

Europe 85

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**Flying high for Europe:
the export-winning Airbus**



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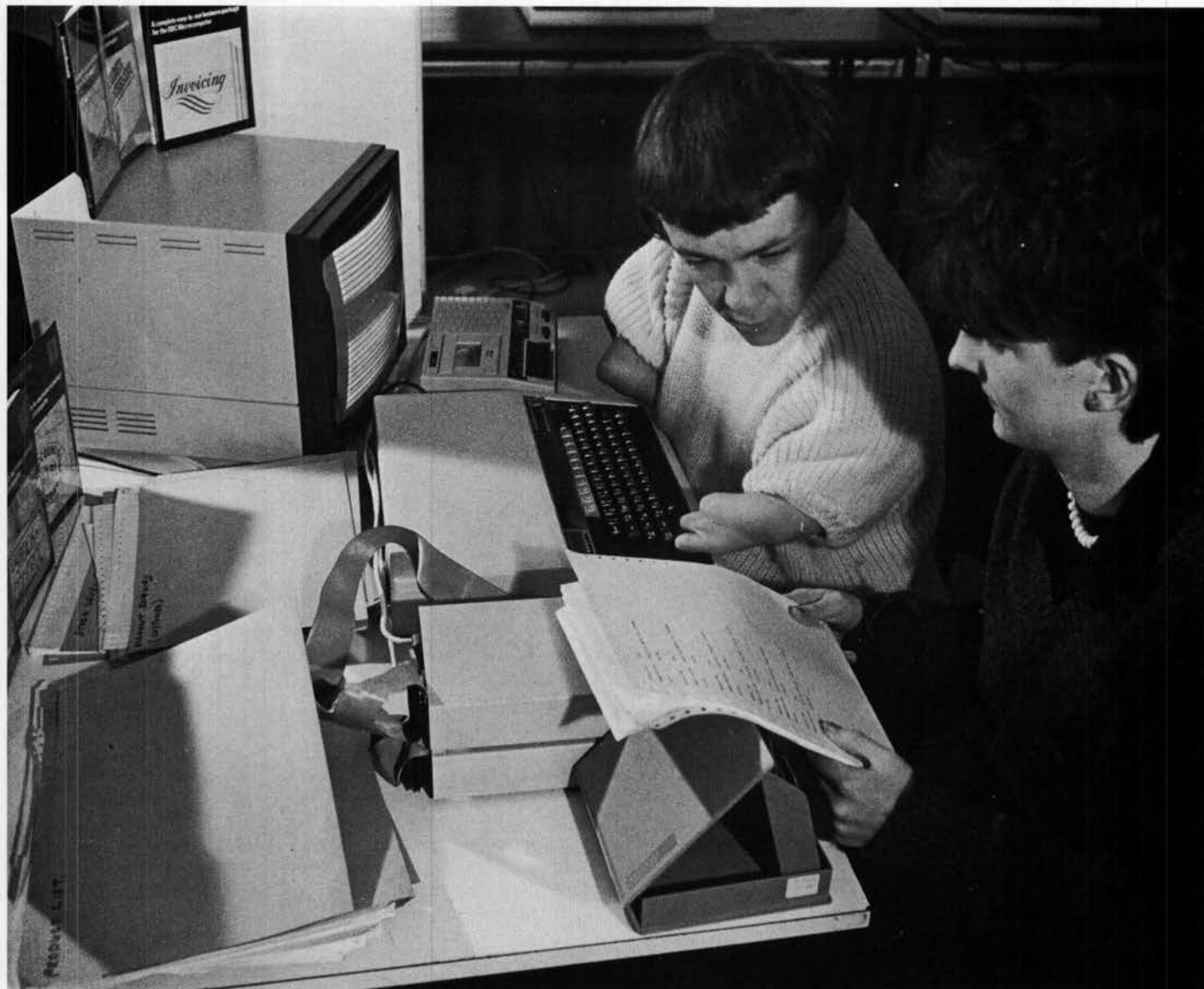
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PICTURES BY BEN JOHNSON

Who says the disabled are unemployable?

In times like the present, disabled people are more than ever at a disadvantage in the search for a worthwhile job. MORAG ALEXANDER has been to see how the Interface project works – a new

scheme for training disabled men and women for the kind of jobs they would otherwise stand little chance of getting, and which is 50 per cent funded by the European Commission

West Berkshire is the setting for one of the most hopeful ventures for disabled people since the International Year of the Disabled in 1981. The Interface Project, based in Reading, is one of 16 projects in a European network set up to promote the economic and social integration of disabled people. It is funded jointly by the European Social Fund and Berkshire County Council.

The International Year of the Disabled had helped to focus attention on the difficulties faced by disabled people, and also on the con-

tribution they can make in their communities. The EEC Council of Ministers was anxious that the understanding and momentum built up over that year should not be lost, and invited the Commission to set up a Community-wide network of locally-based development schemes, to run for four years beginning in 1983.

In November 1983, Paddy Waring was appointed as project leader of the Interface team in West Berkshire. He and his colleagues, Tony Bates and Mandy Bolland, make up the smallest team in the European

network. The team has three main areas of activity – organising high-technology training for disabled people; co-ordinating services and promoting links between disabled people and organisations in the community; and carrying out research. All are essential components in a project aimed at helping disabled people to play a full part in the social and economic life of their communities.

In a time of economic recession, disabled people can experience great difficulty in finding jobs. Getting – and holding – a job undeniably brings better living standards and

'The team's activities try to provide a practical answer to the isolation faced by so many disabled people'

increases self-respect; and a job that involves working alongside able-bodied people can promote social integration. Paddy Waring sees the dual emphasis of the project – of social and economic integration – as important. He warns, however, against the assumption that economic integration necessarily results in social integration.

'That's patently not true,' he says. 'Someone could be totally integrated at work and socially totally isolated when he goes home.' So the team's activities come together to try to provide a practical answer to the isolation faced by so many disabled people.

In its training programme, Interface will provide training for 18 disabled people a year. At present, there are nine disabled students attending the ITEC centre at Abbey Mill House, in Reading. The Interface project has taken a quarter of the Youth Training Scheme places available at Abbey Mill house, to train the disabled students in electronic office skills, software development, or micro-computer applications. Nick Hine is the training supervisor whose job it is to tailor the course material to the needs of his disabled students.

Paddy Waring is conscious of the need to improve the self-confidence of the students, so that they can make the most of their training when they arrive in the job market. On the other hand, he and his team are wary of the risks of raising expectations that may not be met.

This kind of balancing act requires special skills in diplomacy that the Interface has had ample opportunity to exercise. In its role as catalyst and co-ordinator in the community, it recently facilitated an agreement between Berkshire County Council and the Shaw Trust, an organisation set up in 1982 to promote the social and economic integration of disabled people into society.

The Shaw Trust specialises in setting up and managing Sheltered Industrial Groups. A host firm employs disabled people, but pays them only for the level of productivity they achieve. The trust tops up the wage paid by the firm to the level that would be paid to able-bodied employees, and takes care of all the administration.

Setting up and managing the scheme is a fairly specialised activity – employer and employee have to be carefully matched, approval has to be sought from the Manpower Services Commission, and sensitive support provided. But the pay-offs for disabled people can be substantial.

So when Paddy Waring heard about the Trust, he set about making connections. He



introduced the people at the Trust to the people at the Social Services Department; within less than six months, despite the local government cuts, the County Council had agreed to fund the two-year appointment of a full-time development officer for the Shaw Trust, to work in Berkshire promoting Sheltered Industrial Groups and other placements for disabled people.

Paddy Waring is full of praise for the speed of the Berkshire bureaucracy. He has a professional interest in how organisations work. This is an example, which shows that, if you have a small team within the structure with a co-operative and non-threatening function, you can permeate the walls of the system – with diplomacy, he says. 'But the will has to be there. And Berkshire County Council had the will to do it.'

The arrangement with the Shaw Trust is also a good example of how the project's cat-

'We act as a catalyst, and then we withdraw'

alytic role works. The project team goes out into the community, meeting people and organisations. As Paddy Waring says, 'If we see any relevance at all to disabled people in what an organisation is doing, we try to make connections. There's a whole network of connections. We can then help to arrange meetings between people. We act as a catalyst, and then we withdraw. There really is no way we could get involved in the management side – with a team of three that's just not possible.'

The network of local connections provides some of the raw material for the project's research function. Research is needed to im-

prove transport for disabled people to public buildings and private homes, and to identify where community facilities should be located – important considerations in helping disabled people to integrate socially. Also, links with the European network of project teams will provide the opportunity to share and learn throughout the whole Community.

Paddy Waring brings to the leadership of Interface a blend of skills, experience and personal qualities that make him, perhaps, uniquely well-qualified for his role. Until 1976, he had lived an active and exciting life – first in the Royal Navy, where he served as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, flying front-line aircraft until 1966; and later flying civil aircraft in Zambia, East Africa and the Middle East.

Fatalists might say that he used up all his luck when, in 1965, still with the Navy, the plane he was flying fell out of the sky, his ejector seat failed to work, and he climbed out and walked away from the crash. In 1976, while in the Middle East, for no apparent reason he lost the power of his legs. He has not walked since. On his return home, he underwent a year of intensive rehabilitation; and in 1978 he began to re-make his life.

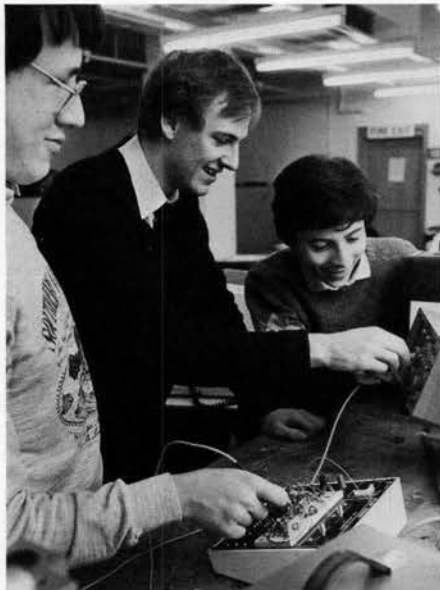
'The Interface project has taken a quarter of the YTS places available, to train disabled students'

In the Navy he had always been interested in how organisations work. So he decided to study management, first at Brighton Polytechnic, then at Cranfield, where he took an MSc and began work on a PhD. His studies came to an abrupt end when the organisation he was studying folded. But by then he had built up a lot of expertise, which he turned to practical use with lecturing and consultancy.

It was when he began looking for a regular job that his belief in the value of his own abilities began to be shaken. He recalls: 'I thought I had done enough to make the wheelchair insignificant. Within a matter of weeks, it was very clear to me that my disability was in the way. When I first realised that if I was having a hard time, what about the others? – I got a very nasty social conscience about it.'

When he applied, and was accepted, for the job with Interface, it was an opportunity to combine his personal experience of what it is like to be disabled in an able-bodied world with his research and management skills. The job is a learning experience for him, too.

He has learned about the many kinds of disability that do not immediately attract public sympathy because they are invisible. 'The heroic figures are easy examples,' he says. 'The mentally ill, the frail personality – it's here that support is needed, too. Support, and the understanding of the able-bodied in the community.'



Making it happen: training supervisor Nick Hine (above) and project leader Paddy Waring, who is himself disabled.



Interface trains disabled students in a wide range of electronic office skills.

'We shall be saying No to scepticism, No to defeatism, and No to all excuses'

JACQUES DELORS, in his inaugural address to the European Parliament as President of the Commission, spells out the issues that must still be faced if the

Community is to become credible to all its citizens, and sets a target for the European Commission, the Parliament, and all ten national governments to aim at

THE MEMBERS of this House have always been among the most active in our endeavours to make the Community a People's Europe. Now that the Heads of State or Government have decided to clear away all obstacles to free movement, whether hidden or visible, it may not be over-optimistic to announce a decision to eliminate all frontiers within Europe by 1992 – and to implement it. That gives us eight years, the term of office of two Commissions. We, for our part, are prepared to work towards that goal.

The Council and Parliament have approved the programme for consolidation of the internal market presented by the outgoing Commission. It must be put into effect as quickly as possible. It is up to us to do it, and make our proposals for the next stage. This, I believe, will meet a vital concern of yours. We would both like to see the people of Europe, your electors, enjoying the daily experience of a tangible Europe, a real Community where travel, communication and trade are possible without any hindrance, by the end of this Parliament in 1988. If we can achieve this, the 1989 European elections will mark a renewal, the birth of effective citizenship, a renaissance of democracy.

But pulling down the frontiers will not convince people of our resolve to do away with massive unemployment. Here, too, the credibility of the European venture is at stake, at both national and Community level: at national level, since nothing will absolve us from the need to re-forged competitive structures and rediscover the path to economic growth; and at Community level, since it is the Community which must act as the multiplier of national efforts.

Economic convergence will be meaningless to people if we have not reversed the terrible rise of unemployment within the next two years. That depends on us, on our strength and ability to adapt our structures and stimulate an economic upturn at the same time.

The aspiration is for a cultural Europe. But culture as a living experience also means enabling everyone to develop in a society in which he has a say, and in an environment, man-made or natural, which favours human development. That is why we are being called upon to combat so many different ills, to improve working conditions, to redesign our cities and rethink our ways of living, to preserve the irreplaceable revitalising force of nature. Many of these things are concerns of environment policy; and here the Community must set an example by realistic action, stimulating and crowning the creative effort, encouraging and disseminating innovation, in order to create the basis for the renewal that is needed.

That is where the great European dream lies, rooted in a history of creative effort in the service of mankind. We must nurture this

'The great European dream is rooted in a history of creative effort in the service of mankind'

dream on our ideals and our achievements. Jean Monnet's comment on the beginnings of the Community remains remarkably apt today: 'The beginning of Europe was a political conception, but, even more, it was a moral idea. Europeans had gradually lost the

ability to live together and combine their creative strength. There seemed to be decline in their contribution to progress and to the civilisation which they themselves had created...'

Those who look on the bright side will tell me that the worst has been avoided: the problems of indebtedness have been resolved one by one; international trade has picked up once more. But the sickness has not been cured, nor the danger removed. I do not claim to have all the answers. I am simply asking the central question: are the member states agreed on their diagnosis of the major problems of the world economy? Are they capable, once they have ascertained what their differences are, and have gone some way towards overcoming them, of working out a set of proposals which are acceptable to all and likely to improve its operation? That is the most important question Europe has to answer.

We must likewise show by the quality of our proposals, and the exemplary nature of our actions, that efficiency and justice can go together and that the emerging countries must be treated on equal terms. It will then be up to them to show that they can make a

'Europe must find its imagination again, and return to the attack. Those who have nothing to propose are soon forgotten'

positive contribution to the development of the world economy. This is the significance of Lomé III, which is an example of continuity on the part of the Community and should encourage us to pursue our efforts to establish a fairer, more efficient economic order.

Europe must find its imagination again, and return to the attack. Those who have nothing to propose are soon forgotten or held in contempt. Those who lack the means to match their ambitions are rapidly reduced to tagging along behind, or engaging in slanging-matches.

In its four years in office, the Commission proposes to take decisive steps in three directions: a large market and industrial cooperation; the strengthening of the European Monetary System; the convergence of our economies to lead to higher growth and more jobs.

We have to do this, if we are to exist in a world where large entities dominate and where toughness is the principal characteristic of all kinds of relations. We have to start without delay. I must insist on this. In taking this action, we shall be saying 'no' to scepticism, 'no' to defeatism, and 'no' to all excuses, no matter how clearly presented for public opinion. European affairs often give the impression of being a contest between member states, instead of presenting the picture of a united team.

There can be no fair and healthy competition without a harmonisation of rules. Remember that competition can kill competition, if the market does not permit fair contest between the different rivals. Hence the need to ensure, as happens in many of the member states, that national measures do not lead to unbalanced competition. I would point out that this did not escape the author

of the Treaty of Rome, as Article 102 shows. The Commission will make use of this Article.

But Europe will not modernise its production structures just because a large market exists. The search for the larger scale will require the promotion for cooperation between European firms, the creation of a suitable framework, tax concessions to encourage business cooperation, and financial incentives at Community level, instead of the costly and ineffective escalation of national aids and incentives.

People tend to forget that one of the factors which has helped to start the harmonisation process is the European Monetary System. The EMS, by effectively stopping monetary dumping, has helped increase intra-Community trade. But that is not enough. There should be no social dumping either. Here too we must try to harmonise the rules. Otherwise, what will happen? What are we already witnessing – member states and firms trying to gain an advantage over their competitors, at the cost of what can only be described as social decline?

In the major areas covered by employment and labour market policies, our success will depend on two conditions being met: re-

'The EMS has effectively stopped monetary dumping. But that is not enough. There should be no social dumping, either'

forms must be negotiated by the two sides of industry; in other words, collective bargaining must remain one of the cornerstones of our economy; and efforts must be made to secure some harmonisation at Community level. That is why I insist on this importance of human resources, for the knowledge and skills which they contribute. Our policies on education and training must help everyone to a better understanding of the way the world is going, and enable everyone to make the best use of his or her talents and personal resources.

Is it possible to make progress here while dismantling what has been done in other fields? This, frankly, is the question which needs to be asked about the common agricultural policy. National expenditure on agriculture, excluding social security, now amounts to 50 per cent of Community spending. It is time to stop drifting and recall the three key principles of the Treaty: a unified market, financial solidarity, and Community preference – and add the common commercial policy. These principles provide the framework for continuing the efforts to modernise the common agricultural policy, and to determine the prospects for European agriculture. Farmers, too, need fresh reasons for hope and belief in their economic and social function.

The job of the Community is to sustain those activities which are essential to meet needs, and maintain human and natural balances. It intends to remain a leading agricultural power: this is essential for its autonomy, the strength of its trading position, and its political standing.

But as soon as we start discussing how to achieve our aims – let's face it – the difficulties start. My visits to the ten member states as President-designate confirmed my suspicions on this score. Everywhere I went, questions were raised about the operation of the institutions. Everyone realises that we cannot go on living in a paralysing state of confusion. It is true that we have managed to settle family feuds. But beyond that, let us be frank; the Community is no longer capable of taking decisions. The Community is no longer progressing.

Unfortunately, the only thing we are agreed on is its impotence. As soon as we begin to consider ways of curing it, opinions differ, to say the least. Here, too, there is a need for clarification; and the Commission has every intention of helping.

It is essential that we get out of the rut of existing practice in rela-



After delivering his address, the Commission's new President was given an overwhelming vote of confidence by the European Parliament: 207 to 34, with 37 abstentions.

tion to the preparation of dossiers, inter-institutional conciliation, and decision-making, or rather the absence of decision-making. What is happening, in point of fact, is that each institution is giving vent to its own frustration, by passing the buck to the others.

Many proposals have been made for remedying this situation. The Commission undertakes to explore all the possibilities offered by the existing framework – the framework provided by the Treaty of Rome, modulated by agreements or non-agreements. It will make full use of its right of initiative to accomplish the priority tasks I have outlined. It will not hesitate to withdraw a proposal if it considers that its content has been too watered down, or if it notes a refusal, express or implied, to debate it. Parliament will be fully involved in this experiment, which will serve to test the will of the member states and the viability of our rules and institutional practices.

The Commission, too, has its back to the wall. It must find realistic ways of achieving its objectives. It must introduce an element of simplicity into its proposals. It must act in permanent consultation with the other two institutions. But the Commission will not waver in its commitment, or compromise the content of its proposals at the outset. €

Why Europe is awash in undrinkable wine

Guaranteed prices for the Community's wine-growers are encouraging mass production of inferior wines that Europeans refuse to buy. With Spain and Portugal now looking forward to joining the Ten, the outlook for the wine industry is cloudy

Despite the reduction of areas planted with vines – by 150,000 hectares in the past decade – Community wine production has remained relatively stable over the past few years: 164 million hectolitres in 1980 and 162 million in 1983.

West Germany, it is true, has tripled its production in this period – 13 million hectolitres in 1983, against 4.8 million in 1980. But West German production is still far short of the Italian figures – 80 million hectolitres – and France's 70 million. Greece brings up the rear with 5 million hectolitres.

Independently of climatic conditions, which play their part, one way or another, according to the year (1984's wine harvest is estimated at 20 per cent higher than that of 1983), the main reason for the maintenance of excess production is the growth in yield. The statistics of increased yields in the main producing countries are significant. In the space of a few years they have gone up from 102 to 181 hls per hectare in West Germany; from 58 to 75 in France; from 64 to 66 in Italy; from 39 to 48 in Greece.

This tendency will probably cease, if not go into reverse, for two reasons. On one hand, consumption of wine is widely on the decrease in the Community, especially in France and Italy. On the other, the European wine-drinker is turning away from the mediocre wines towards those of better quality. In certain regions, production is consequently being sent direct from the vats to the distillery.

Production which will take off, if not checked; reduced consumption in favour of the better wines; an assured income for the growers; free market movement between the Ten – these are aspects of the equation which the Community has to solve. The margin is all



the narrower for the fact that external factors can play only a minor part in the solution.

Exports to countries outside the Community are comparatively modest (8.6 million hls in 1982/1983). These comprise mainly quality wines, which are not the real problem and which are sold mainly to the American market.

So the pressure exerted by the US producers on Washington to restrict European imports represents a decided threat to the main outlet for Community wines. Furthermore, it must not be forgotten that Europe imports about 5 million hls per year, in accordance with co-operative agreements with other countries around the Mediterranean basin.

The principal sales of the EEC producers are therefore in the markets of their European partners. The internal wine market of the Community runs at about 20 million hls. This points up the prime importance of good organisation in inter-Community exchanges, if new problems on the scale of, say, the Franco-Italian 'wine war' in 1981 are to be avoided.

Faced with the gravity of the events of that summer, the European authorities effected an initial reform of the market in March 1982.

It was agreed that the European Commission, depending upon the state of the market, could impose obligatory distillation of the

'Principal sales of the EEC wine producers are in the markets of their European partners'

low-price wines (at 60 per cent of the guideline price) in the event that the voluntary and preventive distillation scheme (at 65 per cent of the guideline price) seemed to be ineffective. The object was to remove excess production from the market, in order to ensure remunerative prices to the growers.

However, since the second campaign for the application of the new ruling, in 1983/84, the common wine market has gone off the rails yet again. Consider the facts: 1,000 million ECUs (about 7,000 million francs, or £610 million) in support costs, as against the 600 million ECUs forecast; 30 million hls taken to the stills under the preventive scheme for distillation (at 65 per cent of the guideline prices) as against 20 million in the previous year.

How can this gross miscalculation be explained?

The device, set up in 1982, was based on a 'budget forecast' drawn up by each member state in November, the beginning of the viticultural year being set at 1st September. Basing itself on the estimates coming from the national administrations, the European Commission made an appreciation of how the market for wine products would develop through the year.

The figures given to Brussels in November on the harvest, and voluntary distillation plans, led the Commission to decide against the plan for compulsory distillation. In the event, however, the budget forecasts of several member states (Italy and West Germany in particular) proved to be false: actual production was well in excess of the amounts of wine declared.

In fact, many vine-growers, for whom the distillation price at 65 per cent of guideline prices was still remunerative, exploited this

possibility up to the hilt. This included the West German growers of good-quality wines, commensurately better compensated, who 'preventively' distilled 2.5 million hls in 1984, as against only 385,000 in 1983.

The large-scale recourse to distillation has still not been sufficient to firm-up market prices. Faced with very low rates (from 70 to 74 per cent of guideline prices), France requested the advantage of a distillation support price at a very profitable rate (91 per cent of guideline prices) for a quantity of 5 million hls. But the European Commission emphasised that, in addition to budgetary considerations, and in accordance with the rules in force, it was not possible to offer this facility except in the case of obligatory distillation at the beginning of the year.

Following this new set-back in the operation of the common wine market, the question of a second reform arises. Beyond attempting to ensure that the 'budget forecasts' stay closer to reality, there remains the basic problem which has to be solved: how to prevent production of the poor-quality wines which are mainly responsible for the excess.

The Commission, and the majority of member states, are now moving towards

'Spain already has excess production: 11 million hectolitres were kept off the market in 1983'

'quantity control'. According to the European authorities, this is a matter of directing high-yield production straight to the distilleries. The price paid to the producers should, in that case, be much lower than that at present being offered, at between 33 and 50 per cent of the guideline prices, depending upon the yield.

This is the uncertain future faced by the enlargement of the Community. The real difficulty is Spain. With a total area of 1.7 million hectares, the Spanish vineyards represent 65 per cent of the vine-growing area of the present ten member states. The low yield per hectare (30 hls per hectare, against an average 75 in the EEC) explains Spain's comparatively modest production: less than 40 million hls, of which 70 per cent are ordinary table wines.

Even so, Spain already has excess produc-

tion: 11 million hls were distilled or kept off the market in 1983. Of 6 million hls sold for export, 32 per cent came to the EEC, the principal buyers being the UK, Holland, and West Germany, in that order.

What will happen to yields, and therefore to production, in Spain when the Community prices and guarantees are offered there? This is the main anxiety for the European authorities. It will be a long time before it is possible to manipulate the yields. It will take some time before the Iberian vine-growers reach the present level of yields in the Community. This does not mean that Spanish production has not every chance, at some time in the future, of making a great leap forward, which could prove disastrous for the common wine market.

The reforms being drawn up, and the agreements that have just been reached with the Commission, take into consideration the specific character of the Iberian situation. There are ideas of restricting replantation rights, not only in Spain but also in the existing Ten.

Will this be enough? It is not unreasonable to entertain some doubts.

MARCEL SCOTTO

...and why it's 'Cheers' to Ariane

At 1332 hours and 54 seconds GMT on 4 August 1984, the first model of version number 3 of the European rocket, Ariane, rose from its platform at Kourou, French Guyana.

The launch was a complete success - two geostationary communication satellites were placed into provisional orbit. A few weeks later they were in full operation. And twenty years of technical failures and disappointments were over.

The European nations were, fortunately, able to draw lessons from those earlier set-backs. On 31 July 1973, the Ten met at a European space conference in Brussels and signed an agreement which gave birth to the Ariane project.

Very precise specifications were drawn up, together with a sharing-out of responsibilities. The launch vehicle was conceived as an overall whole, not as a collection of disparate parts.

The destiny of the rocket was placed in the hands of a transnational director of operations, personally overseeing the whole project: Hubert Curien, head of the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNESF). He is now Minister for Scientific Research in the French Government.

The Ariane project is a monument, of a sort, to Europe's technological civilisation. Ten participating countries, with dozens of major manufacturers and hundreds of ancillary suppliers, are involved.

Orders for equipment are roughly in line

Since putting two communication satellites into orbit last August, Europe's own rocket system has begun to show economic returns

with the relative participation of the governments involved: manufacturers in each country receive orders in relation to the percentage of finance which it has guaranteed. West Germany and France make the biggest contributions. Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Holland, Italy, UK, Sweden and Switzerland all take part.

Know-how gained in this way is expected to fertilise European industry as a whole, with fruitful results.


Ariane's promoters realised that there was not much point in limiting themselves to building just one successful rocket: they had to think in terms of an on-going family of rockets. From the basic starting point, therefore, they have decided to go forward. Ariane 1, Ariane 2, and Ariane 3 have already been successfully launched. Ariane 4 and 5 are on the drawing board.

It is impossible to speak of Ariane without mentioning Kourou, the European Space Centre site, located on the fringes of the Amazon forest, in French Guyana. Guyana is, in fact, a department of France.

The French originally established a launching pad there for their former Diamant rockets. Enormous construction works were undertaken in the inhospitable jungle, to build a first, a second, and then a third launch pad suitable for the European rocket, together with all the subsidiary installations.

The tropical climate presents great inconvenience, but Kourou is an ideal site for launching satellites. In putting a geostationary satellite into orbit there are great advantages in being as close as possible to the Equator. Kourou is almost exactly on the Equator. Cape Kennedy, on the other hand, is north of the Tropic of Cancer, so that, for an equivalent satellite launch, the Americans have to use a launching vehicle which is 30 per cent more powerful.

Apart from military applications, detection of the earth's natural resources, meteorology, and scientific uses, space today is essentially for telecommunications. Last August, Ariane put into orbit two very similar satellites - the French Telecom I and the European ECS2. Since then, France has been saving at an estimated rate of \$3 million a year on communications costs between its departments and territories overseas.

Europe's next enterprise in space will be a mini-shuttle to replace the third stage of Ariane, to be called Hermes. Plans for a European vessel capable of returning to earth under its own power are well advanced. All ways round, Europe looks set to become a power in space, in its own right. 



Danger: deadly cargoes on the move

The importance of clear information and safety precautions when dealing with the transport of dangerous and toxic substances and waste has been highlighted by the collision last August, in a busy shipping lane off the Belgian coast, involving the French freighter *Mont Louis*, laden with uranium hexafluoride.

The questions now being asked about that incident follow those raised by the mysterious disappearance of 41 drums of dioxin-contaminated soil from the site of the trichlorophenol reactor explosion in Seveso, Italy, in 1976. With a little help from Greenpeace, they were discovered in a warehouse in St Quentin, France, in March 1983. A number of European companies were involved in the shipment, but it took several months for the details to surface.

As industry is quick to point out, neither of these incidents took lives. This is true. The 16-millimeter steel casings containing the 'hex', aboard the *Mont Louis*, which serve to heat it up in order to release it, protected the

The drama of the *Mont Louis*, carrying a potentially toxic cargo, has raised fears that the rules governing transportation of nuclear material are not working. ANNA LUBINSKA reports

contents from the marine environment and vice versa. The drums containing the Seveso wastes were tightly sealed.

In proportion to the volume of dangerous and toxic substances which are moved in the European Community countries every year, accidents during transportation are relatively few. Some are due to chance, some can be put down to the traffic. But some are also due to negligence, inadequate labelling and carelessness, which, even if unintentional, can have serious consequences. It is in this

context that the Commission can give teeth to existing international conventions and agreements.

There are about 10 different international conventions and European agreements governing the transport of dangerous goods. Most important, however, is that they have not all been ratified by all participating states. Neither Greece nor Ireland, for example, has ratified the agreements covering transport of dangerous goods by road (ADR) or rail (RID). Air-transport rules (ICAO) are stricter, and sea transport still remains unresolved.

A convention proposed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) on the transportation of dangerous goods (including radioactive material), which would reinforce current labelling and packaging requirements, has floundered because signatory states could not agree.

None of these agreements is mandatory. Also, states tend to apply stricter rules with regard to dangerous cargo transportation within their own borders. Directives adopted

'There are some 10 different agreements governing the transport of dangerous goods – but not all have been ratified by participating states'

by the Council of Ministers are, on the other hand, binding on member states. Breaches of these laws can lead to cases before the European Court of Justice. In the case of transport of dangerous substances, the Commission is in the process of setting up a task force made up of environment and, for the first time, transport officials. They will examine the possible need for the EEC to accede as a single body to these conventions and, by introducing Community legislation, enforce them among the 10 member states.

A far more immediate problem, however, has been posed by the fact that the trans-frontier shipment of dangerous and toxic wastes has not been covered by these international conventions, nor by EEC rules adopted in 1978. The 1978 directive sought to monitor and control the storage and disposal of certain toxic and dangerous wastes. It made no allowance, however, for transport of such wastes across Community borders, because this activity only became apparent in later years, as the volume of special wastes grew, requiring more landfill, dumping at sea or special incinerators.

Not all member states are in a position to deal with particularly dangerous or toxic wastes. Greece, Luxembourg and Denmark, for example, are too small and cannot afford to build special disposal facilities. The Netherlands bans landfills because of the country's high water table. The solution is to export the wastes to specialised facilities such as the 100 or so that exist in the Federal Republic of Germany, or even beyond the Community to the German Democratic Republic, where cheaper disposal plants attract clients.

Of the 30 million metric tons of toxic waste produced annually in the Community, 3 million tons cross borders, of which 300,000-500,000 tons alone go to the German Democratic Republic.

During a European Parliament inquiry which followed the Seveso dioxin hunt, it became clear that not all of the Ten had applied the 1978 directive. Among the worst offenders were France, Belgium, Italy and Greece. The Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany (which is the only member state to impose a system of permits for the movement of dangerous and toxic wastes) scored well legally, although illegal dumps were uncovered all over the Community.

But not all countries had monitored dumps – which made things all the more easy for midnight movers dumping wastes nationally



Opposite: the accident to the French freighter Mont Louis, with its toxic cargo, in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, follows the notorious Seveso disaster in Italy (below) four years ago.

or sneaking across borders.

In June 1984, Environment Ministers adopted rules to control the cross-border transport of dangerous and toxic wastes. These oblige the shipper to produce evidence that a suitable waste facility awaits the shipment and that the receiving country has been notified and does not contest. They also include labelling and packaging criteria, as well as environmental risk potential. Because of the increased volume of wastes treated outside the Community, the directive also applies to non-EEC countries accepting dangerous and toxic wastes.

The Commission's directive was welcomed by the chemical industry for which harmonised accompanying documents will reduce delays. But industry is not so happy about the principle of 'producer liability' which the Commission has suggested for such shipments.

As yet unsettled, this question will form the object of a Green Paper by the Committee. Some experts believe that such a system, together with an efficient back-up system of insurance and re-insurance (which the EEC already applies in the nuclear field), is the only way to guarantee speedy compensation and a high level of security.

Recent events have prompted the member states to push through controls on the cross-border transport of wastes. Following the Mont Louis accident, Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes suggested the possibility of EEC rules which would limit the sea transport of dangerous goods to a certain number of ports and tighten up controls on loading operations.

The scope, again, would include third countries. But getting member states to accept a regulation in a field in which they dispute its competence is not going to be easy. **E**

The fight is on to create more jobs in Wales

In just 24 months, Neath Development Partnership, a non-profit-making Welsh enterprise, has created over 900 jobs in South Wales. It has done so with the help of European Social Fund aid which reached it through the Manpower Services Commission.

The NDP was founded in 1981, with the express purpose of putting unemployed people back to work. But it is only in the last two years that it has been able to tackle the problem actively.

The results have been remarkable. The most up-to-date tally puts the new jobs at 938 – and that number could more than double in the next two years, if other schemes in the pipeline are equally successful.

In December I joined a group of visitors who had travelled to South Wales specially for a two-day tour of projects that are being aided by European grants. Dr Wolfgang Stabenow, German-born head of the European Social Fund, led the party, but had to return urgently to Brussels at the end of the first day. His principal administrator, Reuben Betts, continued with the tour, seeing for himself two of the Neath schemes that have made such an impact on the local community.

The first was Pelenna Forest Mountain Interpretive Centre, West Glamorgan, an impressive stone building in beautiful surroundings. As the cars carrying the visitors made the gradual climb to Pontrhydyfen, near Port Talbot, they passed the house where actor Richard Burton was born. A portrait of him now hangs in the mountain centre, soon to be joined by books from his vast collection. These gifts from his family are their way of showing they believe in what the centre is doing.

Pelenna, which cost £150,000 to build, will be many things to many people. It is used by the general public, a thriving centre of activity in an area that was severely affected by colliery closures in 1957. 'Between that time and 1984 only five new jobs occurred in the area,' says Councillor Howell Britton, the NDP's director. 'We have created 10 jobs in one year and hopefully we will make another 20 in 1985.'

Unemployed people were used, at the very outset, to build the 24-bed residential centre under the MSC's Community Programme. Since it was completed it has provided permanent jobs for a number of long-term unemployed, including Emrys Davies, who was technical supervisor on the building project, and has stayed on to assist the centre's activities. Two redundant ex-employees from Metal Box Company, Ken George and Gerald Sampson, are also among those who have left the dole queue as a result of the venture.

Pelenna training courses are already

ROY STEMMAN reports from Neath, where a package of training schemes is in operation to benefit whole communities

enabling local people to gain qualifications that could help them find employment in the future. The visitors saw a clerical advancement session in progress, and the first residential course – for caterers – starts in the superbly equipped kitchen around March 1985. It is also the base for Pelenna Forest Enterprises, another non-profit business which makes and sells products, creating jobs in the process. Councillor Britton expects it to grow into a substantial company over the years.

Underprivileged children will also benefit from the creation of Pelenna – it is soon to be used as a type of Outward Bound centre.

Meanwhile, the NDP is looking for other job-creating opportunities in the area, one possibility being the restoration of the first Methodist chapel in Wales, the ruin of which stands about 100 yards from the centre.

From Pontrhydyfen the visitors were taken to see another job-creating project, in the Vale of Neath, where the NDP and Neath

'Jobless part-timers are rapidly turning the canal back to its former use'

Borough Council are working together. A £17 million inner urban development scheme has been launched at Neath, about 10 miles from Swansea, with the intention of attracting private investment to the area. An integrated tourist concept plays an important part in the scheme and a three-mile section of the Resolven Canal, which goes through the heart of the town, is being renovated as a Community Programme Project.

It is half a century since the last ore and mineral boats used the Resolven. Since then it has become heavily silted and unnavigable for long distances. The visitors' cars stopped near a small bridge across the canal, where the road from the town meets the main Swansea to Merthyr Tydfil route. At this point, until recently, the canal was non-existent: it was completely silted up, and the neglected area had become an eyesore.

A team of 68 unemployed part-time helpers, each working a three-day week, are rapidly returning the canal to its former use. They have removed 3,000 tons of silt in three

months, selling it to garden centres to help finance the scheme. Already a mile of the canal has been cleared and profiled; Howell Britton says proudly that he believes the team is working as fast as would civil managers.

Those employed on the restoration work were all recruited from Job Centres, and are mostly ex-miners or aluminium workers. Under the Community Programme they can work on the project for only one year; but, as well as benefiting the community at large, they are also able to acquire new skills which could help them find employment when their work at Neath comes to an end. Howell Britton told the visitors he expects a quarter of the men to get work at the end of the programme.

From their vantage point on the bridge, the visitors were able to see some of the excavation work that has revealed unexpected insights into the way the canal was used. When the three-mile stretch is finished, one of the first vessels to use it will be the Rainbow Boat, a 55ft longboat which has been converted, as part of an MSC training scheme in association with British Shipbuilders, into a vessel for use by handicapped children. It is equipped with lifts and berths and will be making regular trips up and down the canal.

Neath hopes its development of a leisure canal will change the type of tourist it attracts. For years it has been catering to the 'four-hour tourist', who stops to look around but passes on to somewhere with more attractions. When the Resolven Canal is ship-worthy, and when other developments are ready, Neath hopes, at the very least, to see many one-day tourists – and, in the not-too-distant future, to persuade them to stay for a couple of days or more.

It was now late morning, and their tight schedule required the visitors to head for Blaenau Gwent Opportunities, Tafarnaubach, Tredegar, where an excellent lunch was about to be served by youngsters taking a catering course in the training workshop.

The centre was established in 1976 as an annexe to a skills centre, at a time when unemployment in the area was running at 12 per cent. By 1981, when the Government decided to close all skill centre annexes, the jobless total had climbed to 21 per cent around Tredegar. After an unsuccessful fight by local MPs and Blaenau Gwent Borough Council to keep it open, the council decided to buy it and create an Opportunities Centre which opened in April 1983.

It runs two Youth Training Scheme projects – the training workshop and an information technology centre – which receive European money through the MSC. There is also a series of courses for adults under the MSC's Training Opportunities Programme (TOPS). In addition, the centre is making

EUROFORUM

The Community forges new links in the Gulf

Until last October's cooperation agreement with North Yemen, the Arabian Gulf was the only region in the world, apart from the communist bloc, where the European Community had no contractual links.

The irony of this situation is that, taken together, the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar — are the Community's biggest trading partner. They supply most of its oil and absorb more industrial and consumer goods from it than they do from anywhere else.

EEC governments have long been keen to institutionalise their relations with the Gulf states, and this aim is now closer than ever to being realised. EEC and GCC officials recently discussed for the first time the possibility of a region-to-region cooperation agreement, and further exploratory talks are planned.

In 1980, the Ten's Foreign Ministers instructed the European Commission to examine the possibility of concluding non-preferential trade agreements with individual countries on the Arabian peninsula. The responses to the Commission's subsequent overtures were by and large lukewarm, as these countries already enjoyed duty-free access to EEC markets for their agricultural and industrial products.

The outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war ended contacts, as the EEC did not want to be seen favouring either side in the conflict. When the GCC was set up in June 1981, the EEC's Foreign Ministers opted to try again, this time aim-

GERALD BOURKE reports on moves towards extending the EEC's trade with the Arab World

ing for a regional agreement similar to those reached with Asean and Andean pact countries.

Until recently, this new approach had not yielded very satisfactory results. However, the rapid industrialisation of the Gulf, on the back of its oil wealth, has given rise to certain differences of opinion between the two blocs on trade questions.

Last June, the Commission imposed a 13.5 per cent tariff on imports into the EEC of Saudi Arabian methanol, after the kingdom had exceeded its duty-free GSP ceiling. The application of the tariff was automatic, as it had been requested by an EEC government. But it provoked concerned reactions from governments in the Gulf who have been investing heavily in sophisticated petrochemicals complexes.

An economic and commercial cooperation agreement is seen by both sides as the ideal framework for resolving trade disputes and defusing potential conflicts.

The need for such an agreement becomes increasingly imperative as the Gulf states continue to expand their in-

'The Gulf states are drawing up a common customs tariff'

dustrial base. The value of the GCC's non-oil exports to the EEC increased from 1,010 million ECUs in 1982 to 1,364 million in 1983. The figures for 1984 are expected to show a much more marked growth.

Large volumes of Middle East polyethylenes will soon begin pouring into Europe. The region's petrochemical manufacturers have only relatively recently begun to take advantage of cheap ethane and methane gas feedstock — a by-product of oil refining — which was previously flared.

EEC and GCC officials are now discussing how these products can best be accommodated in Europe without disrupting the market or depressing prices. Similar discussions are envisaged on the question of access for refined oil products from the Gulf.

If there has been no formal EEC-GCC agreement, the two organisations have been in regular contact with each other. Indeed the GCC secretariat has gratefully accepted EEC Commission offers of assistance on the running of a regional economy while the Gulf states are now in the process of drawing up a common customs tariff similar to that used by the Community.

The EEC has also been co-financing development projects with Gulf-based Arab funds for the past decade. Sub-Saharan Africa has been the focus of much of the funding. Along with other bilateral and multilateral donors, the EEC and seven Arab Funds have committed money to more than 40 schemes costing in excess of \$5,000 million. Although the down-turn in the oil market has reduced the resources available, co-operation in this area should increase, following the signing in December of a five-year trade pact between the EEC and 64 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

The Ten have also been actively involved in the search for peace in the Middle East. Of particular importance in this respect was the June 1980 Venice Declaration by Community heads of government. Their initiative broke new ground by acknowledging the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and calling for the association of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) with any attempt at peaceful reconciliation between Israel and Arab states. It also maintained that any settlement terms should recognise the right of all peoples to live within secure borders.

Meet the new Commissioners

The new President of the Commission is **Jacques Delors**, the former Finance Minister in the Socialist government of President François Mitterrand. Delors, 59, was the architect of the 1983 austerity programme in France and is a former trade union official. He is responsible for general administration, monetary affairs and coordination of the Commission's structural funds.

The second French Commissioner is **Claude Cheysson**, M. Mitterrand's former Foreign Minister. He is responsible for the Community's Mediterranean policy and North-South relations. Aged 64, from 1973 to 1981 he played a key role in shaping Europe's relations with the Third World, when he held the Commission's development portfolio.

Italy's senior Commissioner, **Lorenzo Natali**, also brings a wealth of experience to the job. A 62-year-old former Italian Christian Democrat Tourism and Public Works Minister and lawyer, he has held successive appointments in Brussels since 1977. He now takes on responsibility for development, whilst continuing his job of overseeing Spain and Portugal's entry negotiations.

The second Italian Commissioner is **Carlo Ripa di Meana**, 55, who takes

on institutional questions, 'Citizens Europe' (issues like the European passport), information, culture and tourism. He is a former journalist and Socialist member of the European Parliament.

The Federal Republic of Germany's **Karl-Heinz Narjes**, 60, who formerly held the environment and internal market portfolios, has seen the Community develop since the early Sixties, when he was variously an aide to former Commission President Walter Hallstein, Director-General for Information, and a Christian Democrat member of the German Bundestag. His new job covers industrial affairs, information technology and scientific research.

The second German Commissioner is **Alois Pfeiffer**, a former trade union official, who takes on economic affairs, employment, credit and investment and the statistical office. Aged 60, he is a former member of the executive of the German Trade Union Federation, with special responsibility for economic policy.

Britain's senior Commissioner is **Lord Cockfield**, a 68-year-old economist who has held ministerial posts in Mrs Thatcher's government, at the Treasury, and the Department of Trade. A former chairman of Boots, he

assumes responsibility for the internal market, customs, tax and financial institutions.

The second British Commissioner is **Stanley Clinton Davis**, 56, a junior minister in the 1974-1979 Labour government and former opposition spokesman on trade, prices and consumer protection. His responsibilities include the environment, consumer protection, nuclear safety, forests and transport.

Belgium's new Commissioner is **Willy de Clercq**, formerly the country's deputy Prime Minister, Finance and Trade Minister. He assumes responsibility for external affairs, including trade negotiations with the US and Japan. Aged 57, he is a former professor of law.

The Netherlands has renominated **Frans Andriessen**, who formerly held the competition portfolio. A 55-year-old former Christian Democrat Finance Minister, he takes on perhaps the toughest slot at the Commission - agriculture and fisheries.

The new Danish Commissioner is former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister **Henning Christophersen**. A 45-year-old former journalist and chairman of the Danish Liberal party, he is responsible for the budget, financial control and personnel.

Ireland's former Attorney-General, 38-year-old **Peter Sutherland**, takes over as the new Irish Commissioner. His responsibilities include the important competition (antitrust) portfolio, social affairs and education. A barrister and member of the Fine Gael party, he is the youngest of the incoming Commissioners.

The new Greek Commissioner is **Grigoris Varfis**, 57, a former Minister of State at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Socialist member of the European Parliament. He is responsible for regional policy and relations with the European Parliament.

Luxembourg has nominated **Nic Mosar** to take over the vacancy left by Gaston Thorn's departure. Aged 57, and a leading member of the Luxembourgish Christian Social party, he is responsible for energy, the Euratom supply agency and EEC publications.



An informal photo-call for the new Commissioners, with the exception of Claude Cheysson, at l'Abbaye de Royaumont on 8 December.



Top row: Commission President Jacques Delors; Claude Cheysson; Lorenzo Natali; Carlo Ripa di Meana

Second row: Karl-Heinz Narjes; Adolf Pfeiffer; Lord Cockfield; Stanley Clinton Davis

Third row: Willy de Clercq; Frans Andriessen; Henning Christopherson; Peter Sutherland

Left: Grigoris Varfis; Nic Mosar

How the European Bank is helping Britain

Loans of £140 million for investments in Britain's energy sector, aircraft industry, and local authority communications and infrastructure works, were announced by the European Investment Bank on 24 October.

The largest share – £120 million split into two loans – is going towards the nuclear energy industry as the EIB's first floating interest rate loans. While the EIB – the European Community's bank for long-term finance – basically borrows and lends at fixed interest rates, its board of governors, the finance ministers of the Community, agreed last year to the bank borrowing up to 500m ECUs at floating rates and on-lending on matching terms.

The South of Scotland Electricity Board is to get £60 million for the construction of Torness Point nuclear power station. The station, which consists of two advanced gas cooled reactors with a combined output of approximately 1400 megawatts, is due to start up in May 1987. The variable rate loan is for 10 years.

Another £60 million is going to British Nuclear Fuels for the construction of new nuclear fuel storage and handling facilities, and the installation of a new effluent treatment plant at the company's nuclear waste reprocessing centre at Sellafield, Cumbria. This variable rate loan is also for 10 years.

A £10 million loan for 10 years is going towards facilities for the construction of the SD360 commuter air-

craft by Short Bros in Belfast. This is the second EIB loan for this project, £10 million having been lent in December 1983. Shorts is the largest industrial employer in Northern Ireland.

In addition, infrastructure and communications improvements to support economic development in the assisted regions of Merseyside, Devon and Hull, are receiving loans totalling £10 million.

Of this, a £5 million loan over 16 years goes to Merseyside County Council for improvements to transport and other basic infrastructure, including road up-grading, Liverpool airport development, a bus garage, construction of new ferry landing stage and terminal, and a waste disposal site development.

Devon County Council is borrowing £4 million for 16 years for mixed infrastructure works to help the county's tourist industry and attract other industries into the area.

The development of an efficient telecommunications network in the Hull area is being supported with a £1 million loan over 12 years. The money will go towards further modernisation and introduction of advanced technology to Hull's telephone system.

A tonic for the doctor

The Commission wants to see a return to the traditional family doctor, with equal health care standards for general practitioners throughout the Community.

The proposal is to introduce a Community-wide diploma by 1990. All doctors training in the general medical field would have to qualify under it by 1993.

By then there would be a new professional title, recognising the common education level for such doctors in all member states.

As well as answering criticisms about the spread of theoretical doctors' teaching and the move away from the traditional approach to patient care – mainly the old-fashioned family doctor

– the moves are intended to speed the free movement of doctors around the Community.

The Commission's proposals to member governments point out that better adaptation of general practices to specific patient needs will ease pressure on specialists, equipment and laboratories.

Young doctors are less keen on the traditional approach, says the Commission. The whole concept of the general practitioner has to change, with emphasis on prevention, and not just on cure. The results should be more realistic – and cheaper – medical care, as long as education standards in different member states do not clash.

For this reason the Commission recommends a specific education course in general medicine, leading to both a common and a higher minimum standard.

Going to work on unemployment

The concern of member governments over unemployment is shown by the number of measures being taken, or planned, to tackle the problem.

Belgium has succeeded in reducing working hours in the building industry. Overtime work has also been restricted. The waiting period for school-leavers claiming benefit has been extended from 150 to 200 days.

Denmark plans to introduce early retirement in 1986. In the meantime, unemployment benefit levels have been frozen, and contributions raised.

Germany has introduced retirement at 58 for workers in larger firms, with incentives for compensatory recruitment. A scheme of payments for migrant workers to return home has seen some 300,000 leave Germany in the period October 1983 to June 1984. In the mechanical and printing industries, working hours have been reduced to 38.5 hours a week. Unemployment benefits to persons without dependent children have been reduced.

Greece has reduced mass dismissal rights and raised minimum wages. International instruments guaranteeing workers' rights and prohibiting labour discrimination have been ratified.

France, under a new two-fold system of unemployment insurance, provides insurance for strictly defined unemployed persons, and solidarity payments for those retiring early, young people and those not eligible for insurance benefits.

Italy has partially frozen pay indexing, and is encouraging part-time recruitment. Young people under 30 will receive fixed-duration training contracts.

Ireland has reorganised recruitment incentives aimed at smaller firms, who have proved more responsive to the system. Local authority job creation schemes are to receive support, as are youth employment schemes.

The Netherlands Training programmes for young people have high priority. Decentralised job creation programmes to take account of the problems of the hard-hit provinces in the north and south. Government investment in construction has been stepped up.

The United Kingdom has concentrated its job creation efforts in the Youth Training Scheme. Aids to job-seekers starting up in business will have benefited about 60,000 people to March 1986.

Continued from page 12

'starter' factory units available at very low cost to people wanting to set up in business.

Of the 20 YTS trainees in the workshop, seven are learning construction skills, six are working on automobiles, four are in catering, and three are taking the administrative course. The catering students, for example, are learning all aspects of the business, from nutritional values to menu planning, cooking and serving the food.

A further 30 trainees are being taught in the information technology workshop, which has an impressive variety of micro computers, including IBM, BBC and Apricot. The 12-month course has three sections – electronics, software and modern office techniques.

The visitors were shown a small remote-controlled robot, which has been developed in the electronics section, and which the workshop hopes to equip with a camera so that it can take photographs in normally inaccessible places, such as drain pipes. Trainees in this section learn about complex circuitry, test systems and even fibre optics. The instructor was delighted to have 'captured' two girls from the modern office course, and said they were now outstripping the boys.

Qualifications, incidentally, are not a pre-

'The centre is making factory units available, at very low cost, to people wanting to set up in business'

requisite on the information technology courses – just aptitude. And the Blaenau Gwent centre's activities are shortly to be extended further with the opening of a video studio.

Those taking TOPS courses at the centre are experiencing 58 per cent placement in jobs or further training schemes. An industrial sewing course, in particular, is proving very successful with three-quarters of the students getting jobs at the end of their 13-weeks of study, during which time they are taught on every machine they will encounter. By the end of the course they have learned not only to make clothes, but also how to design them. Not surprisingly, they are much sought-after in the locality.

Information technology had been very much in evidence during the first day of the visitors' tour of South Wales when Dr

Stabenow was taken first to Treforest information technology centre, Pontypridd, a modern building sandwiched between the River Taff and Nantgarw Colliery. Here there are 40 places for school leavers between 16 and 17 to receive YTS training in computer technology. The course is divided into computer programming, modern office technology and electronics/microprocessors.

The European Social Fund visitors had gone on to Porth to see the work of Rhondda Enterprises Ltd, a YTS project which is one of seven in the Rhondda Valley. It was similar to the Blaenau Gwent centre, but on a smaller scale. From there they travelled to Penrhys, to a converted boilerhouse on a hillside which is now the home of PITECH Technology Centre. It also includes robotics on its programme of high technology activities.

By the time the two-day visit came to an end the first snow of winter was settling on the Welsh hillsides. But the visitors from Brussels were left in no doubt that the £25 million of EEC money that is being spent in Wales, largely on MSC schemes, is being put to good use. For many of the country's jobless, the qualifications they are now gaining through the training programmes hold out a very real prospect of jobs in the near future. ☐

Time to join the EMS, says study group

If the British Government is genuine in its belief that, sooner or later, Britain must become a full member of the European Monetary System, the time is now ripe to do so. That is the message from the report of a Federal Trust for Education and Research study group, under the chairmanship of David Howell MP.

The report recommends that European governments should dismantle barriers to the use of the European Currency Unit (ECU) and press ahead with the integration of their national financial markets.

Such moves, it says, could help to insulate European economies from the pressures exerted by a volatile dollar, and play a part in reversing the recent deterioration in Europe's economic performance relative to the US and Japan.

All the economic and financial arguments against Britain's membership of the exchange rate system are weak at the present time, says the report. Oil prices appear stable. Inflation performance, monetary targets and the general structure of economic policy in Britain and Germany are 'as close as are likely to be seen between independent sovereign states'. The present exchange rate of sterling is widely regarded as reasonable, as is Britain's balance of payments position.

The Government's announced policy on the EMS, says the report, is to enter when the time is ripe. The report adds that it is difficult to envisage any time appearing riper than the present. Given the UK's long-term political

commitment to the EEC, and its need to negotiate continuously on a wide range of EEC matters, the UK should not weaken its position by casting itself unnecessarily as the odd one out.

Development of the EMS, concludes the report, is at least as vital in the pattern of European re-energisation as the drive against internal barriers to which the UK Government has given its unqualified support.

The report is available from the Federal Trust, 1a Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HA. Price £2.50 plus postage.

SDP leader urges majority voting

The conciliation procedures between the European Parliament and the Council are a crucial hinge, and badly need some lubrication, said Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, on 3 December. It is absurd, for example, he continued, 'that the Danish Government still refuse to accept, in the text over budget disciplines, actual wording which will stipulate that the ceiling for expenditure would only be fixed by the Council of Ministers having heard the views of the European Parliament.'

Since it will be necessary for the member governments to reject Parliament's having

the ultimate power over revenue, Dr Owen said, there will have to be 'better procedures for taking account of the Parliament's views'.

Extension of majority voting, Dr Owen said, need not be against British interests. 'Indeed, it could well prove to be the only way that, on vital areas like insurance, we can make the Community accept the realities of an internal market. Britain should look at this issue in any conference on its merits.'

Dr Owen was delivering the annual Oration at King's College, London.

Can you write music?

Besides subsidising a number of music projects, the European Cultural Foundation is organising a competition in which young composers aged 15 to 30, from any Eastern or Western European country, are eligible to participate.

The challenge is to create a piece of contemporary music with the theme 'Europe'. Three substantial cash prizes will be awarded by an international jury to the three most original compositions.

Compositions having a duration of no longer than 20 minutes, composed after 31 December 1983, and not yet published or performed publicly, can be submitted until the closing date, 31 May 1985.

Enquiries to: European Youth Competition 1985, European Cultural Foundation, Jan van Goyenkade 5, 1075 HN Amsterdam, Netherlands.



Can we bring urban areas back to life?

Urban renewal programmes are in danger of petering out as the recession causes the flow of funds to dry up.

That fact of economic and political life was the starting point for discussion by some 400 representatives of central, local and regional government, architects, property developers and public housing agencies in Western Europe, at the inaugural session of the Standing Conference on Urban Renewal in Europe, held in Antwerp last September.

The questions which dominated the entire proceedings were: what can Europe's local authorities do to make an active start on renewing their urban fabrics; and what contributions can they expect from the other parties during an economic squeeze?

In their preparations for the conference, the organisers had asked local authorities to submit written reports on their experiences in inner-city renewal. They received 30 replies from authorities throughout the ten member

SIEG VLAEMINCK, an urban sociologist, attended a recent conference in Antwerp at which specialists in municipal building, architecture and local government discussed the problems that are blighting our inner cities

states. Those reports will be published, together with the proceedings of the conference.

During the 1950s and 1960s, urban growth was pursued principally through grandiose new building projects, with the emphasis on functionality. From 1960 onwards, however,

it became increasingly clear that this attitude had led to a cycle of neglect for the first-generation city and neighbourhood centres, and to the decay of older buildings which had been insufficiently adapted or renovated. The 'Brave New World' attitude kindled by technical progress and economic growth led to the wholesale demolition of decaying inner-city neighbourhoods – population displacement, slum clearance, bulldozers roaring in all directions. These were replaced with typically 'metropolitan' buildings: shopping centres, office blocks and other buildings producing a high return on investment.

Protests from the local communities led planners to rethink their strategies. Out of this was born a new conception of renewal. The key values in this reassessment were based on urban planning to a human scale; case-by-case interventions; improvement, where that remained a viable option; rebuild-

'Key values were based on urban planning to a human scale'

ing; a more gradual facelift for the urban fabric; the concept of neighbourhood wholeness; affordable rents (after renovation); and a more circumspect approach to the heritage of the past.

The 1980s saw urban renewal enter a new phase. In the wake of recession came budgetary restraint and an acute shortage of money available for urban community development. The talk was now of 'restrained urban renewal', 'affordable renewal', 'clean renewal' or 'rent-based renewal'. The repercussions have been felt not only at central government level – reduction in rebuilding and renovation quotas, cuts in government financing for all types of project, etc – but also by all the other interest groups involved in urban renovation.

The philosophy of urban renewal which developed during the 1970s never really found favour with commercial backers and developers – in other words, the private building sector. The very few local authorities who did join forces with commercial backers spoke mainly of projects for commercial, industrial or office buildings, or a combination of these with flats and studios for sale at high prices. The city of Amsterdam put forward a plan under which commercial backers would be required to accept a slightly lower return for social welfare reasons.

Many authorities expressed positive views on the part played in urban renewal both now and in the past, by the public housing construction agencies. However, many of them continue to favour the solution of low-income, tower block housing projects in overspill areas on the outskirts, whereas their renovation and rebuilding task is indisputably in the run-down inner-city areas.

Meanwhile, as the incomes of the (future) occupants are declining, rents are continuing to rise. The new tenants cannot afford to pay the costs of renovation; so renovation ceases to be a viable option.

A different problem, and peculiar to major conurbations, is that public housing construction agencies are not geographically focused on a neighbourhood basis. Rotterdam's experience is very pertinent in this respect. The plan was to group together the thousands of dwellings purchased into 'neighbourhood organisations', in which all tenants would have a say. Insurmountable obstacles prevented, first, the organisations from being set up and, second, the speedy transfer of ownership. Despite all that, there still exists a long-term plan to establish neighbourhood (sub-)organisations, by re-allocating the proposed new buildings among the existing construction agencies.

The principle of self-help has been the driving force behind the development of




housing and its social environment for centuries. No doubt the recession has much to do with the resurgence of do-it-yourself among householders and tenants. Many local housing authorities were strongly in favour of offering greater encouragement and support to the do-it-yourself enthusiast, including the simplification of formalities in applying for improvement grants and tax concessions for householders carrying out certain types of improvement.

It is obviously in the interest both of the local housing authority and the citizen to encourage low-priced housing units in renewal zones, to keep demand at a satisfactory level. At the conference, this led to the interesting speculation that official recognition for do-it-yourself housing schemes, as part of the plan for urban renewal, might help reduce the level of undeclared employment, or 'moonlighting'. Meanwhile there is no question that the general trend is towards a more balanced exchange of views, with a greater European dimension.

The next step should be for a longer confer-

ence, to allow for more in-depth discussions on the basis of case studies and reports from expert study groups. This might lead to an increased awareness of the problems and solutions among precisely those local housing authorities currently trying to scrape together the financial and other resources needed to put their theories of restrained renewal into practice.

While conferences may provide a useful forum for airing problems, a true exchange of experiences requires a more structured framework and discussions.

Many delegates have expressed only lukewarm enthusiasm for the theme scheduled for discussion at the Mainz Conference in 1986: urban renewal for the towns of the 21st century. Such a quantum leap forward is of no real relevance to solving the problems of urban (and rural) renewal which must be tackled, and financed, in the short term by taking a sensitive and innovative approach to the problem of community wholeness. We should not let dreams of tomorrow's Utopias blind us to the sores of Europe's today. 

Airbus takes off: a coup for European technology

It now looks as if Europe might succeed in accomplishing one of its most cherished aims – to prevent the United States and, more specifically, the Boeing Corporation, from acquiring a monopoly throughout the world in the business of passenger-aircraft construction.

The ray of hope is Pan Am's decision last September to order the European Airbus, that distinctively plump family of passenger planes into which the governments of the United Kingdom, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Spain have poured billions of taxpayers' dollars in a last-ditch bid to stay in the aircraft-building game.

As a result of the Pan Am sale, Airbus Industrie – the consortium set up by the four countries 13 years ago to build the plane – has at last secured a substantial new foothold in the US market, traditionally dominated by its more powerful rival, Boeing.

And it has done so for the whole of its gradually expanding range of aircraft, at a time when Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas, the two other big US passenger aircraft builders, have either pulled out of the business

PAUL LEWIS reports on the family of passenger aircraft, fathered by Britain, France, Germany and Spain, which looks set to earn billions of dollars in sales to the United States

altogether or are cutting back their activities.

Under the complex deal, Pan Am will pay roughly \$1 billion for 28 Airbus jets, consisting of 12 220-seat Airbus-310s and 16 of the new, smaller 150-seat A-320s. Until all these planes are ready, the US flag carrier will lease another 16 of the bigger Airbuses, returning them as its own new aircraft are delivered. In addition, Pan Am has taken out options to buy another 13 A-310s and 34 of the smaller A-320s. If exercised, these options would raise the number of airbuses Pan Am buys to 91, and double the contract's total value to some \$2 billion.

The deal set the champagne corks popping

at the Toulouse headquarters of Airbus Industrie, where the planes are assembled from parts built separately by the four member companies of the consortium – Germany's MBB, France's Aerospatiale, British Aerospace, and a Spanish Builder, CASA. 'I feel as happy as a mother who has just given birth,' exclaimed Bernard Lathière, the ebullient French-born boss of Airbus Industrie, on hearing the news.

It is not difficult to understand Lathière's excitement. So far, Airbus Industrie has landed 355 firm sales of its A-300 and A-310 models, giving it some 66 per cent of the world market for wide-bodied, two-engined aircraft, while Boeing, with 185 orders for its competing B-767 aircraft, has 34 per cent of the pie.

But Airbus Industrie was badly in need of a big US order to lend credibility to its challenge to Boeing. In 1978, it sold 34 planes to Eastern Airlines; but since then its only American successes have been a sale of four planes to Northeastern Airlines and a single model to Capitol Airlines.

Airbus Industrie also has been looking for orders for the new small 150-seat A-320, which it decided to build only last March after participating governments at last agreed to put up the needed \$1.7 billion in development funds. So far, the only purchasers have been state-owned airlines in the Airbus Industrie countries. Finally, Airbus Industrie had 24 completed, but unsold, planes sitting



British Aerospace, as partners, are responsible for design and assembly of the wings.

on the tarmac in Toulouse. Now, in one stroke, all three problems have been solved. Airbus is firmly established as a major element in the fleet of a big US airline, with all the valuable publicity that will bring.

Describing the Airbus order as 'a keystone' in Pan Am's fleet plans, company president, C. Edward Acker, said the airline henceforth will depend on just three types of aircraft – Boeing 747 jumbo jets, which it already owns, for long distance flights and the two types of Airbus it is now buying for short and medium routes.

Today, Airbus Industrie claims it is paying back the money governments advanced it to get started, in the form of a royalty on each plane sold. It also maintains that there was nothing underhanded about the Pan Am sale. 'This is a very standard deal,' says Airbus sales director Pierre Pailleret. 'We haven't accepted coffee beans, cocoa or bananas in return for the planes, and we are not taking back any old Pan Am aircraft.'

Clearly, the exceptionally strong dollar and the weakness of European currencies gave Airbus a financial leg up in its negotiations with Pan Am. But Airbus officials insist on the technological excellence of their product as well.

They are particularly proud of the advanced Airbus cockpit, with its digital information display screens and electronic monitoring devices, both built by France's Thomson-CSF, and which allows the plane to

'Airbus is firmly established as a major element in the fleet of a big US airline'

be flown by two pilots, without a flight engineer. They are proud, too, of the Airbus's efficient new-style wings, and the use of graphite fibre instead of metal in bearings and the undercarriage doors.

But the Airbus also incorporates a substantial amount of American technology: the Pan Am sale means jobs for Americans as well as Europeans.

The engines it uses, which alone account for about 30 per cent of an aircraft's cost, are made either by Pratt & Whitney or General Electric. Some of the avionics come from the United States. And purchasers can often choose whether they want such sophisticated instruments as the plane's flight management system or weather aid radar to be US or European-built.

The wider significance of Pan Am's Airbus order is that it comes at a moment when the world's airliners are gearing up for a spending spree, just as the number of aircraft makers interested in their custom is diminishing. Lockheed has withdrawn from passenger-aircraft building altogether, and McDonnell Douglas has killed plans for a new airliner.

Nevertheless, Boeing and Airbus Industrie believe there is a huge market for new passenger aircraft during the remainder of this century, as the world's airlines phase out their present ageing, noisy and fuel-thirsty planes. Airbus Industrie, for instance, puts the long-term market for all types of passenger aircraft at around 7,800 planes, with a total value of about \$440 billion. It thinks airlines will need about 3,000 small, 150-seat aircraft, roughly the same number of wide-body, medium-range 220-seaters and about 1,000 new long-range planes.

The company's aim is to compete in all these segments of the market in direct competition with Boeing, the only other maker that already offers clients a full range of small, wide-body and long-haul jets. 'We are absolutely convinced that the future viability of our whole project depends on widening our range of aircraft so that we can meet an airline's total fleet needs, with all the economies that it offers,' Lathière insists.

The US exposure offered to Airbus Industrie by the Pan Am deal should prove valuable. By 1986, Airbus Industrie wants its four member companies and their governments to back its latest project – the TA-11, a four-engine, 250-seat long-range aircraft that would compete directly with Boeing's 747 jumbo jet.

□ Paul Lewis is The New York Times economic correspondent in Paris.



Airbus Industrie was badly in need of a big US order. The deal with Pan Am could secure its future.



Boost for Ulster blackspots

Northern Ireland, one of Europe's blackspots for unemployment and urban decay, has become a major target of EEC aid, with an estimated £525 million of Community funds pumped into the economy over the past ten years.

A report on the impact of the funding shows that over half of the money came from the European Social Fund (ESF). It went towards financing training schemes primarily for unemployed youngsters through groups such as Enterprise Ulster, Younghelp and the Industrial Training Board.

The £282 million spent on the schemes was about 18 per cent of the total UK Social Fund allocation and 5.5 per cent of total ESF spending throughout all ten member states during the period.

Northern Ireland has also been a major recipient of funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). According to the report, £167 million from the Fund has helped to create or maintain an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 jobs a year in the province since 1975.

Of the total, 65 per cent went to infrastructure projects such as roads, power lines and sewerage, a third went to industry and 1 per cent went to special rural infrastructure projects in hill-farming areas.

Additional ERDF finance has gone to, and will continue to support, special regional development programmes in poor border areas and in the depressed shipbuilding and textile industries.

Belfast has also attracted a major EC experiment in integrated urban renewal in the form of a £60 million grant for a three-year programme to tackle its massive problems of urban decay.

Belfast, which was selected for the scheme together with Naples, received about a third of the money in 1983 to fund 71 projects, and will get the rest by the end of 1985.

Left-hand, right-hand sorted out

The Commission has been looking into difficulties experienced by customers wishing to buy Alfa Romeo vehicles with right-hand drive. The problem related particularly to delivery dates and availability, and mainly concerned United Kingdom nationals buying in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Following the Commission's intervention, in the course of inquiries into application of EEC competition rules, Alfa Romeo has now changed its commercial policy regarding the sale and delivery of right-hand-drive vehicles in markets where the demand is ordinarily for left-hand-drive cars.

Funds for new ways over the Severn

Over £1 million of EEC money is to be contributed to the second Severn Crossing Feasibility Study, being undertaken jointly by the Welsh Office and the Department of Transport.

The £1.05 million is coming from the European Regional Development Fund at the maximum rate of grant of 50 per cent of the total cost of £2.1 million of the study being carried out by three firms of Consulting Engineers - W.S. Atkins and Partners; G Maunsell and Partners; C Haswell and Partners.

The study currently getting under way, is due to be completed in April 1986. It will examine alternative methods of providing a second road crossing by bridge or

tunnel - or by roadway on top of a barrage, if studies demonstrate that a barrage with roadway is worth considering.

The study will proceed alongside the existing repair programme on the present Severn Bridge. It will look at all the costs and benefits, including the environmental factors, and the approach roads needed to connect the second road crossing with the existing M4.

The reason for providing the maximum 50 per cent rate of grant on the project is that the EEC recognises the vital interest of the Second Severn Crossing in the regional regeneration of South Wales, and the vital part the Severn Crossing plays in the European highway network from the continent to London, and to South Wales and Ireland, as Euroroute E30.

Small firms to get more aid in 1985

Small firms in Britain's steel, shipbuilding and textile areas are the main beneficiaries of a £100 million aid package announced in London on 26 November by the European Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The aid - £89 million from the European regional development fund and £12.5 million from the British Government - will help offset job losses in run-down areas, and £63 million of it has been earmarked to help with the setting up of small firms and to improve the efficiency of existing ones.

Other funds will be used for environmental improvements, including the conversion of disused buildings into premises for small businesses.

Areas eligible for funding are those defined in EEC regulations at the beginning of last year. They are not affected by the latest review of travel to work areas.

Of the ERDF total £19 million will go to eligible steel areas, £10 million for shipbuilding areas and, for the first time, there will be aid for textile areas totalling £60 million. The UK Government's contribution of £12.5 million is additional to these amounts. The aid is available until 31 March 1989.

The £63 million for small firms will be available as grants - mainly either 55 per cent or 70 per cent of the cost of a wide range of professional consultancy and other services.

Eligible services include management and organisation; market

analyses; technical innovation, and help with common services, technical information, additional investment access to risk capital, plus indirect help through the establishment and extension of counselling services and economic promotion agencies.

The English element of the small firms aid is a new £40 million package called 'Business improvement services' (BIS). Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will announce their own arrangements separately.

Three awards by the EIB

The European Investment Bank has announced the award of three new scholarships for students studying for doctorates at the European University Institute in Florence.

The scholarships are named after former EIB presidents Pietro Campilli and Paride Formentini. Each is worth about £6,000.

This year's winners are Ulrich Nötges, from the University of Konstanz in the Federal Republic of Germany; and Francesca di Brisco and Serena Sordi, both from the University of Siena.



A shot in the arm for the cinema?

Europe's cinema industry is in dire financial straits. The European Commission is planning to call for a series of measures designed to revive its flagging fortunes.

The introduction of cable and satellite television means that Europe will soon have to fill about 125,000 hours of film programming

a year. French, Italian and German productions currently total about 5,000 hours. The way to fill the gap is to offer financial assistance to European producers, says the Commission.

American productions already account for between 35 per cent and 80 per cent of the EEC's ten national TV markets. About 60 per cent of all light entertainment programming in Western Europe is made in America.

By comparison, American productions account for about 95 per cent of programming in the US. The cinema is also doing well across the Atlantic. American cinemas attract about twice as many customers as do European ones.

The European cinema is shrinking because of a lack of money. Between 1973 and 1983 the number of films produced in France fell to 131 from 180, Italian productions fell to 36 from 80 and German productions fell to 70 from 82.

According to the European Commission, the European countries should club together to co-finance films both for television and the cinema. Between 1970 and 1975 Europe co-produced about 150 films a year. About 100 a year were produced with other EC countries. Today co-productions total about 30 a year.

In 1981 the Federal Republic of Germany and France took a step in the right direction by signing a cinema cooperation agreement to encourage 'quality productions that observe the cultural identity of the signatory countries'.

Rising demand is another encouraging factor. Despite the recession, consumer spending on audiovisual equipment in Europe has increased in real terms by 40 per cent in ten years. A British study shows that an investment of \$150 million in audiovisual production could create as many as 11,500 new jobs in the sector.

11.4 per cent are jobless in Europe

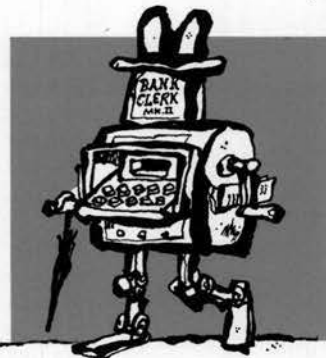
Registered unemployment in the nine Community countries excluding Greece rose to 11.4 per cent of the workforce and totalled 12.8 million at the end of October.

The number of jobless in the Nine actually increased by about 1 per cent from the September figure, indicating a rising trend rather than a seasonal adjustment, according to Eurostat, the EC Statistical Office.

After a period of relative stability, dole queues continued to lengthen in France. But in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands the situation improved slightly during September and October.

Over the year ending October 31, unemployment in the Nine as a whole rose by 5.6 per cent. Worst hit was France, which experienced a 16 per cent increase. In Italy, Luxembourg and Ireland the number of jobless rose by about 8 per cent and in the UK by 4 per cent. In Denmark and the Netherlands it fell by 9 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. In the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium it remained virtually unchanged.

Unemployment is currently running at about 16.6 per cent in Ireland, 15.2 per cent in Belgium, 14.4 per cent in the Netherlands, 13.2 per cent in Italy, 12.2 per cent in the UK, 11 per cent in France, 9.9 per cent in Denmark, 8 per cent in the Federal Republic of Germany and 1.8 per cent in Luxembourg.



Automation threatens bank jobs

Automatic cash dispensers are popping up like mushrooms across Europe. The arrival of new technology is turning the lives of the 1.8 million people who work in the banking sector upside down. 'The social consequences of the introduction of new technologies in the banking sector' was the theme of a seminar organised by the European Commission that took place in Luxembourg in November.

The meeting, the first of its kind, was attended by a range of experts from management, unions, universities and research bodies. The discussion centred on a paper written by Prof. Emil Kirchner of the University of Essex. The issues debated included jobs, health, training and the organisation of working time.

Bank employees have not been hit as hard as some other sectors by the recession. After a contraction in 1980-81, the rate of employment in the industry stabilised and the new technologies did not result in mass redundancies.

In future employers are not planning to increase the number of jobs, but will try to maintain existing levels. The unions are less optimistic and say that technical advances will cut jobs between now and the end of the decade. Experience has shown that it is the least skilled jobs that are the most threatened. New technologies have eradicated a number of routine jobs and made recruitment a much more selective process.

Today the office boy has much less chance of ever becoming the managing director. Amateurism is out and promotion will be increasingly training-orientated. Emphasising the importance of training, managers said that it was the best way of improving productivity, whilst unionists said it was a right to which their members were entitled.

Inflation is creeping up again

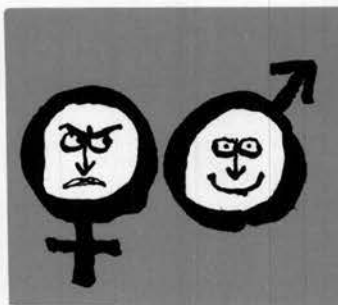
The consumer price index for the ten European Community countries rose by 0.8 per cent in October – the biggest increase in six months.

Greece recorded a 2.5 per cent increase, followed by Italy with 1 per cent, the Netherlands with 0.7 per cent, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom with 0.6 per cent, Belgium with 0.5 per cent and Denmark with 0.4 per cent.

In the year to the end of October, inflation for the Community as a whole reached 6.7 per cent. The lowest level was recorded in the Federal Republic of Germany, where inflation has fallen to 2.1 per cent. In the Netherlands it was 2.8 per cent, in Luxembourg 3.6 per cent, in the United Kingdom 5 per cent, in Belgium 5.8 per cent and in Denmark 6 per cent.

The worst figures were recorded in Greece, where inflation is still at 18.4 per cent. Next worse was Italy at 9.6 per cent, Ireland at 7.9 per cent and France at 6.9 per cent.

Since the beginning of 1982 average inflation rates in Europe have declined fairly steadily from about 13 per cent to their current level. In the US, inflation currently stands at about 4 per cent and, in Japan, at about 2 per cent.



Are women happy in their work?

Women in paid employment continue to feel disadvantaged, compared with their male colleagues, in terms of promotion prospects, salary levels and access to further vocational training.

This emerges from a recent survey carried for the Commission of the European Communities with a representative sample of 5,447 female employees.

The survey strives not only to take due account of political developments and their impact on women's lives, but also introduces a series of additional questions, seeking to evaluate two important economic and social developments of recent years – the risk of unemployment and the impact of technological change.

While the great majority of women interviewed inclined to the view that there was no difference in the treatment of men and women at work, a significant number nevertheless believed that they were at a disadvantage as regards promotion prospects (30 per cent), salaries (25 per cent), further training (15 per cent) and bonuses and benefits (14 per cent).

They recognised, on the other hand, that they benefited from a more advantageous retirement age (23 per cent) and better working hours (8 per cent) than their male colleagues. Throughout, it was employees working in factories or workshops who felt at a greater disadvantage than other categories.

Nevertheless, the great majority of women in paid employment were satisfied with their present jobs. Seventy three per cent felt that their work included a measure of responsibility and 78 per cent judged that their activities were very well – or at least fairly well – utilised.

Overall, 11 per cent of women, when applying for a job that interested them, had found that the employer's intention was to recruit a man rather than a woman.

A woman cook is worth her salt – and that's the law



Julie Hayward at her workplace: a winner for Community law.



Pupils at the European School, Abingdon, Berkshire, celebrated the opening of eight new classrooms with a balloon race. One front-runner got to Devon.

Julie Hayward, a highly qualified cook at Cammell Laird's shipyard, Birkenhead, considered that her work was of equal value to the firm as that done by their male joiners, painters and insulation engineers, and that she should be paid as highly as them.

Until the beginning of 1984 there was no legal way in which she could make her claim. But, in January, amendments to the Equal Pay Act 1970 came into force – legislation required as a result of a ruling by the European Court of Justice in July 1982.

The original Act allowed for equal pay for women when it could be shown that they did the same or similar work to a man. But it did not take account of European Community directive 75/117, which requires equal pay for work of *equal value*, even if the jobs are different.

Julie Hayward, therefore, saw her chance. Backed by her trade union and by the Equal Opportunities Commission, she applied to the Industrial Tribunal. The Tribunal, under the law, referred her case to an independent expert – in this case Mr Terry Dillon, a lecturer in industrial relations at University College, Bangor.

He examined the four jobs of cook, painter, joiner and insulation engineer under five heads: physical stamina and energy; environmental conditions; planning, thinking and judgement required; skill, training and knowledge; and responsibility, taking account of tools and equipment used.

The Act lays down no formal rules for such investigations, but the Tribunal accepted his conclusion that the work of a canteen cook was of equal value to the men's jobs. Julie, who had been earning £99 a week, was awarded a £31 rise to bring her up to the men's £130 a week.

The case – even though Cammell Laird may still appeal – has sent a wave of enthusiasm through the ranks of women, and the Equal Opportunities Commission has urged those who feel that they are unfairly underpaid should consider bringing their case before a tribunal.

The EOC already has 15 cases awaiting a hearing, including a house mother, a clerical administrative assistant, and a cash-and-carry assistant, each claiming work of equal value to that of male colleagues.

Critics have pointed out, however, that the new legislation is complex and provides the employer with considerable leeway for paying men more than women, even when their jobs appear to be of equal value. A decision by the Tribunal also applies only to the person who has made the claim; though Julie may get her rise, another cook may not.

The EOC, however, sees the case as a challenge to the traditional assumptions that male skills should be more highly regarded than female skills. It hopes that employers will take note, make suitable pay adjustments, and avoid lengthy legal cases. Julie Hayward has at least proved that the Act works.

PEGGY CRANE



Left: Winchester School illustrations from the Benedictional of Archbishop Robert, on loan from Rouen. Above: an Anglo-Scandinavian silver brooch, from the Isle of Ely (British Museum). Below: the Alfred Jewel, with an enamelled figure representing Sight (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford).

New light on the Old English

Anyone who visited the '1066' exhibition at the Hayward Gallery last summer will have come away with a strong sense of the cultural injection that followed the Conquest. But it is as well to be reminded that, before the Normans – and with help from the Vikings – there already existed a distinctively native art in these islands. It was rich enough to warrant the title given to it by the British Museum, in a truly sumptuous exhibition which can be seen until the middle of March: the Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art.

Considering how few survivals from those times are to be found in our museums, the exhibition seems to overflow with treasures. Many belong to the great abbeys and cathedrals, where they are jealously protected from the prying eyes of mere tourists, such as the volume of Old English poetry in the library of Exeter Cathedral, and York Minster's manuscript of the Gospels, both of which have been kept inviolate for over 900 years.

Other survivals include the famous Alfred Jewel, of gold and rock crystal, vividly enamelled, and the gloriously decorated Benedictional of St Aethelwold, from the British Library. Aethelwold, Bishop of Winchester, inspired and promoted the resurgence of cultural activity in England in the 10th Century. His death in the year 984 serves as the justification of the exhibition (if any were needed): it is not every day that we have a thousandth anniversary to celebrate.

Some of the oldest exhibits have been loaned from France, notably the Benedic-

Sumptuous works of art, craft and literature, pre-dating the Conquest, reveal the Anglo-Saxon culture in its golden age



tional of Archbishop Robert and the Missal of Robert of Jumièges, in Latin and Anglo-Saxon, with decorations and drawings in the style of the Winchester School, which represents the summit of early English colour illustration. Both are from the Bibliothèque Municipale, Rouen; and this is the first time they have been repatriated.

Another masterpiece of the period, the silver and gilded Cross in St Michael's Cathedral in Brussels, shows similar mastery. Even without the crucified figure, which was lost in the distant past, it exudes a devotional intensity appropriate to the words inscribed on it, taken from the Anglo-Saxon poem 'The Dream of the Rood': 'Cross is my name: once, trembling and drenched with blood, I bore the mighty King.'

The growing wealth of the Church in the peaceful years following the Viking raids is reflected in the care lavished on more everyday objects, from furniture to the coinage. Indeed, the Anglo-Saxons seem to have had a taste for glitter and brilliance equal to that of their near neighbours across the Channel.

In short, the exhibition shows that England before the Conquest was no cultural backwater. As Simon Keynes writes in an introduction to the catalogue: 'When William the Conqueror seized what he considered to be his rightful inheritance, he would have found much that was already familiar, and even more for which he would learn to be grateful.'

DENIS THOMAS

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

Dimitrios Adamou, Greece:

Can the Commission give a breakdown of expenditure for cultural activities by country for 1983 and for 1984, in particular with regard to Greece, and state what specific purposes the funds have been used for?

Answer by Gaston Thorn on behalf of the Commission:

The Commission would emphasise that appropriations under Articles 670 and 671 of the budget are not allocated on a geographical basis, but according to how the various operations, preferably multinational ones, appear to accord with the objectives of Community action in the cultural sector.

The list of operations supported by the Commission in 1983 and 1984 will be sent direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat.

The Honourable Member will note in particular that the appropriation allocated for conservation work on the Parthenon in 1984 accounts for nearly a quarter of the Commission's total appropriations for culture for the year, i.e., 500,000 ECU's out of 2,040,000.

Elmar Brok, Denmark:

On 12 October 1983 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the establishment of a school textbook commission. Can the Commission state: which school textbook institutes in EEC countries it is collaborating with; what contribution it is making within the framework of this collaboration to reduce nationalistic prejudices in educational materials; and whether it has taken specific steps in response to the demands made in the above-mentioned resolution.

Answer by Ivor Richard on behalf of the Commission:

As explained by the Member of the Commission during the debate on the Resolution cited in the question, the resources available for the promotion of a European dimension in school curricula are very small, and have been considerably reduced in recent years.

The Commission works with a variety of organisations, which bring together in each member state those interested in the promotion of teaching about Europe and the European Community, using such resources as are available.

In addition, following the discussion in the Council and the meeting of Education Ministers within the Council of 4 June 1984 on a recent French experiment on teaching about Europe, the Commission is now examining with the Education Committee the possibility of incorporating this experience within the European Schools Day framework, and extending it to other member states. However, for the reasons explained to Parliament in the debate

the Commission has not proceeded to establish a school textbook commission.

Alex Falconer, United Kingdom:

In what countries within the EEC does deer farming occur? What is the current venison export rate to countries outside the Community and the countries in receipt of same? What assistance is available for deer farming?

Answer by Poul Dalsager on behalf of the Commission:

The Commission does not have any detailed information about deer farming in the Community, and is therefore not in a position to answer this question. It is known, however, that deer farming occurs in at least three member states (Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom).

The EEC trade statistics, NIMEXE, do not provide for a special line for farmed venison. Veni-

Karl von Wogau, Germany:

There exist provisions in a number of member states specifying that food products bearing certain names may be marketed nationally only if they have been prepared in accordance with specified recipes. These provisions may in some cases constitute measures having equivalent effect to quantitative restrictions which cannot be justified by reference to Article 36 of the EEC Treaty.

Does the Commission have a list of all the purity requirements laid down by the member states, or at least the most important of them? And what action does the Commission intend to take to verify that each of the purity requirements laid down by the member states conforms to the provisions of the EEC Treaty?

Answer by Karl-Heinz Narjes on behalf of the Commission:

The Commission is, of course, aware of the main legal provisions

of all the provisions of foodstuffs is not possible, owing to the multiplicity of rules that exist in the Community and to the limited staff available at the Commission.

It should be borne in mind that apart from the procedure of examining provisions that have given rise to difficulties in the free movement of goods, barriers to trade can be removed by the approximation of laws, and indeed must be so removed wherever trade-restricting national provisions are justified for reasons of common concern or for the reasons set out in Article 36 of the EEC Treaty.

With the number of Community directives already in force - Directive 79/113/EEC of 19 December 1978 on the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer is just one example - the Commission is still actively following up its work in this field.

Thomas Megahy, United Kingdom:

Can the Commission state what provisions exist in the various member states for the payment of social security benefit to nationals of other member states taking up work in their country?

Answer by Ivor Richard on behalf of the Commission

The Council adopted, in 1958, pursuant to Article 51 of the EEC Treaty, Regulations 3 and 4 on the application of social security schemes to migrant workers and their families moving within the Community.

These Regulations, which took effect on 1 January 1959, were revised and up-dated in the form of two new regulations (EEC) nos. 1408/71 and 574/72. The latter were themselves modified and consolidated in August 1983, following their extension to include self-employed persons from 1 July 1982.

The Regulations coordinate the social security systems of each of the member states, so as to permit the aggregation of periods of insurance completed anywhere in the Community; to accord equality of treatment in the field of social security to all nationals thereof, regardless of the member state in which they are working; and to provide for the payment of benefits to which such workers are entitled in any member state of the Community in which they are residing, notwithstanding that the place of residence is outside the member state responsible for payment of those benefits.

□ These answers to written questions submitted by MEPs were given by Commissioners still serving their terms of office to the end of 1984. The new European Commissioners (see EUROFORUM) took over on 1 January.



son coming from farmed or hunted animals falls within the NIMEXE number 02.04 - 30 'meat and edible meat offals of game'. A more detailed subdivision of the NIMEXE numbers does not exist.

No specific assistance for deer farming only is available within the Common Agricultural Policy. As venison falls under Annex II of the Treaty, and is therefore covered by the Common Agricultural Policy, it is possible that a farmer whose activity is deer farming may benefit from the different measures provided for in the Community Directives on agricultural structure (especially Directive 72/159/EEC), if he complies with all the conditions laid down in these directives.

on foodstuffs laid down by the member states. Since, however, the problem referred to in the question concerns not only purity requirements but all the provisions of the ten member states relating to the composition, designation and marketing of foodstuffs, it is hardly feasible to draw up a complete list, especially as provisions of this kind are not found solely in the national laws on food products.

As it has done in the past, the Commission will investigate any provisions that are brought to its notice, through complaints or any other means, as presenting problems in connection with the free movement of goods. At the present time, however, a systematic ex-

How COFACE gets involved in family matters

Ask almost anyone what is meant by COFACE, and he or she will almost certainly look blank, or suggest it is some form of cosmetic.

In fact, COFACE (pronounced Cofassé) stands for the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Community. As an advisory body to the European Commission, its job is to safeguard and promote the interests of the family – an objective most people understand, even if the term 'family' cannot be today clearly defined.

William Lay, COFACE director, with his office in Brussels, has described the Confederation as a political organisation directed on the European Commission and the European Parliament in an effort to get things done. Each Community country has representatives on the Assembly, Council and Bureau that run COFACE. At the moment, the UK has four voluntary organisations participating in its work as full members. These are the National Council for Voluntary Organisations; the Pre-School Playgroups Association; the National Federation of Parent Teacher Associations; and the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Kay Young, an active member of the NFWI, who has just received the OBE for her work as chairman of Rural Voice, a national organisation concerned with people in rural areas, is a vice-president of COFACE. She has been a member of the organisation since 1979. She spent 20 years in Malaysia and Singapore, where she helped to set up the first nurses' training school. Returning to England in 1966 to live in a tiny village a few miles south of Winchester, she became interested in the Women's Institutes – not for their jam making and flower arranging, she adds, but because she felt strongly that, with a membership of 360,000 women, it could and should make itself felt. Her own interests led her to Europe, where the Women's Institutes already had representation on COFACE.

The Confederation was founded in 1958 as a branch of the International Union of Family Organisations, and in 1979 it became a legally constituted entity in its own right. It had to wait until 1984 before the Council of Ministers conceded a token £60,000 from the Community budget for its work.

At present, COFACE consists of 50 organisations from the ten Community countries, of which the British group is the most diverse in its interests. Other national groups include the Rural Families Association from France, the



'Our meetings are always friendly and cooperative, even when we differ' - Kay Young

Pan-Hellenic Women's Association from Greece, and Catholic Women's Associations from several countries.

As Mrs Young points out, with such a round of interests, even definition of a family is impossible. But COFACE is unique in being the only Community-related organisation that is concerned directly with people living in the countryside – some 50 per cent of Community families. She herself was partly instrumental in establishing COFACE's rural families committee, which is engaged in research on special needs of the countryside – needs which do not always parallel those of the Community's agricultural policies.

COFACE works through its contacts with the Commission, the Economic and Social Committee, and the European Parliament. Its particular interests are in consumer protection, flexible working hours, parental leave, reform of the CAP, and security against damage to health or security from faulty products such as, for example, harmful toys.

Work on these matters is pursued by special committees, which the British group split up between them. Barbara Saunders, Deputy General Secretary of the NFWI, for instance, is the consumer expert, and Bill Seary, from NCVO, is chairman of the social affairs committee.

As to what the Confederation has achieved, it is represented on several

committees, including the Consultative Committees of EEC Consumers and the CAP, which advise the Commission on legislation, and it has undertaken research on family and social policies.

COFACE is most proud, however, of having persuaded the European Parliament, in June 1983, to adopt a far-reaching resolution on family affairs, setting the Confederation's work in proper perspective. Based on this resolution, COFACE produced a detailed European Family Manifesto for the 1984 European election, which covered its aspirations on social policy, consumer protection, educational policy, and which included a call for a Council of Family Affairs.

The Manifesto also called for the adoption of Community legislation on consumer credit, misleading advertising (now adopted by the Council), and the importance of energy saving and recycling policies. Indirectly, at least, the Confederation has influenced a considerable amount of Commission draft legislation, notably on parental leave, shorter working hours, care of the handicapped, the importance of tourism to rural families, and on consumer matters

Kay Young, who goes to Brussels up to ten times a year to attend to her COFACE commitments, regrets that the Confederation's work is not better known in Britain, and that only four major British voluntary organisations have shown sufficient interest to become involved. Membership, in full or associated form, is open to any voluntary organisation concerned with family matters, subject to vetting by the administration of suitability within COFACE rules. Full members, however, have to pay a fairly heavy subscription, of about £320 a year.

Though the British groups meet informally before Council meetings to consider agendas, the whole affair is very informal, as each is responsible to his or her own nominating organisation. There is no 'British view', or any other national view, apparent in COFACE discussions. 'We find very broad areas of agreement,' says Mrs Young, 'and our meetings are always friendly and co-operative, even when we differ.'

'While we may not be able to point to any great achievements, it is important that there should be some body concerned with the human face of the European Community. There is nothing more human than the family and its needs.'

PEGGY CRANE

A major extension costing £750,000 to the catering and accommodation department at Cornwall College has been completed and is now in use.

It means that 100 more full-time students can be enrolled over the next two years in this developing educational service at the college.

It has been built in response to the enormous student demand for places and the need to keep up to date with current trends in the industry.

The new facilities have been provided by the local authority, aided by a substantial EEC grant.

—West Briton and
Royal Cornwall Gazette

Avon Friends of the Earth have been offered an EEC grant to develop environment education projects in schools.

Bristol Euro MP Mr Richard Cottrell said today that the European Commission in Brussels has offered a £1,500 grant to Friends of the Earth to develop their work in the county's schools.

Topics under study include acid rain and pollution.

—Bristol Evening Post

Los Angeles Olympics javelin gold medalist Tessa Sanderson opened the Southwark Women's Training Workshop in Union Street, Southwark, last week.

The workshop trains up to 50 women at a time on six-month intensive courses in carpentry and joinery, which take them up to first-year City and Guilds standard and helps them find jobs afterwards.

The workshop is jointly funded by Southwark Council and the EEC's European Social Fund, who granted £218,000 and £105,000 respectively. All the trainees are aged over 25, and instructors are all female.

—South London Press

Small businesses are to benefit from an extra £2 million in Common Market aid for Merseyside.

The cash is linked to the loss of shipbuilding jobs in the region, and is part of a new £101 million package unveiled by Industry Minister Mr Norman Lamont.

In England as a whole, £40 million of the cash is being channelled through grants to small firms encouraging them to seek professional help on marketing and financial management.

—Liverpool Daily Post

Five European chemical firms, including Laporte Industries of Britain, have been fined a record £5.4 million by the Common Market Commission for illegal fixing of prices and market shares within the EEC.

Laporte, which has plants in Leeds and Warrington, has been ordered to pay £1.2 million for its alleged part in a 14-year agreement to carve up the European market for hydrogen peroxide, an important ingredient in washing powders and industrial bleaches.

The other firms involved are Solvay, of West Germany, Degussa, of Belgium and Germany, and two French companies, Air Liquide and Atochem.

—Daily Telegraph

Jobless Birmingham youngsters are snubbing places on a city council scheme which would give them an extra year of work-skill training.

The £1.5 million project, funded jointly by the city council and an EEC social fund grant, is aimed at helping some of the 5,000 youngsters who failed to find jobs at the end of the first year of the Government's Youth Training Scheme in August.

However, less than half of the 1,240 places on the programme, which have been available since September, have been taken up.

Now city officials are planning a new publicity campaign to try to let more youngsters know about the scheme.

—Birmingham Post

The European Commission has now lodged a complaint to the European Court of Justice against Germany's maintenance of a ban on all imported beers which contravene the 'pure beer' law of 1516.

New readers will wish to know, or old readers be reminded, that this case began in August 1983 when the Commission demanded that Germany abolish the import ban. This they refused to do, maintaining the ban was in the interests of protecting consumers. Among the wilder accusations have been that imported beers cause German beer drinkers to become impotent.

The judges will have to decide whether the chemical additives do indeed endanger the health of consumers.

—Kangaroo News

WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS

Local people with profitable ideas are to be the main beneficiaries of EEC funds for areas badly-hit by closures in the steel industry.

The European Community is shifting cash handouts from improving infrastructure into helping the small man create a new industrial revolution.

The EEC and the Welsh Office announced yesterday a £9.2 million handout over the next five years based on the new principles. Next January, the cash available will be boosted, and most of it will be paid out on the new basis.

Most of the new money is from Brussels. The Welsh Office, who will administer the scheme, will supply £1.9 million.

—Western Mail

The EEC is giving £7.7 million from its agricultural fund to 63 projects in the UK, including £2.9 million special aid for the pig processing industry, the Ministry of Agriculture has announced.

—Press Association

The Common Market has agreed to donate £600,000 to ensure that a £2 million shipment of emergency supplies, paid for by a fund-raising campaign in North East England, is distributed in Ethiopia after it arrived on 26 January.

—Sunday Telegraph

Massive numbers of farmers should be pensioned off with EEC help to cut the cost of surpluses, it was suggested yesterday.

There are eight million farmers in the Common Market, but only four million are needed to meet the needs of the Community and exports agriculture Ministers were told.

The idea came from Denmark's farm Minister, Neils Kofoed, who said that it would be cheaper for the EEC to help pay farmers an early pension at 55. Others could be persuaded to switch to work in tourism or forestry.

—Daily Mail

The Greek government yesterday announced a ban on driving for over-weight people because they are more prone to heart attacks and have slower reactions.

Mr Kostas Aslanis, the Under-Secretary for the Ministry of Transport, said that no driving licences would be given to anyone more than 70 per cent heavier than normal.

He said the action was being taken in accordance with EEC legislation, and following the recent conference of European transport ministers, which heard that Greece had had the worst traffic accident rate in the Western world for the past 13 years.

—Daily Telegraph

An ECC-wide lottery to raise money for a Community cultural fund is now under serious consideration. It would pay out big monthly prizes while providing the cash needed to endow such schemes as an EEC equivalent of the Nobel Prizes and to preserve the European heritage.

The idea was launched in Brussels by M. Max Gallo, French representative on the so-called Citizen's Europe Committee, which is drawing up ideas for making the Community more meaningful to its taxpayers.

M. Gallo, who is in charge of the cultural sector of the committee's work, said he would like to see a monthly draw televised by Eurovision from a different city each month.

A £1 bet by each EEC citizen each year would allow for prize money in excess of £200 million.

—The Times