

EXTRACTS FROM THE SPEAKING NOTES OF DR. P.J. HILLERY,
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PLENARY SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

BRUSSELS, 26th February 1976

Programme of the
work to be carried out
during the year

International Women's Year created the right climate for the achievement of progress in women's equality but the important thing is to sustain the momentum and to continue the work. Because the task, despite the considerable progress achieved, cannot be finished quickly.

The Commission plans follow-up action in the present year and I would like to take this opportunity of telling you what we intend to do.

Film

First, I should like to mention the television film on equality between men and women at work which the Commission is now preparing. This is one of the information projects recommended by the Commission in its memorandum and indeed comes within the recommendation of your Rapporteur, Mrs. Evans, who stressed the importance of information through the mass media. The practical effectiveness of legal instruments such as the two Directives on Equal Pay and Equal Treatment will, to a large extent, depend on the knowledge of the public in general, and particularly women, on the rights and obligations involved. The aim of the film - which is intended for national television networks - is to help to fulfil this information need and to contribute towards the creation of a climate of improved training and promotion opportunities for women.

Recommendation on
Vocational Training

The second project in hand is the drawing up of a recommendation on vocational guidance and training for girls and women. This recommendation will reflect the practical conclusion of the Seminar organised by the Commission in Paris last November, with the participation of both sides of industry.

Action of the
Social Fund

Although the Social Fund is available to assist training specifically geared to the employment of women the response of the member States in this regard has been disappointingly small. In the preparation of the Recommendation on Vocational Training, the Commission will be giving special consideration to the question of how to promote the greater use of the Social Fund for this purpose, including the provision of greater information on possibilities which are already open.

Study on the Working
conditions of women
in agriculture

The Commission is also fully aware of the fact that women in agriculture are faced with specific problems that are related to the status of workers in this sector. In order to promote a better understanding of these problems with a view to their solution, the Commission intends to undertake a study on the working conditions of the female members of the family working in agriculture and the situation of women on the farm. Needless to say, the study carried out by the Commission's services, will involve the close cooperation of the representatives of the agricultural sector.

First Legal Instrument
to abolish discriminations
in social security

Finally, as regards the gradual elimination of inequalities in respect of women, in the social security field, the Commission in consultation with the representatives of the Governments of member States and of both sides of industry is drawing up an inventory of existing cases of discrimination or inequality. The aim is to establish, by stages, equality of treatment for men and women in social security. This has been accepted in principle by the Council. The Commission will submit to the Council a draft proposal for a first legal instrument in this field during the present year.

Commission's own staff

The Commission is not advocating the need for improvement of the situation of the woman at work without looking very closely at its own organisation. We have set up a joint working group, under the direction of Mr. Borschette, as Commissioner/^{with responsibility/matters} for personnel / and myself as Commissioner for Social Affairs to see what practical action can be taken for improvement.

Conclusion

As you will gather from these actions which I have outlined, we have a lot of work to do in the coming year and we will have many important issues to discuss together. I look forward to having your valuable advice on these issues.