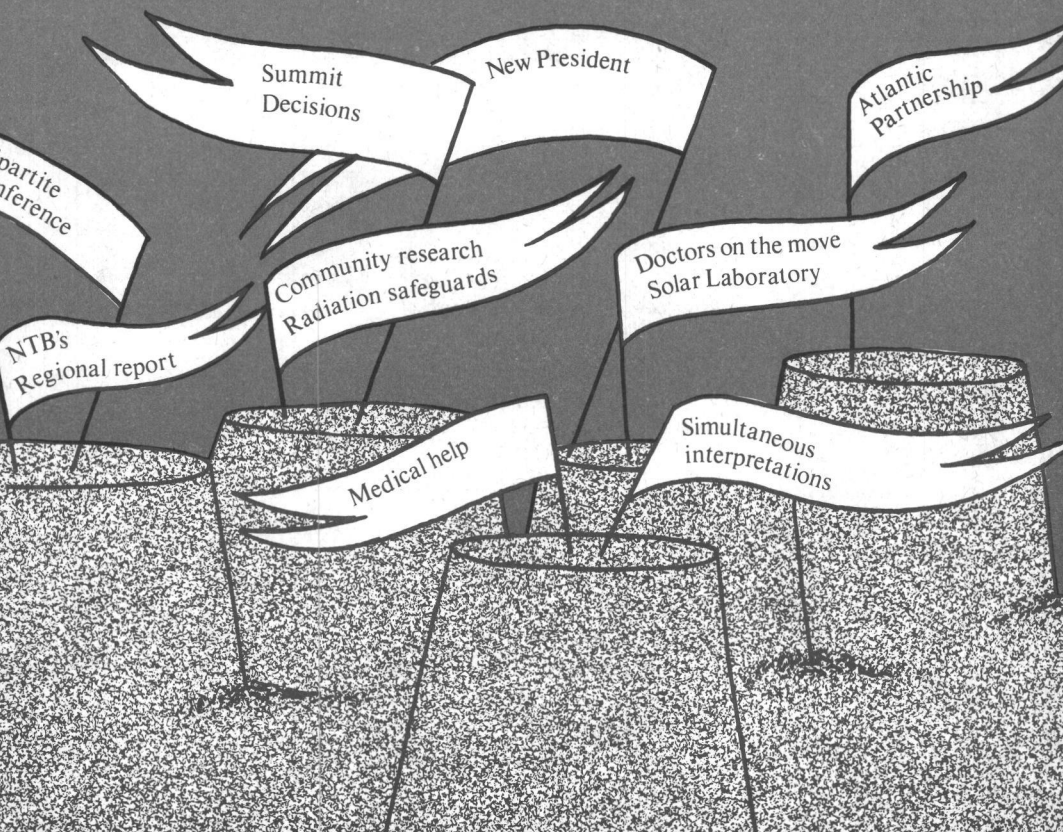


# European Community

No. 6

July/August 1976

LIBRARY



# European Community Contents



*European Community* is published on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities.

London Office: 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ  
Tel. 01-727 8090

Dublin Office: 29 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Tel. 76 03 53

The magazine is intended to give a concise view of current Community affairs and stimulate discussions on European problems generally. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Community Institutions or of its editor. Its unsigned articles may be quoted or reprinted without payment if their source is acknowledged. Rights in signed articles should be negotiated with their authors. In either case, the editor would be glad to receive the publication.

Editor: Anthony Hartley

Printed by Edwin Snell printers, Yeovil, England

*European Community* also appears in the following editions:

*30 Jours d'Europe*, 61 rue des Belles Feuilles, 75782 Paris Cedex 16.  
Tel. 553 5326

*Comunita Europea*, Via Poli 29, 00187 Rome. Tel. 68 97 22

*Europa Gammel Torv* 4, Post box 144, 1004 København K.  
Tel. 14 41 40/14 55 12.

*EG Magazin*, 53 Bonn, Zitelmannstrasse 22.  
Tel. 23 80 41

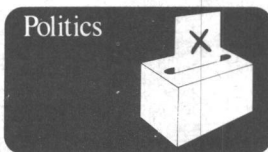
*Europese Gemeenschap*, Lange Voorhout 29, The Hague.  
Tel. 070-46 93 26

*Comunidad Europea*, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels. Tel. 35 00 40

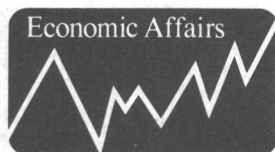
*Europaiki Koinotis*, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels. Tel. 35 00 40

*Avrupa Toplulugu*, Bogaz Sokak No. 13, Kavaklidere-Ankara.  
Tel. 27 61 45-27 61 46

*European Community*, 2100 M Street, NW, Washington DC 20037.  
Tel. 872 8350



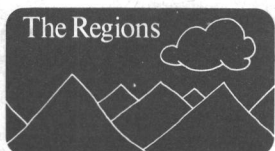
Decisions at the Summit p.3



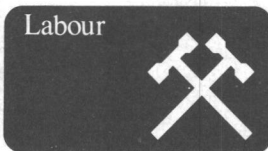
Eliminating trade barriers p.18



Soames on Atlantic partnership p.6  
A word in your earphone p.28



Disparities continue p.20



Facing the crisis—tripartitely p.10  
The liberal professions—more mobility p.12



Community research p.22  
Radiation safeguards p.26



Always right? Community consumer survey p.16



Medical help for travellers p.32

## The Community in September

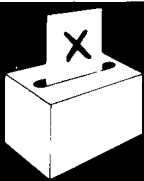
September 13—17 European Parliament (Luxembourg)

September 20 Foreign Ministers Council (Brussels)

September 20\* Agricultural Council (Brussels)

September 27\* Eco-Finance Council (Brussels)

\*Date proposed



# Decisions at the Summit

## What the European Council of the nine Heads of Government did in Brussels

The European Council wound up its midsummer meeting with a series of agreements which won widespread approval from commentators throughout the Community.

### European Parliament

Among other things, they reached a final decision upon the size and the distribution of seats in a directly elected Parliament.

The decision on the Parliament had been held up because the small member countries had refused to relinquish the current distribution of seats in the present, appointed Parliament. This favours them if compared with the size of their populations. The large member countries, on the other hand, held out for proportional distribution of seats.

In the compromise, both sides finally gave. The directly elected Parliament will have 410 members distributed as follows: Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Italy, 81 members each; the Netherlands, 25 seats; Belgium, 24 seats; Denmark, 16 seats; Ireland, 15 seats, and Luxembourg, 6 seats.

At a news conference after the meeting, German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said these decisions had given the Community 'a new political quality'.

### Mr Roy Jenkins

The Council agreed that Mr Roy Jenkins, at present the British Home Secretary, would be a Member of the new Commission from next January. It is understood that this agreement sets the seal on Community approval of Mr Jenkins as the next President of the Commission.

The procedure, as laid down in the Treaty of Rome, is that the 13 Members of the Commission are chosen by common accord of the nine member Governments. The President and five Vice-Presidents are chosen from among their number by the same procedure; such appointments shall be made after the Commission has been consulted. Thus the special appointments cannot legally be confirmed until after the new Commission has met next January.

### Anti-terrorism

In a separate declaration after the meeting, the European Council invited the nine ministers of justice to draft an anti-terrorism convention by which kidnappers, hijackers, or terrorists would either have to stand trial in the state where they are apprehended or be extradited. The Council said that the Nine would cooperate with other countries

throughout the world to develop an anti-terrorist strategy.

## **Fishing rights**

The European Council noted the continuing discussions within the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, but said that since more and more countries were extending their fishing limits to 200 miles before the end of the conference, the Community had to protect its own fishing industry by following suit. It therefore asked the EC Council of Ministers to make a declaration of intent to this effect.

## **Economic affairs**

The European Council also proposed a Council of Ministers of Economics and Finance before the end of July to translate into concrete terms the Community's wish for greater convergence of economic policies. Specifically the Ministers were asked to agree on greater convergence of budgetary policies.

---

## **Talks with Greece**

Negotiations for Greek membership of the European Community began on July 27, 1976. In his opening statement, the President of the Council recalled that they must respect the Community's existing achievements, and that any problems arising must be dealt with by means of transitional measures.

## **Two new Commission members**

H. E. Cesidio Guazzaroni (65) has been appointed to succeed Altiero Spinelli, recently elected a member of the Italian Parliament, and M. Raymond Vouel (53) has been appointed to succeed Albert

The Community leaders unanimously approved the conclusions of the recent tripartite meeting on unemployment and inflation, and expressed the wish that both sides of industry should be associated with the preparation and carrying out of economic policy as a follow-up to the tripartite conference.

## **Tindemans**

The European Council remitted to the Council of Ministers of foreign affairs discussion on the various themes raised in the Tindemans Report.

## **New judge**

Professor Francesco Capotorti has been appointed to replace Mr Riccardo Monaco, who has resigned from the Community's Court of Justice. Professor Capotorti, a 51-year-old international lawyer from Naples, took part in the seminars on human rights organised by the United Nations between 1962 and 1966. Since 1970 he has been at the Universities of Naples and Rome.

Borschette, who is still gravely ill. The appointments are valid until the end of the year, when a new Commission is to take office. Commissioners may, of course, be re-appointed.

## **Two more Bank loans**

The European Investment Bank has just made two more loans to Britain: one of £17.6 million to the Post Office to improve telecommunications in the north of England, and the other of £5.5 million to the British Railways Board to improve shipping between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire. This brings to £410.2 million the Bank's total loans to the UK, a full list of which was published in our June issue.



# The month in Europe

## **Better GSP**

The Commission has proposed a 42 per cent increase in the value of imports to receive preferential treatment under its Generalized System of Preferences for less developed countries' sales to the Nine. In 1977, \$8,000 million worth of goods should receive preferential treatment, against \$5,500 million in 1976.

## **More coal and steel aid**

The Commission has announced two new allocations of Community funds to the coal and steel sectors in the United Kingdom. The first is a loan of £950,000 (1.64 million units of account) to Natural Gas Tubes Ltd, London, towards the construction of a new factory of welded steel tubes in the industrialised zone of Tafarnaubach, Ebbw Vale.

The total cost of the investment is £2.84m (4.9m u.a.) which, it is estimated, will create 120 new jobs.

The Commission has also approved a non-repayable grant of £31.625 towards the readaptation of workers at the I.M.I. Alloy Steels Ltd factory in Alfreton, Derbyshire.

The money will go towards the retraining and other readaptation needs of about 63 workers. The closure of this factory will affect 187 workers of whom 124 appear to have found other jobs.

## **Lomé scholarships**

The European Development Fund has allotted eight million European Units of Account for scholarships and training grants for nationals of all ACP (Lomé Convention) countries in the 1976/7 academic year. Until the multiannual scholarship programme and the training programme for each State have been established, this will enable the most urgent requests to be met.

## **Pharmaceuticals action**

After representations by the Commission, two German firms, one a subsidiary of Beecham's Ltd, have dropped contractual restrictions on the resale of pharmaceutical raw materials.

## **EMI-Columbia**

The Court of Justice has ruled that Community law does not stand in the way of national courts enforcing trade legislation in member States. This clears the way for EMI, the British music, leisure and electronics company, to pursue the court cases it has brought in Britain, Denmark and Germany to prevent the US concern CBS from using the Columbia trade mark within the Community.



# Atlantic partnership

## Sir Christopher Soames' speech to the European Parliament on July 8, 1976 (extracts)

I doubt if there is any relationship in the trade field, or indeed any other field, which is of greater importance both to the United States and to the Community.

The Community and the United States are the two most powerful economic and trading entities in the world; there must inevitably be points of difference between us, for the very size of our Community, which gives us so much more leverage and influence than any of our member States would have by themselves, also imposes upon us a heavy responsibility to see that we use our power rightly. After all the fact that we are a Community and we are so big, the fact that we do 40 per cent of the free world's trade as a Community means from the point of view of the outside world that we are as much a single market where trade is concerned as is any nation state. Yet we do 40 per cent of the world's trade, which is more than any other country could ever conceive of arriving at.

### **Difficulties**

It is therefore inevitable that as we bind the balance of our relationships together with another entity the size of the United States we should run into difficulties from time to time,

as we are still so young yet so powerful. I think it is very healthy that we should air these difficulties. Let us all appreciate that it is absolutely vital to both of us that we do get our relationships right and that our degree of intimacy should be such that we can discuss them openly together and freely.

### **Common interests**

Now if we are to get them right we must start by recognising the fundamental identity of views and interests which exists between the Community and the United States in commercial, economic and other matters. The basis of this identity of views lies in our shared commitment to the expansion of international trade. Over the past two years however, we have had to face up to the effects of the worst recession since the 1930's on both sides of the Atlantic, indeed throughout the open market world; this shared commitment of our governments to the philosophy of trade expansion has been tested and challenged by the painful consequences of recession and notably by its consequences on the level of employment.

With unemployment running at an unacceptably high level, the forces working for further progress and the removal of trade barriers are in-

evitably weakened and powerful pressures develop to reverse that trend. But because the Community and the United States share a common philosophy and a common interest in the expansion of international trade, our governments and our leaders must find the will to resist protectionist pressures in hard times and to work consistently together for a more open world trading order. This surely must be the starting point of any assessment of the present state of our commercial relations and for the prospects for the future. Perhaps that is why so much anxiety has been expressed recently. The principles and practices upon which a liberal world trading order depend may now find themselves called into question.

## **Balance**

Now this is not just a matter of the temporary coincidence of recession-induced pressures for protectionist action with a prolonged electoral season in the United States. It goes much deeper than that. The difficulty stems from a twofold root. In the first place it goes back to the balance which seems to be emerging following on the 1974 US Trade Act, between American national or sectional interest on the one hand and the international responsibilities of the United States of America on the other. Any country's system for the regulation of external trade must of course reflect a balance between national and sectional interest and international responsibilities. No democratic country could ever afford to undertake international responsibilities which ran counter to its own long-term national interests and which ignored the needs of its own

people and its own economy. However, it is equally true that in this increasingly interdependent world no country can seek to impose the primacy of its own national practices and positions, regardless of their effects on its trading partners, without wreaking havoc among the internationally-agreed order and disciplines, which provide the essential underpinning of world trade.

## **Responsibilities**

The trouble is that in the United States the question where that balance of interests and responsibilities lies, where that balance should be struck in the field of external commercial policy, has been caught up with another difficult question, that of a proper balance within the United States between the various branches of the government, the executive, the legislative and the judiciary.

This great theme is, of course, a matter of American domestic politics and we cannot but admire the efforts of the great American democracy to resolve the permanently intractable problems of accountability and openness in government and decision-making. However, in the field of external trade policy at least, it must surely be admitted that there is an immense difference between a policy which represents a mere aggregation of domestic sectional pressures and one which represents a coherent all-round view of the delicate balance between economics and politics and between domestic and international responsibilities.

The administration has given certain demonstrable proofs of its continuing attachment to the principles of open international trade by its

recent decisions not to permit recourse to protection in the shoe industry and to discontinue the procedures in the car-dumping case which affect such a high proportion of the Community's exports to the United States. Nevertheless, it is still true that there continues to weigh upon the trade relations between the Community and the United States the question of whether the machinery of the trade act is capable of yielding such a balanced view consistently and in the long term.

### **Special steels**

The special steel case, which led to the President's decision to impose on the United States main trading partners the unacceptable choice between orderly marketing arrangements on the one hand or quota restrictions on the other, is an important case in point. We must also take account of those issues which are or have been in dispute between the Community and the United States, where American domestic legislation makes possible and even requires the imposition of countervailing duties without any previous proof that injury is being committed to United States industries.

This is the second root, I think, of the present difficulties in transatlantic commercial relations, A root which is nourished by American misgivings about the effects upon the open world trading system of the growing role of the State in the management of the various economies which go to make up the world system. There is, of course, a real problem here; we know from the long history of our efforts to expand trade with the state-trading countries of Eastern

Europe, how fundamental to the functioning of our Western economic system is a certain transparency of marketing and pricing policies, and how difficult it is to promote trade where the operation of State monopolies obscures that transparency. However let us not lose our sense of proportion. In democracies – and certainly in the democracies of Western Europe with their special social and political traditions it is simply not possible to leave the painful processes of structural economic change to work themselves out without assistance and support from the wider society to those particularly affected. This is the very essence of the concept of the mixed or social market economy – what Mr Tindemans called the other day 'an economy at the service of man'. This concept includes a degree of active governmental contribution and encouragement to entrepreneurship.

### **Interventionism**

To a greater or lesser extent, all of the industrial societies of the west have embraced this philosophy of interventionism. Whether for social or economic or indeed for strategic and military purposes. These are matters which lie in the heart of their domestic politics but there is no reason why a degree of State participation in the operation of our domestic economies, provided it remains within obvious limits, should be incompatible with our continued sharing commitment to a liberal world trading order. On the contrary, it is essential that we should ensure that it is compatible, for while there are indeed good social and political reasons for the continuance of State involvement there are equally powerful reasons why



that involvement must be subject to the basic disciplines of our international commitments.

What is important here, I think is, that the greatest possible degree of transparency should exist and that the effects of State intervention upon international trade should be subject to the test freely negotiated and based on the principles already provided by the general agreements on tariffs and trade – namely, whether a specific intervention is injuring competing industries in other countries by distorting the flow of international trade.

### **Domestic policies**

Now of course it is right that State aids designed to meet important domestic social or economic need should not be such as to have injurious side-effects on international trade. On the other hand, where there is no such injury there can be no warrant for unilateral action which has the appearance of striking at the domestic, regional, industrial or agricultural support policies of ones trading partners. It is this which makes it both depressing and disquieting to continue to hear from the other side of the Atlantic from

time to time root and branch criticisms, for instance of the CAP and suggestions that it is somehow an attainable and desirable objective of United States policy to undermine it.

### **Plain Speaking**

Now I do not want in this debate to go into a detailed defence of the external implications of our agricultural policy. Suffice it to say that, like other people's agricultural policies – and I have known one or two – it has its good points and its bad ones. But the simple fact is that it is a policy which reflects the political, social and economic situation of the Community and as such it is not internationally negotiable.

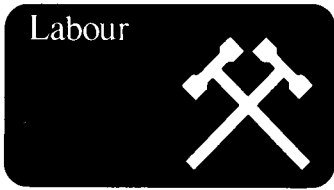
These are the underlying anxieties that we in the Community feel about American trade policy. I have been frank in stating them, but this candour is intended to give hope. It is certainly not intended to give currency to talk of economic war or of an endemic conflict in our relations with the United States. It is rather an expression of my confidence that our relationship is healthy and intimate enough to bear such plain speaking.

## **Agreement with IEA**

The European Communities (EEC and Euratom) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) recently signed an outline agreement covering co-operation between them on energy research. This agreement provides for participation by the Communities in IEA research projects whenever they consider this to be useful. Participation by the Communities in any project of interest to them will be negotiated by the Commission,

provided that it is covered by the Treaties, and approved by the Council.

The Communities are already participating actively in two projects: indeed the Communities are shortly to sign two implementing agreements on Community participation in two research projects, namely an exchange of information on nuclear safety and the construction of a neutron source.



# Facing the crisis

## The Results of the Tripartite Conference

The representatives of trades unions and employers' organisations met at Luxembourg on June 24, 1976, together with Ministers of Finance/Economic Affairs and Ministers of Employment/Social Affairs, under the chairmanship of Mr Raymond Vouel, President of the Council of Ministers, to discuss the restoration of full employment and stability in the European Community.

Intensive discussions took place both before and during the conference. These discussions produced a significant step forward in the development of the tripartite approach to tackling the shared problems of unemployment and inflation in the Community. During the next months Community tripartite institutions will, together with the Commission, examine both the micro-economic and macro-economic strategies pursued in the member States and at Community level in an attempt to restore full-employment and stability.

### Global targets set

The conference noted that as regards both supply and demand, economic policies should be directed at achieving the conditions for sustained and balanced growth in all the regions of the Community over the coming years in order to speed up the absorption of unemployment

and a return to full employment by 1980. This will require a greater increase in investments, and particularly in investments which create new jobs.

The conference agreed that the average annual growth rate should be approximately five per cent over the period from 1976 to 1980. It was also agreed to set as an objective the reduction of inflation to between 4 and 5 per cent by 1980 at the latest.

### Governments' contributions

The Governments will make an essential contribution towards restoring price stability by means of:

- a reduction of budget deficits in the *medium term*;
- a monetary policy corresponding to the growth prospects for the national product;
- a rigorous competition policy;
- an active employment policy.

### Joint approaches

However, it was agreed that only a *joint* effort by all the parties to adapt trends in incomes of every kind to objective economic criteria, accompanied by price restraint, will make it possible to create once again the conditions for a more balanced and equitable economic and social situation.

The parties to the Conference also discussed a number of specific measures for improving the employment situation, particularly for young people. Such measures will be taken according to the circumstances obtaining in the various member States, and will be periodically examined by the Community institutions. Employers and labour will be associated with this examination.

Both Governments and employers and labour will take appropriate measures to promote workers' participation in decision-making in firms.

## Coordination of policies

An improvement in the coordination of the economic and monetary policies of the member States should, moreover, contribute towards a greater alignment of economic development in the member countries and thus help towards the achievement of the common targets. For

this purpose particular attention should be paid to structural and regional problems.

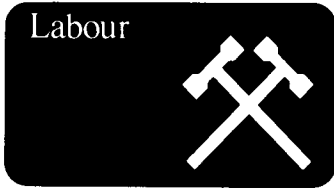
## Follow-up

It was agreed that the dialogue begun at this Conference should be continued. For this purpose, a further Conference should be convened in due course to review developments in the situation and to take stock of the results achieved by the joint efforts of all parties.

Meanwhile, the *Standing Committee on Employment* will pay particular attention to the specific measures designed to help improve the employment situation. The *Economic Policy Committee* will, moreover, establish contact with the representatives of employers and labour for the purpose of periodically examining with them short-term economic prospects and the Community's medium-term programme.

## Main Measures taken by member States in 1974-76 to fight unemployment

	Den.	Germ.	France	Irel.	Italy	Neth	Belg	Lux.	U.K.
1. Tax cuts	*	*	*			*		*	
tax incentives	*	*	*			*	*	*	*
2. Public investments	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
3. Public work programmes	*	*	*			*		*	*
4. Building aid	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5. Improvement aid	*	*			*	*	*		
6. Support for business	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*
7. Smaller companies aid	*	*			*				
8. Industry + Agric. aid	*	*	*		*	*			
9. Demand stimulus			*	*	*		*		
10. Employment subsidies		*	*	*		*	*		*
11. Youth and training aid	*	*		*			*		*
12. Regional measures		*	*		*	*	*		*



# The liberal professions

## Mutual recognition of diplomas: a progress report

A further move towards the mutual recognition of doctors' qualifications in the Community took place last May when the Advisory Committee on Medical Training held its inaugural meeting.

The Committee's task is to contribute towards the attainment of an equivalent and advanced standard of medical training throughout the Community in accordance with \*Directives adopted by the Council on June 16, 1975. The Directives, due to come into force by December 1976, will enable doctors and specialists, whether salaried or self-employed, to practise and provide medical services anywhere in the Community.

The medical profession is the first officially to have agreed on the mutual recognition of qualifying diplomas, although the Commission has long been pressing that the same procedures should apply to lawyers, nurses, architects, dentists, opticians, veterinarians, midwives and pharmacists. It is hoped that the doctors' agreement will spur the Council to adopt similar procedures for the other liberal professions.

### Background

The free movement of persons is one of the four fundamental principles on which the European Treaties are based. Freedom of movement for

employed people under Article 48 of the Treaties was agreed as far back as 1964, but until the middle of 1974 discrimination remained against a whole range of the liberal professions requiring national qualifications, of which practitioners are often self-employed.

### Court cases

In 1974, however, the European Court of Justice, in the cases of *Reyners* and *Van Binsbergen*,† handed down judgments that, irrespective of Directives and Regulations 'all national legislation providing restrictions on grounds of nationality were actually abolished in the application of the Treaty' except for explicit provisions against foreign nationals on grounds of public policy, public security and public health and their exclusion, regarding employment, in the public service.

The problem of applying the principle to professional or semi-professional people remains, however, because of the differing qualifications required by the member States in the practice of the professions. Thus the mutual recognition of diplomas is an essential element in the free movement of professional personnel.

\*75/362/EEC and 75/363/EEC.

†Case 2/74 June 21, 1974 and Case 33/74 December 3, 1974.

In the 1973 Annual Report (p. 137) the Commission noted sharply that the Council had failed to adopt 34 proposals for directives involving mutual recognition of diplomas. This was almost inevitable as, under pressure from the member countries, the Commission had tried to lay down detailed prescriptions as to the course of studies required, even listing the various subjects to be taught and the number of hours to be spent on each subject!

On the initiative of the then responsible Commissioner, Dr Ralf Dahrendorf (now Director of the London School of Economics), however, it was agreed to introduce guidelines based on 'flexibility' as to coordination and on 'comparability' in respect of the final result of the training process, instead of detailed proposals. A British suggestion to set up Advisory Committees to recommend on the equivalence of diplomas for mutual recognition and training was adopted. The Committees will comprise experts from the practising professions, universities and competent authorities and, as in the case of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training, will help to ensure a comparably demanding standard of training throughout the Community.

## The present position

Apart from the doctors very little practical headway has so far been made by the Council in the other professions:

### Lawyers

On August 19, 1975 the Commission presented amended<sup>‡</sup> proposals to the Council to its 1969 draft directive. Because of the difficulties involved the proposals are

concerned only with the *provision of services* and not with the mutual recognition of diplomas. In other words they are directed to procedures allowing lawyers to appear in the courts of member States other than their own.

Thus beneficiaries of the Directive must adopt the professional title used in the member State in which he or she is established, and remain subject to the professional rules of the country from which they come. The host state, however, must have powers to verify that the person providing the service is duly authorised to pursue his activities in the country in which he is established.

As far as some lawyers are concerned the judgments of the Court of Justice (see above) abolishing all discrimination on the basis of nationality means that frontiers have already ceased to play a role in practice. The problem still remains, however, that access to the profession depends on the possession of qualifications prescribed at national level, and this hinders lawyers being able to appear in the courts of other member States in civil and criminal proceedings. The objective now is to abolish this hindrance, but no positive progress has as yet been made.

### Nurses

The Commission has also proposed to the Council that an Advisory Committee on Nursing Training be set up, similar to that established for doctors on medical training, to consider the mutual recognition in the nursing profession of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications. It further suggests that the terms of reference of the Committee of Senior Officials

<sup>‡</sup>See OJ C218, September 17, 1975.

on Public Health, set up when the directives and decisions concerning doctors were adopted, should be enlarged and made applicable to nurses in particular.

## Architects

Commission proposals affecting architects go back to 1967, but the problems are the greater because there is no uniform definition of the activities of an architect valid for all the member States. Thus, though the Commission itself opposed the idea, it is envisaged that any directive concerning architects may have to include quantitative and qualitative training requirements. So far, however, agreement is not in sight.

## Other professions

Because of difficulties the dossier on pharmacists has been deferred and it is uncertain when it will be resumed. Considerable headway in 1975 on agreements about pharmaceuticals, however, delayed for ten years since the first Directive of January 26, 1965, may help towards progress.

Meanwhile, proposals on mutual recognition of diplomas or on transitional measures affecting dentists, opticians, veterinary surgeons, chartered accountants and financial advisers, are still before the Council awaiting consideration.

## The doctors

The break-through regarding doctors occurred at the Council meeting in February 1975, when, subject to temporary reservations by Denmark, the other eight members agreed in principle to two important \*direc-

tives (finalised in June 1975), affecting both salaried and self-employed doctors.

The first directive contains:

- lists of the mutually recognised qualifications of general practitioners and specialists;
- articles of established rights;
- provisions intended to facilitate the effective exercise of the rights of establishments and freedom to provide services in respect of medical practice.

## Second directive

The second directive, on co-ordination of the provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of the activities of doctors, specifies that all member States shall ensure that access to medical practice shall be conditional on the possession of a diploma guaranteeing that the person concerned has the required specific professional and scientific knowledge, as well as adequate clinical experience. The directive also defines the minimum duration and content of training in general and specialist medicine.

The Council also agreed on two Decisions (i) establishing a Committee of Senior Officials for Public Health which will be concerned with noting and analysing any difficulties which may arise from the implementation of the directive concerning the right of establishment of doctors, and (ii) an Advisory Committee on Medical Training concerned with the level of training in the Community both for general practitioners and specialists.

*\*75/362/EEC and 75/363/EEC*

## Third countries' diplomas

The Directives only apply to *doctors trained in the member States* and not to third country diplomas. Member countries can themselves employ doctors trained outside the Community but these are not entitled, under the Directives, to benefit from the right of free movement in the Community. Commenting on this in London on 4 July 1975, Mr R. Wägenbaur, Legal Adviser to the Commission, pointed out that, despite complaints from immigrant doctors practising in Britain, the same restrictions applied to immigrant doctors in other Community

countries, to doctors who had only a post-graduate qualification awarded in a member State, and to Community nationals themselves who had received their training outside the Community.

Once the Directives had come into effect and it was seen how they were working it might be possible to consider further amendments, he said.

Meanwhile, the Commission is hoping that the doctors' agreement will prove sufficiently successful to encourage the other professions to follow suit.

## Solar laboratory to start

Eight manufacturers of solar collectors have just assigned to the Ispra Establishment of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) the task of testing, calibrating, and in some cases actually developing their products; negotiations for further co-operation are under way and requests have started to arrive at the JRC from countries outside the Community (one of these being Japan). This demonstrates the ever-increasing interest shown by European industrial firms in the work on solar energy that has been carried out by the JRC for the last three years.

In addition, the JRC has recently completed the construction of its modular solar laboratory (SSL) which from the autumn onwards will

enable European constructors to optimize their products in line with the most rigorous requirements of integrated air-conditioning (heating, storage and cooling) of living spaces.

The work is being carried out in close liaison with the 'indirect action' projects; in other words, research performed under contract, managed by the Commission, and with the projects of the International Energy Agency, the JRC providing the secretariat for the working party on 'solar energy in the home'.

Finally, the Joint Research Centre is actively proceeding with studies on a future helio-climatic testing facility which will be an exceptional development and promotional tool for European industry.

*Further information on the Community's science and research programmes will be found on pages 9 and 22-27.*



# Always right?

The Commission has just surveyed consumer attitudes in the Nine. We summarize the results.

Most of Europe's shoppers count their change, believe that advertising means higher prices, are unaware of consumer protection organisations, and think politicians don't care about their interests.

These were among the findings of the European Community's first major survey of the public's attitudes to consumer information and their habits in using it.

The survey was made in October/November 1975 in the Community's nine member countries. More than 60 questions were put to a representative sampling of 9,500 people 15 years of age and older. The survey is part of the Community's consumer protection and information programme initiated in 1975.

## Inflation

Most people (66 per cent) questioned thought that prices over the preceding 12 months had risen faster than income. Italians and Belgians felt inflation most. Denmark was the only country where most of the public felt they were doing well, or not badly, at beating inflation. While large families and low wage earners were most conscious of their loss of purchasing power, every wage group and families of all sizes were feeling pinched.

Asked how they would change

their buying habits if inflation continued, 82 per cent of those questioned said they would shop at cheaper stores, 78 per cent said they would put off major purchases (furniture, cars, televisions), and 75 per cent said they would look for special offers or sales.

## Disgruntled

Four out of 10 Europeans felt victimised when making purchases or using public services. In Italy, many more people (53 per cent) felt put upon than elsewhere in the Community. The pollsters viewed consumer dissatisfaction as an expression of dissatisfaction with society in general.

## Wary

Eight persons out of 10 said they often count their change after making a purchase. Two-thirds often check the addition of a bill, the unit price, and the labelled price. Only four people out of 10 check scale weights.

## Information

Four out of 10 people thought they were well enough informed to make major purchases and five out of 10 to shop for food.

Differences between countries were much more pronounced than differences between social groups in the



same country. Danish and German consumers seemed more aware of being well informed, while Belgians and Italians were below the Community average.

## **Advertising**

Most European consumers were critical of advertising. Only half the public thought ads gave consumers any useful information. Nearly eight people out of 10 thought that advertising often made them buy things they didn't really need or that advertising was often deceptive about product quality. Six out of 10 people thought that heavily advertised brands often sold for more than brands that were advertised seldom or not at all.

## **The Media**

For consumer information, Europeans prefer television, radio, and daily newspapers, in that order. Weeklies and magazines come last. Highly educated people are more critical of all the media than are the less educated.

The Danes, the Germans, and the British are slightly more in favour of these media than are the French, Belgians, and Italians.

Eight people out of 10 would like to see television programmes developed specifically to inform consumers.

Publications specialising in consumer information are not well known. One consumer out of two doesn't know these publications exist.

## **Consumer organisations**

Only one person out of four had any precise information on consumer organisations. Knowledge of these organisations was weakest in Italy where nearly seven people out

of 10 were uninformed.

Membership of consumer organisations was low – 2 per cent of the people interviewed – but 15 per cent of them would 'definitely' and 32 per cent would 'probably' be willing to pay \$7 a year to join one.

## **Testing**

More than half the people interviewed knew something about comparative testing of products and had confidence in the results. Of those who knew about comparative testing, one out of two said it had affected their buying decisions.

## **Public authorities**

By a large majority, Europeans favoured wider publication of the results of comparative product tests and the creation of local centres to consider complaints from consumers.

## **Political parties**

Six out of 10 persons interviewed had a political party. In this group only one out of 10 thought the party defended consumers' interests 'very well'.

Only in Belgium and Ireland did the majority of persons interviewed not feel an affinity to any political party. Among those who felt close to a political party, only the Danes felt that the party looked after the consumers' interests.

## **Europe**

Earlier polls showed that Europeans are becoming increasingly interested in consumer questions. In this respect, six to eight persons out of 10 in every member country but the United Kingdom (50 per cent) and Denmark (41 per cent) think the European Community is a 'good thing' for the consumer.



# Eliminating trade barriers

## New moves to strengthen the Common Market

The Community recently approved 18 Directives to eliminate technical barriers to trade.

The Directives concern motor vehicles, tractors, measuring instruments, interference caused by electrical equipment, pressure vessels, cosmetic products and a number of dangerous substances. Altogether, the Community has now issued 80 such Directives.

Public authorities have traditionally and increasingly concentrated on protecting consumers against fraud in trade (control of weights and measures) and securing personal safety in the use of motor vehicles (brakes, lights, etc.) or equipment such as boilers, gas cylinders, or even cosmetic products. However, all these national measures concerning the protection of consumers and personal safety create technical barriers to trade within the Community if, by reason of their national character, they remain divergent. To achieve a genuine common market, i.e. free movement of goods, it is essential therefore that such technical barriers be eliminated.

The progress made in this sector, which is a reward for many years of effort and perseverance, strengthens the internal market of the Community and hence its internal cohesion. Successes such as these cannot but have beneficial consequences,

both because of the direct effects of the decisions taken and because they enabled Europe to assert its identity still more clearly *vis-a-vis* its economic partners.

To illustrate the significance of this decision, one need only refer to the difficult GATT negotiations on the elimination of non-tariff barriers, which are a weapon at least as effective as custom duties in protecting national markets. One specific instance of the repercussions abroad of harmonisation measures in the field of technical regulations is the Japanese authorities' recent recognition of the equivalence of harmonised Community specifications and controls in the car industry with their own specifications, an event which will open up fresh opportunities for the Community industry in this sector.

### Variety not Uniformity

Harmonisation, extending as it does to a great variety of products (the annual turnover of Community industries directly involved amounts to tens of thousands of millions of units of account) benefits above all 250 million Community consumers and users. By enabling firms to offer their products over the entire Community area, it encourages competition (by increasing the range and

quality of products offered) and customer choice and also opens the way for economies of scale and price.

Furthermore, the Council managed, as the Commission had in its proposal, to maintain at a high level the requirements which the products in question must satisfy to protect and sometimes even raise the quality of life. Earlier national regulations had of course also aimed at protecting health and safety, but their differences had too often turned them into tools of commercial protectionism.

This Council Decision is important both because of its effects – for it enables trade barriers to be eliminated while ensuring that the quality of the products placed on the market will be maintained at a high level – and its wide field of application. With these 18 Directives, the number of Council Directives on the elimination of technical barriers to trade in industrial products is increased by nearly one-third to 80.

## **Motor vehicles**

With the adoption of the eight 'lighting' Directives almost all the work of harmonisation in the field of motor vehicles will have been completed.

All that will remain will be a number of Directives, forming an entire set, on ensuring the safety of driver and passengers (safety windows, seat belts and head rests).

## **Tractors**

All member States now set as their target a sound level considered internationally to be the maximum permissible (90 dB (A) or 86 dB (A), depending on the measuring methods used) and that the deadline for attainment of the target will be

decided by the procedure of the Commission's Committee on Adjustment to Technical Progress, acting by a qualified majority.

## **Measuring instruments**

With the adoption of the four Directives on clinical thermometers, electrical energy meters, alcohol tables and alcoholometers, a total of 20 Council Directives now covers the field of metrology at Community level.

The Council Directives are based on the work of international organisations (e.g. CENELEC and OIML) and are therefore set in a framework far larger than the Community, since the activities of these organisations extend to the whole of the industrialised world.

This means that not only will barriers due to mutual misunderstanding have disappeared within the Community but the solution adopted will exclude protectionism and will facilitate exports.

## **Interference (electrical equipment)**

The two Directives on radio interference produced by:

electrical household appliances such as irons, hair dryers, toasters, razors, etc.

fluorescent lighting

are the first of a series of Directives on all types of electrical appliances and machines which are subject to analogous national regulations. The harmonisation measures are total, i.e. existing national regulations are replaced by common European regulations.

## **Pressure vessels**

The framework Directive in ques-

tion represents a first measure of harmonisation in this field, after years of effort at the world level, and will influence work on a whole series of special Directives currently under examination by the Council or in preparation at the Commission.

## **Cosmetic products**

This Directive provides for total harmonisation, i.e. the replacement of existing national regulations by Community provisions. Its aim is to ensure that the health of users is protected and that they are better informed regarding the constituents and method of use of the product concerned.

During the Council discussions, the member States and the Commission succeeded in establishing 'positive' lists, in particular of the types of colouring substance permitted and the conditions governing their use, side by side with the 'negative' lists of banned products.

## **Dangerous substances**

The member States undertake with this Directive to impose a total ban on monomer vinyl chloride as an aerosol propellant because of its danger to human health, and there is provision for a long-term ban by all the member States on the use of PCBs and PCTs (polychlorinated diphenyls and triphenyls).



# Disparities continue

## A summary of the first Regional Fund report

The first annual report on the operations of the Community's Regional Development Fund includes an assessment of the impact of the economic crisis on the Regional Fund. The report stresses that regional development has been made more difficult both by the aggravation of the problems of the less-favoured regions and by the changed investment priorities resulting from the structural problems now affecting the economy as a whole. It also estimates that the rate of

inflation, highest in the countries with the greatest regional problems, has meant that the 500 m.u.a. fixed in 1974 for the Fund's 1977 budget would need to be 750 m.u.a. to have the same real value in 1977.

The report stresses that the gap between the more prosperous and the poorer regions has increased rather than decreased since 1970. In that year GDP per head in the richest regions, Paris and Hamburg, was respectively four times and five times higher than in the poorest regions of

the south of Italy and the west of Ireland. In 1975, these regions were 5:1 and 6:1 respectively. A graph (see Annex I, Graph I) shows for the first time with up-to-date figures of GDP per head how the gap between Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom on the one hand and the other member States of the Community on the other, has been widening.

## **Paid up**

This first report on the Fund's activities covers a short period from its establishment in March 1975 and the adoption of the supplementary budget at the end of April, until the end of that year. Nonetheless, the grants from the Fund used up the whole of the 300 m.u.a. available for that year and payments made during the year amounted to some 91 m.u.a. Since the first application for payments was made only in November the Commission considers this situation to be very satisfactory.

## **Review**

By the time the second annual report is due to be presented in June 1977, the Commission will already have decided on the proposals it is to make to the Council for the re-examination of the Fund regulation which the latter is to carry out during that year. This illustrates how short is the period effectively available for the Community institutions and others to reach their conclusions from the experience of the Fund's initial phase and to take their decisions for the future.

Although no final judgements can be made on the basis of a few months of Fund operation at the end of last year, the Commission has drawn a number of preliminary conclusions which Mr Thomson has

asked the member States to take account of in future. The main points are:

- the principle that Fund resources must be additional to national regional development efforts is fundamental. Not all member States have yet been able to devise fully satisfactory mechanisms to show just how Fund resources are being used. The Commission looks forward to further progress in this direction during 1977, which it will follow closely.

## **Concentration**

- Fund resources should be concentrated more clearly on regions with the greatest difficulties, and on projects and sectors which will most effectively help overcome those difficulties. This is all the more important in view of the relatively limited resources available.

## **Coordination**

- Regional development programmes are crucial not only for the purposes of the Fund, but also to ensure adequate coordination between Community and national measures in the field of regional development.

## **A global policy**

The Regional Fund must not be confused with Community regional policy: it is but one instrument of that policy, though, for the present at least, one of the most important. The correction of regional disparities requires a comprehensive regional policy, implying the effective coordination of all Community general and sectoral policies, and financial instruments, both between themselves and with those national policies and measures which affect the regions.



# Community research

## £156 million for energy and the environment

The Commission recently approved a new four-year research programme for the Joint Research Centre (JRC) for submission to the Council. An important innovation is that dissipation of resources among 22 small projects has now been replaced by a plan concentrating on two major sectors of research, energy and the environment.

In framing the new programme the Commission has taken into account criticism made in the European Parliament and elsewhere that the Joint Research Centre at Ispra, Italy, was not being properly used in the interests of the Community, and had engaged in too many 'half-baked' projects which it had not the resources to complete.

The criticism arises in part from the failure of the member States to provide the Centre with effective guidelines, particularly since the original objective – to undertake civilian and commercial nuclear research – has, since the late sixties, been whittled away.

### Energy

The new Programme seeks partly to restore the earlier role in that the greater part of the *energy* research – roughly 50 per cent of the total programme – will be concerned with aspects of nuclear safety. This

subject becomes of increasing importance as more electricity-generating plant comes into operation over the next few years. The *environmental* research, in accordance with the Commission's proposed Environment Action Programme, will be concerned with atmospheric and aquatic pollution.

### Cost

The cost of the new four-year programme is estimated at £156 million (374.4m units of account) and the work will be distributed among the four units of the JRC at Ispra, Karlsruhe, Geel and Petten.

### The 'overall' concept

The Commission has sought to establish the Programme within the guidelines or 'overall concept' discussed by the Council of Ministers last December. The guidelines sought to define more precisely the kind of work to be undertaken by the Joint Research Centre based on the following principles:

the role to be played by the Centre must be one in which primary consideration is given to Community interests in the field of science and technology, but which also ensures expert help and scientific and technical advice for the formulation and implementation of national policies in the Community;

there must be drastic concentration of activities on a small number of programmes comprising specific projects with fixed objectives and deadlines;

stress must be placed on research in the energy and environment fields while also encouraging the JRC's public service role;

a rolling plan must be evolved to enable the programme to be adapted to changing techniques and needs;

there must be sufficient mobility and flexibility among staff, and adequate surveillance arrangements to ensure that the work is completed and is of high quality.

### **The proposed programme**

Within this context the Commission is proposing the following programme and allocation of resources to accomplish it.

The subjects have been assigned to the four JRC research establishments: *Ispra* (by far the largest establishment, specifically geared to nuclear research): While active in nearly all sectors of the programme, this establishment will be particularly concerned with the safety of reactors, management of nuclear materials and radioactive waste, solar energy, hydrogen, environment and resources, and services and support.

*Karlsruhe* (Germany) will take the lead in plutonium fuels and actinide research.

*Petten* (Netherlands) will work particularly on high-temperature materials.

*Geel* (Belgium): The Centre Bureau for Nuclear Measurements situated here will be responsible for the co-ordination of all work in connection with the Metre programme regarding measurements, standards and reference methods.

The Commission has also taken

steps to meet earlier criticisms that the ratio of wage to scientific and technical costs has been too high. In future this ratio will be 60:40.

The Programme will be reviewed in 1979, a year before it is due to end, to ensure that, in accordance with the principle of a 'rolling programme' there can be a smooth transition or adaptation to a further four-year programme from 1981-4.

### **Joint European Torus**

Despite urgent pressure from the Commission, the Council of Ministers has not yet decided on the site for the next stage of the Joint European Torus (JET), an experimental thermonuclear machine concerned with new nuclear fusion processes. Since 1974 work has been going on at Culham (UK) on the project design stage, but during this period it became necessary to select a site for the next phase of the project. During 1975, the Commission, having had the reports of a technical Site Committee set up for the purpose, and consulted experts from the member States, finally recommended that *Ispra* should undertake the work. The decision was based on technical and other factors, not least the availability of adequate electric supplies but so far, largely for political reasons, Ministers have been unable to agree.

In a speech in London in early June, Dr Guido Brunner, the Commissioner responsible for research, science and education, warned that unless a decision was made soon there was a danger that the team of scientists available for work on the second phase would disperse, and the head start the Community has achieved in this sector of nuclear development would be lost.

# Community research budgets

## 1. Existing programmes

Programme	JRC establishment	Cost 1975 mua	Cost 1973-6 mua
Waste processing and storage Plutonium and transplutonium elements	Ispra Karlsruhe	2.053 3.922	5.512 13.000
Materials science	Ispra	4.115	13.600
Hydrogen production	Ispra	2.032	7.400
Reactor safety	Ispra	6.258	21.716
Applied data processing	Ispra	1.747	6.050
Information analysis office	Ispra	1.502	5.100
Central bureau for nuclear measurements	Geel	6.037	20.350
Standards and reference materials	Ispra Petten	1.931 —	6.200 1.360
Environment	Ispra	4.742	15.850
Teledetection of the earth's resources	Ispra	0.508	1.420
New technologies (solar energy)	Ispra	0.886	3.050
High temperature materials	Petten	—	3.600
Plutonium and transplutonic elements*	Karlsruhe	2.604	8.650
Control and management of fissile materials*	Ispra	1.536	5.400
Operation of the HFR reactor*	Petten	6.626	23.000

\* Complementary programme not financed by all member states.

## 2. The new proposed programme

### Percentage breakdown

General Theme	Allocation of funds and personnel
Nuclear Energy: 1. Reactor safety 2. Plutonium fuels and actinide research 3. Management of nuclear materials and radioactive waste	48%



<b>General Theme</b>	<b>Allocation of funds and personnel</b>
New Sources of Energy:	
4. Solar energy	12 %
5. Hydrogen	
6. Conceptual studies on thermonuclear fusion reactors	
7. High-temperature materials	
8. Environment and resources	10 %
9. Nuclear measurements, standards and reference methods (METRE)	17 %
10. Service and support for current activities of the Commission	13 %

### **Breakdown of funds and staff**

<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Commitment for Expenditure <sup>(1)</sup> (in million u.a.)</b>	<b>Staff <sup>(2)</sup> <sup>(3)</sup></b>	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>Research Staff</b>
1. Reactor safety	92·130	440	239
2. Plutonium fuels and actinide research	41·480	209	121
3. Management of nuclear materials and radioactive waste	34·380	161	97
4. Solar energy	17·270	57	35
5. Hydrogen	16·460	78	50
6. Conceptual studies on thermonuclear fusion	2·550	14	8
7. High-temperature materials	9·190	51	36
8. Environment and resources	41·330	188	115
9. Nuclear measurements, standards and reference methods (METRE)	59·690	286	181
10. Service and support activities	59·910	221	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>374·390</b>	<b>1·705</b>	<b>998</b>

(1) expressed in constant values as at January 1, 1977

(2) excluding 183 officials made available under Article 6 (c) (ESSRO project)

(3) excluding 471 local staff



# Radiation safeguards

## The Council has just revised the Community's health protection standards

Under the EURATOM treaty the Commission is responsible for working out radiation protection standards. The member States are then obliged to adapt their legislation to conform with the directive and thus ensure that workers and the general public are not exposed to irradiation exceeding the maximum levels laid down in the directive.

The basic standards were first laid down in February 1959, within one year of the entry into force of the EURATOM Treaty, in cooperation with experts from the member States and after consultation with the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament. These standards embodied a whole collection of principles and rules inspired essentially by scientific recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

### Scope

The scope of the directive extends in principle to all the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and so to the production, processing, handling, storage, transport, disposal, etc. of natural and radioactive substances. Member States must make the reporting of such activities compulsory and in some cases subject to prior authorisation. For example,

authorisation is always required for the use of radioactive substances for medical purposes and for the addition of radioactive substances in the manufacture of foodstuffs, drugs, cosmetics and products for household use.

The directive also lays down the maximum permissible irradiation doses for various categories of workers and the general public taking into account age and occupation. Detailed procedures for monitoring of exposure to radiation levels are also laid down.

### Why improvements?

Although the basic standards in force since 1959 have ensured excellent protection, their updating and adaptation was necessary for several reasons:

- the new scientific knowledge acquired by the International Commission on Radiological Protection has led to some amendments to the guiding principles in radiological protection.
- the experience which member States have gained through practical application of the basic standards,
- the availability of information as a result of the studies and research conducted by the EEC Commission as part of its programme of research

in biology-health protection.

The revised directive keeps to the basic principles laid down in 1959 and so does not alter the *quality* of the radiological protection already provided but it introduces new methods which should result in improved medical surveillance of workers in nuclear installations and control of background radioactivity.

Likewise the scope of the standards has been extended and more precisely defined.

Thus, for the first time, the new directive provides for the limitation of doses for students and apprentices. It requires that radiation from every source to which the general public is exposed – in particular radiation to which patients are subjected in the course of medical examination and treatment and that due to objects in every day use which contain radioactive materials – should be as low as is achievable.

## Future developments

Although the total amount of exposure resulting from the peaceful use of ionizing radiation is only at present approximately 1 per cent of the radiation which the general public actually receive from the use of radiation for medical purposes and from the natural background of ionizing radiation, it is nonetheless important to ensure that the high level of radiological protection which is a feature of the nuclear sector should be maintained in the future. Also, in view of the development of nuclear energy, it is important to ensure that a balance is maintained between economic and industrial growth and the protection of workers and the general public which the standards guarantee, since the increased use of sources of ionizing

radiation need not necessarily result in increased exposure if proper precautions are taken in good time. It is therefore important to update the European basic standards now rather than wait until these developments have been realised. Member States have two years to implement the revised directive.

## Other action

In addition to the work being undertaken by the Commission in drafting and revising the basic standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against ionizing radiation, actions are also being carried out in the following fields of nuclear safety to supplement what is being done in the member States:

- protection of the environment, particularly against the effects of thermal discharges from nuclear power stations, and by processing and immobilising radioactive waste,
- ensuring the reliability of the equipment in nuclear plants,
- transport of radioactive materials,
- supervision of fissionable materials used in non-military nuclear installations in the Community,
- research programmes on radiobiology and radiation protection.

## Aerosol filtration seminar

A Seminar on high efficiency aerosol filtration in the nuclear industry will be held at Aix-en-Provence, France, on November 23-25, 1976. Details from:

Mr E. A. Hampe,  
European Commission (DGV/F/2),  
Bâtiment Jean Monnet – A2 – 078,  
Luxembourg (Grand Duchy).



# A word in your earphone

The great and famous interpreters of the days before and just after World War II were lawyers or doctors, who had had to emigrate and could no longer practise their original professions. Emigration had obliged them to become linguists, but their command of languages was accidental and their strength lay in their general culture and education. That was the case, for example, with people like Kaminker and Jacob.

## Schools

Then came the period when there was greater need of interpreters. Interpretation schools were established in Geneva, Germersheim, Heidelberg, the Sorbonne, etc. When the European Community began work, almost all our interpreters came from such schools. Today, 25 per cent of them have been trained in other ways. After normal university studies, they spend six months training with us, like the other trainees in the Commission. During this time they gain practice in consecutive and simultaneous interpretation.

We also use about 100 free-lance interpreters each day, covering roughly a third of our requirements. Many of them live in Brussels, but others come from London, Paris, Geneva, etc.

## Qualifications

The most important qualification for an interpreter is what the Germans call 'Einfühlungsvermögen' – that is the ability and aptitude to put oneself in somebody else's skin. To say what the speaker has said, sometimes better than he has said it, but nothing else, not adding anything of one's own. In order to do that, one must above all be able to listen attentively: even a few seconds distraction can be disastrous. One must be able to understand and faithfully reproduce the thought expressed. Moreover – but that goes without saying – the interpreter must be discreet.

It is a mistake, and a very widespread one, to believe that anyone who knows several languages can be an interpreter. We have done interpretation tests, believe it or not, out of French into French. Interpretation does not mean repeating a text in another language: it means distinguishing what is essential from what is not. That is where the interpreter needs a lively mind, intuition and logic. Languages, as such, come second.

That is why I rather like the remark made by a professor at the Sorbonne: 'Learning foreign languages is not in itself an intellectual training'. I have always been

convinced of that. I do not particularly like studying languages myself.\*

A knowledge of languages has nothing to do with intelligence. Obviously, it is necessary for any interpreter, but it is by no means enough.

## Enlargement

The enlargement of the original six-nation Community has, of course, brought with it two new languages – English and Danish. Many of our interpreters have enthusiastically studied them, either individually or in courses organised by the Commission. Some of them have gone to Britain or Denmark, for example to the London School of Economics, to Cambridge or to Copenhagen in order to perfect their knowledge.

## English

There is still a shortage of qualified interpreters whose mother tongue is English – and even more of those who work from languages other than French and German (i.e. Danish, Dutch, Italian). Therefore, young British and Irish graduates knowing Community languages should have their attention drawn to the possibility of attending the Commission's short training programme enabling them to acquire the necessary ability to work as a conference interpreter for the Communities in Brussels. †

## Tongues cost money

Clearly, full-scale simultaneous interpretation at meetings is a costly business. But so is the whole linguistic service. Interpretation costs about 500 million Belgian Francs a year. The cost of six-language interpretation for one meeting is about 100,000 BF a day. Such expenditure is only justified if the result is really

useful – that is when the interpreters are indispensable intermediaries between delegates who would not otherwise be able to understand each other. In fact, the interpreters sometimes find that no one is listening to them. That is why I believe that it is not always indispensable for the remarks of all speakers to be interpreted into all the Community languages. It would be acceptable if each speaker spoke in his own language and interpretation were limited to two or three, as needed. Already, this is what is done in a number of meetings.

## New problems

If and when more countries join the Community, new problems will arise and it is high time that the Commission, the other institutions and the member States realised the danger of paralysing the work of the institutions with a plethora of languages. As Ambassador Borschette told Lord Reay in the European Parliament, 'The linguistic system of the Community, with six official languages, already creates practical problems because of its complexity. Logically, these problems would be intensified by the addition of one or two more new Community languages. Any increase in the complexity of the system

*\*Madame van Hoof speaks four languages fluently.*

† *Enquiries should be addressed to:  
Short Courses for Student*

*Interpreters,  
Directorate-General for Personnel  
and Administration,  
Commission of the European  
Communities,*

*200, rue de la Loi,  
1049-Brussels,  
Belgium.*

would necessarily involve an increase in expenditure without automatically guaranteeing the quality and the efficiency that are needed.

In view of the shortage of linguists, mainly qualified interpreters, who would be needed to complete the existing teams, there would be a real threat of the widespread use of 'relays' which would endanger good communication.

## Each his own

Without precluding the real possibility of finding a satisfactory solution to these problems, it might be interesting to think about a less rigid system which would enable everyone to speak his own language, interpretation, however, being only in the most widely understood languages. Obviously such a system should be conceived with the necessary flexibility to allow for any particular situation.

'As far as translation is concerned, however, it is obvious that all Community rules and regulations, since they apply directly to every citizen in our member States, must be translated into each of the official languages'.

## Women

Of the total of 266 interpreters on the staff of the Commission, 166 are women. I think that this is the only service, apart from translation, where the role of women is so great. Why? My personal view – which not everyone shares – is that the interpreting profession is more attractive to women than to men because it is not essentially creative and because it demands more intuition and feeling and less initiative. Moreover, it enables one to follow other pursuits.

Still, despite what I have said, it is notable that the very greatest interpreters have been men. This is a little like the greatest cooks. But that, of course, is a personal view.

## Anonymity

The biggest danger to the interpreter is anonymity. Unfortunately, our work is becoming more and more anonymous. The fact that most meetings have simultaneous interpretation tends to identify the interpreter with the technical machinery.

Even so, every day is different, and the interpreter, like a good actor, ought always to have a touch of stage fright. Since no trace of his work remains (*scripta manent, verba volant*) he has constantly to prove himself and his ability. It is no good having been brilliant yesterday and mediocre today. His reputation has to be re-made every day.

## Story

All interpreters have their favourite stories. I remember particularly something that happened to me in a meeting of the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community. I was simultaneously interpreting a Dutch M.P. who was attacking the then President of the High Authority René Mayer. He called M. Mayer a technocrat. No sooner had I interpreted what he had said than René Mayer presented himself behind my booth and said, 'I should never have believed that you could call me a technocrat. It's outrageous. I shall never forget what you said.' For me, this confusion of the interpreter with the speaker was a splendid compliment.

*Acknowledgements: Staff Courier, Commission of the European Communities, no. 371 of May 21, 1976.*

**continued from back page.**

Industrial Injuries benefit may be able to obtain a wider range of care. In some cases, also, sickness benefit can be claimed if application is made within three days to the local sickness institution (see next column).

## **Form E.111**

Entitlement to any refund on payment for treatment, however, depends on presentation of the E.111 (or equivalent) form. If this has not been obtained in advance and medical treatment is required, the local sickness institution should be asked to obtain the form by contacting the Overseas Group, DHSS, Newcastle upon Tyne NE98 1YX. This must be done before leaving the country, but can obviously result in difficulties and delays.

## **Variations in procedure**

Provided the right procedures are followed and those seeking treatment go to doctors recognised by local sickness insurance offices, medical treatment in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Irish Republic, Italy and the Netherlands is free, though dental treatment may require partial payment.

Elsewhere the treatment has to be paid for, but can usually be at least partially refunded, provided form E.111 and such local documents as are required are produced before leaving the country.\*

*\*Details are given in the DHSS Leaflet SA28 available from all local DHSS offices.*

## **Where to get the information**

The next column lists the places where information can be obtained regarding medical treatment.

### **Belgium**

Regional offices of the Auxiliary Fund for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance (Caisse Auxilaire d'Assurance Maladie-Invalidité). Head Office: 10, Boulevard St. Lazare, 1030 Brussels.

Alternatively, Friendly Societies (Mutualités).

### **Denmark**

The social and health division of the local council, or the National Social Security Office (Sikringsstyrelsen), (Aebeløgade 1, Postbox 2566, 2100 Copenhagen).

### **France**

Local Sickness Insurance offices (Caisses Primaires d'Assurance-Maladie). In Paris: the Social Security International Relations Service (Service des Relations Internationales de la Sécurité Sociale), 84 rue Charles Michel, St. Denis (93).

### **Federal Republic of Germany**

Local sickness insurance offices (Allgemeine Ortskrankenkassen – known as AOK) normally open Monday to Friday mornings only.

### **Ireland**

The Health Board of the area in which you are staying.

### **Italy**

Any of the local offices of the National Institute for Sickness Insurance (Istituto Nazionale per l'Assicurazione Contro le Malatti – known as INAM).

### **Luxembourg**

The National Sickness Insurance Fund for Manual Workers (Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie des Ouvriers), 10 Rue de Strasbourg, Luxembourg, or its local offices.

### **Netherlands**

The Netherlands General Sickness Insurance Fund (Algemeen Nederlands Onderling Ziekenfonds – known as ANOZ) Kaap Hoordreef 24-28, Utrecht.



# Medical help for travellers

## What you can get and how to get it

Provided they make the proper arrangements in advance, most people visiting Community countries for a short time, e.g. on holiday or business are entitled, if they are taken ill or have an accident, to receive medical treatment on the same terms as the people of those countries.

This does not mean that treatment will necessarily be free as under the British National Health Service; but, if not, and provided proper procedures are followed, only a small percentage of the costs will be borne by the visitor.

### Worth studying

The Commission is about to produce a revised version of Community guides on social security and medical arrangements covering those who live, work or holiday in Community countries other than their own. Meanwhile the Department of Health and Social Security has recently published a revised version of their useful leaflet SA 28 entitled "Medical Treatment for Visitors to E.E.C. Countries" available from all local DHSS offices, advising British nationals holidaying within the Community how to avail themselves of these arrangements in case of illness or accident. It is worth careful study before venturing across the Channel.

### Points to remember

In general, only those and their dependants covered by Class I national employment insurance or in receipt of benefit, e.g. retirement or disablement pension, are eligible to participate in the arrangements. Self-employed or non-employed people are not eligible unless they fall in the above category. If not covered by private insurance they are liable to pay the full cost of treatment. But work is proceeding towards a Commission proposal to cater for the self-employed.

Unless they are visiting Denmark or the Irish Republic, British nationals entitled to participate should, *before they go*, obtain an Entitlement Certificate (E.111) from the local Social Security office. This should be done some weeks in advance, and the form will be valid from the date of issue to one month after the expected date of return. Slightly different forms are needed if dependants are going abroad alone, or make frequent trips abroad, or are going to the Federal Republic of Germany.

### Treatment abroad

Normally a visitor is only entitled to treatment for an ailment requiring immediate attention, though pensioners or someone in receipt of **continued inside back cover (p31)**