

Consumer price index

9 □ 1988 Monthly

PRICES: Inflation continues in September (+0.4%)

Between August and September the rate of increase in the CPI for the Community was 0.4%, which represents a slight fall compared with August (+0.5%). This tendency was apparent in most of the member states. Greece was an exception, recording a large increase (+3.0%) in September, partly as a result of seasonal variations. In Spain, the Netherlands and Luxemburg the rates of increase were the same as last month while in Italy a slightly higher rate than in August was observed. A comparison of the September 1988 index with that of December 1987 shows that the increase for the Community during the first nine months of this year is 3.2%, which is higher than that for the same period of 1987 (2.0%). For the individual member states the increases during the first nine months of 1988 compared with 1987 vary considerably:

	1988	1987		1988	1987
Belgium	1.7	1.8	Ireland	2.1	3.0
Denmark	3.6	3.2	Italy	3.6	3.8
Germany	1.1	0.7	Luxembourg	1.4	0.2
Greece	9.3	10.1	Netherlands	0.9	0.0
Spain	4.9	3.8	Portugal	7.7	5.7
France	2.5	2.7	U. Kingdom	5.0	2.8

For five countries the rate of increase is nearly equal or even lower, whereas for the countries with low inflation (Netherlands, Luxemburg and Germany) an inflation rate of about 1.0% can be observed. The rate of increase in Denmark is slightly higher in 1988, whereas in the United Kingdom, Spain and Portugal there is an acceleration in the inflation rate. Present trends in inflation rates suggest that for the year 1988 the rate of increase will be about 3.8%, a figure which is higher than that for 1987 (2.6%). The inflation rates for the first nine months of 1988 in some non EC countries show quite significant differences: they are slightly above the EC level in the United States (3.8%) and Canada (3.3%) whereas they are below this level in Switzerland (1.2%), Austria (2.2%) and Japan (1.3%). In contrast Scandinavian countries recorded higher rises: Sweden 4.7%, Finland 5.3% and Norway 5.6%.

GENERAL INDEX EXCLUDING TOBACCO

In the framework of the Commission's program "Europe against cancer" Eurostat regularly calculates and publishes an index excluding tobacco products. The aim of this index is to make clear to the public and the social partners the effects of adjustments in taxation on tobacco products which are foreseen in the program "Europe against cancer". See pages 8,9 and 10 in this bulletin.



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Mr. Nijenhuis, tel. 4301-3202

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VERBRAUCHERPREISE
GESAMTINDEX

CONSUMER PRICES
GENERAL INDEX

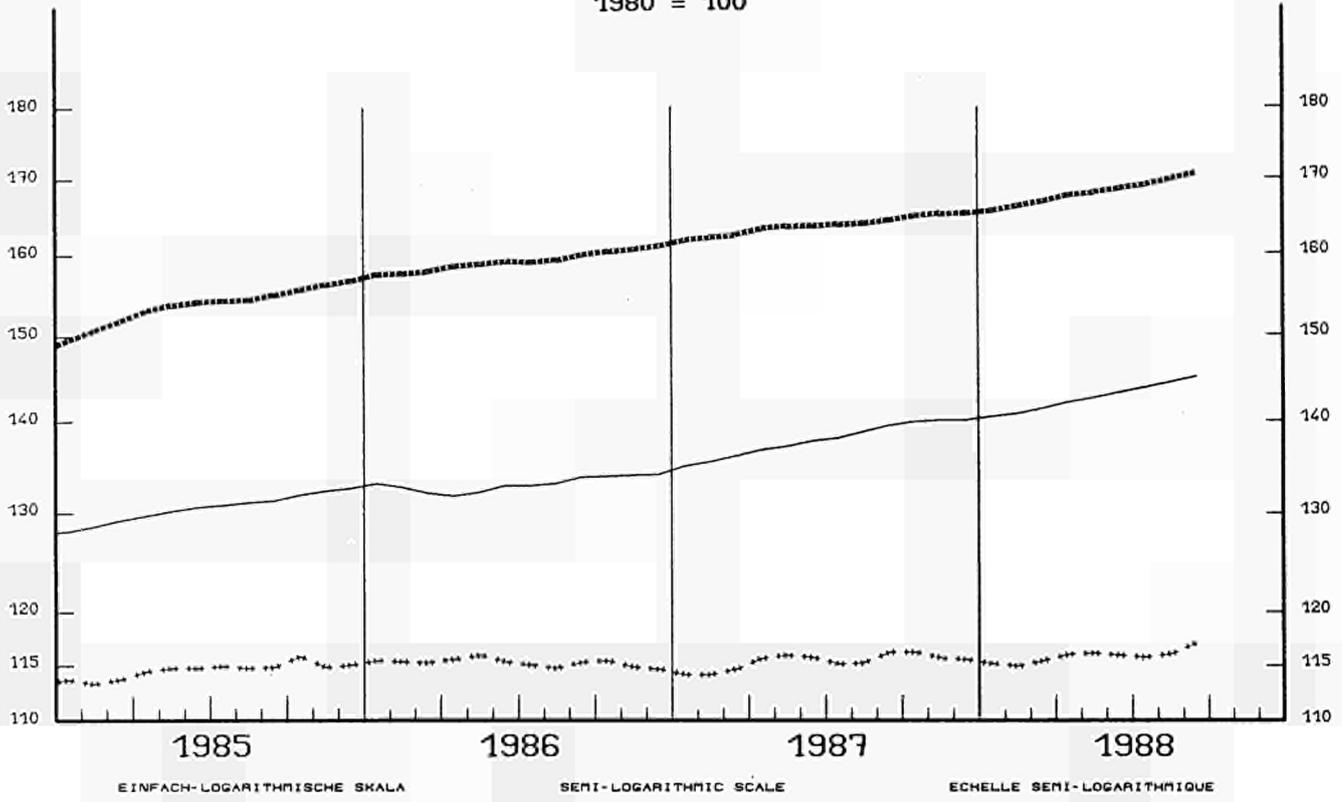
PRIX A LA CONSOMMATION
INDICE GENERAL

— USA

..... EUR 12

..... JAPAN

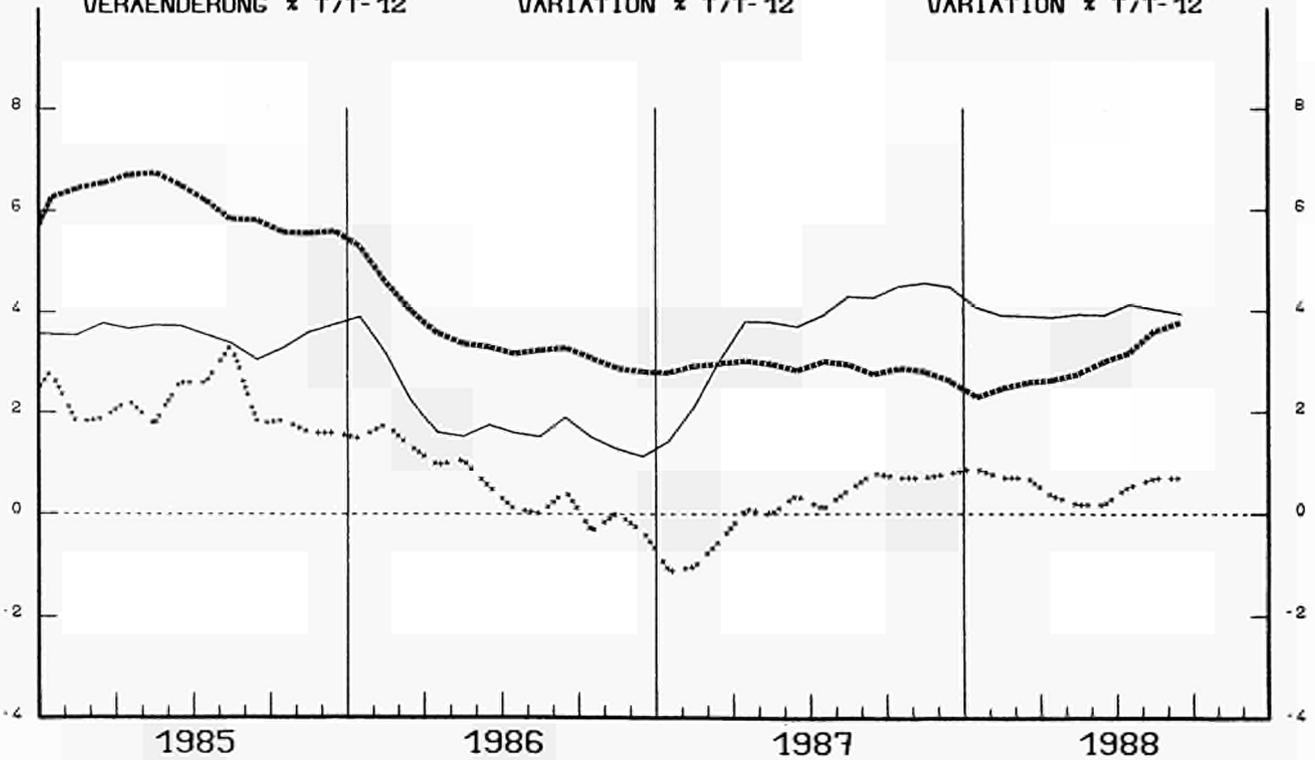
1980 = 100



VERÄNDERUNG × T/T-12

VARIATION × T/T-12

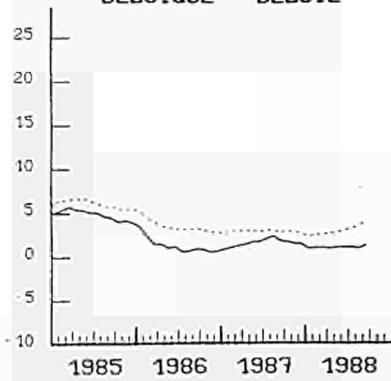
VARIATION × T/T-12



VERBRAUCHERPREISE
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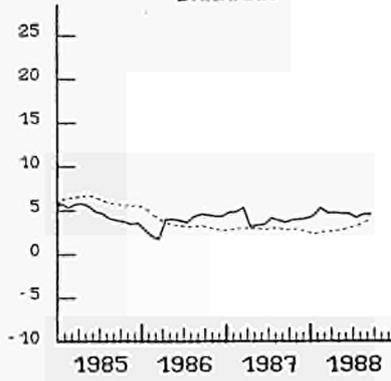
BELGIQUE - BELGIE



CONSUMER PRICES
GENERAL INDEX

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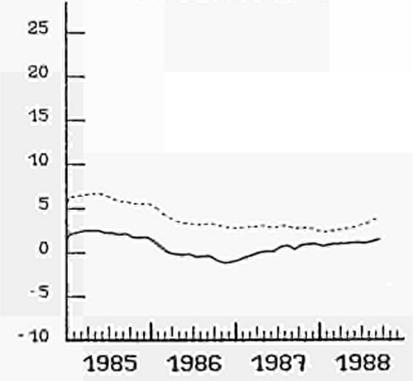
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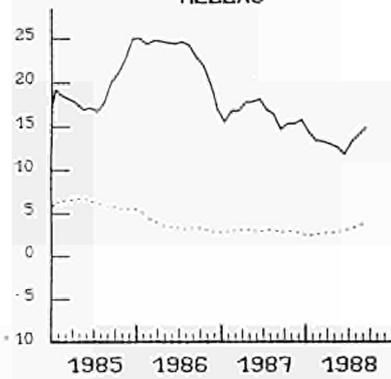
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INDICE GENERAL

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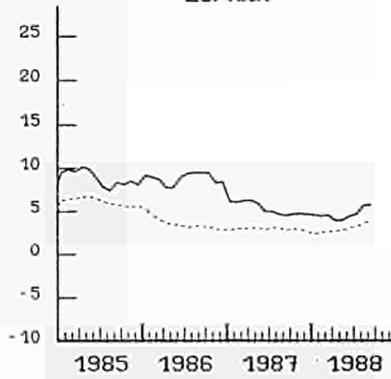
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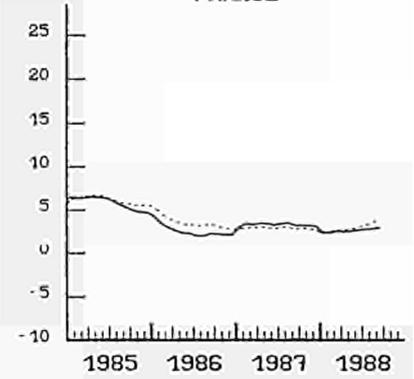
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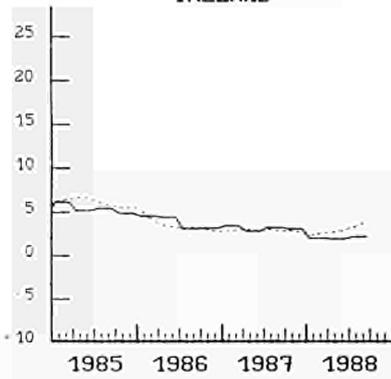
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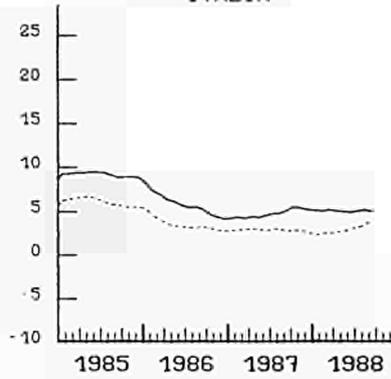
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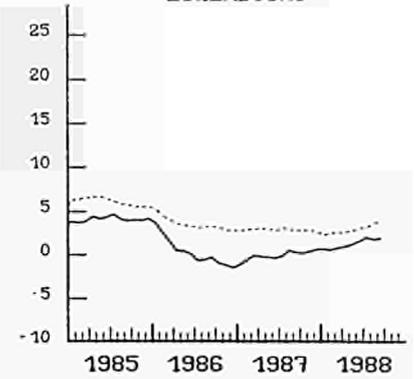
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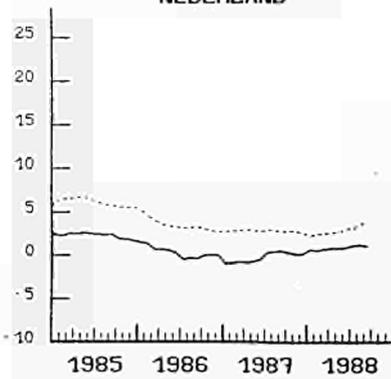
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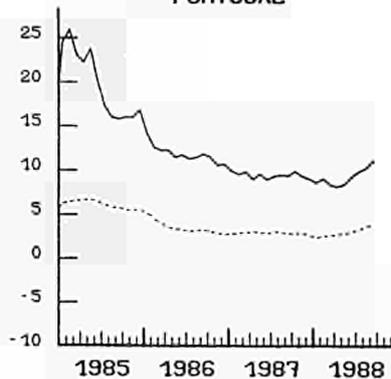
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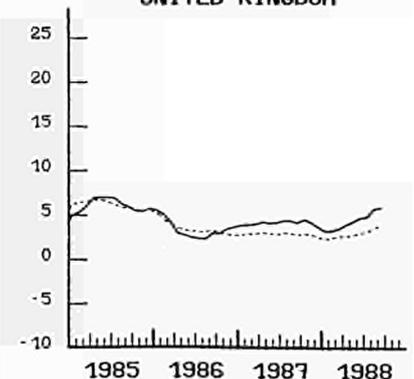
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PORTUGAL



UNITED KINGDOM



----- EUR 12

EXPLANATORY NOTES

METHODOLOGY

The consumer price indices given here are the national indices which have different names in each country. As far as trends are concerned, the general index published by EUROSTAT always corresponds to the general index published by the country. The component items of this general index are groups of national indices aggregated according to a harmonized classification conforming to the ESA (European System of Integrated Economic Accounts). For these groups, the price trends correspond to the trends noted by the national indices for the same classification field. The field covered by the general index varies according to country: as regards the population concerned (specific income bracket, certain socio-professional categories or total households), the geographical areas used (capital, urban areas, country as a whole, etc.) or differences in treatments of expenditure on rent, health care, etc... Finally, there is no uniform method for seasonal adjustments. A fixed base system is used in some countries, whereas in others a chain system is used (variable weightings). The reference years used at national level for the indices vary according to country. For ease of comparison, EUROSTAT has chosen 1980 as the common year for the presentation of these indices.

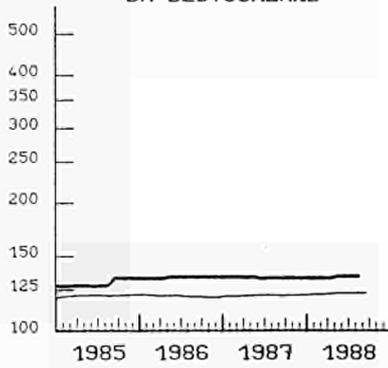
THE CALCULATION OF THE EUR-12 INDEX

The Eur-12 index as calculated by EUROSTAT is a weighted average of national price indices. The weight used is the proportion of each country in the final consumption of households for EUR-12. The values of this consumption in national currency are converted into purchasing power standard (PPS); for this purpose the purchasing power parities of the G.D.P. are used. Up to 1987 purchasing power parities are those which result from the 1980 enquiry, from 1988 onwards they are those from the 1985 enquiry. The index calculated is a chain index of the "Laspeyres" type with weights changing each year. However, the weights are lagged by three years since the national accounts data needed become available only after three years. For example: the weights used for 1988 are those of 1985, for 1987 those of 1984. Moreover, national accounts data are often revised leading to revisions of the consumption weights. In order to avoid continuous modifications in the EUR-12 index for previous periods, EUROSTAT has decided to "freeze" the weights which are used. Thus the EUR-12 index will not be affected by revisions of the national accounts. However when Member States carry out major revisions in the price series for past years, EUR-12 data will be calculated using these new series.

VERBRAUCHERPREISE

TABAK

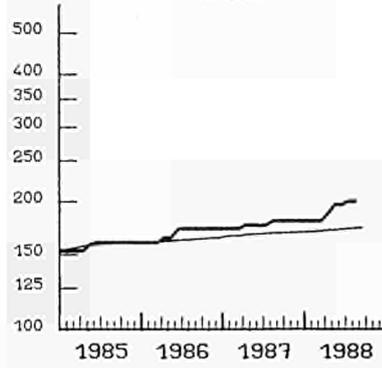
BR DEUTSCHLAND



CONSUMER PRICES

TABACCO
1980 = 100

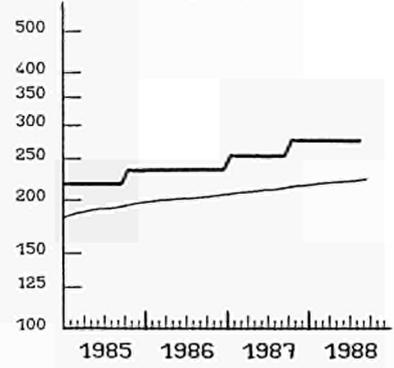
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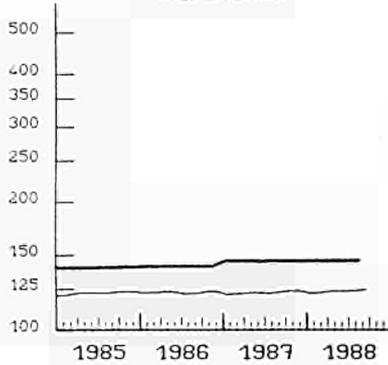
PRIX A LA CONSOMMATION

TABAC

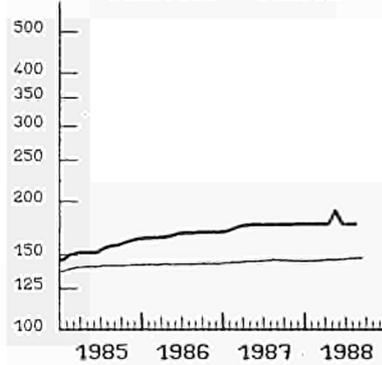
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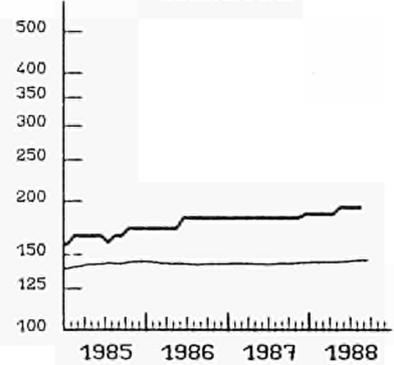
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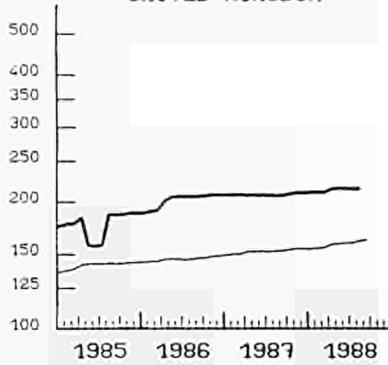
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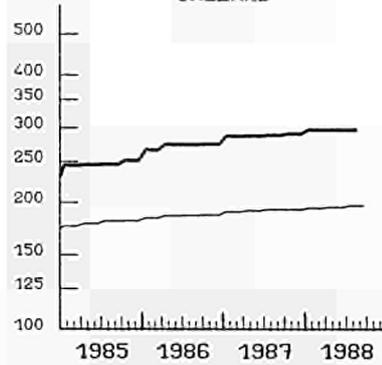
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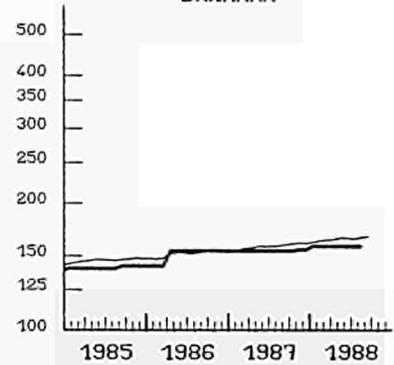
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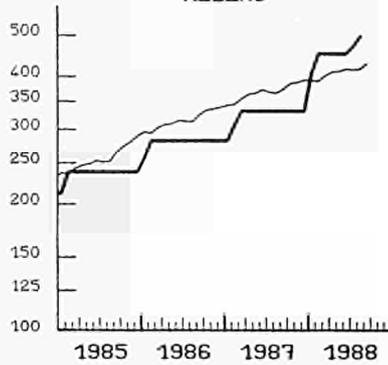
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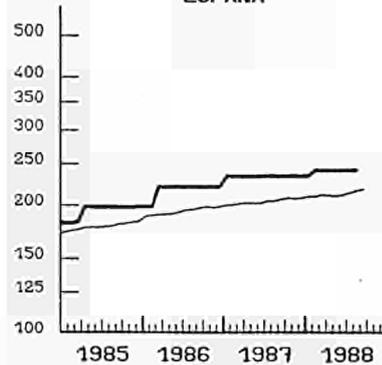
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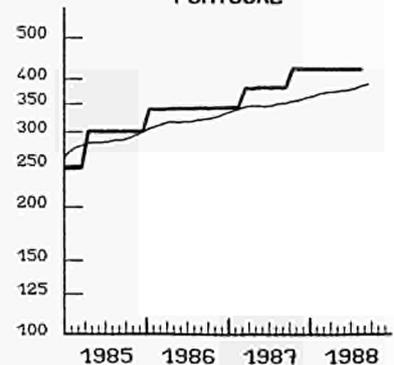
HELLAS



ESPANA



PORTUGAL



— TOBACCO
EINFACH-LOGARITHMISCHE SKALA

SEMI-LOGARITHMIC SCALE

— GENERAL
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