

Europe

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‘It is no longer
possible to put
off the day of
reckoning...

The exhaustion
of our own resources
has put our
backs against
the wall’



— Commission President Gaston Thorn

**Euroforum special:
Countdown to Athens**



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Editor-in-Chief: George Scott
Associate Editor: Denis Thomas
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Belfast Office: Windsor House,
9/15 Bedford Street, Belfast BT2 7EG
Tel. (0232) 240708

Cardiff Office: 4 Cathedral Road,
Cardiff CF1 9SG
Tel. (0222) 371631

Edinburgh Office: 7 Alva Street,
Edinburgh EH2 4PH
Tel. (031) 225 2058

Associated editions:

Europe, 2100 M Street, NW,
Suite 707, Washington DC 20037, USA
Tel. 202 8629500

Europe, 350 Sparks Street, Suite 1110, Ottawa,
Ontario, Canada K1R 7S8.

Tel. (613) 238-6464

Community Report, 39 Molesworth Street,
Dublin 2, Ireland
Tel. 712244

30 Jours d'Europe, 61 rue des Belles
Feuilles, 75782 Paris Cedex 16,
France. Tel. 501 58 85

Comunità Europea, Via Poli 29,
00187 Rome, Italy. Tel. 678 97 22

EF-avisen Højbrohus, Østergade 61,
Post Box 144, 1004 Copenhagen K,
Denmark. Tel 14 41 40/14 55 32

EG Magazin, Zitelmannstrasse 22,
5300 Bonn, W. Germany
Tel. 23 80 41

Comunidad europea, Serrano, 41-5 a planta
Madrid-1, Spain
Tel. 474 11 99

Europaiki Koinotis, 2 Vassilissis Sofias,
T.K. 1602, Athens 134, Greece
Tel. 743 982/3/4

Europa-bericht, EUR info,
Archimedesstraat 73,
1040 Brussel, Belgium
Tel. 235 4178

Echos de l'Europe, Bâtiment Jean Monnet,
Luxembourg-Kirchberg
Tel. 43011

Avrupa Topluluğu, 13 Boğaz Sokak
Kavaklıdere, Ankara, Turkey
Tel. 27 61 45

The fight to free the Market

Frans Andriessen, commissioner in charge of competition policy, talks to James Hogan on the conflict between Community rules and the efforts by member states to keep a grip on their own markets

Frans Andriessen is the man most likely to find himself caught between the devil and the deep blue sea when it comes to enforcing the competition rules and developing competition policy along the lines set out in the Rome treaty. This is because the competition rules, unlike many other Community rules, are directly applicable in member states and can be enforced and policed by the Commission itself. Thus the Commission may be torn between two causes – the cause of fair competition across the Community and the need for governments to support industries in need. Mr Andriessen explains where he draws the line.



'We don't take a completely negative stance by initiating action against member governments or individual enterprises merely to prevent any kind of technical infringement of the competition rules. For instance, we are quite prepared to accept certain types of cooperation which will increase the competitiveness of industries in the Community.'

But if governments start giving state aids, or companies establish cartels, simply to eliminate competition, then we have to be stringent in the way we apply the rules.'

The Commission is particularly keen to see that state aids are not used by member states to entice potential investors away from their partners. And in its 12th report on competition policy the Commission goes as far as saying that state intervention can be a hazardous business which poses a threat to the very unity of the common market.

Another serious problem for the Commission's competition directorate, Mr Andriessen explains, is the slow rate of progress in the completion of the common market itself. So far the only fully completed aspect of the common market is the abolition of customs tariffs between member states. But many other barriers to free trade remain. One example is the different taxation on passenger cars in the Community, which Mr Andriessen singles out among the matters which he believes are inhibiting the development of competition policy.

'The differences in taxation result in different markets, and if we don't succeed in harmonising these taxes, then we shall be failing in one of our main commitments which is to provide European consumers with the widest available choice of products in the market.'

Member states' different vehicle type approval regulations also inhibit the development of a free distribution system, Mr Andriessen says: yet another example of the close inter-relationship between competition policy and the internal market conditions. But neither Mr Andriessen nor his competition directorate staff are daunted by such complexities.

'From the very beginning of the common market,' he stresses, 'the Commission was empowered to apply the competition rules which are clearly set out in the treaty. That means that a policy of free competition in the Community has to be pursued, even if the condition of the internal market with all its imperfections is not what we would like it to be.'

But he admits that not enough has been done to free the internal mar-

ket of constraints, even if the development of competition policies rolls on slowly but inexorably towards the Community's goal – a totally restriction-free market.

Unlike cartels and state aids, there is no clear cut remit in the treaty for the Commission to stamp out mergers which threaten to distort intra-Community trade. And at the moment there seems to be little hope for the Commission's ten-year-old proposed regulation getting through the net for some years, Mr Andriessen confesses. The problem is that the proposals have been blocked by the council of ministers, while the European Parliament, whose views must be taken into account, dislikes a modified version put forward by the Commission.

Mr Andriessen's task now is to keep the proposals on the table somehow. He has one idea up his sleeve. 'We are seriously studying the legal possibilities of using the competition articles in the treaty to get a solid grip on community mergers. It is a complicated legal exercise which is now under way, but the idea is to gain control over mergers if we cannot push through a regulation. However, I would like to make it clear that we are only interested in mergers which have an intra-Community effect, not those mergers which only affect trade in one member state.'

The same intra-Community principle applies to state aids, Mr Andriessen adds. Financial assistance given to a small local enterprise is unlikely to have any detrimental effect on intra-Community trade. Indeed, the Commission claims to be going out of its way to help out.

As Mr Andriessen explains, 'quite a lot of exceptions are made for small and medium sized firms in general, to help them compete and develop their activities. In taking a generally favourable line vis-a-vis the small and medium sized enterprises, we include a certain amount of flexibility in the application of the competition rules. The objective here is not to increase competition between smaller enterprises but to create a situation where it becomes easier for them to prosper.'

Defending the Commission against suggestions that the procedures for dealing with competition infringements are too slow, and that the progress of competition policies is taking too long, Mr Andriessen has some clear answers.

'On state aids,' he maintains, 'member states are clearly moving in the wrong direction. But the Commission has made progress, though perhaps it could have done more, despite the fact that member states

'A policy of free competition has to be pursued, even if the condition of the internal market is not what we would like it to be'

tend to think that they have a right to grant state aids as and when they like. They have no such rights under the treaty which they have signed. Moreover, the Commission has a free hand to approve all state aids and make sure they are compatible with the aims of the common market.

'As far as articles 85 and 86 are concerned, I think we have certainly used our powers pretty well to deal with cartels and other restrictive operations. But you have to remember that we are sometimes at odds with the wishes of individual member governments, particularly when it comes to state aids.'

'For example, the Commission is sometimes not told of their plans to grant state aids until they are underway, even though we should be involved from the very beginning. The Commission must be informed so that we can make the Community's position clear.'

But Mr Andriessen is philosophical in the long term. 'Bearing in mind the interdependence between competition policy and other Community policies, I don't think we can say that there will ever be a complete and perfect common market as envisaged in the treaty. That treaty began a process, and that process is by nature a continuing one, not one which can be neatly wrapped up within a given time limit.'

How Europe's medical aid is reaching Poland

The plight of Poland's health services lends urgency to aid schemes such as the Medical Aid to Poland Fund, whose secretary, Dr JOANNA ZAKRZEWSKA, has given us this report

Over the last few years the Polish health service has been facing increasing difficulties, which have been worsened by recent events. The situation is very grave, and there has been little improvement over the past year. The economic situation has not permitted more funds to be allocated to the health service, and so shortages remain. They are made worse by non-replacement of spare parts.

The growing economic crisis in Poland has inevitably been reflected in the standard of medical care in Poland. Foreign currency has become very scarce, and cuts in spending have hit all the public services, including the health service. The running-down of the pharmaceutical industry in the mid 1970s has left Poland almost totally dependent on imports. Over 50 per cent of medical supplies were previously imported, often from the West.

Since February 1982 Medical Aid for Poland has sent 50 transports to various parts of Poland. Each transport is accompanied by a Polish-speaking escort, who is often medically qualified. This has enabled us to obtain some idea of the problems facing the Polish Health Service.

Statistics on health trends are virtually unobtainable and so assessment of the situation is often subjective. However, it is believed that the infant mortality figures for 1981 show a significant rise from 22 per 1,000, to 27 and even 29 per 1,000 in some rural areas. These reflect not only the hospital care of mothers and babies but also the social services' increasing inability to cope with the lack of baby milk, cleaning agents, antibiotics etc.

Accidental injuries to babies, toddlers and children have increased considerably, as little children are being left alone at home while mothers go out to work or spend time in queues.

The pharmaceutical industry has begun producing drugs, but it in no way supplies the quantities needed. Many of the raw materials have also to be imported. More 'pharmacies of gift medicines' (under the auspices of the Church Charity Commission) have now been

set up, with centres in Warsaw, Katowice, Cracow, Poznan and Lodz. They are staffed by pharmacists, who are often paid by the Ministry of Health; but all their supplies are from the Western aid programmes sent to the Church Charity Commission. In one hospital of 5,000 syringes, only 2,000 were made in Poland; 600 million needles are needed annually, but only 173 million a year are produced in Poland. The Ministry of Health acknowledges that the health service is going to be dependent on Western aid for some time to come.

Numerous hospitals have been visited by doctors and other escorts from the Fund. Conditions vary from town to town. Institutes and specialist hospitals are generally better supplied, but they also have large gaps in their stocks.

Overcrowding is a very severe problem: 56 beds for every 10,000 people. A ward which in England would have five or less beds, in Poland has ten. It is quite common for patients

'A ward which in England would have five or six beds in Poland has ten'

to be lying in corridors, even to the extent that dying patients cannot be given a quiet corner in which to spend their last hours.

Due to overcrowding in children's wards, visits by parents are restricted. There is no visiting at all for short-stay patients. Long-stay patients may be allowed one hour twice a week. Everyone is aware of the potentially damaging psychological effects of separation, but it is the only way to reduce infection rates

when there is a lack of disinfectants and antibiotics.

Life on the wards is not easy. Medical staff and nurses have to improvise and make the best of what they can. In addition to the obvious deprivation, there are many unseen costs such as the stress of working under such conditions. A surgeon may be unable to perform an operation due to lack of materials. Two nurses may have to look after 70 post-operative patients including one on a ventilator.

Lack of cleaning agents has led to a marked increase in disease such as dysentery, scabies and lice. The re-use of disposable syringes and needles has resulted in hepatitis becoming a very serious problem, even for those coming to hospital for a relatively minor operation. Tuberculosis is rising, especially among the young: 545 under-14-year olds died from TB in 1981.

'Milk products are in extremely short supply, and very hard to come by'

Surgeons' gloves are only disposed of once they fall apart. In some places only the chief surgeon will wear gloves and his assistants will manage without. Sutures are used to the last millimetre and all rubber products such as Foley catheters, drains and suction catheters, are like gold. Orthopaedic surgeons often lack their basic materials of plaster of Paris and bandages.

Treatment of cancer patients is becoming a very serious problem. At the cancer institute in Warsaw the two radiotherapy machines run non-stop all day treating up to 300 patients daily. Even with such an output patients have to wait 7 to 8 hours for treatment, and it takes several weeks to put them on the treatment list. Often, such a long wait jeopardises all chances of a cure. Lack of pain-killers, and strict prescribing laws for strong analgesics means that some patients suffer a great deal of pain.



'Of the 53 trucks which we have so far sent to Poland, eight have been funded by the European Community'

Drugs remain in very short supply, especially antibiotics. It is quite commonplace for a patient's relative to be told that, unless drugs can be acquired from elsewhere, treatment cannot be carried out.

Maternity hospitals are under considerable strain. Babies' bottles, teats and sanitary towels are virtually unobtainable. Milk products are in extremely short supply and very hard to come by, even if one has the money.

Great reliance is placed on British and American medical journals, but since the beginning of 1981 subscriptions to these journals have been cut drastically throughout the country. Odd numbers only are coming into libraries, and many journals lie unbound as one or two numbers are missing. Medical textbooks are scarce, and mostly can only be used as reference books in order to enable maximum usage.

After initial problems with transporting medical journals to a country where all printed matter is under suspicion, Medical Aid for Poland is now sending out recent journals on a regular basis, and they are gratefully accepted. There remains a great shortage of medical literature in Poland. Even obtaining a photocopy of an article requires permission and the filling in of at least three forms. Many doctors feel that research is impossible at present, and so no progress is occurring in this vital field. Teaching of medical students presents untold difficulties.

Medical aid from the West is of vital importance if Polish hospitals are to continue functioning. The aid received may be as great as 40 per cent of total hospital supplies, 80 per cent of which comes through the Church Charity Commission. The list of things needed remains basically unchanged: syringes, needles, drains, sutures, gloves, plaster of Paris, catheters, cleaning and disinfectant agents, antibiotics and first-line drugs.

As well as donations, goods in kind are very welcome. The Department of Health and Social Security has been asked to donate items which are no longer needed and which are due for destruction, and yet may still be of value in Poland. Over 285,000 body-worn hearing aids now obsolete in Britain have been taken over to Poland. In connection with the changeover to U100 insulin, the British Diabetic Association is helping to collect old syringes and insulin. Pharmaceutical firms are asked to cut prices and supply items that




for one reason or another cannot be sold here. And the EEC are continuing to finance programmes of help in many different fields.

To date, the European Community has made three grants, distributed via four groups: Caritas; Red Cross; Protestant Churches; and a fourth group comprising 19 different charitable agencies. All such aid is sent to the Polish Church Charity Commission, and each truck is escorted by an English-speaking courier, who not only ensures that the aid is safely delivered but also brings back a detailed report from the region visited. Among such escorts are nurses and doctors, whose reports

on their return enable the Fund to review the latest medical situation in Poland.

European Community aid comes with certain conditions attached. It must be delivered within one month to named places. Three quotations must be obtained. Emphasis is placed on smaller items rather than on heavy equipment. And the aid must be financed in advance.

Of the 53 trucks which have so far been sent to Poland, eight have been funded by the EEC's Aid to Poland grants. The total aid sent is now over £4 million, of which £192,809 (336 ECUs) has been provided by the EEC. 



Left: loading up in Hayes, Middlesex. Right: distribution on arrival, and a typically overcrowded children's ward in Kielce.

Doing business with Latin America

PETER DREYER looks at the present state of relations with a part of the world which is exporting to Europe far more than it lets in

Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the European Communities Commission, said in his opening address at the Sixth Interparliamentary Conference between the European Community and Latin America that the EEC will do its utmost to step up cooperation with Latin America.

This effort, he added, would centre on the existing cooperation agreements, the framework agreement with the Andean Pact—which it was hoped would be concluded this year—and the purposeful application of the Community's development policy instruments.

It was in the same spirit of constructive cooperation that the final declaration of the Interparliamentary Conference was drawn up. It listed many general and concrete measures and objectives in the political, economic and cultural field which would contribute greatly to strengthening existing links between Europe and Latin America.

But can and will they be realised? That is in fact the key question. In one way or another it has been that for many years already.

Developing the partnership between Europe and Latin America—a point also made by Mr Haferkamp—is of great interest to both sides. In economic policy terms, for instance, the national economies of both sides can be viewed as complementary to a large extent, European capital and knowhow being available on one side and the dynamic Latin American market and resources potential there on the other.

In practice, however, and for many years things have not as a rule conformed to this model. The harsh reality is that, to put it bluntly, the relationship has often been a disappointing one. This is the case despite the repeated calls, for instance in June 1982 by the European Council of EC heads of state and government, for improved cooperation between Europe and Latin America.

It is not that there are no contacts. In most years since the Community was founded,

there have been regular meetings at least once and at times even twice per year between the Commission and the Latin American ambassadors accredited to it. But there is more than a suspicion floating around in Brussels that usually these get-togethers have been distinctly sterile exercises in frustration.

In part this has been so because the twenty Latin American republics, or those participating in the gatherings, rarely agreed among themselves on common viewpoints, or were otherwise able to operate as a unit. Then, too, as judged by Commission representatives, attitudes and relations of the different republics as regards individual Community countries also tend to vary.

Last but not least, and for more than two decades now, Latin American countries have harboured resentments where Europe is concerned. Mostly these revolve around the belief that the European Commission is not interested in Latin America as a whole, and that it considers the relationship with those countries as rather less important than that with other parts of the outside world. More specifically, the Latin Americans think (or suspect) that the Commission tends to discriminate against them in favour of its associates in Africa.

Thus, while it cannot be proved statistically, they have always seen themselves at a disadvantage where their shipments to Europe of such tropical products as coffee, cocoa and bananas are concerned. In addition, their temperate zone produce exports of beef, cereals and so forth have naturally been affected

'The massive deficit must be attributed largely to import restrictions'

adversely by the Common Agricultural Policy but these are only a small fraction of their overall sales.

In actual fact, during most of the past twenty years, and without interruption since 1976, the Community has imported more from the twenty Latin American countries than it sold to them.

In 1976, with imports at 8.3 billion ECUs and exports of 7.7 billion, there was a trade deficit of 600 million ECUs by 1980, with imports and exports up to respectively 16.7 and 15.0 billion, this shortfall had risen to 1.7 billion ECUs.

Though it dipped once more to 700 million ECUs in 1981, the figure soared to 5.3 billion in 1982, causing considerable concern in Brussels. For the drastic decline in European exports to Latin America which brought about this massive deficit must be attributed largely to import restrictions introduced by a number of Latin American governments.

In these circumstances, for the Latin Americans to conjure up a protectionist image clear-

ly makes very little sense. They have, however, another argument up their collective sleeves. In the 1960s, they say, Latin America tended to supply around 11 per cent of the Community's total import needs. Gradually, this share has shrunk to between five and six per cent.

The Commission does not accept the implications of such reasoning, however. In the first place, Community import values during the past ten years have been inflated enormously by the surge of oil prices; yet Latin America, excepting some fairly recent shipments from Venezuela, has not sold oil or oil products to the Europeans.

Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, there is the substantial structural disequilibrium of trade between the two groups. It lies in the fact that between 75 and 80 per cent of Latin American exports to the Community consists of raw materials and farm produce, and that the prices of many of these commodities have been depressed in recent years. In the opinion of Brussels, things would be much easier if more Latin American countries had tried harder to diversify their exports. 'The Community's approach to Latin America', says a Commission official, 'fairly resembles that to the ASEAN countries (in South-East Asia). But the latter are faring distinctly better because they have achieved a high degree of industrial diversification.'

But, when all is said and done, the economic benefits accruing to Latin America through their connection with the European Community are far from negligible. In absolute terms, for instance, it is not doing too badly on sales of farm produce: since 1966 its share of total EC agricultural imports from third countries has more than doubled.

Furthermore, for all that Latin Americans are wont to look askance at the 'special relationship' between the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) nations and the EC, the latter regularly imports more from them than it does from those Lomé states.

It is to Latin America that most European capital investments in the Third World flow. In turn, nearly 30 per cent of external direct investment reaching Latin America originates in Europe.

Taking all these elements together, the conclusion appears correct that solid and substantial economic ties do exist; and that there is a good potential for strengthening them additionally.

But, heeding Mr Haferkamp's warning, the relationship will profit more from pragmatic and limited actions than from over-ambitious and grandiose schemes which could only result in disappointment. The demand, occasionally voiced, for a comprehensive framework agreement between the EC and Latin America is a case in point. Were it willing to negotiate such an agreement, with whom could the Community conduct such negotiations? Internal integration in Latin America has not yet advanced to the point where there is any one body with which the Commission could talk as an equal. ☐

Stand by for the cable invasion

As the locomotive driving the development of cable television in Western Europe steams up, a host of American companies are scurrying around the platform for a chance to board the train.

America's leading suppliers see the chance for a new expansive market for their product. Equipment suppliers look at West European cable prospects as an opportunity to take part in the advancement of technology as well as reap financial benefits.

According to CIT Research, a London-based consulting firm, the cable television industry in Western Europe could grow from a \$1.5 billion-a-year business to a \$5 billion-a-year industry by the end of the decade. Estimates of the number of West European television households that will have cable by 1990 range from a low of 13 million (roughly double the current number) to 47 million.

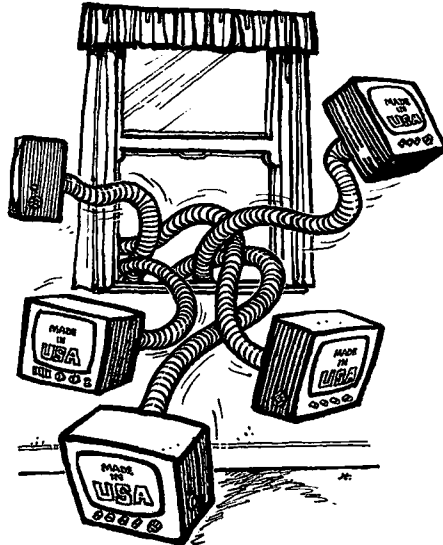
In England, the Government has given the go ahead for limited cable system development by private companies as early as this fall. Soon to follow is expected to be France, where the Government forecasts a state-built cable system serving 1.5 million homes in three years and another 1 million television households by 1992. Experts predict that not far behind will be the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. Switzerland, Belgium, and the Netherlands are already substantially 'cabled'.

The most sanguine projections about the size of the West European cable market pale in comparison to the opportunities the American companies have within their own national borders. The American cable industry has revenues of \$5 billion this year – the same amount projected for Western Europe seven years from now. Industry specialists are predicting the American cable industry will be a \$20-billion business by the end of the decade.

Still, the prospects in their own country aren't enough to satisfy the gargantuan appetites for more opportunities for the American companies. American movie studios are excited by the prospects for geometrically increased channel capacities in West European countries accustomed to just two or three channels of television for only part of the day. Hardware manufacturers who outfitted American cable systems with 1983 technology are watching what sort of advancements will develop through the construction of 1986 and 1987 systems in Western Europe.

Most American investment in West European cable television is bound to come in the form of joint-venture partnerships. It is clear that the Americans can barter their experience for help sifting through the different morasses of government regulations, currency exchanges, languages, and cultural foibles about the use of the television medium. Each European Government, recognising the develop-

GARY ROTHBART reports on the build-up in the United States for an imminent assault on Europe's wide-open market for cable TV programmes



ment of cable television as a chance to stimulate national economies and create jobs, has its own restrictions on foreign involvement.

In the software area, some of the largest American companies are banding together with leading European counterparts. United Cable Programmes partners include Rediffusion and Visionhire Cable, two of the leading cable system operators in Western Europe, Rank Trident Satellite & Cable, and Plessey. Visionhire is already partners with an American company, Viacom International, which owns and operates Showtime, America's second largest movie channel, and Viacom Cable-vision, the seventh biggest cable system operator in the United States.

Plessey already owns 13 per cent of the outstanding stock of Scientific-Atlanta, an American company with revenues of \$337 million a year and one of the world's leading manufacturers of satellite signal receiving equipment. Other American partners in United Cable Programmes are leading movie studios Paramount Pictures, Universal Pictures, and MGM/UA Entertainment Group.

The leading American cable services are independently talking to European cable operators about sale of their product on the continent. These include HBO, Showtime, the Cable Health Network, Daytime (a channel geared to women), ARTS (a cultural channel), and Nickelodeon, a channel for children. But sales opportunities for these services may be hampered by the cost of converting to the

625-line European television standard.

Some American companies have chosen to get a foot in the European door by selling licences to their products to West European companies. Zenith Radio, one of the world's largest makers of television sets with annual revenues of more than \$1.2 billion, has a licencing agreement with Solara of Finland. C-Cor Electronics, a relatively small maker of distribution products has an agreement with Scancom of Norway.


Other American companies have chosen to go the individual route by establishing their own offices or branches in European lands. M/A-Com, makers of satellite receiving equipment with revenues of \$583 million; Anixter Communications, the world's leading distributor of equipment with revenues of \$441 million a year; and Texscan, a maker of subscriber equipment with revenues of \$40 million, have all established their own branches in Western Europe.

Technological competition will come from direct-to-home broadcast satellite, which can cover all of the West European continent with

'Competition will come from direct-to-home satellite'

the beam of a single signal. That industry is expected to gear up by 1986. The American suppliers will be knocking at the direct-broadcast satellite companies' executive suites for opportunities in that future industry. Whether it is cable or direct broadcast that wins the race will ultimately depend on one question – how much money are West European television viewers willing to spend for more television?

European governments are pushing cable television, not only to create jobs and stimulate their economies, but also to build the telecommunications systems of the future post-industrial world. They are looking for systems that carry information, not reruns of Hollywood movies. American companies offering their expertise and experience really have very little history at this sort of thing themselves. The American cable industry, which grew explosively upon movies and sports, looks to Europe for guidance on information-based services such as videotex.

Technically, meanwhile, nearly all American cable systems are of the copper wire, tree and branch distribution configurations, not the more sophisticated, more expensive glass fibre star-configured systems the Europeans are planning. Both the Americans and Europeans lack a successful model to follow. And if the Americans have their way, the discovery process will be international. 

More help for the handicapped

Masures to improve the lot of Europe's handicapped are being introduced by the European Commission, which in the last year has been active in setting up a network of local groups to promote the needs of the disabled and raise public awareness.

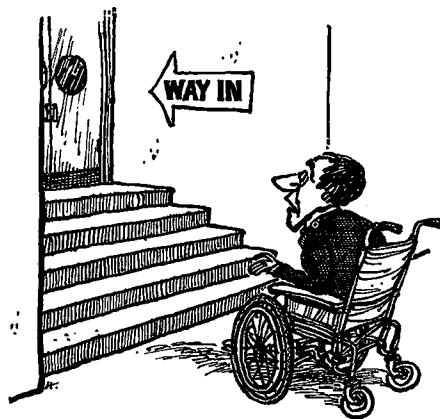
Launching this project on the 'social and economic integration of people with disabilities', Ivor Richard, Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, assured project leaders at a conference in Louvain (Belgium) on 24 May that what the Community was trying to do for the disabled was not 'some one-off act of benevolence or chance outcome of a flowering of political will during the International year of disabled people'. On the contrary, he explained, the policies now underway were an 'integral element' of the EEC's social policy.

It is true that, before the United Nations' 1981 International year of disabled people, EEC action was piecemeal. Other than European Social Fund aid for training projects, the EEC set up in 1974 a programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons; and in 1976 it started financing a series of pilot projects to adapt and build houses for the disabled. Both of these programmes have continued to the present day, and the housing scheme now has an annual budget of 1 million ECUs.

The International Year gave the needed political push to the EEC, who agreed to undertake a more ambitious programme. In March of that year the European Parliament adopted a wide-ranging resolution urging further Community action. By October, the European Commission adopted its five-year action programme which was endorsed by the EEC member states in December 1981, in the Social Affairs Council.

As its first task, the European Commission established within its services a new unit to carry out the work – the Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled People. Headed by Pat Daunt, the Bureau has spent most of 1982 doing the preparatory work. Daunt insisted that disabled people must be part of the Bureau's working team, so that their needs are better represented. This will also demonstrate that the 'disabled and able can work together'. The Bureau has already recruited what must be the Commission's first severely handicapped person – he is paralysed and in a wheelchair. A problem, however, has arisen, as the Commission's buildings are not adapted to the needs of the disabled – it is impossible to reach

The Commission's social policy now includes a commitment to action on behalf of its disabled citizens, reports REBECCA FRANCESKIDES



some parts of the buildings by wheelchair or to use common facilities. Daunt's assistant is at present forced to work in a nearby building while the Commission's offices are being adapted.

A number of the actions proposed under the five-year programme have now been launched under the Bureau's guidance, one of the most important being the network of local groups. In the action programme great stress was put on locally-based projects. The Bureau, in close cooperation with member states, has succeeded in a relatively short period, to set up 16 such projects throughout the EEC. The districts involved in the projects have a population of 150,000 to 300,000 people and have agreed to intensify schemes integrating the disabled in local life.

A team of people in each of the districts will coordinate this work, aimed at improving the employment and training opportunities of the disabled, providing better health and welfare services, adapting transport and housing in the area, promoting the use of technical aids and through local campaigns improving public awareness. This group will be helped by an advisory committee of disabled people and their families, representatives from the local authority and professional groups, as well as the social partners and voluntary organisations.

The team of workers will be funded by the European Social Fund and local authorities.

They will constantly evaluate their progress and keep in touch with their counterparts in the other areas of the Community. The aim of the scheme is not only to examine what can be achieved but also what can not be achieved, said Daunt. Their job is to work at making better provisions for the disabled. Daunt described this team as a group of 'committed professionals paid to keep trying until they get it right'.

Under the action programme, provision was made to allow the Commission to give modest financial aid to encourage European cooperations and activity of non-governmental organisations. An example of such support is a conference to be held this September by the European Committee of the Blind in Brussels. The conference will bring together groups that are now designing maps for the blind of Europe's major cities.

Up till now, there has been little coordination between the designers and different symbols were being used by the groups. The conference will aim to coordinate this work, so that all the maps use the same symbols and can be read by blind people from all the EEC member states. A competition will take place, the winner being the best designer of the area immediately surrounding the European Commission offices in Brussels.

The Bureau has also tried to ensure that the interests of disabled people are taken into account in other areas of Community policies. Through regular meetings with other Commissions services, it has been able to influence EEC activity in the areas of ergonomics and medical research, transport, consumer protection, customs union and new technologies.

The most immediate help to an estimated 20 million disabled people living in the EEC has come from the European Social Fund. The Social Fund has supported training or job creation schemes for people with disabilities. First priority was given to projects in the Community's poorer regions and to projects that in the Commission's view could serve as models for future training programmes. An increasing number of disabled people have been helped under the Fund to learn skills – in 1982, for example 66,000 handicapped persons benefited under these schemes. Almost 10 percent of Social Fund aid now goes to projects for the handicapped, and this year 152 million ECUs have been put aside for such projects – an 18 per cent increase from the 1982 funds of 124.4 million ECUs.

The Commission now hopes that as the various actions under the five-year plan are completed and concrete proposals are made, activity in the EEC member states to improve opportunities for the handicapped, will be better coordinated and intensified. The success of the Commission's programme, however, will depend on the willingness to agree the necessary funds.

'Great stress is put on locally-based projects'

What's on the minds of Europe's younger generation?

Looking ahead to the International Year of Youth (1985), and to a better understanding of young Europeans, the European Commission in April 1982 initiated an opinion survey in all ten member states, seeking answers to questions concerning their lives, attitudes, and ideas about the future. In all, 3,867

young Community citizens were interviewed in the survey. What they had to say, and the significance of their responses, is analysed in 'The Young Europeans', published last month by the European Commission office in Brussels. This is a summary of the report.

At the time of the survey (May 1982), EUROSTAT unemployment statistics were showing a figure of 3,980,000 unemployed people aged under 25 in the Community, excluding Greece. The definition of an unemployed person varies from country to country but, in every case, it only includes individuals looking for work registered by the authorities. The survey's estimate covers all young people looking for a job, whether they are registered as unemployed or not.

In answer to the question, 'What is the main reason you are unemployed?' 45 per cent gave the answer: 'There are absolutely no jobs available in my area'. Only 2 per cent gave the answer: 'I can get at least as much money on the dole as I could in a job'.

So it is not surprising if 70 per cent of young Europeans still live with their parents. If one adds the 13 per cent of young Europeans who are married, one finds that more than four out of five (83 per cent) European youths live in a family type household in the transitional sense. Non-family household types (alone, living together or sharing) account for 13 per cent of young Europeans, on average.

Women leave their parents' homes much earlier than men—at 24, more than eight out of ten women have left, compared to only six in ten men. The earlier marrying age of women partly explains the differences; but, the incidence of non-family ways of life is also higher among women than men.

More than three-quarters (78 per cent) of young Europeans say that they are in a satisfactory financial situation, despite a considerable minority (16 per cent) experiencing some difficulties.

Between the ages of 15 and 24, assessment of young people's financial situation changes, under the twin pressures of increased needs and the removal of financial protection formerly provided by parents. These two trends combine to reduce the level of satisfaction.

Moreover, this change does not take place in the same way among men and women. A noticeable fall occurs at 19 to 20 years of age for men, while satisfaction with their financial situation is seen to decrease progressively among women.

Satisfaction with prospects in personal life



BEN JOHNSON

'Job and career prospects are among the material areas of young people's lives.'

(marriage, family, etc.) rises steadily up to 23-24 years of age. However, particularly among young men, a slight fall in satisfaction is evident at 17-18, which is the age when one begins to really imagine one's personal future outside the family home.

As for love and romance, young Italians are apparently the least satisfied with their prospects in their personal life, and the Belgians and Dutch the most satisfied.

The similarity of young people's opinions of love and prospects in their personal life is due to the fact that these two main areas of emotional life are very closely connected. We are touching here, says the report, on one of the essential features of youth—the discovery of affection outside the family circle and the

'The young discover affection outside the family circle'

gradual physical expression of feelings.

Job and career prospects constitute the first of the more material areas of young people's lives: one of the areas with which young people are the least satisfied at all ages, whatever their sex. However, it is from 17-18 years of age onwards that dissatisfaction becomes really sizeable. Dissatisfaction is even more apparent among young women. One cannot but draw a parallel with the unemployment young people begin to experience around 18 years of age, to which women are more exposed.

Young people in all countries show their dissatisfaction but this is especially so in Italy, where the proportion of young people claiming that they are unemployed is the highest (17 per cent). These two factors are linked in a general way; the higher the proportion of young people in any country looking for work, the less satisfied young people are with their job and career prospects.

The main areas of young people's lives, says the report, can be put into three groups, characterised by changes in satisfaction: rela-

'Young Germans, Irish, Italians and Luxembourgers do not seem very satisfied with their prospects'

tionships with family or friends, the emotional area and the material area.

The level of satisfaction with relationships with family and friends is quite stable between 15 and 24 years of age. This area appears to be an anchor for young people. The emotional area (which includes love/romance and prospects in personal life) provides young people with increasingly keen satisfaction. Two phases seem to follow one another – the discovery of emotional affairs comes first, followed by their physical expression in living together.

The material area (taken here to include job/career prospects, housing/accommodation and holidays) seems to be strongly influenced by changes in living conditions. Several major stages seem particularly to affect changes in opinions of these material areas: the loss of long holidays when one leaves school, the taking over of one's job/career future when one begins working life or the loss of comfort when one leaves the parental home to live in more modest accommodation.

Lastly, national differences seem to be quite small in the light of these changes between the ages of 15 and 24. Only satisfaction with three areas discriminates slightly between young people in different countries: relationships with parents are particularly satisfying in Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands and Greece. Young Germans, Irish, Italians and Luxembourgers do not seem to be very satisfied with their personal prospects; and holidays are 'very satisfying' for young people in the Netherlands whereas their counterparts in Greece and the United Kingdom are less satisfied comparatively. Young people's degrees of satisfaction with other areas of life vary little between one country and another.

The level of concern about the risk of unemployment is the same among the very young (15-19) and other young people (20-24), as well as among students and those who have started working life. The concern seems to be derived more from a general impression of the state of Western societies than from economic information: the deterioration in the employment market over the past four years seems to have been barely noticed by young people, in contrast to the experience of adults.

As for the future, respondents were asked to indicate which issues, from a list of ten, they thought were most hopeful, ranging from scientific and technological developments to 'the quality of life', embracing prospects for living standards, the unification of Europe, and better understanding with the Third World.



'The level of concern is the same among the very young...'

Four sources of hope stand out clearly for both young people and adults: scientific and technological developments, understanding and goodwill among people, prospects for standard of living. Like their elders, young Europeans see two main promises for the future, when all things are considered: progress and harmony of life.

In addition to these two fundamental aspirations, two trends may be noted among young people. Firstly, the particular strength of their hopes in science, where to a certain extent one can see the influence of their studies. Secondly, young people attach less importance than adults to hopes for improving national understanding and goodwill, relationships between local and national government, and the unification of Europe. This second tendency may be explained by the fact that young people are doubtless less aware than adults of the commonality of interests be-

tween a country's citizens and between the countries of Europe: their age and personal situation mean that, more often than not, they are not employed, do not pay taxes, and – at the youngest end of the spectrum – do not vote, adds the report.

Three sources of fear seem to be particularly acute at all ages: increase in unemployment, rise in crime and terrorism, and the despoiling of natural life. The topicality of these three subjects suggests that, like their elders, young

'Young people attach less importance than adults to hopes of improving national understanding'



'One great cause, peace, holds the prime position in all countries and all segments of the public'

A second, very strong tendency, is for the number of great causes which seem to justify sacrifices to increase in line with a number of areas of interest. To put it another way, the degree of idealism, gauged by the general prominence of great causes or ideals, increases in line with the degree of interest in the world at large.

While age has almost no influence on opinions about Europe, certain socio-cultural factors which are mainly independent of age are dominant in the process of forming these opinions. Surveys conducted over the past ten years in the Eurobarometer series have highlighted the key socio-cultural factors – nationality above all, but also individuals' resources and attitudes and, very importantly, degree of cognitive mobilisation, which is itself linked to educational level. In these circumstances, it may seem artificial to talk specifically about young people and Europe.

However, two basic reasons justify a review of this topic; firstly, young people differ from adults on certain key points despite great similarity of opinions about European questions and, secondly, the reasons behind young people's support for the Community seem to be rather different from those of adults.

The lack of prominence of European unification among young people's hopes and ideals may seem to contradict their support (since it is as strong as among adults) for the efforts being made to unify Europe. This contradiction is doubtless due to the fact that young people are less aware than adults of the common interests of Western European countries. Nevertheless, says the report, it is because European ideas are liberal and widely held now that young people support the unification of Europe, without becoming involved.

Young people's taste for diffuse globalism is, without doubt, one of the reasons for their attachment to Europe and one of the causes of their support for the unification of Europe. This is evident in the areas of interest – 20 per cent of young people mention how people live in Europe in this context. This area of interest rises with age and is strongest among workers and students.

The report finds it is noteworthy that young people in higher education (students aged 20-24) are the most likely to mention European topics among their concerns. This group is, in fact, in a better position to understand the other countries of Europe and the importance of unification. A degree of complexity is inherent in approaching European problems, and may reduce interest in Europe among younger and less well-educated groups. **€**

'Negative aspects' of societies are seen as lasting into the future.

people have primarily cited their most acute current preoccupations. Certain negative aspects of European societies have taken on such importance that young Europeans cannot imagine these trends not continuing in the future.

Young people seem, however, to be a little less pessimistic than adults. In particular, they are less afraid of a rise in crime and terrorism, an increase in tensions between different groups in society and an invasion of western markets by products from the Far East. Their fear of a rise in unemployment is, on the other hand, more acute. But employment problems are genuinely of more importance to young people today.

A list of ideas or causes – from sexual equality to freedom of the individual – showed a broad consensus. One great cause, peace, clearly holds the prime position in all countries and all segments of the public. It is fol-

lowed by four others, each of which receive quite similar levels of support: human rights, freedom of the individual, the struggle against poverty, and protection of the environment.

Overall, with some slight exceptions, young Europeans match the general consensus. They are a little more drawn than adults to causes which defend individual expression (human rights, freedom of the individual and sexual equality) and are less prepared to support the defence of their country, their religious faith or the unification of Europe.

Two main tendencies emerge from an examination of the great causes chosen by young people, according to their areas of interest. The first tendency is for young Europeans, whatever their interest type, to rank peace, human rights and freedom of the individual at the top, and religious faith, the unification of Europe and the revolution at the bottom of their list.

Getting things moving need not cost money

The excuse that policy changes would mean higher spending does not stand up, argues FERDINANDO RICCARDI

Money isn't everything. Some people believe – or make believe – that launching of new common policies by the Commission invariably means an increase in Community spending.

This simply isn't true. Naturally there are areas where funding is necessary in order to act: for example, research, the creation of a European network of transport infrastructures, some areas of energy policy and a number of others. But even in these instances, shared spending rarely represents an increase in overall spending, because Community action replaces inefficient national efforts.

On the other hand, there are a huge number of initiatives that do not cost anything, but can mean considerable savings for governments, firms and individuals. An obvious example is the simplification of border controls at frontiers inside the Community. Often the will to act is more important than the money, when it comes to reviving common policies.

One can find this sentiment repeated over and over again in official documents and declarations. On 16 September, Commission President Gaston Thorn told the Community Chambers of Commerce and Industry: 'It is not just a problem of means. It is above all a problem of organisation and attitude... It is shocking to note that, overall, the EEC countries spend twice as much as Japan on research, but that it is Japan which has caught up with the United States to supply 40 per cent of the world market for microprocessors, whilst Europe can supply less than 10 per cent. There are clearly problems of organisation and coordination that will have to be overcome.'

The example of microprocessors had already come up in a French memorandum calling for the creation of joint area for industry and research in Europe: 'Between 1977 and 1981 the EEC countries spent about \$500 million on their microprocessor industry. Japan spent about \$250 million. But Japan has acquired 40 per cent of the world market, and Europe has acquired scarcely 10 per cent.'

A few days later, on 19 September, Christopher Tugendhat released impressive figures showing the cost to Europe's economy of blockages at frontiers inside the common market. 'We estimate that the annual cost of crossing intra-Community frontiers is about £6.75

billion, which is equivalent to nearly half of the total Community budget. Preliminary Commission calculations show that the cost of frontier formalities could be equal to between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the pre-tax value of goods shifted. Time lost through delays and blockages alone could represent a loss of about £500 million a year.'

The removal of blockages and delays, even if it cost money to introduce new computerised procedures, would offer an immediate and substantial gain, which would reflect on firms' costs and the competitiveness of European industry.

In more general terms the Federal German Government observed in a memo to other Community governments in mid-September: 'The effect of policies that do not involve substantial spending, such as the dismantling of trade barriers and bottlenecks at frontiers, the harmonisation of legislation, competition policy, the coordination of economic policy and transport policy, has often been more marked than that of some spending programmes.'

The list of Community achievements in the field of integration that have cost nothing or practically nothing is impressive. It shows that people opposed to the relaunching of policies on the grounds of cost, are either not acting in good faith or are mistaken. A rough list of them speaks for itself.

Free circulation of goods. We have seen what Mr Tugendhat had to say about barriers to trade. Other groups of economic operators such as Chambers of Commerce, shippers and importers have all reached similar conclusions.

Although customs duties and quantitative restrictions no longer exist between EC countries, technical, health, administrative and fiscal regulations are so costly in terms of time and money that they place an intolerable burden on Europe's economy.

The removal of all the controls is not likely in the short or medium term, as it presupposes a degree of integration that it may take several generations to achieve. But a simplification of controls and procedures is not only possible but overdue. The Commission has made a number of proposals on the subject, in addition to preparing technical feasibility studies. Further decision are expected before the end of the year.

'The removal of blockages and delays would offer an immediate gain'

Technical Harmonisation. When the fabrication of a product varies between member states, national 'certification' is necessary, which damages trade and discourages exporters. Producers are also forced to take account of the different markets in their production process, allowing for the different norms of each country and consequently losing many of the economies of scale which are the *raison d'être* of the common market.

Legislative links. The creation of shared legislation and economic policy does not only have the political and psychological effect of giving Europeans the feeling of belonging to the Community. It can also radically improve cross-frontier trade, by removing the need for firms to apply different criteria to the different countries in which they operate. Shared rules for stock exchange trading and subscriber information can also allow the interpenetration of financial markets and enlarge investor choice.

In general terms, the creation of a *unified financial market* would not involve any direct spending.

Steps towards a *mutual recognition of diplomas* and other qualifications have the same political and psychological effects as legislative links. They are also of particular benefit to specific professions, who can now choose where they want to work, as well as helping the economy and the consumer.

A *common transport policy* involving a freeing of traffic would have far greater implications for the economy than is generally thought. Trade would become easier, transport costs, which sometimes represent an important part of total cost, would be reduced, and peripheral areas of the Community would become better integrated into the European economy as a whole.

Nor does the coordination of national economic policies involve any direct spending. Nevertheless it is a fundamental part of integration, bringing about an economic convergence in member states in terms of inflation, budget deficits etc, together with monetary stability to strengthen the European Monetary System (EMS) and enlarge the role of the ECU, whilst reducing Europe's excessive dependence on the dollar.

On top of projects that do not cost anything there are those which appear, at first glance, to involve spending, in the sense that they require funding from the Community budget, but will actually save money by substituting Community funds for inefficient national spending. These include vast areas of research and innovation. National efforts result in waste and duplication: joint or coordinated European initiatives can avoid both.

The conclusion is self-evident. Financial considerations, however important, cannot block the relaunching of common policies. If the political will exists, fundamental advances are possible at no cost. And when the Commission asks for more money to finance badly needed projects, a corresponding decline in national public spending will occur, together with improved results.

EUROFORUM

Gaston Thorn spells out the task at Athens: to agree what a Community in crisis really wants to do

Last June, the European Council meeting in Stuttgart launched the most important set of negotiations since the creation of the Community.

Make no mistake. What is at stake is the future of European integration. I am not sure if the public, or indeed all the governments concerned, are fully aware of this.

We are agreed that Europe is in a state of crisis and that the Community has been seriously weakened. Paralysed by its internal contradictions and by its inability to make decisions, the Community no longer seems to be the expression of Europe's shared aspirations.

It does, however, retain considerable powers. It is still able to defend the collective interests of its members in the world economy. This could lead one to believe that the difference between the success or failure of the negotiations will simply be the difference between a preservation of the status quo at the existing level of integration, and the possibility of further development of the Community.

This is not a true picture. I am convinced that failure will bring with it the beginning of the dislocation of the Community. The risks of a progressive renationalisation of common policies, the breaking up of the common market, and the abandonment of shared policies, will rapidly become irresistible and Europe will suffer the consequences. How could disunited individual states possibly resist dependency on foreign technology,

'Failure will bring with it the beginning of the dislocation of the European Community'

or overcome the world economic crisis, to ensure the well-being and employment of their populations?

I am not trying to be melodramatic. I am trying to convince Europe that a new Community effort is imperative for each and every one of the member states.

To launch Europe's second generation, the Community must move with the times. It was founded on coal and steel and then on agriculture. If it cannot find new life, it will be dragged down by the unstoppable decline of its old in-

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dustries and by the financial crisis in agriculture.

The terms of the negotiations were clearly established by the European Council in Stuttgart.

The CAP must be rescued from the consequences of its own success. Surplus agricultural production must be controlled to limit spending which feeds on itself and whose irresistible growth is blocking other developments.

The Community must be given the means to win the battle for industrial competitiveness. Up to now the gap between Europe's economy and those of her major industrial competitors in the United States and Japan, has grown steadily. This has been particularly evident in those sectors vital to our industrial future: information technologies, their mass applications, telecommunications, infrastructures and biotechnologies.

The Community must be given new resources to do these things, and the cost must be divided in such a way as to guarantee agreement over the Community budget in the long term.

Now we have only a short time to deal concurrently with the four inseparable aspects of these vital negotiations.

We must do it now, because it is no longer possible to put off the day of reckoning. In addition, the exhaustion of our own resources has put our backs to the wall. Spain and Portugal are waiting for the Community's agreement before the political commitments involved in enlargement can go ahead.

The stakes are huge – because failure could be fatal for the Community.

One thing should never be lost sight of in the heat of the technical, and often tough, debate of the Council, which is gathering momentum as we approach the outcome of Athens. It is not simply a question of resolving a budgetary problem, however difficult. It is a question of agreeing on what the Community wants to do, a question of opting once and for all for the road towards a new development of the Community to further the objectives which justified its creation in the first place. First and foremost, I believe these to be the improvement of European living standards, full employment, and peaceful existence in the world.

Second-generation Europe: the reality behind the image

How long is it since Gaston Thorn launched the new EEC objective of a 'second-generation Europe'? Two years, nearly three. Originally, for many people this slogan was merely an image, something vague and imprecise, liable to take the fancy. But, over the months, it has been realised that behind this image is a very specific and concrete reality: that second-generation Europe, namely an EEC transformed, modernised, with simplified procedures and new aims, is essential. What seemed to be a slogan has become a political programme.

The Community and national authorities have gradually come to realise what Thorn foresaw; and today no one can question the need to define new objectives and new 'rules of the game', not only to give new impetus to the building of a unified Europe, but also to prevent the deficiencies and absurdities casting doubt on the progress considered to have been made.

No one doubts any longer, for example, that without a serious and far-reaching reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) this pillar of the Community is likely to disintegrate under the weight of increasing costs, excessive surpluses, and imbalances in the burdens and benefits.

Moreover, everyone knows that the present financial rules cannot hold out in the long term, since each country feels that it is alone in paying for Community policies, and this is not acceptable either to their politicians or to public opinion.

There is no point in bemoaning the fact that the Commission already anticipated, a couple of years ago, both the need for change and the directions the changes should take, without anyone listening; certain developments, as we know, take time. Today, the heads of governments have recognised that changes are urgently needed. They have outlined the direction, and drawn up a programme. They are to meet in early December in Athens for further discussions; and while everything will probably not be decided there, the main outlines should be established.

Three months seems very little time to reform the Community. Indeed, it would be impossible to achieve had not the new plans been prepared some time ago, and had they not been slowly matured over recent years. The documents are ready. Some points, need to be developed and negotiated, and maybe further changed over the coming months and years; but the essential outline is now clear.

'The heads of government have recognised that changes are urgently needed. They have outlined the direction, and drawn up a programme'

The ministerial negotiations begun on 30 August last (this time there was no time to wait until the holidays were completely over) and have continued in September and into October and November.

They are based on the proposals and statements of the Commission, formulated after long and patient preparatory studies, enriched in the debates of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

A rather more than superficial knowledge of the various aspects of this huge dossier might help to understand the current negotiations, in which there will be no lack of clashes and drama, sometimes incomprehensible to those who do not have an overall view.

The unified nature of the talks should never be forgotten. For obvious reasons, the proposals are separated for discussion, and meetings may concentrate sometimes on one point and sometimes on another. But all the aspects are linked. There cannot be an agreement on an increase of the Community's own resources without an agreement on control of agricultural spending; the review of Common Agricultural Policy is linked to the launching of other common policies; the problems in the negotiations with Spain and Portugal cannot be solved without certain guarantees for

the Mediterranean regions of the Community.

In short, the agreement can only be a comprehensive one. It is therefore mainly for the purposes of presentation and clarity that we separate the various aspects, on the understanding that nobody can find an isolated solution.

The reform or review of the Common Agricultural Policy is the essential starting point for the whole colossal operation, for political and economic reasons.

On the political front, there is no doubt that, without a review of the CAP, several Community governments would not accept the other aspects of second-generation Europe, notably the increase in the Community's financial resources. Even if the governments were to agree, the increase in own resources would be rejected by some parliaments. Unless financial discipline is introduced into the CAP, so as to ensure that spending will be controlled, the increase in spending will be interrupted in a most radical fashion: the blockage of available resources will no longer just be a possibility, but a certainty.

This does not mean that the review should be limited to and aimed at reducing spending. However, the rationalisation of the CAP, twenty years after Sicco Mansholt founded it, is absolutely essential. Originally, the principal aim of the CAP was to make Europe self-sufficient from the point of view of food and to make it a great agricultural power on a world scale.

This aim has been amply achieved. Today the EEC does not only cover its needs for essential products – from cereals to meat, milk to sugar – but it has also become a large-scale exporter and has to dispose of its surpluses on the world market.

It is therefore the very success of the CAP, the achievement of its principal initial objective, which makes the review necessary: the policy cannot remain the same when the goal is to achieve self-sufficiency in food, if this goal has been overtaken. From now on, farmers must be made more responsible, in the sense of being asked to produce what the market needs, adapting production to demand and available outlets – internal or external.

'Farmers must be asked to produce what the market needs, adapting production to demand'

The EEC, which in practice means tax payers and consumers, can no longer undertake to buy any quantity of any product at a guaranteed price. Does anybody seriously think that the present situation can continue indefinitely, worsening every year?

Surpluses of powdered milk have reached a level of about four years' normal consumption, and desperate attempts are being made to reduce them by giving it to the Third World, denaturing it to make animal fodder, or any other means. Distilled wine, which is practically destroyed by converting it into alcohol for which there is no use, this year has exceeded 5 million hectolitres. Tobacco of varieties no longer required has accumulated in such proportions that people in Brussels are seriously thinking of burning it on a huge bonfire, as the most economical means of disposing of it.

In certain sectors, such as grain and other cereals, the EEC production conditions are now such that the guaranteed prices can and must move closer to world prices, reducing the inflated price which ensures a constant income to a few people in privileged positions. Anyone who opposes a review of the CAP is in actual fact helping to destroy it, since without a review the whole structure is likely to collapse in a short time under the burden of surpluses and growing expenditure.

The power of corporate interests has meant that the Commission's proposals in this area have actually been criticised on a distorted or inaccurate basis, as an attempt to harm this or that to the benefit of something else, and have been evaluated on the basis of self-interested sectorial calculations of reduced subsidies for such and such a sector or such and such an area.

However, quite the opposite is true; we are looking at an effort to make European agriculture more lively, more efficient and better adapted to European and world demand. The effort of adaptation, enterprise and modernisation which is being asked of the EEC farmers is accompanied by the need for certain sacrifices on the part of third countries exporting their products into Europe, who will have to accept that the EEC will import less of the food in which it is now self-sufficient or which it exports.

The highly complex package of measures proposed will enable tighter controls on spending, which in future will have to increase less rapidly than financial resources, in order to leave more funds available for other common policies. However, we repeat, the control of expenditure is not an end in itself.

The Commission has summarised the scope of the reform as follows: 'The com-

'It is possible to raise the level of economic and social life in wide areas of Europe, without increasing the exodus to the cities'

munity's objective cannot be to curb the development of its own agriculture. However, in the light of future prospects, the Community has no choice but to adjust its own policy of guarantees on production. Community agriculture must, as is only logical, succeed in expanding its own exports and maintain its share of the world market.

It must also accept a growing measure of market discipline to which other sectors of the Community economy are subject. This dynamic approach which rejects any Malthusian limitations on agricultural potential, the stress is being laid increasingly on production at a competitive price. Until now, guarantees on prices for most products have been unlimited: this situation cannot continue in the future if the CAP is to develop on a rational basis.'

The effort to rationalise agriculture and balance supply and demand must be accompanied by a parallel campaign to make the most of the countryside, both from the point of view of the landscape and the protection of the natural environment (it is too often forgotten that farmers play an essential part in this respect which benefits the whole population), and from the point of view of the development of other activities related to the land. Among these are the use of agricultural substances as sources of organic chemicals (with the development of biotechnology), and materials to produce energy (biomass) and forest production. The Community has deficits for energy and timber (energy products and forest products, including paper, are the two main debit items in the EEC trade balance), and yet there are real and substantial possibilities for alternative activities and employment in rural areas.

Therefore, combining the various factors of rationalised and efficient agriculture with the other improvements, it is possible to raise the level of economic and social life in wide areas of Europe, without increasing the exodus to the cities, which has probably already reached the maximum desirable limit.

While necessary in itself, the review of the CAP is also necessary to make it politically possible to increase the finan-

cial resources at the Community's disposal, and hence to develop common policies. A unanimous consensus of the ten national governments and parliaments is essential in order to make this increase possible and, as we have already said, this unanimity would not be possible without a review of agriculture.

The first step towards the introduction of European action in many new or old sectors therefore depends on discipline over agricultural expenditure, for which the Commission is proposing a strict rule: this expenditure must in-

'Without a review of the CAP, several Community governments would not accept other aspects of second-generation Europe'

crease less than the available resources; since a breakthrough seems to be necessary, the decision could not be taken by the Agriculture Ministers alone, but by the Council of the European Communities in a special session also including the Finance Ministers.

Even if this rule is accepted, it should not be assumed that the agreement on the new resources would come easily: the future finance of the Community remains a serious problem in itself, on which conflicting interests and ideas clash. The present machinery has been under discussion for years. Some countries contest it, and Great Britain, in particular, has claimed and received a partial refund of its contribution to common expenditure, which it considers excessive and therefore unjust.

So before any thought can be given to increasing resources, the rules on the basis on which these resources are made available to the Community must be modified so that no one feels unfairly treated.

In practice, over recent years the great majority of the countries' accounts with the Community budget have

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broken even or been in credit, in the sense that they received more than they paid to the Community, and only two countries have ended up with a net debit: Germany and Great Britain.

Such a calculation, it is true, is rightly contested by the European Institutions, as they observe that there are no national contributions to common expenditure, but rather the own resources of the EEC, which the member countries simply receive and pay back the balance.

They are therefore unjustified in talking of credit or debit; moreover, there is nothing so misguided as an evaluation of the advantages of belonging to the EEC based exclusively on the origin and destination of expenditure, since the most important advantages cannot be assessed by any such calculation: the advantages result from membership of an open European market, the disappearance of frontiers, possibilities of investment, expanding production made possible by the creation of the Common Market and other equally significant factors which cannot be expressed in figures.

However, these considerations do not eliminate the need to define new criteria and new mechanisms to finance the EEC for two reasons, one mainly political and psychological, the other concrete. On the psychological level, experience has shown that the impression a country may have of giving excessive finance to the EEC – even if this is partly a false impression – has harmful effects on public

'The impression of giving excessive finance to the EEC has harmful effects on public opinion'

opinion, which politicians have to take into account.

In Great Britain, this impression aggravates and reinforces hostility to membership of the Community itself. In Germany it contributes to an intolerant attitude towards European expendi-

ture, as if the German citizen were supporting and subsidising the carelessness and waste of others. Clear rules unanimously accepted as fair must be established, to eliminate mistrust and suspicion.

The second and more concrete reason is that the new rules will enable new resources to be created, an essential condition for the development of the common action and policies in the numerous fields in which isolated European countries have negligible or slight influence, in the face of world competition, while a joint European effort will enable the Old World to compete on equal terms with the United States and Japan.

The negotiations on the future financing of the EEC must therefore follow three converging aims:

First, the introduction of strict discipline on agriculture expenditure (by reviewing the CAP), so as to reassure the authorities and public opinion of all the Community Countries. Second, the elimination of certain imbalances which at present are inducing at least two important countries – Great Britain and Germany – to regard the present situation as unsatisfactory and no longer acceptable. And third, the definition of action and objectives for the future unconditionally accepted as necessary by all parties.

Under these circumstances it is possible that, in the context of global negotiations, the Heads of Governments will finally agree to increase own resources, that is the income which the member states relinquish at national level to be considered finally as belonging to the Community. The Commission has already proposed ways in which this increase could be made, namely an increase in the percentage of VAT which would then become a Community resource.

This increase would be carried out in a number of stages, for each of which the unanimity of the Ten and a special majority of the European Parliament would be obligatory. All governments would then have the guarantee of maintaining control over the increase in expenditure, thanks to the rule of unanimity, and the need for ratification by the national parliaments would disappear (such ratifications would however still be necessary initially to introduce the new system).

The possibility that this reform would be approved and implemented, as seems clear from the above, as a result of the negotiations on the reform of the CAP and the machinery for calculating national contributions, as well as the definition of new policies and new objectives, therefore represents the third great chapter in the global negotiations.

There are two aspects to what is defined in general as the relaunching of common policies: a critical evaluation, with possible reviews, of the existing structural policies, and the setting in motion of policies which are completely new or so far only outlined and embryonic.

Structural policies are essentially determined by the action of the Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Social Fund and the Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) section.

What has so far prevented these bodies from being as effective as hoped and intended? One factor in particular: instead of instigating new operations and initiatives in line with Community objectives, they have essentially contributed to financing national action which was already decided. Certainly,

'What has prevented the Regional and Social Funds from being as effective as was intended?'

the action of the three Funds has not been useless or ineffective: they have enabled certain projects to be speeded up, and allowed national aid organizations to release credit for additional projects.

However, on the whole they have not themselves promoted projects of European interest which without their intervention would not have existed. On this basis the Commission, in its proposals for review to the Council, stressed two fundamental principles: the structural development and adaptation, rather than channels of financial redistribution.

However, the structure must no longer be too rigid. Instead of pre-arranged quotas, the Commission suggests criteria and principles applicable to the whole of the structural funds, namely: the specifically Community nature of the objectives of the funds themselves; a permanent dialogue between those responsible for the management of the Funds and national governments, so that the Commission participates from the beginning in the choice and definition of the projects; and concentrated action, to avoid dispersion of credits and fragmented action.

This improvement in the working of the Funds would in itself clearly bring about improved efficiency in EEC social and regional policies. The launching or relaunching of other common policies involves more complex action and a clearly set out political will, since

methods and objectives must be established and in the meantime funds must be made available from the budget.

Fortunately, however, there is no need to start from scratch! Something already exists both in the energy sector and especially in research. For the past three years at least the Commission has been drawing up new projects and programmes, and the Council has already discussed the matter several times. In some significant cases, the economic forces of the Community countries are already involved in the work and are giving vigorous support.

It can even be claimed that some projects are already popular in the fields concerned, such as the ESPRIT programme, an ambitious attempt to enable Europe to challenge the United States and Japan in the vital area of new information technology. It is not reasonable to expect the heads of governments to have the new common European policies ready at the end of the year, lined up next to one another: but they must give a sufficiently clear and explicit political

'Failure of the talks will mean a Community limited to management of the Common Market'

stimulus to ensure that the essential action will gradually be started.

The fundamental criterion must be the joint implementation, at European level, of what the Community countries are not able to do alone, or to combine certain efforts to avoid wastage and duplication. From the financial point of view, there must not be an overall rise in expenditure, but rather a saving, through concentration. Nor should it be forgotten that certain European projects of great importance and interest to industry and the economy in general do not involve any cost, but rather eliminate unnecessary expense: examples are the elimination or simplification of bor-

der controls, and the harmonisation of technical standards.

This quick flip through the main documents for the talks which at European level dominate the last part of 1983, should demonstrate that competition is vital for the development of Europe. An invigorated and rejuvenated Community could come out of it, with new objectives, new common policies, new members, and a renewed and more positive consensus of all the members and public opinion.

However, the failure of the talks will mean a Community with reduced responsibilities and operations, limited simply to the management of the Common Market, with no prospects for development. But this alternative would not be acceptable either to the Commission or to the European Parliament, close to renewal in the elections in June 1984. It is to be hoped that this will not be among the objectives of any governments or any important political force.

FERDINANDO RICCARDI

Sir Geoffrey Howe outlines the British approach

It would be a serious misreading of the UK's position to believe that the British government will agree to increase the European Community's revenue in exchange for a statement of good intentions about the common agricultural policy and minor adjustments on agricultural spending, the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said in Brussels after a special meeting of the Community's council of ministers in September.

There was simply 'no prospect' of the British government agreeing, or the British parliament ratifying, any increase in 'own resources' unless there were measures taken to ensure that no country had a budgetary burden disproportionate to its relative wealth, and to control the growth of agricultural and other expenditure, he said.

The Community had no power to increase its annual revenue derived from VAT and other levies without the unanimous agreement in the Council of Ministers and ratification by national parliaments. And before Britain would even consider agreeing to an increase there would have to be a fairer system of contributions to the Community budget, Sir Geoffrey explained.

Britain's own proposal suggests the introduction of a 'safety net' system to ensure that member states' net contributions bear a fairer relationship to



per capita income. Sir Geoffrey also insisted that the Community must control agricultural spending so that expenditure on the CAP rises at a 'markedly slower rate' than our resources as a whole. 'Otherwise all the money will go on flowing out to pay for CAP surpluses and there won't be sufficient Community funds to finance existing and new policies outside the CAP,' Sir Geoffrey warned.

He made his comments following what he described as a 'mixed reaction' in the council to the UK's paper setting out a coherent plan for the future development of community policies. The paper called for more progress in the Community's industrial, energy, environment and internal market policies as well as financial reforms. So it was wrong for Britain's partners to suggest that Britain was only concentrating on the budgetary approach.

Sir Geoffrey also implied that member states might be underrating the strength of Britain's political and economic commitment to the Community because the British government did not indulge in 'high-sounding rhetoric'. But Britain was as strongly committed as any other member state, he said.

The theme underlying the British paper was to get on with the job of creating a genuine common market in services such as transport and insurance as well as in manufactured goods, he explained. The key to the development of new policies remained in 'a fair and disciplined budget'.

A breakthrough in Athens could mean a revival of European idealism

JOHN ARDAGH, a writer who keeps a particularly close eye on Europe and European affairs, sums up the agenda of what could turn out to be an historic Summit.

When the Community's ten Heads of Government meet in the shadow of the Acropolis on December 4th to 6th, it could be the most crucial yet of these thrice-yearly 'Summits'—and they will be well aware of it. For, more than ever, the EEC is at a turning-point. If it cannot now solve its growing financial tangles, it risks a crisis that could threaten its existence.

But if it can find an answer, then the way could be open for an exciting new era of progress and renewal—the development of 'new policies' of industrial cooperation, the admission of Spain and Portugal, and maybe even a revival of the European idealism of earlier years.

The summit's urgency derives from the fact that the EEC's income is about to prove inadequate for funding the ever-growing costs of the Common Agricultural Policy. The cash is running out. As an expedient, the Commission has proposed a raising of the VAT-related 'ceiling' on revenue from member states, and most of them are ready to accept this as a short-term way out.

But Britain is reticent. First, such an increase of spending is contrary to Mrs Thatcher's ideology. Also, the British insist that the problem of their own 'excessive' budget contribution must be settled at the same time. The basis for a compromise deal does exist, taking account both of the British budget issue and of CAP costs—but not without further bouts of the horse-trading that has always won the EEC such a bad name with public opinion.

Big concessions will have to be made by all sides; but in recent weeks most states have simply been hardening their positions.

'Even the French have come to admit that some CAP economies are necessary'

The major issue is that the CAP has grown too costly. It eats up over 60 per cent of the total EEC budget. Helped by their large subsidies, farmers have been growing unfairly rich at the European taxpayer's expense: but governments have been reluctant to make cutbacks, for fear of losing the vital farm vote. Today, however, even the French have come to admit that some CAP economies are necessary, while the Stuttgart summit in June called for 'effective control' of CAP spending—but how? Each country has different ideas, and needs—and matters are fantastically complex and technical.

Some money could be saved, though not much, by raising the price of wheat, thus reducing its support costs. Far more important, however, is the tackling of the vast and expensive surpluses of dairy products. Here the French, major milk producers, are blocking the way by pointing to their domestic political dilemma: they claim that France's 400,000 dairy farmers, mostly smallholders, would be up in arms if milk subsidies were cut—and this, say officials in private, would provide fuel for the Right-wing opposition.

'We would love to help reduce dairy costs,' said one *fonctionnaire*, 'but, politically, dare we?'

The Socialist Government would like a tax on rich dairy farmers, leaving the poor exempt: but the British, amongst others, object to any such 'penalising of efficiency', as they call it.

The French are also pressing strongly for new tariff barriers against imported animal feed and vegetable oils that flood in mainly from the USA. Such tariffs, they say, would not only help pay for the CAP but also discourage some milk production that depends on the cheap imported cereal feed. But the countries using this feed, notably Britain and Holland, dislike the scheme. And the British, in particular, are mistrustful, as it hits at the principle of free trade and would infuriate the Americans.

Above all, the French are arguing, with some justice, that they could afford to be more flexible over the CAP if only

'The Germans, as a rich creditor nation, can partly call the tune'

Germany were to renounce the 'monetary compensatory amounts' (MCAs) that she receives under a mechanism that adjusts currency fluctuations. Paying for these MCAs weighs heavily on French agriculture: if they were abolished, say the French, their milk farmers might more readily accept sacrifices.

The Germans have, in fact, agreed to phase out the MCAs eventually. But the added cost would probably have to be borne by German farmers, notably Bavarians.

Britain's main concern at Athens will be finally to win satisfaction over her long-standing demand that her net contribution to the EEC budget be reduced. She is one of the less rich EEC nations, yet because of her large food imports she is a heavy net subsidiser of the CAP. Even the French have now come to accept that the British have some case here: but disagreement remains over the right formula for a solution. The British have proposed a so-called 'safety net' that would prevent any poorer country having to pay too much. But the French, and others, regard this scheme as contrary to the principles of Community financing.

The French instead have proposed amendments to a Danish plan, that might achieve much the same ends by other means. There is still much bargaining ahead, and a lot could depend on the position of the Germans who as a rich creditor nation can partly call the tune. Will they back the British 'safety net'?—or swing their weight behind the Franco-Danish scheme, thus isolating Britain and maybe forcing her to back down?

If the Heads of Government at Athens really have the political will to reach an overall agreement, then these thorny CAP and budget issues, largely inter-related, could be welded into a package deal of compromises—so long as each nation is ready to make concessions, knowing that its partners will do likewise.

The French will have to accept sacrifices over milk and dairy prices, essential key to effective CAP economies. The Germans will have to back down over MCAs, the Dutch and others over animal feed imports, while the Italians will have to agree to abide more correctly by CAP rules over olive oil and wine production. And the British will need to show more flexibility over the budget,

dropping in particular their insistence (inacceptable to the others) that a formal ceiling be set on CAP spending.

Mrs Thatcher's habitual desire to play it tough, demanding her pound of flesh, has often led her to adopt stances that have justifiably irritated her partners and are not in the spirit of the Community. At the same time, all governments – including Britain's – will have to be prepared to take a sterner line with their own farmers, if the CAP crisis is to be solved. British farmers, mostly efficient and prosperous, have benefited as much as any from CAP largesse, and Mrs Thatcher should now find the political courage to defy their lobby.

So can the Athens summit succeed? Many officials are doubtful. They feel that the technical groundwork by experts still needs more time, and at Athens the leaders may have to content themselves with a bland declaration of intent. Real agreement would then have to wait for early 1984.

But time is fast running out for solving the financial impasse, and it could be very damaging for the EEC nations to move into 1984 with their house in disarray – a difficult year when they will badly need unity in order to cope with a variety of problems, including trade negotiations with America and Africa, and the crisis with Russia over missiles.

What is more, elections for the European Parliament are due in June; and the ten leaders in office may well feel that it will hardly endear them and their parties to their voters if they offer the spectacle of an EEC in such a sorry state.

So they have every incentive to try to reach agreement at Athens. If they do so, it could prove to be thanks to the leadership of the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, an inspired 'European' who sees it as his mission to relaunch Europe, rather as Adenauer did in the 1950s. Kohl's personal stature, and that of his rich and powerful nation, could maybe enable him to mediate between the rival exigencies of others, notably French and British.

An overall agreement could then open the path to a much-needed development of the Community on other fronts. The so-called 'new policies' will certainly be discussed at Athens: that is, plans for joint policies at last for transport and energy, and for industrial cooperation

'Success at Athens could also speed up Spanish and Portuguese entry into the EEC'

projects to follow the successful example of Airbus. Here Britain and France see eye-to-eye far more than over CAP and budget matters. And the growth of the 'new policies' would have the great merit of lessening the Community's unbalanced over-emphasis on agriculture.

Success at Athens could also lead to a speeding-up of the process of Spanish and Portuguese entry into the EEC. These negotiations have been dragging on so long and so slowly that the danger now appears that Spain may change her mind and decide it is not, after all, in her economic interests for her to join.

This would be a grave pity, for the new democratic Spain is today very much a part of Western Europe; she and the EEC nations could strengthen each other, politically, whatever the economic problems of entry. France, especially, has been staging delays over the talks, demanding that her farmers and vinegrowers in the south-west must receive special protection against Spanish competition.

As for Britain's Prime Minister, if she

can win enough satisfaction over the budget, Mrs Thatcher might now be readier to give proof of her Europeanism and play a more wholehearted role.

It is a fact of life that the EEC will probably always be plagued by a degree of horse-trading between rival national interests.

However, today's leaders now have a chance to show that this is not everything – that it is not too late to give a new idealistic lead, to return to the faith that inspired the Europe-makers of thirty years ago. Europe needs it, in today's harsh world.

Farmers will have to bear the main burden

Are the Commission's proposals for reform too protectionist? Brussels says No. Its view is that, from the point of view of establishing a better balance on the market, and from the point of view of budget savings as such, the main burden of adjustment will be borne by European farmers, who face a combination of lower prices, taxes on production and cut-backs in intervention and direct subsidies. By comparison, the measures on imports are of secondary importance.

Politically, it is seen to be neither realistic nor reasonable to put the entire burden of adjustment on EEC farmers alone, without some corresponding measures to limit or at least control imports. Also, the proposed adaptations in the CAP will contribute to a better balance on Community and world markets which will be a real, if unquantifiable benefit to the Community's trading partners. The Commission's proposals should be seen as a package from which the US and other agricultural exporters will also benefit.

Are the Commission's proposals, then, inadequate both as regards the reform of the CAP and the budgetary savings which could be expected?

Again, the answer from Brussels is 'No'. The Commission's attitude is that it has never accepted the idea that we should cut the agricultural budget just

for the sake of reducing the level of expenditure by the Community.

Cutting farm expenditure without regard to the economic or social consequences would lead to the disintegration of the CAP, it maintains. Expenditure hitherto assumed by the Community budget would be taken over by national governments. The Commission has explicitly rejected this approach.

The aim of the Commission's proposals are two-fold. First, to adapt the CAP to changed economic circumstances – the continuing improvement in yields and productivity, the emergence of the Community as a net exporter in several sectors, the stagnation of demand on domestic and international markets. And second, to review the cost-effectiveness of the various instruments used to organise markets and support farm incomes.

EUROPEAN REVIEW

Black outlook for coal

Coal is in the doldrums. The continued decline in energy consumption has forced the European Commission to revise downwards its 1983 forecasts for coal production and consumption.

Community coal supplies are now expected to fall to 301 million tonnes – 19 million down on 1982 and 10 million below earlier forecasts. Imports from non-member countries are likely to suffer most from the contracting market, falling to 63 million tonnes.

The downward trend in coal and coke consumption is not only attributable to the ailing steel industry, but also to reduced demand from power stations, which this year are expected to consume 8 million tonnes less than in 1982.

Demand from other sectors and private households is now forecast to stagnate at last year's level.

One reason behind this trend is the fall in oil prices, which has discouraged coal conversion projects. Intra-Community trade in coal is also likely to stagnate this year at 16 million tonnes. Forecasts for Community coal production have been revised downwards to 233 million tonnes, and stocks are building up.

Training young champions

MEP Guy Fernandez is concerned about all levels of sport in the Community.

Physical education develops physical and mental capacities of children, as well as emotional balance and social and cultural relations. But primary and nursery schools have problems providing such training. He wants the Commission to study different ways of assimilating this education into the early school years, giving special attention to the training of competent staff.

Sports for adults is an expanding area and is creating a large number of skilled jobs, he says, but there are no uniform qualifications for these instructors. He wants the

Commission to promote sports exchanges among the member states, and to carry out a study on the various types of training now being given.

Mr Fernandez is also concerned about major financial problems facing many professional sports clubs and their effects on sporting ethics. He is calling on the Commission to survey the various methods being used in Europe to finance professional sports and to draw up directives to raise standards, ensuring that 'a more ethical approach' is adopted within this sector.

Protest at US sale to Egypt

The Commission is calling for an extraordinary meeting of the International Council of Milk Products after the US sale of 18,000 tonnes of butter and 10,000 tonnes of cheese to Egypt under special conditions.

The Commission declares that the transaction was not compatible with GATT rules.

The sale was not a food-aid transaction, as indicated by the US, says the Commission, but a subsidised commercial operation that could endanger the already precarious stability of the world market in milk products.

Dalsager's new farm aid scheme

A proposed new investment aid scheme announced by Agriculture Commissioner Poul Dalsager on 29 September could give as many as 200,000 European farmers a chance to improve their living and working conditions.

The scheme would, for the first time, give the smallest and poorest farmers – particularly those in mountainous regions – access to Community grants earmarked for farm improvement.

Previously, these farmers, especially in Ireland, Greece and Italy, have found it difficult to meet the conditions of eligibility for grants. Now, that could all change. Under the new system proposed by the

Commission, these conditions would be relaxed, and the maximum income level of eligible farms would be lowered, so that farmers in the lowest income groups would be given priority.

At the same time, the average size of grant would be cut back, so that a larger number of farms could be reached. According to the Commissioner, up to 200,000 farmers would then benefit from EC investment aids over the 1986-90 period, compared with only 15,000 to 20,000 under existing measures due to expire at the end of 1985.

To meet the higher cost of the extended scheme, the funds available would be raised to 7.5 billion ECUs for 1986-90.

The fight for human rights

European Parliamentarians have been critical recently of Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, South Africa, Iran, El Salvador, and India for their persecution of prisoners and violations of the Helsinki human rights agreements.

The now-famous cases of Nelson Mandela, Andrei Sakharov, and the Soviet Jews were raised again, with an appeal for the UN to make 21 May an annual international Sakharov Day, symbolising the campaign for human rights.

MEPs have also raised the cases of Ladislav Lis, a Charter 77 signatory arrested in Czechoslovakia last January, who has been on hunger strike with his wife since 23 May.

India came under fire because of recent reports of burnings of brides there in disputes over dowry payments. India abolished the dowry 22 years ago, but parliament says police authorities are accepting explanations of household accidents in cases of bride-burnings and not recording them properly.

The MEPs are calling on the Indian government to implement existing laws and 'ensure the protection of young brides from the excessive greed of the husband's family.'

There are daily violations of human rights and democracy in Iran, says MEP Gerard Fuchs. The Baha'i religious

community there is in extreme danger. On 16 and 18 June, 18 Baha'is, including ten women, were compelled to choose between renouncing their religion or death. All were executed, said Mr Fuchs.

Unhealthy health foods?

A recent ruling from the Court of Justice clarified its 1979 ruling in the 'Cassis de Dijon' case, that any goods legally sold in one member state should normally be free to be sold in another member state.

The case in question concerned the prosecution by the Dutch authorities of the Swiss multinational, Sandoz, for having sold health food products with added vitamins in the Netherlands without the permission of the health authorities.

The company argued that the products in question were sold legally in Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany, and were considered safe there, so that the Dutch authorities could not exclude the products on health grounds.

However, the Court ruled that there were genuine reasons to doubt the safety of added vitamins, and made clear that if a member state feels that the health regulations in other Community countries are too lax, and can prove that a product's safety is genuinely doubtful, it is perfectly entitled to refuse to allow a product to be sold on its own market.

Should we ban ivory imports?

The increasing slaughter of African elephants might lead to their extinction, says MEP Marie Jane Pruvot.

Certain ivory-producing African countries have made efforts to fight illegal hunting of the elephants, but illegal practices in the ivory trade continue, she notes, and the Washington convention does not provide adequate protection for the species.

Mrs Pruvot is now calling on the Commission to ban imports of ivory into the European Community.

Lining up for the 1984 Euro-elections

The elections for the European Parliament are to be held next year. They will determine the balance of power among the various factions in Strasbourg. But the question of how large the turnout of voters will be is equally important. The size of this turnout will be an indication of how much importance the electorate

attaches to the European Parliament.

What are the views of the leaders of the political groupings in Strasbourg on this subject? Ulrich Lüke and Rolf Spitzhüttl, who have been following the work of the Parliament, offer their personal assessments of the various political groups' positions

THE SOCIALIST GROUP

If fewer people vote in the direct elections in 1984 than in 1979, then this will be directly due to the unsatisfactory results of the last five years, that is, unsatisfactory as regards the EEC in general and the European Parliament in particular'

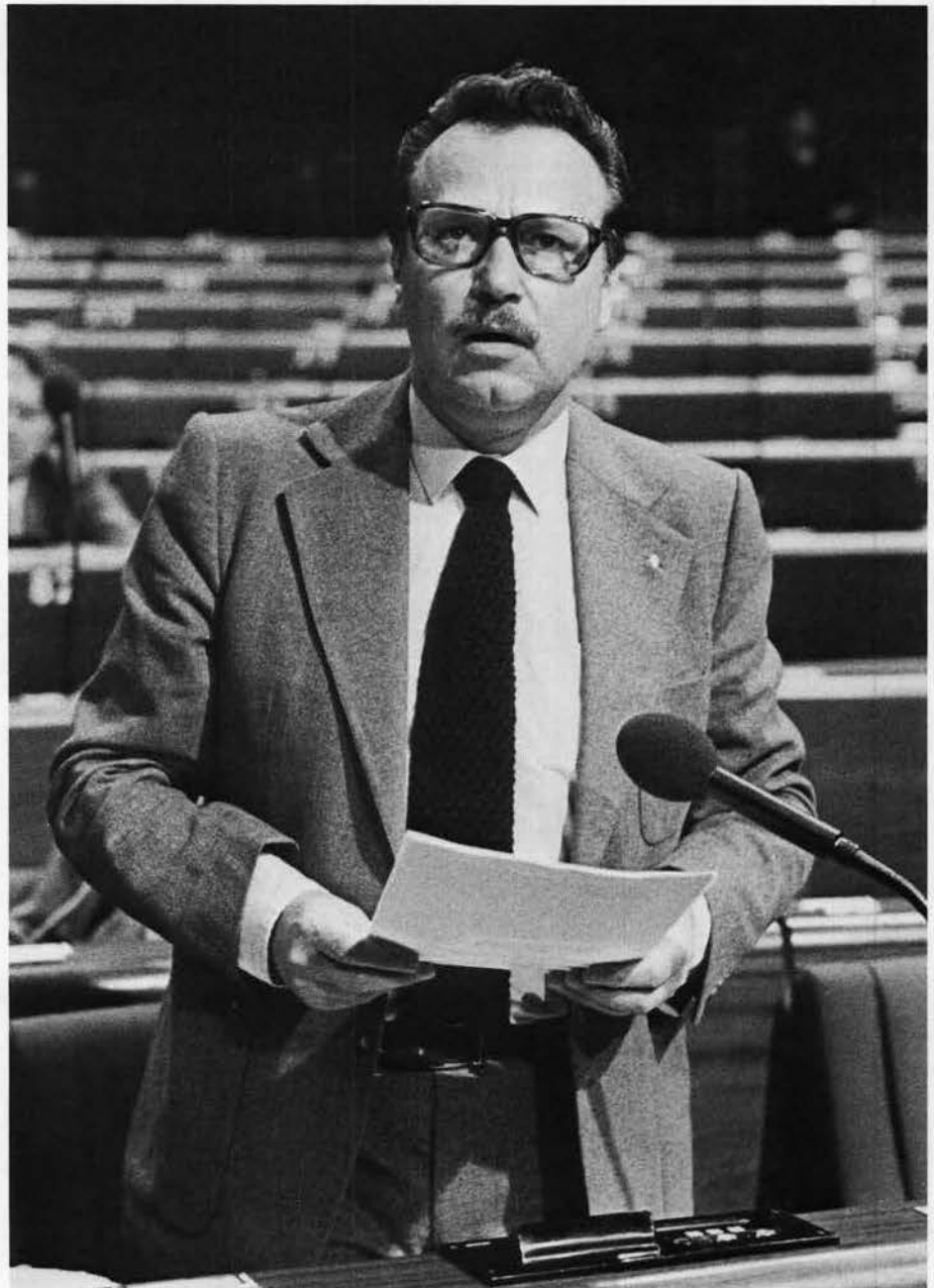
So says Ernest Glinne, the leader of the Socialist group in the European Parliament. He makes no secret of his disappointment with past experience. Firstly, because the Council of Ministers has seldom heeded the recommendations of Parliament. And secondly, because even though, with 125 members, they constitute the biggest political grouping in the European Parliament, the Socialists have so often been outvoted in plenary sessions.

It was no easy task the Socialist group faced in the last legislative period of the 434-member Parliament. It is the only one of the seven political groupings in the Strasbourg Parliament with members from every country of the EEC. This has led Ernest Glinne to describe it as 'the only truly Socialist group'. However, this distinction also brings responsibility with it. In Glinne's words: 'We may not have more problems than other groups, but we do have more responsibilities.' In an obvious reference to the British Conservatives he adds: 'It's easy to work together if you only have 60 British and two Danish members in the group.'

Glinne, a Belgian, freely admits that the Socialists make things more difficult for themselves - for example, by having opponents of

Glinne: 'We may not have more problems than other groups, but we do have more responsibilities'

the EEC in their ranks. Nevertheless, the group has also scored unexpected successes. Glinne and his colleagues are so used to being outvoted by the conservative majority of Christian Democrats, Liberals and Conservatives, that it came as a surprise to everyone when Piet Dankert, the Dutch Socialist, was elected as the second Chairman of the first



directly elected European Parliament.

However, Glinne points to other occasions where the Socialists have been outvoted on measures dealing with the cooperative movement, workers' participation in industry (the 'Vredeling proposal') and measures to fight unemployment. 'On these economic and social policy issues, the majority has always pre-

vailed against us, and what is more important, against the European trade union movement,' declares the leader of the Socialist group.

He fears the consequences may be dire: 'There are 12 or 13 million unemployed in Europe, and these people are now sceptical about the EEC. The European Parliament would have done better to win them over as

supporters of Europe.' Glinne expects the opposite to happen, namely that this section of the population will be too disappointed to vote in the elections next June.

Glinne's overall political assessment of the situation is in line with the views of his group. 'Europe,' he says, 'is threatened with stagnation, or even decline.' According to Glinne, the situation as regards the common agricultural policy is worse than in 1979; and there has

been no success in correcting the imbalance in the EEC budget and working out new policies. As might be expected, he considers that blame for this must mainly lie with the Council of Ministers.

In line with this assessment, the Socialists' policies for the coming elections are clear – priority must be given to the fight against unemployment. For Glinne and his group, the results of these efforts will be decisive 'for the

credibility of the EEC.' But their policies also include fighting to 'secure the great European freedoms for ordinary people as well', and the promise that the Socialists will make sure that the European Parliament continues to support the cause of the 138 million women in the EEC.

Ernest Glinne already has this summed up in an election slogan – 'For a Europe of the workers'.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT GROUP

With 177 members, the Christian Democrats are only the second-largest group in the European Parliament, but that does not affect their self-confidence. In the words of their deputy leader, Siegbert Alber: 'Our cohesion enables us to be the dominant force in Parliament.'

One of their first election leaflets for the coming campaign puts it boldly – 'Not only do the Christian Democrats sit in the middle of Parliament, but they are also the key to any attempt to form a majority'.

This assertion was made for the coming election campaign, but it nevertheless sums up the role of the European People's Party (EPP), which is how the Christian Democrats officially refer to themselves. In all important issues, nothing can be achieved without their cooperation, neither in the great debates over future reform of the Community's institutions, nor in measures to combat the recession which is affecting the EEC.

On only one occasion has an important decision gone against the EPP. This happened halfway through the first legislative period, when their leader at the time, Egon Klepsch, was beaten by the socialist candidate, Piet Dankert, in the election for President of the European Parliament. The 'conservative majority' (which in addition to the Christian Democrats also includes the Liberals and the British Conservatives) collapsed when the British MEPs withheld their support from Klepsch. His successor as leader of the Christ-



Barbi: 'Parliament has worked quite well, but it has not achieved much. Our hands are tied'

ian Democrat group, the Italian Paolo Barbi, does not dwell on this subject any more. A European through and through, his assessment of the last legislative period is concerned with Parliament as a whole, and not just his own group.

This assessment is mixed. 'I am not disappointed at the work we have done, but I am disappointed at its results,' says Barbi, and 'Parliament itself has worked quite well, but it has not achieved much. Our hands are tied.' The contradictions between Parliament's pretensions and reality, between what is attempted and what it actually has power to achieve, even make Barbi nostalgic for the Italian Parliament in Rome. There, members make decisions, while, in Barbi's words, 'here in Strasbourg, they only have discussions and make statements.'

However, he does not admit to being 'disillusioned', only disappointed at 'how little influence Parliament has in the EEC'. Neither does he think there has been any improvement in Parliament's standing since 1979. Indeed, he is even prepared to accept the voters' judgement in the coming elections if they should decide to make Parliament a scapegoat for the failings of the Council of Ministers. 'As MEPs, we represent the parties which form the government.' Barbi's deputy, Alber, puts it more carefully: 'It is positive and encouraging that citizens should equate Europe with the European Parliament, but if this attitude should become negative, it will be serious.'

This negative assessment has not, however, made Barbi pessimistic. He believes, rather, that there must be no more illusions, and his expectations and aims for the elections and the coming legislative period are correspondingly realistic. Barbi does not think that there will be any dramatic drop in turnout; but he does think that there will be substantial differences between member states, just as in 1979.

GROUP OF EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS

Utopias cannot be voted. That declaration was made to a plenary session of the European Parliament by the leader of the European Progressive Democrats (EPD), the French Gaullist, Christian de la Malène.

On this occasion, however, there was a solid majority in the Parliament for the proposal for a European constitution. The EDP group remained true to its principles, and found itself out on a limb once more. The French Gaullists entered the Parliament in Strasbourg with the declared aim of 'defending the interests of France in Europe', and no one has any illusions about this.

The Gaullists group has been joined by five Irish MEPs, plus one British and one Danish representative, and so the group has chosen a European name. Christian de la Malène would be pleased to see EDP present itself to the voters under this European name, but he admits that 'our election campaign in France will probably be more national in character than in other member states'.

However, in France the question of whether the opposition will present a joint list has still not been settled. Christian de la Malène thinks it is 'quite possible' that such a list could be headed by Simone Veil. However, this surmise presupposes a united opposition, and he insists that the Gaullists already have their own election policies worked out.

Has the group been successful in defending the interests of France? 'We have fought bat-

ties, especially over the Common Agricultural Policy, but we have not always won.' The Gaullists have often been outvoted, but they insist that they are 'Good democrats and good Europeans'. The leader of the European Democrats (the British Conservative group) does not agree. Since the French Gaullists in turn declare that 'the British may insist that they are good Europeans, but they are not', it would seem that they also apply their own principles when it comes to semantics.

The Gaullists surprisingly declared that they had been faithful partners in alliance with the Christian Democrats, declaring: 'We have certain basic socio-political views in common.' However, Christian de la Malène refuses to say whether this means that the EDP will help the European Peoples' Party form the biggest political grouping in Parliament

after the elections in 1984: 'That does not depend on us.'

Because of their own special vision of a united Europe, the Gaullists have often been suspected of being anti-European. During the last legislative period they have become noticeably more conciliating and more tolerant of other members for whom European integration was not progressing fast enough.

Has this been due to the Gaullists' participation in the European Parliament or to the change of government in France? 'These have both played a role.' More important has been the fact that 'it is now possible to work effectively within this Parliament'. The partial chaos of the first few years has now been over-

GROUP FOR THE TECHNICAL COORDINATION AND DEFENCE OF INDEPENDENT GROUPS AND MEMBERS

Commonly referred to in Parliament as the TCs, this group stands for a policy of protest and opposition to the European Parliament, a policy of pinpricks and spectacular actions. 'We have been useful for this Parliament,' is how Marco Pannella sums up the first years after the direct elections. He knows that this view is shared by many of those who in 1979 feared that the TCs would be more of a hindrance than a help.

This ad hoc group was formed at the beginning of the legislative period by Danish opponents of the EEC, Italian radicals, Belgian linguistic partisans and Irish independents. By its organised chaos, this group of self-confessed outsiders in the European Parliament managed to make itself listened to by the other groups organised along more conventional lines, and it was granted the status of a political grouping.

However, the 11-member group still defies definition, and does not fit the normal picture of a parliamentary group. In this respect it is perhaps symbolic of an assembly which, in



Malène: 'We have fought battles, especially over the CAP, but we have not always won'

come, says Christian de la Malène.

The fact that so little can be done to influence the policies of the EEC 'is not the fault of the European Parliament, but the fault of those who created this Parliament and gave it so little power'.

turn, does not fit the normal picture of a parliament.

The TCs consider that they have been useful whenever the large groupings tackled problems by attempting to apply solutions which had been tried at national level. On such occasions, they often managed to bring 'the other side of the argument' into the debate, for example in the debate on famine in other countries, when Marco Pannella contrasted the development aid strategies for the year 2000 with his vision of a 'global holocaust' and the 'extermination of millions of people'. Similarly, in the debate on the shooting down of the Korean airliner, Emma Bonino refused to apportion blame to one side or the other, but instead condemned the 'cat-and-mouse game being played by the superpowers'.

This motley group, which does not fit any political stereotype, sees itself as an alliance of shock therapists. Each of the eleven represents different interests. There is no party discipline and no party whip. There is no need for members of the group to carefully adjust their positions in order to achieve a united front, since they all claim to speak for minorities. In effect, it is this common opposition to the rest of the Parliament which unites them.

The TCs consider it is they who are the 'real democrats', because they use their position as MEPs to speak out for minorities or disadvantaged majorities who have no one else to speak for them, such as people in the Third World. Pannella considers that to oppose convention is a very democratic act.

In conversation with different members of the group, they repeatedly voice their confidence that the first legislative period has enabled them to mobilise new supporters who will vote for them in the coming European elections. 'To whom, if not to us, will the peace movements in the various member states turn, now that they have been let down by the parties in power?'

Pannella: 'His motley group sees itself as an alliance of shock therapists'



LIBERAL & DEMOCRATIC GROUP

The change of coalition partners has been accepted as a decision made necessary by circumstances. So says the leader of the Liberal and Democrat group, Martin Bangemann. German domestic policies in the run-up to the second direct elections for the European Parliament are for him no longer an obstacle to achieving one of the group's most important objectives - namely, for all the Liberal parties to be represented in the next legislature.

No one is to be excluded this time; neither the British Liberals, whose secret ballot system prevented them from entering the European Parliament, nor the Greek Liberals, who in the election held after Greece's accession did not get enough votes to be represented. The German Liberals, above all, do not want to be responsible for not being able to make up a full complement of members from all ten EEC countries in 1984.

Although they are only the fifth largest group in Parliament, the Liberals claim that, in the past, they have not only been instrumental in tipping the balance of power, but have also played a particularly important role in mobilising cross-party majorities.

The Liberals consider their main asset in this respect to be the big names which they can muster. They provided the directly elected Parliament's first President, Simone Veil, who earned general recognition not only for her group but also for the European Parliament as a whole, winning its acceptance as a democratic voice in the Community.

The President of the Commission, Gaston Thorn, also belongs to the Liberal group, as does Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the present German Foreign Minister, who as President of the Council of Ministers refused to accept the ossification of Community policies which threatened to occur. His 'European Act' may have been downgraded to a 'formal declara-

Bangemann: 'The main issue is for EEC citizens to be informed about how the Community affects everyday life'

tion'; but he was nevertheless the first politician in many years to formulate Community objectives which went beyond normal day-to-day politics.

The Liberals are also offering concrete policies to go with these big names. According to Bangemann, the main issue is for EEC citizens to be informed about how the Community affects everyday life. 'Citizens should be aware of the projects in their immediate environment which are financed by the EEC, and which would often not be possible at all if it were not for the EEC.'



THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRAT GROUP

In 1979, the British Conservatives entered the first directly elected Parliament in triumph, and formed the European Democrat group. According to their present leader, Sir Henry Plumb, this success was well deserved, since his party won more than 75 per cent of all British votes.

'It was a Conservative government which first proposed to take Britain into the EEC in 1961, and it was a Conservative government which brought the negotiations on British membership to a successful end in 1973 and led the country into the Community,' Sir Henry says.

The British Conservatives are not so very different from their continental counterparts, the French Gaullists. Like the Gaullists, they entered the Strasbourg Parliament with the declared aim of 'defending and furthering those interests which will enable their country to participate in the work of uniting Europe', and, like the Gaullists, they refer to their group in the European Parliament as the 'European Democrats'.

In addition to the British Conservatives, the group includes two Danish Conservatives and one Unionist from Northern Ireland. This makes it the most homogeneous group in Parliament in terms of national and party political labels. The European Democrats consider that this makes them the most predictable factor in the politics of the European Parliament, so that their group can be counted on as a 'reliable' partner.

The European Democrats consider their main task as part of the European majority in Parliament as being to participate in the work of reforming the budget and restructuring the Common Agricultural Policy. They also consider themselves to have been successful in limiting EEC expenditure.

The British Conservatives have brought some of the style of the 'Mother of Parliaments' to the new European Parliament. They rather see themselves as paragons of calm and constancy amid the hectic and often contradictory attempts of other groups to create their own, independent positions.

The British Conservatives view themselves as being able to enter the coming European election campaign with more confidence than any of the other political groupings in Strasbourg: 'We have convinced the doubters in Europe and the doubters at home.' Further, it was the Prime Minister of Britain's Conservative government, Margaret Thatcher, who addressed the European Parliament in her capacity as the first President of the European Council, thus meeting a long-standing demand of Parliament. 'We do not need to construct an electoral programme for 1984' - the Conservatives will construct their policies on the basis of their national electoral programme, 'which has always played a role in Europe.'

COMMUNISTS AND ALLIES

Although they have 48 MEPs and form their own group, the Communists do not attempt to act together as a single political grouping. The 24 Italians, 19 French members and one Dane constitute at least four different groups in one.

The main reason for this is that the Communist group, which officially is the fourth-largest in the European Parliament, very seldom holds joint meetings of all its members. The leader of the group, Guido Fanti, therefore finds himself in a unique position.

The French Communists lay down their own national line quite independently, just as the Greeks and Italians decide on their own positions, which are respectively anti and very pro-European. As for the Danish Communist, Bodil Boserup, within the group it is said that she 'just votes against anything pro-European'.

It therefore follows that the Communist group has no shared views of the first legislative period of the directly elected Parliament, nor does it have a common election platform or a shared policy for the next legislative period.

This was illustrated by the September debate in Parliament on the proposals put forward by the Italian Communist, Altiero Spinelli. His Italian colleagues naturally gave full backing to his plan for a European Union. In the plenary session, the General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party, Enrico Berlinguer, spoke of 'a new chance for the working class' to achieve its objectives in a united Europe. The ruling class, he said, has shown again and again that it is not able to give fresh impetus to Europe.

Berlinguer, who of all prominent MEPs is one of the most frequent attenders at the European Parliament (in sharp contrast to the French Communist Leader, George Mar-

chais), considers it necessary to reform the Common Agricultural Policy, to increase the Community's own resources, and to create new policies. However, there are differences. Berlinguer and his colleagues maintain that the reforms must benefit the small farmers, and thus the Southern European farmers, and that the reforms being planned in Brussels benefit the large farmers too much.

The position of the French Communists - who, like the Greek Communists, provide one of the group's deputy leaders - was in stark contrast to the Italian programme. They voted against Spinelli's proposals because, according to their spokesman, Robert Chamberon, they considered that sufficient measures could be taken under the terms of the existing treaties, and that Spinelli's proposals were quite unnecessary.

Despite these wide divergences, the Communists do not see themselves as having been forced into the position of a fringe minority. Many of their reports have been accepted by a wide majority, or a 'European majority' as it is known in Strasbourg.



Guido Fanti

Speeding up the traffic at Community ports

ALEX SCOTT reports on moves to clamp down on accidents and shipping delays, which are costing millions a year

Various efforts have been made by the European Community to minimise the risk of accidents and reduce delays in regular shipping movements within the EEC. But there will always be room for improvement.

One area currently being explored is an attempt to adapt the latest technology to the control of the movement of ships and dangerous materials through EEC ports. As far back as 1979, a grant was provided from the EEC's Budget for an organisation called the European Association for Data-Processing in Ports – the EVHA – to carry out a study into establishing a data link between ports, to provide prior warning both of dangerous materials and of regular shipping movements.

The results of this study, which involved a one-year pilot project conducted in the ports of Antwerp, Copenhagen, Le Havre, Rotterdam, Bremen, Bremerhaven, Genoa, Glasgow and Hamburg, were presented recently by the EVHA to the 13th International Association for Ports and Harbours (IAPH) Conference in Vancouver.

In particular, the delegates stressed the disadvantages of the current situation of non-standardised communication between ports, together with the lack of reliable and timely information on ships and hazardous materials.

The system they propose would, they say, cut down on costs and shipping delays. As the EVHA President and Manager of the Port of Antwerp, Bob Vleugels, pointed out: 'Cargo information almost certainly lags behind physical cargo movements, with ship delays in ports as a consequence.' In this way, he suggested, millions and millions of dollars are lost worldwide because of unnecessary delays to ships in ports.

With regard to dangerous materials, says the EVHA, control and monitoring techniques are inadequate compared with techniques which are now available to ensure a safe

international flow. This has been demonstrated by certain accidents in the past. Ports and harbour authorities, and other sectors involved, bear a responsibility for the environment and the safe and expeditious flow of commodities. If they are to fulfil their task, the interchange of specific data must be improved.

To show how new technology and telecommunications techniques can be applied to improving information exchange in this sector, the EVHA pilot project was described to the Vancouver conference. A simple application was selected, according to Mr R. J. L. Russell, of Clydeport in Scotland, which consisted of providing information on vessel departures and basic dangerous substances data, supplemented by descriptive data supplied by Lloyds shipping information services. Using techniques developed in Europe, the data system was linked into the international telephone and telex network, and over the twelve-month experiment, more than eleven thousand vessel movements were handled and forty thousand messages were exchanged between ports participating in the project.

One of the architects of the EVHA pilot

project, Henk Alberts from Rotterdam, pointed out that the proposed system would have to cut across language barriers, organisational differences and different business codes. Direct international cooperation between port administrations, ships and ship-owners, nautical agencies, the cargo industry and the commercial world is needed for the effective and efficient designation of costly resources.

Technically, he said, ports have similar structures and services, but information methods vary widely. Notwithstanding predictable initial difficulties, a common port policy on information exchange needs to be grasped, he concluded.

At the EEC level, actions such as those proposed by the EVHA member ports get full support from the European Commission. Alfredo Sarich, representing the Commission at the Vancouver Conference, pointed out that further support had been given to the formation of the 'European Association of Shipping Informatics' (EASI), which has brought together 12 of the major European shipping companies.

EASI is currently carrying out important research and development projects ranging from economic voyage control to fully computerised optimal vessel operations. Both EASI and the EVHA are considered to be centres for high technology development and large-scale application of informatics in the nautical field. €



'Ports and harbour authorities bear a responsibility for the environment'

Could there be a data link between ports such as Dover?

Funds to save old buildings

Restoration work on the Parthenon in Athens, and the conversion of a disused Welsh pit into a mining museum, are among projects which have recently received European Community funding.

Community finance for conservation projects began in 1980. It comes from a variety of sources, including the quota section of the European Regional Development Fund and a special budget allocation devoted to preserving Europe's architectural heritage.

In addition to part-financing specific projects, the Community offers fifty scholarships every year to young people wanting to learn conservation-related skills such as masonry, carpentry and parks gardening.

Projects funded from the Community budget have included two grants to save buildings in the towns of Edinburgh and Milos. One will become an arts centre, and the other an archeological museum.

This year a £282,000 grant went towards restoration work being carried out on the Parthenon in Athens. Another £4,800 went to the Italian town of Gubbio, to make good damage to the Palazzo dei Consoli caused by an earthquake in 1982.

The bulk of conservation funding, however, has come from the European Regional Development Fund. Since 1980 it has financed some forty projects, to the tune of about £4.25 million, mainly in the United Kingdom and Italy.

In 1981 the ERDF contributed over £230,000 to the conversion of a coal mine in Gwent, into a demonstration pit and Welsh mining museum. A grant of over £200,000 also went to the Victorian 'Beamish Open Air Museum' in County Durham.

Projects in Italy have included a £452,000 grant to the Villa Campolieto complex near Herculaneum, on the slopes of Vesuvius, and two grants of £89,000 and £30,000 to restore a castle and a church in Salerno.



Legs for breakfast

A European investigation has shown that the French eat an estimated five thousand tonnes of frogs' legs every year. They also eat between thirty and forty thousand tonnes of snails, according to figures just published by the European Commission.

The slimy statistics came to light following a written question from British European Democrat MEP Alasdair Hutton. Detailed information on the frog and snail trade in the rest of Europe, however, is limited, according to European Agriculture Commissioner Poul Dalsager.

Nearly all the frogs eaten in Europe are imported, he says. Of the 5,000 tonnes consumed in France every year, about 80 per cent are frozen and come from South East Asia. The remaining 1,000 tonnes are live frogs imported from the Balkan countries.

Frogs' legs imported into Europe are currently subject to a 10 per cent duty in their natural state and a 26 per cent duty if processed and packaged. Snails are allowed in duty-free in their natural state and with a 20 per cent duty if processed abroad.

Both frog and snail production in Europe are eligible for EC aid under the Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies, according to Commissioner Dalsager.

Women not making it?

The fine principle of sexual equality will remain a dead letter if European women do not have access to the same professional training as men, according to MEP Mechthild von Alemann.

Reporting for the European Parliament's commission of inquiry into the situation of women in Europe, the Liberal MEP from the Federal Republic of Germany said

that declarations of intent were not enough to create genuinely equal opportunities. Her report calls on EC member states to introduce concrete measures to help working women by improving information and assistance and introducing 'positive discrimination' in their favour.

Overall, far fewer women than men take part in vocational training programmes, and this reduces their chances for promotion. In addition, the courses they choose often lead to qualifications inferior to those of their male colleagues. Much of the time they tend to restrict themselves to so-called 'feminine' jobs and have consequently been harder hit by unemployment than men.

But whose fault is that? Firstly, the school system is blamed: it has always tended to keep each sex in its traditional role, she says. School prejudices are difficult to dispel, all the more so given that 'careers advisers sometimes have an incomplete or simply incorrect view of the job market', she claims.

The girls who opt for 'typically male' jobs rarely find it easy, and meet all sorts of resistance: difficulty integrating into a male-dominated environment, incomprehension, and jokes. A real need for a system of support for girls in 'untypical' jobs exists, argues the MEP.

Teaching history straight

The European Parliament's Education Committee has published a report calling for the setting up of a school textbook commission to examine how European affairs are taught.

The move follows a motion tabled by Belgian MEP Paul Gendebien condemning what he describes as the 'simplified, distorted and even nationalistic' way in which history is taught in many European schools.

The report says that the Community's educational funding should be expanded to provide increased support for the production of teaching and educational materials on European subjects. Successful experiments in the field in the past have included the German-Polish school textbook commission, says the Committee.

Other successes with bilingual teaching materials have been achieved in the Euregio region, between the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Energy for 2000 AD coming Up

Renewable sources of energy, which currently account for about 1.5 per cent of Europe's energy needs, could provide us with 3 per cent of our energy by 1990 and over 8 per cent by the year 2000, according to European energy commissioner Etienne Davignon.

Renewable hydropower and geothermal energy currently provide us with about 12 per cent of our electricity or 1.5 per cent of our total energy needs.

At the moment the impact of new solar energies such as biomass is 'negligible'. But by the 1990s they could be making a major contribution to Europe's energy requirements, says Mr Davignon.

Commission estimates based on Community demonstration projects suggest that, by the year 2000, solar and new forms of geothermal energy production could reach the equivalent of 60-90 million tonnes of oil, or 5-7.5 per cent of total requirements.



Britain's best mates in Europe

Who are Britons' favourite people in Europe? A survey carried out by Gallup recently came up with the answer. It's the Germans.

The survey, sponsored by the Sunday Telegraph, asked: 'Which country is Britain's best friend on the Continent of Europe?' Germany came top with 27 per cent, a long way ahead of France, who were runners-up with 9 per cent and Holland. Greece, Italy and Spain scored no votes at all.

When the question asked merely for nominations as 'good friend' of Britain, Germany was first choice again, this time with Holland edging

out France for second place.

However, when it came to naming the country, other than Britain, that the respondents would least mind living in if they had to France came first (16 per cent), closely followed by Switzerland and Germany.

Top choice for an all-expenses-paid holiday in Europe, if one was offered, was Switzerland (20 per cent).

There were interesting reactions to the invitation to state attitudes towards the French and the Germans. Four per cent said they liked the French 'a lot'; six per cent said they liked the Germans 'a lot'. 'Quite like' scores were 40 per cent in the case of the French, 44 per cent for the Germans.

However, the British are not yet among Europe's most fluent linguists. Only one in five said that they speak any foreign language well enough to make sense of a foreign newspaper.

Equal under the law?

The European Community has always supported the struggle for sexual equality in Europe. The founding fathers of the European Community advocated equal pay for men and women in the Treaty of Rome.

A bold move at the time. But Community law has developed faster than social norms. As a result, a number of Community member states have had their knuckles rapped by the European Commission for failing to translate European Directives into national law. Some cases have even been brought before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Under a directive adopted by the Ten on 9 February 1976, equal opportunities, equal training and equal working conditions are all accepted principles. As the executor of Community law, it is the European Commission's job to see that national governments observe them. For the first time, a number of cases involving equal treatment are now appearing before the Court of Justice.

Belgium, the United Kingdom and Italy all stand accused of discrimination. The first because it did not take the necessary measures to provide equal opportunities and training; the second because it failed to annul collective agreements deemed to be contrary to the principle of equal treatment; and the third because equal treatment legislation is not applied universally – for ex-

ample, in the case of adoption, only women are entitled to paid leave.

A number of cases against other member states are currently before the Court. Preliminary action has been taken against the Federal Republic of Germany, over a law which conforms with the directive, but excludes civil servants and the self-employed.

A warning has also been sent to Ireland, because under Irish law certain professions such as the police, the prison service, and domestic service, are excluded. The same situation exists in the Netherlands, where national equal treatment laws differ between the private and public sectors and permit a number of employers to get around the Community directive.

The public sector has a system of recruitment for fifteen different types of civil servant, organised on a separate basis for men and women.



Hangovers are going out of fashion

The argument that wine makes people happy is somewhat optimistic in the light of Europe's 'wine wars,' frontier blockades, destruction of tankers and their cargoes and so on.

The position of wine growers in Europe is not a particularly happy one. And when Spain and Portugal join the Community, the fragile equilibrium which currently exists in the sector may be put at risk.

With its 2.7 million hectares of vineyards, the Community produces nearly half of the world's wines. Which is all very well, but unfortunately it doesn't drink it. Wine only rates fourth on the list of Europe's favourite tipples. The average European drinks 200 litres of tea, 170 litres of coffee, 90 litres of beer – and only 47 litres of wine every year.

Ten years ago Europeans were drinking an average of 50 litres a head. The fall in consumption has

been particularly marked in some countries.

Over the past 20 years, French consumption has dropped from 123 litres to 91 litres. Italian consumption has dropped from 109 to 89 litres a head.

On the other hand, consumption in the United Kingdom has risen from 4 or 5 litres to 6 or 7 litres. In the Netherlands it has risen from 3 to 13 litres over the past five years alone. In the Federal Republic of Germany it has risen from 14 to 24 litres a head.

Falling wine consumption, and the gap between supply and demand, has proven costly for the European Agricultural Guarantee and Guidance Fund (EAGGF), which pays for the disposal of surpluses. But surplus vineyards are already being cut back, with Community measures to stop new planting and subsidise closures. Most of the cutbacks are designed to reduce cheap table wine production, rather than the more expensive quality wines from specific areas and vineyards.

Increased productivity through improved farming methods has brought a need for further cuts in production. A massive intervention programme, financed by the EAGGF, includes long-term stocking arrangements and, in exceptional cases, aids to distil wine into spirits.

A common wine market has emerged over the past 12 years, to supply the market with between 100 and 120 million hectolitres of table wine and a surplus of 7 to 8 million hectolitres every year. Fears are that it will soon be a question of dealing with 150 million hectolitres, with surpluses of between 15 and 20 million hectolitres. Spain, which is waiting to join the Community, is the world's third largest wine producer.

Russians appeal for justice

The Soviet Union has always refused to give official recognition to the European Community and its Institutions, including the European Court of Justice.

Recently however, a Soviet state trading organisation, Raznoimport, took the unprecedented step of appealing to the Court of Justice against a 7 per cent anti-dumping duty imposed by the Commission on Soviet exports of unwrought nickel. This may signal the first hesitant step by the Soviet Union towards

full recognition of the Community.

In previous informal discussions, the Soviet Union suggested that Comecon, a trading association between the Soviet Union and her eastern European allies, should deal directly with the Community.

The European Community had refused to do so, because it does not consider Comecon a supranational community like the EEC, and feels that any agreement to confine trading relations to such bilateral contacts between the two organisations would entrench Soviet domination of Comecon.

The Commission offered instead to sign trading agreements with individual East European countries.



Sailboard firm is overturned

Tough licencing contracts imposed by Windsurfing International Inc, the Californian firm reputed to have invented the sailboard, have fallen foul of EC competition law.

WSI is currently protected in the Federal Republic of Germany by a patent applying to the sailboard's sophisticated rigging, but it claims patent protection for the relatively simple sailboard as well.

Contracts therefore restrict licencees to certain models of board agreed by WSI and the sale of separate pieces is prohibited.

Royalties have always been agreed on the basis of the retail value of 'complete' sailboards and licencees are not allowed to challenge the patents.

Fining the company £29,150, the European Commission said that the contracts constituted far more than the legitimate protection afforded by a patent and effectively closed off the German market to manufacturers of other boards.

The Commission also imposed fines on a number of licencees, who had tried to take advantage of export and resale restrictions included in the contracts, to mark up prices to consumers in the Federal Republic.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

Miss Beata Brookes, United Kingdom:

'Will the Commission please state what view it has taken on the British Government's intention to extend less-favoured areas with particular reference to North Wales? Could the Commission specify what information it sought from the UK Government, and whether any of this related to North Wales? Has the Commission had a reply from the UK Government?'

Answer by Mr Poul Dalsager on behalf of the Commission:

'Immediately after the United Kingdom's submission the Commission Services proceeded to its thorough examination, but because the data presented was not sufficiently explicit to decide whether the extended regions conform to the criteria for defining less favoured areas as laid down by the Directive, the Commission had requested the British Government for additional information.'

The UK Government has since then forwarded all requested information to the Commission and the latter having already completed the necessary examination prepares its appropriate proposal which will shortly be presented to the Council.

The Commission has no intention to link this specific proposal to any

eventual proposals concerning the review of the socio-structural directives.'

Leonidas Kyrkos, Greece:

'Since the hybrid maize seed monopoly in Greece is held by a single country, with which the Community is at present engaged in a trade war over farm products, could the Commission give details of the measures it has taken to prevent any disruption in the production of hybrid maizes in Greece by an extension of the trade war in that sector.'

Answer by Mr Paul Dalsager on behalf of the Commission:

'The Commission is aware of the problems currently faced by the Community's producers of hybrid maize, in particular as a result of increasing imports of seed from non-member countries, subject to a low rate of customs duty which is bound under GATT.'

The economic situation in this sector, including the effect of imports on the prospects for Commun-

ity production, is currently being examined. Research has, however, been carried out at national level, thanks to which Community producer countries have built up a wide range of hybrid maize seed; pending the advent of coordinated Community research, these could be tried out in Greece instead of seed imported from non-member countries.'

Kent Kirk, Denmark:

'1983 is the year of the small and medium-sized undertakings. What then has the Commission done to promote the development of small and medium-sized undertakings with advanced technologies, and to what extent are tenders by small and medium-sized undertakings taken into consideration by the Commission and the Publications Office?'

Answer by Etienne Davignon on behalf of the Commission:

'In the area of information technology there are numerous opportunities for small and medium-sized undertakings to participate in Com-

munity programmes. The projects in the Community multi-annual data processing programme are a good example of the successful involvement of small and medium-sized undertakings. Even the Community micro-electronics programme, despite being highly specialised and promoting advanced research and development, shows a fair participation by smaller companies in the pilot phase, and will continue to be open to all sizes of undertakings in the main programme.'

As to the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, the totality of its printing contracts are at present concluded with small and medium-sized undertakings.'

Ann Clwyd, United Kingdom:

'Is the Commission aware that the delay in extending the UK's less favoured area is causing considerable hardship to small farmers in Wales.'

Answer by Mr Poul Dalsager on behalf of the Commission:

'The UK Government has now forwarded all requested information to the Commission, and the latter, having already completed necessary examination, is preparing its appropriate proposal, which will shortly be presented to the Council.'

Youth Jazz hits a high note

This summer, the European Community Youth Jazz Orchestra (EuroJazz) had its most successful tour to date. Its tour took the band to the jazz festivals of Genoa, Pompeii, Sperlonga (Italy), Amsterdam, Loosdrecht, Almere, Zwolle, Maastricht (Netherlands), and Middleheim-Antwerp (Belgium).

The tour brought together players from seven of the Community's ten countries. Those who are professional musicians gave up time and fees for the thrill of playing in a group of equally highly talented young players, and the challenge of new works by major composers such as Kenny Wheeler, Mike Westbrook, Francy Boland, Etienne Verschueren, and EuroJazz's musical directors, Bobby Lamb and Rick Taylor.

EuroJazz needs to raise about £100,000 for a programme of three tours each year. The British Government made the first UK tour possible, and continues to grant aid to EuroJazz through the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges. The European Commission now supports EuroJazz and governments of countries where EuroJazz tours usually contribute towards tour expenses.

The Dutch and Belgian governments have made special grants, and the Danish Ministry of Culture will assist a EuroJazz tour of Denmark, probably in 1984.

A major project for EuroJazz is a 'Young Jazz Summit' in the USA, where EuroJazz will perform alongside top bands of young players from the USA, Canada and Japan, and play at the New Orleans' World's Fair, Disneyworld, and in Washington DC on 4 July. There are also plans for tours of Denmark, Greece, India, the Soviet Union, France and West Germany, and for a tour of European capitals in European Music Year.

The Euro-cow is a pricey animal

Latest voice to be raised in protest against the high cost of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is that of the Consumers in the European Community Group, the umbrella organisation for consumer activists in the United Kingdom.

In a new report - 'Milking the Consumer: the European Dairy Sector' - the Group says that the European Commission's latest proposal for a 'superlevy' - a tax on milk production more than 1 per cent above the 1981 level

- would have little effect on the growing surplus problem, since the surplus was already at 20 per cent in 1981.

The trend towards more intensive farming, says the report, means that each cow is producing far more milk than ever before. In 1960 the average Euro-cow produced 5127 pints a year. By 1980 this rose to 7110 pints. The average Dutch cow now produces over 8545 pints a year - almost double the output of its Greek sister. So if the trend to higher yields continues and the less-productive countries catch up, Europe's dairy surplus will go on growing.

Generally, milk consumption is virtually static. Consumption of milk products has fallen - we are eating a little more yoghurt, cheese and cream, but much less butter. The European Commission itself estimates that by 1989 the surplus could grow to 25 per cent, but some experts put the figure as high as 30 per cent. This is very serious for the Community, says the report, as about 18p of every £ the Community spends now goes on the dairy sector. Each Community cow cost Europe's taxpayers £98 on average last year.

The Group is calling on the Community to cut the price that the EEC pays to farmers for milk. 'High prices have only encouraged over-production,' says CECG Chairman Jill Moore. 'Europe's farm ministers have voted time and time again for higher and higher milk prices at the expense of consumers and taxpayers alike.'

London goes Venetian

It is the turn of Venice to be given the big exhibition treatment. An important exhibition, 'The Genius of Venice 1500-1600', opens on 25 November at the Royal Academy under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen and the President of Italy. Related events include a festival of Venetian music at St James's Church, Piccadilly; a series of classic films, set in Venice, at the National Film Theatre; and a concert at the Barbican Centre.

The Royal Academy exhibition has been designed by Alan Irvine, whose presentations for 'Pompeii' the 'Horses of San Marco' and the 'Cimabue Crucifix' were all highly successful. It is devoted to the most illustrious century of Venetian art, the first decade of which saw the emergence of, among others, the mysterious Giorgione, with its mythological scenes and pastoral idylls – subjects unprecedented in contemporary Western art.

Amongst the paintings of this period loaned for the exhibition is 'The Judgement of Solomon' from Kingston Lacey, a work admired by Lord Byron and variously attributed to Giorgione or Sebastiano del Piombo. This picture, recently bequeathed to the National Trust, is one of the acknowledged masterpieces of Italian art in England. The public now have their first opportunity of seeing it.

Titian, who dominates the century, is represented by a selection of works in every field, from his early paintings in the Giorgionesque idiom to the images of heroic tragedy of his later years and several of his finest portraits.

Aside from the painters of the lagoon, the artists working on the mainland made important and highly individual contributions to the development of the Venetian Renaissance – the eccentric Lorenzo Lotto imbued his portraits with a delicate melancholy, and his religious works with a deeply-felt religious fervour. Jacopo Bassano, whose depictions of the Holy Family are set in vivid landscapes and surrounded by scenes of rural life, created a new kind of rustic realism combined with supreme elegance.

The exhibition will only be shown in London, since the 300 works it is works of art which have been borrowed from all over the world, are in many cases the most rare and valuable in the collections to which they belong. The Royal Academy says it is 'delighted' by the response from lenders, who include nearly all the great galleries of Europe and America – amongst them the Royal Collection, the Prado in Madrid, the Louvre, the Kunsthistorisches in Vienna, the Gemäldegalerie, Dresden, the National Gallery of Art in Washington – but, above all, the palaces, churches, galleries and private collections of Italy.



Above: Portrait of a Lady, Bescian School, on loan from Vienna. Below: Giorgione's 'Virgin and Child with St Roch and St Anthony', from the Prado, Madrid.



Britain's children get the Community message

This summer, from July through to September, a blue double-decker bus was to be seen on the roads of England and Wales. It was the new European Community travelling exhibition, designed to take Europe to the population at large, under the slogan – announced on the sides of the bus – ‘Europe in Britain’.

There have been similar ventures in recent years. But this time the vehicle had grown from a mere caravan to a hefty double-decker – bought second-hand for the purpose, and fitted out as a most effective display and information unit.

During the eleven-week tour (seven weeks in Wales, four in England), approximately 20,000 people visited the bus. Some lingered to read the specially prepared panelling. Others asked questions such as ‘What’s this all about, then?’ or ‘Could you tell me the nature of the EEC directive on sewage?’ Most just browsed and left with polythene bags full of information.

According to the visitors’ book, the exhibition’s most notable visitors included Mickey Mouse (sixteen times), Mango Chutney and Johnny Rotten. Nationalities were as various as names – Americans, Australians, Germans, French, Italians, even Sudanese. Interest came from all age-groups, though there was a sad lack of visitors aged between twenty and forty. Those who did come were generally dragged in by their children.

But there can be no doubt that the exhibition achieved its aims of getting information about the Community to the people and increasing goodwill. Visitors to the bus began to understand more about the institutions of the Community and see, through illustrative panels, more about what Britain is getting out of its membership.

Local newspapers hailed the exhibition as the ‘Common Market Battle Bus’; but, in reality, there were relatively few ‘anti-market’ visitors to do battle with. For many, the European Community’s role as a force for peace, and its policy of Third World trade and aid, were sources of great encouragement. So too was information provided at the bus on the Regional and Social Funds, since the longer conversations (particularly in Wales) were often about unemployment.

Understandably, not everyone was satis-

fied. Certainly not the old lady who insisted the bus was going to Bargoed, and the belligerent Devon man who berrated the European Community for everything from the Hiroshima bomb to the child sex attack in Brighton. And the question of the ‘butter mountain’ must have arisen every single day.

On the whole, the story of this first summer run for the double-decker was one of success. In all the venues (especially the seaside ones), children of all ages, and from all parts of the country, visited and revisited the bus. In Paignton, one group of about ten children spent every day, all day, on the bus for a week. By the end they knew the CAP from the EEC and the Treaty of Rome from the Lomé Agreement. For others, it was enough to learn the ten nations of the Community, and make off with their pens, maps, stickers and posters.

Some school teachers came to the bus and asked for fifty of everything. Scantly clad sunworshippers stepped up for something to

read on the beach. Then, suddenly, prospective MEPs appeared, requesting fuel for campaigns. In Brighton, where the bus stood outside a conference on European town twinning, Commissioner Ivor Richard paid a visit. In all of the towns the exhibition went to, the local mayor arrived in ceremonial chain and stayed to talk.

Everywhere the bus went, it caused a stir, whether as part of a greater festivity, such as the Dartmouth Regatta, or as one of many exhibitions in an agricultural show. The reality of the European Community, and of Britain’s membership, became apparent to many – in some cases, for the first time.

The bus also played an important role in stressing the value of the EEC to the people of Britain (holidaymakers and council officials, farmers and unemployed alike), and of providing factual information not easily accessible elsewhere.

But – perhaps most important of all – it seemed to interest and excite a generation of children who are not only aware of the existence of the European Community but also prepared to be enthusiastic about it.

As the bus builds on this year’s success, next year and in further years, it will surely play a part in building a Europe-conscious Britain. E



Young visitors to the ‘Europe in Britain’ bus at Torquay.

‘School teachers came to the bus and asked for fifty of everything’

Practical help for the blind

Soon, over 500,000 of the Community's citizens, either blind or partially sighted, will be able to find their way round Europe's major cities on their own with the help of special maps.

The idea is being actively supported by the Commission, which has provided grants and conference facilities for the organisations behind the scheme - Rotary, the Braille League and the European Committee of the International Federation of the blind.

The tactual town maps are made on stiff white plastic, with main streets and landmarks in relief and contain special features blind people will be taught to identify.

They are likely to be placed in hotels and tourist centres, where blind people will be able to memorise their route from the special map.

Testimony to their worth came at a one-day symposium organised in Brussels at the end of September, where participants used the maps to find their way from the hotel to the conference centre. The meeting was called to agree on standardised symbols, perfect the basic techniques and deal with any psychological problems that might be involved.

The symposium was part of the Commission's ongoing programme to assist non-governmental bodies helping the handicapped. Work is now under way with the International Federation of the Blind to promote the employment of blind telephone operators.

Action against a 'time-bomb'

AIDS - the disease that slowly destroys a body's ability to fight disease - has now crossed to Europe from the USA, say four MEPs.

Lieselotte Seibel-Emmerling, Beate Weber, Fritz Gautier and Gerhard Schmid, say the disease is likely to spread rapidly here unless measures are taken to stop it. Since the incubation period lasts for years, AIDS is a medical time-bomb on an unknown scale, the MEPs declare.

They want the Commission to prepare an emergency research programme on AIDS, to include the cloning of the blood clotting Factor VIII into the EC's molecular biology research programme, to translate into EC law the Council of Europe's recommendations on preventing the spread of AIDS. They also want the council to take speedy action on the Commission's proposals.

In the meantime, two researchers in Brussels have photographed the virus thought to be responsible for AIDS. In Belgium, 12 people are already reported to have died from AIDS and some 40 cases have been reported.

Letters

Plight of the North

I was interested to read in the June issue of EUROPE 83 your article about the worst-hit areas of London. Whilst I would readily accept that there are pockets of high unemployment in London, these have to be seen in the wider context. The figures you quote for Holloway (19.3%) and Deptford (17.2%) are not as bad as those for the Dinnington (23.2%) and Woodhouse (28.9%) areas in the Sheffield Travel to Work Area, which likewise is not an assisted area and can hardly be said to be in a prosperous area, relative or otherwise.

Figures used in this way are suspect, because they ignore the travel-to-work factor. For this reason the only officially accepted figures are those which relate to travel to work areas. For London this is the total GLC area, and for Sheffield the travel-to-work area extends beyond the City boundaries into Rotherham. As you state in the article, the GLC unemployment rate (October 1982) was 10.0%. In Sheffield it was 14.5%, and for Great Britain 11.2%.

The situation is therefore far worse in Sheffield, which does not have the resource of the huge service sector market available to London. In the London Boroughs of Westminster and the City, for example, there is more office space than in the eight top provincial centres added together.

London has over 22,200 job vacancies notified to Job Centres, and probably many more advertised by agencies. Sheffield has just 738 vacancies; or to put it more fairly, there are 58 unemployed for each vacancy in Sheffield, compared with 16 in London. The job prospects for the unemployed in London are therefore at least 3 times better than in Sheffield.

Any grant aid which is available is needed here, now - in the North.

M. J. Thompson
County Planning Officer
South Yorkshire County Council

A chance for women in business

A Businesswoman's Enterprise Award, consisting of a trophy, a cheque, and a travel bounty, has been offered by the British Association of Women Executives, in association with the European Year of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

Each candidate will be invited to submit an

Gone West

Please note my change of address.

I have enjoyed and appreciated your magazine, particularly because it shows the positive and hopeful aspects of membership of the European Community, while not underestimating the difficulties.

Is a magazine like EUROPE 83 available on the bookstalls? I believe we need a publication fully dedicated to support of the Community, to spread information more widely.

J. D. M. Horrigan
San Francisco, USA.

□ Readers who, like Mr Horrigan, move to the United States, might like to subscribe to 'Europe' magazine, published by the Washington office of the European Communities. Address on page 2.

Wrong tank

Regarding the article in your August/September issue, 'Europe is producing too much oil', it is not the European petrochemical companies that will have to cut capacity, it is the refineries.

Petrochemical companies make ethylene, terephthalic acid, vinyl chloride monomer, a host of alcohols, phenol, acetone, and many other very complex materials from which plastics are made, while refineries make gasoline, lubricating oils, diesel oils, aviation turbine fuels and such-like, though, like petrochemical companies, they also make aromatics.

Third World companies make some petrochemical raw materials, but mostly the imports to Europe comprise petroleum products. Their imports compete with the same products on European markets and also make European exports of such products to the countries of Eastern Mediterranean superfluous.

While in the past the refining capacity of large consumer countries matched their requirements, those of the Netherlands and Italy had a large element of export. Recent refinery closures are the result of OPEC's success in refining. The plants were built by OECD nations, much of that by EEC.

You can't have your cake and eat it.

M. Swiss, F. Inst. Pet.,
Wembley, Middlesex

essay describing the past five years of her career, with a projection of her anticipated business life for the next five years, along with a modus operandi. Six finalists will be asked to attend a judging panel for about 30 minutes each, and the results will be announced by 15 December. Applicants should write to Businesswoman's Enterprise Award, 21 South Terrace, London SW7 2TB.

The winner is to receive a cash payment of £350, to be spent within her business, and a further £250 towards travel and expenses for a visit to a business, similar to the prizewinner's own, in one of the Association's member countries.

Britain's poorer farmers were promised more cash yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Michael Jopling told the conference the Government was trying to persuade Brussels to extend areas in need of aid.

'Our case has been convincingly made. I am happy today to announce we shall provide extra financial help,' said Mr Jopling.

- Daily Star

Wine is good for health and may increase longevity, according to Mr Steven Spurrier, an English expert on wine, who caused a furore in France in 1972 when he opened The Academie du Vin in Paris and began teaching the French about wine.

He says in *Academie du Vin*, published today: 'Wine can benefit the health if taken slowly and in moderation. The French Academy of Medicine has fixed the daily intake at 1 gm of alcohol per kilo of body weight, which means that a person weighing 155 lb can quite safely drink one bottle of wine a day in stages.

'Wine as a foodstuff can provide up to one quarter of our calorific needs and many of its components actually aid digestion.'

- The Times

Fifty thousand deaths each year, more than a million slightly injured, and more than a million and a half seriously injured: that is the annual balance sheet - hardly credible, but only too accurate - of road accidents in the EEC. The Commission of the European Communities did produce a document on this subject in 1971, but no action was taken on it.

The motley Community provision which do exist are not based on any overall view: they are mostly very technical and virtually their sole aim is to eliminate technical barriers. Unfortunately almost none of them are aimed at promoting road safety as such.

- BEUC News

Johnnie Walker (Red Label) whisky is expected to be allowed back into Britain in November after nearly six years of exile.

Negotiations for re-entry have been long and hard with the 'immigration' section of the European Commission in Brussels, otherwise known as the Competition Directorate-General.

Johnnie Walker's banishment began at the start of 1978, after the Distillers Company (DCL) fell foul of EEC rules aimed at ensuring that all goods could circulate freely and equally inside the Community.

- Daily Telegraph

Labour yesterday overturned its pledge to pull Britain out of the Common Market.

There was not a word of protest as delegates dropped the promise to quit the EEC at any price.

The conference approved the executive's campaign document which says leaving Europe is just an 'option' not a commitment.

The change gives a future Labour government a get-out clause.

- Daily Mirror

Nearly £3 million is to be given to Britain by the Common Market to help women break into male-dominated industries ranging from building and engineering to computers and management.

It will be part of a new allocation of £13 million for training purposes from the European Community's social fund. Most of it will be to help train young people, with over £7 million for Northern Ireland.

But 28 of the schemes getting aid are solely to help women challenge for jobs in male-dominated areas.

- Daily Telegraph

Neil Kinnock has had no difficulty renouncing his anti-Common Market posture, now saying that we are in the EEC for better or for worse and had best put up with it.

- Daily Express

The film and television technicians' union ACTT, yesterday declared itself totally opposed to the suggestion of an EEC Audio-Visual Production Authority as a bastion against American dominance of European broadcasting by satellite and cable.

Mr Alan Sapper, the general secretary, said an EEC approach would result in a form of 'mid-European mush' on a par with the mid-Atlantic mush about which the ACTT had complained in the past and from which Britain was still partly suffering.

- Guardian

The grape harvest now starting at the 200 commercial vineyards in England and Wales is likely to be a record one, the English Vineyards Association said yesterday. Wine production could approach three million bottles, almost three times last year's output.

- Standard

Damage to West Germany's forests by acid rain has quadrupled in the past year, and a third of all the country's woods are now dying. In the latest in a series of increasingly dramatic and pessimistic reports, Herr Ignaz Kiechle, the Minister of Agriculture admitted: 'The state alone is not able to overcome this crisis.'

Some 2,500,000 hectares of forest are now affected in varying degrees, especially in Southern Germany. In Baden-Württemberg where the famous Black Forest grows, almost half all the trees are sick.

- The Times

A shock new round of price rises is on its way from the Common Market to boost its topsy-turvy farm policy.

EEC officials in Brussels want more money to stake the wasteful and expensive Common Agricultural Policy. To raise it, they put a special tax on food manufacturers using vegetable oil.

It means foodstuffs such as biscuits, cooking oil and margarine will rise by anything up to 8p in the pound.

It will also affect other products using vegetable oil, such as soap.

The tax will raise about £360 million. But it is also hoped that it will encourage more people to buy butter instead of margarine and trim the Community's 800,000-ton surplus butter mountain.

- Daily Express

WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS

Britain yesterday shut the door on compromise in negotiations for radical reform of the EEC. From the start of a special council meeting in Athens, called to solve problems facing the Community, the three British ministers made it clear they were uncompromising in their demand for change.

The delegation, led by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, wanted to dispel any notion that it was prepared to accept a watered-down agreement, which would give less than Britain wanted.

Asked if Britain were worried it might lose support by being so unbending, he said: 'Short-term goodwill is quite unimportant compared with the long-term aims. Major misconceptions are developing. There is a false assumption that we will give way.'

- The Times

A senior British official in Athens said the UK would block any increase in the EEC's budget income - its 'own resources' - unless Britain secured a strict financial guideline limiting the annual growth of farm spending together with a permanent arrangement pegging Britain's payments to the EEC budget.

- Financial Times

Months late, senior economic planners from Comecon - the economic grouping of Russia, its six European and three third-world allies - should at last be getting together in East Berlin next week for Comecon's annual summit. Can they do more than paper over the widening policy cracks between Comecon's members?

There is talk of 'fundamental reforms' - but by this Hungary means greater competition, while the Soviet Union probably means the opposite.

Comecon has a tougher job than the European Economic Community (EEC) in trying to create a common market because Russia is so dominant and its members have very different economies.

Russia has a huge manufacturing industry, mostly making shoddy goods that even other communist countries do not want to buy, so it trades as if it were a developing country: raw materials (mostly oil) account for 70% of its exports to Comecon partners.

- Economist

The new Labour leadership looks to have read the signs much better than the party conference. Mr Kinnock has clearly signalled his faith in incomes policy. Withdrawal from the EEC has become a policy of last resort.

- Guardian