Women of Europe

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If you change your address, please send us back the label on the paper wrapper in which Women of Europe is posted to you. It has your special reference and we need it when recording your new address. Thank you!

The last items for this issue were received on 9 October 1981.

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

As is often the case, an astonishing amount of information poured in on a common theme. With this issue the theme - and it is hardly surprising - has been development aid, a shared concern which is rereflected in the firm resolve of "Women of Europe".

The Third World: women are reacting. The women from that world first of all. For many years - far too many - they have been struggling to survive from one day to the next. Then come the women from our own countries, who have all too long been shut out of the corridors of power and who are discovering at this late time the true condition of their counterparts in the Third World.

Thanks to the Decade for Women, information is getting abroad at last. The true position of other peoples is being brought home to us. The full significance of the dramatic contrast is becoming apparent: the rate of illiteracy, the death rate, living conditions and so on.

Having created - so recently - a feeling of solidarity within the European Community, European women do not wish to stop half way. Solidarity must be total; they will not be satisfied with half measures.

It is no mere coincidence that the Ministers for Cooperation in the EEC member states have included the subject of "women's place in development cooperation" in their agenda. They are aware of the twofold pressure: from the women of the Third World on the one hand, who want to play their part in the development of their own society for this is the most effective way in which they can experience emancipation to the full; and from women in the European Community on the other, since they too want to be involved in decisions on development, seeing that involvement not as a right but as a duty.

The Community and the North-South Dialogue

The Third World holds many keys to our economic and social future. By stepping up our development cooperation efforts in fields as varied as food, basic products, energy, industrialization, finance and trade, we can expect to secure steady supplies of raw materials - both energy and other types, as well as growth in our exports and the resulting creation of new jobs, as well as increasing modernization of our industry, stimulated by the competition that forces it to produce more sophisticated products at lower cost.

Where can the resources that are needed in helping the Third World to develop be found? In our own countries, of course, but also in oil exporting countries, which still suffer from a widespread lack of new technology and which are sometimes unable, due to the world recession, to find reliable, stable and remunerative ways of investing their enormous financial surpluses.

To revitalize the economy, it is in the common interests of developing nations, the oil countries and the industrialized nations to strengthen North-South relations as a whole. This is a challenge of special urgency in Europe which, even more than the United States, depends on others for its supplies and for its foreign trade. Europe must stress the goal of consistent and foreseeable attitudes and behaviour; it must ease shortages of energy, basic products and foodstuffs; it must promote development finance and boost the purchasing power of poorer countries. It must work for the restructuring of the production apparatus so that it can stand up to competition from the Third World under acceptable social and regional conditions, while improving its position with respect to its major industrial rivals.

New producers in the Third World are winning substantial shares of the international market in branches of industry like textiles. Their thrust is causing concern in industrialized nations, sometimes creating a protectionist reaction as it is frequently seen as a cause of unemployment. In practice, however, experience shows that exports from developing nations generate purchasing power within those nations that is immediately transformed into orders for capital goods and services from industrialized countries. These orders create more jobs in our own area than are eliminated by imports from the Third World. It should be borne in mind that the Third World is our largest customer, accounting for more than two fifths of European capital equipment exports.

The European Commission stresses the need to maintain an open system of world trade. The influx of manufactured goods from the Third World calls for efforts to adapt and restructure our industrial apparatus, which may be painful during times of recession and unemployment. The Community is trying to plan for the transitional phases to which they give rise, for instance by the multi-fibre arrangement and various agreements concerning textiles. In the longer term, however, the growing interdependence of the European Community and the Third World is a positive factor, one that can help us to continue to compete with other industrialized nations. Even more important, if we embark upon genuine industrial cooperation and if European markets are opened out to developing nations, each partner will derive benefit from the other partner's complementary features and comparative advantages (technology, labour costs, availability of raw materials or energy, markets, etc.). The European Community should look on the Third World not as a market to be conquered but as a true partner in growth. The adjustments that are inevitable in a policy of interdependence of this kind will be made easier by the pooling of information, consultation and greater cooperation between Europe and the developing nations.

To promote the dialogue between the North and South, the Community has now confirmed the generalized preferences granted to Third World exports. It will make every effort to promote codes of conduct and behaviour which will balance the obligations of both parties, counteracting the pressure for protectionist measures and placing the expansion of international trade at the service of world economic growth.

By helping a third of the world to progress, Europe is being true to its mission; in addition, it can improve its own position in the world and emerge more rapidly and more honourably from the period of economic difficulty through which it is passing.

Employment: challenge and response

Speaking to the Members of European Parliament, Mr Ivor Richard, the European Commissioner responsible for employment and social affairs, described the challenges and responses in the field of employment within the European Community in the following words.

"The way in which unemployment has been rising in the past three years is appalling. We have moved from some 6 million unemployed in 1978 to almost 9 million at the present time, and it is still rising. Already in Britain alone the figure is fast approaching 3 million, and the latest figures we have for the Community as a whole showed a staggering increase in unemployment of over 400,000 in one month. We are consistently failing to create enough jobs...Since 1975, the rate of increase in the labour force has been almost two and a half times greater than the increase in available employment. Not only have the numbers of unemployed increased alarmingly, but the composition of the unemployed has also altered. The worst hit sections of society have been the young, women and workers over fifty, and this is likely to be a persistent feature of employment patterns unless a major improvement in the overall situation takes place.

"...With well over 3 million young people already unemployed in the Community, and many millions more knowing that the same fate awaits them, this Community is destroying its future...We must move towards a longer term strategy in which **all** young people receive an adequate social and professional preparation for adult life. A 'social guarantee' as it is called in Scandinavian countries, a guarantee not of any kind of unskilled paid job but of a flexible range of learning opportunities where young people themselves can gradually take responsibility for their lives and careers and develop the enormous capacity which I believe they have to make a creative contribution to our societies.

"... The pattern of employment for **women** demonstrates that when they can obtain employment it tends to be relatively low paid and unskilled and they are liable to be among the first to be thrown out of work at the onset of a recession. "... The Commission considers that the employment problem needs a broad approach.

"...Some reflationary action by governments is needed if we are to get on the road to recovery though I accept we cannot rely solely on a traditional Keynesian type of reflation....Nor indeed can individual Member States act alone - there must be collective Community action. Structural problems must also be dealt with simultaneously.

"At the Joint Council, the French Ministers took the lead with their commitments to increase Government spending in order to stimulate activity in the economy, and President Mitterand has repeated this since. In my view, it is vital to ensure that this effort is supported in other countries within the framework of a concerted Community action and in conjunction with the full range of supporting structural policies. We have been practising deflation when, in reality, the Community is suffering a structural crisis. We are too big in the declining activities - agriculture and the traditional manufacturing industries - and too small in the growth sectors....We need to shift our activities much more rapidly into areas like energy and energy-saving, into the new information technology-based activities...and into those vast areas of employment potential in the service sector.

"...We need to develop new areas of employment in the energy and technology sectors and we also need to give special attention to the process of small-scale employment creation and to the potential contribution that different types of small enterprises, including cooperatives, can make in creating jobs, particularly through the exploitation of local economic potential. Job creation must become the overriding objective."

On this subject, Mr. Richard pointed out that "in its report on the 30th of May Mandate, the Commission took the position in relation to the Social Fund that henceforth priority should be given to job creation".

In stating the Commission's conclusions, he said that:

"we need to examine present methods of financing and organizing social security and other forms of social protection in order to identify methods which could provide a similar degree of protection to employees without discouraging employers from recruiting;

"the adaptation of working time should be promoted the scope for a flexible reduction of annual working time and the reduction of overtime working has to be further explored."

A European pathfinder

It was with sorrow that we learned of the death of a leading European, Lina Morino. She did not fade away but faced the ill that assailed her courageously.

The foundations for her commitment to and enthusiasm for the European cause had been firmly laid during the period of resistance. A member of the staff of Piero Malvestiti (Vice President of the EEC Commission and then President of the High Authority of the ECSC), Lina Morino was the first woman to be appointed to head a European Community information office: she served in the Rome office from 1958 to 1964.

A journalist by profession, she wrote for many newspapers and magazines as well as being the author of a book on the European Community and Africa. Militant in the cause of women, Lina Morino was a very active member of the European Women's Union where she was responsible for international relations.

The European Social Fund

"Women of Europe" has brought out its supplement n° 6, "Women and the European Social Fund", describing how the Social Fund works, the benefits that it can bring to women and the way to go about applying for financial aid for vocational training.

Useful address: Information for Women's Organizations and Press Directorate General - Information 200 Rue de la Loi B 1049 Brussels

The Labour Force within the Community

A less rapid rise in the proportion of women in employment, a reduction in part-time employment and a longer period of unemployment: these are the essential aspects of trends between 1977 and 1979 as they emerge from the sample survey on the labour force which is conducted in the European Community every two years.

Between 1977 and 1979, the ratio between the labour force (in other words people with a job plus the unemployed) and the total population of the European Community rose from 41.2% to 41.6%. This increase in the overall rate was, however, wholly attributable to changes in the composition of the population. The labour force as a percentage of the population aged 14 and over in fact fell slightly from 51.7% in 1977 to 51.3% in 1979.

The percentage of the male population aged 14 and over in employment fell from 69.6% in 1977 to 58.5% in 1979, a rate of decline that was almost identical to that in the previous two year period, whereas the equivalent rate for women rose far less fast than in the previous period: from 35.3% in 1977 to 35.7% in 1979. In the 60 and over age group, the rate of decline remained constant for both men and women, whereas the percentage of people aged 55 to 59 in employment fell considerably: from 59.7% to 57.4%.

In the group of people having a single main job, the number on short time fell slightly, probably due to a slight revival in the employment situation (short-time working, which had risen sharply between 1973 and 1975, had remained almost stationary in 1977).

The average working week for full-time workers during the week taken as a reference was shorter in 1979 than in 1977: 42.6 hours, compared with 43.1. The number of hours worked by all wage- and salary-earners (i.e. excluding the self-employed but including part-time workers) was 39.0 in 1979 (43.2 in agriculture, 40.2 in industry and 37.8 in the service sector).

The largest interpretation department in the world

Ms Reneé van Hoof has been appointed head of the new joint interpreters and conference service working for the Commission, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the European Investment Bank, to be a selfcontained unit within the Commission establishment.

With seven official languages (originally four) and 431 posts - not counting the free-lance interpreters used (1,117 selected and approved conference interpreters covering 15 languages who are on the service's automatic register) who now account for 29% of the work - this is by far the largest interpreter department in the world.

The number of meetings using interpreters has risen from 2,801 in 1959 to 8,423 in 1980, with the number of days worked by interpreters increasing from 4,438 in 1959 to 75,472 in 1980. For the sake of comparison, the United Nations, with 119 interpreters on its permanent establishment, arranged 1,768 meetings in New York in 1980.

Because of the growing number of meetings and the increasing complexity of language demands, an entirely new information system (SAFIR) has been developed to assign interpreters to the meetings arranged by the various institutions, i.e. about 3,000 assignments per week.

For the children of migrant workers

The directive of the Council of Ministers concerning the education of migrant workers' children issued on 25 July 1977 has now come into force. With the aim of integrating these children in the host country's educational system while preserving their cultural identity, the directive places three obligations on the Member States:

They must offer immigrant children reception education suited to their specific needs, to include appropriate teaching of the host country's language;

They must provide for the initial and continuous training of teachers who will be responsible for immigrant children;

In cooperation with the country of origin and within the ordinary educational context, they must promote the teaching of the children's own language and culture.

The European Commission is very conscious of the difficulties encountered in these tasks. Over the past five years, it has been conducting a series of pilot schemes in most of the Member States with a view to improving methods of reception, the teaching of the children's language and ways of fostering their culture of origin, teacher training and the development of teaching material.

The European Social Fund has also allocated substantial aid to the European Social Fund since 1974, thus helping to set up the educational structures best suited to the individual groups of immigrant workers' children.

It should be noted that the directive issued in pursuance of the objective of the free movement of EEC nationals does not cover the children of immigrants from non-member countries. Nevertheless, in adopting the directive the Council has clearly demonstrated the political resolve of the Member States to avoid creating discriminatory educational structures.

It appears that the number of children of immigrants (from both inside and outside the Community) in Member States' educational systems is about 2 million.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

European and Third World Parliamentarians

At the end of September, Members of Parliament from 61 African Caribbean and Pacific states and from European Parliament met in Luxembourg during the ACP/EEC consultative assembly.

One of the steps taken by this assembly was to adopt the resolution attached to the report by Mr Insanally, the Ambassador for Guyana, with a set of clear-cut proposals as to ways of achieving the "optimum application" of the second Lomé Convention.

The meeting was the occasion for the first major political speech to be made by Mr Pisani - the new member of the European Commission with responsibility for development policy.

He spoke of the relations between the African, Caribbean and Pacific states that were signatories to the Lomé Convention and the EEC in an international situation characterized by its "general disruption", its dangerous strategic instability and an unceasing ideological conflict. In this context, the North-South dialogue is no longer the nub of our concern but has been displaced from the focal centre by our fear of an East-West confrontation.

Having discussed the prime problem of food in depth and at length, Mr Pisani stressed the right of the Third World countries to the transfer of technology, but said that the the transfer should be made in such a way that they are the masters and not the servants of that technology.

He concluded by saying that the Lomé Convention does not entitle Europeans to rest on their laurels but rather implies the duty to promote the development of others.

During the general debate, Renate-Charlotte Rabbethge asked the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to think about presenting a report on the position of their women at the next meeting.

It was during this assembly that cultural cooperation was debated for the first time. Mr Chasle, the Mauritian Ambassador to the European Communities, pointed out that "talking culture" meant that development was being viewed in its historical and social context. A lengthy resolution was passed, suggesting various steps that could be taken in this domain. The ACP/EEC consultative assembly hoped, for instance, to see an upsurge of a "cultural and human tourism" inspired by a genuine desire to understand other people and their way of life. It called for an "organ of dialogue" to be created which would alert Europeans to the cultural wealth and tourist potential of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

From Lomé 1 to Lomé 2

At the end of September 1980, the fifth annual meeting of the Lomé Convention Consultative Assembly was held in Luxembourg, attended by parliamentarians from the signatory countries.

Among the reports which they included in the agenda, one was presented by Katharina Focke, setting out a balanced review of Lomé 1 together with guidance on the implementation of Lomé 2. The Consultative Assembly called for wide publicity for this report and the accompanying resolution.

In the words of Simone Weil herself, "public opinion must know more - and thereby understand more - about the operation and goals of this regional cooperation agreement which undoubtedly sets an outstanding example of ways of contributing to the dialogue between industrialized countries and the developing nations".

Mr Salomon Tandeng Muna, President of the Cameroun National Assembly and Co-President of the ACP/EEC Consultative Assembly, also paid homage "to the perseverance and conviction of Ms Focke and her colleagues, who imbued documents that were sometimes of a highly technical nature with an enriching political style and vigour".

Now published and distributed by European Parliament under the title of "From Lomé 1 to Lomé 2", Katharina Focke's report is unquestionably the most comprehensive and readable account of European development aid policy.

Her report has the additional merit of frankness. In her conclusions, she points out that Lomé 2 contributes just over \$7,000 million in five years, whereas \$30,000 million a year is needed to provide effective help to the developing nations. "Lomé 2 urgently needs to be supplemented by substantial progress in the North-South dialogue, accompanied by a determined commitment towards immediate aid in the fields of energy, food and the balance of payments...".

The September Session

The originators of several of the leading reports approved by European Parliament during its September session were women. Their themes were as political and controversial as the relations between the European Community and the Gulf states, the impact of new technology on employment and human rights in Latin America.

Parliament, for instance, adopted a report by the German Social Democrat Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, who called for the establishment of "contractual" cooperative relationships between the Community and the Gulf States. European Parliament did not take up the "more audacious proposals" concerning the political situation in the Middle East and the creation of a public oil procurement and exploration company in Europe, but approved the political "message" so close to the rapporteur's heart. Defending her report, Ms Wieczorek-Zeul urged her colleagues not to adopt a "patriarchal" attitude to relations with countries in such a sensitive situation. Several of those colleagues expressed their full support: foremost among them Luciana Castellina, rapporteur for the "development" committee, who stressed the need for a revamped relationship with the Gulf States. Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, spokesman for the European Progressive Democrats, said that the report was highly courageous and exhaustive but that it was a little too biassed in favour of the Gulf States and did not ask for sufficient guarantees for the European side. Shelagh Forster, who spoke on behalf of the Conservatives, went much further in her critical comments: the report, she said, linked politics and economics too closely and did not pay sufficient attention to the risks to any contractual tie between the Gulf States and the Community arising from instability in those countries.

Another focal point in the session was the preliminary discussion of the <u>draft budget for the Community in 1982</u> (the actual budget session, at which a vote will be taken on the first reading, is scheduled for early November). **Christiane Scrivener**, the Liberal spokesman, joined in the debate, calling on the Council to "take things a little more seriously", saying that the budget estimate as adopted by the Council "does not come up to our expectations; once again, we are disappointed". Ms Scrivener stressed the need for the 1982 Community budget to incorporate "at least some elements of a new structure". While budgetary austerity is a necessity in the current situation, she remarked, the implementation of more effective Community policies will ease the burden on national budgets while increasing the European budget.

Another German Social-Democrat, **Heinke Salisch**, presented a report in the major debate on employment. Adopted with a few amendments (which she accepted, however reluctantly), the report dealt in depth with the <u>influence of new technology and forms of energy on employment</u>. She was not "given to euphoria over technology"; we want to prevent the "explosion of the social gunpowder" inherent in the introduction of microelectronics and the use of certain sources of energy. On the other hand, she stressed the potential of "soft energies" in creating employment.

During the same debate, Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago Cerretti, Vice Chairman of the Christian Democrat Group, called on Europe to tackle the technological revolution in such a way that its effects on employment will be positive, adopting a resolutely Community stand and making better use of all the existing financial instruments within EEC. The reaction of Else Hammerich, a member of the Danish movement against membership of the Community and spokesman for the Group for the Technical Coordination and Defence of Independent Groups and Members, was far more sceptical: in its views on unemployment the Community does not take sufficient account of the human factor. Speaking for the Group of the European Progressive Democrats, Winifred Ewing from Scotland stressed the problem of the outlying regions, whereas Tove Nielsen, on behalf of the Liberals, differed from other Parliamentarians in laying the emphasis on the struggle for growth and competitiveness. The French Socialist, Gisèle Charzat, in turn deplored a policy that excludes the old and penalizes women even though, through their integration into the world of work, they have made such a positive contribution to the achievement of prosperity in the European Community over the past decade. Sile De Valera of the European Progressive Democrats stated her view that shorter working hours should not be the point of departure but the outcome of a successful social policy.

Another report with a "social" content adopted by Parliament was presented by **Phili Viehoff** (Neth, Socialist) on the <u>education of migrant</u> workers. Parliament made only a few amendments to this report, which was highly critical of the way in which Member States apply the directive which came into force in July this year.

Marie-Madeleine Fourcade (making her final bow in Parliament as a result of the "turn-and-turn-about" system applied by her party, the Gaullists) introduced a report which seemed to be fairly technical but which in fact sparked off a heated Greek-Turkish debate - with Turkish journalists pouring into Strasbourg to cover it. The report was on the <u>extension of</u> the EEC customs territory to air and sea space. The dispute arose from a reference to the need for the Greek islands in the Aegean to have its own territorial waters, part of the continental shelf and an economic zone.

Winifred Ewing spoke up in the emergency debate on <u>fishing policy</u> that was held during a night sitting, vigorously protesting against the European Commission's decision, taken "without notice", to ask the Member States to lift the ban on herring fishing following the failure of the July "fisheries Council" since, she said, this was a complete change of course.

The senior member of Parliament, Louise Weiss (European Progressive Democrats) was the author of a report expressing the hope that the planned exhibition on the Community's contribution to European development would be the first step towards the creation of a European unification museum. **Beata Ann Brookes**, British Conservative, thought that the European cause would not be served by a museum; the development of a European philosophy depends more on the people who place themselves at the service of the Community. The exhibition is due to open in Strasbourg in 1982 and will then travel around Europe.

Of the purely "political" debates, the discussion on the violation of human rights in Guatemala generated by the report by the Dutch Socialist, **Ien van den Heuvel**, was particularly heated. Parliament finally adopted an attenuated version: while it condemned the violation of human rights in this Latin American country, Parliament did not tackle the question of governmental responsibility as openly as the rapporteur would have wished and did not call upon the European Community to exercise the "utmost restraint" in its dealings with Guatemala.

Several women MEPs also spoke in the debate on the <u>situation in Salvador</u> that culminated in the adoption of a comporomise resolution stressing the need for a political solution in this country. The speakers included two Socialists, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul and Ien van den Heuvel, for instance, had been members of the group that visited Salvador recently (whose other members included Socialist and Christian Democrat MEPs), Maria Fabrizia Baduel-Glorioso (Italy, Communist) who would have preferred the tougher resolution originally presented by the Socialist Group, and Luciana Castellina of the "Coordination Group".

Urbino University

Simone Veil, the President of European Parliament, has been awarded an honorary degree in sociology by the University of Urbino. In presenting the title, the Rector, Mr Carlo Bo, hailed Madame Veil as the "most impassioned ambassador for the new Europe". In her reply, she pointed out the need for balance within the Community founded on a fairer social order.

Women's Peace March

When the Women's Peace March passed through Brussels this summer, a delegation of the "marchers" was received in European Parliament by a group of MEPs, including **Anne-Marie Lizin** (Belgium, Socialist) and Ernest Glinne, Chairman of the Socialist Group in European Parliament.

In late September, a group of about ten MEPs - including Anne-Marie Lizin, Heidemarie Wieczoreck-Zeul, Marie-Claude Vayssade, Maria Fabrizia Baduel-Glorioso and Luciana Castellina - took part in a 100,000-strong peace march from Perugia to Assisi in Italy.

On both occasions, the European parliamentarians stressed "how concerted is the desire for peace in Europe, a desire expressed in this way. Europe is the most highly armed, the most explosive and the most exposed territory in the world".

Family policy

The special issue of the European People's Party journal, "DC Europe", devoted to the subject of women in Europe, as reported in "Women of Europe" no. 21/81, was only one of the manifestations of this Party's concern - as testified by the motion for a resolution dated 30 October 1979 presented by the women MEPs Lenz, Schleicher, Rabbethge, Cassanmagnago Cerretti, Boot, Maij-Weggen, etc., on the EPP's behalf (see parliamentary reports for 1979-80, EP 60.838).

Maria Luisa Cassannagnago has been asked to draw up a report on family policy in the European Commission on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment.

Spanish women and Europe

A "Spanish women's committee" has been set up within the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement. The committee has already been represented at the recent meeting of the European Movement's International Women's Committee held in Rome, in the person of Flora Isgleas-Gironella.

In a short but fervently worded introductory document, Flora Isgleas-Gironella points out that Spaniards have longed for many years to take part in the building of Europe. As far back as in 1948, the Hague European Congress was attended by many Spaniards (in exile): Indalecio Prieto, Salvador de Madariaga, Enric Adroher-Gironella, Manuel de Irujo and others.

Now that Spain has reinstated a democratic system, its women are striving to make up for the time wasted and to establish many more ties with women's groups in the Community countries.

Useful address: Flora Isgleas-Gironella C/Travessera de Gracia nº 16 - Atic B Barcelona 21

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

Belgium and the women of the Third World

In the spirit of the Action Plan launched by the United Nations in Copenhagen, the Belgian Minister for Development Cooperation is determined to involve women fully in Belgium's development work.

A working group has been set up under the name of "Woman in Development Cooperation" and has now issued a report that sets out thirty or so specific recommendations.

The overall guidance that it gives reflects a two-fold concern: that the women of Belgium should be more effectively involved with cooperation for development, and that the women of the Third World should help to plan and achieve their own development.

On the subject of bilateral cooperation, the working group feels that Belgium should work to ensure that the women responsible are represented not only at meetings of joint committees but also in the preparatory technical work. Women's contribution to the process of development should be systematically included in the agenda of every joint committee.

Belgium must do all it can to ensure that the opportunities for cooperation with women are taken into account with a larger number of integrated projects. Women should be assigned a role in many more projects - and in a more diversified range of projects.

Post-graduate courses

The Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Brussels Free University - Dutchspeaking section - is to arrange post-graduate courses in February and March 1982 on the theme of women's problems. The courses will be five in number and will cover a range of subjects: the socio-biological differences between men and women; socio-historic aspects of feminism; women and work; relations between partners; and women's legal position.

Useful address

s Centrum voor Permanente Vorming Faculteit geneeskunde en Farmacie - V.U.B. Pleinlaan 2 1000 Brussels

Nationality

Belgium's nationality laws date back to 1932. The Minister of Justice has now tabled a bill which would eliminate the discrimination now made between men and women in this field.

The first major change would be that nationality would cease to be affected by marriage. A Belgian woman marrying a foreigner would no longer automatically acquire her husband's nationality, as has been the case up to now. The foreign spouse - man or woman - would also be able to apply for Belgian nationality following two years' residence in Belgium if the couple settles there.

Following the same line of reasoning, a child born in Belgium would be Belgian if either its father or its mother is Belgian, as would any child born outside Belgium if its Belgian parent was himself or herself born in Belgium.

The passing of this bill will be delayed by the fall of the Belgian Government and the national election which will follow.

Useful address Ministry of Justice Place Poelaerts 1050 Brussels

Women in the army

By royal decree, women have been placed on precisely the same footing as men in the army and they are to be givenevery opportunity for promotion and special duties.

This form of equality has not been greeted with universal enthusiasm by women's groups. An end to discrimination in the army was certainly not high on the list of female emancipation priorities. Nevertheless, the royal decree is the logical outcome of the various regulations and agreements already approved in Belgium.

Under a 1975 law on the State police force, 640 women could be recruited for specific duties. In the same year, legislation on the army made it possible for women volunteers to enlist. In 1976, another law stated that women members of the army, air force and navy as well as the medical corps would have the same rights and duties as their male counterparts. Even so, the list of posts they could fill was restricted; this restriction has now been removed.

Useful address Ministère de la Défense Nationale 6-8 Rue Lambermont 1000 Brussels

Abortion

The Government crisis that blow up in Belgium late in September has once again protracted the debate on abortion. For several years now a tacit arrangement has reigned under which the legal authorities have refrained from taking action against doctors and women pending a new abortion law. Nevertheless, in the absence of a clear majority, the political parties were unable to bring in an amendment to the existing legislation.

Faced with this impasse, the public prosecutor felt that he could no longer turn a blind eye to what are in fact infringements of the law and, in the spring, the legal authorities decided to take action. Several cases went before the criminal courts in Brussels, the ultimate aim being to force Parliament to bring in legislation to clarify the blurred issue.

In the first few cases to be heard early in September, the judges refused to defer them sine die, as this would merely prolong the existing situation and all its ambiguities. They also refused to combine the various cases. The general hope - not least on the part of the people charged was that Parliament would bring in a new law very quickly so that the trials need not go on.

The Government crisis and the holding of elections on 8 November 1981 have again put off the political solution. In the meanwhile, the cases are continuing. And so are the street demonstrations for the decriminalization of abortion.

Useful address	Coordination pour la dépénalisation de l'avortement
	c/o Monique Guedin - 23 Rue A. Giron
	1050 Brussels

Night shifts

The "Commission du Travail des Femmes" (Women's Employment Committee) has been discussing at length the issue of women and night work. The current regulations are complex: depending on the type of work, the ban may be absolute, there may be no restrictions at all, or various provisos may be made, such as permitting work up to 10 or 11 or 12 p.m. or 1 a.m.

At the end of the discussions it proved impossible to make any recommendations, since the views expressed by the workers' representatives and by the employers could not be reconciled.

The workers' representatives opined that night shifts are just as undesirable for men as for women and said they wanted a complete review of the problem as part of the debate on the humanization of work.

The employers' representatives felt that the point at issue was whether concessions allowing men to work at night might be extended to women, arguing that great progress has now been made in working conditions, safety and health.

Useful address Commission du Travail des Femmes 51-53 Rue Belliard 1040 Brussels

Women in the Mines

In the light of a proposal made by the Minister for Employment, the decision has been reached to lift the ban on work underground in the case of women mining engineers.

Useful address Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail Rue Belliard 51-53 1040 Brussels

New technology

The Women's Employment Committee held a two-day seminar early in October on "new technology and women's employment". Working conditions, the role of education, vocational retraining for women, the economic outlook and accounts of actual experience were on the first day's agenda.

On the second day, working groups tried to pinpoint two problems: the organization of work and working conditions - changes to be made for the integration of women; and adaptations to women's education, training and retraining in the light of technological advances.

In the course of the two days, especially the group discussions, it became apparent that a majority of those present, both men and women, felt that it was vital to:

orchestrate a systematic information campaign on the impact of new technology on employment; generate consultation between the social partners on the problems of changes at work; and consult the women who are living through or who will experience these changes.

As usual the Committee will be publishing the proceedings of the meeting.

Useful address Commission du Travail des Femmes Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail 51-53 Rue Belliard 1040 Brussels

DENMARK

Women and decision-making

In October, Denmark was the host country for a conference held under the auspices of the Council of Nordic Ministers on "women and the decision-making process". About forty women came to the meeting from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Denmark.

The list of questions under discussion included: how important are "sex quotas"?; what role has positive discrimination to play?; can law foster equality and, if so, why and how or, if not, why not?; do women differ from men in the methods they use to achieve their aims at work?; how does a woman go about obtaining an appointment to a committee or a council?; what impact does a greater or less number of women in an establishment have?

The conference findings are to be published and it is expected that plans of action and research will follow.

Useful address	Ligestillingsrådet	
	Frederiksgade 21, 1	
	1265, Copenhagen	

A ministerial telegram

The Danish National Women's Council - Danske Kvinders Nationalråd - was delighted with the telegram sent by Kjeld Olesen, the Foreign Minister, to the U.N. Secretary General.

The text of the telegram ran: "I hope that the conclusions reached by the Copenhagen Conference will continue to inspire practical action, both at international and national level, thus improving the position of women throughout the world and at the same time contributing to a more just and equitable world economic order".

The Minister ended with an assurance of the Danish Government's firm support.



Women's rights

Yvette Roudy, Minister for Women's Rights, has now introduced the French Government's policy for the next few months, during which it intends to embark on the promotion of women's rights in the movement towards greater freedom, equality, employment and responsibility.

Under this policy,

- 1. At least 60% of on-the-job training courses and contracts designed to promote the integration of young people in the world of work must be allocated to young women. The justification for this "positive discrimination" in favour of girls is the fact that two thirds of the unemployed aged under 25 are female.
- 2. Following consultation with union and employer organizations, the Government will table a new bill on part-time work which will offer both men and women who wish to work part-time guarantees that they were not given by the law brought in by Parliament in 1980.
- 3. Following consultation with union and employer organizations, the Government will take the necessary steps to eliminiate discrimination on grounds of sex in recruitment, wages and career opportunities in both sectors, the private and the public.
- 4. Two bills are to be put before Parliament:

one will eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sex from which women suffer in the domains of the arts, information and education;

the other will allow organizations having special concern to take legal action in cases of discrimination against women and rape.

With the help of grants for job creation schemes at local level and social jobs, in accordance with the decision reached by the Council of Ministers on 10 June 1981, encouragement will be given for the establishment of women's rights information centres.

5. A wide-ranging contraception information campaign will be launched by the Minister for Women's Rights before the end of the year.

The necessary resources will be provided and instructions given to ensure that the laws on contraception and voluntary termination of pregnancy are in fact applied in all hospitals, in a spirit of understanding and humanity.

- 6. The Minister of State for the Interior and Decentralization will take the necessary steps by early 1982 to ensure that women victims of violence and women in distress going to police stations will be dealt with by specially trained staff, preferably female.
- 7. The Minister for Women's Rights will arrange for a report to be prepared on the position of women in economic, social and political life and on legal measures and practices that conflict with the principle of equal rights for men and women. The report will then be made public.
- 8. Two surveys will be conducted on pension matters: one on women's pension rights on their own account and the level of pension reverting to them; the other on the problems that arise in obtaining payment of alimony.

Priority for young children

Georgina Dufoix, the Secretary of State responsible for family affairs, has outlined her family policy.

"Access to facilities provided for children is a national imperative", she declared. Since it is not feasible to be equally effective in every field all at once, she has decided that the priority in the first instance should be the care of the under-threes. The funds allocated for this purpose under the 1982 budget will be sufficient to create more than 10,000 places in community and family day care units.

Apart from the effort to provide these facilities, Ms Dufoix has said that she intends to review direct financial aid, as well as taxation to the extent that it affects family policy.

Useful address Secrétariat d'Etat à la Famille 8 Avenue de Ségur 75007 Paris

Abortion and the law

The Minister for Women's Rights, Yvette Roudy, has announced that three decrees on abortion are being drafted. Under one decree, voluntary terminations could be refunded out of Social Security. The second would reduce the period of residence required of foreign women wishing to have an abortion in France. The third would ensure that voluntary terminations can be carried out in all public hospitals.

Useful address

Ministère des Droits de la Femme 25 Avenue Charles Floquet 75007 Paris

Prostitution: a new approach

Yvette Roudy, the Minister responsible for Women's Rights, has been listening to humanitarian associations and those with the welfare of prostitutes at heart. She has now described the general policies she will be adopting to deal with prostitutions.

Her first objective will be to combat the procurement of women for immoral purposes. Sharing the views already adopted by European Parliament, Ms Roudy would like to see action on a European scale against the "big" procurers, those that operate an internatonal traffic. Other measures should be found to deal with the "smaller" pimps, for the action now being taken against them all too often rebounds on the prostitutes.

The second objective described by Ms Roudy is in the field of social rehabilitation. "For a prostitute to start a new life," it is thought in the Ministry, "she must have someone to talk to." This will undoubtedly form an important part of the duties of the hundred or so women of inspector rank who are to be appointed to the police stations by the end of 1981.

The funds made available to associations concerned with the welfare of the women involved are to be reviewed. Above all, however, the ministry intends to go to the social roots of the evil. In the words of Simone Iff, the official on the Minister's staff with special responsibility for the problem, "so long as 60% of the jobless are women, so long as there is no coherent policy for the education and training of women, in many cases a woman will have no choice other than prostitution".

Useful address	Ministère des Droits de la Femme
	25 Avenue Charles Floquet
	<u>75007 Paris</u>

Women in agriculture

According to a recent official enquiry (the general agricultural census), one third of work on the land is done by women - more precisely, 29.3%.

To quote another figure, one out of ten farmers is a woman. Nevertheless, a feature of the farming population is the emigration of women away from the land. In 1980, for instance, there were 153 men in the 20-29 age group for every 100 women of the same age, whereas the figure as recently as in 1971 was 133 men. This tendency for women to desert the countryside obviously affects the number of marriages and brings down the birth rate.

Useful address Ministère de l'Agriculture Service central des enquêtes et études statistiques 4 Avenue de Saint-Mandé 75570 Paris

Women citizens

To publicize the action on which it is engaged, the Ministry for Women's Rights is bringing out an information bulletin with the title of "Citoyennes à part entière" (fully paid up women citizens).

A footnote in the first issue causes a wry smile: "Request received by the Ministry for Women's Rights: the curriculum vitae of each member of the minister's personal staff. The purpose: to collate a 'dictionary of 1,000 Government men'..."

Useful address Ministère des Droits de la Femme 25 Avenue Charles Floquet 75007 Paris

Women and the Army

Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, has decided that women should be able to be parachutists and helicopter pilots, not in armed combat but in rescue operations and liaison missions.

The French armed forces have about 14,100 women, 500 of them officers. The breakdown by service is: 6,500 in the army, 4,400 in the air force, 2,300 in the health corps, 650 in the navy and 250 in the corps of gendarmes.

The number of women has increased markedly, since the count in 1972 was only 9,000.

Useful address Ministère de la Défense 14 Rue St Dominique 75007 Paris

GERMANY

An aide-mémoire

The working group on a policy for women - Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik - attached to the Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family and Health, has brought out a "Stichworte zur Frauenpolitik der Bundesregierung" (a memo-randum on the Federal Government's policy in favour of women).

The Government lists six priorities, described in detail in the publication with full supporting figures:

> improved education; more job opportunities; a balance between family and careers; higher status for women within their families; a youth policy in favour of girls; an anti-discrimination and pro-equality law.

Pilot schemes have already been launched in several of these fields, and the working group will be happy to forward details to anyone interested.

Useful address Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik Bundesministerium Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit Kennedy-Allee 105-107 5,300 Bonn 1

Career prospects for women

Should there be a special law requiring companies and authorities to draw up a special plan for the advancement of women in their jobs? The point is to be debated at a public hearing that the working group on a policy for women hopes to arrange in Bonn in November.

The experience acquired in this field in the United States will undoubtedly be scrutinized, as will the results already achieved by a few employers in Germany such as the "Zeche Sophia Jacoba" mining company, "VEBA Kraftwerkte Ruhr AG", "Ferdinand Peiroth Weingut-Weinkellerei GmbH" (a wine firm), a leading oil company (ARAL) and the local authority in the town of Rüsselsheim.

Useful address Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik Bundesministerium Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit Kennedy-Allee 105-107 5,300 Bonn 1

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Non-statutory benefits

The Federal industrial tribunal has given a ruling (ref. Aktenzeichen 5 AZR 1182/79) which will make it obligatory to apply the principle of equality for men and women when granting extra-legal benefits. The case in question was brought by 28 women employees of a photographic laboratory in Gelsenkirchen. The men working in the film developing department, almost all of whom were on the night shift, earned an hourly average of DM.1.50 more than the women working on the morning or evening shift. The women claimed that they were doing the same work as the men and they should be entitled to an equivalent bonus in pursuance of the principle of equal pay.

On the whole the industrial tribunal's judgement has been favourably received. Irmgard Blättel, a member of the German trade union confideration (DGB) committee, has welcomed it as an incentive to women to speak out when they feel they have been discriminated against. The Federal Minister for the Family, Antje Huber, has spoken of a "significant signal" both to employers and to women workers.

Useful address Bundesarbeitsgericht Kassel

Equality in Hamburg

The free Hanseatic city of Hamburg (which enjoys the status of a region) has had a "Leitstelle Gleichstellung der Frau" - a women's equality agency - since 1979; this agency has now published a report on its experience during its first two years of life.

According to a recent survey, one out of three residents of Hamburg knows about the agency's existence. Its reputation has been built up by its work in many fields. The issues with which it is concerned include women in the public sector (there are more than 50,000 women civil servants), women and work, and women in the family and in the social environment. Known by its abbreviation, "GF" has responded to 900 individual enquiries in the space of two years, about 400 on the subject of women and work. Its staff of eight (seven women and one man) meet twice a week to discuss matters of principle and to ensure that the action for which each one is responsible is consistent with the others' work.

Useful address Leitstelle Gleichstellung der Frau Poststrasse 11 2000 Hamburg 36

Saarland

Saar, the German region, has set up a "Referat Frauenfragen" (women's issues bureau) within the regional Ministry for Employment, Health and Social Affairs. Under its terms of reference, it will be consulted when plans of action and legislation relating to women are being drawn up.

Useful address Gisela König - Referat Frauenfragen Ministerium für Arbeit, Gesundheit und Sozialordnung -Saarland - Hindenburgstrasse 23 <u>6600 Saarbrücke</u>n

Bade-Würtemberg

A "Beirat für Frauenfragen" (Council for women's affairs) has been set up by the Bade-Würtemberg Regional Ministry for Employment, Health and Social Action. With fourteen representatives of the churches, employers, workers, countrywomen, housewives and family associations, etc., the council will act as an advisory body to the Frauenreferat, the women's bureau, led by Ms Mehrle within the Ministry.

Useful address Frauenreferat Ministerium für Arbeit, Gesundheit und Sozialordnung -Bade-Würtemberg - Postfach 1250 7000 Stuttgart 1

GREECE

National and European Parliament elections

These elections are being held on 18 October 1981, with 205 women standing. The percentage of women in each party's list of candidates is:

Nea Dimokra	tia (New Democracy - right wing)	3.0%
PASSOK	(Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement)	5.5%
Ko-Di-So	(Social Democrat Party)	11.3%
EDIK	(Democratic Centre Union)	12.0%
K.K.Es	(Inland Greek Communist Party)	11.5%
K.K.E.	(Greek Communist Party)	11.0%

The League for Women's Rights arranged a meeting to introduce all the women candidates in the Athens region to the women voters. The slogan launched by the League is "If she's as good as a man, vote for a woman". The League does not advocate supporting any woman candidate regardless of her calibre, on the grounds that only capable and competent women can pave the way for wider access to responsibility for others.

Too old at 27

The Employment Equality Agency has decided to question the practice of authorities of spating maximum ages when recruiting for jobs.

A year ago, one woman won her claim in the Labour Court, in which she argued that a maximum recruitment age constitutes unfair discrimination against women. Grainne O Broin, who was 42 at the time, was considered too old for a position advertised for applicants up to 27, even though she had worked in the same job as a "temporary" for the past ten years.

It seems now that the judgement is not binding on other public authorities; indeed, Ms O Broin's health board employers have since advertised jobs with maximum recruitment ages.

This practice - as acknowledged by the Court - penalizes mothers, as they cannot return to work before the maximum age.

Useful address Employment Equality Agency Davitt House, Mespil Road Dublin 4

Someone else's child

A constant worry of many mothers is what will happen to their children if they become ill. A regional health authority in Ireland has evolved a novel solution. A panel of foster mothers has been specially picked in one large Dublin suburb.

Day care fostering is unlike regular fostering (with children sleeping in their foster homes) in that it offers daytime cover for incapacitated mothers when, for instance, fathers are unable to obtain leave from their jobs to look after their children. The scheme may also be used to help single parent families. Since it is neighbourhood-based, children need not be uprooted from their schools or playgroups.

The scheme is administered by the Fostering Resource Group, itself a novel section within the health authority. Its function is to seek out potential foster parents, train them and match them to individual children in need of temporary care or families. Foster parents are paid a small fee for the work they do.

Useful address Fostering Resource Group, Eastern Health Board 1 James's Street Dublin 8

In the Chamber of Deputies

It is a time-honoured tradition that the positions of chairman and vicechairman of parliamentary committees should be carefully apportioned among the political parties - but not between the sexes. Out of the 33 positions to be filled, only one has gone to a woman. The shining exception is Maria Teresa Granata Caruso (of the Italian Communist Party), who acts as the vice-chairman of the Justice Committee.

Useful address Camera dei Deputati Palazzo Montecitorio Rome

A flying squad leader

Fernanda Santorsola, agded 44, is the first woman to command a police flying squad. Born in Bari and a graduate in criminal law, she joined the police force in 1961 and arrived in Ancona in 1963 with the rank of inspector. Asked by a journalist from "Corriere della Sera" about fear, Fernanda Santorsola replied "I don't know anyone who is not afraid".

Vocational training

"Equality of opportunity and vocational training for women - the Italian case" is the subject of a survey undertaken by CEDEFOP, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin.

Lengthy preparations have been made for this research by the women's departments of the CGIL, CISL and UIL union federations, which have carried out a large number of surveys to find out more about the working lives of Italian women.

Three research centres (CREL, IRES and CERES) are helping to guarantee the success of the venture launched by CEDEFOP.

Useful address CREL Piazzale Porta Pia 121 <u>Rome</u>

LUXEMBOURG

Local elections

In the local elections in October 1981, only 236 of the 2,562 candidates were women (9%). In 68 of the 118 constituencies in Luxembourg there was not even a single woman candidate to vote for. One point of interest, however, is that more women stood for election in the city of Luxembourg, the proportion being 24%. These figures are surprising when compared to the percentage of women candidates in the 1979 national elections: 14%.

Useful address Ministère de l'intérieur Rue Beaumont, Luxembourg

The views of the Council of State

The Council of State, with 22 members (one a woman), was asked for its views on a bill on equality for men and women in access to employment, training and advancement at work. One of the comments made by the Council of State was that "it would be unreasonable to try to ignore the psychological, mental and moral differences between the sexes". Another view: "since a woman is able, ready and willing to do the same work as a man, it is her absolute right to demand status identical to that enjoyed by a male worker".

The Council expressed one concern: if efforts are made to assimilate men and women in every field of working life at any price "there will be a risk of devaluing the pre-eminent role of women in the home whose domestic duties prevent them from aspiring to a career in gainful employment".

NETHERLANDS

A new Government

The new Dutch Government under Mr Van Agt includes one woman minister and five women secretaries of state (one more than in the last Government).

Til Gardeniers-Berendsen (Christian-Democrat) is Minister for Public Health. The secretaries of state are: Saskia Stuiveling (Socialist) in the Ministry of the Interior; Hedy d'Ancona (Socialist), with special responsibility for emancipation policy in the Ministry for Social Affairs; Ietje Dales (Socialist) in the Ministry for Social Affairs; Sybregje Langendijk-De Jong (Socialist) in the Ministry of Housing and Regional Development; and Ineke Lambers-Hacquebard (Democratie '66) in the Health Ministry.

Secretary of State for Emancipation

Hedy d'Ancona, then, is the new Secretary of State for Emancipation. In the previous Government, it should be noted, emancipation came under the Ministry for Culture, Leisure and Social Work, whereas it is now the province of the Ministry for Social Affairs.

This change broadens the field of action of the Secretary for State and is a response to the concerns expressed by the Emancipatieraad (Emancipation Council). In a letter to the person forming the Government, the Council stated that the priority in emancipation should be for questions of work, especially job creation for women - above all young women. According to the Council, the laws on social security and taxation should also be amended in pursuance of EEC directives on equality for men and women.

Useful address Staatsecretaris voor Emancipatiezaken Zeestraat 73 <u>The Hague</u>

Men and women: paid and unpaid employment

The Emancipation Council has also had the bright idea of arranging for an excellent report issued in the autumn of 1980 by the Emancipaticcommissie (the Emancipation Commission, from which the Council took over in May 1981) to be translated into English and published.

This closely worded 175-page book is entitled "A view of the social distribution of paid and unpaid work between men and women, with proposals for concrete policies".

Keeping their feet firmly on the ground, the authors of the report review every aspect of the problem, including factors which might at first glance seem innocuous. Some of the most interesting sections are on the friction that may arise between men and women in the allotment of tasks.

The publication of this report in English is a major contribution to a debate of international concern.

Useful address Emancipatieraad Sir Winston Churchilllaan 366-368 2285 SJ Rijswijk

Norway

There are four women in the new Norwegian Government: Mona Rökke, Minister of Justice; Wenche Frogn Selleäg, Minister for Environmental Conservation; Inger Koppernäs, Transport Minister; and Astrid Gjestersen, Minister for Cosumer Protection.

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UNITED KINGDOM

Civil Service ends Sex Discrimination

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Employees in all departments of the Civil Service have been invited to send in their comments and evidence about opportunities for women in the public sector. A Joint Review Group has been set up by the Civil Service Department. With representatives from the Civil Service unions, the Review Group has the task of reporting on career opportunities, evidence of discrimination and ways in which the Civil Service can help women to combine a career with raising a family.

Although most civil service jobs are open to men and women, the latter are still concentrated in the lower grade jobs. They account for 65% of clerical officers, 35% of executive officers and only 15% of higher executive officers. The problem was recognized by the Kemp-Jones Committee over ten years ago, when it made recommendations for improving employment opportunities for women. A pressure group, "Women in the Civil Service", was set up two years ago. It hopes that the Joint Review Group's work will persuade the Government to make more positive efforts to use the skills of its women employees to the full.

Useful address Women in the Civil Service Room P2/107A, 2 Marsham Street London SW1

Job-sharing

A free guide to this new and unconventional arrangement is the first part of a series on alternative working arrangements. Its title is "Jobsharing - improving the quality and availability of part-time work". The booklet includes a survey of 40 individual job-sharers - none of whom work in the private sector. Most job-sharers (78%) are women and a majority of three out of four are under 40. The occupations range from a hospital doctor to a librarian and an assistant producer in educational television.

Useful address

Equal Opportunities Commission Overseas House, Quay Street Manchester M3 3HN

Few women appointed to public bodies

A report published by the Equal Opportunities Commission reveals that few women are being appointed as members of public bodies despite pressure on Ministers to make more female appointments to councils, advisory committees, boards of directors, management committees, etc.

The Home Office has the best record, appointing 941 women (compared with 2,191 men) to 41 bodies (i.e. 30%). The Department of Employment has appointd 559 women and 2,501 men to 75 bodies (18%). In the field of education and science, there are 59 women appointees compared with 470 men on 48 bodies (11%). The Department of Industry's percentage has appointed only 10 women, compared with 337 men, to 31 bodies (only 3%).

The main reason for this poor representation of women on official bodies is undoubtedly that the people normally chosen for public appointments are directors of companies, professors or people attaining high office in their trade unions and professional associations, and very few women reach these positions.

The EOC is encouraging voluntary organizations to supply ministers with names of women with suitable qualifications and experience for service on public bodies, but the results will take time. It seems that although women may have as much experience as men, the men tend to be better known.

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

Rethinking the training of women

The Equal Opportunities Commission believes that any future vocational training programme must make up for past discrimination against women and implement positive action schemes in their favour.

In a report entitled "A New Training Initiative", the EOC calls for the establishment of a central body to coordinate a comprehensive training programme that caters for a wide variety of courses, skills and age groups. This body should work closely with the Industrial Training Boards and employers. The EOC would also like to see the appointment of a women's training officer in each Training Board or industry responsible for the promotion of equality and closer contact with schools and training organizations.

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

MILITANT ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Women in the Liberal International

At the 34th congress of the Liberal International held in Rome in late September, women played an unaccustomed role. Women delegates from about forty countries discussed specific problems of women's condition and their place within the Liberal Parties.

In pursuance of a motion passed in Berlin last year, the congress decided to set up a "women's coordination committee" within the Liberal International. A seminar to be held in the near future will be devoted to part women can play in tackling the current world problems: hunger, unemployment, the threat of war, etc.

Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, a prime mover in the women's coordination committee, felt that it is vital to scrutinize all the reasons why it is so difficult to "be a woman" in the Third World. Women are burdened by the weight of tradition and - especially in Latin America - they are the victims of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes. Women's status may be a unifying factor in the dialogue between the North and South because the problems are shared by all women.

In her inaugural address, Simone Weil, President of European Parliament, echoed the concerns of the Liberal activists. She spoke of her conviction that "the evolution of woman and her role in society are among the fundamental issues of our time". Simone Veil paid homage to the pioneers of feminism and went on to say that women cannot be content to live in a man's society, a society ordered by men and for men.

Europe, she said, must tackle the crisis of political crecibility. Progress towards unity is hampered by nationalism and egoism. Discussing the arms race, she warned Europeans to be vigilant; they must press for continuing dialogue, through which tension can be relieved and crises averted.

Useful address Liberal International Whitehall Place London SW1

Women in the Home

About a thousand women attended the 8th International Women's Congress held in Krefeld this summer, at the invitation of the German housewives' federation - the Deutscher Hausfrauenbund. Right at the start of the congress, the German Minister for the Family, Antje Huber, expressed the general reluctance among women to be caught up in the debate on the socalled choice between family life or a career. In following an occupation or profession, there must always be due concern for family life.

Various aspects of the general theme of "family and career" were discussed by four sub-groups, with the active participation of women from outside Europe, from Eastern Europe and from the European Community. The emphasis was placed on the fact that women are capable of acquiring greater skills and efficiency and of applying that knowledge both at work and at home.

Winding up the discussions, it was concluded that "team spirit is the watchword for the future", for men and women must together reconsider family life and work, the upgrading of housework, ways of helping women return to work and ways of alleviating the tax burden which weighs more heavily on women at home.

The outstanding preparatory papers for this congress can be obtained from the address below.

Useful address Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund e.v. Adenauerallee 193 5300 Bonn 1

. If a piece of information is incomplete, it's information that can't be used Even now, the information that comes into the "Women of 1 Europe" editorial office is all too often incomplete, . which makes it UNUSABLE. ŧ. 1 It is vital that you quote your organization's or group's 1 name and address in every paper you send us. If you send t. us a file of five reports, for instance, don't be shy: in ŧ t each of the five reports, specify the name of the association concerned, its address and particulars such as the occasion on which it was published. •____ . _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

International Women's Council

The International Women's Council standing committee on "the economy" has asked the national committees to study energy-linked problems. For this reason, the Council has sent two women delegates to the U.N. conference and the forum devoted to new and renewable forms of energy.

The Council took the opportunity to present a paper entitled "meeting our energy needs: today and tomorrow - women's choices and proposals". The paper covered subjects like information, education and the aid that women need in the domain of energy. As the consumers of energy for domestic purposes, women have a vital role to play in energy-saving.

"Any improvement in the access to and distribution and use of sources of energy will lighten women's daily chores and indirectly enable them to make significant improvements in matters of diet, education, health, craft work and work on the land, etc.," notes Fanny Fuks, the chairman of the "energy" committee of the International Women's Council, adding that "a better use of energy would be an important factor in liberating Third World women."

Useful address Fanny Fuks - Conseil National des Femmes Belges (Fr.) la Place Quételet 1030 Brussels

On the International Olympic Committee

For the first time for 27 years, two women have been co-opted on the 81-member International Olympic Committee. Their names are Tirjo Haeggman (from Finland) and Flor Isara Fonseca (from Venezuela).

Of the 5,872 athletes at the Moscow Olympic games, 1,247 were women. Women have long been denied membership of the Committee, despite the wishes expressed eight years ago by an Olympic Congress meeting in Varna (Bulgaria). After that time, a vain attempt was made to join the Committee by Lia Manoliu (Rumania), Nadia Lakarska (Bulgaria), Tenley Albright (U.S.) and Micki King (U.S.).

One bright spot: the Committee's administrative departments are run by a woman, the former French swimming champion Monique Berlioux.

Equality of opportunity in the U.S.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States is arranging an internship programme designed to promote equal opportunities for women. In the 1980-1981 academic year, fifteen European women actively committed to equality were given an opportunity to spend six to eight weeks in U.S. institutions or organizations to study working methods and the lines along which American women are thinking in the field of equal opportunities.

The German Marshall Fund is to continue with this work again this year. Preliminary enquiries should be forwarded as soon as possible, together with a curriculum vitae, as the final application forms must be returned by 1 December 1981. The major topics covered are the implementation of sex discrimination regulations, occupational guidance and counselling, training and access to non-traditional jobs, organizing women workers into unions and private women's groups and, finally, public information and media coverage.

Useful address Christina Graf The German Marshall Fund of the United States Suite 900, 11 Dupont Circule, N.W. Washington D.C. 20036

The Fourth World

The "Association Solidarité Quart Monde", formed to combat poverty in the poorest areas of the poorest nations, has embarked upon research on the subject of "families in the Fourth World and Human Rights", with the findings being published in May 1982. Bitter experience, instances of injustice: it is as if the people who already suffer from abject poverty are not even entitled, in the eyes of society, to simple human rights.

Useful address Association Solidarité Européenne Quart Monde 12 Avenue Victor Jacobs 1040 Brussels

The eXchange project

"eXchange" is the oddly spelt name of an association set up to study relationships between women and economic development in the Third World. In an 80-page report entitled "Women Discuss Women in Development", eXchange sets out dialogue and interviews about Third World women drawn from discussions at the forum held during the World Cnference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen in July 1980, attended by women militants from a multitude of organizations. A supplement to the report lists the names and address of about 600 participants in the eXchange workshops in Copenhagen.

Useful	address	The e x change				
		329	East	52nd	Street	
		New	York	N.Y.	10022	

The humanization of work

The women's committee of the European Middle Classes Union held a congress in Vienna this summer on the humanization of work in companies and the organization of part-time working.

A topic discussed at length was job-sharing. It seems that this arrangement "makes the labour market more flexible, cuts absenteeism, leads to greater job fulfilment and helps companies to run more efficiently". Jobsharing is already an established practice in Austria (where 30% of firms are run by women) and is warmly recommended.

Nöelle Dewavrin, a member of the EMCU executive, welcomes job-sharing as a way of creating a better balance between the demands of work and the family, quoting the case (in Germany) of two TV engineers (one male, one female) who work a three month stint in turns.

Useful address	Noëlle Dewavrin
	Union Européenne des Classes Moyennes
	115 Rue de Londres 59420 Mouvaux

Catholic Education and the Third World

The Office International de l'Enseignement Catholique - the international Catholic education council - has devoted a special issue of its bulletin to the theme of "the 1,500 million women in the Third World". It reviews the situation and looks to the future after the Copenhagen conference, attended by the O.I.E.C. with observer status.

Useful address Office International de l'Enseignement Catholique 60 Rue des Eburons 1040 Brussels

Women and Political Science

Rio de Janeiro is the venue for the twelfth world congress of political science in August 1982. The discussion groups during this event will be tackling subjects such as women's movements and organizations, women and power, women and political systems and the family and citizenship.

Useful address Guillermo O'Donnell IUPERJ Rua da Matriz, 82 - CEP 22260 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Women and Family Firms

The annual congress of women directors held in Edinburgh in mid-September took as its main topic "the future of the family firm". The strength of a family firm lies in loyalty and flexibility, but these human qualities may not be enough to withstand the effects of outside constraints: the excessive cost of borrowing and the burden of taxation.

Mrs Armand Dutry, the chairman of the Association, stressed that family firms must make every effort to benefit from new technological developments.

Useful address Association des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiale (AFCE) c/o Mme Armand Dutry 15 Boulevard Général Wahis 1030 Brussels

Digging back in the archives

The International Federation of Women Graduates has decided to take a closer look at its records, which have been gathering dust in the filing cabinets at its headquarters in Geneva for the last sixty years.

How much water has gone under the bridge over this time!

The Federation is now looking for an experienced archivist who would like to spend about two months in Geneva to explore this gold mine. It cannot pay a salary but will reimburse living and working expenses. Any applications should be forwarded to the national section of the Federation. With a little bit of luck, the exploration should be finished by the end of 1982.

Useful address : International Federation of University Women 37, Quai Wilson CH - 1211 Geneva 2

BELGIUM

A battle won

Solidarité-Femmes-Emploi and Aktie Komitee Vrouwen in Openbare Diensten have won their fight against discrimination in the civil service in the matter of the housing allowance.

The two groups working for solidarity among women in the field of employment were backing seven women in the civil service, both national and local, who were taking their respective authorities to court. The legal action was the outcome of years of combined effort by MPs, women solicitors, legal experts and the Commission du Travail des Femmes - Women's Employment Commission.

On 30 September, a few days before the case was due to be heard, a royal decree was published in Belgium's official gazette stating that men and women have equal rights to any housing allowance granted, with effect from 1 January 1981. This succees proves, according to Jacqueline de Groote, a leading light in "Solidarité-Femmes-Emploi, that even in hard times women will succeed in obtaining the rights to which they are entitled if they are determined enough and if they take the proper steps.

This satisfying result has encouraged "Solidarité-Femmes-Emploi" to press on with its work with the widows' and orphans' pension fund. Readers may remember that proceedings were being taken before the courts and that Miet Smet, a member of parliament (CVP), has drafted a bill ready for the next session of Parliament.

Useful address Solidarité-Femmes-Emploi la Place Quételet <u>1030 Brussels</u>

Women at work

"Femmes au Travail" is a cooperative set up by a small group of women who are determined to control their own lives. The company has four main lines of business: management and accounting advice; practical help with various aspects of working life, business research, the acquisition of new skills, etc.; discussions and interviews to help people facing difficulties in their family lives; work around the home, such as painting, electrical work, carpet-laying and plumbing, carried out by craftswomen at a reasonable price.

Useful address

Femmes au Travail s.c. 16 Rue de Chambéry 1040 Brussels

Women and local elections

Following a firmly established tradition, the National Belgian Women's Council (French-speaking section) has embarked on a campaign to make women more aware of the issues at stake in the forthcoming local elections. It is trying to encourage and support women who are thinking about standing at the elections and has committed its affiliated groups to working for any of their women members who stand for election.

A preliminary meeting was held at which several woman political representatives from the various parties described the path that had led them to local office, the obstacles they had come up against on the way, what they had been able to achieve specifically for women, the backing they had received from women's organizations and their future plans.

Useful address Conseil National des Femmes Belges Branche francophone la Place Quételet 1030 Brussels

Voluntary work

Throughout the month of October, the Association pour le Volontariat the voluntary work association - investigated the many aspects of this important contribution to society. Voluntary work and its relationship with neighbourhood life, unemployment, employment, the handicapped and the retired, as well as new forms of unpaid work: these were the subjects of one-day seminars and discussions.

The vast majority of voluntary workers are women and they will have a special interest in the findings.

Useful address Association pour le Volontariat 29 Place Brugmann 1060 Brussels

Trojans today

The "Théatre-Poème" under Mr Dorsel is billing a show "written in the feminine" under the title of "Troyennes d'aujourd'hui". In the evening's entertainment, Monique Dorsel compares today's militants such as Eva Forrest, Angela Davis, Emma Santos and Ulrike Meinhof to the personages of classical tragedy. "Both groups of women have experienced the lot of womanhood and its pitfalls, its sometimes tragic constraints, lucidly and with tenacious passion. Like the Trojans, all of them have sought ways of resolving their submission," writes Monique Dorsel in her introduction.

Useful address Théatre-Poème 30 Rue d'Ecosse <u>1060 Brussels</u>

Children in Society

The women of the Social Christian Party have published the resolutions adopted in the light of their research on "the place of the child in society". Its illuminating ideas include a suggestion that television produce "educational spots" for children that are both entertaining and provide good publicity for positive behaviour patterns such as the benefits of a good night's sleep, precautions in road traffic, health, etc.

Useful address Femmes P.S.C. 41 Rue des Deux Eglises 1040 Brussels

DENMARK

Denmark and Women in the Third World

The Danish Foreign Ministry's committee for political aid has asked the Danish National Women's Council (Danske Kvinders Nationalråd) for its views on the direction the country should be taking in its cooperation with aid for developing nations.

The reply from the Danish Council criticizes the existing aid policy and calls for development programmes to take due account of the role of women and their needs in future. This is the text of its reply.

The intentions set out in the U.N. conference plan of action for women are being disregarded

During the recent United Nations conference in Nairobi on the sources of new and renewable energy, a factor of great importance to women - especially in the developing nations - was that they were so few in number among the delegates. The Nairobi conference is a topical example of the lack of resolve or the inability to comply with the plan of action adopted at the Copenhagen world conference in 1980. Denmark itself stressed at the conference that the plan of action should forcefully state the importance of involving women in decision-making, but at the same time there was only one woman in the Danish delegation.

The Danish National Women's Council - DKN - feels that Danish aid policy should pay far more heed to the content of the action plan than in the past. Women should help to plan measures and take decisions at every level right from the earliest stages. One specific point is that the staff of DANIDAS (the Danish Foreign Ministry's international development cooperation division) should include an adequate number of people familiar with the problems faced by women in developing nations and who are in contact with Danish women's groups. Another point is that contact should be made with women in the developing nations; if no women's organizations exist there, DANIDA should promote their creation and cooperate with them.

Women in developing nations need clear, elementary projects

At both the official and unofficial women's conferences, women from the developing nations reiterated that all too often aid to their nations fails to reach the poorer nations, those that need the help most. They stressed that the most impoverished people tend to be women in the rural districts and in the poorer parts of towns. Many examples were quoted of ambitious large-scale projects which never achieved the desired end but, on the contrary, rendered the lives of women more difficult and desperate than before.

It was emphasized that women's needs could esentially be met by the introduction of simple projects which do not depend on whether the beneficiaries can read and write. The type of thing needed is the provision of drinking water and cesspools, better diet for the family, general health schemes to include birth control, and access to energy, firewood and simple technology (such as tools or ways of storing food) that fit in with local conditions.

The Council is convinced of the validity of these comments and urges the Danish aid policy committee to work for priority for this form of aid to developing nations.

Economic independence, education and employment

DKN points out that those who pass on culture from one generation to the next within a people and a society have always been the women. It feels, therefore, that the cultural factor should always be a prime consideration in any development work. This will help to adapt aid to the beneficiary country and ensure that it is put to best possible use.

DKN also stresses that women in the developing nations desperately need access to a piece of land of their own, as tenants or owners. They need to obtain finance both for the means of production and for structures for the sale of their products such as cooperatives. DKN therefore insists that women in the developing nations should have access to economic systems and be considered as having legal personality in their own right.

It is important that women should be just as much involved in educational schemes as men. Experience has shown that schemes designed to combat illiteracy have little effect unless they are followed up by employment projects providing the opportunity to apply the newly acquired reading and writing skills. DKN would like more thought to be given to this aspect; viewing any action in a far broader context is a principle that should, moreover, be applied to every form of aid. Integrated schemes produce the best results.

More efforts needed to provide information

To achieve these aid objectives, DKN feels that the people of Europe must grasp the need to help developing nations. The work of providing information should be promoted at national level. The realistic and elementary needs for which those attending the women's conference pleaded so eloquently are bound to arouse the Danish people's sympathy and support. Women's organizations are an excellent medium for an information campaign to help people think about the vital importance of development aid.

FRANCE

A review of the past - the future outlook

"Women of Europe 1981 - a review and the prospects after the European Parliament debate": this was the theme of a discussion meeting held in Paris by the Women's Committee of the French European Movement Organization, of which Janine Lansier is a leader.

Chaired by Simone Veil, with an inaugural address by the French minister for Women's Rights, Yvette Roudy, and in the presence of Marlene Lenz, Simone Martin, Antoinette Spaak, Vera Squarcialupi and Marie-Claude Vayssade, Members of European Parliament, the meeting was a forum in which a large number of representatives of about 60 organizations debated what practical steps should be taken to implement the resolution adopted by European Parliament.

From the discussions, it is obvious that women are now firmly resolved to embark on more widespread action, with due regard for every aspect of the lives of women, both as mothers and as members of a modern society.

The point was often made that the opportunity for self-fulfilment and development of women is a prerequisite for the wellbeing of our society, a view that was voiced with special reference to working conditions. What is needed is not a form of "equality" in which women are treated just as badly as women, but better working conditions for all. In the same way, the arrival of new technology must not be seen as an opportunity to "desegregate" the labour market but as a way of improving the quality of work.

Any improvements undertaken by the authorities, voluntary bodies or women themselves should be publicized so that they will be widely imitated. Information is of capital importance in this respect; its role is all the more crucial as the most deprived, exploited women are also the worst informed.

Yvette Roudy, a former chairman of the ad hoc committee on women's rights in European Parliament, now a minister in the French Government, stressed the importance of European solidarity in women's efforts to obtain control of their own future, asking the women's organizations to send her proposals as to "aggressive action".

Simone Veil took up the theme by calling on woman to be audacious in aspiring to positions of high responsibility. They must be bolder in proposing quotas for women, special concessions on careers, etc.; they must be the first to display imagination and discard prejudice about what women can or cannot do.

Useful address Commission féminine du Mouvement Européen Janine Lansier, Présidente 24 Rue Feydeau 75002 Paris

A controversial poster

On the walls of the main towns and cities of France, three posters have been displayed in turn. They showed a girl just about to undress, then partly undressed and, in the final poster, naked (but seen from the back) with the caption "the display firm that keeps its promises".

The body that monitors advertising has publicly deplored this campaign: "woman must not be used as an advertising object, especially if the image that is conveyed bears no relationship to the true purpose of the advertisement".

The League for Women's Rights, for its part, has stated that "This is an attack on all women, but also on men. It is an assault on women because it is obvious that they are not in the habit of displaying themselves undressed in the town and because their bodies are being exploited. It is an assault on men...because it exploits their desires. As feminists, we would point out that had an anti-sexist law existed it would have given us the right to take legal action."

Agence France Presse

For the first time since it was set up 34 years ago, Agence France Presse has appointed a woman journalist as its chief editor: 38-year-old Marie-France Rouzé, who has already been posted to New York and Tokyo. On its staff of 672 journalists, this national news agency employs 123 women.

Women executives

"The position of women graduates within the company" is the subject of an article by Nicole Bécarud in the journal, "Diplomées", published by the Association française des Femmes diplomées des Universités. A comparison of two pieces of information contained in the article provides food for thought:

- in the 12th century, the powerful religious order of Fontevraud (which was mixed) was headed by a 22-year-old abbess. Allowing for the differences, an abbey would have been on a par with a large company today, its leader having spiritual, cultural and material responsibility for the monks and nuns, administering a vast estate, a hospital and a guest house for pilgrims, without forgetting the need to maintain good relations with the secular powers-that-be;
- in 1978 (the latest date for which figures are available) only one in four people in the higher salary brackets was a woman, and even so the salaries of senior women executives tended to be in the lower end of the scale for their category. The mean statistical salary earned by women executives was 26.5% lower than that earned by men.

A paradox also arises with retirement pensions: since they depend on the level of earnings throughout a person's career, the average pension of executives' widows is 41% higher than the amount to which a woman executive is entitled based on her contributions over a lifetime of work...

Useful address

Nicole Bécarud 77 Rue Bonaparte 75006 Paris

GERMANY

German countrywomen

The Deutscher Landfrauenverband (German countrywomen's association) has a membership of about 450,000, with 40% of its members doing work other than farming. Its president, Adelheid Lindemann-Meyer stresses that the drop in the number of farms (from 1 million in 1970 to 800,000 in 1980) makes cooperation between women on the land even more vital.

In view of the fact that 30% of farming work is done by women, the association is demanding a retirement pension for them.

In 1980, the association arranged 5,000 seminars, 20,000 courses, 600 exhibitions and 30,000 lectures and meetings. The themes chosen by the women themselves were, in their own order of priority, health, training, schools, the family, food, and economic and agricultural policy.

Useful address Deutscher Landfrauenverband Godesbergerallee 142-148 5300 Bonn 2

Art in the feminine

"Typisch Frau" - typically female - is a phrase which recurs more and more often in exhibitions in German art galleries and museums. In Bonn, this summer's museum exhibition was a great success in this respect. Even so, women's work is only rarely purchased by the official bodies concerned with contemporary art. The truth of this was demonstrated once again at the summer show of "Western Art" in Cologne (which in itself was outstanding), at which several women's groups took the opportunity to demonstrate their disappointment.

Useful address Bonner Kunstverein Adenauerallee 7 5300 Bonn 1

Redefining rape

Many organizations have called for a revised legal definition of rape, claiming that it should not be determined by the physical violence committed by the agressor but by the victim's refusal. They also want the law to apply even to married couples.

The debate on rape flared up again after Germany's supreme court, the Bundesgerichtshof, asked for more information on a case it was hearing (ref. 3StR 151/81): did a man assault a girl who did not resist when he locked the car doors and told her any resistance would be useless? The women's organizations see a sort of "dual morality" in this question which denies that mental as well as purely physical pressure pressure can be exerted by an assailant. "Does rape exist only if the victim offers physical resistance?" asks the association known as "Notruf und Beratung für vergewaltigte Frauen" (SOS for women victims of assault).

In view of the protests in the press and from women's groups, the supreme court published a statement that hints at a very low-key interpretation of its judgement. The case is still pending.

Useful addresses Notruf und Beratung für vergewaltigte Frauen Frauenzentrum - Goethestrasse 38 6500 Mainz

> Pressestelle Bundesgerichtshof 7500 Karlsruhe

Women in the Social Christian Party

Four women have been elected to the supreme committee of the Social Christian Union party: Mathilde Berghofer-Weichern (deputy chairman), Ursula Schleicher, Ursula Männle and Ursula Krone-Appuhn. They were elected on their merits, not on the basis of the proportion of grass roots women party members (13%).

Useful address CSU - Bundeshaus 5300 Bonn 1

Women Artists and the Christian Democrats

The Frauenvereinigung der CDU - the Christian Democrat Party women's association - has decided to come to the help of women artists. Helga Wex, the association president, has asked the members to arrange lectures and discussions with women artists in every region.

According to a recent report, only 10% of women artists (compared with 20% to 35% of men) earn more than DM.36,000 a year. Women still make up no more than 10% of the artists supported by official grants. In the art colleges, 40% of the students are girls but only 8% of the professors are women.

Useful address Frauenvereinigung der CDU Konrad-Adenauer-Haus, Konrad Adenauerallee 5300 Bonn

Turkish Women

A booklet (2/81) entitled "Türkische Frauen in der Bundesrepublik" -Turkish women in the Federal Republic - has been brought out by the Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband (the German federation of adult education classes) and is available free of charge. It lets Turkish women speak for themselves, setting their lives in the context of their country of origin, their host country and the Islamic religious environment.

Useful address

Pädagogische Arbeitstelle des DVV Holzhausenstrasse 21 6000 Frankfurt

Countrywomen

Founded in 1978, KE.G.Y. (the Greek centre for rural women) is an independent organization whose object is to give countrywomen an opportunity to work together to improve their status. There are no barriers of age, political creed or social class: any woman living in a rural area is welcomed as a member of this body which aims to improve the quality of life and take an active part in development in the countryside.

The Centre's main financial resource is its membership subscriptions, but this income is not enough to support its many activities and it hopes that the Government and sponsors will underwrite certain projects.

The Centre's activities, inspired by its nine-member steering committee, include seminars, training courses, research projects and the informing of public opinion to demonstrate the contribution made by rural women to the nation's economic and social life.

Among its 1981 activities were: providing a reception and information service for countrywomen and their families coming into the towns; organizing a special breast cancer self-examination programme; and an international seminar during which women from about ten Mediterranean countries discussed how rural women's organizations can cooperate "to improve our lives".

Useful address Kentron Gynaikon Ypaithrou Odos Lekka, 12 <u>Athens, 125</u>

Women and information

The Greek Y.W.C.A. has started to compile a dossier on "women in the press", consisting of articles on women appearing in Greek newspapers and magazines. The task is an ambitious one, to judge by the number of press cuttings piling up every day. A group of volunteers has offered to sort the cuttings under various general headings: family problems, le-gislation, politics, debates and seminars, etc.

The next step will be to create an index. The cuttings are already available for consultation by women's organizations and individuals with special concern. The Y.W.C.A. officials would like to extend their work gradually to fields other than the press: books, research papers, reports, films, etc., and to create a centre that provides comprehensive information on women's problems.

Among the other activities of the Association this year are working groups with lectures and discussion in its Y.W.C.A. building in Athens on the "sociology of women" and "women: their rights today and tomorrow". The latter is particularly topical, since the reform of family law is to be debated by Parliament soon after the national elections in the autumn.

Useful address Christianiki Enossis Neanidon Odos Amerikis 11 Athens, 135 IRELAND

Meeting the People

In Tallaght, Co. Dublin, the Irish Council for the Status of Women has held the first of a series of eight get-togethers to meet women working in the home.

The Council is gathering material for its national plan of action, now being researched for presentation to the Government; it will also be using the information gathered as a basis for its rural development programme, planned for next year.

The first get-together in Tallaght was a great success, with a turnout of about 140 women, two thirds of whom had never attended a meeting of this kind before.

The meeting was opened by Dr Hazel Boland, Chairwoman of the Council, who gave a brief explanation of the Council's work and the purpose of the day's get-together. The meeting then broke up into workshops of about 15 women each. A separate group was formed for the professional people who attended - social workers, community care people, teachers, etc.

The reports will be analysed by a professional researcher to identify the socio-economic problems of women working at home.

Useful address Council for the Status of Women 54 Merrion Square <u>Dublin 2</u>

Speaking out

In the autumn of 1980, Ireland's Council for the Status of Women arranged a national women's forum attended by a thousand women from all over the country to report on the Copenhagen conference and outline possible courses of action for the future.

Under the title of "Irish Women Speak Out - A Plan of Action", the record of the forum has now been published. It covers employment, law, education, conflicts, rural areas, communications, health and the media ...nothing has been left out. £1.72 including postage and packing.

Useful address Co-Op Books 50 Merrion Square Dublin 2

Women and Fine Gael

The Fine Gael Party's political manifesto on matters affecting women is published as a separate document with a preface by Gemma Hussey, the Party's spokesman on women's affairs. It will be sent out on request.

Useful address Fine Gael Party 51 Mount Street Dublin_2

Why Irish Women Choose Abortion

According to the statistics compiled by the Irish Pregnancy Counselling Centre after its first year of activity, 90% of the Centre's 1,500 clients were less than 14 weeks pregnant when seeking information about abortion.

Those consulting the Centre looked forward to responsible motherhood later but did not want to go on with a pregnancy that had started under difficult circumstances. The main reason quoted for wanting an abortion was parental disapproval. The others were: being too young, worry about other children, money problems, health, not wanting to be a single parent and job problems.

The least quoted reasons were being too old, having no relationship with the father and not wanting to repeat an adoption experience.

The I.P.C.C. refers its clients to private clinics in Britain in defiance of the ban on abortion in Ireland. It holds regular meetings for women who have had an abortion and who wish to discuss the experience.

Useful address Irish Pregnancy Counselling Centre 3 Belvedere Place Dublin 1

Women and Sinn Féin

"Women's View" is a quarterly magazine published by the Sinn Féin Party's National Women's Committee. It devotes a good deal of space to international news.

Useful address	Women's View
	30 Gardiner Place
	Dublin 1

Women's Art Festival

A women's arts festival was arranged by the Limerick Women's Collective in September. The two-week festival included a piano recital, poetry readings, a drama workshop, concerts, traditional music sessions and the exhibition of paintings, sculpture and other work by women. The event was sponsored by the Arts Council, the local authorities and business people.

Useful address The Limerick Women's Collective 4 Mallow Street Limerick

Women's Aim

The autumn issue of a magazine that has the same name as its parent organization is a "European special", with interesting information on the activities of women in other EEC countries and on the way Ireland is seen by the foreign women who live there.

Useful address Women's Aim 14 Upper Leeson Street Dublin 2

ITALY

A woman in the Communist Party Secretariat

Adriana Seroni is the first woman to take a seat on the Italian Communist Party's secretariat since the election in the 1920s of Camilla Ravera, an outstanding political personality in the inter-war years.

The Central Committee has appointed Adriana Seroni as secretary to the Party to replace Giorgio Napolitano, now the leader of the Communist parliamentary group in the Chamber of Deputies. The position of party secretary is of special importance in the Italian Communist Party structure.

Useful address Partito Comunista Italiano Via delle Botteghe Oscure Rome

Women at the head of companies

Just twenty years ago, an association for women entrepreneurs and company managers was founded - "Associazione Imprenditrici e Donne Dirigenti di Azienda" - due to the momentum imparted by Marian Taylor Abbagnano, its first president.

Looking back over two decades of progress with a measure of satisfaction, today's president, Claudia Motta, has described the ways in which the association is contributing to important work. It has, for example, worked on the Italian Labour Ministry's standing committee for youth employment and on the advisory committee on intellectual workers (International Labour Office).

Claudio Motta sees this involvement in social and economic life not just as a right but as a duty of businesswomen if they are to work for the betterment of society.

Useful address A.I.D.D.A. Via Onorato Vigliani, 24 10135 Turin

Women and medicine

This is the subject of the "Tribunal du 8 mars" documentary record of women's experiences (published under that title by Bulzoni). The accusations levelled at the medical profession are many: aggressive behaviour, inefficiency, various forms of discrimination, injustice, etc.

Elena Giannini Belotti, the director of the Montessori birth centre, concludes the book with a scathing review of the information that medical students are being given today on sex: "clichés, prejudices, moralizing, anti-feminism, superficial and distorted information abound in the course textbooks which, given their purpose, should have been rigorously scientific".

Useful address Tribunale 8 marzo Via Colonna Antonina 41 00186 Rome

Women and the cinema

At the Venice Biennial, women made an impressive showing, with films directed by Anja Breien from Norway, Nadia Werba from the U.S., Is Hesse Rabinovitch from Switzerland, Cathérine Binet from France and others.

The "Golden Lion" award went to the German director, Margarethe von Trotta, for her film "Die Bleierne Zeit" ("time of lead"); two of its actresses, Jutta Lampe and Barbara Sukowa, also won the "Golden Phoenix" for their performance.

One information centre....

A feminist information and research centre has been set up at the Casa della Donna by the Rome Via Pompeo Magno feminist movement. According to the women who launched the scheme, the intention is not just to collate individual and collective records but to take a fresh look at information on women - even now, all too often compiled, processed and transmitted by men.

Useful address Centro di documentazione e studi femministi Casa della Donna, Via del Governo Vecchio 39 R o m e

.....and another

Ferrara is the location of another new women's information centre. The women who run it will happily help women's organizations both in Italy and in other Community countries, and will welcome any information from them in turn that will add to their store of basic material. They would also like to exchange news with other centres.

Useful address Centro Documentazione Donna Contrada della Rosa 14 Ferrara

Mother's help - a profession

In Italy, domestic helps are up in arms: they do not want to be treated as second rate workers any more. The work they are now expected to do is more and more demanding, calling for special skills, a sense of responsibility and the ability to make decisions. There are about a million and a half women doing full-time domestic work in Italy and they are pressing their claim to sick pay, which the Government has promised them once again this year.

Their position is still complicated by the presence of about a hundred thousand "clandestine workers" in Italy, most of them from the Philippines and Cape Verde. The Italian domestic workers' association is calling for clear-cut regulations on this subject.

Useful address API-COLF Via Cola di Rienzo 111 00192 Rome

LUXEMBOURG

A women to represent the workers

Before July 1981, there had never been a women on the executive committee of the "Chambre du Travail", the chamber that represents workers, since it was founded in 1924. Annie Kintzelé, 51, the new member of that committee, is a Government worker at the City of Luxembourg hospital centre where she is on the workers' delegation, as well as a member of the Luxembourg independent union confederation, OGB-L.

Useful address Chambre du Travail Rue Auguste Lumière Luxembourg

Draughtswomen

The Emile Metz Technical Lycée, an independent technical college attached to ARBED, a large metallurgical company in Luxembourg, is introducing courses in technical drawing for girls, for which a dozen girls have already enrolled. According to one of the administrators, draughtsmanship is precision work for which they are particularly well suited.

Useful address Lycée Technique Emile Metz Dommeldange Luxembourg

NETHERLANDS

Voluntary work

The Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad (Dutch Women's Council) has launched a debate on women's role and position in voluntary work in a book entitled "Vrouwenwerk in Diskussie" (women's work under discussion). The 43 organizations under Council's umbrella are well aware of how much they owe to the dedication and enthusiasm of thousands of women labouring selflessly for others, but this devotion can make great demands on women volunteers, a sacrifice they make with the utmost discretion.

Serious thought should be given to the three types of work: paid employment, unpaid work in the home and voluntary work in the service of the community.

Useful address Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad Laan van Meerdervoort 30 2517 The Hague

Dangerous products

The Dutch Union Federation's industrial confederation has produced a booklet on dangerous products and women in industry, "Gevaarlijke werknemers in de industrie", that sets out invaluable details of all the toxic and hazardous substances that women may have to handle in industry, unaware of the risks they incur.

The union body has drawn up two "black lists", one naming the products that women should never touch under any circumstances, the other the products that they should avoid to the extent possible. It argues that the optimum solution would be a general ban.

Useful address Industriebond FNV Postbus 8107 Amsterdam

Women in the home

Nederlandse Vereniging van Huisvrouwen (Dutch housewives 'association), of which Queen Beatrice is an honorary member, will not accept men. In the words of its president, Ms Zaal-Haeck, "we feel the time is not yet ripe for men to be allowed into our ranks. Women have a good deal of catching up to do in our society. Until they do, they need their own organization to express their hopes, wishes and problems as women".

The association has great influence in Dutch society, not just because of the size of its membership but also through its close ties with the Instituut voor Huishoudtechnisch Advies, an advisory body on household management.

Useful address

N.V.V.H. - Jan van Nassaustraat 89 2596 BR The Haque

Assepoetster

This name - Dutch for Cinderella - has been chosen for a new feminist magazine catering for working and jobless girls. The editors, Jacky Muller and Deanne Tukker, aim to promote the integration or reintegration of girls in the world of work, giving many tips on how to find a job, manage on a budget, find personal fulfilment, etc.

Useful address Assepoetster - Brouwerijweg 34 Arnhem

The European Movement

"Europa in beweging" - "Europe in movement" - the official journal of the European Movement in the Netherlands, has a special issue on women in Europe to mark the occasion of the debate on women's rights in European Parliament. Many women MEPs have been invited to contribute, as well as Henk Vredeling, former European Commissioner for Social Affairs, and members of the Dutch Emancipation Council.

Useful address Europese Beweging in Nederland Ms M.E. Van Emden, Secretary General Alexanderstraat 2 - 2514 JL The Hague

UNITED KINGDOM

Magazine readers angry about equal pay

A consumer editor of Woman magazine conducted a survey on how her readers felt about equal pay. Thousands of women responded to the question of "how angry are you about the sex discrimination still left to fight?" by shading in a thermometer with levels of anger marked "lukewarm", "hot under the collar" and "boiling point". Most of the respondents were at boiling point.

Jan Walsh, the inspiration behind the survey, says that Woman magazine is determined to make the voice of its readership heard.

Useful address Woman Magazine Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street London S.E.1

372 votes

In South Tyneside in northeastern England, a women's group borrowed the name of an old suffragette organization, the Women Social and Political Union (WSPU) founded by Emmeline Pankhurst in 1903. Three of the group stood as candidates while the others distributed leaflets to 14,000 homes.

WSPU won 372 votes, a respectable record for such a small group competing with the major political parties.

Useful address Jane McBride 10 College Drive, South Shields South Tyneside

Help for Scottish Women

A list of booklets and pamphlets on help for battered wives and single parents and housing and legal reform has been published by Scottish Women's Aid. It also includes a leaflet about the organization and an order form for audio-visual materials, badges, posters and stickers relating to Women's Aid and the problem of violence in the family.

Useful address	Scottish Women's Aid
	11 St. Colme Street
	Edinburgh EH3 6AA

Banking and Insurance Union calls for new strategy

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union, with 150,000 women members, has produced a report showing that discrimination is still rife in banking and finance. The last time BIFU looked at the question was 1974, before the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts.

Little progress has been made since those Acts, the report concludes. Women make up a majority of the staff in the banking and insurance sector but few ever reach the higher or appointed grades.

The Union has outlined a new strategy, recommending that each bank and company follow the principle of positive action, developing its comprehensive equal opportunities programme. It also proposes ways of encouraging more active participation in trade union affairs by women.

Useful address	Lynette Savings,
	Secretary, Equal Opportunities Committee, BIFU
	7 Hillside, Wimbledon
	London S.W.19

Mother Hen

This summer's Edinburgh Fringe Theatre Festival saw more women's theatre groups and shows than ever before. One of Scotland's first was called "Mother Hen", with a series of sketches depicting attitudes and stereotypes of women in an entertaining and light-hearted way.

"Mother Hen" will be touring Great Britain for the rest of the year but it intends to remain based in Scotland.

Useful address	Susan Armstrong
	7 Bronsham Place
	Edinburgh EH3 9HW

Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Peggy Crane, who is the correspondent for "Women of Europe" in Great Britain, has been on a long visit to East Africa, from which she has sent illuminating travel notes.

Cooperation in development is the key to women's emancipation in Africa. This, at least, was the view expressed to me many times in Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In all these countries, and particularly in Zimbabwe, women played an important part with men in the liberation struggles. Their young and eager leaders believe they have an equal contribution to make towards solving the many problems faced by all these countries in their different ways in furthering development.

Solutions can be found, they say, only by men and women working together. They have little time for Northern feminist movements with their insistence on women's 'rights'. Here ignorance, poverty and malnutrition are the realities of everyday life. The majority of women live impoverished lives in the countryside, working mainly in agriculture to feed their families, often having to walk miles for water every day, with no education or only rudimentary schooling, still influenced by the cultural and colonial traditions that regarded women as inferior to men. The most important contribution to emancipation is to improve their economic lot, and this is a matter affecting both men and women.

The independence constitutions of both Tanzania and Zambia lay down that there shall be no discrimination by race, sex or creed, and in Tanzania in particular the Government's positive policies on rural development and self-reliance in the villages, including equal pay for equal work, is helping women to acquire confidence. Here the Union of Women in Tanzania (UWT), an arm of the ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi, represents women's interests and is one of the five major organizations that both Party and Government must consult in deciding on policies. "Men are accepting change better than the women", says Mrs Edith Munuo, Assistant General Secretary of the UWT, adding a little wistfully, "I wish the women would move as fast!".

In Zambia the Women's League, closely linked to the ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP) (women have to be party members to join, whereas this not a requirement in the Tanzanian UWT) struggles against many odds to improve women's lot. In its report to the Copenhagen UN Women's Conference last year, the League pointed out that, despite a programme to combat illiteracy based on "One Woman Teaching One", about three quarters of the older women, particularly in the villages, are still illiterate, and Zambia's scattered impoverished villages and poor communications make contact difficult.

In Zimbabwe the situation is different again. It does not have a oneparty state and there is no single dominant women's organizaion. During the liberation struggle, however, 10,000 women carried arms and fought side by side with the men. One of these, Mrs Terai Ropa Nhongo, a former ZANLA commander still in her twenties, heads the recently established and controversial Ministry of Community Development and Women's Affairs, initiated by the Prime Minister, Dr. Robert Mugabe, in recognition not only of the part played by women during the war but of the importance of their role in the country's development.

Mrs Nhongo and her Deputy Minister, Dr Naomi Nhiwatiwa, a Ph.D. from New York University, are very clear what the Ministry is about. Too often, for cultural and other reasons, women are left behind in development schemes, with little access to training or the handling of new technologies. Women also need advice, both in the towns and countryside, on health care, sanitation and other practical problems. The job of the Ministry is to help with advice and ensure that women's needs are represented in government development plans, as well as to suggest changes in government policies that will benefit women. In addition a Steering Committee is working out how to set up a Zimbabwe National Women's Organization designed to coordinate the activities of all women's organizations, irrespective of party or race.

While politically (at least in theory) there are no barriers to women in any of the three countries - each has a small number of women MPs economically, educationally and culturally women still have to make up a good deal of ground. Polygamy, divorce for women, the large family, economic dependence: all these are problems of which the women's leaders are aware. They believe, however, that changes in these spheres and attitudes will come gradually with time and education. To tackle them head on simply antagonizes the men - who inevitably hold the purse strings - and obscures the positive role of cooperation in development.

Mrs Nhongo summed it up: "It would be unfortunate to give an impression that we are anti-men. We cannot get on without men any more than men can get on without us. It is a question of educating each other."

Women in the villages

Issue 3/81 of "People", the International Planned Parenthood Federation's quarterly magazine, has a feature on "women of the village", reporting on development in seven Third World countries. An editorial states that "there is a great deal to be learned about how best to support and encourage women's groups for the maximum benefit of membersGovernments, with some notable exceptions, have been very slow to see the enormous development potential of working with women's groups".

Useful address "People"

International Planned Parenthood Federation 1-20 Lower Regent Street London SWLY 4PW

The Employment of Women in Africa

Marie-Abgékuqye Savané, the President of AFARD (Association des Femmes Africaines pour la Recherche sur le Développement), has been reviewing in detail the role of unpaid women's work, both social and economic (and therefore political). Her observations of the situation in Africa, where women do 60% to 80% of the work on the land, have led her to some rather unaccustomed conclusions: "To free themselves from exploitation and oppression, women must demolish not only the patriarchal structure but also the production system on which this structure is founded".

A long article by Marie-Angélique Savané appeared in issue no. 25 (September/October 1981) of the Fondation Internationale pour un autre Développement, 2 Place du Marché, 1260 Nyon, Switzerland.

Useful address Association des Femmes Africaines pour la Recherche sur le Développement B.P. 3186 Dakkar, Senegal

"Communiqu'elles"

This is the name of a monthly magazine published by the Montreal women's information and reference centre in the Province of Quebec.

Leafing through its pages, one finds a schedule for the women's art gallery, "Powerhouse", at 3837 St-Dominique, Montreal, comment on a case brought by a divorcing women claiming a share in her husband's pension savings scheme (which was dismissed), news about for the "Déméritas '81" booby prize awarded by the Women's Status Council to the most sexist advertisement, etc.

"Communiqu'elles" would like to arrange a swap with other women's publications.

Useful address Communiqu'elles 3585 St. Urbain Montreal, Quebec H2X 2N6

RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

Pologne, que deviennent tes sous-prolétaires? published by Science et Service is an investigation of the changing condition of the Polish subproletariat conducted by Alwine de Vos-van Steenwijk and Joseph Wresinksi. A whole chapter is devoted to the position of families and the lives of wives and mothers. BF.500, from the European Secretariat, Mouvement International A.T.D., Quart Monde, 12 Avenue Victor Jacobs, 1040 Brussels.

Just me and the Kids is a report on single-parent families in Northern Ireland. This outstanding survey was used as a working document for a conference on the theme held in June. It can be obtained from the Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland, Lindsay House, Callender Street, Belfast BT1 5DT.

Der alltäglische Faschismus – "everyday Fascism" – published by Dietz-Verlag (Berlin-Bonn) is an account of the daily lives of women under Fascism, a page of history that has been left blank until now.

En de vroumen (and the women...) is the title of a book by Denise Deweerdt which traces the history of feminism in Belgium from 1830 to 1960. The first work in Dutch on this topic to come out in Belgium, it puts the Flemish women's organizations in proper prospective and sheds interesting light on the efforts of Renée van Mechelen. Uitgeverij Frans Masereelfonds, Tweebruggenstraat, 13 - 9000 Ghent.

Mille libri sulla donna (a thousand books on woman) is not to be found in the bookshops. This bibliography is the original New Year's greeting card devised by Maria Rivieccio Zaniboni some time ago. What a good idea!

Vroumen per Dozijn - "women by the dozen" - is the slightly irreverent title given by Joke Schretlen to her report on women in twelve Western European countries. Her conclusion: "we women must find out more about each other, and about the women of other countries". Fl.19.50 from Het Spectrum, Postbus 2073, 3500 GB Utrecht.

Etre Femme dans le Tiers-Monde, a 70 page report compiled by the Centre National de Coopération au Développement, 76 Rue de Laeken, 1000 Brussels, to draw the Belgian public's attention to the problems encountered every day by millions of Third World women who struggle to enable their families to survive. Facts, figures and true accounts. Bfrs 50 + postage.

Représentation syndicale des femmes en France et en République Fédérale d'Allemagne – this thesis covers thirty years of union representation of women in France and West Germany (1949-1979). One point made by the author, Angelika Lippe, is the growing number of unionized women in both countries following the crisis. In German, the thesis (price 85 DM.) can be ordered from Angelika Lippe, Freie Universität Berlin, Fachbereich 15, Ihnestrasse 21, 1000 Berlin 33.

Bringing Women into the Community Development Process is a review by Marion Fennelly Levy of the efforts of the Save the Children association to involve women in development decisions and programmes in the Upper Volta, Colombia, Honduras and Indonesia. Available at US \$2.50 from Save the Children, 54 Wilton Road, Westport, Connecticut 06880.

E+D - Entwicklung et Développement, a journal published by the Département Fédéral des affaires étrangères (3003 Berne, Switzerland) has a special double issue (n° 7/1980) on "women, the sub-product of the subproletariat". In the opinion of the specialists, E+D is the most innovatory, interesting and readable publication to be produced by any Government development agency.

La technologie nouvelle et les techniques d'information: new technology and information techniques were chosen as the topic of a one-day seminar arranged by the Women's Committee of the European Movement in Belgium, now published in this book. Marijke Van Hemeldonck, the joint chairman of the women's committee, has written the introduction in which she says: "the heritage of humanity is being enriched with new knowledge and new opportunities. This progress must bring benefits to the world population as a whole; it must not become just one more privilege of those of us who are already among the most privileged".

The discussions pointed up the great importance of studying the impact of scientific and technological progress in order to plan appropriate measures at national and international level.

The record can be obtained from Conseil Belge du Mouvement européen, Rue de Toulouse 49, 1040 Brussels.

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