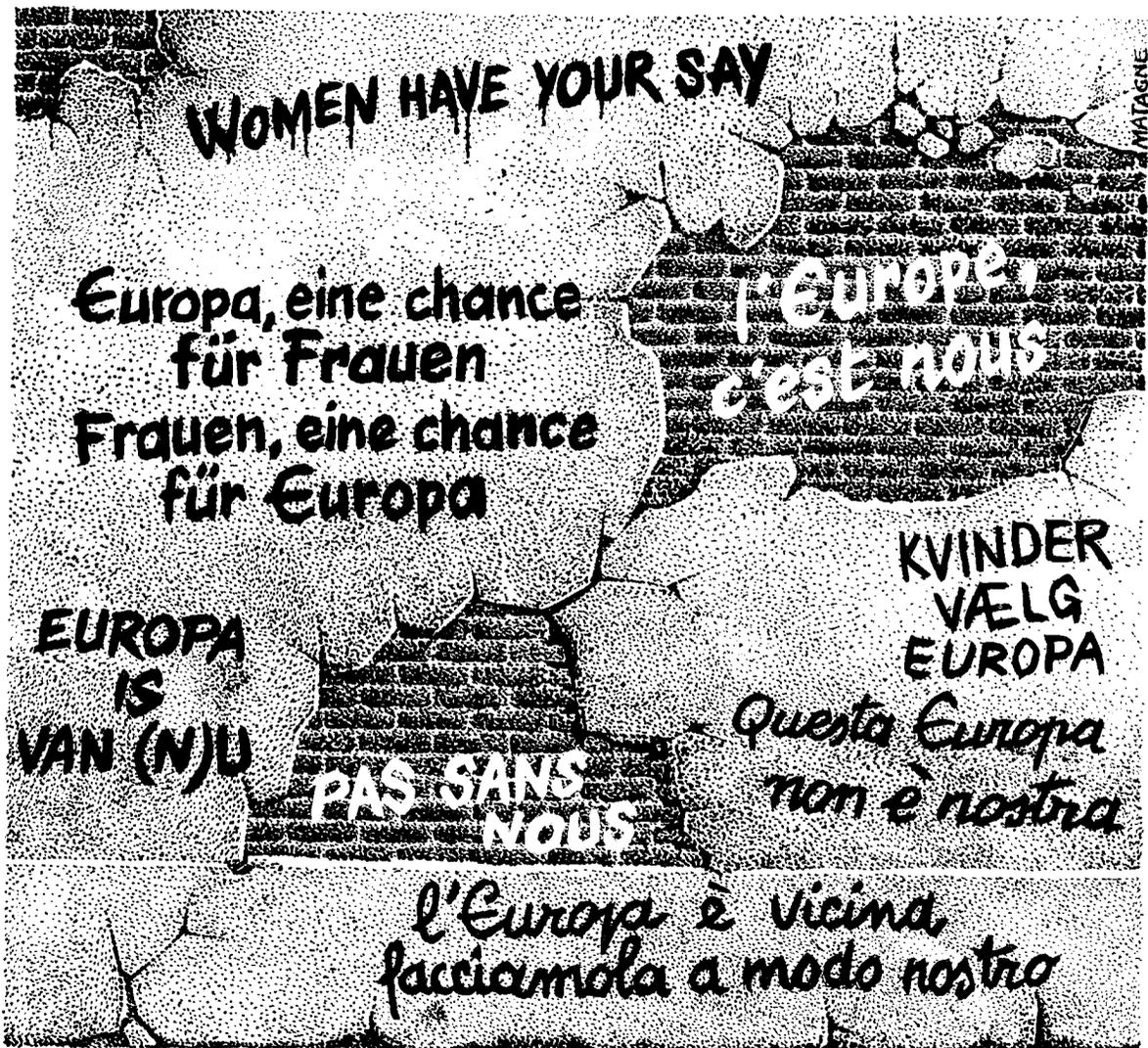


# Women of Europe

No. 8 Brussels, March/April 1979



(This drawing may be freely reproduced - an indication of source is not essential)

This bulletin is published by the

161/X/79-E

**E** Commission of the European Communities  
Directorate-General of Information  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 - Brussels - Tél. 735.00.40

Further information is available from the Commission's press and information offices in the countries listed on page 2.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Europe: the women's electoral campaign (p. 3)  
Facts, institutions and laws in the various countries (p. 4)  
Militant activities (p. 16)  
The changing European Community (p. 28)  
Research, meetings, books (p. 30)

Our correspondents in the Community

Belgium	Nanette Nannan, 33 rue E. Bouilliot, Bte 9, 1060 Brussels
Denmark	Danske Kvinders Nationalraad, Niels Hemmingsensgade 8, 1153 Copenhagen
France	Jeanne Chaton, 43 avenue Ernest Reyer, 75014 Paris
Germany	Christa Randzio-Plath, Hadermannsweg 23, 2 Hamburg-61
Ireland	Janet Martin, 38 Broadmeadow Green, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
Italy	Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, Via Borgognona 47, 00187 Rome
Netherlands	Marjolijn Uitzinger, Savelsbos 85, Zoetermeer
United Kingdom	Peggy Crane, 12 Grove Park Road, Chiswick, London W.4

Cover page:

Speaking of Europe, women are inventing new slogans. A new language is being created, a language tailored to women's awareness of political life, a language that reflects their newly acquired European concept of politics. In their own words: "the European elections? a chance to make our voice heard".

**PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

**BELGIUM**

1049 BRUSSELS  
Rue Archimède 73  
Tel. 735 00 40/735 80 40

**DENMARK**

1045 COPENHAGEN K  
4 Gammeltorv  
Postbox 144  
Tel. 14 41 40

**FRANCE**

75782 PARIS CEDEX 16  
61, rue des Belles-Feuilles  
Tel. 553 53 26

**GERMANY**

53 BONN  
Zitelmannstrasse 22  
Tel. 23 80 41

1 BERLIN 31  
Kurfürstendamm 102  
Tel. 8 92 40 28

**IRELAND**

DUBLIN 2  
29 Merrion Square  
Tel. 76 03 53

**ITALY**

00187 ROME  
Via Poli, 29  
Tel. 68 97 22 à 26

**LUXEMBOURG**

LUXEMBOURG  
Bâtiment Jean Monnet B/O  
Plateau du Kirchberg  
Tel. 430 11

**NETHERLANDS**

THE HAGUE  
29, Lange Voorhout  
Tel. 070-46 93 26

**UNITED KINGDOM**

LONDON W8 4QQ  
20, Kensington Palace Gardens  
Tel. 727 8090

CARDIFF CF1 1WF  
4 Cathedral Road  
P.O. Box 15  
Tel. 371 631

EDINBURGH EH2 4PH  
7, Alva Street  
Tel. (031) 225.2058

**CANADA**

OTTAWA, Ont. K1R 7S8  
350 Sparks St.  
Suite 1110  
Tel. 238 64 64

**CHILE**

SANTIAGO 9  
Avenida Ricardo Lyon 1177  
Casilla 10093  
Tel. 25 05 55

**GREECE**

ATHENS 134  
Vassilisis Sofias 2  
Tel. 743 982/83/84

**JAPAN**

102 TOKYO  
Kowa 25 Building  
8-7 Sanbancho  
Chiyoda-Ku  
Tel. 239-0441

**SWITZERLAND**

1202 GENEVA  
37-39, rue de Vermont  
Tel. 34 97 50

**TURKEY**

ANKARA  
Kavaklidere  
13. Bogaz Sokak  
Tel. 27 61 45/46

**UNITED STATES**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037  
2100 M Street, N.W.  
Suite 707  
Tel. (202) 872-8350

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017  
245 East 47th Street  
1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza  
Tel. (212) 3713804

EUROPE: THE WOMEN'S ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

May is the month when the political parties officially launch the electoral campaign leading up to the first European elections. European women, however, chose the month of March to hold many of the events they had organized. Their objective was two-fold: not only to influence public opinion but also to make their impact upon the machinery of the political parties before the lists of candidates were drawn up. It is a case of the early birds catching the worm ...

Throughout March, then, women's organizations voiced their hopes and sense of determination in every one of the nine countries, usually with the support of the European Commission information services.

In LUXEMBOURG, a "Festival of Europe and Women" was held in an exhibition hall in the International Trade Fair grounds, in liaison with the Luxembourg Women's National Council. And a festival it really was: in an altogether refreshingly happy and relaxed atmosphere, an unprecedented crowd of over 2,000 people was drawn by the audio-visual display, the films and the discussions. Those who came listened in to the round table discussion among political parties on the forthcoming European elections and to the other discussion between unions and employers on the position of women in Luxembourg in the world of work.

In BRUSSELS, the "European Women's Manifesto for a new, fairer and more humane society", drawn up by the European Movement Women's Committee was officially presented to the press by Margherita Barnabei, the International President of this Committee. This is not just an election manifesto but a broad-ranging review of what women expect of Europe, today and tomorrow.

In Brussels, too, the National Council of Belgian Women and the Women's Committee of the Belgian Council for the European Movement organized an "information day" on the issues of "women and work", "the quality of life", "women's participation in economic, political and social decision-making and in the European elections".

In DUBLIN, the Women's Political Association held a round table discussion attended by all women candidates standing in the direct elections for European Parliament and more than 250 people were able to put their questions to the five women known to be standing as of that time regarding their hopes and intentions if they were elected to the new European assembly.

In BONN, there was an exhibition of the German posters that had been submitted to the European poster competition on the theme of "Women and the European Parliamentary Election".

In ROME, two documents were presented to the press: the "European Women's Manifesto" and the "Role and Responsibility of Women in the new Europe". As already stated, the Manifesto was drawn up by the International Women's Committee of the European Movement, in close cooperation with many women's organizations in the Community states. The second document was the outcome of work done by Italian women's associations gathered together on the platform of the European Movement's Italian Council. "The European dimension," in the words of the Italian women's associations, "is an essential factor in solving the problems linked with changes in society. Women are coming forward to take over as leaders within the institutions, and therefore within European Parliament as well."

In PARIS, there was a very large audience for the debate on "Women and Europe" in the presence of Mrs. Pelletier, the Minister with responsibility for Women's Status, and chaired by Mrs. Fabrizia Baduel-Glorioso, the President of the Community's Economic and Social Committee. The occasion was used to introduce the survey on "Women and Men in 1979" carried out at the request of the European Commission. The women present had, in some instances, travelled long distances to attend and they represented the broadest spectrum of organizations; they did not try to create the illusion that women are unanimous, but the range and the scope of the ideas and information they produced revealed the concern felt by women for the future. "Those whom we must count upon before all others are ourselves;" emphasized Françoise Gaspard, the mayor of Dreux; "we have to force the gates of power."

IN COPENHAGEN, the "Danske Kvinders Nationalraad" is organizing a round table discussion in May, with all the women candidates to the European election taking part.

#### FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES

##### B E L G I U M

##### Children first

When the new government was formed, the Committee on Women's Status outlined several problems clamouring for urgent solution. These include:

- the need to amend the law on affiliation rights: there should be equal rights for children born outside marriage, from adulterous or even incestuous relations. Reference is made to the European Convention dating from October 1975 that recommended the granting of true equality to children.



The inheritance rights of the surviving spouse

This issue has been before Parliament for the past fifteen years. Even now, the surviving spouse does not have a right to the deceased's estate which essentially passes to the children. Especially when the estate is small, this gives rise to serious problems. For instance, when one of the partners to a marriage dies, the family home - for which the couple has worked throughout its life - is owned by the children only, and they do not always show concern for the difficulties that their surviving parent may be facing.

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Van Hameldonck, the Commission for Women's Status has expressed the view that the surviving spouse should have preferential rights to the estate, and that it should not normally pass to the children until he or she dies. This should apply even if other provisions are made in the will - and it should be borne in mind that many people, especially in the less affluent sectors of society, do not make a will.

Useful address: Commission de la Condition de la Femme  
Rue du Grand-Cerf, 12  
1000 Brussels

F R A N C E

Equality within marriage

The equality of husband and wife in the antenuptial settlement and in the management of their children's property is the subject of a draft bill presented to the two Chambers by the Minister for Women's Status, Monique Pelletier.

Under the new system, the antenuptial settlement whereby a husband's and wife's communal estate consists only of the property acquired after marriage would be retained as a statutory settlement. This is an arrangement, adopted by 90% of couples in France, whereby assets of all kinds accruing to a couple during the course of marriage are considered to be held jointly, except for property received as a gift or by inheritance. Henceforth, this joint property will be managed independently by either spouse except in the case of certain transactions of a particularly serious nature which require joint management - for example, taking out a mortgage loan on a building which forms part of a couple's joint assets.

This would mean that the equality of men and women would be recognized by the French Code of Civil Law. One consequence of this equality would be the disappearance of the property formerly reserved to the wife in the couple's estate. Since women would henceforth administer the whole of the estate there would be no more inequality or privileges but true and full responsibility.

In the same way, the property of under age children would be jointly administered by the husband and wife, although each would be assumed to have received a mandate from the other to carry out routine acts of management by himself or herself.

Useful address: Ministère à la Condition Féminine  
Tour Mirabeau  
39-43 Quai André Citroën  
75015 Paris

Employment: a balance sheet

The policy adopted by the French Government of diversifying the trades open to women seems to be bearing fruit, according to a "balance sheet" drawn up by Nicole Pasquier, Secretary of State for Women's Employment. Sectors in which women are gaining a preliminary foothold, for instance, are the "finishing" trades in building, as opposed to structural work, such as painting, floor coverings and tiling; woodworking trades such as joinery, cabinet-making and furniture restoration; service trades such as electrical repairs and public transport; engineering trades such as mechanical and electrical car repairs; and trade and artisan activities.

It is noteworthy that the diversification of women's work may be a vital factor in the campaign to bring life back to rural areas. At present, many girls who are brought up in the country train as typists or learn to sew even though there is no chance of finding work locally. If they train for other trades, they will have a better chance of finding a job on the spot.

Mentality is changing: a summary survey showed that 89% of girls and 88% of boys believe that many trades that have previously been the preserve of men might be just as suitable for women.

Useful address: Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Emploi Féminin  
25 Avenue Charles Floquet  
75700 Paris

Alimony payments

In France, the number of divorced women entitled to alimony is estimated at approximately 600,000. When they are grouped with the children involved, 1,200,000 people depend wholly or partly on receiving this payment for their living expenses. Nevertheless, in general out of ten persons paying alimony, four pay regularly, three irregularly and three never pay.

This is a serious problem and one that Monique Pelletier, Minister for Women's Status, has deferred to a special committee chaired by Mrs. Mème, Rapporteur to the Council of State. What should be done in practical terms to ensure that women do not suffer at the hands of their absent-minded or vindictive ex-husbands?

In tackling this problem, the committee chaired by Mrs. Mème may be inspired by the solutions adopted in two other countries. In Denmark, for instance, every child of divorced parents is entitled to a minimum index-linked amount (at present 350 crowns) right up to the time when they come of age. If the parent fails to pay, the local authority social welfare office advances the sum of money and takes up the case on the child's behalf, taking proceedings against the defaulter. If the parent is insolvent, the state itself accepts responsibility for payment. In Hamburg, along the same lines a minimum sum is guaranteed to every child aged under 3 living with a single parent.

Useful address: Ministère à la Condition Féminine  
Tour Mirabeau  
39-43 Quai André Citroën  
75015 Paris

At the Women's Information Centre (CIF)

The Women's Information Centre is already giving direct replies to telephone enquiries from more than 100,000 people a year. In addition, about forty offices are at the service of the public in the provinces, and these take the opportunity to distribute information sheets to members of the public with specific concerns. The titles of these fact sheets are "Retired people", "If you are widowed", "Young people looking for their first job" and so on.

Colette de Margerie, the Secretary General to the Centre, has decided to issue a dossier entitled "CIF - Information" six times a year, designed for people whose work it is to give out information even though they do not always have access to a practical information library. The first dossier has already come out, its theme being the departments of the Ministry of Justice, as well as a second dossier on the Ministries of the Economy and the Budget. As with all CIF's work, women are given both overall information and also the facts and figures on the services, bodies and regulations at their disposal.

Useful address: Centre d'Information Féminin  
B.P. 400  
75327 Paris Cedex 07

G E R M A N Y

Sixty years of women's franchise

It was on 19 January 1919 that German women won the right to vote for the first time. Women's organizations have celebrated this date by demanding that all the forms of discrimination still practised against women in German political life be abolished.

Despite their growing political commitment, only 7.3% of those elected to the Bundestag (Federal Parliament) and only slightly more than 10% of those elected to the Landtag (Regional Parliaments) are women. Only at local authority level are women a little better represented. The executive offices of the political parties number no more than 10% women.

In consideration of these figures, the women's movements are once again considering the formation of a women's party; for their part, the political parties are considering the introduction of a minimum quota of 25% women. It is an idea that is not welcomed by many women in any party, on the grounds that a quota system would be no more than a new form of discrimination and would create a sort of "sexual legitimization", not true political legitimacy.

Useful addresses: C.D.U.

Adenauer Allee  
53 Bonn

F.D.P.  
Bannscheidtstrasse, 15  
53 Bonn

S.P.D.  
Erich-Ollenhauerstrasse, 1  
53 Bonn

Deutsche Frauenrat  
Augustastrasse, 42  
53 Bonn 2

Occupation: mother

The association representing homebound women has strongly criticized the extension of maternity leave: from 5 May 1979, this will be six months. It has called for the state to pay contributions to the social security fund while women devote their time to bringing up their children.

The political parties are divided in their opinions. C.D.U. is asking for an "Erziehungsgeld" (parent's wage) at a very modest level for all mothers as recognition that motherhood is a job. The Government coalition of S.P.D. and F.D.P. has opted for guaranteeing the job of a woman who wishes to take leave to devote to her child's upbringing. Under this system, every woman is entitled to an allowance of 750 DM a month. Certain women's groups, however, are claiming a net wage of 2000 DM, since this is merely a change of job in which the woman moves from the world of work to the world of education.

The claim made by the women members of S.P.D. for parental (not just maternity) leave may be embodied in a resolution accompanying the law. Like many other people, the women members of S.P.D. consider that the place in which the inequality of women is most blatantly expressed is within the family. The legal changes that have been introduced over the past few years have restricted the scope of the more flagrant instances of discrimination and have allowed the partners in a marriage to decide on how the household tasks and their working life should be arranged. In fact, little has changed in family life, the vehicle for tradition and therefore for immobility.

Despite all the good intentions, maternity leave means that woman is more deeply entrenched in the domestic role, making her shoulder the domestic responsibilities alone. In the current crisis on the labour market, this law has come to be seen as a way of forcing women to leave their jobs once again and release them for men - as happens after wars. On giving up their jobs, however, women relinquish their economic independence.

Useful address: Bundestagfraktion des S.P.D., F.D.P., C.D.U./C.S.U.  
Bundeshaus  
53 Bonn 1  
Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund E.V.  
Adenauer Allee 193  
5300 Bonn 1

#### A woman on a building site

A young woman has just obtained court recognition of her right to work on a building site. On the pretext of protecting women at work, the law makes it impossible to be fully integrated in the world of work. In this instance, the woman had learned the trade of carpenter but was unable to practise that trade.

The court of Nuremberg pointed out that this prohibition on the part of the law was motivated not by biological differences but by the functional differences that had been instituted by society, which are no longer relevant today. The whole of labour legislation has now been laid open to question. Women are now calling for the ban on night work and hazardous jobs for women to be lifted. The point at issue in the debate should not be the misconceived protection of women but rather ways of humanizing working conditions in the broadest sense of the term.

Useful address: Pressestelle des Arbeitsgerichts Nürnberg  
Nuremberg

Women and national service

The feminist magazine, Emma, has proclaimed that women have a right to do their national service, and its appeal has received widespread support from various groups and several leading personalities.

Dr. Hans Apel himself, Minister of Defence, has argued in favour of the army being made more open to women. The general view seems to be in favour of the "right" to military service, not the obligation. Anne Fuchs, the Secretary of State to the Ministry of Employment, however, is strongly opposed to the idea of national service for women, mindful of the dramatic events of past wars.

The first word in the debate comes from female students who ask whether women do not have enough obligations already and too few rights.

It is of interest that the Ministry of Defence receives several thousand applications for employment from women every year.

Useful address: Hardthöhe  
53 Bonn

I R E L A N D

Family planning

Despite broad-based support from many women's groups, the Irish Government still faces a fight in winning acceptance of the family planning legislation which it is preparing.

A change in current legislation has become a matter of urgency: the Supreme Court has ruled that, while it is illegal to advertise contraceptives or import them for sale, it is not unlawful to import contraceptives for personal use. In practice, family planning clinics run by voluntary organizations operate in many major towns in Ireland and one women's group actually sells non-medical contraceptives in defiance of law from a shop called Contraceptives Unlimited.

The Health (Family Planning) Bill introduced by the Health Minister, Mr. Charles Haughey, provides that contraceptives, including non-medical types, should be sold only by chemist shops and only to the persons named in a prescription or authorization given by a medical practitioner for bona fide family planning purposes. According to Mr. Haughey, this means married people only.

After some debate among the doctors as to whether they should take on the role of guardians of public morality, they have decided to support the bill. Irishwomen fear, however, that the bill as it stands threatens the existence of the family planning clinics already operating, a fact that does not endear it to the people who have been lobbying for widespread family planning facilities.

A wife's right to the family home

The first case to come before Ireland's Supreme Court under the Family Home Protection Act 1976 was recently decided in favour of the wife.

Under the Act, the family home and its contents are considered to be owned by both partners to the marriage, irrespective of who may have paid for them, and they cannot be sold by one partner without the permission of the other.

In the case before the Supreme Court, the couple had separated before the 1976 Act came into force and their separation agreement had no provision for maintenance or mention of the family home. The husband had then sold the home and signed a declaration drawn up by a solicitor acting for the purchaser to the effect that the house was no longer the family home. The Supreme Court blamed the solicitor for not having checked on the facts and, on the petition of the wife, the sale was declared void.

I T A L Y

Customers dislike women detectives

The Italian Constitutional Court is about to consider the case of a 27 year old woman, a detective by trade, who has claimed that she was wrongfully dismissed for what in fact were "sexist" reasons.

The detective was recruited by a security firm to work in a Turin department store, but she was dismissed when the store failed to extend its contract with her firm. At the industrial tribunal, the security firm's solicitor explained that a shop's customers do not like a women to be in charge of their cases. "The discrimination does not come from us but from the customers", the solicitor argued.

In reply, the magistrate stated that sexual equality is a "constitutional right of an absolute nature", to which no objection may be raised by "customers" even if these are not explicitly designated in the text of the law. The security firm is appealing to the Constitutional Court.

N E T H E R L A N D S

Running a city

"Mr. Minister, women too are capable of running a city": this is the declaration made by A.C. van Wijngaarden-Terlouw, chairwoman of the women's body of the Dutch Liberal Party, VVD.

In Holland, the "burgmeester" or mayor is a civil servant, appointed by the Queen in consultation with the municipal council, itself an elected body.

The only criterion in appointing the burgmeester should be ability, claim the VVD women. Women should be given the same opportunities as men, whether the members of either sex are married, unmarried or divorced.

Useful address: De Liberale Vrouw  
Prins Bernhardstraat, 18  
2825 BE Berkenwoude

U N I T E D K I N G D O M

Equal opportunities come to Wales

Out of a total of over 4,000 enquiries dealt with by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), fewer than 5% originated in Wales. Does this mean that Welshwomen have achieved equality more rapidly than any other women in the United Kingdom? Far from it: this is why EOC has decided to open an office in Cardiff (to be followed by an office in Scotland).

Letitia Steel, for instance, is someone who can speak for the help afforded by EOC. A postwoman from Cardiff, she had been working for the Post Office in 1961, when women could be employed only as "temporary" postal workers. The ruling changed in 1975, but the length of service of women was to be counted only from 1975. Mrs. Steel was particularly annoyed about this form of discrimination when her application for a specific post round was turned down in favour of a man who had worked for the Post Office for no more than three years. Since post rounds are allocated on the basis of seniority, women have no chance of gaining the best rounds. It was not until the case had been appealed that Mrs. Steel won her claim.

In another case, the EOC has backed a man in an action against the Ministry of Defence on the grounds that women were being more favourably treated than men at the Royal Ordnance factory in Glascoed. The fact that EOC has backed a man may come as a surprise to some, but its reply is that its task is to promote equality of opportunity for both sexes.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission  
Caerwys House  
Windsor Place  
Cardiff tel. Cardiff 43552

Equality for the elderly ... too

The Equal Opportunities Commission is vigorously campaigning for equality at every stage of life, but particularly for the elderly. There is an abundance of instances of discrimination, ranging from the differing pension ages for men and women down to minor but revealing details of everyday life. For example, a man aged 62 was asked to pay £9.60 to enrol for an adult education course, whereas a woman would have to pay only 50 p.

The problem is that older people are reluctant to defend their rights before a court, especially as the amounts involved are small and are not worth going to law. But this state of affairs means that too many petty forms of discrimination are allowed to continue indefinitely and, taken as a whole, they add up to serious injustice.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission  
Overseas House  
Quay Street  
Manchester M3 3HN

Equality in the eyes of the Taxman

There is a growing demand in Britain that married women be regarded as women in their own right for tax purposes and not as their husbands' chattels. A discussion document, "Women and Tax", published by the Conservative Party Women's National Advisory Committee wants to see every adult person having a uniform personal tax allowance.

As things now stand, a wife's unearned income is added to her husband's income for tax purposes. In the case of married couples, subject to certain safeguards any or all of this allowance would be transferable between the partners. A similar but modified procedure would apply in the case of investment or unearned income. The working party that produced the report believes that the changes in the tax law that it is recommending would end tax discrimination against the family in which one parent stays at home to look after young children.

The Equal Opportunities Commission would also like to see a radical change in the existing system. The Sunday Times and Woman's Own asked readers for their views on the EOC pamphlet and about 40,000 supported the view that the British system of taxation should be reformed to eliminate discrimination against married women.

Useful address: Women's National Advisory Committee  
Conservative Party  
32 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HH

Equality in Northern Ireland

It is well known that the lack of adequate community facilities (crèches, nursery schools, private child-minders) makes it difficult for young mothers to lead a full working life. This is why the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission has commissioned a detailed survey on the policy and services for pre-school age children in Northern Ireland. The debate is now backed by facts and figures and is open to the public.

Another survey conducted for the Northern Ireland EOC has shown that discrimination is concealed in the most unexpected places. An investigation into the appointment of principal teachers in grammar and secondary schools in the province reveals the extent to which women are being discriminated against when selections are made for positions of responsibility.

In Northern Ireland, there is an equal number of men and women in secondary education, but three times more men are the heads of the schools, and the proportion is larger even in single sex girls' schools. Out of 140 co-educational schools, only six had a woman head and these tended to be convent grammar schools which had agreed to admit boys.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern  
Ireland  
Lindsay House  
Callender Street  
Belfast BT1 5DT

M I L I T A N T      A C T I V I T I E S

---

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Democracy: inventing a new Europe

"Not without us" is the slogan of the Christian Democrat women from the Community states who recently reaffirmed in Brussels their firm intention to make their presence strongly felt during the first European Parliamentary elections by universal suffrage. "DC Europe", the journal for the Christian Democrat group within European Parliament, has already devoted many pages to women's participation in European political life. Silvia Costa, a member of the Rome town council, succinctly expressed a feeling that is widely shared: "If it had been left to the women, Europe would already be a true community!".

In Brussels, Monica Barnes from Ireland and the Belgian, Cécile Goor, in common with Marlene Lenz from Germany and Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago from Italy, repeated that there is a need for substantial changes to the existing institutions to show everyone that, at least in Europe, we can "breathe a different air". Andrée Mirochnikoff from France emphasized that "participation by men and women citizens is a prerequisite for a new Europe", an idea also expressed by Deltien G. Kraaijeveld-Wouters from Holland.

For the women Christian Democrats, the Brussels meeting was the culminating event in a lengthy series of national meetings that had been held on the subject of the European elections.

Useful address: PPE, Women's Section  
Via del Plebiscito 107  
Rome

Socialist women: an opportunity and a challenge

Karen Dahlerup from Denmark has presented a "contribution to the democratic debate launched by the elections", in the name of a group of European Socialist women. The authors of the contribution declare: "Socialist women, we are deeply committed to the struggle for a Europe which is no longer an amalgam of all the forms of subordination, egoism and injustice engendered by the quest for the power conferred by money, and for sheer power".

Published by EUSO (the journal of the Socialist Group in European Parliament), this contribution concludes with an "appeal to the electors", after it has reviewed every aspect of Community policy relevant to women in their everyday lives. This "appeal" stresses that women should be able to make an equal contribution to the development of society at every level, at work and at home, in public and in private life". In consonance with these views, European Socialist women have recently met in Luxembourg, where they stated that "Socialists must show women by actions, not words, that their place is in the ranks of the Socialists".

Useful address: European Parliament Socialist Group  
3 Boulevard de l'Empereur  
1000 Brussels

The European Movement

The International Women's Committee of the European Movement, presided by Margherita Barnabei, has addressed an "Appeal to the Women of Europe for a fairer and more humane society".

In calling upon women voters to fulfil their electoral duties in June, the Appeal lays down guidelines for women in their campaign for Europe and the creation of a new European society. Over the years of transition through which we are about to pass, it states, "things will not be easier or simpler than before".

Regional development, the environment, energy, economic and employment policy, Europe in the world: the paper takes a hard and realistic look at them all. "No peace without justice, and there can be no justice until the social and economic imbalances are abolished": although the sentiment is expressed in a discussion of the Third World, it is also a theme underlying the appeal with reference to life within the frontiers of the Community. In conclusion, the Appeal expresses hopes for a new culture which will respect the right of both the two sexes and of nationalities "to be different". Europe will then be transformed into an "ethical community of all, for all".

Useful address: European Movement  
International Women's Committee  
Viale G. Baccelli 10  
00153 Rome

Work and employment: the society of tomorrow?

The Centre européen féminin de recherche sur l'évolution de la société (European women's centre for research on the evolution of society) has recently held a conference on the theme of "Work and Employment: the society of tomorrow?", under the auspices of the International Labour Office and the Commission of the European Communities.

Sixty or so experts, 28 of them men, specialists in work, women's problems and futurology, attempted to formulate a research and action programme based on the themes of objectives and the forms of work, evolution in conditions of work, the redistribution of work among all, work and the environment.

Useful address: CEFRES  
53 rue de Varenne  
75007 Paris

A Europe for women

Several hundred women met at Aix-la-Chapelle on the invitation of the Women's Committee of the Trade Union Council for the Meuse-Rhin Euregion, a body that represents union members from the Belgian provinces of Liège and Limbourg, the Dutch province of Limbourg and German Rhineland. The Council recently found that over 70,000 women were unemployed within the Euregion.

In a resolution passed on this occasion, the women at the meeting called upon the future European Parliament to recognize the right to work without distinction as to sex and equal status for women on the labour market, in all occupations and at every level of skill and responsibility.

Useful address: DGB - Kreis Aachen  
Harscampstrasse, 20  
5100 Aachen

B E L G I U M

A memorandum from Flemish women's groups

A group of women's organizations has pointed out that the opportunity for access to a career is less for a woman than for a man; in particular, there is very marked discrimination against mothers at work. There should be plans for reducing the hours of work to make it easier for women to play the dual role of workers and parents - something that is just as desirable for men, whose contribution to family life is a major factor promoting harmony.

There should be better infrastructure to provide more care and nursery facilities for children whose mothers are at work, at a more reasonable cost than is the case today. Carefully planned crèches should share with the parents the responsibility for bringing up small children.

In the field of social security, women's groups are demanding a system based on the work of either of the marriage partners, not just on the husband's work as at present. There should be reciprocal arrangements whereby the husband could derive the benefits from social security contributions made by his wife through her work if he needs them, just as a woman today who does not have a job is considered to be a dependent of the "head of the household", i.e. her husband, for the purpose of social security.

It would also be desirable that provision be made for either maternity or paternity leave when a child is born to a couple, the decision on who is to take the leave being left to the couple itself and not made subject to arbitrary regulations.

Unemployment benefits paid to men and women should be identical.

Where both the husband and the wife are earning, their incomes should not be lumped together for tax purposes. A special allowance should be granted for housewives - or widows - who stay at home while they have children to bring up.

All the Flemish organizations are also demanding equal status for all children, whatever the circumstances under which they are born.

In general, they express the wish that the bill on the inheritance rights of the surviving spouse should be pushed through Parliament as quickly as possible.

They would also like to see the age of majority as 18, and are calling for greater flexibility in the field of adoption rights.

Finally, they would like abortion to be freely available so that women can make their own decisions as to whether they are to be mothers.

In this area, they feel there should be more information on sex available, especially on contraceptives.

Useful address: Vrouwen Overleg Komitee  
Mevr. Rital Jolie-Mulier (President)  
Van Putlei, 13  
2000 Antwerp tel. 031/72 51 71  
Secretariat: Lambeaulaan, 9  
1200 Brussels

Passing on information

The "Rosa" group has recently established an information centre with a small team making every effort to compile data on everything that will help women - and also men - to find the solutions to the specific problems with which they are concerned. The group cooperates with many other feminist bodies ("Dolle Mina", "Rebelse Vrouwen", "Rooie Rok" and others). It is subsidized by the Dutch Ministry of Culture.

The centre does not - yet - have its own lending library, but any man or woman looking for information material can make photocopies of any literature held by the centre. It is a useful, and very down-to-earth, form of "self-service". The centre also keeps up-to-date lists of the groups concerned with problems of an occupational, economic, social and legal nature within the women's movement in general, the unions and the political parties.

Useful address: ROSA (Rol en Samenleving)  
Documentatiecentrum omtrent sekserollen en feminisme  
Bondgenotenstraat, 62  
1190 Vorst tel. 02/347 24 77

Widows: a helping hand

"Welcome and Hope" - Accueil et Espérance - is the name of an association which offers help to widows, providing information and arranging for meetings and shared activities, etc.

In the last two news bulletins, published monthly by the association, there is a discussion of the new measures on the subject of the survivor's pension, brought into force on 1 January 1979. From 1 February 1979, too, widows can obtain certain benefits if their annual income is no higher than ₣.238,621, plus ₣.44,361 for each dependent.

Useful address: Accueil et Espérance - Fraternité des Veuves  
Rue de la Prévoyance, 58  
1000 Brussels tel. 02/513 17 01

Who are the U.P.A.F.?

The Unions Professionnelles Agricoles Féminines are unions of women whose work is in agriculture and who are also, in their own words, "mothers concerned for their families' welfare and women aware of their role in society".

During their recent congress, the U.P.A.F. considered "the farming family of tomorrow". In fact, the problems of today are numerous. Among the claims being advanced by the Unions are legal recognition of farmers' wives as co-workers, a premium for young people wanting to start up on their own account, greater flexibility in the procedures for running a farm in widowhood and finally a status for "helpers" which both confers dignity upon the young people and is satisfactory to the parents.

One of the most urgent concerns of the U.P.A.F. is the establishment of a system whereby help can be given if the farmer's wife becomes unfit for work.

Useful address: U.P.A.F.  
Rue Antoine Danaert, 94-96  
1000 Brussels

Women and taxation

The Flemish Christian Socialist Party working group known as "Vrouw en Maatschappij" (woman and society) has just issued a report which examines women's status with regard to taxation and social security, whether they work or whether they are homebound.

Of the mass of facts and figures, three are particularly significant:

- from the tax statistics, it appears that the number of households in which the wife works is the same as the number of households in which the wife stays at home;
- the earnings of both groups are more or less equal, even though the income is earned from 40 hours' work a week in one case and from 80 hours in the other;
- in the group of households in which the wife stays at home, 56.5% have one or more children; in the other group, this percentage is 59.6%.

Useful address: C.V.P.  
Miet Smet  
Tweekerkenstraat, 41  
1040 Brussels

F R A N C E

The unions and women

The "Confédération française démocratique du Travail" - the French federation of democratic unions - has called upon its members to exercise great vigilance and to oppose any campaign attempting to instill a sense of guilt in working mothers. C.F.D.T. has reaffirmed the belief that women can be liberated only by achieving financial independence, and they must be guaranteed the right to work.

The struggle for full employment for all, men and women, is based upon claims that women should have access to every job, that the number of hours worked in a week and in a day should be reduced, that jobs should be created, that community facilities should be provided for children and that the domestic tasks and the work of bringing up the children should be shared between the parents.

Useful address: C.F.D.T.  
Rue Cadet, 5  
75439 Paris Cedex 09

Women doctors

The medical profession in France is being invaded by women: this is the finding arrived at by the National Council of the Order of Medical Practitioners which has noted that 28,576 out of 148,428 doctors are women. The trend has been clearly shown by a comparison of two generations of doctors. In the age group of 60 to 64, for instance, there are 538 women doctors compared with 4,356 men, while the figures for the 30 to 34 age group are 5,915 women compared with 18,114 men.

It is hardly surprising that the proportion of women doctors is higher in the towns than in the country, and even higher in the capital than in other major cities.

How many children?

Several French feminist movements have reacted strongly to the concern expressed by certain politicians at the fall in the birth rate in France. "No population growth campaign for a third child" is the substance of a petition circulating in the women's and feminist movements.

Useful address: Thérèse Clerc  
1 rue Hoche  
93100 Montreuil

G E R M A N Y

Frauenhaus Berlin

In its two years' existence, Frauenhaus Berlin (women's hostel in Berlin) has provided shelter for 631 women together with 616 children. The demand for protection, advice and help first mushroomed at the time of the football world cup held in Germany two years ago. Women doctors, legal experts, psychologists and economists are contributing their services to this institution, which is subsidized by the Berlin Senate and by the Federal Ministry in Bonn with responsibility for family problems.

After a stay at this hostel for battered wives, 30% of the women return to the conjugal home, 8% return home but not to their husband, 12% go to live with their relatives or friends and 13% find a new flat or live in a community with other women.

Whatever solution the battered wives finally adopt, the hostel plays a substantial part by offering help and enabling women to break out of their solitude and discuss their problems.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit  
Kennedyallee, 105-107  
Bonn

Fitting two jobs into one day

The University of Giessen Institute of Domestic Economy has conducted a survey, interviewing 400 working women and analyzing the running of 50 homes.

The survey has shown that three quarters of the women interviewed are on the go 17 hours a day. On the average, they work a forty hour week at their outside jobs and then 35 hours at home. On top of this is the time they take to travel to and from work.

On the whole, the interviewees expressed no sense of injustice at assuming this two-fold role. Of all the working women in Germany, 40% have children under 15.

Useful address: Universität Giessen  
Institut für Wirtschaftslike des Haushalts  
6300 Giessen / Lahn

On board ship

The first few women captains are to be seen on the decks of German ships. At a more modest level, there are still only 678 women driving underground trains, trams and buses. It is true that it was not until 1963 that a woman first became a tram driver, and it was as late as 1972 before a woman took the wheel of a public transport bus, 1974 before there was a woman underground train driver.

I R E L A N D

Fifteen centuries of Irish Women

"Women in Irish Society" is a surprising book just published by Arlen House - The Women's Press. The editors, Margaret MacCurtain and Donncha O Corrain, trace the evolution of women from the 5th century to the present.

The book reveals that in the past - the very far distant past - Irish women retained property and decision-making rights in marriage; they could divorce their husbands on grounds ranging from lack of sexual satisfaction to physical injury, lack of discretion, slandering and mocking. Fathers, even of illegitimate children, had to take an equal share in providing for their upbringing.

Useful address: Arlen House - The Women's Press  
2 Strand Road, Baldoyle  
Dublin 13

The eighth of May in Dublin

Women's Week at Dublin's University College has become something of an annual event and to date it has centred on International Women's Day, traditionally on March 8th, the date when New York women garment workers rose in their thousands in 1908 to protest against their sweatshop conditions. The protest was stifled, literally: scores of women died, burned alive in the workshop where they had retreated.

Films, music and discussions went on without a break and for the final day the participants moved to the 16th century Trinity College buildings for a seminar on women's liberation. The main topics were working women, the role of the Church and women in Ireland, partition and its effects on the women's movement, etc.

Rape Crisis Centre

The first rape crisis centre, modelled on similar services in the United Kingdom and U.S., opened in Dublin recently.

Operating 24 hours a day, women volunteers are on call to talk and meet with individuals in need of help. They are available to accompany women to hospital and, if they wish, to police stations and court. The Samaritans, who operate a nation-wide help service in Ireland, has offered to refer victims of rape to the Centre, and information about the Centre has been circulated to police headquarters, hospital casualty departments, doctors and the health centres.

For security reasons, the address of the Centre is not available for publication, but its telephone number is Dublin 60 14 70.

Useful address: Irish Feminist Information  
45 Elmwood Avenue  
Dublin 6

I T A L Y

Tribunal of March 8th

"8 marzo, festa della donna ... e poi?" - 8th March, Women's Day ... and after? - was one of the slogans repeated in the streets of Rome during the parades organized by women representing the political parties, the unions and many women's organizations.

For the first time, Women's Day has been celebrated officially, with a programme organized by the Secretary of State for Women's Status, Ines Boffardi. "There is a need to condemn the wide gap that exists between the very advanced legal achievements," she declared, "and the actual social situation, with discrimination persisting in the family and in the world of work." There were even more events than in previous years to celebrate May 8th, ranging from a special edition of "Nuova Agricoltura", the journal of Confcoltivatori (farmers' union) to a "stock market of ideas" devoted to women in Milan.

The most spectacular venture, however, and undoubtedly the most lasting, was the creation by the Italian Women's Union of the "Tribunal of March 8th" which, based on an established model, is to concern itself with all those cases in which women, individually or as a group, are the victims of any form of violence.

"We could react with cries, with violence or with silence, but we choose to react with words", say the women who have set up the Tribunal. Its task is to compile complaints and testimony, evidence and documents, making all the material available to women's and other organizations fighting for greater justice.

Useful address: Tribunale 8 marzo  
Via Colonna Antonina, 41  
Rome tel. 679 17 58, 678 90 12

Doctors' wives

AMMI is the name of an association of doctors' wives in Italy, its objective being to prepare its members for the exacting and varied role of being a doctor's "colleague" in all the many aspects of his professional life: reception of patients, familiarity with professional, tax and other matters, etc.

Today it is the main aim of AMMI to obtain legal recognition for the work done by a doctor's wife in assisting him in his surgery and practice. AMMI would like to know whether there are comparable associations in Europe and what problems they have encountered.

Useful address: Norma Scevola  
Consigliera "AMMI"  
Largo Re Umberto 106  
10128 Turin

L U X E M B O U R G

European Women's Day

Women's Day was truly European in Luxembourg: the festivities were inaugurated in the presence of Grand Duchess Josephine-Charlotte herself at the Exhibition Hall.

To ensure that the day would be a success, all the women's groups had given a helping hand: Women's Catholic Action, Association of Social Democrat Women, the Luxembourg Federation of University Women, the National Federation of Luxembourg Women Christian Socialist Women, Communist Women, Socialist Women, Liberal Women, Women's Hostel, the Women's Liberation Movement, Union of Israeli Ladies, Union of Luxembourg Women and the Union of Soroptimist Clubs. Nobody failed to respond to the appeal launched by the National Council of Luxembourg Women.

It was, moreover, an occasion for women's groups to cement the ties of friendship and to meet the political and social bodies of the country: the political parties, the unions and representatives of management held very lively round table discussions on both European elections and on the application of EEC directives.

Being such close neighbours to the European institutions, one might have thought that the people of Luxembourg would be blasé, but this was not the case: the number of interesting questions and discussions was evidence that the public is still just as concerned with the future of the Community and that it is eager to participate.

Useful address: Conseil National des Femmes Luxembourgeoises  
Case postale 160  
Luxembourg

Opportunity and Equality

Under the name of "Chance-Egalité", the Women's Liberation Movement working group on crèches has set up a non-profit making association with the task of setting up, developing and running "day hostels" for children aged 0 to 13. Work has already started on arranging for a house to take in its first few children towards the end of the year.

Useful address: Chance-Egalité  
36 Route d'Esch  
Luxembourg / Ville

University women

Founded as far back as in 1925, the Luxembourg Federation of University Women is in the vanguard of a whole range of activities, from solidarity among its members to the provision of cultural and social information, without forgetting its discreet acts of generosity. For instance, the Federation has "adopted" an African girl attending secondary school in Meru (Kenya) and is paying for her education.

Only two steps away from the Court of Justice and European Parliament, the Federation is obviously well placed to keep its members abreast of the latest developments in Community policy.

Useful address: Fédération Luxembourgeoise des Femmes Universitaires  
10 rue de l'Abbé Lemire  
Luxembourg

N E T H E R L A N D S

On the telephone

In Dordrecht on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 9 to 12 a.m. and from 8 to 11 p.m., twenty or so volunteers reply to telephone calls from women. Run by women for women, the system known as "Vrouwen bellen vrouwen" (women calling women) treats all callers as anonymous, as are the women who take the calls, to ensure that any problem can be discussed freely and openly.

The principle is that two women accept a call, with one volunteer conducting the conversation and the other coming in when needed to support her or to collect any information that may be needed immediately.

Over the first few months, experience has shown that the problems most frequently raised are: loneliness, separation, relations with others and sex.

Useful address: no address, but a telephone number: 078/43 309.

U N I T E D K I N G D O M

A woman union leader

Mrs. Anne Spencer is the first woman in Britain to be elected to high Trade Union office. Winning 31,219 votes out of a possible 66,319, she took up her post as Assistant General Secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers at the end of April.

In her early forties, Anne Spencer started work in a clothing factory in her native Wales as a clerk at the age of 21. Brought up in the trade union tradition of the Welsh valleys, she immediately joined the Union and was soon active in her local branch. She took on a succession of union posts with increasing responsibilities in which, she says, she never met with discrimination on grounds of sex.

In an industry where 92% of the workers are women, it has been over 40 years since a woman held high office. Mrs. Spencer suggests the reason is that women in her industry have preferred to put their families first and their own ambitions a long way second, especially as most work part time.

Mrs. Spencer sees part of her job as encouraging positive discrimination and training in her industry to ensure that women have the opportunity to become managers. The Union has arranged special courses, but the response has not been as enthusiastic as she hoped.

Women in the clothing industry are among the low paid, partly because so few men work on the factory floor. The only way to raise earnings is to think in terms of what the 'notional man' would have demanded as pay for doing the same kind of work, Mrs. Spencer says.

The industry is hard to organize: in Britain, 75% of all companies employ fewer than 25 people and changes in men's fashions -from suits to jeans - have hit the industry hard. Of the 250,000 workers, just under half belong to the Tailor and Garment Workers Union.

Asked in an interview with Women of Europe whether she had a message for other women trade unions in the Community, she insisted that anything is possible for women, but they must seek to carry men with them in achieving their goals. She sees no sense in a sex war. Society, she says, must recognize that physical strength is not the only valuable attribute of a worker in industry. Dexterity, the ability to do a difficult but monotonous job well and the productivity of part-time workers are all undervalued today. Mrs. Spencer sees it as part of her job to change all this.

Useful address: National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers  
Radlett House, West Hill, Aspley Guise  
Milton Keynes MK 17

#### Women and the mass media

A survey on women and the mass media has been carried out by Margaret Gallagher of the Open University at Milton Keynes, commissioned by UNESCO. Research is on two points: women's image as conveyed by the mass media, and the type of jobs women can find in the communications industry.

Margaret Gallagher is interested in finding out what is happening in countries other than her own and has appealed to the women readers of Women of Europe for ideas, information, reports and other documents.

Useful address: Margaret Gallagher  
The Open University  
Institute of Educational Technology  
Walton Hall  
Milton Keynes MK7 6AA

#### Helping widows

Do you know that in Britain a widow of under 40 receives no pension? That a widow cannot live with a male friend without risking the loss of her pension? That a widow is taxed as if she were unmarried, without consideration for her specific responsibilities? All these issues and many others are to be resolutely tackled by the National Association of Widows with the help of its members - who will also find advice and support in the Association.

The anomalies and hardships suffered by widows are not confined to the United Kingdom: in many other countries matters are just as bad. For this reason, the National Association of Widows would like to contact sister organizations in the European Community which are having to face the same difficulties.

Useful address: National Association of Widows  
c/o Stafford District  
Voluntary Service Centre, Chell Road  
Stafford ST 16 2QA

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Men and Women of Europe in 1978

To mark International Women's Year in 1975, the European Commission conducted a preliminary large-scale sample survey in the nine EEC states on the attitude of men and women to certain problems within our society. In 1977, the Commission decided to compare some of the data compiled in 1975 and to delve deeper into certain important aspects such as the degree of satisfaction felt by women with a job and those without, the impact of women's working lives on training and the evolution of their social and political attitudes.

These are the main findings from this further research.

It should be pointed out first of all that the issue of women's status does not seem to have grown in importance in European public opinion over the past three years. Other concerns (inflation, for instance, or unemployment) may have overtaken "women's problems" or the public may have become a little too familiar with developments in this field.

On the subject of women's role in society, 19% of men and 15% of women feel that things are changing too fast, 21% and 27% that they are not changing fast enough, 45% and 40% that things "are just right", whereas 15% of men and 18% of women did not reply.

Asked whether they would have more confidence in a man or a woman political representative in European Parliament, 47% of men and 33% of women would have more confidence in a man, 6% and 16% in a woman and 42% and 44% think that there would be no difference.

The survey also revealed that men and women feel very much the same way with regard to job satisfaction or dissatisfaction. One marked difference between men and women lies in ambition: 41% of men hope for promotion, compared with 28% of women at work.

There is also a difference in the attitude towards the very fact of working: 65% of men and only 57% of women who have a job say that they would continue to work even if they had enough money to live without working.

Women who stay at home say that they are more satisfied with their position than those in employment in six countries out of ten - the three exceptions being Italy, Denmark and the Netherlands. Although the average percentage of housewives in the Community as a whole with a high degree of satisfaction is 50%, the figure rises to 77% in Ireland and drops as low as 38% in Italy. It should be stressed, however, that 47% of women in the home in the Community as a whole regret that they do not have a job.

Why don't women work if they want to? Easily the most frequent reply given is the fact of having family responsibilities (an average of 52% in the Community), followed by the husband's influence (15% on an average, with a figure of 24% in Belgium but no more than 5% in the United Kingdom).

Are husbands becoming accustomed to helping wives with domestic duties? On an average, 82% of men say they help their wives, but no more than 69% of the wives say that they receive help from their husbands. The jobs with which both are prepared to lend a hand include shopping, washing up, organizing a meal and even doing the household chores. But there are far fewer men willing to help when it comes to looking after a sick child, changing the nappies or ironing...

On concepts of male and female roles, a majority of men (42%) are not worried at having more women elected to Parliament; 26% of women share this view, but 35% feel that "it would be better". Better? In what way? The main reason given is that certain problems that have been neglected up to now would at last be tackled (55% of men and 52% of women). And women's problems would get a better hearing - a point of greater interest to women (53%) than to men (36%).

Why are there not more women in Parliament, then? "People prefer to vote for a man", claim 47% of men and 46% of women. Not enough women are prepared to stand for election, think: 32% of the women and 31% of the men. Those who do stand are not always the type of people for whom one would want to vote, stress 12% of women and 14% of men.

What about women in European Parliament, then? The question may have been premature, since one out of four interviewed did not reply. Yes, said an average of 41% of the men, they would like many women to be elected. The figures range widely between countries: 57% in France, 45% in the United Kingdom, 40% in Ireland, 37% in Germany, 36% in Belgium and Denmark, 30% in the Netherlands and, at the bottom of the list, 29% in Italy and Luxembourg. The average over the Community for women was 51%, the range being narrower: from 60% in the United Kingdom to 40% in the Netherlands.

Useful address: Commission of the European Communities  
Directorate-General of Information  
Information for Women's Organizations and the Press  
200 rue de la Loi  
1049 Brussels

#### Equality: the Commission intervenes

No fewer than seven countries out of nine are being threatened by the European Commission with citation before the Court of Justice in Luxembourg because they have not implemented the principle of the equality of men and women at work.

Even in the area of equal pay, infringements of the principle abound. In Denmark, the law speaks of "the same work", not of "work to which equal value is attributed" as should be the case. In the Netherlands, those employed in public services are excluded by law from the field of application. In Germany, there is no specific legislation to implement the principle of equal pay. Furthermore, the provision for supervision of the ways in which equality is being put into practice does not meet the requirements of the EEC directive. In Luxembourg, a "head of the family" allowance is granted to male married civil servants, while in the private sector "household premiums" or "housing allowances" are given only to men.

In Belgium, a "home allowance" is given to male civil servants but not to women meeting the same conditions. In France, the para-public sector is the main culprit in granting certain additional earnings benefits to men considered to be the heads of the households. Finally, in the United Kingdom a worker can claim equal pay only if a job evaluation scheme is implemented in the company for which he or she works.

It should be pointed out that the countries have been given 60 days to reply to the Commission's criticisms. When it has considered these replies, the Commission will forward a "stated opinion", a sort of formal notice to comply. If the country in question does not do so within a stated period, the matter will be officially referred to the Court of Justice.

RESEARCH, MEETINGS, BOOKS

European women discuss Europe

The "Femmes pour l'Europe" group has taken the initiative of compiling the thoughts of thirty or so European women on the subject of Europe. Published in six languages in a special 1979 edition of the "Idées et Etudes" collection of the Belgian Foreign Ministry publication, "Textes et Documents", these thoughts are prefaced by the Minister, Henri Simonet, who has provided the forum in which this group of women from the nine EEC countries can freely speak their minds.

"Femmes pour l'Europe" is a group founded by Ursula Hirschmann-Spinelli in 1970, who sensed the importance of the exploding feminist movement in the development of democracy. She brought together women from the nine countries, inspired by the same concern to go beyond nationalist frontiers and by the same wish to participate in "this great political building now being constructed: Europe".

Although they have no final plan for the Europe of tomorrow, the "Women for Europe" would like to see women bringing to politics not necessarily new themes but a fresh concept of every aspect of life in society, aspects which are of equal concern to men and to women but which would be placed in different orders of priority by women. The achievement of equal opportunity for men and women in every field of human activity is bound to lead to radical changes in society. One needs to look no further than the examples of employment or family planning to realise that there will be profound changes in the way Europeans of tomorrow will live.

Although the booklet does not claim to cover every problem exhaustively, this is an outline of the subjects with which it deals:

- I. As the European elections approach, how are the political parties grouped, what are their ideas on Europe, what facilities do women have to make their views heard, how can they help each other, how can they become better informed?
- II. Europe is a matter of concern to women, their emancipation, their participation in political life. How does a Berlin women, for instance, or even a Spanish women, look at this Europe?
- III. In considering Europe's outside policy, a chapter also covers its cooperation with developing countries and its monetary system.
- IV. An important chapter is devoted to directives on equal pay, equality at work, equality in the social security system and occupational training.
- V. Light is shed on solidarity among women by the attitudes of working women to the multinationals and the interest shown in woman immigrants and the women of the Fourth World.
- VI. The quality of life is discussed by taking a look at consumer rights, particularly the institutions existing in Denmark.

The 200 booklet can be obtained from "Femmes pour l'Europe" at la Place Quetelet, 1030 Brussels.

Women and female immigrants

Women immigrants account for 40% of the ~~non~~-French population of France and 5% of the female population as a whole. What is known about them? Isabelle Leonetti and Florence Levy have carried out a survey on 250 foreign women. 288 pages, Fr. fr. 38.

Useful address: Documentation française  
124 Rue Henri Barbusse  
93300 Aubervilliers

School books and children's books

What image of women is reflected in school textbooks and children's books? The Ile de France regional delegation for women's status has held a monthly meeting of a working committee to take a closer look at the ideas inculcated in our children - with every good intention, unfortunately! Its findings are a matter of concern.

Useful address: Ministère à la Condition féminine  
Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 Quai André Citroën  
75015 Paris

The social status of woman

Gaetana Cazora Russo has just published the findings of a survey conducted by interviews with more than 6,000 people, under the title of "Status sociale della donna". The chapter headings taken from the table of contents clearly show the scope of the research: career and conflict between husband and wife, the woman manager and her career, men and the problem of women, the "priesthood" of women in their families and society, etc. Two volumes, L.20,000. Pub. De Luca.

Adult education

Continuing Education for Women is the title of a special issue of the Newsletter published by the European Bureau of Adult Education. The publication reviews policies, facilities and organizations and it also contains a comprehensive international bibliography. 58 pages, 12.50 guilders.

Useful address: European Bureau of Adult Education  
Nieuwe Weg, 4 - B.P. 367  
Amersfoort

Equal Pay - A Bibliography

Roisin Conroy, librarian to the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union information section, has compiled the first and only comprehensive bibliography on equal pay in Ireland. It lists books, articles and commentaries on equal pay as well as a selection of material from other EEC countries for the sake of comparison. Says one commentator: rustling through the pages could well induce the impression that far more has been written about equal pay than done about it, but that should only add fuel to determination.

Useful address: I T G W O - Information Section  
10 Palmerston Park, Dublin 6

A history of the Movement

Little is known of the history of the women's movement and struggle in France since 1968: "We are a few women who think that there is a need, a need to preserve or rediscover a full and accurate reminder of the practices and experiences of the women's movement. It is a project: anyone who wishes to join in the work is welcome".

Useful address: "Groupe histoire du mouvement", c/o Editions Tierce  
1 rue des Fossés-Saint-Jacques, 75005 Paris

Women's betterment

In the eyes of a woman today, work is not just a way of earning her living but above all a means of participation, a door that opens the way to a society which has long treated women as invalids. The problems of women faced with their two-fold status of workers and housewives are the subject of this lively book, "Plusvalore Femminile", by Gabrielle Parca. 238 pages, Lire 3,500, published by Mondadori.

Women and Labour

This is the single theme to which the whole of edition no. 8 of the Bulletin of Comparative Labour Relations, an international journal, has been devoted. It covers countries from Belgium to Canada, from Poland to India, and in the space of 350 pages provides a rare compilation of information, figures and comment. Published by Kluwer BV, PO Box 23, Deventer (Netherlands).

Equality of status before the law

"De gelijke behandeling van mannen en vrouwen" is an outstanding legal work in Dutch written by two eminent jurists, Prof. R. Blampain and Mrs. Jo Walgrave. A weighty tome of over 700 pages published by Kluwer of Antwerp, it includes an introductory commentary and presents the text of legislation, preparatory work, documents and legal comment on equality of status at work according to European and Belgian law.

The body of legal information compiled in this work is undoubtedly unique in Europe; it is an essential work of reference both on equality of status as a whole and on equal pay. It even contains the legislation passed in Belgium in August 1976: a tour de force for both the authors and the publisher.

---

European audio-visual information dossier

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: IT'S EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

80 slides (no text).

1 cassette, recorded in the EEC languages: French, English, Danish, Dutch, Italian, German, plus Welsh, Irish and Luxemburger.

Playing time: 35 minutes (part 1, 15', part 2, 20').

A teaching aid to be used by organizers. The dossier is accompanied by a "guide" to organizing a discussion evening on Europe, a European information day, a weekend course focussing on European problems, etc.

Available on loan from: Directorate-General of Information,  
200 Rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels  
tel. (02) 735.80.40

INFORMATION: M. Pierre SERVOZ - CCE Berlaymont 2/98, ext. 2665 - 7877

ORDERS: M. Léon DEBAIXE - CCE Loi 7/35 - ext. 2587 - 2317  
or from our information offices in the European capitals  
(see addresses on page 2).