

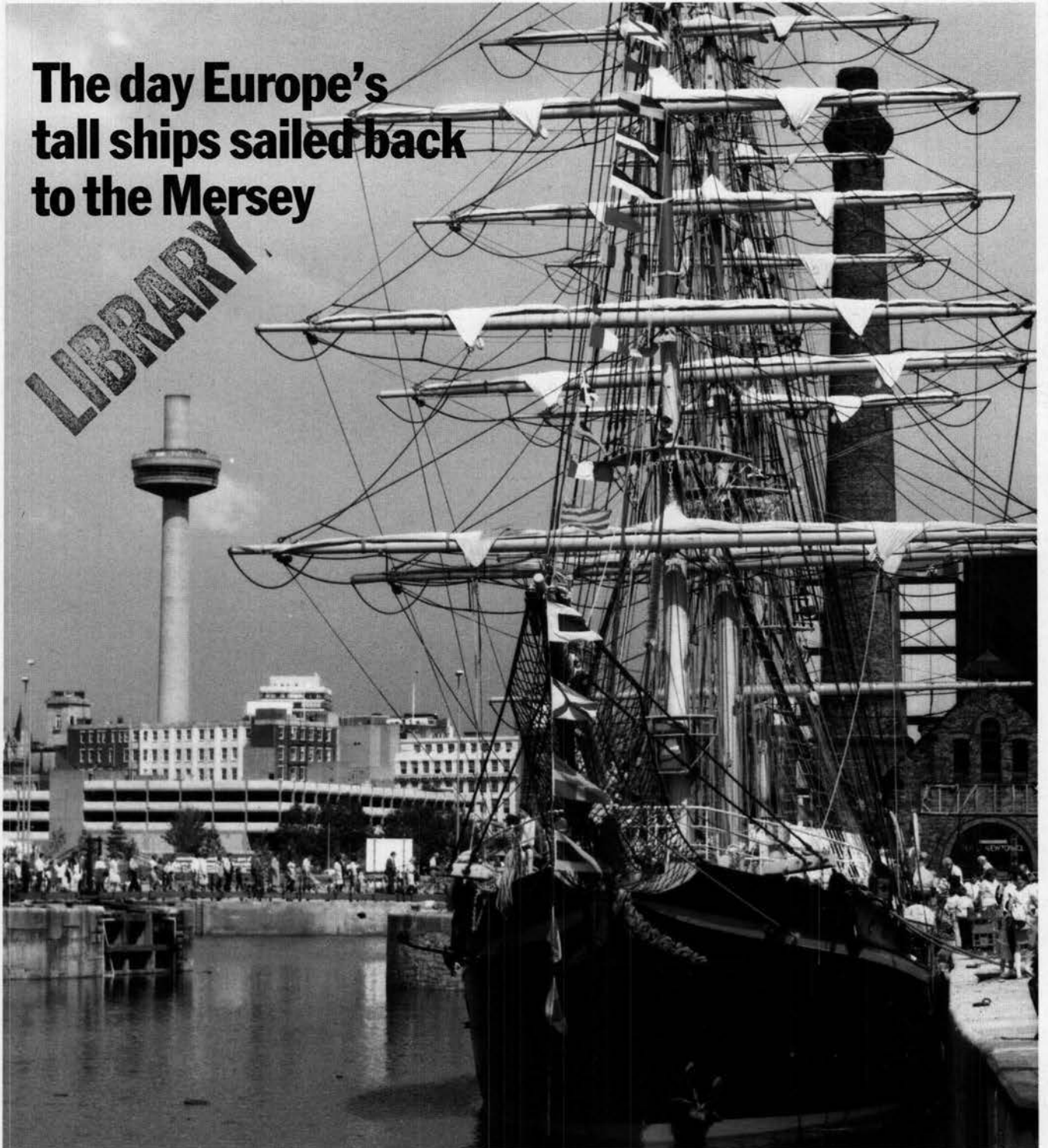
Europe 84

No. 9

September 1984

**The day Europe's
tall ships sailed back
to the Mersey**

LIBRARY



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EUROFORUM is inset after page 12. Cover photograph by Jack Waterman: the *Georg Stage*, a Danish entry in the European stage of the 1984 Tall Ships Races, at her berth in the Canning half-tide dock, Liverpool.



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The tall ships sail back to the Mersey

From the Schelde estuary in the Netherlands, 38 Dutch river pilots were specially flown in to sing sea shanties, and the banks of the Mersey resounded to their vigorous rendering (in English) of 'Blow the Man Down'. In a sight-seeing coach to Beatles territory, Russian sailors gave a fine, though unfamiliar, version (in Russian) of 'Penny Lane'.

From the Portuguese navy's ship *Sagres*, a 21-gun salute was fired as she approached the British royal yacht, moored off the Gladstone Dock, with HM the Queen on board. Into Lime Street station, refurbished in time for the Liverpool International Garden Festival, glided the Pullman coaches of the Venice-Simplon-Orient Express, bearing Canadian VIPs. Andrew Freeman, a 19-year-old from Wallasey, survivor when the square-rigger *Marques* went down off Bermuda earlier this year, arrived back in his home port as a temporary crew member on board the German Federal navy training vessel *Gorch Fock*.

These are just some examples of the concerted co-operation, goodwill and friendship – international in general and European in particular – that occurred in the celebrations to mark the end of the 1984 Tall Ships Races. Merseyside, well accustomed to welcoming back the Liverpool football team from cup-winning exploits at Wembley and in Europe,

This summer Liverpool was host to some of the world's most beautiful sailing boats – competitors in the annual Tall Ships Races. JACK WATERMAN joined the crowds of Merseysiders who gave the ships – headed by a strong entry from Europe – an emotional welcome

has never turned out in such force as it did to take part in these celebrations. An estimated million people, including many visitors who had travelled specially, lined miles of Mersey riverside, packed ferry boats, and took every vantage point from the Liver Buildings to New Brighton promenade on the day the Tall Ships sailed away in splendour.

More than 200,000 gathered to watch the crews march through the streets. As many again had seen them alongside in the docks: a sight, for four days, which for all but the oldest Liverpool seafarer who remembered trading

in sail to the Horn, could have existed only in the imagination, or on sepia museum photographs, or marine watercolours.

Time slipped nearly a century; and there on the Mersey skylines were – unbelievably etched once again – spars, rigging and masts, soaring to the sky. The Victoria Dock, Birkenhead – where once the Clan Line operated, but which these days is a huge, deserted basin of water with empty warehouses – came back to life as the crowds milled, with bosuns' calls, toll of ship's bells, decks swarming with sailors, bowsprits as high as steeples, voluptuous figureheads and gilded dolphins, from the graceful white lines of the Polish square-rigger *Dar Młodzieży*, tallest and newest (launched only in 1982) of the ships, to the smart Colombian navy training barque *Gloria*.

On the other side of the river, in the Albert Docks, now well on their way to being handsomely restored and put to use for industry, commerce and housing by the Merseyside Development Corporation, was a similar scene on a lesser scale, with the elegant black-hulled Danish ship *Georg Stage* and the Swedish navy's topsail schooners *Falken* and *Gladan*, while in the background, among the crowds, *Pinafore*-clad girls performed endless hornpipes.

Nearby, in part of the revitalised Albert

Above: a girls-only hornpipe.



Left: the barque *Gloria*, from Colombia, unfurls her sails in front of the Liver Buildings. Below: sitting it out on the *Sagres*, from Portugal. Opposite: the scene in Victoria Dock, Birkenhead. Over 200,000 people came to greet the ships there and in Liverpool.

Dock buildings, the crowds thronged through the newest exhibits, opened to coincide with the Tall Ships finale, of Merseyside's ambitious Maritime Museum. It opened with a small display in 1980, and will be complete, occupying seven floors, by the end of the decade. Already it is impressive, attracting more paying customers than any comparable exhibition in Britain, and, since the Museum was planned to be an attraction integral to the Tall Ships event, the EEC can take a little indirect credit for the success of the celebrations: out of the Maritime Museum's total

projected cost of £15 million, £2.3 million has already been authorised from the European Regional Fund, with a further £900,000, perhaps, on the horizon.

The history of the 1984 Tall Ships Race—or more accurately Races—under the aegis of the Sail Training Association, has been one of European co-operation and commemoration from the very beginning. It all began back in April with ships starting a race to mark the 450th anniversary of the voyage of Jacques Cartier in 1534, which resulted in the founding of Quebec. The fleet sailed, as did Cartier,

from St Malo on the southern route to the American continent.

Meanwhile, South American ships started a race from Puerto Rico. The fleets met in Bermuda, then cruised up to Halifax, where a second 'feeder' race brought in North American ships from New Hampshire.

From Halifax they all cruised to the St Lawrence and stayed in Quebec. Then, on 11 July, began the final transatlantic leg of the race, to finish in Liverpool at the beginning of August. There were 29 entries for this leg, including five of the largest and most handsome ocean-going sailing ships in the world from West Germany, Portugal, the USSR, Poland, Colombia, with other entries from Italy, the Netherlands and Great Britain.

Also in July, another race had started, from Frederikshaven in Denmark to Greenock, thence to cruise to Liverpool. The biggest ship was the *Georg Stage*, sailing from her own country. Among the other 35 entries were the Sail Training Association's own topsail schooners, *Malcolm Miller* and *Sir Winston Churchill*; the Netherlands, Sail Training Association's similarly rigged *Eendracht*; the RN Sea Cadet Corps brig *Royalist*; and the oldest



Over £2 million has been authorised from the Regional Fund for Liverpool's maritime museum

vessel in either race, which this year celebrated her 100th birthday – the converted Colchester oyster-smack *Dusmarie*.

With both races the qualification for entry was not the tallness of the masts but the age of the competing crews: at least 50 per cent of those aboard each ship had to be between 16 and 25. So the finale was a young people's celebration, as well as a relief from danger shared. For danger there was during the months at sea: the tragic end of the *Marques*, ice and fog at the Canadian end of the Transatlantic event, and a violent storm during the European race, resulting in much damage and one lad being washed overboard. He was saved only by his lifeline.

Those who shared those dangers were not only naval and merchant navy cadets, or (in the case of the main Soviet entry, *Kruzenshtern*) fishery trainees, but hundreds of boys and girls who simply wanted the adventure and experience of sail training. They were not envisaging a career at sea – indeed, many had never been to sea before in ocean-going ships.

The *Sir Winston Churchill* had an all-girl crew, many without previous sea-time, and the *Gladan's* crew consisted mainly of Swedish schoolgirls. On the cruising intervals crews were changed around. So a Dutch lad, say, might have found himself aboard a Danish vessel, or a Pole on board an English one.

The first award in the Transatlantic race went to the Russian ship *Kruzenshtern*, and, in the European section to the West German sloop *Peter von Danzig*. But the most coveted prize, a silver replica of the *Cutty Sark*, presented by the sponsors, and awarded to the crew adjudged to have done most 'to promote international understanding', went to the 39 girls of the *Sir Winston Churchill*.

Next day, for the final sail-past, ferries crammed with sightseers churned back and forth, tugs hooted greetings, maroons were endlessly fired, aircraft did victory rolls, holidaymakers on board the incoming Isle of Man Steam Packet gazed in wonder at finding themselves suddenly part of a 19th-century seascape, and the *Malcolm Miller* cheerfully went about and raced with extravagant bow-wave back through the fleet.

Although, after weeks of heat-wave, the weather for the sail-past had turned dismal, with an unfriendly northerly blowing, the million people watching from the shores didn't care. For them it was anything but a grey day. It was a reminder of how busy their Liverpool used to be: Liverpool which built its prosperity on slaves, rum and sugar; consolidated that prosperity more respectably in



the great development of seaborne trade with America, and the enormous traffic in European emigrants across the Atlantic; and which, as late as the middle of this century, had a reputation second to none for ocean-going commerce world-wide.

Since then, Liverpool has suffered progressively from changed trading habits, recession and massive unemployment, and the marks of a great port's decline are still all too evident today.

But there are signs that, although Merseyside may be down, it is by no means out. One way back has been pointed by the immense success of the current Liverpool International Garden Festival which recently admitted its two-millionth visitor in little over

three months. It has already done a great deal to stimulate new awareness and interest in the area. The rehabilitation of the historic Albert Dock buildings, with the Merseyside Maritime Museum, substantially supported by the EEC, planned as an integral 'catalyst' for interest in the site, is already beginning to bear fruit, with other ambitious Merseyside Development Corporation plans in the pipeline.

Finally, the success of the Tall Ships event has focused an unprecedented concentration of interest on the area. Who will not hope, with the multitude who personally witnessed this great celebration of the days of sail, that the economic wind on Merseyside, like the wind that blew on that spectacular day, has already shifted from the north? ❑



Madrid – a born-again European city

Revival of popular festivals is clear evidence of the political change in Spain – celebrations such as the recent 'San Isidro 84' in the country's capital, Madrid.

During Franco's era, only essentially religious celebrations, or others of international status, were permitted. Churches and bullrings marked the usual festivities. And both were easily controlled by the régime.

With the return of democracy Spain is rediscovering her Mediterranean traditions. The popular character of these celebrations, many of pre-Christian origin, had been assimilated by the Church throughout the centuries and, later on, crushed under Franco. The first election of democratic city councils resulted in a new, young generation of councillors, coming from new political circles and without a preconceived concept of culture. They could tune in with the needs of people living in their towns.

During the Spanish tourist boom of the

With the old régime dead these ten years, one of Europe's most vivid capitals has recovered its zest for life

Sixties, Madrid was only a place to sleep or *ir de mesones* (make the round of typical pubs) after visiting Segovia, Avila, Toledo or the Prado Museum. A hard climate and an impersonal urban quality worked against it. In spite of the impressive literature on 'centralism', Madrid was (along with Bilbao, perhaps) the worst-hit town in those 40 years. A well-known phrase, heard often in the last years of Franco, claimed that Madrid was 'the vampire of the country'. The only reason could be that the 'vampire' lived close to Madrid. And, maybe, he remembered the Thirties, when workers all over Europe talked about 'Red Madrid' and 'Red Berlin'. Madrid, also,

proved the most difficult city for Franco's troops to take during the civil war.

Heavy Franco-ite architecture, and commercial speculation from property investors, produced results which can still be seen in Spain's capital city.

The régime demolished everything it disliked. So the image of an old Arab fortress, which became the centre of a political empire, and later of a cultural one, was literally flooded with concrete. The population multiplied three times over barely two decades, without any trace of planning but with plenty of repression against any protest movement, wherever its origins. After having been a European capital, Madrid became nothing... for 40 years.

Only the working-class districts, which lost out in the war, could preserve their small celebrations, by trying to hide them from the eyes of authorities who would consider them 'illegal' if more than ten persons participated. Traditionally Spanish housing, with large

'Madrid proved the most difficult city for Franco to take during the civil war'

patios inside, for common use of all the neighbours, allowed the ancient traditions to carry on. Occupants collected the money needed to dress their patio in a festive style and then to celebrate, hidden from dangerous eyes.

So many a street in the old quarters of Madrid took part in officially forbidden pleasures. The few authority-organised festivities grew more and more distant from the capital in feeling. The final blow came when 'The Prairie' was closed as a place which, for centuries, had been used for meetings and community gatherings for shopping and eating. Instead it became a kind of commercial fun-fair, and lost its soul.

Then, in 1975, the citizens of Madrid awoke to learn that Franco was dead. A new era was ushered in.

Too much has been written on 'the Change', the difficult Spanish route to democracy. Madrid has lived these ten years with tension, from the legalisation of the Communist Party to the killing of trade-union lawyers by extreme-right factions and the military attempt to seize the Parliament building. But Madrid has lived through these ten years with '*marcha*' – a word not yet in the dictionaries, but meaning speed and joy of living: a meaning born in Madrid.

Madrid has recovered her festive spirit. The large programme of 'San Isidro 84', organised by the Council with a 100 million peseta budget, has not prevented many other celebrations, all through the year, in outlying districts. At San Isidro big names from international show-business shared the stage with local artists. But the real excitement, *la marcha*, emerged from the audience.

The people of Madrid make their own celebrations. In 1984 they defied the weather: it rained incessantly for the whole ten days. In lashing rain, 100,000 people applauded a Spanish rock band singing numbers with titles like 'I Collect Flies' or 'Bad Times for Lyrical Poetry'. A crowd of 8,000 filled the Sport Palace, enjoying the blues of B.B. King, the songs of L.E. Aute – a 'freedom singer' from the old days back in 1969 – or laughing at 'La Trinca', a satirical Catalan trio. Seats were sold at low prices for a jazz festival, an international theatre week, and film sessions. Children played in parks and gardens which had been out of bounds for 40 years.

More than a million people – and almost as many gallons of rainwater – were the real stars of this year's festivities, which in the last three years have become a dynamic part of Europe's cultural life.

Madrid is back in its traditional role as a major European city in a European country.

SANTIAGO HERRERO



The spirit of '*la marcha*' has helped the people of Madrid through the bad times. Now, they can give vent to their feelings in public.



A new look for the European Parliament

The first business of the newly-elected European Parliament was to elect a new president. Its choice fell on Pierre Pflimlin, who is 77 and the fifth Frenchman to assume the office.

He polled 221 votes, compared with 133 for the serving president, Piet Dankert, and 49 for Altiero Spinelli. He will hold the office for the next two-and-a-half-years.

Robert Schuman was president from 1958 to 1960. Alain Poher (now president of the French senate) held the office from 1966 to 1969 Georges Spénale from 1975 to 1977, and Simone Veil from 1979 to 1982.

Pierre Pflimlin has had a long and highly distinguished career in French politics – he was Prime Minister in 1958 – and his European credentials are impeccable, a factor which is bound to have been in the minds of MEPs when they came to vote.

Mr Pflimlin was born in Roubaix in 1907 and educated at the Lycée in Mulhouse and the Institut Catholique – regarded as one of France's top law schools – in Paris. He went on to take his doctorate in law at the University of Strasbourg.

He began his political career at national level when he stood for election to the Constituent National Assembly for the Lower Rhine in 1945. He was elected and then re-elected to the National Assembly in 1946, 1951, 1958 and 1962.

He held office in successive governments as Under-Secretary for Population and subsequently National Economy (1946), Minister for Agriculture (1947-49, 1950-51), Minister for Trade and External Economic Relations (1951-53), Secretary of State responsible for relations with the Council of Europe (1952), Minister for Overseas Territories (1952-56, 1957-58).

He was Prime Minister in May-June 1958, Secretary of State in the De Gaulle government from June 1958 to January 1959. His other posts have included Secretary of State responsible for Co-operation, and leader of the Popular Republican Movement from 1956-1959.



Pierre Pflimlin: 221 votes in favour.

Mr Pflimlin was a member of the Lower Rhine General Council from 1951 to 1970 and again from 1971 to 1976, holding office as its president from 1951 to 1960.

Having been an alderman of Strasbourg since 1945, he was elected city mayor in 1959 and president of the Strasbourg Urban Community at its creation in January 1968.

For 14 years he presided over the fortunes of Strasbourg (1959-1983) and is now its honorary mayor.

Mr Pflimlin is vice-chairman of the European People's Party.

Parliament – and the public – will have to get used to a new name for an old group in the new European Parliament, and one entirely new group.

The European Progressive Democrats have changed their name to the European Democratic Alliance, risking confusion with the

existing European Democratic Group.

Renamed is the old Group for the Technical Coordination and Defence of Independent Groups and Members. It loses Italian Radicals, but gains Greens and Ecologists from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, and is to be known as the Rainbow Group. Completely new is the Group of the European Right drawn from France, Italy and Greece.

Forty-six of the Members from the United Kingdom sit in the European Democratic Group: 45 Conservatives and one Ulster Unionist. The Socialist Group (130 in all) include 33 United Kingdom Members: 32 Labour and one Social Democratic and Labour Party representative from Northern Ireland.

The one Scottish National Party Member sits with the European Democratic Alliance. The remaining British Member, from the Democratic Unionist Party of Northern Ireland, sits as an independent.

The Parliament has chosen British members to head four of its 18 specialised committees. They are: Dr Barry Seal (Yorkshire West, Soc), Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy; Dame Shelagh Roberts (London South West, EDG), External Economic Relations; Michael Welsh (Lancashire Centre, EDG), Social Affairs and Employment; and Winnie Ewing (Highlands and Island, EDA), Youth Affairs, Culture, Education, Information and Sport.



Winnie Ewing: one of four British heads of the 18 specialised committees.

Political groups	Total 1984	Bel	Dk	Ger	Fr	Gr	Irl	It	Lux	Neth	UK
Socialists	130(+6)	7(-)	4(-)	33(-2)	20(-3)	10(-)	-(-4)	12(-2)	2(+1)	9(-)	33(+16) ¹
European People's Party	110(-7)	6(-4)	1(-)	41(-1)	9(-)	9(+1)	6(+2)	27(-3)	3(-)	8(-2)	-
European Democrats	50(-13)	-	4(+2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46(-15) ²
Communists	41(-8)	-	1(-1)	-	10(-9)	4(-)	-	26(+2)	-	-	-
Liberals	31(-7)	5(+1)	2(-1)	-(-4)	12(-3)	-	1(-)	5(-)	1(-1)	5(+1)	-
European Democratic Alliance	29(+7)	-	-(-1)	-	20(+5)	-	8(+3)	-	-	-	1(-) ³
Rainbow Group	20	4	4	7	-	-	-	3	-	2	-
Group of the European Right	16	-	-	-	10	1	-	5	-	-	-
Non-attached	7(-1)	2	-	-	-	-	-(-1)	3	-	1	1 ⁴
Total	434	24	16	81	81	24	15	81	6	25	81

¹ 32 Labour Members and one from the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)

² 45 Conservatives and one Official Ulster Unionist

³ One Scottish National Party Member

⁴ One Democratic Unionist Party Member

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK

JACQUES DELORS: a profile of the next Commission President by Jean Baumier

The secrecy and speed of the decision stunned observers. It took just 48 hours of negotiation for the ten member states to approve unanimously the appointment of France's Jacques Delors as next President of the European Commission in Brussels.

The decision, which was announced 19 July, came as a birthday present for Delors, who celebrated his 59th the following day. The former Economy, Finance and Budget Minister in the Mauroy Government will take up the post currently held by Gaston Thorn on 1 January 1985.

The nomination of Jacques Delors won the immediate approval of the other European capitals for a number of reasons. First and foremost, because he is a political heavyweight, who has been long accustomed to top-level political, economic and financial wrangling. Energetic, obstinate and sometimes authoritarian, he

'His record places him in a strong position to work towards a consensus on many of the more controversial issues'

is regarded as a man to be listened to, who will give the Commission the weight it badly needs in the international arena.

At the same time he is a moderate socialist, a pragmatist, and a man of the centre, as he has consistently shown throughout his political career in France. His record places him in a strong position to work towards a consensus on many of the more controversial issues facing the European Community, including the accession of Spain and Portugal, financing the agricultural policy, and trade and tariff negotiations with the United States. On a number of contentious economic and financial issues, his recent experience as France's financial 'wizard' at a time of crisis could prove invaluable.

Jacques Delors also has another tremendous advantage - he is a convinced European, and has proved it on numerous occasions. One example: in 1981-82, when the French franc was in a critical position, undermined by speculation on all sides and sinking rapidly on international exchange markets, many economists and members of the government suggested that the solution could be for France to distance itself from the Community. They argued that France should quit the European Monetary System, devalue her currency and erect protectionist trade barriers in defiance of Community rules. It was a course that Jacques Delors, with the support of François Mitterrand, absolutely refused to contemplate. He was 100 per cent for Europe.

The gamble paid off, and subsequent history proved him right. Thanks to his policy of tight money, financial equilibrium was gradually re-established, inflation fell, and the franc recovered. The new French government, headed by Laurent Fabius, inherited an economy on its way to recovery.

On top of all this, Delors is no stranger to the complex workings of the EEC. In the past he has been a member of the European Parliament and president of its Economic and Monetary Committee. And as France's representative to the Council of Ministers, he has taken part in debates on most of the issues that he will come up against in Brussels as President of the Commission.

The transition from defending the interests of his own country to defending those of the Community as a whole may be less difficult than it appears: one of the reasons for the alacrity with



'One of the reasons for the alacrity with which his nomination was accepted was his reputation as a master of compromise'

which his nomination was accepted was his reputation as a master of compromise. But as a practising Catholic, and a man of principle, Jacques Delors does not always oblige. He is not a political wheeler-dealer, nor is he blown by changing political winds. Time and again he has shown that he is prepared to go all the way when he is convinced that he is in the right. He has also shown that he has a sense of political timing.

The son of a clerk in the Banque de France, where he himself worked for many years, he became a Christian trade union leader before going into politics. He leads a modest family life, says that he is not a careerist, and wants to work where he is most useful and effective. An enthusiastic soccer fan, he thinks that the best players are not the star strikers but those who pass the ball, position themselves, and play as a team.

When he takes up his post in Brussels in January he will bring with him a wealth of economic and financial experience to help the ten member states to work together and go forward. It will be a challenge that he will certainly relish.

The growing threat to Europe's wetlands



DAVID AND KATE URRY/ARDEA LONDON

Every year, thousands of migrant birds arrive in the wetlands of Western Europe to find that their wintering and breeding grounds have shrunk. Year by year, too, the rich flora and fauna, and the reptiles, otters and amphibians of Europe's marches, bogs, fens, streams, wet meadows, ditches, rivers and lakes all diminish. The major cause: agricultural drainage.

About half of the endangered bird species in the EEC live on wetlands. But if present trends continue, 11 species, including the stork, the corncrake and the shoveler, may disappear altogether outside nature reserves. Of the wetlands themselves, the raised bogs of Britain and Ireland will vanish in the next five years. The Irish turlough, a valuable habitat for many bird species, is already on the point of extinction.

For centuries, drainage was regarded as a benefit, often even a matter of survival. Wetlands were drained to prevent flooding, to control mosquitoes and to add to the food supply. But as the wetlands dwindle, Europeans have been waking up to the need to preserve what is left, and the plant and wildlife which wetlands support, before it is too late.

Not surprisingly, farmers and conservationists are at odds over the issue. The conflict between them is the subject of a new study* which focuses on the impact of drainage in four EEC states: France, Ireland, Britain and

LYN JULIUS reviews a newly-published study of the damage that is being done to the habitats of birds and animals in the rush to bring ever more farmable land under cultivation

the Netherlands. The study is particularly concerned with the effect that the common agricultural policy is having on wetlands. Under its influence, each country has sought to expand its agriculture and to establish an extensive drainage programme. Most drainage schemes are funded from the public purse.

The Community may pay a small proportion of the cost, and also makes funds available for drainage projects under a series of modernisation directives. On the other hand, member states are expected to enforce the growing body of national and Community environmental legislation, such as the EEC protection of birds directive.

France, Ireland, Britain and the Netherlands have some 230 wetlands of international importance between them; but only the UK and the Netherlands have signed the Ramsar Convention on wetlands. Yet, historically, drainage has been more vigorous in the UK

and Netherlands, where over 60 per cent of the land has been drained, compared with 24 per cent in Ireland and only 10 per cent in France. Paradoxically, conservation lobbies are more powerful in the UK and the Netherlands, where there is great interest in protecting Europe's largest single wetland, the Waddensee, stretching from Texel in the Netherlands to Denmark.

Drainage in France appears to have had less of an impact because of the size of French wetlands – La Sologne, at the heart of the country, is as big as the farmlands of Belgium put together. Yet, although the EEC contribution has been minimal, there has been in recent years a spectacular surge in drainage and irrigation, some schemes showing little sensitivity to the environment.

But the study hails a scheme at the Marais de Carentan in Normandy, partly funded by the Commission, with special conservation strings attached. This, says the study, marks a new departure in Community influence – 'A first attempt to redress the colossal imbalance in expenditure between agricultural production and the environment'.

French wetlands are still firmly in the hands of the powerful farmers, but conservationists do win the occasional battle. In Ireland, where conservationists are weaker still, the famous peat bogs of Irish geography, with their unique ecosystems, may soon pass into myth, despite repeated initiatives by the European

Parliament urging their protection. The turlough, a temporary lake once common in the West of Ireland, is now a rarity.

Ireland is so dependent on farming that drainage is seen as a public good. Irish farmers are determined to improve their land and increase their output in every possible way. As a study puts it, 'drainage is a logical and desirable form of investment and loss of bog, turloughs and wildlife may seem a small price to pay.'

Most Irish schemes are large-scale arterial schemes, where meandering rivers are straightened out to make them flow more easily. Almost every one is being subsidised by the Community, and more heavily than elsewhere. However, the Commission wants a commitment from Ireland that no measures will be taken that would be incompatible with the environment. It has also commissioned a survey of the environmental impact of one scheme, in County Mayo, which should provide a useful basis for assessing future projects.

After vigorous drainage since Roman times, only a small fragment of Britain's inland bogs, fens and marshland remains; but our long and indented coastline still harbours some important wetlands. In the last 20 years, the effects of drainage have been somewhat tempered by environmental legislation. The Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) actively advises water authorities and negotiates water management agreements; there are government guidelines to encourage more sensitive schemes.

The Community has made small grants to UK drainage schemes, notably in Northern Ireland; EEC aid has also gone towards improving existing drainage in the Fens. But in the Western Isles, where the EEC is funding 40 per cent of a regional development grant, the study warns of the effect of investment and tourist development on the unique sandy grassland, habitat of some of the highest densities of wading birds in Europe.

The Netherlands, with a quarter of its land below sea level and its sophisticated network of dykes, dams and pumps, is the only country whose survival depends on the successful management of water. As in the UK, agriculture is intensive – the CAP is a cornerstone of Dutch prosperity. Also, as in the UK, most drainage projects are improvements of earlier schemes, or land consolidation projects commonly featuring conservation areas.

But the Dutch do not go far enough, according to the study. Despite an evident concern with conservation, they are 'reluctant to impose on their farmers the restrictions needed to prevent further damage'.

Though drainage is the primary threat, hunting (particularly in France and Ireland), urban and industrial development, chemical and air pollution, rubbish and sewage dumping, peat extraction and afforestation all take their toll, even of sites that are supposedly protected.

With the possible exception of Ireland, the study concludes that the availability of Com-



JOHN MARCHINGTON/ARDEA LONDON

'Europe has been waking up to the need to preserve what wetland wildlife is left, before it is too late...'

munity funds has had little effect on the overall level of drainage. More far-reaching is the impact of high support prices for beef, milk, cereals, etc, which make drainage of neglected meadows, for instance, economically worthwhile. But the study notes that the balance is no longer tipped in favour of production.

The study urges a more discriminating drainage policy, based on a more rigorous evaluation of costs and benefits. Wetlands have their uses as centres of peaceful recrea-

tion, for fish spawning, for assimilating wastes, and even for flood control. The study argues that halting the drainage of environmentally important sites in the UK would have little impact on farming. Already, in the Netherlands, land is at such a premium that drainage is contemplated only if the return is at least 10 per cent.

The Community should consider carefully the case for funding each project, says the study. It also sees a role for the Community in establishing systems of prior notification and evaluation, and drawing up a European register of wetlands.

'Only a small fragment of Britain's inland bogs, fens and marshes remains'

**Wetland drainage in Europe: the effects of agricultural policy in four EEC countries. By David Baldock. Published jointly by the International Institute for Environment and Development and the Institute for European Environmental Policy, 10 Percy Street, London W1P 0DR. Price £5.00 post paid.*

Can conservation be a part of farming?

In the Peak District, helped by an EEC grant, they are working at ways of bringing together the interests of local people, tourists and farmers in a single development scheme. BERNIE SLUMAN reports

There are people who see the countryside, especially some of the more spectacularly beautiful areas, turning into a major political battlefield: the farmers and other locals on the one hand against environmental conservationists on the other.

Yet, it is said, neither side can win outright. And the countryside will certainly lose, unless a way can be found to get a balanced set of arrangements which will protect and enhance the natural heritage but without putting farmers and their neighbours out of business.

This is vital because, in Britain at least, the protection of prized landscapes and the wildlife they foster depends – ironically, perhaps – on keeping people on the land. That in turn means allowing them to make a good living and to enjoy proper services and amenities: schools for their children; jobs when they grow up, including something for those not going into farming; somewhere they can afford to live and the means of getting out and about.

While there is much rhetoric and passion on these issues, and politicians and bureaucrats are devising new manifestos and prospectuses, in the Peak District National Park there has been some positive action research. Using more than £30,000 of EEC sponsorship, topped up with a further £25,000 or so from national sources, the National Park Authority and other public agencies have carried out a major trial in what the technicians call, rather unexcitingly, Integrated Rural Development (IRD). The managers of the IRD experiment opted to concentrate their efforts and the resources in two typical village areas around Longnor and Monyash, with a combined population of just over 600 people.

These communities co-operated in more than 50 separate practical projects representing something like £150,000 worth of work. So, it emerges straightaway that the people were putting in more than a little cash and effort of their own. Indeed, involvement, individuality and interdependence were three of the watchwords of the whole experiment.

Monyash produced 25 separate projects for the experiment, nearly half of them to do with farming and land management. There were eight community projects, and five involving business support and job creation.

Although nobody was compelled to take part, about half the village's farmers joined the IRD alternative grant scheme. This automatically debarred them from claiming traditional Ministry of Agriculture grants for increased food production. The IRD scheme was designed to help conserve local landscape patterns such as limestone walls, stone buildings, small broad-leaved woods and flower-rich grasslands. Many of these were being neglected, or giving place to modern alternatives totally out of keeping with the traditional landscape which helped earn the area its designation as a national park.

So farmers were paid, for example, so much per mile for maintaining limestone walls. Apart from conserving a local landscape feature, these walls also served, in some instances, to protect small clumps of woodland,



either existing trees threatened by grazing livestock or newly planted areas seeking to establish their growth. The wall management grants were doubled if the walls happened to be part of the enclosures of the old mediaeval village field.

Other grants were available to anyone managing his fields in a way that continued to produce the wild flower species that have traditionally given this part of the Peak District its distinctive and colourful character. There are 60 or so species classed as environmentally important to the area: so the greater the number in any one field – and the bigger the field – the larger the grant to the farmer.

Indeed, the key to the scheme was to encourage farmers to carry out agricultural work that was beneficial to the environment and not

– as is more usual – to compensate them for not doing damaging things. Other, more traditional, grants encouraging food production were available, but only where they did not conflict with conservation interests.

Highlights of the Monyash community programme were the plans for a new village hall to replace the Women's Institute Hall; a new play area for local children and those of visitors to the village or those patronising the local pub; and a school conservation area set in part of the village churchyard, laid out and planted by children and parents. The churchyard itself benefited from tree felling and planting grants, plus support for renewal of its limestone walls.

On the business development side of the scheme, several buildings were restored or adapted to provide a workshop and tourist accommodation to boost local income, but only where normal domestic occupation would not have been possible. At the same time, these projects helped preserve otherwise redundant buildings in the local architectural style.

Five miles away, in Longnor, the IRD programme nurtured another 29 schemes with the emphasis very much on community, tourism and business development with added environmental benefits. With a reasonably well-established tourist infrastructure (bed spaces, catering, car parks etc), the villagers were looking for a better use of their resources and for greater economic benefit from the kind of tourist activity that would not over-commercialise the village.

Several hundred extra people have come to visit Longnor since the setting up of the new Folk Museum in the local Methodist church. The brainchild of the church minister, it has been the site of craft demonstrations which produce income as well as interest.

Spinning has been one such attraction, the activity of a local housewife whose hobby has now turned into a small home industry as a result of other IRD support. She also happens to be the editor of the new village newsletter, printed on a communal photocopier which also serves the needs of the church, the parish council, a couple of new small-industry factories set up through the grant scheme, and some individual residents.

These, and the many other, projects in the Peak District experiment have convinced the national park organisers that IRD is not just an interesting theory. As their full report on the work states:

'It can be highly cost effective. It can produce a new spirit of co-operation between private initiatives and public purposes. It can bring together the many apparently disparate interests operating in rural areas and produce the conditions under which they can work together for mutual benefit.'

They propose, therefore, to continue the project for another three years. And they hope that the results so far will stimulate the British Government and the European Commission to provide continued support and to embark on similar experiments in different areas. ■

EURO FORUM

'How the Community is helping to meet the battered-baby crisis

Conferences and media all over Europe are concerned this year with battered, neglected or abandoned children. Some 50,000 children a year in France are tortured in their own homes. Two French children die every day from blows received from their parents or guardians.

The situation is just as grim in Belgium. Ten thousand children every year are the victims of battering. At least 20 die from this brutality, and 600 are left permanently scarred, mentally or physically or both. Every year, Belgian hospitals have to treat between 50 and 100 cases of serious injuries to children as a result of battering. At least two-thirds of those children are under three years old. Forty per cent are tiny babies of under 12 months.

In the United Kingdom seven per cent of children under 12 are victims. Ten per cent of all broken bones in children under three are from battering.

Figures published in other countries are just as high. They give no indication of a let-up in a phenomenon which has been the subject of serious research for no more than 20 years. In fact, it was only after a nationwide survey in the United States in 1962 by C. H. Kempe, who coined the expression 'battered-child syndrome', that the medical and social authorities on both sides of the Atlantic began to think about the causes and prevention of these atrocities inflicted on children.

How can parents turn into torturers, damaging or destroying the lives of those they gave life to? This question of motives is closely linked to the risk

'A phenomenon that has been the subject of serious research only in the last twenty years'

factors which constitute a preliminary to ill-treatment. The batterers are often parents who themselves had unhappy childhoods, or who are depressive, worried, hypersensitive or immature – not to mention the mentally deficient and those with unyielding, obsessional or authoritarian personalities who have little control over their impulses. And, of course, alcoholism simply aggravates the risks.

The investigations carried out in England show that child-battering is a practice which is passed on from generation to generation within the same family. Furthermore, high-risk situations are found particularly in estranged or unstable couples, or in those who married too young. The child may be the prime target, especially babies who are born unwanted, premature, illegitimate or handicapped, and the ones who cry a lot, don't want to be fed, or simply don't want to sleep.

Unfavourable social and family conditions can also increase the burden on the parents. Unemployment, continued financial insecurity, social isolation and living on top of each other in cramped accommodation, are all factors which, while they may not be the cause of the battering, nevertheless pile more pressure on the vulnerable

personality of a parent.

The present tendency is to lay stress on the early detection of cases at risk and on the importance of prevention. However, the social authorities responsible for protecting children in danger operate differently in each country.

In the United Kingdom and Denmark, this protection is the responsibility of the social services. The local authorities in the United Kingdom are responsible for creating Area Revision Committees having numerous functions, and made up of representatives from the local health and social services. Whenever they hear of a battered or endangered child they meet in a 'case conference', draw up a plan of action, and gather all the information on to files.

They are given valuable help by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), which in many areas has created special aid units, aiming to intervene where families are known or suspected to have ill-treated their children. These teams, acting as emergency units and working in collaboration with the local authorities, provide both material and therapeutic assistance to the families.

The NSPCC, founded in 1889 by the grouping together of charitable organisations, is very active, setting up day nurseries, organising training courses and ensuring that the files of battered children are kept up to date.

France and West Germany have social services for children and young people. In France it is the Direction Départementale des Affaires Sanitaires (Regional Office for Health Affairs), staffed by doctors and social workers who collaborate with the children's judges and can intervene only with the consent of the parents. Moreover, surveillance and action committees for the protection of suffering children, set up in 1936

'Parents are encouraged to ask for help and discuss their problems'

throughout France under the direction of Alexis Danan, operate as voluntary groups for detecting and reporting cases of abandoned or endangered children, with the aim of stimulating effective action by the official authorities.

Special help for children is offered by the 'Deutscher Kinderschutzbund' (German Organisation for the Protection of Children), through its local offices. In Munich, for example, 763 children from over 450 families re-

ceived help in 1982. Psychologists, doctors, lawyers and laymen listen, advise and—if necessary—intervene. The 'Kinderschutzzentrum' (Centre for the Protection of Children) sees its starting point in the family. Parents are encouraged to ask for help and discuss their problems such as social isolation, feelings of guilt, self-hatred or hostile feelings towards their children.

Twice a year, when school reports come out, the Centre runs a special telephone service to prevent family dramas. The local press in Munich supports this action and advertises the telephone number.

The Netherlands chose in 1972 a different structure, aimed at helping exclusively the battered child by creating a special service. The official, appointed by the government and on call 24 hours a day, is a practitioner and usually a pediatrician. He is responsible for receiving reports of cases or calls for help from doctors or from anyone encountering a case of a battered or neglected child. He follows the progress of the situation and the course of action. Ten such offices are currently operating in various cities throughout the country.

The Vereniging tegen Kindermishandeling (Association against Cruelty to Children) provides a valuable contribution to these offices. Since the introduction of the special service this association has increasingly turned to general and special prevention. Today, it is an important medium for information and training.

In Belgium, for years there were only committees for the protection of young people, responsible for undertaking preventive action if the health, safety or morality of a child were at risk. In 1979, the Oeuvre Nationale de l'Enfance (National Child Trust) decided to subsidise research in four universities (Brussels, Louvain, Antwerp and Liège) in order to study the best methods of detection and treatment. After four years of work and the taking charge of more than a thousand children and their families, this programme was replaced by seven multi-disciplinary therapy teams, based in various hospital services. These teams consist of a pediatrician, a gynaecologist, a psychologist, a legal expert and a social worker, and are capable of providing both assistance and control.

An 'SOS' service was developed in the communes of Belgium in 1980, instigated by the Mouvement de Défense des Droits de l'Enfant (Movement for the Defence of the Rights of Children). It has opened up a non-judicial means of reporting and intervening, serving as an intermediary to take protective

'An SOS service in Belgium has a reporting scheme'

steps before it is too late. The service also includes a network of local foster parents, who will intervene on a voluntary basis to take in a child in distress.

The association Kind en Geweld (Children and Violence) based in Antwerp, which has existed for many years within the Flemish community, works with doctors and informs the authorities and the general public about all forms of violence towards children. A similar initiative has just begun on the French-speaking side with the Centre d'information, de formation et de recherche sur l'enfance maltraitée (Centre for Information, Training and Research into the Ill-treatment of Children).

A useful initiative is currently

spreading across Flanders: the Kinder-telefoon. In December 1981, some young people in Gent opened a voluntary telephone service modelled on existing services in Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. In October 1983, Hasselt and Antwerp took up the idea, and on April 15th of this year, Malines also adopted the Kinder-telefoon.

The 20-strong team of volunteers from Antwerp receives calls from children, between 4 pm and 8 pm; similarly in Gent where the 30 or so young people have been joined by welfare officers. The children who ring are aged between 4 and 18. Some simply need someone to talk to, others are bored, have nothing to do one afternoon or have boyfriend-or-girlfriend-problems.

In Gent, the organisers have encountered cases of children greatly distressed by parental fights or divorces, or children who have run away from home, frightened because they are all alone in the house or because their parents are violent.

Bringing the town square back to life

From the time of Ancient Greece until the 18th century, the town square was the centre of everyday life in European communities—a meeting place, a market, the scene of social and public events. An exhibition tracing the history of the square, at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, guides the visitor through the centuries and into our own time.

The Greek agora and the Roman forum were where the civic and political functions of cities were played out in classical times, the crucible of an intense public life. The more or less quadrangular space of the agora, set with porticos connecting isolated buildings, became formalised as a forum on a grand scale occupying a pivotal position. In inland towns, it was located at the centre of a checker-board layout, while in coastal towns it was sited near the harbour.

With the decline of the Roman empire and the social and political upheavals of the early Middle Ages, the towns diminished in size or were abandoned. It was only after the beginning of the 11th century, with the regeneration of trade following the great currents of economic change, that we find a progressive recovery of urban values and the re-emergence of the square.

Whatever the origin of a medieval town, the square was often the dynamic centre of urban expansion. Where Ro-

man towns were reappropriated, regeneration began with the site of the former forum, which was replaced by the medieval square. A process of urban growth began around it, filling in the Roman checkerboard and extending beyond it.

In towns which arose independently by a process of organic growth, squares marked the stages of urban growth. First came a civic, religious and military square, at the centre of a small, walled-in area. The commercial square, with the market place, would be set up outside, under the city walls in front of one of the gates of the town or between the town and the castle. With the expansion of the town and the building of a new city wall, the market square was to be swallowed up in the process of urban growth, and taken over as a new civic square, the epicentre—a process which repeated itself at intervals, creating a series of squares marking the stages of urban expansion.

In Italy and in Flanders, the Piazza

Europe's squares have lost their original function. But in Villefranche (right) and London's Covent Garden, something of the old spirit has survived.

Civile or Grand Place was the seat of the new civic independence, the place from which it was administered, and the setting for great public cultural events. It was here that the Palazzo Comunale or the Hôtel de Ville was situated. In Flanders, and in the other great trading cities of Europe, the guild halls and houses of the great merchant fraternities were also centred there. This collection of buildings was often completed by the cathedral or the main church, a pattern which was common in Germany, though elsewhere the church square usually formed a distinct entity.

By the middle of the 18th century, the French idea of the royal square had spread over the rest of continental Europe, with the creation of new squares such as the Commerce square in Lisbon (begun in 1757) and the Amalienborg square in Copenhagen (1749-1757), or the rebuilding of existing parks in this new, ostentatious style, as in the case of the Residentzplatz of the German principalities, some of which were also created from scratch.

In England the urban form of the square was less formal. The place became a square whose plan was formed by individual terraced houses built round a garden. Today, in these privileged enclaves, the garden is reserved for the use of individuals living in the square, and in certain cases access to the square itself is limited to the tenants.

This model first became established in London at the end of the 17th century in the properties of noblemen, such as the Earl of Southampton in Bloomsbury or the Earl of St Albans in St James's. This type of square soon appeared in the provinces, in Bristol and Bath in the south-west of England, then in the north, in Scotland and Ireland.

Under the impact of the industrial revolution, urban growth soon passed its bounds, literally and metaphorically. With the exception of the residential enclave, which enjoyed a certain continuity, the traditional functions of the square degenerated throughout the 19th century. Although the form of the square changed little (apart from a increase in size), there was a change in its purpose.

During the 20th century, the loss of function of the square has continued apace all over Europe. The requirements of sanitation and hygiene, and above all the imperatives of the ever-increasing amount of traffic, became



dominant, to the virtual exclusion of civic life. The square, from being a place of social activity, became dehumanised, formless, and dissociated from its architecture, losing all coherence.

Lately, there has been a reappraisal of the value of the urban heritage and the crucial role played by the square. It is now viewed as being directly related to the problems of redeveloping cities

into complex, living, and habitable neighbourhoods.

The exhibition at the Pompidou Centre salutes this aspect of the urban heritage as the pivotal point of life and activities of the town – the reintegration of the square, and urban architecture, into the lives of every individual.

MARTIN MEADE

Funding North Sea development

EEC moves to cut Europe's dependence on imported energy have resulted in a new £10 million European Investment Bank loan for North Sea gas development.

The loan, which is to the Hamilton Oil Group, is to develop three gas reservoirs in the British sector of the North Sea with total proven reserves of over 16 billion cubic metres.

The project, which is known as the Esmond gas complex, will produce 6 million cubic metres of gas a day for at least ten years and is expected to cost in the region of £315 million.

The EIB loan will go towards the installation of a central gas-gathering facility, individual production platforms and pipelines between the three gas fields. The whole complex will be linked to the United Kingdom mainland by a 215 km pipeline to a terminal located at Bacton, in Norfolk.

Storm in a wineglass?

American wines are to be allowed free access to the European market after an argument, lasting eight years, over permitted additives.

In the words of the recently-adopted EEC regulation, 'member states can no longer ban the direct human consumption of wines made with grapes harvested and fermented in the US to US standards'.

The decision by Agriculture Ministers to open up the market is designed to increase trade in wine between the United States and Europe, whilst protecting European consumers.

In 1983 the Community exported about 6.2 million hectolitres of wine to the US, and imported only about 60,000 hectolitres. The US is currently the EEC's largest export market for wine, and measures were needed to ease the imbalance that existed.

The bottleneck appears to have been broken, but the Community still does not accept all the additives used in American wine. After an exchange of letters last year, the US government agreed to scrap a large number of additives that have been allowed in the past.

The EEC view distinguishes between substances and processes comparable with those used in the Community, which will be allowed without time limit, and practices and additives whose effects remain unclear until further research is carried out. These

will be allowed until July 1988. The US government has also agreed to protect European 'appellations contrôlées'. Neither geographical names referring to a Community area nor generic names, unless they have been used traditionally, will be allowed in future.

Are tranquillisers 'hard' drugs?

Should sleeping pills, tranquillisers and other 'downers' be placed in the same category as hard drugs and sold exclusively under prescription?

The UN Special Committee on Narcotics, on the advice of the World Health Organisation (WHO), says that they should, and has listed 33 types of tranquilliser to be sold only under prescription. They include valium and most kinds of sleeping tablet.

According to the committee, abuse of tranquillisers can be as dangerous as narcotic abuse and can create a similar dependency.

Social Affairs and Health Commissioner Ivor Richard says that the European Commission does not have detailed information on whether or not prescriptions are required for all 33 drugs in the ten member states. But several of them are already included on the list of drugs to be sold on prescription, drawn up by the Council of Europe in 1982.

Anglo-Danish lager giants do a deal

British beer drinkers may soon be lured even further away from their traditional brews on to continental lagers, following a deal between Denmark's giant Carlsberg Group and Watney-Mann-Truman, a unit of Grand Metropolitan.

The so-called 'Lager Agreement', which has been given the go-ahead by the European Commission, is designed to optimise production and sales of Carlsberg beers, brewed by Carlsberg and by Watney under licence in the United Kingdom.

Under the deal, Watney plans to buy large quantities of beer produced by Carlsberg's Northampton brewery every year, to be supplied at special rates for distribution in Watney's distribution network of 'tied houses'.

Links have existed between the two groups since 1970, when Carlsberg first

built a brewery in the UK to supply Watney's as well as its own distribution network. Watney also bought licences to make a number of Carlsberg 'Standard' lagers, using Carlsberg technology and special yeasts, to be sold under the Carlsberg label.

The European Commission says that the agreement between the groups does not contravene EEC competition rules, because it allows a continental brewery access to an oligopolistic national market dominated by a few big British breweries. Carlsberg's arrival will improve competition in the sector, it says.

Are teachers all state employees?

Teachers wanting to work in other EEC countries often come up against obstacles, despite their right to free movement inside the Community, guaranteed under the Treaty of Rome.

One of the main problems is the fact that a number of Community countries regard teachers as civil servants in the public employ, and are therefore still allowed under EEC law to recruit them exclusively from their own nationals.

A step towards breaking the monopoly was made in 1979, when the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg ruled against Belgium in a case which concluded that not all jobs in public bodies could be regarded as a national preserve.

Only posts which involve direct or indirect participation in the exercise of powers conferred by public law, and duties designed to safeguard the general interests of the State or of other public authorities, should be restricted, said the Euro-judges.

Turtles breathe again

Turtle soup is definitely off the menu in Europe as of this year, according to Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes.

Marine turtles are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which came into effect for the Community as a whole on 1 January this year, he says.

The only turtles which can legally find their way into your soup pot from now on have to come from inside the Community. But that does include the French overseas department.

Those frontier jams – why can't we all adopt the Benelux solution?

On 21 June, 280 lorry drivers celebrated the return of the tourist season in their own peculiar way, by blocking the Mont Blanc tunnel. This was their protest against the continuing strike by Italian customs men and the resulting strangulation of this vital link between the north and south of Europe.

Eight days later, on 1 July, the three Benelux countries introduced their 'single document', reducing the frontier formalities for hauliers to the simplest possible form.

These two situations show how far ahead the Benelux is in the matter of reducing customs formalities, while the EEC is still deeply involved in the search for its own solution. So why not extend the Benelux system to the rest of the Common Market? The answer (that it is not possible) has to do with the lack of integration of the internal market, and the gap between the Community and these three member states.

One single sheet with 18 facts is all that the 'Benelux 50' form contains, instead of the seven different documents previously required. The new form is used as a sort of identity card for the load, specifying its nature, the cost, the consignee, its statistic code number and other basic information.

Armed with this sheet of paper, a lorry driver leaving The Hague to go to Ostend no longer has to stop at the outgoing customs; and the formalities at the Belgian customs only take a couple of minutes, or the time it takes to hand over a copy of the document and perhaps to carry out a quick check of the load (to prevent fraud).

The copy handed to the customs enables the government departments to keep their statistics up to date, verify the exchange operation (between the Netherlands and the Benelux Economic Union) and draw up the VAT bill payable one month later by the importer.

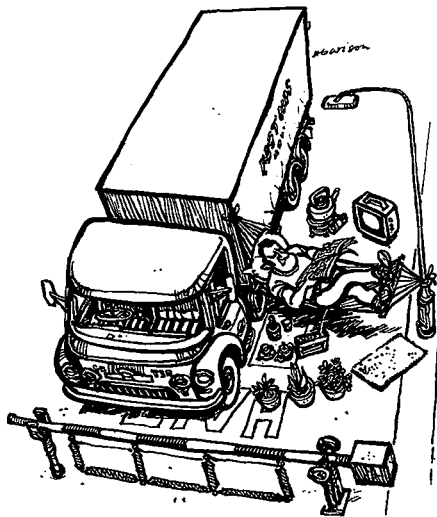
This easy-to-operate system, however, was by no means easy to set up, as the Belgian official who developed it admits. 'In 1980 we asked the 14 departments concerned what their requirements were. Putting them all together resulted in a draft document with 42 headings, which the Committee of Benelux Ministers not surprisingly sent back to us with the remark "Not a simplification". We took the point, and one month later submitted the present draft, now reduced to 18 headings, which was accepted in October 1983.'

Why not get the Council to simply adopt this single document for the whole of Europe? Impossible, according to the Benelux experts, because the initial conditions are too different. In concrete terms, the Benelux had already abolished veterinary, health, technical and quality inspection barriers as far back as

One single document does the job for lorries going in and out of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. For the rest of the Ten it's a different matter...

1971, from which date they had a single certificate of origin and a unified customs area. 'This is one of the keys to the system,' our informant told us, 'since a formal procedure can only be abolished at home when it has been brought into conformity with those abroad.'

Another important decision made by these three countries in 1970 was to defer payment of VAT to the following month, making the importer responsible for paying back his due to the state just as a producer or dealer of domestic goods. This meant that the single document no longer had to be used for paying VAT and so did not have to carry VAT information, thus reducing the time required to process it through customs.



Given that the EEC has still not achieved its internal market, that veterinary inspections are still a national responsibility, and that certain member states such as France are quite frankly hostile to the idea of deferring VAT payment, it is obvious that the Benelux's single document cannot become a single European document.

It is in recognition of this fact that the proposal from the Commission is for a less complicated document which will enable tax to be paid immediately. So why such hostility?

A French expert explained to us that deferred VAT payment would make it easier to

evade tax by falsifying the document, and result in a loss of income to the government, because of the loss on interest on revenue for a period of one month. It would also give an advantage to foreign goods, since domestic operators have to pay VAT immediately.

It is difficult to know who is right. The Benelux countries, which have been operating a deferred payment system for the last 14 years, declare themselves quite happy with it. The UK is not so sure. However, our French informant told us, immediate payment does not necessarily mean payment at the border, and does not have to result in border delays. In France, and in other member states, it would be possible for the tax to be paid on arrival, at customs centres inside the country.

During the French presidency it was suggested to the Ten that their customs should introduce computerisation – 25 per cent of the work in France is already handled this way. The Commission was instructed to submit a plan for interconnecting the customs computer networks.

Meanwhile, before this technology arrives, the joint document may not be so very far away. The list of headings to be filled in by the operator is already fixed (since November 1983, by the internal market Council). The implementation regulation is nearly mature, and could be adopted during the Irish presidency (i.e. before the end of the year). This would provide for a variable geometry in three parts, to be used by the operator according to his requirements. All that would then remain would be to decide on the layout of the headings.

In the opinion of one of the negotiators, the joint single document of the future could be a good compromise between the Commission's very ambitious initial project and the present tangle of national formalities. It should enable the VAT operation to be carried out exactly as it is today, while at the same time enabling government departments to start to cooperate by working with the same documents.

Compared to the single document and the regulations now in force in the Benelux, it will still have gaps, with old national barriers lurking behind (national) veterinary and certification regulations. On the other hand, neither the Benelux nor the Common Market document will deal with infrequent goods fraught with complexity, such as weapons of war or safety standards for dangerous substances.

Most importantly, even if the EEC were to join the Benelux tomorrow in introducing a single, easy-to-use document, it would still leave the most difficult task to be accomplished by all sides – namely, to harmonise VAT rates, so making internal customs unnecessary.

Moves to put a brake on 'misleading' ads

The Council of Ministers, meeting in Luxembourg on 28 June, adopted a directive aimed at protecting consumers, individuals engaged in industry, business and the professions, and the public interest in general, against misleading advertising.

This decision coming at a time when member states of the Community, and the international community as a whole, stand on the threshold of a new area in communications, brought about by unprecedented advances in electronic technology.

The transmission of images by satellite and cable television systems will expand enormously in the present decade, as a result of heavy investment by national broadcasting authorities and private business interests in new joint-venture satellite launches scheduled over the next five years. The programmes they will transmit will be capable of being received by the general public over very large areas, extending in some instances over the whole of Western Europe, including Scandinavia.

The messages capable of being received on TV screens in European homes will not only include conventional television programmes but also the pages of daily newspapers, or other print media, published in other parts of the world. They will also include an extensive

'Armchair shopping is already technically feasible'

repertoire of sport and cultural entertainment material, pre-recorded, and available via computer-controlled request codes accessible to individual subscribers.

International armchair shopping is already technically feasible through the linking up of home television sets with the domestic telephone system and central computer installations. The trader of the future will use the TV screen as a shop window for his merchandise and take orders by telephone code for direct delivery to individual customers. At the same time, customers' bank accounts will be directly debited with the cost of the items purchased.

These new systems will be costly as well as convenient. They will derive a large part of their revenue from advertising which, because it transcends national frontiers, will no longer be capable of control by single national authorities.

The implications of these developments were raised in the article by Jack Waterman in the last issue of EUROPE 84. This new Directive

is seen as a timely first response to the needs of the new advertising age. It defines misleading advertising as 'any advertising which in any way, including its presentation, deceives or is likely to deceive the persons to whom it is addressed or whom it reaches, and which by reason of its deceptive nature is likely to affect their economic behaviour or which, for those reasons, injures or is likely to injure a competitor'.

It also specifies the matters to be considered in determining whether advertising is mis-

'Advertisers may have to furnish proof of statements of fact'

leading, such as the characteristics of the goods or services advertised, their origin, potential uses and performance, their price and the conditions under which they are supplied to the consumer, as well as the rights and property of advertisers themselves.

The Directive provides means for anyone

having a legitimate interest in an advertisement which he or she considers misleading to bring an action before the courts or before a designated administrative authority. Powers will be conferred on the courts or the administrative authority to order the cessation of misleading advertising, even without proof of actual damage to the complainant or of negligence on the part of the advertiser.

In addition, the authorities concerned will be empowered to require publication of their decisions concerning complaints of misleading advertising, and to order the publication of rectifying statements. Voluntary or self-regulatory means of controlling misleading advertising are also to be permitted, provided the obligatory procedures are also available.

The authorities will be able to require advertisers to furnish proof of statements of fact contained in their advertising, and may regard such statements as misleading in the absence of such proof.

Member states have two years from the date of publication of the Directive in which to bring their national laws into compliance with it. Official publication of the Directive by the Communities will follow the completion of final technical drafting operations by the Council's jurist-linguist service.

The Commission will now prepare proposals for a second directive relative to advertising, covering other unfair practices, following the mandate given by the Consumer Affairs Ministers in Luxembourg on 5 June. **CE**



The latest in selling space: the ECS2 satellite, launched on 4 August 1984.

Why we should welcome the new Directive

The immediate reaction of the UK advertising community to the Council of Ministers' adoption in June of the Directive on Misleading Advertising, though mixed, is largely one of relief.

When the Commission unveiled its first draft in 1975 of a Directive which then encompassed both misleading and unfair advertising, most people in the business were aghast. And no wonder. In its original form the Directive would have killed Britain's own very effective self-regulatory system, painstakingly built up over the years and totally refunded and revitalised only a few months before.

However, after many years of extensive redrafting, the Commission finally incorporated the principle of self-regulation into Article 5, and the Advertising Association was in a position to give its full support. Indeed, over the past two years, together with BEUC and the National Consumer Council, we have been actively pressing the Council of Ministers to adopt the Directive.

After so long on the drawing board, the fact that the Community has an agreed 'horizontal' framework for the regulation of advertising, at a time when the need is far greater than it was ten years ago, is welcome. Undoubtedly, the spadework of the last decade will ease future difficulties arising from pressure to introduce further controls on the advertising of particular product groups. The Directive will also provide an important precedent for other initiatives already in the EEC pipeline. These include a Directive on Unfair Advertising; possibly a Third Consumer Action Programme; and of course – and most immediate – the proposed Directive on Satellite Advertising.

We must hope that all these will reflect lessons learnt from the slow and sometimes acrimonious passage of the Directive on Misleading Advertising. A ten-year drafting process is not only wasteful in terms of money and time, but does little to improve attitudes to the

'A ten-year drafting process puts a strain on the essential partnership...'

Commission held either by industry or by anybody else. Worse, it puts an unacceptable strain on the essential partnership between consumers and industry.

What should this experience teach us? First, that early consultation is vital. If the Commission had fully consulted right from the beginning with the relevant consumer and trade bodies, the Directive might well have



ROGER UNDERHILL, director-general of the Advertising Association, which has been pressing for acceptance of the British principle of self-regulation, looks forward to an even closer relationship between Brussels and the business community

been adopted five years ago. In this connection, the thoughtful and provocative Green Paper, 'Television without Frontiers', and its consultative programme, are most welcome and encouraging. Certainly it raises all sorts of problems; but open debate is a healthy thing, and the progress of the resulting Directive will be that much easier as a result.

Secondly, there remains the old and fundamental need to differentiate between harmonisation of objective and harmonisation of method. Once the principles of a Directive have been agreed, member states must be allowed flexibility of implementation as implicit in the Treaty of Rome.

Again, had this principle been properly followed in 1975, the UK system of advertising control would have been protected and this country would not have been forced into an unavoidably negative position. In the Green Paper on satellite broadcasting, the Commission says it will aim to achieve the 'absolute necessary minimum of harmonised rules'. Fine: it is to be hoped the Commission will do just that.

Finally, we in the United Kingdom need to build among our Community colleagues – not only in the Commission, but throughout the business world – a better understanding of the benefits of a well operated self-regulatory system. Legislation is not the only method of protecting consumer interests: particularly in the case of advertising, where a complex process of communication, involving imagery and cultural concepts, defies a strictly legal approach.

In the mixed economies of the EEC member states, a mixed system of legislation, combined with self-regulation, is likely to produce the best results for both consumers and business.

Now that the difficulties and misunderstandings of the Misleading Advertising Directive are out of the way, we in the advertising industry would like to see further improvements in the various 'dialogues' that are so important to the regulatory process. On the one hand we would like to establish a more effective dialogue between consumer and advertising interests at the Community level. The partnership between producer and consumer is all-important in the field of commerce: it needs much more nourishment at the political level.

We also want an even closer relationship between the Commission and the business community. I should like to begin that dialogue by suggesting that the advances in electronic technology which will bring us television by satellite and cable do not, as has been mooted, herald a 'new advertising age' against which we must protect ourselves. Cross-frontier advertising is not a new phenomenon; and although a new medium will certainly provide new opportunities, there is no great head of water behind the flood-gates, shortly to engulf an unsuspecting Community.

Lastly, we need a better understanding at all levels about the role of advertising, and about what it can and cannot do. It is significant that the whole purpose of the Commis-

'We need a better understanding about the role of advertising, – and what it can and cannot do'

sion's Green Paper should be to facilitate, rather than to curb, international communications. It is right to quote in this context the European Convention of Human Rights, which in Article 10 states:

'Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.'

In making its contributions to national and international economic wellbeing, advertising is a part of this freedom of expression. **E**

Giotto has a date in space

In July next year, a European spacecraft will escape from Earth's gravity and embark on one of the most exciting space missions of recent years.

It is being sent to have a close look at an extra-terrestrial visitor. And the chances are that it will be destroyed in the process.

But this is no alien invasion. Our visitor from outer space means us no harm. It is simply a comet – Halley's Comet, no less. And its arrival in our part of the solar system has given European space scientists their first opportunity to find out if astronomical theories about it are correct.

Financed by the European Space Agency, the project – called Giotto – could do more than satisfy our curiosity about comets. One day the knowledge it transmits back to Earth could be of vital importance to our well-being.

Although it is not a Common Market organisation, the European Space Agency's eleven participants include eight EEC members – the other three being Switzerland, Spain and Sweden. Luxembourg and Greece are the only EEC members which are not involved. Together they have succeeded in developing a space programme, with the emphasis on experimental and commercial satellite launches, which is now rivalling the Americans'. Its latest success, on 4 August, sent two communications satellites into orbit 22,500 miles above earth.

One, weighing one-and-a-half tons, will service 12,000 telephone calls and two television stations. It was built by British Aerospace at Stevenage. The other, adding another ton to the payload, is for French domestic communications.

They were blasted into orbit by an Ariane rocket, from the ESA's jungle launchpad in French Guiana, in the tenth mission in the Ariane series. It was the fifth successful launch in a row, and compares very favourably with the American satellite programme.

So, with a launch cost of £15 million, the European space programme is attracting considerable commercial interest, with 20 orders and 19 reservations from 15 clients who want to put satellites in orbit. That makes the ESA a very serious challenger to NASA, which plans to put satellites in orbit using the Shuttle.

ESA, with its eye on a lucrative market, points out that Ariane has been designed to put satellites into high-altitude geostationary orbit and claims it does so far more effectively than the Shuttle. It hopes to gain a large slice of the estimated market of 300 satellites which are expected to be launched by non-communist countries during the next decade.

The ESA, with headquarters in Paris, was founded in May 1975, to 'provide for and promote, for exclusively peaceful purposes, co-operation among European states in space research and technology'. Funding comes in part from members' contributions, calculated

Halley's Comet only comes our way every 76 years or so. On its next approach, a European Space Agency spy-in-the-sky will be up there – for a close encounter of a peaceful kind. ROY STEMMAN reports

as a percentage of their Gross National Product, for compulsory programmes, together with optional programmes for which members decide the level of contribution. The UK's contribution in 1980, for example, was 11 per cent of the total budget, compared with 29 per cent for France and 22 per cent for Germany.

In addition to its development of the Ariane series of rocket launchers, the ESA has also been working on Spacelab – a re-usable cargo bay, designed to fly aboard the American Space Shuttle Orbiter.

Until now, Europe's space achievements have been limited to the comparatively narrow confines of our planet: studying Earth's resources or improving our communications. Giotto, however, will herald a new era in the ESA's development, because it is Europe's first space probe.

But why spend £34 million on a space interceptor that is likely to perish when it has a close encounter with the comet? For an answer to that question we need to look at a number of astronomical discoveries that have been made

over the last four centuries, beginning with the work of Britain's second Astronomer Royal, Edmond Halley.

In 1682, when a bright comet approached in the skies, Halley realised from calculating its orbit and studying earlier accounts of comet appearances – in 1607 and 1531 – that it was the same object.

On the basis of this deduction he was able to predict that its 76-year orbit would bring it back in our vicinity in 1758. Sadly, he died 16 years before the event; but, when it duly put in an appearance, the comet was named after him.

What Halley had realised was that most comets are part of our solar system, orbiting the sun but moving out far beyond the planetary orbits so that they are invisible for most of their journey. Until then, comets were regarded by Earth's superstitious inhabitants as omens of good or ill. The Bayeux tapestry, for example, shows Halley's Comet during one of its more spectacular appearances, in 1066, with King Harold being told of the celestial event and interpreting it as a warning of his defeat at the Battle of Hastings.

Others looked on the bright side. The Florentine painter, Giotto (1267-1337) probably saw Halley's Comet in 1301 and incorporated its image in his 'Adoration of the Magi'. His reward is to have the European Space probe named after him.

One description of Halley's Comet is that it is a 'large, dirty snowball', because it is made up largely of dust and water ice. Giotto's close-up view should give us far more detailed knowledge of its make-up.

The three-metre-high space probe, which will take off from the ESA's Kourou launchpad, French Guiana, in July 1985, on the top of an Ariane rocket, will carry a variety of European scientific instruments. These will transmit data on the chemical composition of Halley's Comet's corona, which surrounds its nucleus, and also its tail. The 'close encounter' will be photographed in colour, and measurements of its magnetic field and its interaction with the solar wind will also be made.

British Aerospace Space and Communications Division has been the prime contractor to the ESA for the building of Giotto, and the University of Kent and Mullard Space Science Laboratory, University College, London, are among those which have devices on board the spacecraft to study the comet.

Giotto will not start communicating until it is very close to Halley's Comet, in March 1986, and transmission of its vital data will last for only a few hours as it flies past the object at 68 kilometres a second. Chances are that the comet's dust particles will, at that speed, destroy the spacecraft during the half-hour it is in its atmosphere. At one point, it will be only 300 miles from the comet's core.



Off the drawing board: Giotto in the making.

Halley's Comet — 'a large dirty snowball made up of dust and water ice'

Meanwhile, Halley's Comet is now heading towards us. It was spotted, late last year, by Russian astronomers, at a distance of 875 million miles. They were using the world's largest optical telescope, on Mount Semirodriki, and said it was a faint luminous blob. Like all comets, its appearance will change as it gets closer to the sun.


Racing towards us at a million miles a day, the dust and ice particles of the nucleus form a visible gas cloud as it nears the sun. This is known as the coma. Then the solar wind blows the gases into a streaming tail, which always points away from the sun.

The appearance of the comet, then, depends largely on our position at the time of its arrival in our part of the Solar System. In 1986, Halley's Comet will be on the opposite side of the sun to us, making it far from spectacular. Some scientists believe it will be as bright as the North Star. Others suggest we will need binoculars to see it.

When Halley's Comet paid its last visit, in 1910, its tail stretched for 37 million miles, and we probably passed through part of it — without noticeable effect. Another comet, P/Biela, with a 6½-year periodicity, was observed to break into two pieces in 1846. In 1852 it appeared as two comets over one million miles apart. They were never seen again; but when Earth crossed the orbit where they should have been, in 1872 and 1885, very bright displays of meteors were seen.

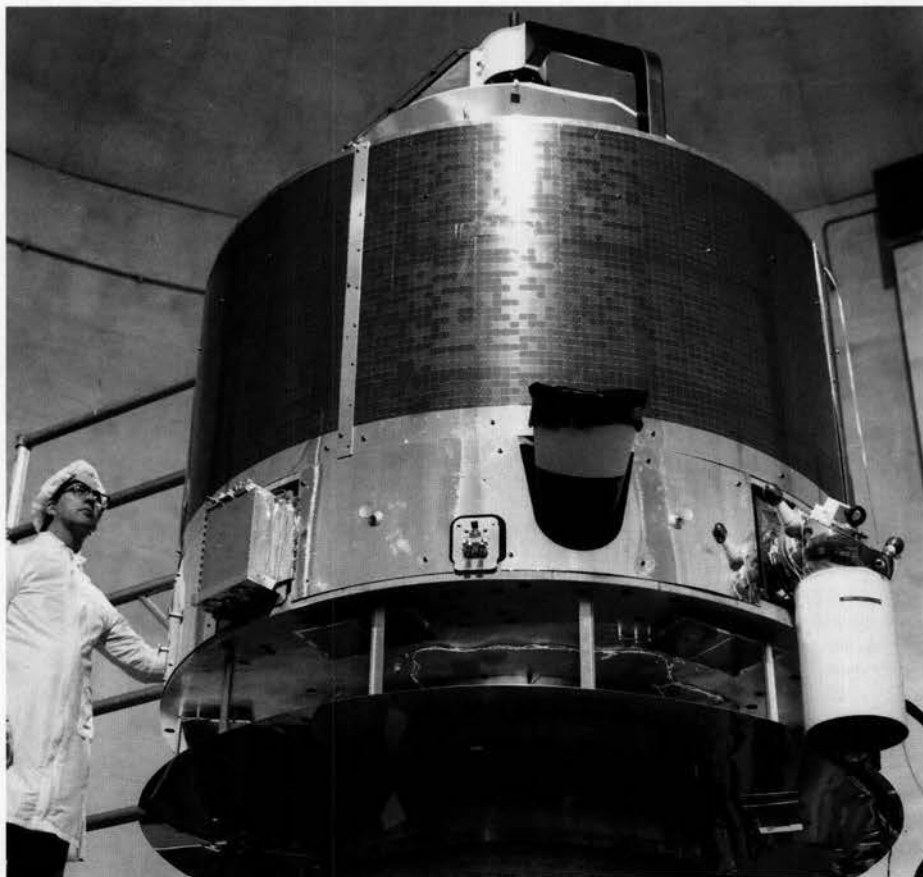
Two astronomers at Edinburgh's Royal Observatory, Dr Victor Clube and Dr Bill Napier, believe that our planet has been bombarded by comets and their attendant fragments of meteorites, boulders and fireballs, regularly since it was formed. Three American scientists have claimed that Earth has suffered catastrophes at 26 million-year intervals. On one of these occasions, 65 million years ago, at least one comet is said to have crashed into our planet making most of the dinosaurs extinct by creating enormous clouds of debris which blocked the sun for six months and killed most edible plants.

They suggest that the sun has a companion star (as most other stars do) which is dim and distant — more than two light years away. But every 26 million years its orbit brings it close enough to disrupt Oort's Cloud, scattering thousands of comets in different directions. Some, inevitably, will bring terror to Earth.

If their theory is right, we have to wait another 13 million years before the comet invasion. Then — if we have survived the present nuclear threat — we may need to use an H-bomb of some sort to avert a head-on collision. In the meantime, Giotto's meeting with Halley's Comet might yield information far more important than we expect. 



How Halley's Comet presaged Harold's doom in 1066: a scene from the Bayeux Tapestry. Thanks to Europe's own spacecraft, now well advanced (below), the world will get a closer look next time around.



Farmers face ban on hormones

The Commission has submitted a proposal to the Council for a ban on the use of two hormones – Trembolone and Zeranol – in livestock farming.

The ban, which should be implemented by the member states by 1 July 1985 at latest, may be reviewed at a later date if it is shown that these substances cannot pose a threat to consumers' health.

At the same time, the Commission is proposing that the use of three natural substances – Oestradiol 17B, Testosterone and Progesterone – be authorised at Community level, as these substances are not a danger to health.

The Commission is also proposing rules and procedures concerning the authorisation of hormonal products for fattening, the administration of the authorised products and inspections by the member states. These arrangements should come into force by 1 July 1986.

The purpose of Community arrangements governing the use of hormones in livestock farming is to protect human health, and to eliminate barriers to trade in livestock and meat arising because of differences between the regulations in force in the different member states.

Prospect of a single market

By the end of 1985 the European Community should become a single united market. The European Commission has published a series of proposals on how to go about it. Now it's up to the Council of Ministers.

The process of unifying Europe's internal market was started in the 1960s, with the creation of the customs union. But lately it has been

running out of steam. Worse still, new barriers are being erected at national frontiers in defiance of EEC rules.

The main aims of the Commission proposals are gradually to do away with all frontier formalities for trade inside the Community, to harmonise technical and tax requirements, to create a universally applicable body of company law, and to make it easier for people, services and capital to move freely between member countries.

Perhaps the most important proposal on the table is the so-called 14th VAT directive. This will put an end to bottlenecks at frontier customs posts, by allowing VAT to be paid inside the importing country.

Seatbelts cut road deaths

Road deaths in the United Kingdom fell by 12 per cent last year, when the wearing of seatbelts was made compulsory, according to Transport Commissioner Giorgios Contogeorgis.

Injuries also fell by 14 per cent compared to 1982, clearly illustrating the positive impact of fining people for not wearing seatbelts, he said.

In other member states where seatbelts are already compulsory, the number of people killed or injured on the roads showed a further small decline of 1.4 per cent.

Equal rights means equal treatment, says Richard

Dutch plans to apply selectively the new directive on equal rights in matters of social security, according to income, may bring the Dutch government into conflict with the Commission.

Social Affairs Commissioner Ivor Richard says that the directive requires equal treatment for all insured men and women, regardless of their other sources of income.

'The principle of equal treatment without discrimination is in no way affected whether the household in question has one or several sources of income,' he says.

Workers are worse off, say unions

Shorter working hours will be a key factor in European labour relations this year, according to the European Trade Union Institute.

In its fifth annual report the Institute reviews the situation in 19 countries – the ten Community member states, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria and Malta.

Despite a mild recovery of production levels, the employment situation in Western Europe is deteriorating. For the third consecutive year the number of jobs fell by nearly 1 per cent. Since 1980 4.5 million jobs have been lost in Western Europe.

The continuing recession, rising unemployment and declining purchasing power meant that collective bargaining by unions in 1983 was conducted in a generally unfavourable climate, says the report. Most unions concentrated on maintaining the purchasing power of their members. In a number of countries they tried to raise minimum wages. In others they accepted slight falls in living standards in exchange for government promises to create jobs and introduce shorter hours.

Average increases in gross wages in manufacturing industry were generally equal to, or slightly lower than, inflation. But most national

unions said that their members became worse off in real terms. The reasons were listed as higher taxes, rising unemployment and lower unemployment benefits.

Progress towards achieving shorter hours was evident in several countries. But in general reductions were less than in previous years. Unions in the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Denmark are all pledged to renew their efforts to persuade employers and government to cut the working week.

Action to curb the video pirates

At their first official meeting in June, arts ministers agreed on the need for improved access to the European Social Fund for workers in the arts, and touched on the various social security problems facing many artists.

The meeting also agreed to fight against video piracy, describing it as 'an economic crime' against the entertainment industry, actors, musicians and producers. Copyright piracy of video recordings costs the industry an estimated £430 million a year.

A possible solution to the problem may lie in the introduction of a



Denmark's Queen Margrethe, inaugurating the latest section of the North Sea Centre at Hirtshals, is greeted by European Commissioner Antonio Giolitti.

tax on recording equipment and blank tapes. A Green Paper on the subject, outlining ways to protect copyright holders is expected before the end of the year.

Calls by several member states for the creation of an EEC fund to support European film co-productions were rejected in favour of 'a system of multilateral support for producers'. Its aim is to develop and support European productions.

Clones come to the aid of farmers

A scientific breakthrough has led to the discovery that artificial genes which are turned on in the presence of light can be introduced into plant cells.

The development is an important step towards using genetic engineering to boost agriculture, by creating crops that are resistant to disease and harmful chemicals.

Genetic manipulation will also lead to the development of bigger and better plants through the use of selected genes and soil micro-organisms, say the scientists.

The implications for European agriculture are considerable, according to Commissioner Etienne Davignon. Bio-technological processes already account for a third of the turnover of Europe's agrifood industries, and the figures will probably rise in the future, he says.

Community funding for training and research in bio-molecular engineering has existed since 1981, but the Commission was already reviewing and analysing developments in the field as early as 1977.

Euro-MPs plea for open government

In one of the last resolutions that it passed, the old European Parliament asked new MEPs to press for greater freedom of information about what goes on in the European institutions and how the money is spent.

The resolution, which was based on a report from the Parliament's Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport Committee, said that 'the maximum degree of openness' was needed 'to ensure adequate legal protection for citizens'.

New trade link with Pakistan

Afghan refugees, trade and aid were just three of the items on the agenda when Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan visited the Brussels headquarters of the EC in June.

His arrival marks a high point in EC-Pakistani trade relations, coming in the wake of a Commercial Cooperation Agreement signed in 1976 and a textiles agreement signed in 1982.

By last year Europe was selling Pakistan about £703 million worth of goods, compared to only about £138 million in 1973. In 1983 Pakistani sales to the Community were in the region of £319 million.

About half of Pakistan's exports are allowed into Europe duty-free under the EEC's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). But the sensitive nature of its biggest export, textiles and clothing, means that a special agreement had to be worked out in 1982 under the Multifibres Arrangement (MFA), in a bid to help Community producers badly hit by the recession.

Pakistan agreed to impose voluntary restraints on exports of thirteen categories of clothing and textiles, including cotton yarn, cotton cloth, T-shirts, jerseys, men's shorts, cotton towelling, pyjamas, trousers, bed linen, women's dresses, women's shirts, gloves and babies' clothes.

The fact that Europe can't buy the things that Pakistan wants to sell, has stimulated joint efforts under the 1976 Commercial Cooperation Agreement (CCA) to help it diversify into other exports such as leatherwear, sports goods, other kinds of clothing, tobacco and fish.

Nobody is in any doubt that the country needs western help. In the past it has been a major recipient of EEC food aid in the form of cereals, butteroil and milk powder, to cope with a variety of famines and natural disasters.

Cash help for jobless miners

Miners hit by plans for restructuring and modernising the European Community's coal industry are to benefit from a new fund of 60 million ECUs.

The money will be transferred from the Community's general

budget to the European Coal and Steel Community budget, to help cushion the impact of pit closures and job-shedding in the four coal-producing member states—Britain, Germany, France and Belgium.

Some 32,000 miners are expected to receive assistance from the coal industry's own mini 'social fund', in the form of financial incentives for early retirement, redundancy payments, re-training measures and the creation of new jobs.

The 60 million ECUs are being shared out among the four member states after taking into account the size of cutbacks in staff in their coal industries.

Poll probes political animals

Is politics a male pursuit? Seventy per cent of Europeans say no. But, according to a European Commission poll, women are less involved in political life than men.

In 1983 about 60 per cent of EEC citizens had equal confidence in male and female MPs, but didn't think that the election of more women would improve their political institutions. The more 'progressive' countries include the United Kingdom, Denmark the Netherlands and France. Germans remained largely unenthusiastic about women politicians.

Women talk less about politics in

private than men do. They also follow less political news on radio and TV and read fewer newspapers. 52 per cent of men questioned said that they regularly read a daily paper, compared with only 35 per cent of women. Women were also generally less militant, but tended to be more interested in wider issues, such as equality, environmental protection and aid to the Third World.

But politics is not a bone of contention in most European households: 41 per cent of people questioned said that they were 'almost always in agreement', 41 per cent were 'often in agreement' and only 5 per cent 'never agreed'.

Steroids should be banned, says MEP

According to a Dutch Independent MEP, European multinational companies are selling massive quantities of steroids to Third World countries to treat children suffering from malnutrition.

The drugs—which, before they were banned, were used by some athletes to improve their performance—have a number of dangerous side-effects, including the development of male characteristics in women, impotence in men, and liver disorders.



Jackie Sarah Haspey, UK national winner in the EEC-sponsored poster competition on the theme 'Europe and my Future', was a guest of the Commission at its London Office last month, along with Clive Leslie, representing the International Advertising Association, who organised the judging.



Gillian Lynne, at rehearsal, shows how it should be done.

'Nearly everyone, everywhere, loves cats...'

In Vienna's Theater an der Wien just a year ago, more than a thousand Austrians witnessed the birth of a new esperanto – the musical language of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Britain's most successful composer for the musical stage since Sir Arthur Sullivan.

A stage full of gambolling, snarling, clawing and purring animistic cats was awarded a full ten-minute standing ovation. And this by an audience to whom, in many cases, the words of the distinguished American poet, Thomas Stearns Eliot, on which Lloyd Webber had built his show, were completely unknown.

Gillian Lynne, the internationally famous choreographer, had directed the Viennese production of *Cats*. She says: 'Even if an audience can't understand a word of it, it's still a great show. The spirit is tremendously catching.' And as the producer, Cameron Mackintosh, explains: 'It is one of those extraordinary pieces of theatrical chemistry you come across once in a decade. It has got to be totally international.'

In Vienna, it was. In Budapest, it had already gone into repertory. The show has been a hit in London, Tokyo, New York, Boston, Washington. It is scheduled to be staged in Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Canada next year.

European capitals, Cameron Mackintosh

GERALD McKNIGHT reports on the phenomenal success of an English musical, with words by an American poet, that looks set to win over the theatre-goers of Europe

says, are keenly interested, especially when their bigwigs come to London and find – even with help from 10 Downing Street – that no-one can get them a seat for months. He says: 'Before long, Europe is going to see pussies galore!'

Cats seems to be the first and only musical that is immediately *sympatico* wherever it is played. The vitality of its dance routines, and the contrasting pathos of some of the sentimental numbers, needs nothing in the way of translation. T. S. Eliot's creations – cats portraying a variety of vastly different human beings, gathering for a moonlit festival and

'Before long, Europe is going to see pussies galore!'

celebration of their feline freedom – is uniquely acceptable.

The poetry is as much in the choreography as in the actual words. 'This is a piece which, on stage, has to express the character of each of Eliot's conceptions,' Gillian Lynne explains. 'I see it as wholly dependent on movement, dance structures and rhythmic tensions. Once Andrew Lloyd Webber had created a musical extension of Eliot's words which beautifully and soulfully expresses all that he intended, I knew it had to be brought to life through the setting, staging and *movement*.'

Whether the show will now purr its way into the hearts and minds of other European cities is hardly in doubt. 'I am getting calls from Hamburg and Frankfurt and Munich and Rome,' Gillian Lynne says happily. 'Now that we've managed to overcome the difficulty of staging it in a conventional proscenium theatre, the show is perfect for all ages and races. Nearly everyone, everywhere, loves cats.'

Recalling the night when Vienna began what may well become an unstoppable prowling through many other lands and cities, the director, who also choreographed *Cats*, says: 'When I saw the audience rise to the show as they did, it was quite wonderfully thrilling. I knew then that it would be welcome anywhere, for its music, its dancing and the sheer thrust of its spirit.'

PAINTINGS FROM A GOLDEN AGE

If there is an air of familiarity about the exhibition of paintings by Dutch 17th-century painters now showing at the Royal Academy, it is because that particular epoch has been brought home to us by Dutch 'genre' painting, which has been a collectors' favourite for close on three centuries. Hundreds of examples have become, by adoption, part of the national heritage.

It is hard to think of any age which surpassed it for sheer naturalism. The Dutch artists of the time found the everyday scene around them inexhaustible, from the lovingly-swept living rooms, pride and joy of the *huisvrouw*, to the raucous squalor of backstreet taverns.

On this level the exhibition – drawn from collections around the world – is enjoyable enough. But there is an additional pleasure in uncovering the painters' more serious purpose. They had more in mind than mere entertainment. They were living at a time when the role of painting was seen as something higher: the emulation of life itself. Painters lavished their skills on simulations of the real thing – a glint of sun on a barn wall, the soft gloss of candlelight on a pewter mug, the very feel of damask, silk or homespun cloth. Add to this the role of art as a moral force in people's lives, through the use of metaphor and allegory, and Dutch genre painting of the time takes on an extra significance.

The exhibition therefore invites us to view the works on more than one level. The artist's viewpoint, we are told, was variable, and rarely dispassionate. He could be comical, earnest or ambivalent; but his moral purpose is nearly always there in the background.

Adriaen Brouwer, for example, with his unerring eye for low-life, equates smoking – then a new fad – with coarse idiocy. Gerard Dou has a painting of a young girl chopping onions in which visual puns suggest that she is, in all innocence, engaging in an erotic routine. A game of chess between a man and a woman, as depicted by Cornelis de Man, becomes a confrontation in a game of love.

In other works, a picture within the picture is likely to comment on the scene in which it plays its apparently passive part.

In Vermeer's painting of a lady playing the virginals, from the Royal Collection, the lid of the instrument bears an inscription in Latin, 'Music, companion of pleasure, balm of woe'. Music was also believed to have the power to cure sickness; which at first sight could be the theme of Emanuel de Witte's painting, 'Interior with a Woman at a Clavicorn', from the Boymans Museum, for there seems to be a sickbed in the room. However, if you look hard you can see, peering out from behind the bed curtains, the face of a healthy-looking young man, whose cape and sword are flung over a nearby chair...

DENIS THOMAS



Two rarely-seen exhibits at the Royal Academy: Johannes Vermeer's 'Girl with Wineglass' (on loan from Berlin) and Jan Baptist Weenix's 'Mother and Child with Cat' (private collection, New York).

Make the most of your holiday spirits

The summer holidays may be over, but autumn breaks and ski trips lie ahead. Our article in the June issue, summarising the duty or tax free goods that travellers can bring into Britain, was evidently confusing to some readers, so here we try to clarify the position.

If you fall ill or have an accident in a Community country – providing you are a short-stay traveller or businessman – you are entitled to medical care on the same grounds as if you were a national of that country. But to obtain this care it is sensible to carry with you Form E 111, necessary in all countries except Ireland, Denmark and Gibraltar. The Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) also recommends taking out personal insurance, but there is no doubt that the public services are much cheaper.

Form E 111 can be obtained by anyone who is a national of the UK or another Community country, or a stateless person, or a refugee provided they normally live in the UK. Dependents (wife or husband, children under 16 or under 19 in full-time education) are also covered whatever their nationality and whether or not they travel alone. The form, however, must be sent for – preferably from one to six months before the visit takes place. It is certainly worth the trouble.

The procedure is straightforward. Go to the local DHSS office or Citizens' Advice Bureau and ask for leaflet SA 30/84, at the back of which is application form CM1. Provided that you are not going to be away for more than three months, the CM1 should be sent to the local DHSS office and, in due course, you should receive Form E111, together with leaflet SA 36, which provides useful information on where to apply for help.

You are generally entitled only to treatment requiring immediate attention during the visit. Not all costs are refundable, but the local sickness office will pay those that are. Refunds should be applied for in person or by post before leaving the country, otherwise there are likely to be difficulties in obtaining them.

Apart from Belgium, France and Luxembourg, public hospital treatment in Community countries is generally free, as is other medical care and dental treatment in West Germany and Italy. Prescribed medicines are charged for in all countries except Holland, but here there is a charge for dental treatment. Provided the right procedures are followed, free hospital treatment is usually available in Denmark, Ireland and Gibraltar, but certain charges may be made for other treatment. In Belgium and France between 70-80 per cent of charges are normally eligible for refunding. Leaflet SA 36 offers helpful information on all these matters.

Visitors or returning residents (including day-trippers) are entitled to bring into the United Kingdom certain goods duty or tax free. As we show below, allowances are of two

categories, but may not be mixed. Since 1 July 1984 the duty free allowance on goods fully paid for in Community shops has been raised from £120 to £163 (with a limit of 50 litres of beer). Passengers under 17 are not entitled to tobacco and drink allowances. More detailed information is available from Customs Notice No. 1, published by HM Customs and Excise.

Frontier officials no longer ask motorists to present their insurance 'green card' when they cross the Community, or when they enter or leave Austria, Switzerland, Norway and Finland.

This is because insurance companies within the Community must provide third party cover for motorists travelling to other

Community countries and the principle has been extended to the non-EEC countries mentioned.

It should be noted, however, that at present the automatic cover is only the *legal minimum* required according to the laws of the country visited and this differs among states. While not legally essential the general advice is to take the green card anyway, but also take out get-you-home insurance.

As Britons do not have identity cards they are advised to carry their passports when travelling in the Community, even though on 7 June 1984 the ten member countries agreed to introduce only random checks at frontiers, which should cut down on waiting time.

Your duty-free allowances are set out below. You are entitled to goods from either of the two columns, but not both.

Goods obtained duty and tax free in the EEC or on a ship or aircraft, or goods obtained outside the EEC

Tobacco goods

200 cigarettes
or
100 cigarillos
or
50 cigars
or
250 grammes of tobacco

double if
you live
outside
Europe

Alcoholic drinks

1 litre of alcoholic drinks over 22% vol. (38.8° proof)
or
2 litres of alcoholic drinks not over 22% vol. or fortified or sparkling wine plus
2 litres of still table wine

Perfume

50 grammes (60 cc or 2 fl oz)

Toilet water

250 cc (9 fl oz)

Other goods

£28 worth

Personal effects

Visitors to the United Kingdom for less than six months are also entitled to bring in, free of duty and tax, all personal effects which they

Goods obtained duty and tax paid in the EEC

Tobacco goods

300 cigarettes
or
150 cigarillos
or
75 cigars
or
400 grammes of tobacco

Alcoholic drinks

1½ litres of alcoholic drinks over 22% vol. (38.8° proof)
or
3 litres of alcoholic drinks not over 22% vol. or fortified or sparkling wine plus
4 litres of still table wine

Perfume

75 grammes (90 cc or 3 fl oz)

Toilet water

375 cc (13 fl oz)

Other goods

£163 worth from 1 July 1984 – but must not include more than 50 litres of beer

SOURCE: HM CUSTOMS

intend to take with them when they leave. There are no drinks or tobacco allowances for travellers under 17.

A STAND FOR EUROPE AT OLYMPIA

A fanfare of trumpets from the Blues and Royals heralded the arrival of Her Majesty the Queen to open the Life and Leisure Exhibition at Olympia, organised by the National Federation of the Women's Institutes.

The Queen declared the exhibition open from the steps of a mock village square, where the more traditional creations of the Women's Institute—brightly coloured craftware, home-made cakes and jam stalls were on display. But as Her Majesty remarked, the activities of the WI encompass a whole range of interests, and this was an exhibition to open people's eyes to what Britain's largest women's organisation has to offer in 1984.

The main thrust of the exhibition was to show how time, properly harnessed, can be used in the most positive and satisfying way. The WI is declaring, in its own gently persuasive fashion, that being out of paid employment does not signify the end of an active, productive life. In short, Leisure is for Living.

The fundamental principles of the WI have not changed. But, in a reappraisal of its function, the WI has become more aware of the national and international issues that are transforming life in both rural and urban communities. It is represented on the EEC's Confederation of Family Organisations, and on the Consumer Consultative Committee. It also takes particular interest in the European Social Policy, conservation issues and women's affairs. I spoke to Mrs Anne Harris, Chairman of the NFWI, about the WI's relationship with the Community, where four officials are actively involved on a regular basis.

'As Europeans,' she said, 'we are committed to Europe. We have always found common ground with women from other countries. There is so much to be gained by being involved and understanding each other's problems. Cooperation at this level can only help to improve the quality of life.'

As for equal opportunities for women: 'The WI has been campaigning for things needed in rural areas, and equal opportunities for women, since we started. Only the issues have changed.'

The European Commission's stand at the exhibition provided an opportunity to explain what the Community is doing for equality of opportunity, and for the training of young men and women in this country. Equality of opportunity took a tangible step forward when the present Government passed its equal pay legislation, to bring the UK in line with progress achieved in other Community countries.

LESLIE JEWELL

Letters

Picking up an E111

Your otherwise very helpful article for holiday-makers in Europe (June issue) suggests that, to be covered for medical insurance in Community countries, you should 'just pick up an E111A or an E111B form from your local social security office'. Would that it were so easy!

What you actually have to do is: (1) pick up Form SA30 from your local social security office; (2) fill in Form CM1 at the back of Form SA30, to apply for Form E111; (3) send your completed CM1 form to your local office between one and six months before you plan to go away.

Your readers may share Consumers in the European Community Group's view that this procedure is unnecessarily bureaucratic.

Stephen Crampton
Secretary,
Consumers in the European
Community Group (UK),
London SW1

You write 'just pick up an E111' in your article on holidaying in Europe (June issue). It's neither as simple nor as quick as you make it sound. The present system is exceedingly inefficient and urgently needs streamlining. Frequent travellers in EEC countries like myself cannot constantly apply for an E111: the time it takes to issue these forms is totally impractical.

When applying for an *annual* E111, I was met with considerable disbelief, but I eventually received one. Why cannot each EEC country issue its citizens with DHSS credit cards, which they can carry with them at all times, like the Visa or Access cards?

Ulla Thiessen
Hampstead NW3

Money matters

The item on the EMS in your May issue, under Community Reports, starts: 'Central banks are expected to keep their rates within fixed limits, keeping fluctuation down to less than 2.25 per cent.' In fact, under the EMS arrangement the maximum permitted margin of movement either side of the fixed central rate is 2.25 per cent, and fluctuations between participant currencies can therefore be up to 4½ per cent (or more in the case of Italian lire, which is allowed a margin of 6 per cent either side of the central rate).

Whilst the formation of the European Monetary System undoubtedly concentrates the minds of members on the objective of convergent monetary policies, I am not sure that I would agree with the assumption that the EMS, had, of itself, been responsible for

reducing the inflation rate gap between countries with the highest and lowest inflation rates.

One cannot help feeling that, with or without the EMS, most member states would have been endeavouring to achieve a reduction in their inflation rate. In this respect the United Kingdom has been particularly successful, but not because of its obligations to maintain currency parities within the rules of the EMS, of which it is not a participating member.

R. C. Prockter
Lloyds Bank Overseas Division,
London EC3.

Discharges from Sellafield

In the July-August issue of EUROPE 84 it was stated that 'Britain has agreed to end discharges of radioactive waste into the sea at Sellafield'. This is not correct.

The UK Government has announced its support for a recommendation put forward, at the June meeting of the Paris Commission, by Nordic Countries, and Mr William Waldegrave, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, said in Parliament: 'This called for contracting parties to take account of the best available technology at existing nuclear reprocessing plants, and whenever new reprocessing plants are constructed, in order to minimise radioactive discharges to the marine environment.'

Mr Waldegrave went on to say: 'In this context I welcome the recent statement by the Chairman of BNFL that the Company is carrying out a top priority study into how it can reduce its discharges from Sellafield to as near zero as possible.'

D. K. R. Phillips
Chief Press Officer
British Nuclear Fuels PLC

Clean beaches

In the July/August issue you refer to Bridlington in the context of 'The Golden List of Beaches'.

When the Anti-Pollution League published their list of beaches which they felt did not comply with the EEC directives, I had to seek a written apology from them, as the publication had used out-of-date statistics and had failed to acknowledge that, in October 1982, a new £6m sea outfall scheme for Bridlington was officially opened and became operational. The long sea outfall, which was provided by the Yorkshire Water Authority, was intended to ensure that Bridlington's bathing waters complied in every respect with the EEC directives.

It is unfortunate that Bridlington's name continues to be included in the lists of resorts whose bathing waters fail to measure up to the EEC criteria.

J. H. Gibson
Chief Executive, East Yorkshire
Borough Council, Bridlington

It is nonsense that Spanish authorities can slap import duties of 37 per cent on cars entering the country from Britain.

Our tariff on their cars is only 4.2 per cent.

Behind this protectionist wall Spain has managed to build up a thriving motor industry which exports more than 100,000 cars to the Common Market, yet only imports 15,000 from them.

It must end. Spain is trying to join the Market. The Government must immediately take up CBI chief Sir Terence Beckett's plea and demand the Spaniards remove their trade barriers.

If they want access to our market we must have access to theirs.

- Star

Curbs on milk production have led many farmers to slaughter part of their herds. This is expected to add something between 150,000 and 200,000 tonnes of low-quality meat to the EEC beef mountain, which already exceeds 300,000 tonnes.

The problem would not be so bad if there had been a rapid decline in dairy surpluses. But the butter mountain has risen by a third to a record 1.2m tonnes. That will cost at least 1 billion ecus to get rid of on the world market—which cannot absorb that amount anyway in the foreseeable future.

The good news from the farm front is that farmers are keeping some surplus milk down on the farm to feed to livestock, especially calves. This will help cut the community's import bill for animal feed. It also makes for a better quality of veal.

- The Economist

Britain is to delay for two years the introduction of a new Euro-passport until its issue can be computerised, Mr Brittan, Home Secretary, said in a Commons written answer yesterday.

The EEC had set a deadline of January 1, 1985, for introducing the burgundy-coloured passport stamped 'European Community', but it will now be 1987 before Britons begin receiving them.

The Euro passport, which will be slightly smaller than the present dark blue one issued in Britain, will have the words 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' printed in large letters below 'European Community'.

As with the present passport the new one will be valid for 10 years, but it will not be possible for a man or woman to include their spouse on the passport though they can include children.

- Daily Telegraph

Surges of acid down rivers in Cumbria and Scotland caused by the dual effects of atmospheric pollution and acid rain, have wiped out fish populations, says a report published yesterday.

The report says that acid rain may not be the main cause of the damage to German forests, but ozone and the combination of pollutants which cause this phenomenon need to be studied further.

Figures in the report show that Britain is the largest single source of pollution to Norway.

- Guardian

British Leyland was fined £208,000 by the EEC Commission yesterday.

The State-owned car firm was said to have broken Common Market rules on competition by hindering traders who buy Austin Rover models more cheaply abroad than import them to the UK.

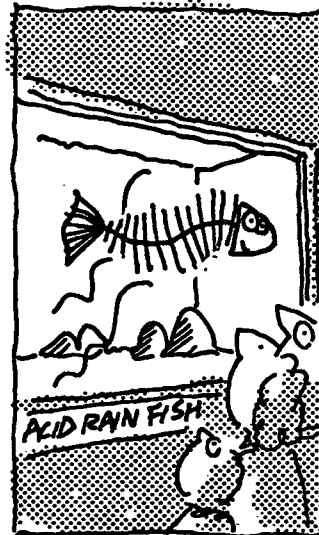
A statement from the Commission said: 'BL's behaviour, which deprived UK consumers of the benefit of purchasing BL vehicles elsewhere in the EEC must be considered a most serious abuse.'

- Daily Mail

Another bumper crop of European Community rapeseed seems likely to continue to curb demand for US soyabeans, particularly in the UK where rape is now leading vegetable oil output.

European fats and oils have also been depressed by unexpectedly large crops of sunflower in Spain. These will find their way increasingly on to export markets.

- Financial Times



- New Society

One way in which France has consistently maintained its influence over the development of the European Community is by proposing excellent candidates to fill its quota of EEC Commissioners. The likely appointment of the quiet and persuasive Mr Jacques Delors as commission president in no way breaks with that tradition.

Mr Delors champions the European Monetary System. With relatively stable European exchange rates, the enormous proportion of EEC output which is traded can be subjected to disruption every bit as damaging as the erection of new tariff barriers.

The Community is already in effect a continental economy, yet it has so far lacked much semblance of a continental economic policy. Mr Delors is eminently suited to fill that glaring gap.

- Guardian

If the Parliament needs to assert itself against the Council, one issue on which it could surely do so with considerable public support is the organization of its own work. The present situation in which the full sessions of the Parliament are held in Strasbourg while the secretariat is located in Luxembourg and the committees meet in Brussels is generally recognized as being absurd.

- The Times

Common Market boffins have come up with an ingenious idea for draining all those wine lakes.

They want to convert the surplus wine into fuel to power the thirsty cars of Europe. Officials reckon they could distill a billion litres into alcohol and then sell it to major oil companies.

Trouble is it costs 10 times more to produce "gasahol" than ordinary petrol. Embarrassed officials admit it would be much cheaper to simply pour the unwanted wine down the plughole.

- Star

A German Euro-MP has asked the European Parliament to investigate ways of persuading the British and Irish to drive on the right-hand side of the road.

- Daily Telegraph

It is time Europe changed to our ways, which have always been best.

- Observer

- Letter in the Daily Express

WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS

Three giant European car makers - Daimler-Benz, Peugeot-Talbot and Volkswagen - are to follow BL into the dock within the next few weeks, when they will face stiff EEC fines for trying to block cheap personal imports of their cars into Britain.

Like BL, the three manufacturers are alleged to have 'abused their dominant position' by deliberately stifling private exports to the UK of cars that retail at up to 30 per cent cheaper on the Continent.

- Sunday Times

It is welcome news that efforts are being made to breathe new life into the moribund Western European Union, that long-forgotten military alliance that brings together seven European countries - the UK, West Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands.

If, through the strengthening of WEU and through a renewed commitment to conventional defence spending, Europe can restore the balance in the Atlantic Alliance, it will gain both in political influence and its own security.