million. Work included water supplies, sewerage and sludge disposal schemes, drainage, road construction, a container terminal, improvements to airport facilities, industrial infrastructure, tourism, and telephone installations.

The £39 million which went to industry helped to finance expansion of an aeronautics plant in Belfast where a new short-haul aircraft, the SD 360, is being constructed, and small and medium-scale ventures, mainly in the Assisted Areas.

In Ireland, lending totalled IR£126.1 million, all of which went into projects contributing towards regional development. 

EURO FORUM

Full integration and more jobs — top priorities in the new Commission's action programme

The Commission's Programme for 1985, published last month, points to actions that will reach well into the next decade. With consolidation as its main theme, it largely ignores the Community's current financial preoccupations, and instead concentrates on a series of practical measures which would benefit the citizens of the Community as a whole.

The priority, according to the Commission, is to clear away the barriers and obstacles hindering the development of the internal common market, and so give a boost to trade which will help in a second objective — to 'turn the tide of unemployment within two years'. Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy would be accompanied by refinements in social and regional policy, with emphasis on research and innovation and measures to help small businesses.

The Commission stresses the importance of the environment — 1987 will be European Environment Year — in taking industrial and agricultural decisions, and is planning a second consumer protection action programme.

Greater internal cohesion strengthens Community influence on the international stage, where its economic clout often exceeds its political one. The Commission would like to see both aspects developed in a complementary way.

But all this work loses value unless the citizens of the Community believe it is worth their support. Part of the Commission's mandate in 1985 is to show that there are European dividends in such support.

'Clearing away the barriers to development, and so boosting trade, will turn the tide of unemployment within two years'

In presenting its programme to the European Parliament, the Commission expresses the hope that Parliamentarians will support 'an ambition for Europe' that it finds there. In broad terms, such an ambition means strengthening the Community's economic potential, transforming it into an influential actor on the world stage, making the organisation tangible to its citizens, and leading the way to European union.

While achievement of such an ambition ultimately rests on the Community's ability to solve its financial problems and accommodate enlargement with Portugal and Spain, the Commission bluntly points out that, over the last fifteen years, economic performance in Western Europe has been

mediocre. It believes that the situation could be transformed if the potential of the internal market was fully explored and national economic policies made more coherent and dynamic in a shared struggle for growth and employment. The Commission, therefore, will ask the European Council of heads of state and government to pledge itself to complete a fully unified internal market by 1992, and to approve the necessary programme together with a realistic and binding timetable.

Such a pledge would, if the Commission has its way, involve adoption by the Council of Ministers of a wide range of complex legislation falling under three main heads — removal of barriers, harmonised rules, and cooperation between firms. Work would continue on the recent Council to introduce a single administrative document for the passage of goods across Community internal frontiers, and on ideas to let people move more freely too. The ultimate aim of abolishing frontiers will involve the elimination of tax controls at borders, by harmonising VAT bases, the structure of excise duties, and VAT and excise rates. There is also need to liberalise financial and banking services, accompanied by a strengthening of the European Monetary System (EMS) and a greater role for the ECU in the financial markets.

The Commission draws attention to its new approach to industrial harmonisation, by concentrating on common Community standards on safety and public health and referring technical standardisation to accepted international standard bodies such as CEN and CENELEC. It hopes by this means to speed agreements on industrial liberalisation and, in another field, to persuade the Council to adopt existing proposals on patents and trade marks.

A green paper on copyright, to be issued shortly, will focus on legal protection of software, micro-circuits, and data banks. The Commission intends to foster stricter competition rules under Articles 85/86 of the Rome Treaty, but is proposing to establish an administrative tribunal which would hear complaints against Commission action in the competition field. The tribunal would have power to review questions of both fact and law, with appeal to the Court of Justice on questions of law only. The aim is to speed up the handling of complaints and lighten the burden on the European Court of Justice.

The Commission is also stern on state aids for industry, many of which it says, represent a waste of taxpayers' money which could be better used in competitive and job-creating industries.

'Many state aids to industry are a waste of taxpayers' money, which could be better used in competitive and job-creating industries'

The Commission sees the promotion of industrial cooperation as essential if the Community is to create a large market, benefit from its economic and social advantages, and rank on a par with its major partners, the USA and Japan. It is therefore proposing a new tax framework, including removal of fiscal obstacles to business cooperation (such as double taxation of parent companies and subsidiaries, and taxation applicable to mergers), harmonisation of tax arrangements for the carry-over of losses, and harmonisation of taxes on transactions in securities. A legal framework would cover a regulation on European Economic Interest Groupings (EEIG), encouraging cross-border cooperation among Community firms, and the tenth Company Law Directive on cross-border mergers of public limited companies. The Commission also intends to review Community financial instruments, such as the New Community Instrument (NCI), which it claims has been useful in helping small and medium-sized firms to invest.

The Commission emphasises that the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, started in 1984, must continue, but that there will be a full discussion with interested parties to decide on new prospects for Community farming. While there will have to be market related pricing policies and continual application of guarantee thresholds, the Commission will seek to maintain a balance between prudent financing and farming needs. It hopes that the Council and the European Parliament will endorse Commission policies to put farming on a firm footing, including a cut back in wine production and better organisation of fruit and vegetable production in order to avoid wasteful ploughing in.

Meanwhile, in this difficult period, the Commission is aware that it must guard against increasing national aids for farmers which could contribute to the breakdown of the CAP. It also complains of the many non-tariff barriers to trade, such as veterinary and alleged health regulations, that prevent the free movement of agricultural goods. It

notes that there are 40 proposals to break down barriers awaiting adoption, and that some of these proposals have been on the table for as long as ten years. Meanwhile, the Commission will pay special attention to the control of foot and mouth disease, action on hormones, and problems of pesticide residues, together with protection of animals used for experimental purposes.

Decisions on fisheries largely await the outcome of negotiations with Spain. But the Commission is preparing a forestry action programme aimed at strengthening forestry's role in Community development.

Unemployment in the Community rose to a rate of 11 per cent of the workforce in 1984, and is expected to climb further in 1985. Young people and women appear to be the worst affected, according to the Commission, and the share of long-term unemployed has reached some 40 per cent of the unemployed total. The Commission sees economic growth as the major powerhouse for job creation. While insisting on the importance of economic stability, it favours public investment that has a high social return, such as in infrastructure projects and in help for small existing businesses and the creation of new ones. It warns, however, that in the creation of jobs labour costs will have to lag behind productivity gains for a while.

'It is essential to help small businesses survive through effective assistance services'

The Commission is also pursuing a number of social objectives concerning working time, safety and health at work, employment of the handicapped, and promotion of rights of immigrants. It is considering a more radical medium-term programme on equal opportunities to follow the existing programme which ends this year, and has plans to enable students to benefit from periods of study in other Community countries. It will propose new guidelines for the European Social Fund (ESF) in 1986-88 allowing greater concentration in areas of need, and sees in the Regional Development Fund (ERDF) rules that came into effect in 1985 the opportunity to develop its own intervention strategy with priorities on regional development and multi-annual operations.

Where the environment is concerned, the Commission stresses the need for the Council to adopt its two-year-old proposal for environmental impact assessment by developers before industrial or other buildings are installed, and for approval of a series of measures concerning air pollution, acid rain, and control of the dumping of wastes. It is preparing a fourth action programme which will take account of the public interest in environmental matters. There will also be a second action programme on consumer protection and further efforts by the Commission to persuade the Council to adopt its proposals on toy safety and product liability.

While maintaining a positive programme for older industries, such as coal, steel and shipbuilding, the Commission is particularly interested in new technology developments and the opportunities for joint research and innovation. It is aiming for a European Innovation Loan, combining NCI and budget resources, which would have a special line for smaller businesses, and help to raise the level of technology in Europe. Research bodies such as Esprit and RACE (Research in Advanced Communications in Europe) are showing signs of positive cooperation, with the hope, in a five-year programme from 1986, of implementing common standards and the establishment of advanced systems for data transmission. The objective is a common infrastructure of telecommunication networks by 1995-2000, an achievement that will require a lot of legislation.

The Commission notes that almost 60 per cent of the Community's working population are employed in small to medium-size businesses. It is essential, therefore, to help them survive through effective assistance services, and encourage them to participate in the technological revolution through training and financial aid.

Industrial development obviously benefits from good and integrated transport systems and effective energy policies. For the present, the Commission is concentrating on improvements in maritime and air transport, but is also proposing to allocate 90m ECUs (£56m) towards a number of schemes aimed directly at improving border crossing facilities for heavy goods vehicles. The Community's energy policies, aimed essentially at reducing dependence on foreign oil imports has, on the whole, worked well. The Commission's main interests here concern the Community's nuclear energy programme over the next fifteen years, and development of new and renewable energy resources.

The Commission stresses that the Community's external authority depends primarily on its internal cohesion. When it talks with one voice it is heard with respect. This situation certainly applies in the economic field where the Community will shortly be engaged in further exchanges in the GATT and possible renegotiation of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), regulating textile imports, which expires in July 1986.

There may also be further negotiations with the United States over agricultural policies, steel and other forms of trade, while Community effort in Japan will concentrate on a better marketing balance including an opening up of the Japanese market.

The Commission notes a desire to improve relations with Latin America and the possibility of a regional cooperation agreement with Central America. There will be the conclusion of a new, broader based, cooperation agreement with China, and Lomé III, which came into force on 1 March 1985, offers a five-year programme of cooperation with 65 developing countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific – the ACP States. The Community also has important trading relations with the countries of South and South East Asia, most with fast growing economies.

The Commission is keen, where it can, to encourage those of us living in the Community to understand what it is and what it does. Discussions are in hand to bring cable and satellite TV within broad Community rules of behaviour, and perhaps to aid the cinema industry. But more important is the opportunity for people to move freely, unhindered by passport or other control, around the Community countries, and to be able to set up their businesses or establish their professions wherever they like to work. Though there have been moves in this direction, much remains to be done – architects, accountants and pharmacists, for instance, cannot operate abroad – and several countries, including the UK, have failed to introduce the European passport which was due to come into effect on 1 January 1985. Still hopeful, however, the Commission is planning to submit a proposal this year which will make the driving licence valid throughout the Community, regardless of the holder's country of residence.

It is also planning a campaign to encourage people to recognise our European identity, which will demonstrate our shared heritage and values; and it will encourage participation in European Music Year, International Youth Year, and the European Yacht Race –

'The Community's external authority depends primarily on its internal cohesion. When it talks with one voice it is heard with respect'

opportunities which the Commission aims to use in order to increase awareness of the European dimension, both inside and outside the Community.

Presenting his report to the European Parliament on 12 March, Jacques Delors stressed the importance of co-

operation between the north and south of the Community. The north, he said, should use its advantage of resources and climate to contribute to the well-being of the south. Meanwhile, he said that he would be calling on the European Council (Summit), meeting in Milan in June, to support the Commission's programme for a genuine common market by 1992.

From the European Council, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, the Commission's programme requires firm and steady application of European rather than national principles, to take the Community into the next century. It is, as the report says, 'an ambition' rather than an ideal for Europe. But ambitions can often be achieved where ideals fail.



The European Commission is supporting a round-Europe yacht race this summer – the first of a series of races involving Community crews, as well as entries from Spain, Portugal, the United States and Canada.

The first week-end race is due to begin on 9 August, with the 36 multi-hull yachts sailing from the German port of Kiel down to Porto Cervo in Sardinia. The 13 metre transatlantic yachts will stop off at Scheveningen, Ostend, Torquay, Lorient, Lisbon, Benalmadena and Toulon.

The second race, scheduled for the

summer of 1987, is to follow a similar course but in a reverse South-North direction, beginning at a Greek port and calling in at Ireland and Denmark. The races are to be staged in the summer, so as to attract the support of the traditional coastal resorts and to avoid the other major events on the international yachting calendar.

Commissioner Ripa di Meana hopes the race will serve as an image-builder for the Community, with the EEC symbol displayed prominently on the sails. The idea was launched at the Fontainebleau 'summit' last year.

EUROPEAN REVIEW

More goods on the move

This year, about 478.3 million tonnes of goods will be transported on the Community's roads, railways and inland waterways, 6 per cent more than last year's estimates, according to forecasters.

Of the total, 42.6 per cent will travel by inland waterway, 41.5 per cent by road and 15.9 per cent by rail. That reflects a slight increase in the proportion of freight using the railways, and a slight decrease in the proportion travelling by road and water.

In terms of quantity, about 203.9 million tonnes of goods will travel by water (5.1 per cent more than last year); 198.4 million tonnes will go by road (5.3 per cent more than last year); and 76 million tonnes will travel by rail – 10.6 per cent more than the estimates for 1984.

Funds for new energy schemes

Since 1978 the EEC has given financial backing to over 800 energy 'demonstration projects', or working scale models. This has played a key role in developing new technologies, and the European Commission has now asked the Council of Ministers to spend another 700 million ECUs (£435 million) on similar schemes between now and 1990.

Between 1978-1984 the EEC spent over 435 million ECUs on energy demonstration projects – about 20 per cent of their total cost. The remaining 80 per cent was paid by participating firms and member states. About 150 million ECUs of the contribution went to energy-saving schemes, and 125 million to new energies such as solar power and coal liquefaction and gasification. The rest went towards efforts to replace expensive imported oil with such cheaper homegrown alternatives as coal and peat.

About 500 projects have now been completed, with about half of them fully obtaining their objectives. The most successful are committed to reimbursing the Community to the tune of 50 per cent of the aid they received, when

the project becomes commercial. These include a solar-heated swimming pool complex at Inzell in southern Germany. Solar panels keep the outdoor pools at 24°C in summer, and heat a covered pool in winter with the help of a heat pump.

Another project allowed Alfa Romeo to build a fleet of 1,000 taxis capable of cutting fuel costs by 12 per cent by using two-cylinder instead of four-cylinder engines, with very little loss of power.

The European Commission wants the programme to continue over the next four years, but says that it doesn't want the reimbursement clause inserted in the new agreements, as it 'penalises success'. Good projects should be profitable, as they are in the US and Japan, it says.

'Help the immigrants' says Commissioner

The Commission has re-launched its campaign to improve the human and civil rights of Europe's 12 million immigrants. The move follows what officials describe as 'an increase in discrimination, racism and xenophobia' caused by the recession and high levels of unemployment in the ten member states.

Speaking at a press conference in Brussels, the new social Affairs Commissioner, Peter Sutherland, said that the new proposals put forward by the European Commission included calls for educational reforms to help children from immigrant families, and a strengthening of EEC legislation on the free movement of workers.

Efforts to improve the lot of Europe's immigrant workers, about two-thirds of whom come from non-EEC countries including Spain, Portugal, Turkey, North Africa and the Indian sub-continent, began in 1974 with the approval of an action programme that led to the adoption of several directives in 1976/77.

But economic pressures and the 'less than full compliance' of member states in living up to their obligations under EEC law to educate immigrant families to help them adapt, whilst maintaining cultural links with their countries of origin, meant that existing policies now needed to be 'updated', Mr Sutherland said.

Reforms should include improving existing Community legislation on migrant workers from other member states, including their right to social security, their right to vote – at least at local level – and other measures to make freedom of movement within the Ten realistic proposition, he said.

The Commission also wants member states to consult it more over issues relating to immigration from third countries. They should mount information campaigns aimed at both their own populations and immigrant communities to ease tensions.

Court rules on fair deal for students

A member state cannot subject students from other member states to requirements different from those to which it subjects its own nationals, according to the European Court of Justice.

The ruling, which applies to all studies, came to light in a recent case involving a French art student wanting to study to be a cartoonist at the Liège art college in Belgium.

When Françoise Gravier signed up for the course in 1982, the Belgian authorities asked for a 24,622 franc (£340) fee, charged to all students who do not come from either Belgium or Luxembourg.

She refused to pay, on the grounds that, as an EEC citizen, she was entitled to the same treatment as Belgians on the course.

The Belgian authorities refused to accept the argument, and when she applied for readmission the following academic year the college refused to allow her to re-register for courses. She was also refused an extension of her resident's permit.

She promptly took her case to court. The Liège court eventually referred the case to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. It asked for clarification on two issues. Did the ban on discrimination on grounds of nationality contained in the EEC Treaties extend to students studying in other member states? And did it apply to cartoonists?

The court ruled in Ms Gravier's favour on both counts. In the meantime, the Liège authorities allowed her to matriculate on a provisional basis at the college.



Gypsies' plea to Europe: 'Give us a break'

Europe's two million Gypsies, whose ancestry dates back to their origins in northern India a thousand years ago, are divided by tribal groupings, clan rivalries, and the sheer number of organisations which claim to speak for them. Yet a well-attended conference – the world's first international Gypsy tribunal – was successfully held in February this year at The Hague, ending with a message for the peoples of Europe.

In their own tongue, Romany, that message said: 'Amé kamas mishto t'avel sa e Romenge andé sako tem.' Which means: 'We demand rights for all Gypsies throughout the world.'

A hundred delegates, most of them Romanies but including representatives of Gypsy organisations, crowded into the Congress Hall of The Hague to tell a six-man 'jury' – two eminent criminologists, two university professors of law, and two senior Romanies –

Harassed and persecuted in their homelands, the Gypsy peoples of Europe have just held their first international meeting – at The Hague. THEO ALTHEER, of The Times, has sent us this exclusive report

of the repression which, 40 years after the wartime holocaust, they are still suffering.

The greatest suffering is being endured by those who are stateless after being expelled from the countries, mostly in Eastern Europe, in which their families have lived for generations. The latest expulsions are from Poland. At the tribunal a serious charge was made: that General Jaruzelski's régime is

countenancing the *de facto* deportation of a whole race.

Already, the tribunal heard, 20,000 of Poland's Romanies, estimated to number between 30,000 and 50,000, have been forced out. They are drifting across Europe, hauling their battered caravans, carrying improvised tents in broken cars, harried from border to border.

They claim they are the victims of a pogrom, a word they last became familiar with in the Nazi years, when at least 250,000 of their number perished.

Some make their way across the Baltic on ships to Sweden; others head for The Netherlands, hoping to take advantage of these countries' reputation for tolerance. One such emigré is Stanislavska Mayevsky, a wiry 46-year-old, who made it from Poland to Holland.

He said: 'We had lived in houses for years, but once the coup occurred, our position be-



gan to deteriorate. Villagers complained to the authorities that we were unclean. Sometimes they attacked us physically. No one was willing to protect us, not even underground members of Solidarity.

'After a while, we were denied any kind of social aid, especially welfare payments. Gradually, we lost the few rights we had, and eventually we were utterly ostracised. When villagers started to burn our houses while the police turned a blind eye, we knew it was time to leave.

'For that, we had to offer the authorities bribes of the gold that our families had saved in the form of rings, necklaces and earrings.

We had no choice, it seemed to us, but to pay. Yet the police pocketed the bribes without turning their backs, as they had promised they would if we tried to take our families away.

'I had also to pay 800 dollars, obtained through the black market, to customs authorities. But they too went back on their word, and tried to prevent our crossing the border.

'In the end, my family did what most of the Polish Gypsies have been doing: we escaped by stealth, crossing the border at difficult points via old roads we had known for years where there were no customs posts, or by hiding in the cars of non-Gypsies we had also

'The latest expulsions are from Poland: up to 50,000 have been forced out by the post-Solidarity regime'

bribed. 'Other families bribed the authorities for tourist visas and travelled through Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia. From Belgrade, they phoned Gypsies who had already obtained Dutch-resident status, to drive out to pick them up and smuggle them into Holland. I am ashamed to say that this too required large bribes - to our fellow Gypsies.'

Stanislavska lost a lot, apart from money. His wife of 16 years, a non-Gypsy, gave in to the pressure of prejudice and left him with their son, determined to bring him up as a Pole, not a Romany. Only one of his three brothers, Rudolf, had survived Auschwitz and Stanislavska has virtually lost contact with him, too.

Initially, Stanislavska and Rudolf both reached the Netherlands and, they hoped, political asylum.

But after his application for asylum was rejected, Rudolf went back to Poland to help others of his family who had been unable to escape. He was, says Stanislavska, immediately jailed - because he had the temerity to present himself to the Dutch authorities as a political refugee.

After six months, Rudolf was released to his home village, where he languishes still, trying to get treatment for his asthma.

Rudolf was unlucky; Stanislavska wonders for how long his own luck will hold. He is hiding in an Amsterdam suburb. With some relatives, he is part of a clan of eight families squatting in some of the unlet apartments of a housing estate at Bijlmermeer. Every knock on the door may mean a hurried move to a new flat, further along the concrete corridors.



What the EEC is doing

The EEC has passed several resolutions on Gypsies and other nomadic peoples in Europe. Document 1-1544, in 1983, calls on member states to provide stopping places or adequate housing, education and training for nomads, and to end discriminatory policies.

The Commission has just announced its 1985-88 anti-poverty programme, which offers £15.5 million – to be matched by member states – for combating poverty among the under-privileged, including 'Gypsies, nomads, travellers and refugees'.

The EEC is now considering funding academics from the 10 member states, who have been asked to contribute to a report on the education of Gypsies in Europe. See also EUROFORUM, page (iv).

The author's photographs show Gypsies of the Xoraxane and Manouche clans, in their search for sanctuary in Europe, camping in the Bois de Boulogne. Only in Holland have they found a sympathetic reception: the couple opposite had just contracted a civil marriage at Utrecht.

These Polish Gypsies are starving, unable to claim social security, without any kind of legal status.

It is difficult, nevertheless, not to feel sympathy for the Dutch authorities. In the late 1970s, similar emigrations of Gypsies were made from Yugoslavia. Hundreds of Gypsies spent months trying to find a haven in Western Europe, finally winning help from liberal sympathisers in the Netherlands. After much campaigning, the Gypsies achieved a measure of victory: 750 of them were granted resident status, to be reviewed annually.

To the Netherlands Government's chagrin, but to the surprise of few, other Gypsies came to believe that their best hope of a permanent home lay with the Dutch.

The 750 were given houses and social security benefits, and both children and adults were offered schooling. The Dutch are justly proud of their educational achievements: many of the Romany children excelled in class, although the adults did not always complete their vocational training, in manual skills and the Dutch language.

Now Holland, while wanting to honour Council of Europe resolutions against the harassment of nomads, is wondering quite what to do with subsequent influxes.

The authorities are occasionally less than adroit in dealing with the legally resident Romanies. Stevica Nolic, a Zagreb-born Gypsy who now runs a successful import-export business in south Holland, told the tribunal of dawn raids on Gypsy homes. He said:

'Twenty-five young Yugoslav-born Romanies had brought in French and Italian Gypsy women to marry, when one morning the




'These people are unable to claim social security, without any kind of legal status'

police pushed their doors down and took the wives away, putting them on planes to Belgrade. But that was not their home, and they were thrown into jail.

After a few days, when the situation became clearer to the authorities, the women were deported from Yugoslavia. They had to make their way back to Holland, where they are now on the run from the law.'

A more general struggle is for education. The tribunal heard that, in much of Europe,

but particularly in Ireland and Great Britain, Gypsies and other travelling people had trouble enrolling their children in schools, because many districts had the legal right to ban them from their areas and could quickly evict any who tried to stay. No camping place means no school place. Other nomads reported similar problems in France, West Germany and Italy.

The tribunal's call to the countries of the EEC is that all Gypsies who are nomads should be permitted to travel and be offered transit camp-sites to rent; and that they should have access to education, both in their own language and in that of their host country. Sadly, it will take many more *Romani krisi*, Gypsy tribunals, before they win a secure place among the citizens of Europe. 

'Most people in most countries do not want to be run from Brussels...'

CHRISTOPHER TUGENDHAT, a former Vice-President of the European Commission, sees some signs of a new willingness among member states to move towards true European union

There has recently been a burst of rhetoric from a number of capitals and the European Parliament about European Union and the need to take a new step in that direction. Heads of government have made speeches, committees have been set up, resolutions have been passed and there is much talk of a new Treaty.

Whether or not that particular idea comes to fruition, there is a sense of movement in the air. One has the feeling of ice breaking up and spring approaching.

The words 'European Union' create a good deal of difficulty in English. They sound clear and firm, like 'United Kingdom' or 'United States', and are often taken to convey the same sort of meaning. In other languages and cultures they imply something less precise and more compatible with separate national identities. In English, the concepts of European Union and the continued existence of the nation state seem, ab initio, to be incompatible with each other. Elsewhere, that is by no means necessarily the case. To some, European Union does represent an ambition to replace the nation state; but to most the two are complementary concepts. The nation state and the European Union are seen as enhancing each other, with the latter dependent on the former, extending its scope for effective action and preventing the rivalries inherent in it from running out of control.

It is important to grasp this point, otherwise the debate about how the Community should take advantage of the opportunities now facing it, which underlies all the rhetoric, could once again divide Britain from its partners. Instead of concentrating on taking practical steps together, they could become involved in insoluble arguments about semantics that in the end only linguists would even understand. That would be a great pity.

For my part, I have no doubt about the way forward. It is now clear that the hopes which were widespread at the time of the Community's birth, that the nation state would wither and die, were misplaced. It retains a unique capacity to inspire loyalty and obedience; and for most people in most countries national pride and patriotism remain integral and essential elements in their sense of self. The faith in large centralised units, and the efficacy of 'planning', have also been destroyed by experience. The idea that markets and competition are more likely to lead to the greatest good of the greatest number is enjoying a revival, and by no means only in countries with ostensibly right of centre governments.

For these reasons the Community cannot be expected to develop in a supranational fashion, nor is it possible to conceive of a massive transfer of responsibilities from the national to the Community institutions. Most people in most countries do not want to be run from Brussels. Moreover, at a time when national governments themselves are trying to decentralise and to divest themselves of responsibilities, it is absurd to advocate moving in the opposite direction at the Euro-



pean level.

The way forward must be through bringing the member states together in a network of co-operative ventures that will enable them to overcome problems that would otherwise be beyond them, and to achieve together what they could not achieve alone. To some this may not seem as dramatic, or even as inspiring, an approach as that which takes as its starting-point a massive transfer of powers to the centre, and as its ultimate objective the creation of a United States of Europe on the Americal model. But in practice it is likely to prove more durable and more capable of achieving the first objective of the Treaty of Rome, namely an 'ever closer union among the peoples of Europe.' By union I mean a sense of common purpose and shared interests that transcends the individual identities of the separate states.

What is now needed, above all, is a new programme for action on the basis of which all member states and the Community institutions can work. It should be a Community equivalent of the programmes which political parties negotiate before governments are formed in those countries where coalitions are the normal form of government. Inevitably it will be a compromise. No country will get all it wants, and some objectives will have to be set aside until circumstances or governments in other countries change. But everyone will know what they have agreed to try to achieve, the balance of advantage to which they can look forward, and the costs they have undertaken to incur.

The European Council should formally undertake responsibility for this task, and organise its work accordingly. That means that on a regular basis – say once a year, or once every two years – it would agree on a set of objectives for the Community to work towards during the period ahead. Where appropriate, deadlines would be set, but this would not always be the best way to proceed.

At present, the European Council meets three times a year, which should provide ample scope to monitor progress and make sure that its instructions are being followed. From time to time it will wish to push things along faster than they are going, and on others to make adjustments in the light of unexpected difficulties. The communiques and 'invitations' which it already issues to the Council of Ministers will enable it to do so.

Inevitably, disputes will arise between member states about what was originally intended and how it should be attained. After every European Council, ministers and officials who feel that their particular 'man' (or even 'woman') did not achieve all he should, or play his cards quite right, try to pull things back in the Council of Ministers, working parties, and wherever else they can. Moreover, quite apart from these problems, the European Council cannot be expected to do more than establish a framework. The individual Councils of Ministers must fill in the details, which is bound to require much negotiation and argument.

If the resultant dispute cannot be resolved at that level, they will have to be referred back to the European Council for a judgement. But that should be an exceptional procedure to be resorted to only in cases of dire necessity. The European Council should not become a constant Court of Appeal. Its task should be to set the course for others to follow, which only it can do.

The role of the Commission in Community affairs is important and must be preserved. It brings together political figures from all member states and exists to ensure that member states fulfil their obligations, to represent the general interest in the welter of national ones and to point the way ahead, but also drawing the attention of member states to new and more daring possibilities.

Therein lies the Commission's dilemma. Only by influencing the European Council can it get its ideas transformed into action and only the European Council can commit the governments of member states and break deadlocks in the subordinate Councils of Ministers. Yet it depends for its continued existence on the European Parliament, which alone has the power to dismiss it and to which it must constantly

answer. The Commission must, therefore, continuously engage in a balancing act, the difficulties of which are rarely appreciated by those who have not had to undergo the experience.

At this juncture I would not advocate any change in the European Parliament's powers. It is still very much in the shaking-down phase of its existence, and trying to find a role. It has by no means explored the limits of the potential influence available to it under the present rules, nor even begun to establish itself in the public mind.

The Parliament claims to have a mandate from the people of Europe and to speak on their behalf, but in truth that is not the case. The European elections in 1984, as in 1979, were really so many national elections in which people voted overwhelmingly on the basis of national issues and considerations. One day all that may change – I hope it does; but in the meanwhile it is for the Parliament to prove itself, in which case it will be able to increase its influence, not for others to thrust powers prematurely upon it.

Contrary to what is often supposed in Britain, the Community is perfectly capable of developing in a pragmatic fashion. Indeed, the European Monetary System illustrates very well one possible version of the new style co-operation that I have in mind. At the outset there was a deep desire that everyone should participate. But when it became apparent that the British were not prepared to commit themselves as fully as the rest, and in particular not prepared to enter the exchange rate mechanism, the principal protagonists of the idea had to

decide whether or not to go ahead without them. They decided to proceed, and history has vindicated their decision.

In the real world there are no short cuts. But the present system whereby one country can so easily stop others is a barrier to progress. Majority voting as in the annual budget procedure, where it has been used for years, is perfectly possible in matters of detail, even quite important ones, and in the conduct of policies the aims and practices of which are well established. But in a Community of free and equal sovereign governments it is impossible on big issues and new policies.

There is no means by which a majority can force a minority to do what it does not want to do. A better way to proceed is to look for ways of encouraging the minority to rally to the majority. This is most likely to happen if that minority, be it one country or several countries, knows that it cannot stop a venture from going ahead, and in the last resort only has the power to decide whether or not to join in. Britain's best chance of exercising influence in international affairs, whether on our great ally, the United States, or on others, is through co-operation with our Community partners. In these circumstances history will judge us very short-sighted if we leave the primary role in determining the future of Europe to others.

□ These are extracts from the Montague Burton Lecture on International Relations, which Mr Tugendhat delivered at the University of Leeds on 28 February 1985. The full version will be published in *International Affairs* in July.

London send-off for the 1985 Eurobus

On a cold but sunny morning at the end of last month, this year's Bus for Europe was given a handsome send-off on its six-month tour of the United Kingdom.

The bus – resplendent in a bright new livery created by designers at the Central Office of Information – is set to visit all parts of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland acting as a mobile exhibition and information centre.

Throughout its tour, the bus will make special efforts to be accessible to young people. In addition, during term-time, the Eurobus will be calling at schools.

Wherever space permits, the mobile exhibition, which explains and illustrates the workings and the policies of the European Community, will be supplemented by a small tent which will house a series of panels devoted to Women in Europe.

As the Member of the Commission responsible for Information, Carlo Ripa de Meana, says: 'It is vitally important to make the facts about the European Community, and the way it affects all our lives, better known to ordinary people, especially young people. The Bus for Europe is a simple and effective way of doing that.'

The Rt Hon Timothy Raison MP, Minister for Overseas Development, who presided at the send-off, welcomed the initiative of the Commission's London office in taking the Community message to the far corners of the UK. 'Everyone knows about the Community,' said Mr Raison. 'At least, everyone knows about the Budget and the Common Agricultural Policy. Not many know of the impact which the Community makes on their daily lives.'



Present at the send-off: 'A Song for Europe' singers Peter Beckett and Des Dyer; Dame Shelagh Roberts MEP; Timothy Raison MP; George Scott; Robin Squire MP, and Roger Broad, head of the European Parliament's London Office.

George Scott, Head of the European Commission's offices in the UK, said: 'Much of the misunderstanding about Europe and Britain's role in the Community stems from lack of accurate information. It is particularly important that our children should grow up with a better understanding of what the Common Market is all about – what it aims to do and what it has achieved. This exhibition sets out to show that it's not just about wine lakes and butter mountains.'

The major events the bus will attend are:
 □ The Royal Ulster Show in Belfast between May 21 and 24.

- The Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh between June 16 and 19.
- The International Eisteddfod in Llangollen between July 9 and 14.
- The Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells, Powys, between July 22 and 26.
- The Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales in Rhyl between August 3 and 10.
- The European Yacht Race, when the ships stop at Torquay between August 18 and 20.
- The National Federation of Womens' Institutes' European Day in Dorking, Surrey, on September 23.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Quick action to feed the starving

The European Community did not wait for the African famine tragedy to mobilise world public opinion, or for the full extent of the catastrophe to be known before taking large-scale emergency action.

In April 1984 a first emergency plan, involving 83 million ECUs, was launched. October saw a second, follow-up plan involving 60 million ECUs. But it was the meeting of Heads of State and of Government in Dublin in early December which brought the decision to launch full-scale Community aid. They fixed an overall food and emergency aid objective for 1985 for African countries worst-hit by famine - 1,200,000 tonnes of grain or equivalent, shared between the Community (equivalent of 800,000 tonnes) and the member states (400,000 tonnes).

In order to avoid disturbing local markets and to save transport costs, the Commission gives priority to local or regional grain purchases whenever possible. Such purchases have two advantages: they provide an outlet for local producers and avoid upsetting local consumer habits.

Given the urgency of the situation, the Commission has taken a series of concrete steps to expedite procedures.

A small 'crisis cell' of officials was delegated extensive powers to take day-to-day decisions on aid allocation and execution under the emergency programmes.

Particular efforts have been made in the area of coordination. Regular meetings are held between the Commission and the member states. At these meetings information is exchanged on Commission and member state aid programmes for each of the stricken countries, on delivery timetables, on port facilities, assessment of needs, etc.

At international level, coordination is being organised by the United Nations. The Commission and the other donors take an active part so as to ensure that aid given has maximum effect.



Ethiopia says thank you for food

Ethiopia's senior aid official, Major Wolde Giogis Dawitt, visited Brussels in February to thank the European Commission for its aid to his country over the past year.

At the February session of the European Parliament, MEPs noted that the Community has been Ethiopia's biggest food donor since the outbreak of the famine.

Since the beginning of 1984, EEC aid to the region has amounted to over 133 million ECU's (£82 million). Since January of this year, out of a total of 637,000 tonnes of food aid earmarked for famine relief, about a third has come from either the central programme or those of member states.

But, while public opinion in Europe is still focused on the crisis in Ethiopia, concern is growing over the situation in neighbouring Sudan. In addition to 7,000 tonnes of normal food aid, the EEC gave Sudan an additional 30,000 tonnes of food aid last year. A team of Community experts is on the spot to supervise its distribution.

How to make a complaint - official

When the average consumer discovers that a knob has fallen off his new TV, metal fatigue has smitten his youngster's new bicycle, or there's a maggot in this chocolate bar, he may start thinking about complaining.

But just who he complains to, what kind of redress he gets, and how much it costs him, will depend on the kind of consumer protection

his particular society offers.

According to a report just published by the European Commission, access to 'consumer justice', and how one goes about it, varies widely in different member states.

The aim of future policy should be to ensure that all European consumers enjoy a broadly similar standard of redress, says the report, which was sent to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

At the moment the EEC has a broad remit to protect consumer interests under its second Consumer Action Programme, which recognises consumer rights in the areas of health and safety, economic interests, redress, information and education. As far as consumer redress is concerned, action to date has included support for pilot schemes designed to study some of the legal and administrative problems encountered by claimants.

The Commission also maintains close links with consumer organisations through the Bureau of European Consumer Unions (BEUC), a Brussels-based umbrella group, and has promised to arrange further consultations between consumer, producer and national and local authorities, before it considers new legislation in the field.

Speaking to an 'Internal Market' Council of Ministers in February, the new Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Stanley Clinton Davis, said that he wanted a new impetus to the EEC's consumer protection policy. Eight Commission proposals are already waiting for approval by the Council, and more will be submitted towards the middle of the year, he said.

Turning up the heat

Nuclear power will remain a cheaper source of electricity than either coal or oil, according to an EEC report.

European Commission forecasts for 1990 and beyond estimate that the cost of a kilowatt hour (Kwh) of electricity produced in a coal-fired power station will be 30 per cent higher than from a nuclear plant. On a country-by-country basis, electricity derived from coal will cost 30 per cent more in Italy, 36 per cent more in the Netherlands, 43 per cent more in Britain, 51 per cent more in Belgium, 74 per cent more in the Federal Republic of Germany and 88 per cent more in France.

Similar comparisons are not available for oil. But most analysts regard it as a more expensive option than coal.

Computer crime under review

The computer revolution brought with it another kind of revolution - in crime - according to EEC officials, who are preparing a major study on the vulnerability of a computerised society in Europe.

Data security and confidentiality have been a concern. Under its first multiannual data processing programme, the European Commission funded three national institutes - ADI in France, GMD in the Federal Republic of Germany, and MCC in Britain - to carry out seven studies of the security problem.

The Commission says that it wants eventually to draw up Europe-wide security standards for data processing networks and services, to protect them from the prying eyes of the so-called 'hackers'. Plans for extensive consultations with both the industry and users of existing systems are already underway, it says.

In the meantime it is also looking at a number of hitherto unforeseen legal issues relating to the computer boom. They include copyright protection for computer software - a world issue, currently under discussion at UNESCO.



Saving the baby seals

At the end of January, Canadian exports of baby seal skins came to a virtual standstill - not because of any twinge of conscience on the part of the hunters, but because the Commission imposed a total ban on imports of the pelts.

Ecologists, who objected to the clubbing to death of the pups for their white fur, welcomed the ban as a total victory in a long-running battle.

British MEP Ken Collins now

wants to go a step further by banning the sale of other furs in the Community. But two other MEPs, Ernest Mühlen and Konrad Schön, are concerned that the move could have serious economic consequences in terms of jobs.

According to the European Commission, about 150,000 people are currently employed in making or selling fur coats in Europe. They include importers, breeders, tanners, tailors and retailers.

The industry provides 50,000 jobs in Italy, 40,000 in the Federal Republic of Germany, 20,000 in France, 15,000 in Greece, 9,000 in Denmark, 6,000 in the United Kingdom, 5,000 in Ireland, 3,800 in the Netherlands, 1,700 in Belgium and 100 in Luxembourg.

According to officials, the operation will bring together senior fire officers, to allow them to compare strategies and possible cross-frontier cooperation, as well as allowing technicians and operators to compare their equipment and methods with an eye to improving their efficiency.

Swedish clog imports complaint

The European Commission plans to investigate claims by Community clog-makers that cheap Swedish imports are flooding the EEC clog market.

The complaint, lodged by the European Federation of the Footwear Industry (CEC), calls for anti-dumping measures, claiming that the Swedish imports are selling at below cost price and undercutting EEC clogs by between 54 and 72 per cent.

Between 1981 and 1983, Swedish imports increased their share of the clog market to 62.2 per cent from 51.4 per cent, forcing EEC clog-makers to cut back production to below 1.4 million pairs, from over 2.5 million, the CEC claims.

Should art be exempt from VAT?

Tax authorities in Community countries are not generally regarded as patrons of the arts. The charging of VAT on original works of art, which makes it even tougher for artists to sell their work at a time of recession, is one case in point.

Currently, only France and Denmark do not charge VAT on original works of art. Elsewhere in the Community, the tax ranges from 5 per cent in the Netherlands to 23 per cent in Ireland. In Belgium it is 6 per cent, in the Federal Republic of Germany 7 per cent, in Luxembourg 12 per cent, in the UK 15 per cent and in Italy 20 per cent.

In November of last year the European Commission asked for a total VAT exemption for original works, including paintings, drawings, engravings, tapestries, sculpture, pottery and written works such as music, literary works and theatre. Ministers are considering the proposal.



The skipper and crew of the Banff-registered fishing vessel *Crystal River*, shown here checking their nets, are typical of the fishermen who benefit from the latest grant of EEC funds towards the cost of fish-processing projects in the North and North-East.



Action to fight forest fires

A small French town, Florac, in the southern Lozère region, is to host an EEC-sponsored international exercise in forest fire-fighting.

The five-day operation, code-named Florac 85, will involve land and air forest fire-fighting personnel and equipment from the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and France.

An estimated 300 experts, 100 vehicles and 10 aircraft, including water bombers and helicopters, will take part in fighting a controlled blaze, at the invitation of the Lozère authorities.

The French Ministry for Home Affairs and Decentralisation will provide logistical support for the exercise, which is the first major operation marking 1985 as The International Year of the Forest.

The exercise reflects growing concern that the spread of tourism, particularly during the months of July, August and September, could bring an increase in the fires that already destroy about 120,000 hectares of forest in southern Europe every year.



Tourists and businessmen travelling abroad this summer will be able to buy travellers' cheques denominated in ECUs - European Currency Units - made up from the ten community currencies.

The idea was thought up by the four banks that form the Société Française du Cheque de Voyage (SFCV) with the help of American Express. It will offer all the normal services that go with cheques issued by both bodies. The ECU cheques will also guard users against currency fluctuations.

The introduction of the new cheques marks the first time that the ECU has been used in tangible form outside financial markets. They will

come in denominations of 50 ECU (about £31) and will offer Europeans a foretaste of what may eventually become a Euro-currency. They will be available from several major banks in every member state, and in Spain and Portugal. Both the banks and the SFCV plan to give the launch widespread publicity.

The cheques are expected to have their greatest appeal in countries with relatively weak currencies, like France and Italy. But in the Federal Republic of Germany doubts remain about both the cheques and the general use of the ECU. The Bundesbank, the German central bank which operates independently of the government, still does not recognise the ECU as a currency.

But those attitudes may be changing. Finance Minister Stoltenberg recently said that the Bundesbank might review its position if other member states agreed to raise their objections to strengthening the European Monetary System. This would mean concessions from Britain, Italy, France, Ireland and Belgium.

If that happened, the Bundesbank might lift its opposition to the cheques, as a gesture.

More and more women are going into business

In many Community countries, women are responding to the economic challenge of the times by going into business on their own. MARION DEVINE has been looking at some of their problems, and how they are making out

Substantial rises in the number of working women in Europe over the past five years suggests a new career orientation among women. They now account for 37.2 per cent of the European labour force. In some countries this percentage is even higher: in France, for example, 42 per cent of the workforce are women. Britain, especially, has a new influx of women into the labour force: between 1971 and 1982 the percentage of working women in Britain rose from 42 per cent to 50 per cent.

More significantly, greater numbers of women are starting their own businesses – particularly in West Germany, Britain and France. In West Germany, it is estimated that women start 40 per cent of all new businesses. Moreover, 20 per cent – or 600,000 – out of a total of 3 million German entrepreneurial ventures are owned and run by women. Most of these own very small enterprises: only 110,000, or one-sixth, employ more than 10 people, and make an annual turnover of over a million marks.

Camilla Crebsbach-Gnath, of Frankfurt's Battelle Institute for Innovation and Research, explains the reason for this rapid growth. She says: 'Many young women managers are leaving the large company to start businesses of their own, because it provides them with a career where Germany's traditional authoritarianism and patriarchalism are less of a problem.'

Dr Eva Odehnal, president of the West German branch of the World Association of Women Executives, believes the achievements of women entrepreneurs are now recognised and accepted in the German business world. She comments: 'Although men still have a tendency to see the self-employed business woman as something exotic, they are now taking her seriously. They recognise that a competitor is a competitor, regardless of sex.'

In Britain, 4 per cent of all working women are self-employed, compared with 9 per cent of men. There is some evidence from unofficial sources that women own and control around 6 per cent of the total number of

businesses. David and Jean Watkins, of Manchester Business School, who are at the forefront of study on women entrepreneurs, have found that British women entrepreneurs are four times more likely than the average person to have been influenced by an entrepreneurial parent.

These women tend to have little or nothing in their educational backgrounds which prepares them for running a business. Despite this, David and Jean Watkins found that women entrepreneurs are strongly motivated towards achievement and autonomy. To satisfy this motivation, however, many are forced to enter areas of business where technical and financial requirements are low.

France is also seeing a small revolution in this area. Between 1982 and 1984, the percentage of women entrepreneurs with more than 10 employees has risen from 15.5 per cent to 24.8 per cent, with no sign of growth slowing. At the end of 1983, there were 16,000 women entrepreneurs in France, making up 14 per cent of the total number of women executives.

The introduction of new legislation in 1982 was a decisive move in France to recognise the contribution that women make to family-run businesses. The new laws, affecting

'A new law in France makes women equal partners with their husbands'

300,000 women, improve the legal rights of women, and allow them joint owner status with their husbands.

A recent survey by a major organisation for the self-employed, the Association Des Conjointes de Travailleurs de France, assesses the position of women entrepreneurs since the law came into force. It found 60 per cent of the women surveyed had opted for the new status of 'collaborator'. This makes women equal partners with their husbands, and ensures that they are able to take over the business should the husband die. It also entitles women to maternity benefit and to reimbursement of costs in finding a replacement for one month. Although the survey revealed continuing doubt and hesitation among women about the benefits of the new law, it also proved that many French women are eager to play an active part in business, and want their contribution to be recognised.

Even in countries where the growth in the number of women entrepreneurs is slower, there are significant moves to encourage more women to start businesses. The Netherlands, for instance, runs a state-supported scheme

which grants women an interest-free loan to a maximum of £50,000. This is aimed at women who cannot find the capital via the usual channels. To qualify for the aid, the new firm must employ women only, and be either a cooperative or a foundation. After two years, the women must be able to run the firm without state support.

Despite these types of measures, entrepreneurship is still no smooth option for women. For instance, Willy Appelo, one of the founder members of Women's Enterprise Finance Foundation, in Holland, believes women entrepreneurs receive less financial aid than men. She comments: 'The banks in Holland do not take women seriously. One might even say that they discriminate against them, by making conditions more stringent than for men and by treating them with greater suspicion.'

Restrictive opportunities can sometimes act as a catalyst for women to become entrepreneurs, simply because no alternative exists. For example, women who are returning to work after raising a family often find that their career break severely restricts their employment prospects. For them, entrepreneurship is a way of circumventing those barriers.

Dr Leah Hertz, author of 'The Business Amazons' and an entrepreneur herself, explains: 'In a most positive sense, entrepreneurship is the last resort for many women. Because they are often denied access to positions of power and authority, they naturally look to other sources and create their own opportunities.' These assertions are backed up by a recent survey of 420 European companies by the Brussels-based Management Centre Europe, which found that it is still hard for women to penetrate senior management. It discovered that no firm in the survey had more than three women in senior management. On top of this, not a single firm surveyed in Germany or the Netherlands had a senior woman executive.

Entrepreneurship, then, is the only option for the many women who are equipping themselves with proper management tools to get to the top. In France, for example, 40 per cent of all MBAs students are women, while in Belgium women make up 36 per cent of the total. With limited opportunities to use these skills, women are increasingly forced to circumvent the barriers by setting up their own ventures. With the high rate of female unemployment in Europe – in the Community as a whole, women make up 41 per cent of the unemployed – there is little reason to suppose that the trend will be reversed.

However, the signs indicate that women are ready to take up the challenge of entrepreneurship. With the steady growth in numbers of women entrepreneurs in Europe, there will be increasing pressure for a more detailed look at their needs, particularly in training and financial aid. While this is starting to be looked at more seriously in Britain, the rest of Europe needs to wake up to the fact that they are here to stay. ◻



Renoir: painting made flesh

Renoir was an artist with such an overwhelming urge to paint that, as an old man crippled with arthritis, his hand so crooked and stiff that he could no longer hold his brushes, he had them bound to his wrists so that he could go on working.

Critics of his late work in which even his huge talents cannot altogether disguise his handicap, dismiss them as unworthy. At the splendid exhibition now showing at the Hayward Gallery – most of which is to go on to Paris when it leaves London – the public can judge for itself if Renoir's magic touch stayed with him to the end.

Looking at the last nudes, with their great, fleshy limbs, one cannot help recognising in Renoir something that Henry Moore was to reveal to us a generation later: the monumental earth-forms that reside in a woman's body. One looks on Renoir's huge, late canvases more with awe than with admiration; and not, I think, with that Renoir-esque pleasure in the flesh that sets him apart from the other Impressionists.

The exhibition shows Renoir as a painter with roots firmly set in the academic tradition. He was always ready to show at the Salon, re-working traditional themes in his own way, his figures unmistakably modern but his composition generally formal. A

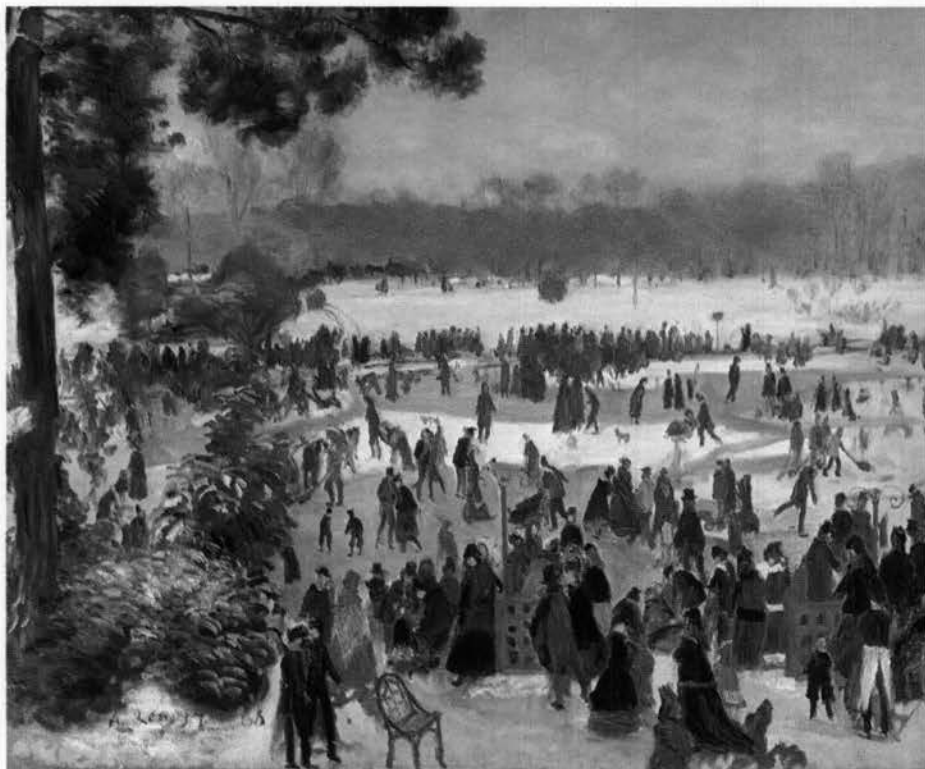
painting of skaters in the Bois de Boulogne, dated 1868, shows his eye for a 'saleable' subject: this picture can never have been intended as a major exhibition piece, simply as a delightful little work in its own right.

His early pictures of children and young girls show him at his most perceptive, and his

late, formal portrait groups at his most conventional. In between come the glorious nudes, in which the subject is not the sitter but the flesh, stroked and caressed in brushstrokes as tender as an act of love.

He was fortunate, among painters of his time, in finding all that he needed so close at hand: an affectionate home-life, an ever-smiling landscape, and a lifelong affair with the female form.

DENIS THOMAS



Above: 'Seated Bather', 1914. Art Institute of Chicago; and 'Young Woman Braiding her Hair', 1876. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Right: 'Skating in the Bois de Boulogne', 1868. Anonymous loan.



'The Separation of the Waters': detail from the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

New secrets of the Sistine Chapel

The popular image of Michelangelo at work on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel has the painter reclining on a tower-like scaffolding, applying his colours with painstaking care.

It is a romantic notion which has found favour with persons as diverse as William Butler Yeats and Charlton Heston; but this and many other myths connected with the Sistine ceiling are destined to disappear, together with the grime that has obscured the true nature of Michelangelo's frescoes for centuries.

The Vatican has just finished the first stage of the 12-year programme of restoration, which will see the whole of the ceiling and Michelangelo's Last Judgement returned to the state in which the painter left them. Even at this early stage, the results have been spectacular, and promise to revolutionise our appreciation of Michelangelo and one of his best known works.

The focus of attention for the past four years has been the 14 lunettes of the ancestors of Christ, which Michelangelo painted concurrently with the more famous Old Testament scenes on the vault of the ceiling from 1508-12. Until recently the lunettes and ceiling conveyed a sombre and muted appearance, and it was generally held that Miche-

Restoration of the glorious ceiling by Michelangelo is revealing the way he worked – including the kind of scaffolding he invented for the job

langelo painted both with an identical technique.

But the restoration has refuted both points, showing that the lunettes were painted in a highly idiosyncratic manner and with astonishing bravura.

The prime reason for these mistaken conclusions lay in a thick layer of animal glue applied to Michelangelo's work as early as the 17th century.

The glue was probably applied to conserve the frescoes and to mask early restorations that had gone wrong. But, over the centuries, the glue attracted dirt and darkened through candle smoke.

Now that the lunettes have been cleaned, two remarkable discoveries have been made about the artist's technique: Michelangelo did not employ cartoons for the lunettes but

conceived them virtually in terms of colour alone. Working swiftly and with great economy of design, he executed preliminary drawings for his figures freehand in dark colours, and then applied pure colour to convey form and movement. In this way he managed to paint some six square metres of wall each day, generally finishing a whole lunette in three days.

Michelangelo's colours are equally remarkable. They were applied in almost transparent layers over large areas, with transitions achieved by painting lighter colours over darker ones in a thin coat. This is not dissimilar to 15th-century fresco painting; but where Michelangelo's predecessors employed tonal contrasts for decorative purposes, Michelangelo used them as a means to corporeal ends.

The ancestors of Christ emerge from a background which can now be seen as mauve, not grey; and they are dressed in robes of apple green, reddish orange and yellow. Sometimes the juxtapositions are violent, in other cases more harmonious. But the total effect is of an iridescence that finds a direct correlation only in the work of Michelangelo's younger Florentine contemporaries, the mannerist painters, Rosso and Pontormo.

This first phase of the ceiling's restoration has also solved another problem: what kind of scaffolding did Michelangelo use? Holes have been found in the walls just below the lunettes, and it seems that they held large wooden trusses on which a bridge-like scaffolding was constructed.

This confirms contemporary accounts, which state that Michelangelo's scaffolding had no floor supports and covered half the ceiling. Michelangelo painted the lunettes and lower parts of the vault from the steps of the bridge, and the large narrative panels while standing on the platform above.

This helps to explain one major difference between the lunettes and the ceiling proper: Michelangelo could paint the former freehand because they were flat surfaces, which he could see from some distance; with the ceiling he could not see his work from any distance until the first half was unveiled in 1511. Consequently, the ceiling involved more time-consuming preparatory phases not required for the ancestors of Christ.

Now attention has shifted to the vault itself, with a complete restoration expected by 1988. For this phase, the Vatican restorers have designed a bridge-like structure along the lines of Michelangelo's. It can be moved along a steel track, and will cover approximately one fifth of the ceiling at any time.

Expectations are that the ceiling's colours will emerge as bright as those of the lunettes. By the end of this decade we shall be able to see the ceiling much as Michelangelo and his contemporaries saw it.

BRUCE BOUCHER

ROAD TO THE ISLES – AND THE ALTAR?

These young men live on the island of Vatersay, in the Outer Hebrides. They are all single, but rather wish they were not. The reason why they are gazing so wistfully across the water is that there is not one eligible woman on Vatersay for any of the bachelors to marry.

A night out involves a boat trip to Castlebay, on Barra, and there have been only two weddings on the island in 20 years.

But all is not lost. Vatersay is soon to be linked to Barra by a splendid new causeway. The Government and the European Regional Fund will contribute 75 per cent of the cost between them, and the local council will find the rest.

The causeway will cost about £2.7 million, which works out at a goodly sum per bachelor. But nobody up there doubts it is worth the expense.

Father Calum McLellan, whose parish includes the island, is quoted as saying that the causeway is 'marvellous news'. He says he is hoping he will be conducting his first wedding there in the near future.



'Save the whale' say MEPs

Euro-MPs plan to ask the Commission to exert diplomatic pressure on Japan, Norway and the Soviet Union to abide by an International Whaling Commission (IWC) decision to phase out commercial whaling entirely by 1986.

Dutch MEP Memmo Muntingh, who has drawn up a draft report for the European Parliament's Environment Committee on the three countries' objections to the IWC move, supported by other MEPs, says that, without their agreement, the decision will become meaningless and whales will continue to be slaughtered.

The Commission imposed a ban on all imports of whale products into Europe in January 1982, in a bid to save whales from extinction.

But a number of traditional whaling countries have persisted in hunting the ever-declining numbers of whales, notably off Greenland, the Faroes and the Azores, arguing that the interests of their fishermen and consumers come before conservation.

Mr Muntingh singles out Japan, where whalemeat is eaten as a delicacy on special occasions. Despite international agreements,

the Japanese are 'not only actively involved in whaling, but also seem to be offering encouragement to other countries that might subsequently export whale products to Japan,' he claims.

Europe's response to save the whale should take the form of economic sanctions, or the threat of them, unless the three countries comply with the IWC ruling within the 1986 deadline he says.

Possible sanctions could include the introduction of measures comparable to US legislation that bans fish imports and cuts fishing quotas of countries which defy IWC ruling, he claims. Pressure could also be exerted on Norway, through the various fisheries agreements that it has with the Community, and on Japan through the extensive economic links and massive trade surplus that it enjoys with the Ten.

Portugal could also be persuaded to clamp down on whaling in the Azores, as a condition of joining the EEC in 1986, he argues. But he admits that there is little that the Community can do to influence the Soviet Union, other than to ask member states to bring up the subject at bilateral talks.

WANT TO BE A CONDUCTOR?

The BBC, in association with the Royal Northern College of Music, is organising a Conductors' Seminar as part of the 1985 European Music Year programme. It will take place in Manchester from 31 August to 14 September, under the direction of Edward Downes, principal conductor of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

Entry is open to candidates from all the member states and it is expected that applicants will already have some professional experience. There is an upper age limit of 35 at 1 September 1985, and it is proposed to offer up to 24 places to suitable candidates. The final selection will be made by the BBC and the RNCM in consultation with the Director.

Further details and application form from: Conductors' Seminar, BBC Music Department, Oxford Road, Manchester, M60 1SJ.

The closing date for applications is 30 April.

A £758 million blueprint for the redevelopment of Belfast with the aid of Common Market cash was delivered today to the EEC Brussels Commission by Mr. Chris Patten, parliamentary under-secretary in the Environment Department at the Northern Ireland Office.

The blueprint setting out how the Government intends implementing the so-called integrated operations plan for Belfast was handed to EEC regional affairs commissioner Mr. Grigoris Varfis after several years of preparation.

Integrated operations is EEC language for concentrating national and community resources on urban areas which have suffered particular deprivation.

Besides Belfast, the other city designated for similar attention is Naples.

- Belfast Telegraph

The University of Reading is spear-heading a campaign to establish Europe's first centre for 'parallel computing'. It is asking the EEC to put up £20 million for a centre open to any European company that wants to test ideas. The proposal will be considered next week as part of the EEC's Esprit programme for research into advanced computing.

A parallel computer is one in which data and program are processed simultaneously by a cooperating group of processors. It is a vital part of the drive towards so-called artificial intelligence.

The US already has six such centres and Japan three. Europe has none that is open to all researchers.

Several companies have however, set up collaborative schemes and IBM has established an academic centre for advanced computing research in Rome.

- New Scientist

Jobless Birmingham adults are missing out on a Common Market-funded scheme to put them closer to the front of the jobs queue.

The project, to give job-skill training to 700 city unemployed men and women over 25, was launched in December.

Although there are 100,000 unemployed adults in Birmingham, there are 200 unfilled places.

Now careers and education officials are launching a drive to try to get jobless people to join it.

The scheme is funded out of a £2 million EEC grant, awarded to the city last year to help the unemployed.

- Birmingham Post

The European Commission has agreed to back the preparation of a development programme for regenerating the economy of Rural Wales.

The commissioners approved a 75 per cent grant towards a £120,000 strategic study. It will set out to identify the region's economic problems and propose ways to mobilise EEC financial assistance as part of a programme to develop the three Welsh rural counties of Dyfed, Gwynedd and Powys.

The county authorities which jointly initiated the study will appoint consultants to carry it out next month. They hope the study will be completed by early next year.

- Financial Times

A substantial move expected to safeguard some favourite British landscape areas was taken on a British initiative by EEC agriculture ministers in Brussels early yesterday after more than 18 hours continuous negotiation.

It is a move to safeguard landscapes from being spoiled by hedge removal, drainage and other much-criticised features of modern intensive arable farming.

Legislation would be necessary before some parts of the farm package could be implemented in Britain.

The deal will also give Britain for the first time the ability to pay grants for developing tourism and craft industries on farms in the hill areas.

- Daily Telegraph

Are the British losing their fear of the Snake? - the European variety, that is, by which the EEC currencies float together, now known by the more mundane title of the Exchange Rate Mechanism or ERM.

Until last week, government and business views seemed to be as one, in resolutely opposing Britain's entry into the ERM. And, despite the recent buffeting of the pound in the foreign exchange markets both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor still are.

Then, last Wednesday out of the blue came a surprising volte face by the ruling Council of the CBI, which after years of hostility to the ERM has decided to support Britain's entry. Moreover, far from being finely balanced, over three quarters of those present voted in favour.

- Sunday Times

WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS

Out of a total of 250 unemployed persons taken on by firms throughout Grampian under the regional council's assisted apprenticeship scheme, only 30 were girls.

The scheme has been an outstanding success, however, and now preparations are being made for the launching of a second project with another intake of 250.

The scheme was started last year with joint funding by Grampian Regional Council and the European Community.

- Aberdeen Press & Journal

The cost of motoring will go up as a result of last week's EEC agreement on limiting car exhaust pollution. But for British drivers, the swirling mixture of fuel and air in new engine cylinders will reduce the extra cost by hundreds of pounds.

That is because the technology involved - the lean-burn engine - now looks certain to be adopted for most cars on the road in Britain, rather than the much more expensive three-way catalytic converter.

The catalysts, which have already been fitted on many large cars, are highly efficient in breaking down pollutants chemically. But they cost up to £600 each and need regular maintenance.

The lean-burn engine, which has yet to go on the road creates the optimum conditions for burning the air and fuel mixture, reducing the pollutants in the exhaust. The engine is likely to cost well under £200 extra and could save up to 10 per cent on petrol.

- Sunday Times

A call for liberalisation of Europe's service sectors was issued last night by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary.

He stressed the urgency of 'a collective European effort' to liberalise and open up Europe's telecommunications, airlines, financial services and professional services sectors.

He accused European air services of being 'notoriously cartelised and subsidised' and said this meant more cost and continuing inefficiency.

The members of the European Community must deregulate, Sir Geoffrey added, citing as an example of increased competition the shuttle between London Heathrow Airport and Scotland.

Sir Geoffrey said that, contrary to the Treaty of Rome, financial services in Europe are not freely available throughout the Community.

- Financial Times

At Heathrow a few weeks back the incoming airbus was full of Britons, forming a huge queue at the 'UK Passports' channel. Long irritated by the EEC channel restricted to our Community partners, as if Britain still weren't a member, I took my courage in both hands and my passport in one of them, and presented myself with the Europeans.

I was ready to argue if admonished and sent back to the true-Brit queue - but the girl at the desk smiled, checked the date and photograph, and didn't even fumble through a sinister card-index of crooks. I was through.

Soon, I thought, the airport might even remove that misleading placard 'Flights to Europe'.

- Richard Mayne, in Kangaroo