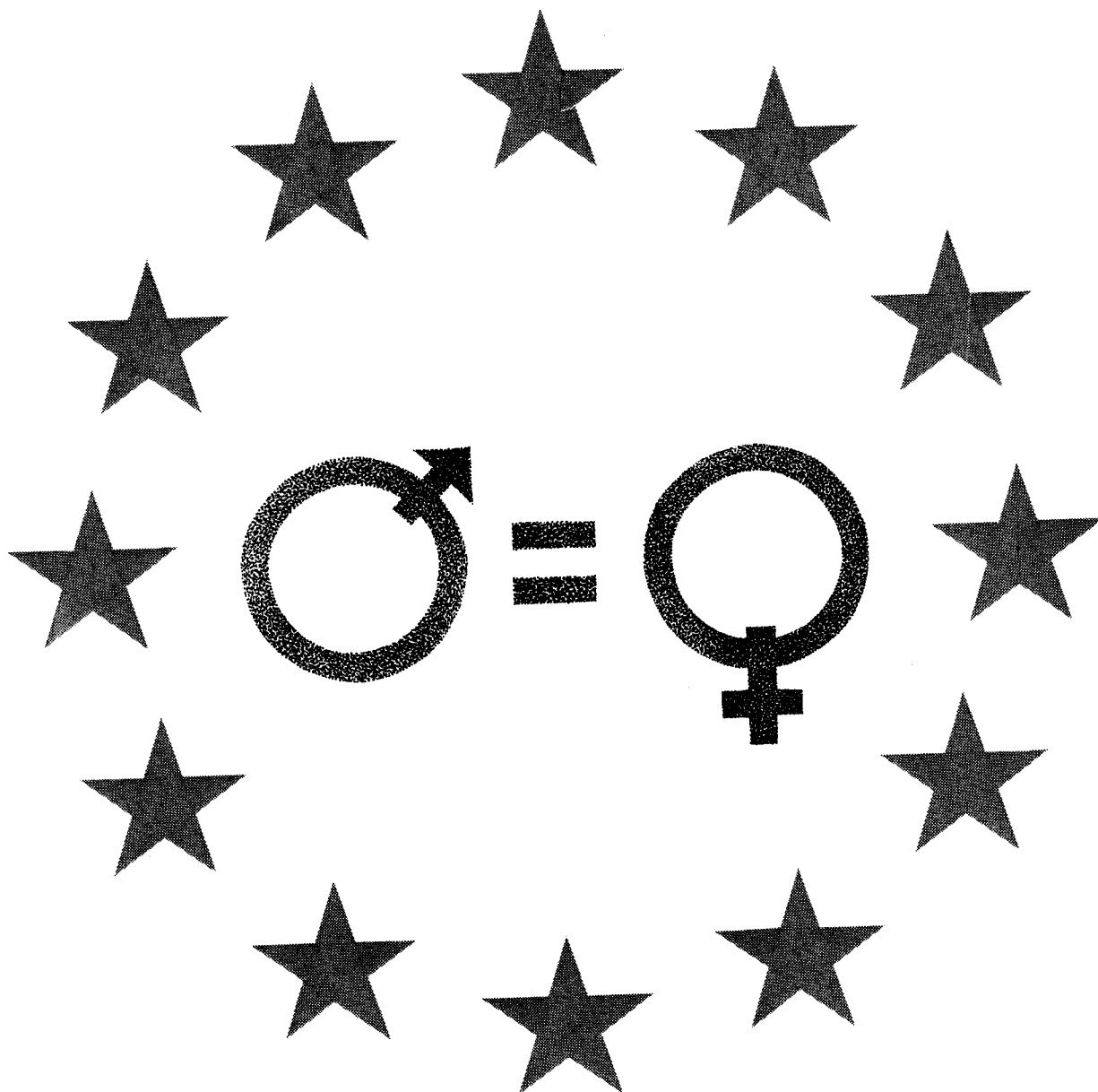


Women of Europe

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THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The Community against cancer

A million malignant tumours discovered every year, half a million deaths. In view of the high cancer statistics within the Community, the European Commission has proposed a Community strategy to combat the disease (COM(86) 150).

The principle of a joint anti-cancer campaign was agreed at the Milan summit in June 1985 and, in December, the Commission tabled a draft resolution on prevention (cancer screening, early diagnosis and campaigns against smoking and alcoholism). Two further proposals have been made concerning:

- research: clinical diagnosis, treatment, development of drugs, epidemiological research and training grants;
- information and education: the Commission plans to launch a Europe-wide campaign in 1987, one benefit of which is to show that the People's Europe is a reality.

Two million ECU have already been earmarked for cancer research and prevention in 1986; the 1987-89 prevention budget should be 6.3 million ECU. By the end of July, the Commission will also be referring a multiannual action programme (1987-92) to a group of experts, largely inspired by the group's own recommendations. The programme will be presented to the Council between now and the end of the year.

Existing Community legislation already includes measures against some cancer risks, covering protection against radiation and risks in agriculture and the environment and from pharmaceutical products.

Italy is the first Member State to publish an "Anti-tumour Guide" to warn people of cancer risks. Presenting the guide to the press in Milan, European commissioner responsible for the People's Europe Carlo Ripa di Meana said that the aim of the Community's action programme was to reduce cancer cases and deaths by 10% in the next ten years.

18 million ECU to combat poverty

The Commission has decided to grant 18 million ECU to 65 projects as part of its second Community poverty action programme (COM(84) 681 final). The programme, which includes provision for coordination, evaluation and the "dissemination of knowledge", has been devised in consultation with those involved, particularly individuals and organizations in disadvantaged urban and rural areas.

The projects centre on a range of priority needs and are designed to help the young and long-term unemployed, second generation immigrants, returning emigrants, the elderly, single-parent families, refugees and the homeless. The extent of the problems obviously varies from country to country. The projects are integrated urban or rural schemes aimed at individual "problem groups".

The Community's flag, emblem and anthem

From 29 May, a blue flag with a circle of twelve gold stars in the middle has flown above EC institutions, alongside the flags of the twelve Member States. The flag was raised to the sound of the prelude to Beethoven's Ode to Joy, already widely used by Community institutions and now the official European anthem.

These decisions were reached in April by the Council of Ministers, which has also made the use of the letter "€" as the Community emblem official.

Carlo Ripa di Meana said that the purpose of these measures was to make people more aware of the Community as the driving force behind the integration of Europe, uniting national traditions.

Local job creation schemes are forging ahead

The European Commission believes that local job creation schemes are helping to solve current unemployment problems and has been offering support to women's cooperatives and other projects as part of its three-year action programme since 1983. Most of the grants awarded have been fairly small but have often been a lifeline. The following schemes have all been backed by the Commission since 1983:

Belgium

- immigrant women's pottery: Loredana Marchi, Coop-Amal, 51 rue de Ribaucourt, 1080 Brussels.

Denmark

- mail order service selling women's and children's clothing in kit form: Helen Bahnson, Strada I/S, 12 Kronprinsengade, 1114 Copenhagen.
- Turkish rug weaving and Danish language classes for Turkish women: Gitte Olsen, The Weaving Project, 144 Arn. Nielsens Boulevard, 2650 Hvidovre.
- Danish women's museum (exhibits, archives and training courses): Eva Lous, Kvindemuseumsforeningen, 5 Domkirkeplads, 8000 Aarhus.
- women's arts centre: Inge-Lise Paulsen, Center for Formidling of Kvindekultur, 27 Thorvaldsensvej, 1871 Copenhagen V.

Germany

- party catering service in Berlin: Ika Klar, Der Befreite Besen, 64 Ansbacherstrasse, 1000 Berlin 30.
- photography and graphics agency: Heidi Zimmermann, Zebra, 150 Potsdamerstrasse, 1000 Berlin.
- shop selling flowers and plants: Kathrin Hanisch-Schulz, Die Zaubernuss, 1 Drudenstrasse, 6200 Wiesbaden.

Greece

- farm holidays on Lesbos: Ms Hioti, Agritourism cooperative, 4 rue Daskaloyanni, 704 Athens.

Ireland

- production and distribution of postcards, diaries and books: Roisin Conrow, Women's Community Press, 44 East Essex Street, Dublin 2.
- restaurant run by a women's cooperative: Eleanor Thornton, Food for Thought, 56 Lower Georges Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Italy

- production and distribution of films and videos on women: Angela Luigia Bonacina, Quotidiano Donna Distribuzione, 32 via Lanzone, 20123 Milan.
- service cooperative within a cooperative housing development: Alice Bassani, Coop di Utenza, 78 via B Verro, 20141 Milan.
- children's nursery: Letizia Monaco, Futura, 2b via Colombo, 83100 Avellino.

United Kingdom

- information and advisory service for women's enterprises: Barbara Brison, Women's Enterprise Bureau, c/o Llanelli Mutual Aid, 2 John Street, Llanelli, Dyfed.
- educational and production unit for women in micro-electronics: Tayieba Shah, Women's New Technology Cooperative, 86-100 St Pancras Way, London NW1 9ES.
- marketing of craft products: Raine Mason, Halcyone Craftswomen's Marketing Cooperative, 24 Bridge Street, Lampeter, Dyfed.
- publishing company (English and Welsh): Luana Dee, Missprints Women's Publishing Co-op, 55 Monthermer Road, Cathays, Cardiff, South Glamorgan.
- Welsh video workshop: Christine Jenkins, Mind's Eye Video Cooperative, Ochr Garth Fach, Llanddewi Brefi, Tregaron, Dyfed.
- cooperative producing T-shirts, posters, etc. for clubs: Chris Hobson, Cardiff Women's Screen Print, 75 Llanfair Road, Canton, Cardiff, South Glamorgan.
- wooden furniture produced by two German women living in Wales: Scholastica Dey and Martina Plarre, Gaer Woodworks, Taincwm, Abermeurig, Lampeter, Dyfed.

At European level, the Commission has supported:

- ICOM Women's Link-up, a one-year project to gather information on women in cooperatives and women's cooperatives and develop links between them: Rhona Howarth and Annie May, 14 Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3DW.
- European working party on women's cooperatives and other local job creation schemes, with the aim of creating an information network: Annie C May, Glan-Nant, Llanio Road, Llwyngroes, Tregaron, Dyfed.

Youth against racism

The success of the French "leave my friend alone" campaign shows that young people in Europe are concerned about the recent increase in racism and race hatred. In Brussels, a hundred delegates from the European Youth Forum joined anti-racist and immigrant youth organizations to launch a Community campaign against race hatred. The young people's aim, as expressed in their draft charter on the rights of ethnic minorities, is to achieve equal access to employment, equality in social security, health and housing, the right to permanent residence and freedom of movement and access to places offering services (e.g. transport, discotheques and hotels).

"If we condemn South Africa's apartheid policies, then we should be just as critical of any racist feelings in ourselves or our societies," say the young people.

The Forum approves of the European Commission's "Guidelines for a Community immigration policy" (see European Communities Bulletin, supplement 9/85), but feels that more far-reaching measures are needed, particularly as regards anti-racist education.

Useful address: Youth Forum of the European Communities,
10 rue de la Science, 1040 Brussels.

"School is over. Now what?" is the question addressed in a new European Commission leaflet for pupils, teachers and parents. The publication has not yet been printed in Spanish or Portuguese but is available in 7 other languages.

The leaflet takes a clearly feminist stance, stressing that equal opportunities start at school, as demonstrated by the programme for equal opportunities in education adopted by the Commission in 1985. It claims that jobs are now "unisex" and advises young people to choose the jobs of the future instead of opting for areas with few career openings, even if it entails girls entering non-traditional careers. The leaflet is illustrated with pictures of women woodworkers, plumbers and architects to inspire girls a little more.

The European Commission is encouraging young people to exchange views and experiences and is setting an example by running programmes to increase student and teacher exchanges and promoting new technology and language teaching (see "The Changing European Community", Women of Europe no. 44).

Useful address: Commission of the European Communities, Women's Information Service, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels.

The Community Youth Orchestra is an example of a successful youth exchange. The Orchestra, 130 young players from all the Member States, toured the Iberian peninsula to celebrate the accession of Spain and Portugal. Carlo Ripa di Meana welcomed them in Madrid on behalf of the European Commission.

Women and Music

Another age-old misconception - that women are not musicians - is under attack. Supplement no. 22 to Women of Europe, Women and Music, clearly demonstrates that women do play an important role in the world of music and offers a brief discography and biographical index of women musicians. Following the example of the first bibliographical dictionary of women composers (published by Otto Ebel in 1910), Patricia Niedzwiecki and Yves Bessières listed some 3,000 women musicians. Unfortunately, our supplement could not include them all and we have selected the women who made the most original contributions to the world of music.

Despite current research on the subject, Patricia Niedzwiecki and Yves Bessières feel that much remains to be done to discover the true story of women's role in music in the past and define their present role. They are considering a further study on the subject and would be grateful for any information on women working in music.

Useful address: Patricia Niedzwiecki, 50 rue de Roumanie, 1060 Brussels.

Supplement 23 to Women of Europe gives the full text of the second action programme for equal opportunities (1986-90). Additional measures not appearing in the 1982-85 programme include the promotion of equal participation in jobs connected with new technology, steps to ensure that job, family and social responsibilities are shared more fairly, and information and awareness campaigns. The programme, which is an integral part of the development of the People's Europe, identifies the authorities responsible for equal opportunities and calls on them to cooperate more closely with each other.

The European Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities elected its new executive members at its meeting in Brussels in late March. The new chairman is Astrid Lulling, chairman of the Committee on Women's Work in Luxembourg, and the two vice-chairmen are Hellen Wolf and Carlota Bustelo.

A great step forward: any information on Community activities available in all the official Community languages will now also be available on tape and in Braille. The tapes will be produced as part of the "Braille Europe" project run by the Commission's Bureau for actions in favour of disabled people and Belgium's Oeuvre Nationale des Aveugles (national institute for the blind), and will be sent free of charge to leading institutes and associations for the blind. The director of Braille Europe and Cassette Europe is herself blind.

Useful address: Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for Social Affairs, Bureau for actions in favour of disabled people, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels.

Job-sharing

Hortense Hoerburger has already conducted research on job-sharing for the European Commission and is now preparing a further study of current action to promote job-sharing. She would be grateful for information on the way the "quota system" is applied within political parties, in the workplace and elsewhere.

Useful address: Hortense Hoerburger, 14 rue du Ham, 1180 Brussels.

The European Commission has also published a report by Janine Terneu-Evrard and Brigitte Evrard on the image of women in the educational context. The authors examine stereotypes, how they have developed and how they are passed on, and draw several conclusions regarding education, power, work and human feelings. The report includes analyses by country and suggestions for non-sexist education.

Tax: another way to discriminate against women

Direct discrimination against women at work is fairly rare, but the same cannot be said of indirect discrimination, particularly in tax matters. This was the conclusion reached by experts attending a seminar on income tax and equality at Oxford University's Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The European Commission's representative at the seminar argued strongly for a system of separate taxation, whatever a person's marital status. A degree of consensus emerged during the discussions, particularly on the

unacceptability of the cumulative system applied in Belgium, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. Participants did, however, accept that decisions on taxation are often influenced by budgetary constraints.

European NGOs for development

The general assembly of European non-governmental organizations working for development, held in Brussels at the end of April, was attended by the President of the European Commission. The Commission has always valued the activities of NGOs, whose flexibility, adaptability and dedication have helped them to succeed where official institutions have failed. The wide range of NGO activities include co-financing small-scale development projects, offering food and emergency aid and helping to make Europeans aware of development problems.

In 1985, NGOs sent 25,345 tonnes of food worth 12 million ECU to Africa, Chile and Cambodia, and helped to finance 450 "mini-projects" and 315 development projects in 90 developing countries.

Euro-MPs question the European Commission

- Belgian Socialist Ernest Glinne wanted to know what the Commission plans to do to combat sexual mutilation in associated countries. The Commission replied that it is to conduct a study jointly with the medical profession into the social and health aspects of sexual mutilation, and that it is prepared to provide financial support for education programmes to encourage its abolition in the countries concerned.
- German Christian Democrat Gabriele Peus would like other Member States to follow Germany's example in recognizing domestic work as a skilled job. The Commission is not planning to introduce any measures in this area.
- Belgian Socialist Anne-Marie Lizin is concerned about two cases of discrimination against women in Belgium and is particularly worried about the retirement age (60 for women and 65 for men). Commission Vice-President Manuel Marin said that the Commission was preparing a new proposal for a directive covering problems not included in Directive 79/7/EEC, such as retirement age (see Official Journal L6, 10.1.1979). The Commission feels that sexual discrimination in industrial training contracts could be effectively curbed by taking positive action for women, but pointed out that no Royal Decree implementing the Directive had yet been passed in Belgium.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

During the March session, Parliament expressed its opinion on several subjects directly concerning people's day-to-day lives: measures for the elderly, children's centres and airport security.

German Christian Democrat Gabriele Peus had drafted reports on the first two of these subjects, and most MEPs agreed with her demands regarding the elderly. The resolution called on the European Commission to study the situation and (after an amendment proposed by Greek Communist Konstantinos Filinis) draw up a "European charter for the elderly" by January 1988. Member States are urged to take practical action to provide home helps, adapt accommodation to the needs of the elderly, offer free public services, rent allowances (to avoid old people having to move away from their home area) and heating allowances. They are also called on to improve old people's social lives by providing leisure time activities, social centres and special holiday homes. The aim must be to integrate the elderly in society rather than to isolate them. "Remember we'll be old too one day, if we're lucky enough to survive," said some of the MEPs.

The report on children's centres was adopted by a slim majority, with many abstentions. Several MEPs, including Nicolas Estgen (Luxembourg, EPP), felt that the demands reflected an ideology that encourages women to be independent of their families and neglect their children. The rapporteur herself had supported amendments to correct this impression, but most of them were rejected. Parliament called on Member States to make a great effort to improve child-minding facilities. Speaking on behalf of the European Commission, Peter Sutherland said that a fair division of family responsibilities is an essential condition for equality in employment.

Airport security is of increasing concern to Europeans. Parliament backed the author of a report on the subject, Mr Roux (France, ERDA), in calling for a Community programme to tackle the problem. Speaking for the European Commission, Stanley Clinton-Davis said that letters stressing the need for cooperation had been sent to the national authorities some months ago.

Also during the March session, Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes announced three Community research programmes on AIDS. He was answering the questions of several MEPs who were calling for a coordinated research programme and an objective information campaign.

The debate on milk substitutes, based on resolutions tabled by Bram van der Lek (Netherlands, RBW) and Luciana Castellina (Italy, Communist Group), was not resolved by a vote at the March session. This is the third time the matter has come before Parliament since 1981. The Commission said it could accept some, but not all, of Parliament's demands and that the problem would have to be reviewed.

Parliament did, however, vote on the matter during the April session and demanded that Community laws follow the very strict World Health Organization regulations on baby food. The WHO code prohibits the distribution of free samples and restricts advertising to specialist publications.

It is now up to the Council of Ministers to settle the matter once and for all. During the debate, some MEPs (one of them was French Liberal Simone Martin) said that women who are unable or unwilling to breast-feed would suffer if milk substitutes came under too heavy fire.

Following a wide-ranging debate, Parliament voted on farm prices and, for the first time, chose to restrict rather than increase them. This decision was passed by a very slim majority and enraged many MEPs, including all the French, the Greeks, the Irish, most of the Christian Democrats, the Rainbow Group and the Right. Advocates of restraint said that they had voted not against farmers but against agricultural surpluses as they place an increasing financial burden on the Community. They are demanding a sizeable increase in expenditure on the guidance section (from 5% to 25% of the CAP budget) to help improve the structure of farming.

Parliament discussed the American attack against Libya three times before adopting a Socialist resolution condemning the attack as a "destabilizing influence" unlikely to have any effect on terrorism. The resolution also condemned Colonel Gadhafi's policies and all acts of terrorism. The fact that Parliament adopted this resolution, albeit by a small majority, was a surprise, as everyone expected it to pass a joint resolution tabled by the Conservatives, Liberals and European Right which, without overtly approving of the American attack, suggested that European indifference had forced the United States to take unilateral action. This text was rejected by a narrow majority.

Also during the April session, Parliament passed German Socialist Hans-Joachim Seeler's resolution, confirming that the "single European Act" signed in Luxembourg with a view to reforming the treaties is not the act of European Union; efforts to make the Community more of a democracy must continue. The full involvement of European Parliament is an essential prerequisite to success.

During the May session, Parliament adopted French Socialist Marie-Claude Vayssade's report on the second Community action programme for equal opportunities for men and women. Further details will be given in the next issue of Women of Europe.

No to molecular terrorism. No to robotized people. No to "engineering doctors". Yes to a Community approach to controlling, and possibly punishing, people who do not respect human life. These were the main conclusions of the two-stage hearing on genetic engineering, held by the Parliamentary Legal Affairs Committee and attended by many specialists. The Commission's task now is to define a common approach.

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights met in late April to discuss the following subjects:

- Violence against women. The Committee accepted Dutch Socialist Hedy d'Ancona's report on violence against women. This very thorough report examines every form of violence: sexual violence, child abuse within the family, battered wives, sexual harassment, the special problems of women from ethnic minorities, political violence (e.g. against women refugees), selling women, sexual tourism, prostitution and pornography. It concludes with practical suggestions and states that the elimination of structural inequalities between men and women would help to end violence against women by making them financially independent.
- Results of the Nairobi Conference. The Committee approved the preliminary draft report by French Socialist Ms Gadioux on the results of the UN Conference.
- Women's employment. Margaret Daly (UK, Labour) presented a working paper which is to form the basis of a report to be discussed at the Committee's plenary session in September. Questionnaires have been sent to women's organizations, trades unions and employers' associations. The latest statistics show that unemployment in Europe stands at 10.7% of the entire working population (10.3% for men and 11.8% for women). Ireland has the highest unemployment rates both overall and for men (17.7% and 18.6% respectively), and Belgium has the highest proportion of unemployed women (18.9%). Luxembourg is suffering the least from unemployment but has more unemployed women than men (2.3% as against 1.3%).

At its meeting in early May, the Committee was addressed by Commissioner for Social Affairs Manuel Marin, who gave his opinion of the Community directives on women. He said that the attitude of national political leaders showed a "degree of cynicism": they are prepared to speak out in favour of women but are reluctant to take positive action to improve the situation. He warned women against burdening the European Court of Justice with cases which cannot be dealt with by national legal systems.

During the same meeting, acting President of Council Ms Kappeyne van de Copello reported on the recent informal Council meeting to discuss women's problems (see Women of Europe, no. 44).

Useful address: European Parliament, Committee on Women's Rights, Centre Européen du Kirchberg, Luxembourg.

AT THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
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Two more cases concerning equal treatment for men and women in dismissal and retirement matters have been brought before the European Court:

The court recently passed judgement on the case of Ms Roberts who, as a result of factory closures, was laid off by Tate and Lyle at the age of 53 and registered under the company's retirement scheme, which is not part of the legal social security system. Ms Roberts claimed that her dismissal was illegal because, under this scheme, male employees can draw a pension 10 years before normal retirement age but women can do so only 5 years before.

The Court ruled that an agreement setting the same age for the retirement of men and women under a collective retirement scheme which involves early payment of pensions, when the normal retirement ages for men and women differ, does not constitute sexual discrimination as prohibited by Community law.

In the second case, Ms Beets-Proper wanted to continue working for F Van Lanschot Bankers NV after the normal retirement age (60 for women and 65 for men), even if it meant working part-time.

In this case, it was not the consequences of the age limit for social security payments that were in dispute, but dismissal on the grounds of age.

The Court ruled that the Community directive does not permit Member States to waive the principle of equal treatment in an express or tacit clause of a job contract based on a collective agreement that effectively terminates employment once an employee has reached the age at which he or she can claim a retirement pension, if this age differs for men and women.

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY:FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWSAND MILITANT ACTIVITIES

B E L G I U M

The abandoned partner (le conjoint abandonné) is the title of a booklet published by Infor-Femmes for single or married men and women who suddenly find themselves alone. The booklet takes a clear and practical look at problems such as housing, money, children, social security and pensions. Infor-Femmes distributes a range of booklets on contraception, divorce, unmarried couples, part-time work, the handicapped, self-employment, rent allowances and settling disputes.

Useful address: Infor-Femmes, 29 rue de Bréderode, 1000 Brussels.

The problems of co-working spouses were discussed at a Family Inheritance Law seminar which looked at the situation of co-working spouses in farming, business and the liberal professions (e.g. doctors' spouses). Future trends were also discussed, particularly in the light of European legislation. Further information available from Professor Léon Raucant, Collège Thomas More, 2 place Montesquieu, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve or Ms Morsa, Association des conjoints aidant de médecins, 30 rue d'Arquet, 5000 Namur.

Women and new technology. Belgian Socialist MEP Raymonde Dury was the coordinator of a large conference on this subject organized by the European Centre of Brussels and Brussels University's Institute of Sociology. The outlook is bleak and there is a danger that new technology will leave women on the sidelines. Something has to be done. The Conference proceedings have been published and are available from Editions Labor, 342 rue Royale, 1000 Brussels.

The National Education Ministry is distributing a booklet containing the reports of the Committee on equal opportunities for boys and girls in education, 1980-86. The Committee's latest report is on training girls in the skills required in the field of new technology. Perhaps there will be a response to Raymonde Dury's worries after all.

Useful address: Françoise Burette, Ministère de l'Education Nationale, Direction Générale de l'Organisation des Etudes, 34 boulevard Pachéco, 1000 Brussels.

Prostitution is the subject of a booklet produced by the Women's Service of the Ministry of the French-speaking Community, in collaboration with "Le Nid". Director of the Women's Service Ghislaine Leykens said that one of the aims of the booklet was to warn young girls of the dangers of prostitution.

Useful address: Service de la Femme, 4 Galerie Ravenstein, 1000 Brussels.

That male bastion, l'Académie culinaire, has finally accepted a woman member. Chantal Dela Rue has a restaurant at 318 boulevard Louis Mettwie, 1080 Brussels.

The National Council of Belgian Women (Conseil National des Femmes Belges) has published a summary of UN activities in the Decade for Women. The report outlines a post-Nairobi strategy and the facilities and resources needed in implementing this strategy.

In its monthly newsletter, CNFB mentions that a number of women MPs - concerned that women are being given no part whatsoever in decisions on "special powers" (economic policy decisions made by a greatly restricted Council of Ministers) - had complained to the Secretary of State for Social Emancipation, Miet Smet. Ms Smet called a meeting of all women MPs and authorized them to set up an advisory committee.

Useful address: Conseil National des Femmes Belges, 24 rue de Florence, 1050 Brussels.

Three of the ten 1986 grants awarded by "Fondation de la vocation" have been awarded to women working in very different fields. 25-year-old Véronique Joiris, who has written a thesis on the Pygmies and is a research assistant at the Sorbonne, will be pursuing her studies in Cameroon; violinist Ginette de Cuyper (23) will be able to buy the bow of her dreams, and 22-year-old Barbara Claus, who is reaching the end of her course in silk-screen printing at Ecole de la Cambre, will be opening her own workshop.

A new multidisciplinary study group on reproduction technology has just been set up by Comité de Liaison des Femmes (women's liaison committee) to gather and distribute information. It is hoped that the group will be able to influence Government policies.

Useful address: Comité de Liaison des Femmes, la place Quetelet, 1020 Brussels.

New courses in public speaking and understanding financial and stock exchange news and a reading workshop are now available at Centre Féminin d'Education Permanente (women's centre for continuing training).

Useful address: CFEP, la place Quetelet, 1020 Brussels.

A new women's section has been opened at the French-speaking Community Library. Opening hours: 11am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Useful address: 5th floor, 7 rue Stevens, 1000 Brussels.

A new programme, "Les uns et les autres", is being broadcast by Antenne Sud on 103.2FM, 11am to 2pm, Monday to Friday. The programme includes a women's section and provides information on everyday life and local and European events.

Useful address: Elisabeth Boutet, 38 rue Paul Lauters, Boîte 3, 1050 Brussels.

A new centre for "women in distress" has been opened in Wavre. There are also plans to provide small flats for women who can afford to live on their own but do not enjoy it. They can have their meals together and take part in organized activities.

Useful address: ASBL "Au Logis", Wavre.

The Housewives' Association (Association des femmes au foyer) is celebrating its tenth anniversary. The present situation is both encouraging and disappointing: legal measures have been enacted to improve women's situation, particularly concerning their inheritance rights, but the popular image of housewives has not significantly improved. The Association feels that women will not be able freely to choose to be "career housewives" until it confers the same status as an outside job.

Useful address: AFF, 509 avenue Georges Henri, 1200 Brussels.

Another anniversary: women have been serving in the police force of the Brussels district of Saint Josse for 30 years. There are 10 women in the force at present: 4 motor-cycle policewomen, 3 officers, 1 chief inspector and 1 local inspector.

D E N M A R K

The number of women in the Danish Government has dropped from 5 to 3 since the elections. Karen Ytting, chairman of the National Council of Danish Women (Danske Kvinders Nationalrad), is calling on women's organizations to campaign for equal representation on decision-making bodies.

The general report adopted by the National Council of Danish Women at its general meeting placed emphasis on the following:

- Work. Greater effort must be made to improve the types of work done by women. Low status jobs, such as seasonal and part-time work, are becoming a female reserve just at the time when more women should be getting top level posts. The Council has decided to set up pilot courses to train unemployed women in new technology.
- An equality action programme is to be drawn up by 1 January 1987. Women's associations are invited to make an active contribution to devising, organizing and running the programme.
- The Nairobi Conference was "the" event of 1985, according to the report, which stresses the need for practical action. The Council criticizes the Government for its failure to support women's organizations.
- Children. The people of Denmark are concerned about juvenile crime. The Council feels that the best way to tackle this serious problem is not, as some people suggest, to lower the age at which a minor can be prosecuted (to dissuade the young from committing crimes) but to work through the family. One way of improving family life would be to reduce working hours so that both parents can devote more time to bringing up their children.
- The problem of genetic determination and artificial reproduction has not been studied in sufficient depth by women's organizations in Denmark or elsewhere. It is time to remedy the situation.
- Refugees are becoming a very serious problem for a society which is traditionally tolerant but has a relatively small population. Women's organizations are invited to take an interest in the problems of immigrant women.

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalrad, 8/19 Niels Hemmingsensgade,
1153 Copenhagen.

FRANCE

France no longer has a Minister for Women's Rights. Instead it has a Delegate for Women's Status: Hélène Gisserot, chief adviser to the Auditor General's Department.

The Parliamentary decree of appointment defined the Delegate's terms of reference. Answerable to the Minister for Social Security and Employment, her job is to suggest measures to improve the status of women at work and in the home, eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and help to solve specific problems, particularly regarding health and child-bearing. The Delegate will be directly responsible for the central services previously run by the Minister for Women's Rights, and may call on other ministries for help.

Hélène Gisserot, who was the first woman assistant public prosecutor in the Auditor General's Department before becoming chief adviser, is no stranger to women's affairs. In 1974, she worked with the then Secretary of State for Women's Status Françoise Giroud on the problems faced by couples due to changing patterns of employment.

In Parliament, ex-Minister for Women's Rights Yvette Roudy asked Philippe Seguin about the Delegate's tasks. Later, when she had read in the Official Gazette that the Government had cut the amounts allocated in the 1986 Budget to finance information and training schemes for women by FF 52 million, Ms Roudy sent in a written question about the future of special regional training schemes and the 200 women's information centres ("created not by Yvette Roudy but by Monique Pelletier"), the future of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Egalité (higher equality council) and the Mission pour l'Egalité professionnelle (commission for equality at work), the continuation of the anti-rape campaign launched in January and support for women's associations.

Speaking on behalf of the association "Dialogue", former Minister for Women's Status Monique Pelletier regretted that the idea of a "more visible" separate ministry had been dropped.

Useful address: Délégation à la Condition féminine, 53 avenue d'Iéna,
75016 Paris.

Writer and philosopher Simone de Beauvoir has died in Paris at the age of 78. The woman who said "you are not born a woman, you become one" was not only the first feminist theorist but also a novelist. Unlike some of the feminists who have followed her, like Betty Friedan and Germaine Greer, who sometimes change their minds, Simone de Beauvoir never attempted to rewrite "Le Deuxième Sexe" after it had been published in 1949. Anyone coming to her books for the first time will find her ideas just as topical today as when they were written.

Girls are more left wing than boys. Janine Mossuz-Lavau, research fellow at the Centre d'Etudes de la Vie Politique Française Contemporaine (centre for research on contemporary French politics) of the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (national political science foundation), studied the voting patterns of young people in the March '86 elections and has now published her findings in "L'Express".

- Most 23-25 year-olds voted for the same party as in the 1981 elections, although a larger proportion of young left-wing voters deserted the French Communist Party than older voters.
- First-time voters aged between 18 and 20 were less left-wing than 21-25 year-olds.
- Of all 18-34 year-olds, the 18-20 age group is the only one to have an absolute majority voting for the Right (although only 11.5% voted for the National Front).
- Only 7% of girls (as against 15% of boys) between 18 and 20 voted for the National Front, and 53% of girls but only 40% of boys voted for parties of the left. Political parties be warned: girls grow into women.

Useful address: Centre d'Etudes de la Vie Politique Française Contemporaine, 10 rue de la Chaise, 75007 Paris.

Women's role in purchasing wine was the unusual topic discussed by Chantal Comte during a one-day seminar organized by Comité Belge de la Distribution (Belgian retailers' committee). As a vine grower and external market adviser to Languedoc-Roussillon, Ms Comte is an expert on the subject. She hates clichés and prejudices and would like to arrange a European symposium on women's careers in the food and drink industry.

Useful address: Chantal Comte, domaine du Chateau de la Tuilerie, Route de Saint-Gilles, 3000 Nîmes.

Women are gaining ground in another traditionally male bastion: the job of the hotel porter. The hotel porters' association, "Les Clefs d'Or", says that an increasing proportion of the world's 4,000 porters are women.

Useful address: Les Clefs d'Or, 12 rue Cambon, 75001 Paris.

Elisabeth Schmidt, France's first woman Protestant minister, who was ordained in 1949 on condition that she did not marry, has died at the age of 77. The Protestant Church now has about 30 women ministers, several of them married.

Elisabeth Schmidt worked in concentration camps during World War II and in Algeria during the war of independence, before returning to France.

The first issue of its newsletter has been published by Association Nationale des Françaises à l'Etranger (national association of French women living abroad). The Association is backed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and has branches in Vienna and Munich; branches are to be set up in Brussels and Amsterdam. The first of its four promised newsletters sets out information on women and their rights, work and the arts. A questionnaire is enclosed, asking readers what they would like the newsletter to cover and whether they would be prepared to take part in a survey of French women living abroad.

G E R M A N Y

The Constitutional Court recently ruled in favour of six divorced women who claimed that federal law was in breach of the German Constitution. The women had all been married for nearly 30 years, but were no longer entitled to claim part of their ex-husbands' income because they were self-employed. The Bundestag (German Parliament) now has to find a solution to the problem.

Useful address: Bundesverfassungsgericht, 75 Pressestelle, Karlsruhe.

Germans will be voting early in 1987 and women's organizations are already worried about the number of women in Parliament. Deutscher Frauenring (German Women's Association), concerned with the training and involvement of women in politics, wants half of Germany's MPs to be women. The Association's chairman, Irmtraud Steinkopf, has launched the campaign and written to the political leaders. Calling on other women to do the same, she has coined the campaign slogan "Mehr Frauen in die Fraktionen" (more women in parliamentary groups). The Association publishes a newsletter called "Frauen machen Politik" (women and politics).

Useful address: Deutscher Frauenring, 42 Wall, 23 Kiel 1.

A woman has been appointed to succeed Professor Hartwig Kelm as vice-president of the Hesse radio and television network. Irmgard Reichhardt was already one of the 19 members of the network's Council and is also vice-president of Deutscher Landfrauen Verband and president of Hesse's Landfrauenverband.

The post office has decided to issue more stamps portraying women because it has realized that 265 men but only 33 women have appeared on stamps since 1949. To avoid criticism, it is to seek guidance from women's organizations. Clara Schumann will be the first to be portrayed.

Unemployment: girls still in the lead. The Nuremberg Institute for research on the labour market and careers has produced the following figures: of girls who complete their apprenticeships, 1 in 4 gardeners, 1 in 5 hairdressers, 1 in 6 salesgirls and 1 in 7 medical assistants fail to find jobs. The problem may be partly due to employers continuing to offer too many training posts for skills with few career openings.

Useful address: Nurnberger Institut fur Arbeitsmarkt und Berufsforschung.

Does an employer have a right to ask a woman whether she is pregnant at the time of recruitment? Apparently so, according to the Supreme Labour Court, but only if all applicants for the job are women. The question cannot be asked if men apply for the post.

Useful address: Bundesarbeitsgericht, Pressestelle, 35 Kassel.

The German Land of Rheinland-Pfalz recently reorganized the Ministry for Social Security and Family Affairs equality bureau on the Hamburg model by creating a "Leitstelle fur Frauenfragen" (bureau for women's affairs) with wider powers and direct access to the Land's Prime Minister. Marie Bohmer is its director.

Useful address: Ministerium für Soziales, 4 Bauhofstrasse, 65 Mainz.

Too few women decorated. Decorations are always awarded to men: last year, 304 men but only 34 women were given the Federal Order of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) in Düsseldorf. Germany's highest decoration, the Grand Order of Merit, is awarded only to men.

Something is finally being done to improve the position of women in the civil service: the Government recently adopted "Guidelines for the promotion of women in national administration" (Richtlinie zur Förderung von in der Bundesverwaltung). The Guidelines stipulate that job advertisements must be designed to encourage women applicants, particularly in sections where few women work, and that women's jobs must be kept open for them during maternity leave. Bundesfrauenvertretung, which represents women civil servants, says that the Guidelines are disappointing and, in places, are less progressive than in other German Länder. Speaking in the parliamentary debate, Family Affairs Minister Rita Süßmuth expressed doubts about the effectiveness of such measures.

Useful address: Frauen in DBB, Informationsdienst des Deutschen Beamtenbundes-Bundesfrauenvertretung, 36 Dreizehnmorgenweg, 5300 Bonn 2.

Woman of the year. Deutschen Staatsbürgerinnenverband (German people's union) has elected Eva Rühmkorf as "woman of the year". She is the director of the Hamburg office of Gleichstellung der Frau (equality for women) and was described as "a godsend for the service and for women" and commended for her dedication, enthusiasm and ability.

The booby prize for sexist advertising (Gockel des Monats) goes to the Kur-Center Hotel in Bad Kissinger. Along with two other hotels in the same chain, the Kur-Center won this dubious honour with an advertisement showing a scantily dressed woman who, in a text full of innuendoes, said that she had more to offer. The advertisement belies assurances given by the chairman of the advertising firm that women are not exploited as sex objects.

The Mönchengladbach women's associations' working party is to hold its second women's information exchange on 11-12 October. The association, consisting of 27 local women's groups and supported by the Ministry for Family Affairs, puts on all sorts of events throughout the year. Two of special note are a conference chaired by Euro-MP Marlene Lenz on "women in Europe" in Mönchengladbach on 24 June and a seminar on the same subject in Bonn on 2-6 June, organized in collaboration with Europäisches Bildungs und Arbeitsgemeinschaft.

For more information (and for the 1986 calendar of events), contact Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Frauenverbände in Mönchengladbach, 50-52 Mooseheide, 4050 Mönchengladbach.

The National Council of German Women (Deutscher Frauenrat) held its general meeting in Kassel in late 1985 and passed a number of resolutions, particularly concerning the creation of a federal ministry for women's affairs, women's role in political parties, the need for more women MPs, equal opportunities, women and the media, non-sexist definitions in legislation and advertisements, leave for training and tax matters.

Useful address: Deutscher Frauenrat, 125 Südstrasse, 53 Bonn 2.

Pilot project in Hesse for women with technical and industrial jobs. Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs and Health Rita Süßmuth has announced a new three-year pilot project for women returning to careers in technical and industrial fields. One aim is to inform women and girls of opportunities for maintaining and improving their skills should they

decide to stop working and have children. The programme is divided into three areas: gauging women's level of skill before they stop working to have a family; helping women to keep in touch with the working world when they are not working, and helping them to return to work once they have brought up their children.

Rita Süßmuth commented that this type of programme could play a fundamental role in eliminating sexual stereotypes in the workplace.

Useful address: Pressedienst des Bundesministers für Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit, 105-107 Kennedyallee, 5300 Bonn 2.

Greater safety for pregnant women. The German association for industrial medicine is calling for clear labelling of all substances used in the workplace which could endanger the health or life of an embryo. Doctors are also demanding a revision of all work safety regulations to eliminate legal discrimination against women.

The debate on women in the army continues. The Liberals (FDP) feel that women should be allowed to join up on a voluntariate basis.

Useful address: FDP, Baumscheidstrasse, 53 Bonn 1.

Continuing training. The Housewives' Association (Deutscher Hausfrauenbund) recently held four seminars for women wanting to learn about the jobs market, job opportunities and the structure of companies. A leaflet containing all the information given at the seminars is available free of charge from Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit, 105-107 Kennedyallee, 53 Bonn 1.

Women members of fire brigades are protesting against the introduction of gynaecological examinations. The city of Frankfurt has decided that women cannot be promoted to high level technical posts in the fire brigade unless they have undergone gynaecological tests. The Hesse Women's Bureau is protesting vigorously against this discriminatory measure and is amazed that the service intends to measure women's lung capacity "gynaecologically" (the reason given by the authorities for introducing the tests).

Useful address: Gisela Wulffing, Bevollmächtigte der Hessischen Landesregierung für Frauenangelegenheiten, Pressereferentin, 1 Gustav-Freytag Strasse, 6200 Wiesbaden.

Night taxis for women. The town of Bielefeld is following Berlin's example in offering a special cut-price taxi service for women between 8pm and 5am to help women who are afraid of going home alone. Cologne and Gissen intend to offer a similar service.

Useful address: Monika Gotzes, Gleichstellungsbeauftragte der Stadt Bielefeld, Bielefeld.

An association of women artists is planning the first women's festival in Hamburg. It will open on 23 August with a tribute to Winnie Mandela and will use the slogan of the Nairobi Conference (Peace, development, equality). There will be a wide variety of events, including concerts, plays, readings and discussion groups. It is hoped that this will be the first in a series of two-yearly women's festivals.

Useful address: Frauenfestival, Jarrestrasse, Kampnagelfabrik, 2000 Hamburg.

Women in the country account for more than half of agricultural employees and bosses working full- or part-time. Their life is not easy and jobs on the farm have to be done on top of all the family and household chores. The association representing these women is calling for a searching analysis of their financial and social situation and ways in which they could help each other.

Useful address: Deutscher Landfrauenverband, 142 Godesberger Allee,
5300 Bonn 1.

Women in the legal profession. For once, people are complaining that women are too good. The career of judge is in danger of being taken over by women in Germany for the simple reason that women get higher marks than men (you have to pass the final exam with distinction to become a judge). The question now is whether pass marks should be lowered to restore the balance. On the other hand, presiding judges are usually men, the exception being Felicitas Fertig, presiding judge at the Administrative Court in Kassel.

Women in the police force. Barbel Bludau-Krebs has been appointed vice-chairman of the Cologne police force, the first woman to occupy such a senior position in a large city.

Women in battered wives' homes. There are 120 homes for battered wives in Germany, but half of them are struggling against severe financial difficulties. The position is not getting any easier: speaking at a conference organized by the homes in Cologne, one woman said that "the man may well be pushing the pram now, but he still has one hand free to hit his wife".

Women bringing up children alone tend to be younger and less well off than others and to have had inadequate schooling.

Useful address: Verband Alleinstehender Mütter und Vater, 20 Martin-Luther Strasse, 6000 Frankfurt.

Women and computers. Girls enjoy computer games less than boys and are upset by the idea of a computer taking the place of teachers in class. Fewer girls than boys attend classes using computers (30% as against 50%). The regional governments of the German Länder are to campaign against this trend by providing special computer courses for girls. A women's association in Berlin has also launched a programme called "Don't be afraid of the computer".

Useful addresses: Berliner Frauenbund, 63 Ansbacher Strasse, 1 Berlin 30;
Schleswig-Holsteinisches Kulturministerium, Postfach, 23 Kiel 1 and
Arbeitsstab Frauenpolitik, Postfach, 53 Bonn 1.

Elderly women. Women's associations are worried about elderly women who have not been able to work and do not, therefore, benefit from social security payments. Among elderly women who do have an income, 90% receive only 700 DM a month; former manual workers live on an average of only 411 DM a month. Deutscher Frauenrat (Council of German Women) and the women's section of the SPD are trying to draw the public's attention to the problem. Useful address: Deutscher Frauenrat, 125 Südstrasse, 53 Bonn 2.

Foreign women. Ever active in the campaign to help foreign women integrate into their new communities, Protestant women have conducted a study jointly with the Cologne Institute of Psychology into contacts between foreign and German women. In the light of over a hundred interviews, the conclusion is that contact is rare and foreign women would like to see the situation improve.

Useful address: Evangelische Frauenarbeit, 19 Friedrichstrasse,
6000 Frankfurt 1.

G R E E C E

Greece is in mourning for Amalia Fleming, Socialist MP since 1977, president of the League of University Women (Syndesmos Ellinidon Epistimon) and stalwart defender of human rights. She had worked alongside her husband, Sir Alexander Fleming, and had been imprisoned during the military regime.

Parliament is to vote on a bill amending the criminal code in a way that would legalize abortion. The bill was drafted by a special committee set up by the Justice and Health Ministers, including several women representatives of NGOs. The big question now is how the Church will react.

Women in local government: more candidates needed in the next elections, was the conclusion reached by those taking part in a debate on 8 March arranged by the League for Women's Rights (Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas) and coordinated by the League's president Alice Marangopolous. Local politics provide women with an excellent training ground: they learn to defend practical claims, assert themselves as political individuals, have their say in financial decisions and generally make their presence felt.

Useful address: Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas, 26 Asklipiou, 79 Athens.

A declaration inviting people to vote for women in the 12 October local elections was unanimously adopted at a meeting set up by the representatives of 10 non-governmental organizations. It is addressed to the political parties and other NGOs and bears the slogan: "If you have to choose between two candidates of the same quality, vote for the woman".

Greece celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March with a variety of events, including:

- a TV programme in which women from the various political parties took part;
- a debate on women local elected officials run by the League for Women's Rights (Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas);
- a demonstration against the media image of women, run by the Democratic Women's Movement (Kinissi Dimocratikon Gynekon);
- local demonstrations with the general theme, "Quality of life and Peace", organized by the Greek Women's Federation (Omospondia Gynekon Elladas) and its local branches;
- a debate on amending the Constitution as regards the powers of the Head of State, promoted by the Association of Women Jurists.

"You fritter money away" is a criticism often levelled against women, who are accused of thoughtless spending, perhaps to compensate for other disappointments. It is a common criticism in Greece now that the Government has introduced strict austerity measures.

The Greek Women's Federation (Omospondia Gynekon Elladas) has concluded that the average Greek woman has too little money to spend it irresponsibly. Speakers in the debate said that demands for a higher standard of living were justified.

Useful address: Omospondia Gynekon Elladas, 52 Akadimias, 79 Athens.

Women and the population problem. The National Social Research Centre is currently conducting an inquiry into women's attitudes to pregnancy and the main factors that influence the size of families. Sociologist Ms Symeonidou discussed the initial findings of this research project at a debate on population problems, run by the League of University Women (Syndesmos Ellinidon Epistimon). Professor of Economics and former Finance Minister Mr Drettakis spoke of Government steps to solve the problem since the war. The danger of a continuing decline in the population was mentioned during the debate, and the Government was asked to support people willing to bring up large families.

Useful address: Syndesmos Ellinidon Epistimon, 44a Voulis, 57 Athens.

The Panhellenic Union of Families and Housewives (Panellinia Enossi Nikokyron) is making 1986 Greek heritage year, centring on literature, the patriarchal structure and the influence of traditional food. The first event is to be held at the European Commission's Information Office in Athens.

Useful address: Panellinia Enossi Nikokyron, 82 Cyprus, Athens.

I R E L A N D

Minister of State for Women's Affairs Nuala Fennell has launched a major programme (with a budget of Ir£330,000) to assist women in developing their own businesses. A range of seminars revealed that most women were interested in setting up in the services sector and the programme will provide appropriate advice. Other key features include an information booklet "Women Mean Business", and a Freephone service to answer women's queries. It is also hoped that a network of contacts for women in the various semi-state agencies will gradually be established.

The Minister of State's Office has also produced a booklet entitled "Marriage and Family Law" which is simply written and provides a good guide on the up-to-date position in Ireland in this area. Other booklets in the same series include "Women and the Law" and "Working for Women".

Useful address: The Office of the Minister of State for Women's Affairs, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2.

Good news: the Minister for Social Welfare recently revealed that money had been provided by the Government to implement certain aspects of the EEC Directive on equal treatment for men and women in social security matters. This includes increasing the duration of benefit women receive from 312 to 390 days, in line with the benefits received by men. Negotiations are still taking place with the staff on the implementation of other aspects of the Directive.

Useful address: Department of Social Welfare, Aras Mhic Dhiarmada, Dublin.

The Government has also decided to increase family allowances by Ir£3.00 per child. This brings the allowance to Ir£15.05 for each of the first five children. Over 475,000 mothers will benefit from this increase, which will be paid in respect of 1,200,000 children. The Government has, however, abolished the Child Tax Allowance of Ir£100 a year.

Useful addresses: Department of Social Welfare, Aras Mhic Dhiarmada, Dublin 2; The Revenue Commissioners, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.

Minister for Labour Ruairi Quinn has promised to set up a creche for employees' children in the Department of Labour. The Minister was speaking at the formal opening of the Dublin Airport Authority's Work Place Nursery. Useful addresses: Department of Labour, Mespil Road, Dublin 4;
Aer Rianta, Dublin Airport, Dublin.

The Minister for Labour has also appointed Dr Caroline Hussey, a lecturer in the Department of Microbiology at University College Dublin, as chairperson of the new Interim Board for Occupational Safety and Health. New legislation will eventually lead to the setting up of a national authority for occupational health and safety. Useful address: Department of Labour, Mespil Road, Dublin 4.

"Woman to Woman" is the title of a new health book produced by the Attic Press and written by Ann Roper. The book is a health care guide in question and answer form and covers basic biology and problems like the menopause, mental health and pregnancy. Useful address: Attic Press, 44 East Essex Street, Dublin.

Germa Hussey is leaving her post as Education Minister to become Minister for Social Welfare.

A new drop-in community centre for women has opened in one of Dublin's major suburbs, Rathmines. Funded jointly by the Eastern Health Board and the Department of Social Welfare, the centre's aim is to help relieve the isolation in which many women, particularly single mothers, live. Useful address: Women's Centre, 47 Richmond Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

The Council for the Status of Women recently launched its latest policy document which covers a wide range of topics, including law and justice, rural women and social rights.

The Council has also called the Government's attention to the ready accessibility of "video nasties", which could be a contributory factor in the growing incidence of rapes and other forms of violence against women and children. Useful address: Council for the Status of Women, 64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2.

The UCD Women's Studies Forum, founded in 1983, organizes a broad range of activities each year. Its 1986 programme includes seminars on women and local politics, women and spirituality, women's identity and women and the law. Useful address: Ailbhe Smith, UCD Women's Studies Forum, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4.

The Irish Prime Minister has announced his intention to organize a referendum on divorce in June. The Constitution will have to be amended if the people of Ireland vote in favour of legalizing divorce.

I T A L Y

The national commission for the realization of equality between men and women (Commissione Nazionale per la Realizzazione della Parità tra Uomo e Donna) recently presented an outline of a national action programme for equality. The aim is to identify measures likely to eliminate existing discrimination, eradicate the causes of discrimination and provide special methods of promoting and protecting women. Prime Minister Bettino Craxi introduced the document and announced the appointment of the first equality counsellors on regional employment commissions. Symbolically, he chose 8 March to make the announcement.

The Commission's plan is divided into six chapters:

- information and training;
- women and politics;
- equality in the Constitution and legislation;
- women and health;
- women and new technology;
- women and international relations.

Mr Craxi also welcomed the publication of the positive action programme guide as "a very useful instrument for integrating the problems in the life of Italian society and its operational centres". This slim publication defines the objectives and effects of the programme, suggests methods of implementation and describes possible positive actions to be taken in recruiting personnel, training, assessment and management.

The National Commission has also published two interesting catalogues: one of women's periodicals in Italy from 1861 to 1985, and one on Italian women writers from 1945 to 1985.

The Commission is organizing three TV broadcasts on equality, which will invite companies to abandon their prejudices against women.

Useful address: Commissione Nazionale per la Realizzazione della Parità tra Uomo e Donna, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Palazzo Chigi, 370 Piazza Colonna, 00187 Rome.

The realization of equality between male and female workers is also of concern to the Italian Ministry of Labour and the national committee responsible for this issue, Comitato per la Parità delle Lavoratrici, which has drawn up a supplement to the national plan. This paper, drafted by Costanza Fanelli, Gabriella Fanello, Renata Malerba and Carla Passalacqua, proposes a positive rather than "defensive" strategy, with the stakes on economic revival, development and the creation of a new "working culture". The authors mention positive actions (to be covered in a forthcoming bill) as one means of achieving equality.

The Committee held an information seminar on positive action in Rome at the end of December, examining the achievements and methods of positive action and discussing existing and future schemes.

Useful address: Comitato per la Parità delle Lavoratrici, Ministero del Lavoro, 6 via Flavia, Rome.

Major changes follow the Italian Communist Party Conference. Turin municipal councillor Livia Turco, 31, is the first woman to join the Party's secretariat. She is also a member of the Party executive, together with Nilde Iotti, Giglia Tedesco and Lalla Trupia. The number of women elected to Party bodies has shot up - from 1 to 50 - and a new all-female committee for the emancipation and liberation of women has been set up within the central committee.

Women activists also played an important part in discussing and passing resolutions and have successfully tabled a number of amendments to the motions on "sexual contradictions" and "women and the women's movement".

Useful address: Livia Turco, responsabile femminile del Partito Comunista Italiano, 4 via Botteghe Oscure, Rome.

"Possible welfare: from welfare State to social State" was the theme of a conference forming part of the National Convention of Women Socialists at Senigallia. The meeting concluded that "the social State should positively discriminate in favour of all those who are, or have been, discriminated against". Welfare policy should be clearly distinguished from all other social policies, which should aim to create job opportunities.

Useful address: Movimento Femminile PSI, 476 via del Corso, 00187 Rome.

"Health and welfare: a dual system" was the subject of a conference held by the women's section of the Republican Party in Rome. The Conference stressed the need to improve health services by using skilled medical personnel, improving management and making better use of resources.

Useful address: Movimento Femminile Repubblicano, 70 Piazza dei Caprettari, 00186 Rome.

Women of the European Left discussed the work of the Communist Group in European Parliament and the Italian Communist Party, Left-wing policy on women's affairs and the presence of women in the parties of the Left, at a conference in Rome. The meeting was opened by President of the Lower House Nilde Iotti and was attended by several MEPs.

Useful address: PCI, 4 via delle Botteghe Oscure, Rome.

The second Italian women's book fair, "Firmato Donna" (the first was held in 1984), took place in Rome in March. This year's fair was extended to include debates, discussion groups and plays. "Women of Europe" awarded a prize to journalist Viviana Kasam for her ability and dedication to equal opportunities. The event was organized by the women's section of the National League of Cooperatives (Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue).

Useful address: Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue, 9 via A Guattani, 00161 Rome.

The City of Rome's prize for women went to Gabriella Magrini for her book on the Japanese author of "Genij Monogatari", Murasaki; Laura Canciani for her poems; Willy Pocino for "La curiosità di Roma", and the feminist magazine "Minerva".

Useful address: Premio Donna Città di Roma, 67 via Bruxelles, 00198 Rome.

Following the "Esistere come donna" exhibition in Milan a few years ago, some of the exhibitors have set up an association to gather material on women's affairs.

Useful address: Esistere come donna, Centro di Studi Storici sulla condizione femminile, UFN, 32 Corso di Porta Nuova, 20121 Milan.

The final document of the Nairobi Conference, on future strategy, is now available in Italian ("Strategie future d'azione"), with an introduction by Elena Marinucci.

Useful address: Commissione Nazionale per la Parità tra Uomo e Donna, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Palazzo Chigi, Rome.

An Italian aid project for women in Zimbabwe has been devised by the African Institute (Istituto africano), chaired by Tullia Caretoni Romagnoli. The scheme, to be run by the Institute, will set up a multidisciplinary education centre in each of Zimbabwe's eight regions to provide women with basic training and enable them to assess their work.

Useful address: Istituto africano, 16 via Aldovrandi, 00197 Rome.

A new publishing company, ASTREA, will be printing women's books from all over the world. Just two of the books listed in the catalogue are Olive Schreiner's "Storia di una fattoria africana" and Enrichetta Caracciolo's "Misteri del chiostro napoletano".

Useful address: ASTREA Giunti, 34 via Gioberti, 50121 Florence.

One-person households presently account for 13.5% of all families in Italy (a 61% increase since the last survey) and most of them are women. The figures are published by the Italian National Statistics Institute, which drew them from a survey of women's perception of themselves as "single". An article on the subject was printed by "Donne e Politica". The November/December '85 issue of that journal contained an article by Communist MEP Lalla Trupia.

Useful address: "Donne e Politica", Editori Riuniti Riviste, 11 via Serchio, 00198 Rome.

The new women's section of the Italian federation of smallholders recently took part in the organization's third conference. In an interview with the monthly magazine "Noi Donne", section director Paola Ortensi said that the decision to introduce a separate women's section was based not on any desire to segregate women but on the need to devote more time and attention to the specific problems of women farmers. The women's aim is to improve the quality of life in the country and increase women's role in farm management.

Useful address: Confcoltivatori, 20 via Mariano Fortuny, 00196 Rome.

Sexist stereotypes are being given a hard time, particularly in school books: Rossana Pace has just completed her research on the subject for the national commission for the realization of equality between men and women (Commissione Nazionale per la Realizzazione della Parità tra Uomo e Donna). Her report is illustrated with numerous good and bad examples (unfortunately there are far more bad than good) and comments.

Useful address: Commissione Nazionale per la Realizzazione della Parità tra Uomo e Donna, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Palazzo Chigi, Rome.

Franca Pieroni Bortolotti, historian of Italian feminism, died last November. The February issue of "Noi Donne" pays tribute by printing a debate between four specialists: Annarita Buttafuoco, Michela De Giorgio, Rosanna De Longis and Paola Gaiotti de Biase.

Useful address: "Noi Donne", 12 via Trinita dei Pellegrini, 00186 Rome.

Women are getting together in a "women managers' working group" set up by the Italian Confederation of Business Managers, and in the "women's national coordinating committee" set up by the Independent Federation of Italian Bankers (FABI). Useful addresses: Confederazione Nazionale dei Dirigenti d'Azienda, 75 via Nazionale, 00184 Rome; Loredana Cova, FABI, 2 via Pave, 2110 Varese.

Women are demanding the right to be football referees (the demand was sent to the Prime Minister) and to pay reduced bus fares as all male workers do (reduced fares are demanded by the housewives of Brescia via the housewives' movement "Movimento delle donne di casa").

An appeal to all "Women of Europe" readers. A reference library run by a cooperative in Pistoia is looking for the following issues to complete its collection of the magazine: nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 17, 21 and 22. Useful address: Centro di Documentazione di Pistoia, 29 via Orati, Casella postale 347, Pistoia.

The press service, "L'Eco della stampa", saves busy people time by doing press searches, taking and filing clippings from 80 dailies, 400 weeklies and thousands of other periodicals. Useful address: L'Eco della stampa, 28 via Compagnoni, 20129 Milan.

Women in the Church has been the subject of several recent conferences and studies. To cite just a few examples: the conference on the mission and vocation of the laity in the Church and in the world, held in Palermo by the Theological Faculty of Sicily; the scheme run by the bookshop "Rinascita" and the Catholic affairs committee of the Milan branch of the Italian Communist Party, which set up a study group to explore the relationship between women and faith, women and the Church and women and society, and the "women and the reconciliation cycle" (la donna nella riconciliazione) in Cardinal Martini's "Scuola della parola" in Milan. The number of women students in faculties of theology continue to increase, more and more people are demanding that women be given a "visible role" in the Church, and study groups are flourishing. In the Third World, nuns often perform duties previously reserved for priests.

The 1985 national congress of Centro Italiano Femminile (CIF - Italian Women's Centre) was entitled "Realtà donna: tra utopia e progetto" (women: utopia versus reality). The final report outlines a "future reality" for women and society, women and the family, women and work and women and associations. It was presented by the Congress chairman, Maria Rosaria Bosco Lucarelli. During the discussions, former MEP Paola Gaiotti argued that associations and groups are a means of overcoming the crisis in democracy. The full report has been published in the Centre's newsletter, "Cronache e Opinioni", 25 via Carlo Zucchi, 00165 Rome.

Under the title of "the People's Europe", the journal of CAF (women's associations' committees) gives a brief outline of what Europeans can do to create a People's Europe, without waiting for diplomats and ministers to take action. The first area in which it is suggested that people could influence the development of the People's Europe is secondary education (civic education, teaching equality, history teaching, etc.). Useful address: Giornale dei CAF, 14 corso Vinzaglio, Turin.

L U X E M B O U R G

Inequality in social security matters is still a problem. The National Council of Luxembourg Women (Conseil National des Femmes Luxembourgeoises) has drafted a report in which it regrets the delay in implementing the 1978 EEC Directive, stresses that the principle of equality also applies to the self-employed, pensioners and invalids, and states that it intends to defend such ideas as widows' pensions, taking periods of study and maternity leave into account, and divorcees' right to claim a pension. The Council warns national governments that they may be penalized by the European Court of Justice if they do not implement the Directive. Useful address: Conseil National des Femmes Luxembourgeoises, PO Box 106, Luxembourg.

The Council has been on the receiving end of some criticism since it refused membership to "Femmes en detresse" and "OGB-L Femmes". Socialist MP Lydie Err made strong protests to CNFL and complained to Family Affairs Minister Mr Spautz, who said that, as a non-profit-making association, CNFL was entitled to make its own decisions on membership.

Violence against women was on the agenda for International Women's Day in Luxembourg. In response to the call from nine women's organizations, women activists marched in protest through the streets of Luxembourg. After the march, the women met to discuss the different forms of violence, "structural violence" (in the form of the silence or complete absence of women in the media), sexual violence and violence against women in public life.

Two women's associations, the Women's Liberation Movement in Luxembourg and Amazone, have decided to launch a new information campaign on contraception. Their demands include Social Security allowances for contraceptives, free contraceptives for young people and sex education classes in schools. A petition is to be sent to Parliament. Useful address: Amazone, 1 place des Bains, Luxembourg.

The problem of reorganizing working hours was discussed at the national conference of women Christian Socialists. The conclusion, presented by their national president Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, was that, despite certain drawbacks, part-time working had given many women an opportunity to return to work (albeit with very limited career prospects). Useful address: Femmes Chretiennes Sociales, 38 rue du Cure, 1368 Brussels.

Women must no longer be at a loss when their cars break down. The Northern branch of Women Socialists is offering car maintenance courses to teach women how to do small repair jobs themselves.

N E T H E R L A N D S

Women may be war victims too, but two Dutch laws on pensions and allowances for victims discriminate against married women. Amsterdam's women's arbitration body (Stichting Ombudsvrouw) has lodged a complaint against the Netherlands with the European Commission. The laws affect several thousand families.

The arbitration body is also taking legal action against the Minister for Social Security and Employment because no protection is provided for women domestic workers who are dismissed. It is hoped that this will force the Minister to introduce the necessary measures.

Useful address: Heleen M van den Tempel, Stichting Ombudsvrouw Amsterdam, Postbus 51330, 1007 EH Amsterdam.

The wishes of the Emancipation Council (Emancipatieraad) have been answered: the Justice Minister has said that pornography is clearly hostile to women and therefore discriminatory and illegal.

The Council has also complained to the Education Minister about cuts in teachers' working hours which indirectly discriminate against women, and published a manual for pregnant workers ("Werkwijzen voor zwangere werknemers").

Useful address: Emancipatieraad, 10 Lutherse Burgwal, 2512 CH The Hague.

A woman has been appointed leader of the Liberal Group (VVD) in the Lower Chamber: MS E A de Gaaf-van Metteren succeeds Mr de Korte as leader.

Women want to work: statistics show that the number of women choosing to work is increasing and could reach 2.5 million by 1990, and that the number of women students in higher education has risen much faster than the number of men (95% as against 17%).

In 1985, the provincial VOS Scheme (women's courses run by provincial arts councils) was the only scheme to receive financial support from the State fund for local authorities' emancipation projects. Other women's groups, Provinciale Vrouwenraad and Stichting Open, will be sharing the grant. Useful address: VOS-cursussen, Culturele Raad Noord Holland, Postbus 163, Ijmuiden.

Women are entering new professions: the first three women employees have started work for the Amsterdam Highways Department (Stadsreiniging). There are, however, too few women museum guides and the percentage of women museum directors has dropped from 2% in 1983 to 1.4%, despite the appointment of two women curators at the Franeker museum and the local museum in Deurne. Other women have been dismissed without being given enough time to appeal: this was the national ombudsman's verdict in a case involving 46 women employed by the delivery and warehousing firm, "Productie Verzen en Opslag".

The interfaculty working group on research and studies on women is holding a four-day seminar on "language, culture and the future for women" to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the University of Utrecht.

Useful address: Interfacultaire Werkgroep Vrouwenstudies, 1 Heidelberglaan, 3584 CS Utrecht.

"Made in heaven: women and changes in the international division of labour" by Maartje van Putten and Nicole Lucas examines women's role in industry since the nineteenth century. Available soon in English.

Useful address: Maartje van Putten, c/o Partij van de Arbeid,
30 Nicolas Witsenkade, 1017 ZT Amsterdam.

"Tradition and change: women and Judaism" is an exhibition on the changing legal position of Jewish women through history. Open until 2 November.

Useful address: Joods Historisch Museum, Waaggebouw, 4 Nieuwmarkt,
Amsterdam.

P O R T U G A L

The immediate result of the Portuguese women's delegation's visit to other EC Member States was the foundation of a new association: Intervenção feminina. The aim of the 25 Portuguese women delegates in setting up the association is to encourage women to participate in all areas of public and working life and to campaign against discrimination, violence and abuse of the image of women. The women have presented their plan to the Prime Minister, the parliamentary committee for women's affairs and the Ministers of Labour, Health and Education.

Useful address: Comissao da Condição Feminina, Presidencia do Conselho de Ministros, 32-2 Esq avenida da Republica, 1093 Lisbon.

"Women in higher education, scientific research and new technology in Portugal" is to be the wide-ranging theme of a conference arranged by the Committee for Women's Affairs (Comissao da Condição Feminina) on 10-12 December 1986. The Committee hopes that the conference will help to publicize women's role in these fields and provide a forum for exchanging views and experiences and assessing the positive contribution of women to higher education, scientific research and new technology.

The Committee has also been instrumental in arranging a series of television broadcasts entitled "E sempre bom saber" (It's always good to know). The programmes will be broadcast from May onwards and will give brief information on the consequences of EC membership, motherhood, vocational training, local job creation schemes, the image of women in advertising and violence against women.

At the request of the Committee for Women's Affairs, anthropologist Antonio Pedro Pires has written a book called "Mulheres violentadas" which analyses the different forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence against women. Published by A Regra de Jogo Edicoes.

S P A I N

Ten full-colour exhibition panels (50cm x 70cm) on women and the European Community are now available in Spanish as well as French, Italian and Greek. They give general information on the Community and European women, school life and preparing youngsters for employment, the working world, how the European Community works, the Community's role in equal opportunities, and European Parliament - the body representing every European.

Useful addresses: Commission de las Comunidades Europeas, Oficina de Prensa e Informacion, 41 calle Serrano, 28001 Madrid; Service Information Femmes, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.

The Ministry of Labour is to award a grant of Ptas 250,000 per contract to firms appointing women to jobs in male-dominated fields, provided that the jobs are permanent. The Women's Institute (Instituto de la Mujer) is to launch an information campaign to draw employers' attention to the scheme.

Useful address: Instituto de la Mujer, 36 Almagro, 28004 Madrid.

Special measures for women over 25 are to be included in a national training and job integration programme.

The activities of Instituto de la Mujer include:

- courses for women civil servants in the upper echelons of the police force, run in collaboration with the General-Directorate for National Security;
- an audiovisual workshop which will soon have slides and videos on women and history, pimping and prostitution and violence against women;
- studies on adapting positive actions recommended by the EEC to suit Spain, Spanish women and feminism, politics, sexuality and work;
- seminars on Spain and the EEC: new objectives for women, women's identity in the family and society, battered wives and non-sexist education;
- booklets on labour relations for domestic workers, women's rights in the home, at work and in society, and violence (with the slogan, "woman, don't cry, speak out and defend your dignity").

Useful address: Instituto de la Mujer, 36 Almagro, 28004 Madrid.

The Women's Institute (Instituto de la Mujer) has recently opened Women's Rights Information Centres at its Madrid office and the following addresses:

- 2 calle Casado de Alisal, Palencia;
- 31 calle Juan de Quesada, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria;
- 1 Pasaje Puntida, Santander.

The centres will provide full information on women's rights free of charge, and women can report cases of sexual discrimination to them.

Another Women's Rights Information Centre will be opening at 25 calle La Palma, Toledo, in the next few months.

The March issue of the Institute's monthly magazine, Mujeres, was devoted to domestic work: an underestimated, low status job.

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

In February the European Court of Justice gave its judgment on the case of Helen Marshall, whose employers had practically forced her to retire at an earlier age than her male colleagues (see Women of Europe n° 44). The British Government reacted quickly by producing a consultative document on Sex Discrimination and Retirement suggesting amendments to a new Sex Discrimination Bill to be enacted in the summer and come into effect 12 months later. These amendments would make it unlawful for employers to require women employees to retire at an earlier age than men. The Government is not at present intending to change the national pension system but, as Employment Minister Ian Lang pointed out, the proposals show that the Government accepts the idea that men and women should be able to retire at a time of their choosing within a 10-year span.

Useful address: Sex Discrimination and Retirement, Department of Employment
Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF

Equal pay and equal opportunities was the theme of the Trades Union Congress women's conference in Leicester, attended by some 60 women delegates. It was pointed out that the unions had achieved a few successes for women, particularly pay rises of up to 28%. There is an expanding programme of activities for 1986, with training courses in science and engineering and work on the issues of UK immigration rules, adult training and sexual harassment at work. The Committee has produced a booklet, Women at Work, showing the important role of women in industry.

Useful address: TUC Women's Committee, Trades Union Congress
Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS

The BBC is finally showing concern about the notorious imbalance between its male and female employees. (At the top grade, there are 159 men and 6 women and there are 263 men but only 27 women heads of department.) As a result of the report Women in BBC Management by Monica Sims, retired Director of Radio Programmes, the BBC is about to launch a set of innovations, including appointing an equal opportunities officer to look after the development of women and ethnic minorities within the BBC, setting up two new women-only courses (management training and an introduction to technical operations) and introducing an annual audit of senior staff. In her report, Monica Sims noted the difficulties faced by married women with children in coping with the workaholic syndrome in BBC radio and TV. An article on the subject has appeared in The Guardian.

Useful address: Maggy Meade-King, The Guardian
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER

Bristol University's School for Advanced Urban Studies will be offering a European Community Policy option for the new intake starting in October. Applications from women and people from minority ethnic groups are particularly welcome.

Useful address: Judith Tyler, School for Advanced Urban Studies
University of Bristol, Rodney Lodge Grange Road, Bristol BS8 4EA

The Fawcett Society, which has been campaigning for sexual equality since 1866, is to launch the Women into Public Life campaign later this year. In its March issue, the Society drew readers' attention to the draft EEC directive on parental leave.

Useful address: The Fawcett Society, 46 Harleyford Road, London SE11 5AY

Money to help women. The Equal Opportunities Commission recently granted £16,577 to four projects helping women in widely differing ways. Nearly £3,000 goes to the Strathclyde Rape Crisis Centre to produce a video on sexual violence against women. In Bristol, the Association for Neighbourhood Daycare gets £1,070. In London, the National Association of Teachers of Home Economics gets £5,000 to help teachers develop non-sexist attitudes to the subject of home economics. The largest sum (£7,500) will be used to produce a booklet, New Ways to Work, that provides up-to-date information on job-sharing in local authorities.

Useful address: Voluntary Organization Unit, Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN.

Attitudes towards women in Northern Ireland. Backed by the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission, John Kremer and Carole Curry from Queen's University, Belfast have been investigating the image of women in Northern Ireland. The findings of their survey are extremely interesting: while traditional attitudes define women's role as one in the home, people are far more liberally minded about women's place in society, although they are more reluctant to accept the idea of equality at work. Interestingly, men and women who were educated at co-educational schools are much less liberal than others. Mary Clark-Glass, chairman of the Commission in Northern Ireland, said the Commission was pleased to support this research.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland, Chamber of Commerce House, 22 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 2BA.

Early morning risers can hear Liz Rigby delight her BBC radio listeners with the happenings of British farms. She has now been appointed first woman editor of Radio 4's popular farming soap-opera. The Archers, which has been running for 25 years and has become a British institution, is broadcast every lunch time and early evening and describes the lives of a farming family.

The British Film Institute's Education Section has published a Women's Film List providing details of films available for hire in the UK. Indices are alphabetical by title and director. Subjects covered include abortion, health, crime and work and the films should provide a valuable resource for teachers.

Useful address: BFI Publications, 81 Dean Street, London W1V 6AA.

Publications. Feminism and Political Theory, written by Judith Evans and six other women, applies a feminist dimension to political analysis and presents a critique of the major schools of Western political theory. (Sage Publications, 28 Banner Street, London EC1Y 8QE. Cloth £19.50; paper £5.95) Equal Opportunities Review, a bi-monthly journal launched in 1985, is aimed mainly at managers, trade unionists and local authorities interested in equal opportunities. A recent issue examined the latest Sex Discrimination Bill. (Industrial Relations Services, 67 Maygrove Road, London NW6. Subscription £62.50)

The British Army's magazine Soldier has written to us to draw our attention to the problems of soldiers' wives, who are victims of discrimination. It is very difficult for them to find jobs and they lose their right to unemployment benefit when unemployed in non-Member States. Euro-MPs Ben Patterson, Fred Tuckman and Lord Douro have offered to support the women in finding a solution to the problem.

Useful address: Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU.

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women has been defending the interests of working women since 1930 with the slogan "let's accept our responsibilities, improve the occupational status of women and share our experiences". The organization, which has 23 member countries and some 200,000 individual members in 41 countries, has consultative status in the UN's Economic and Social Committee, UNESCO, UNICEF and other international institutions.

The Federation held a conference on women at the Agricultural Fair in Verona in March, where the speakers included African and Latin American women. An American woman speaking at the meeting said that, in the United States, 61% of farmers' wives are responsible for organizing farming budgets. According to an Italian speaker, women own more than 10% of Italy's farms.

Useful address: International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Buchan House, 24/30 Holborn, London EC1N 2HS.

The Union of Women Christian Democrats has a new president: a Spanish woman, Concepcion Ferrer, is to take the place of the outgoing Italian president, Franca Falcucci, marking the accession of Spain to the European Community. At its general assembly early this year, the Union also elected Marlene Lenz (German chairman of European Parliament's Committee for Women's Rights) as its vice-president.

The meeting passed a resolution on the problems of genetic engineering, in which it called for action to defend the rights of the individual and the creation of a European committee on ethics.

Demands for the reevaluation of domestic work are on the increase throughout the Community. At European level, Federation europeenne de Femmes Actives au Foyer (European federation of women working in the home - with the emphasis on the "working") is calling for a study of the value of domestic work and social status for parents working in the home.

Useful address: FEFAF, avenue de Tervueren, Boite 10, 1040 Brussels.

Christian hope in times of crisis was the theme of the general assembly of Forum Oecumenique des Femmes d'Europe (ecumenical forum of European women). The Forum publishes a quarterly newsletter.

Useful address: Mme Bohn, 32/12 Marselis Boulevard, 800 Aarhus, Denmark.

Teresa da Costa Macedo is the new chairman of Union internationale des Organismes familiaux (international union of family organizations).

Useful address: UIOF, 45C rue Victor Cordon, Lisbon.

Chilian women are protesting against the recession and institutionalized violence and for democracy. Their demands are channelled through several new organizations and centres, including Unidad de Comunicacion Alternativa de la Mujer which is part of the Instituto de Estudios Transnacionales.

Maria do Carmo Romao, general secretary of the Portuguese Assembly, recently compiled a questionnaire on women in parliamentary office for the association of parliamentary general secretaries. The latest survey of the situation was conducted in 1969.

Useful address: Maria do Carmo Romao, Assembleia da Republica, Palacio de Santo Bento, 1296 Lisbon.

<p style="text-align: center;">R E S E A R C H , M E E T I N G S A N D B O O K S</p>
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Il futuro della donna: nuova speranza per la società? (the future of women: new hope for society?) contains the proceedings of the international seminar conceived and organized by Gaetana Cazora Russo, chairman of Unione Femminile Internazionale di Studi e di Azione Sociale (international women's union for study and social action). The book gives an account of the round table discussions on women and society, an alternative vision, mass communications and Catholic culture, and includes a set of papers on training for equality, women's role in society and women and the creation of a new social structure. The final section is a "proposal" regarding culture, politics, the family and work.

Useful address: Libreria Ed. Ruggero Risa, 6 via Lago Tana, Rome.

Il Progetto is published by the Italian trades union confederation CISL and centres on labour policies. The September/October '85 issue was dedicated to women at work, pensions and innovation and included "disputes" and arts columns. Useful address: Il Progetto, CISL, 21 via Po, Rome.

A young Portuguese sociologist, Maria Carrilho, has written a book on the fascinating and complicated subject of the role of the armed forces in political life. Forças armadas e mudança política em Portugal no século XX (the armed forces and political change in Portugal in the twentieth century) is based on the Weberian notion that the State legitimizes coercion and that there is, therefore, an immediate bond between the armed forces and politics. The author examines all aspects of the military institution (the emphasis is on the sociological) and studies the whys and wherefores of coup d'etats; she then moves on to discuss the case of Portugal and the phases through which the country has passed: from monarchy to republic, from republic to dictatorship and from dictatorship to democracy. Published by Estudos Gerais, Serie Universitaria, Imprensa Nacional-Casa de Moeda, Lisbon.

Las Mujeres y la Comunidad Europea (women and the European Community) has been published by the Secretaria de participacion de la Mujer (women's section) of the Spanish Socialist Party - PSOE, 70 calle Fenaz, Madrid.

Written contributions welcome for a conference in Denmark on 15-19 November. Based on the theme "women challenge technology", the conference will be conducted in English (probably with French and Russian translators) and will be divided into 4 plenary sessions. There will also be inter- and intra-disciplinary group discussions and workshops. Topics for debate are to include new trends in science and technology, based on humanitarian values and women's skills; changes in the education system to increase options open to girls; the demand for women on the jobs market and women's demands on the jobs market, and the creation of a society in which science and technology answer women's needs. All correspondence should be sent to Mona Dahus, Institut des Systemes Electroniques, Universite d'Aalborg, 23 Badhusvej, 9000 Aalborg.

In its latest newsletter, Forum Oecuménique des Femmes Chrétiennes (ecumenical forum of Christian women) published articles on women in the East German army and Scandinavian churches and a wide range of regional news items. Between January and June, the Forum will be holding a series of meetings on feminist theology, and its general meeting will be in Helsinki on 2-9 June; Useful address: FOFC, 21 chemin François Lehmann, 1218 Grand Saconnex, Geneva.

Originally published in Holland, Les femmes invisibles dans la théologie et dans l'église is now available in France.

Useful address: Editions Beauchesne, 72 rue des Grands Pères, 75007 Paris.