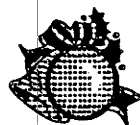




INFO-C

Information from the Consumer Policy Service of the European Commission n° 2



THE CONSUMER POLICY SERVICE WISHES YOU
A HAPPY NEW YEAR 1992!



For all Europeans 1992, as you well know, will be a special year because it is the last year of preparation for the opening of the Single Market, set for 1 January 1993 and the year fixed as the deadline by the 1985 "White Book" on the "completion of the Internal Market".

For consumers in the Community it marks, in addition, the end of the "Three-Year Action Plan" for Consumer Policy, which began in 1990 and reformulated the four priority areas for Commission action.

Of course, arriving at the end of the Three-Year Action Plan does not mean that the Commission will stop taking measures in favour of consumers: on the contrary, the inclusion of an explicit reference to a consumer policy in the new Political Union Treaty will provide a much more solid basis for future initiatives.

Among such initiatives, protection of the consumer's health will be an area of particular concern. The European Commission is very conscious of the fact that this area is one of the major preoccupations for all European citizens. The Commission has taken several steps, at various levels, in order to combat, as far as

possible, any elements or factors detrimental to the consumer.

The Consumer Policy Service has included in this issue of INFO-C, three articles which testify to this concern for health. These articles illustrate three different aspects of consumer safety:

- legislation
- information campaigns
- conferences

and treat General Product Safety (page 7), the fight against nicotine addiction (pages 2, 3 and 4), as well as the Campaign for Child Safety (page 8).

INFO-C also prints the part of the Treaty of Political Union agreed at the European Summit at Maastricht which concerns consumer protection.

At the beginning of this critical year for the Community, the CPS sends you, via INFO-C, its best wishes for a healthy and safe 1992!

INFO-C

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OF SPECIAL INTEREST

2. Nicotine addiction: the fight at Community level
4. Environment: health protection
5. Toy Directive
6. General Product Safety
7. Conference on Child Safety
8. A breakthrough at Maastricht
10. News from the Member States
11. Diary

CEE/XXIV/14

NICOTINE ADDICTION : THE FIGHT AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

From the beginning of the programme "Europe against cancer"⁽¹⁾, the management of which was entrusted to a specific unit within DG V, the fight against smoking constituted one of the first priorities.

The strategy for the prevention of nicotine addiction was discussed at length with the relevant scientific institutions, and in particular with the European Committee of cancer experts and the anti-smoking department of WHO. The result was the definition of an overall strategy which envisages that measures be adopted in very varied fields: legislative (labelling, maximum tar content, prohibition of advertising, restriction of smoking in public places, taxation), information to the public, education and the promotion and spread of techniques which help people to stop smoking.

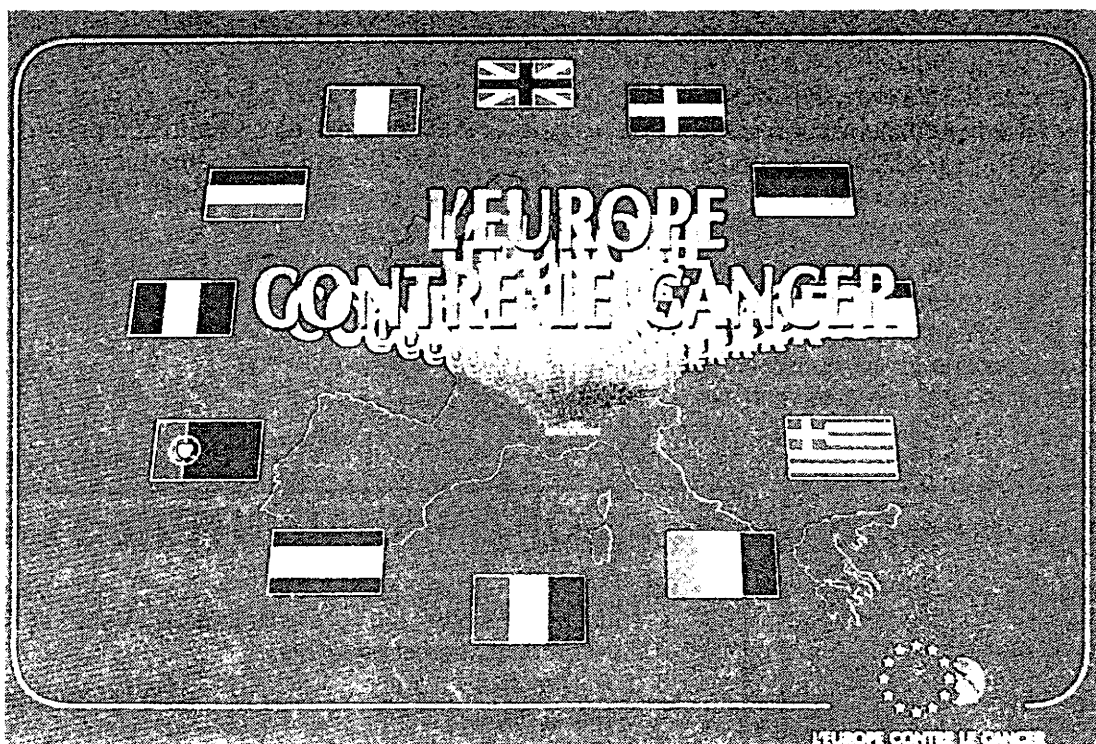
The prevention of nicotine addiction constitutes a relatively new sector of activity and the developments which have occurred since the launching of the programme have been remarkable. In addition, the discussion in legislative bodies, both national and Community, as well as in the press, has helped to raise public awareness of this serious problem for the health of Europeans.

Recently the committee of cancer experts of the European Community, while recognizing the progress achieved, forcefully asked European politicians to face up to their responsibilities vis-à-vis this scourge. Indeed, tobacco causes more than 500.000 premature deaths each year in the European Community. One premature death out of three (in the age group 35-65 years) is due to tobacco.

Under these circumstances, the campaigns to prevent nicotine addiction must obviously be intensified, while seeking to integrate an increasing number of partners in the various Member States.

This article makes it possible, thanks to the Consumer Policy Service, to mobilize the organizations working in the consumer protection field to increase their role in the prevention of nicotine addiction, the cause of so much suffering and so many premature deaths.

(1) Council Resolution and a Resolution of government representatives meeting during the Council meeting on 7 July 1986 (OJ 184 of 23.7.89). Commission proposal for an action plan 1987-1989 for the programme "Europe Against Cancer" (OJ C 50/1 - 26.2.87).



One of the posters used by the "Europe against cancer" Programme

COMMISSION INITIATIVES

The fight against tobacco addiction, following the "14 specific measures in the first action plan of the Commission : "Europe against Cancer"" (1), is developing as follows :

- **Council Resolution** of 18 July 1989 on banning smoking in places open to the public (2). This text invites Member States to take certain measures, either by legislation or other means, in conformity with national practice and conditions. It also mentions a series of public places where smoking should not be permitted. Where necessary, areas reserved for non-smokers should be clearly defined.

In cases of conflict in areas other than those reserved for smokers, the right of non-smokers to health takes precedence over the right of smokers to smoke. Member States are invited to inform the Commission of the action taken in response to the Resolution.

- **The first Directive** in this area was adopted by the Council on 13 November 1989 and must be put into force before 31 December 1999 (3). It concerns the "labelling of tobacco products" and specifies, inter alia, that all units of packaging must bear, on the most visible surface, a general warning "*Tobacco seriously damages your health*". In fact, this Directive adds supplementary provisions concerning cigarette packets on which a specific warning must, additionally, be placed. This warning can be chosen by the Member State from a list annexed to the Directive.

Moreover, an amendment to this Directive was proposed by the Commission to the Council on 14 November 1990 (4). Under this amendment, the specific information given to the consumer should not be limited to cigarettes but should be extended to *all* tobacco products. Thus the general term "*tobacco products*" will cover products intended to be smoked, sniffed, sucked or chewed.

Furthermore, the Commission proposes to ban the sale of moist snuff. This tobacco is a special case which justifies these preventive measures.

As regards the progress of this proposal, it is to be noted that the Council adopted a "common position" on 11 November 1991. The Commission has proposed that, once adopted by the Council, the Directive should enter into force, except where provided otherwise, before the 31 December 1992.

- Since July 1989, the Eurostat price index prepared by the Statistical Office of the European Communities, excludes tobacco products. It is noticeable that in general the index has not been much affected by this.

- In order to reduce the damage caused to people's health by the tar content of cigarettes, a Directive providing for a maximum tar level was adopted by the Council on 17 May 1990 (5). The maximum authorised from 31 December 1992 is 15mg per cigarette and must be reduced to 12 mg by the 31 December 1997. To mitigate the socio-economic difficulties which could arise in Greece, a special time-table has been arranged for that country.

- With regard to the advertising of tobacco products in the press or by means of posters, the Commission submitted a proposal for a directive to the Council on 30 March 1989 (6). This proposal mainly concerned: the limitation of the content of the advertising message; the incorporation of certain warnings; a ban on indirect advertising and a ban on all kinds of advertising in youth publications. But the European Parliament wanted still greater stringency and called for a total ban on direct and indirect advertising of tobacco products.

Following this, the Commission adopted an amendment to its original proposal (7). Although it does not ban direct advertising completely, the modified proposal is now more severe. As the European Parliament has not yet given its opinion on this subject, a "common" position" has not yet been adopted by the Council during the Dutch presidency. The debate has thus been postponed until the Portuguese presidency.

- **Harmonization of the tax** on tobacco products still leaves wide differences but the variety of systems in Member States makes the process difficult. The Commission has nevertheless adopted a modified proposal on the subject (8). In the meantime the Ministers of Finance, who discussed the harmonization of VAT in general, arrived at an agreement on tobacco taxation and, in particular, that duties on cigarettes, excluding VAT, should represent a minimum of 57% of the sale price for those categories most in demand.

Over and above all these initiatives flowing from the "Europe Against Cancer" programme, it is interesting to note that, in the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy, certain reforms have been proposed by the Commission. They are contained in the proposal for a Commission Regulation on the common organization of the market in raw tobacco, dated 9 October 1991 (9).

This document speaks of an encouragement to produce varieties of less toxic tobacco (low tar content). A system of quotas for the change-over by group of varieties will be introduced at Member State level. The total production quota would also be reduced and would

would be brought down from around 400,000 tonnes to 340,000 tonnes, if the Regulation, which has not yet gone to the Council, is adopted by it at the end of the day. Finally the Commission envisages, inter alia, a special triennial reconversion programme to other varieties or products.

Health protection against tobacco addition is carried out at five levels :

- Smoking prevention as part of the "Europe Against Cancer" programme

But also :

- An ongoing monitoring of the attitudes and habits vis-à-vis smoking among European citizens through the use of surveys (five surveys between 1987 and 1990).

- Measures for each anti-smoking offensive, proposed by the Commission at the legislative level but presented individually.

- A public awareness campaign concerning the "Europe Against Cancer" programme, which has led to the creation of the European Bureau for Action on Smoking Prevention (BASP). The BASP has as its main task the coordination of all the European anti-smoking organisations.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that the Commission maintains good contact with WHO (World Health Organisation) with which the first European conference on anti-smoking policies, was organised in Madrid in November 1988.

- (1) O.J. n° C 50, 26.2.87, p.1
- (2) O.J. n° C 189, 26.7.89, p.1
- (3) O.J. n° L 359, 8.12.89, p.1
- (4) O.J. n° C 26, 5.10.91, p.7
- (5) O.J. n° L 137, 30.5.90, p.36
- (6) O.J. n° C 124, 19.5.89, p.5
- (7) O.J. n° C 167, 27.6.91, p.3
- (8) O.J. n° C 322, 21.12.90, p.16
- (9) Documents COM (91) 339 and COM (91) 338.

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Tel.: +32/2/236.33.61.
Fax : +32/2/236.23.93.

Eurostat Publications :

Data Shop
121, rue Joseph II
1040 Bruxelles
Tel.: +32/2/235.02.86.
Fax : +32/2/235.50.12.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH :
Health protection**

The protection of the environment which, in one way or another, affects all aspects of human life, has given rise to acute anxiety on the part of consumers. These increasingly complex problems, of a cross-frontier character, require research to be carried out and proposals to be made through a multinational effort. This is why the Council adopted two programmes in 1989 with the objective of providing a scientific and technical back-up to the European Community's environment policy.

Baptized respectively STEP (Science and Technology for Environmental Protection) and EPOCH (European Programme on Climatology and Natural Hazards), these specific programmes flow directly from the second framework programmes, which sets out research policy in general. In operation until November 1993, they represent a response, at European level, to the pollution due, in general, to man's poor management at various levels of the natural world.

The conversion and the use of energy affects, in particular, cultivation, forests, lakes and people's health.

STEP covers the whole range of research subjects concerning environmental protection and comprises nine research areas including : "environment and health; evaluation of risks linked to chemical products; water quality".

EPOCH is concerned with studying climate (and in particular the climatic changes resulting from the greenhouse effect) and the risks associated with climatic changes.

It is subdivided into four research areas of which an example is the effects of climate and the risks linked to it (landslides, floods, fires).

Finally, the Council adopted (25 November 1991) a "common position" on bilateral cooperation agreements in this field with certain EFTA countries, which clearly shows the international dimension of the problem.

This cooperation, if and when the Council gives its agreement, will begin between the Community and Austria, Finland and Norway in the case of STEP and with Iceland and Sweden in the case of STEP and EPOCH.

Information on STEP and EPOCH : O.J. n° L 359, 8.12.89, page 9.

Contact :

Mr. V. Nieto - DG XII
Tel. : 32/2/235.77.64

TOYS AND SAFETY :**A reminder about the 1988 Directive**

When speaking of "Safety", one must be conscious of how important it is in relation to children. Protection of these "mini-consumers", who are in fact big consumers of toys, appeared to the Council to be essential.

This was why, on 3 May 1988, the Council adopted a Directive intended to increase the safety of toys and therefore to provide better protection for children.

This Directive, it should be mentioned, limits the meaning of the word "toys" to those products designed or intended for use in play by children of less than 14 years of age. As the Directive entered into force on 1 January 1990, all Member States must thereafter make sure that only toys which do not endanger the safety of the users or third persons, are placed on the market. These conditions must be maintained throughout the life of the toy.

The Directive makes it clear that "*placed on the market*" covers both sale and distribution *free of charge*. Toys will in future bear the "CE" mark to denote their compliance with the Directive.

Finally, the Directive has four annexes, concerning the definitions respectively of : "*products not regarded as toys for the purpose of this Directive*" ; "*essential safety requirements for toys*" ; "*the conditions to be fulfilled by the approved bodies*" and "*warnings and indications of precautions*" (with a special provision for toys not intended for children under 36 months).

References: O.J. n L187, 16.07.88, p. 1-13.

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Fax: + 32/2/236.32.79

CHRISTMAS - TREE LIGHTS

The recently-ended festive season will have induced the European citizen to make all sorts of purchases, including strings of lights to decorate his or her Christmas tree.

The European Community has, since 1973, been at pains to ensure the protection of users of electrical equipment through the adoption by the Council of Ministers of the so-called "*low voltage*" Directive. This covers the use of electrical products "*designed for use within certain voltage limits*", such as Christmas-tree lights. All electrical equipment in this category must comply with the Directive in order to circulate freely within the Internal Market.

The Directive imposes the basic safety objectives to be achieved but remains "*flexible and adaptable*". Indeed, in order to achieve these objectives, the text makes reference to the adoption of "*voluntary, harmonized technical standards which are drawn up by standards bodies*". A product which does not comply to any of the types of standards (Community, international or national) mentioned in the Directive, may nevertheless be placed on the market if it respects the "*Safety objectives*". Certification procedures are in place in order to attest that products comply with the standards or with the safety requirements, in cases when harmonized standards have not been followed by the manufacturer.

However, a European Standard specifically for Christmas-tree lights was adopted by the European Electrotechnical Standardization Committee (CENELEC), on 10 December 1990. Member States must publish their national equivalent standard by 1 June 1992.

Any national standard which conflicts with the European Standard must be withdrawn by 1 January 1993 at the latest.

In addition, amendments to the standard, still being discussed, are expected.

(1) Source : "Le Marché Unique Européen" - Alfonso Mattera - Jupiter edition- 1988.

References : O.J. n° L 77, 26.03.73, p.29

Contact :

Mr. D. Van Brempt DG-III/D/4
Tel.: +32/2/235.94.07.
Fax: + 32/2/236.62.73.

THE MARKETING OF SAFE PRODUCTS

1992

On 15 October 1991, after almost three years of debate, the Council arrived at an agreement in principle on a "common position" concerning the "General Product Safety" Directive. This text, which meets the basic aims on safety contained in the Three-Year Programme of 1990, includes an obligation on producers to place on the market only safe products. Its scope of application is very wide since it covers "all products intended for consumers or likely to be used by consumers".

"Safety" is defined in relation to normal use, the reasonably foreseeable use of the product, given its characteristics, its effect on other products, its presentation and specific users (especially children).

Once it is finally adopted, the Directive will provide a "safety net" which will cover those products not yet subject to specific legislation and will fill any gaps in specific current or future laws.

Member States should check, using effective methods, that products comply with the safety requirements and, if necessary, take appropriate steps in the case of dangerous products.

In the event of a Member State having to take measures concerning a serious and immediate risk, it should immediately inform the Commission under the existing "rapid exchange of information system".

In addition the text provides for a procedure of last resort to deal with Community-wide problems. This enables the Commission to take a decision obliging the Member States to adopt measures of a temporary nature.

The Member States and the Commission will have two years to implement this Directive, starting from the date of its formal adoption.

References for the proposal for a Directive :

O.J. n° C 156, 27.6.90, page 8.

Contact :

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Fax. : + 32/2/236.32.79

"Safety, hygiene and health in the working place", is the theme chosen for 1992 by the European Communities.

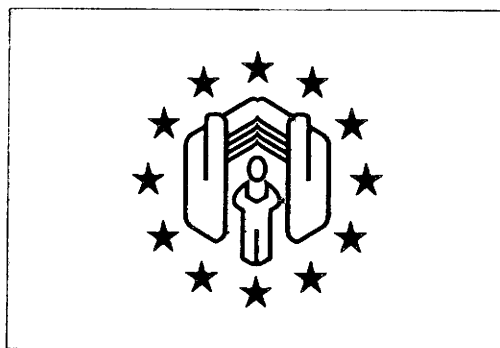
This "European Year", which will begin on 1 March 1992, has the objective of countering the heavy toll which *professionnal* accidents and diseases represent.

This programme (1), which has the same name as the theme, has on this occasion, been put into operation under the responsibility of Directorate-General V, "Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs", of the Commission. One of the principal objectives of this programme is to act to make the legislation in each Member State in the area of "Safety, Hygiene and Health in the working place" better known and respected.

The European Year will revolve around four main themes : clear air in the working place ; safety at work ; action against noise and against vibration.

Contact :

Mr. J.L. Mercy - DG V
"Safety, Hygiene and Health in the working place"
Programme
Tel.: +352/43.01.48.62
Fax: +352/43.01.49.75



1992

ANNÉE EUROPÉENNE POUR LA SÉCURITÉ, L'HYGIÈNE
ET LA SANTÉ SUR LE LIEU DE TRAVAIL

Requests for permission to use the logo of the European Year of "Safety, Hygiene and Health in the working place" should be addressed to the Liaison Committee for national projects in each Member State or to the Commission for the European Communities for international projects. The relevant addresses are available from Mr. Mercy.

CHILD SAFETY

A conference in Brussels

A conference on child safety campaigns was organized on 4 and 5 November 1991, by the European Consumer Safety Association (ECOSA), in collaboration with the "Child Accident Prevention Trust" (UK) and the Commission of the European Communities. The conference, which brought together some 90 experts, was opened by M. Karel Van Miert, Commissioner responsible for Consumer Affairs. In his opening address the commissioner stressed the consumer's rights to products which were safe and in this connection cited the recently agreed Directive on "General Product Safety" and the earlier Directive on the Safety of Toys.

As a complement to legislative action, the Commission had proposed a campaign to reduce the number of child accidents in the Community. This campaign was carried out by various organisations in Member States during 1990 and 1991 with financial help from the EEC. One of the objectives of the present Conference was to examine these campaigns and to see what lessons could be learned for the future.

The morning session of the first day was devoted to identifying the target groups and the methods for preventive action. The difficulties of researching accidents (frequency, distribution, physical and psychological factors, etc...), in order to provide a sound basis for preventive action, were emphasised. Action, irrespective of the existence of reliable data, was often taken on the basis of non-scientific factors.

The example of traffic accidents, which are one of the more frequent causes of death among children, was used to illustrate the various ways in which accident prevention can be approached. One way is to direct action at the child itself, training it to recognize the risks and to adopt appropriate behaviour in traffic, although opinions differed among the experts as to the age from which this was possible.

Secondly, one can try to influence the adults responsible for the safety of the child.

Thirdly, an attempt can be made to modify the child's environment. In this example, this means the urban environment, e.g. by providing off-street play areas.

In the afternoon, speakers described the work of certain groups formed to tackle the problem. One such action group is the "American National Safe Kids Campaign" which, from small beginnings, is now active

throughout the U.S., having gained sponsorship from a major company.

The campaign concentrates on specific issues, such as drowning and cycle accidents. In the case of the latter, the campaign succeeded in getting States to adopt bike helmet laws. The lesson here is perhaps that of mobilizing individuals, organizations and businesses interested in the issue. This interdisciplinary approach was also used in Denmark during their "5-Community Project" which took as its basis for action, local accident data, and in Australia, also data-driven and which concentrated on drownings, bicycle helmets and the specific needs of rural children.

On day 2, delegates heard how specific media tools could be used. When using the media to promote safety, e.g. TV clips, it is important to study the background of social trends against which the safety campaign is to be set, so that the message evokes a sympathetic response from the (young) target audience. The target group's motivations and needs should be known and exploited in order to change its attitude to safety. A positive message stands a better chance of getting through than a negative one. This was illustrated, by again using the example of bike helmets which could be promoted by giving their wearers the image of stylish, trend-setters.

Such an approach, based on youth culture, was adopted in the Dutch campaign spearheaded by the "No Showbo Express", a train fitted out as a travelling exhibition targeted at both children and parents. "No Showbo" was the basis of a video clip featuring a song made by a professional pop group and exploiting the theme that a teenager should not be pushed into dangerous behaviour either by the urge to appear macho or by the members of the peer group.

Two important lessons from the foregoing ; first of all it is essential to have high professional standards in any media production. Secondly its corollary ; such productions cannot be done cheaply.

Subsequent speakers, while endorsing the above, laid stress on ensuring that campaigns were adapted to the community concerned and on the fact that not all techniques were transferable from one culture to another. The "Play it Safe" campaign in the U.K. and the work done in the underprivileged area of Perama,

Greece, both showed how local needs could best be met.

The conclusions of the conference brought out the role of education (of both children and parents), appropriate legislation and the child's environment, not forgetting the need to evaluate, by "before and after" surveys, the success or otherwise of campaigns. It was also thought to be helpful if material containing the lessons of past experience could be held in national documentation centres. The role of international coordinator could perhaps be played by ECOSA itself.

CONSUMER PROTECTION : A breakthrough at Maastricht

At the European Council in Maastricht, which took place on 9-10 December 1991, a specific Title, "Consumer Protection" was inserted in the Treaty of Political Union. The various trade unions and consumer organisations have recognised that an important step forward has been taken with this text but qualify their reaction with comments on certain deficiencies which remain to be made good, such as an increase in the consumer protection budget (European Trade Union Confederation - ETUC) and the absence of a human dimension (the Committee of Family Organizations in the European Communities - COFACE).

The text of Title XI "Consumer Protection" (article 129 A), inserted in the Treaty on Political Union, is given below :

"1. The Community shall contribute to the attainment of a high level of consumer protection through :

(a) measures adopted pursuant to Article 100a in the context of the completion of the internal market ;

(b) specific action which supports and supplements the policy pursued by the Member States to protect the health, safety and economic interests of consumers and to provide adequate information of consumers.

2. The Council, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 189b and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee, shall adopt the specific action referred to in paragraph 1 (b).

3. Action adopted pursuant to paragraph 2 shall not prevent any Member State from maintaining or introducing more stringent protective measures. Such

measures must be compatible with this Treaty. The Commission shall be notified of them".

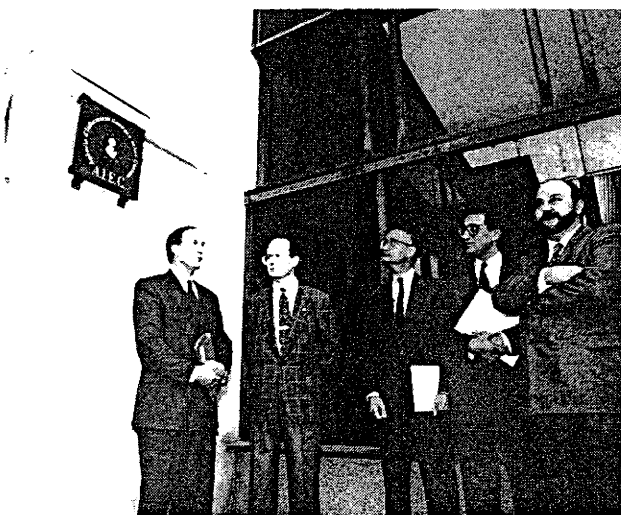
It is to be noted that this text refers to the new Article 189b which provides for voting by *qualified majority* and *co-decision* with the European Parliament.

CONSUMER INFORMATION AGENCIES Newly opened centres

INFO-C n°1 informed you of the official opening of the "European Agency for Consumer information" at Lille (France), which took place on 15 January 1991, as well as of the linked information points in Mons and La Louvière (Belgium) on 3 May and the Luxembourg Agency on 30 May.

Two other agencies came into being during 1991. They were at Barcelona (Spain), opened on 7 November, and Gronau (Germany), which was inaugurated on 5 December.

In addition, a meeting devoted to an exchange of know-how between existing consumer information agencies and to future agencies projects put forward by various organizations, was held in October 1991 in Brussels.



The official opening at Barcelona.

Left to right : Mr. K. Van Miert - Member of the Commission of the European Communities, Mr. L. Alegre i Selga - Minister of Trade, Consumer affairs and Tourism of the Catalan Region, Mr. F. Roudier - the Assistant Consul-General for France in Barcelona, Mr. M. Argimon - The Representative of the European Commission in Barcelona and Mr. J. Hernandez - General Secretary of the Minister of Trade, Consumer affairs and Tourism of the Catalan Region.

PUBLICATIONS

* The European Office for Action on Smoking Prevention (BASP), has published various trilingual documents (English, French, German), concerning certain aspects of the anti-smoking campaign. The publications in question are : *"And if one flies without smoking ?"*, on the *"no-smoking"* policy in aircraft ; *"Is she still a smoker ?"* a report on women and smoking, as well as a report on moist snuff. These publications are available, free of charge, from :

BASP

Rue des Atrébates, 117
1040 Bruxelles
Tel. + 32/2/732.24.68
Fax. + 32/2/736.91.92

* The European Office of Consumers' Unions (BEUC) has just published a directory of consumer organisations, prepared with the support of the European Commission. This work contains the references of 104 organisations, from 19 European countries (EEC, Austria, Finlande, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland). To obtain the data, the BEUC sent out a comprehensive questionnaire to the organisations concerned and has published the replies obtained.

The Directory is only available in English under the title *"Directory of Consumer Organizations"*, ref. BEUC/287/91. It will be on sale from January 1992 at a cost of 600BF from :

BEUC

Avenue de Tervueren, 36
1040 Bruxelles
Tel. + 32/2/735.31.10
Fax. + 32/2/735.74.55

* The European Proprietary Medicines Manufacturers' Association (AESGP) has just published a brochure entitled *"Passport to Europe"*, which includes a proposal addressed to the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products (the secretariat of which is located within DGIII *"Internal Market and Industrials Affairs"* of the Commission) on the harmonization of pharmaceutical leaflets. This is published in English only and is free.

To obtain it, apply to :

AESGP

Avenue de Tervueren, 7
B-1040 Bruxelles
Tel. +32/2/735.51.30
Fax. +32/2/735.52.22

* The Commission Office in Bonn, Germany, has recently published a brochure entitled *"Europa'92 - Die Soziale Gemeinschaft"*, in the framework of its information campaign in that country. This publication is primarily intended for workers' and consumers' representatives. It is in German and is available from :

Kommission der Europäischen Gemeinschaften
Vertretung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Zitelmannstrasse, 22
W-5300 Bonn 1
Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Tel. + 49/228/530.00.90
Fax. + 49/228/530.09.50

* In order to combat the carnage caused each year by alcohol-related road accidents, the European Commission and the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme have undertaken to launch a vast information campaign for the benefit of motorists. A brochure entitled *"Drink or Drive"*, has been published to this end, in the nine Community languages, in the form of a map of Europe. It contains, in particular, information on the maximum alcohol levels permitted for drivers in both Community and non-Community countries and draws their attention to the effect that even limited alcohol intake can have on the ability to drive. You can obtain it from :

A.I.T.

Rue de la Loi, 44
B - 1040 Brussels
Tel. +32/2/233.26.65.
Fax. +32/2/233.24.05.

CORRIGENDUM :

In INFO-C n°1, the CPS made a mention of the publication *"Holiday Money"* by the European office of Consumers' Unions (BEUC) and the Federal Union of Consumers (UFC, France), following a request from the European Commission.

In fact, the request from the European Commission was in respect of the *study* on this subject. The publication of *"Holiday Money"* was done on the initiative of BEUC and with the permission of the Commission.

The price shown in INFO-C n1 has changed. It is now 100 FF instead of 250 FF. This sum serves to cover the costs of publication.

THE "TOUFOUS" AND THE "TOUDOUS"

The French association, "Force Ouvrière Consommateurs" (AFOC) has just completed, in cooperation with the consumer unit of the European Confederation of Trade Unions and with the support of the Commission of the European Communities, a series of twelve jig-saw puzzles to teach very young children (3-5 years old) to understand the dangers in the home.

These puzzles have been conceived with a view to making the very young aware of the calamity of home accidents, for it is children of 5 years and under who are the principal victims of this type of accident (over 16%).

Twelve puzzles depicting six rooms in the house and its surroundings have been produced. Each room is shown in a scene illustrating a dangerous situation in which three little bears are the victims of an accident (the "Toufous"). There are corresponding scenes in which the same bears are seen behaving safely (the "Toudous" or the good bears).

The puzzles are packaged in little transparent cases in two's or four's.

They will be distributed free in various French establishments which deal with children but are also on sale in France for 35FF (case with two puzzles) or 65FF (case with four puzzles) from :

Mr. F. Aldebert
AFOC
75/77, rue du Père Coirentin
F-75014 Paris
Tél. +33-1-45.39.42.80
Fax. +33-1-45.41.23.35

CONFERENCE ON ROAD SAFETY IN EUROPE

The International Automobile and Touring Club Alliance (AIT) organized a conference on "Road Safety in Europe" at The Hague on 5 September 1991.

Following the request from the Consumer Policy service accompanying INFO-C n°1, the AIT has sent in a summary of the conclusion of the above-mentioned conference, at which representatives of the European Parliament and of the European Commission were present and which takes up the main theme of this bulletin ; the safety of consumers:

"The motoring and touring clubs in the EC countries concluded that the annual number of people injured or killed in traffic accidents has risen to such a level that immediate steps need to be taken to formulate a European policy on road safety.

To reach this objective the AIT proposes that :

1. A positive Community road safety policy be established and that the commitment to it be demonstrated by the allocation of resources.

2. Community harmonisation be applied wherever there are clear benefits to road safety, with especial attention being given to influencing road-user behaviour.

3. There be an annual publication of comparable statistics on road safety in EC countries to make it possible to determine the action to be undertaken and the risks existing in the Member States".

An effort is thus needed to reduce these devastating road accidents, throughout the Community. The AIT and its Member Clubs declare themselves to be ready and able to cooperate with the Commission to achieve the highest possible level of road safety in the whole of the Community.

The International Automobile and Touring Club Alliance now hopes that the Council will approve the future proposals of the Commission and give the latter the necessary means to successfully carry through a second Road Safety Programme. This Programme will be more comprehensive than the one carried out in 1986 during the "European Road Safety Year".

The "Information and Education" Unit of the Consumer Policy Service warmly thanks the International Automobile and Touring Club Alliance for its contribution to INFO-C n°2. It hopes to receive news from other readers and will be pleased to take contact with them.