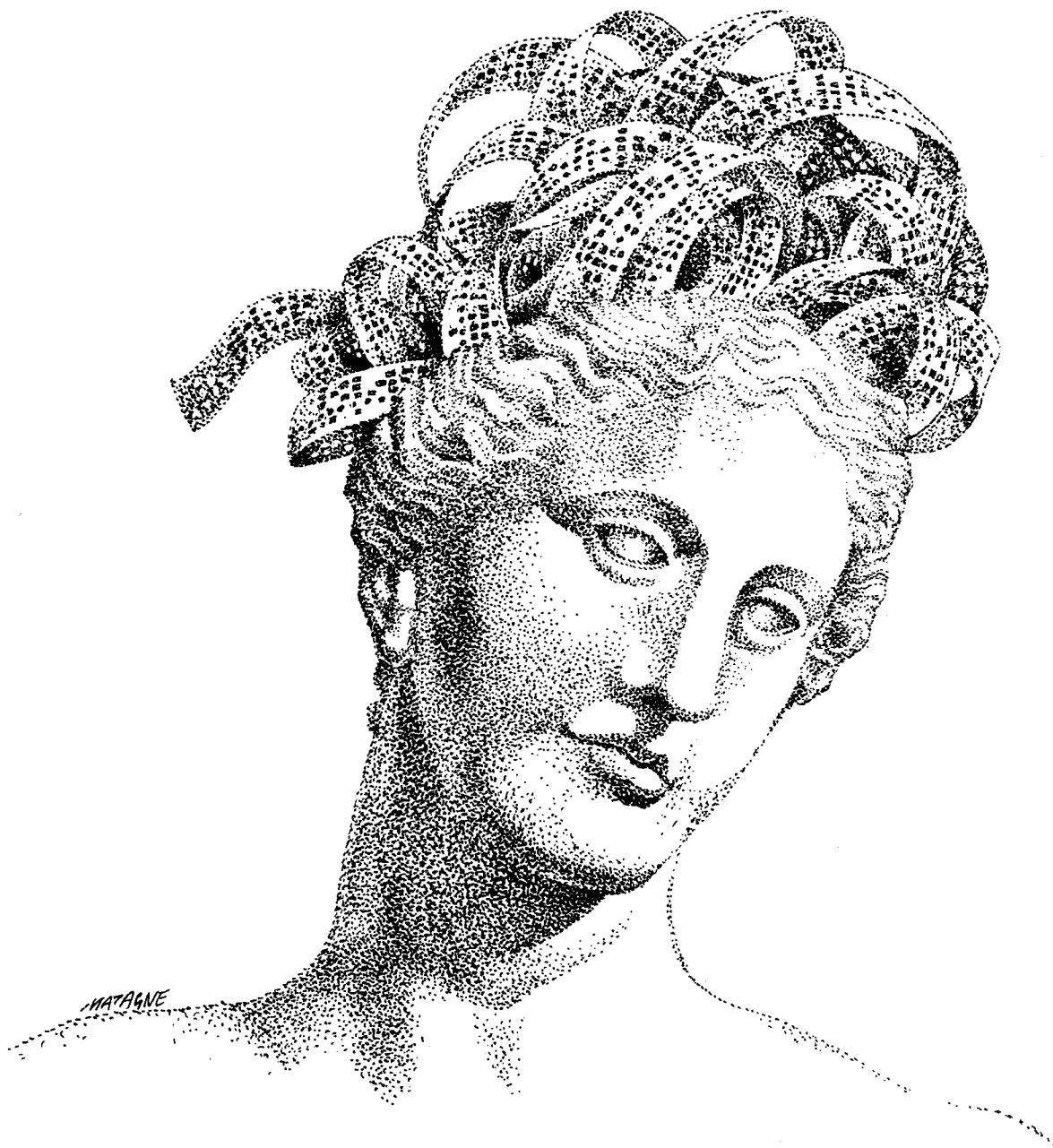


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<p>THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY</p>

Following the meeting of the Social Affairs Council on 5 June, the National Belgian Women's Council (Conseil National des Femmes Belges) wrote to Manuel Marin, European Commissioner for Social Affairs, to express its bitter disappointment at the meeting's failure to produce any positive results. Commissioner Marin's reply indicated that "the European Commission too was disappointed at the outcome of the meeting". There is already some doubt as to whether sufficient funding can be made available to implement the new Equality Programme. The Commission also has some reservations regarding aspects of the one directive that was in fact adopted by the Council for Social Affairs on 5 June, but Commissioner Marin gave an assurance that the Commission would do all that it could to see that the directive was put into action now that it had been adopted. He concluded that it was important for women to voice their views but that this would have little effect unless pressure is also brought to bear on negotiating bodies (i.e. governments).

The directive and resolution adopted by the Council have been published in the Official Journal of the European Communities: the directive on implementation of the principle of **equality in social security occupational schemes** (86/378/EEC) appears in Series L 225/40 and the resolution on the **promotion of equal opportunities** (86/C 203/02) appears in Series C 203/2.

The Euro-barometer opinion poll conducted in July by the European Commission's special adviser Jacques-René Rabier has revealed the views held by Europeans on a wide range of subjects:

Quality of life: more people said that they were happy with their lives than during the last survey;

European Parliament: only half of those questioned (ranging from 69% in Luxembourg to 37% in Greece) knew that there was a European Parliament, and the authors of the survey feel that steps need to be taken to inform people about the European Community and its institutions. It is not enough to draw Europeans' attention to Parliament during election periods; positive action is needed to arouse their interest and enthusiasm. Some of the people questioned (as many as 70% in Italy) thought that European Parliament should be given greater powers. All this is food for thought for MEPs in the run-up to the next elections (1989).

Europe and the Community: the number of people in favour of the European Economic Community is higher than last year, particularly in Denmark, Germany and Portugal (the rise from 28% to 51% in Portugal may be attributed to Portugal's recent accession to the EEC). There seems, however, to be little enthusiasm for the idea of European integration, which needs to be promoted.

A People's Europe: the percentage in favour of a "Europe without frontiers" ranged from 63% in Portugal to a mere 25% in the United Kingdom (and yet the British were strongly in favour of a "wider common market", an idea supported by 88% of those questioned throughout the Member States). The Channel Tunnel project to link the U.K. to the continent does not, however, enjoy much support from the British: 46% were against and only 31% in favour.

Europeans feel that the success of international relations is reflected in the amount of confidence people of different nations have in each other. The poll shows a slight increase in the sense of mutual trust between peoples, though the stereotypes remain. Northern European countries are generally more trusted than others and, of non-Member States, Switzerland commands the most confidence, followed by the United States and Japan in joint second place. Europeans are becoming more trusting of China and slightly less suspicious of the Soviet Union.

In September, the European Commission discussed whether **nationals of one Member State who live in another should be given the right to vote in local elections in their country of residence** as one of a series of measures to promote the People's Europe. Carlo Ripa di Meana said that the Commission supported the proposal, which would affect some 5 million people throughout the Community. Denmark and the Netherlands already extend the right to vote in local elections to all residents.

For the first time, a **woman has been appointed editor** of The Courier, which is published by the European Commission for the ACP countries. Marie Hélène Birindelli is responsible for cultural cooperation with Third World countries at the Directorate-General for Development, where she has worked since 1962; she is highly knowledgeable about developing countries and has lived in Nigeria and the Central African Republic. "Women of Europe" offers her its congratulations and good wishes.

MEPs' questions to the Commission

Johanna Maij-Weggen asked the European Commission why there are so few women on the Community's advisory bodies, citing the committees responsible for the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) as specific examples.

Replying for the Commission, Manuel Marin confirmed that only 5 of the 60 members of the ESF committee were women. Members are nominated by the Council of Ministers and the Commission has no say in the matter.

Women hold 3 of the 30 seats on the CEDEFOP committee. Nominations of candidates representing employers and trades unions are submitted to the Commission by the appropriate bodies. Representatives of the Member States are appointed by the Council of Ministers. Here again, the Commission has no say in the matter, though it is aware that women are under-represented on these committees. Commissioner Marin assured MEPs that he would draw the attention of those responsible to the problem.

Socialists Jorge Campinos (Portugal) and Ludvina Garcia Arias (Spain) asked the Commission whether it intended to offer Portuguese and Spanish women information on the training and employment grants available from the ESF. Manuel Marin said that the Commission was compiling a list of positive actions taken in Member States to serve as a guideline for Spain and Portugal. The Commission is also drafting a code of conduct on how positive actions can be applied in the workplace. It is too early to pass any judgment on the success of ESF schemes.

Readers may be interested to hear that the Women's Information Service and the Portuguese Commission on Women's Status (Comissão da Condição Feminina) held a seminar in Lisbon in November to inform organizations and individuals on the eligibility requirements and application procedures for ESF grants.

Women director for European Parliament information office in Madrid

The directors of European Parliament's Information Offices in the new Member States, Spain and Portugal, were appointed recently.

Asuncion Valdés, a Spanish television reporter who has worked in Bonn and Brussels, is to run the Madrid office. Nunu Antas de Campos, former NATO spokesman in Brussels, will be in charge of the Lisbon office.

Young people are not selfish is the title of the editorial in the September issue of Youth Opinion, the newsletter of the European Youth Forum (10 rue de la Science, Brussels). The issue also contains information on the meeting between Youth Forum and representatives of young people from the ACP countries, a declaration against racism and an interview with Manuel Marin.

Retirement age: some progress, but still a long way to go

The European Commission has produced a report on Member States' application of the Council Recommendation of 10 December 1982 (ref. COM(86)365) on the principles of a Community policy on retirement age. The report concludes that real progress has been made: Member States are harmonizing their legislation and people have greater freedom of choice. Flexible retirement arrangements are not yet widely available, though this seems to be the ultimate aim of Member States.

The delays and restrictions are due to several factors, mainly the growth in unemployment which has led to measures preventing people from receiving both a pension and a wage (although they do not go so far as yet as to forbid pensioners to work). The economic recession has also been a factor causing the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Spain to encourage gradual or partial retirement. Another problem is the lack of schemes preparing people for retirement, to which only 10% of potential beneficiaries have access.

The Commission report covers a period of just two and a half years; it does not propose any new initiatives but merely reiterates the principles of the Recommendation: flexible retirement ages and arrangements, both of which would help solve the problem of equal treatment for men and women in retirement matters.

The Commission does, however, specify action of various kinds that could be implemented in the short term and intends to draft a further report within the next five years. Schemes to prepare people for retirement need to be developed, concentrating on the financial difficulties of pensioners, their health and leisure. People should be allowed to reduce their working hours gradually as they approach retirement age. Retired people, particularly those in receipt of very small pensions, must not be prevented from taking on paid work.

IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

July Session During its last session before the summer break, Parliament discussed the report by Italian Communist Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano on the controversial subject of **single-parent families**. The report has been mentioned in earlier issues of "Women of Europe" in the section on the Committee on Women's Rights. It is a familiar problem: the number of single parents is rising steadily, and most of them are widowed, divorced, separated or single women on low incomes. There are about 4 million single-parent families in the European Community and 7%-8% of our children have only one parent to look after them.

A resolution calling for recognition of single-parent households as a family unit, an end to discrimination against them and measures to alleviate the difficulties encountered by mothers, under a broader policy of securing equal opportunities for all women, was passed by a large majority (197 for, 21 against and 7 abstentions).

Presenting her report, Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano stressed the need for more reliable statistics and measures to put an end to the dependence of single-parent families on social security. She said that attitudes would have to change if the situation of these families was to improve.

The resolution made specific demands: provision of financial and social aid; help from the authorities to ensure that divorced women receive alimony from their ex-husbands (this is already available in Denmark, France and Germany, but British Socialist Carole Tongue pointed out that only 4 out of 10 divorcees in the U.K. receive the alimony they are owed); an end to sexual discrimination in the granting of pensions to widowed people; and the elimination of pejorative terms such as "adulterous" and "illegitimate", and replacement of "head of household" by "family representative".

It was a lively debate. Speaking for the European Right, Martine Lehideux recognized that these families had to be given official status and support but said that the steady increase in the number of single-parent households could be blamed on feminist theories, which tend to "force" women to work, as well as falling moral standards. German Christian Democrat Elmar Brock deplored prejudice against single-parent families but regretted that 75% of women bringing up their children alone also go out to work, which is not in the children's interest. Eileen Lemass (Ireland, RBW) called for equal treatment for all families. Belgian Socialist Anne Marie Lizin said that the resolution's proposals on alimony payments were not far-reaching enough and that Parliament should demand the creation of a European fund to deal with alimony claims. The European Commissioner responsible for these matters, Manuel Marin, said that the Commission was making every effort to promote equal opportunities and combat poverty.

September session Parliament concentrated on various technicalities such as the attitude to be adopted by the Community in the multilateral trade negotiations due to begin in Geneva at the end of 1986, as well as its attitude towards Japan, particularly as regards persuading Japan to open up its markets to European goods.

October Session Parliament discussed a problem close to the hearts of many Europeans - **drug abuse**. A resolution that was generally approved by all the political groups was passed by a resounding majority (261 for, 3 against and 21 abstentions), though some MEPs felt that the desire to reach a compromise had led Parliament to adopt a text that lacked real coherence. The motion called for "a concerted effort to solve the problem of drug abuse", including the rehabilitation of addicts and measures to encourage alternative production in drug-producing countries.

Parliament also held a debate on **terrorism** and, by a tiny majority, passed a resolution calling on the French Government to abolish the visa requirements imposed on non-EC nationals which have been introduced to keep terrorists out of France. Several MEPs felt that the introduction of visas may compromise the plan to eliminate border controls within the EC without necessarily forwarding the struggle against terrorism; it also discriminates against countries aligned with the Community. Some right-wing MEPs on the other hand thought that visas should be compulsory throughout the Community for all non-EC nationals.

Right-wing MEPs also called for the control and reduction of **immigration** but their motion was rejected; instead Parliament adopted the resolutions tabled by Ferruccio Pisoni (Italy, EPP), Raymonde Dury (Belgium, Socialist Group) and Francesca Marinaro (Italy, Communist and Allies Group). Mr Pisoni called for measures regarding EC nationals' right to vote in local elections, Raymonde Dury wanted closer monitoring to insure that Member States abide by Community regulations and respect the rights of immigrants, and Francesca Marinaro stressed the need for a directive on Community nationals' right to stay in a Member State other than their own.

The ACP-EEC Joint Parliamentary Assembly met in Greece in September and discussed suggestions put forward by representatives of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries regarding national debt, rural development and the environment. Rose Waruhiu of Kenya had drafted a report on the position of women in developing countries which called for a wider concept of development, to include family planning. She said that population growth could be controlled by improving the status of women in the Third World, particularly their education. Men too must be persuaded to accept the idea of birth control.

Parliamentary representatives on the **European Foundation** committee were appointed recently. They are the three vice chairmen of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport: French Socialist Roger Fajardie, Italian Christian Democrat Gustavo Selva and Italian Communist Giovanni Papietro. Although all of the new appointees are men, there are already several women on the Committee, which is chaired by the Scottish MEP Winifred Ewing.

MEP Yvonne van Rooy, who has been a member of the European People's Party since 1984, has been appointed Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands.

She is the first MEP to enter the Dutch Government since the introduction of direct elections.

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights went back to work with gusto at its first meeting after the summer break, tackling a heavy agenda and discussing important reports on some delicate subjects.

Reports had been drafted by Dutch Liberal Jessica Larive-Groenendaal on **surrogate mothers**. German Christian Democrat Ursula Braun-Moser on **making the jobs market more flexible** and German Socialist Heinke Salisch on **the effects of new technology on the jobs market**. The resolution tabled by Heinke Salisch included a critical analysis of the threat posed by new technology and was adopted by 14 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions by Liberals and European Democrats. Amendments may well be passed at the Committee's plenary session.

The report on **social security** by Italian Communist Lalla Trupia was greeted with greater unanimity and was passed with a single Liberal abstention.

At the Committee's first meeting since the summer recess, attended by Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana, views were exchanged on the Commission's information policy and the resources allocated to women's information for 1987.

The Commissioner said that plans for 1987 included a conference of women's associations in the twelve Member States (to be held in London in November), and the production of a film and poster on equal opportunities.

The Committee on Women's Rights was also addressed by representative of the Council of Ministers for Social Affairs Kenneth Clarke, who met some stiff questioning. He claimed that the results of the 5 June Social Affairs Council meeting were a step towards equality but was not forthcoming when asked about the likelihood of an agreement being reached on the directives outstanding during the British presidency of the Council. Under that presidency, the Council's priority is tackling unemployment; it intends to hold a conference on the problem before the end of the year.

Committee chairwoman Marlene Lenz (Germany, EPP) warned Mr Clarke against putting those directives on ice as they are backed by 80% of MEPs.

At its October session, the Committee on Women's Rights was addressed by President of the European Commission Jacques Delors, who discussed the problem of equality in the light of the present situation within the Community. He discussed the difficulties being met by the Luxembourg Single European Act in reforming European treaties, the reform of European funds (particularly the Social Fund) and the need for a social dialogue.

Speaking of equality, Mr Clarke stressed the need to maintain a Community legal policy and put principles into action, citing the directive on parental leave which is being implemented by every Member State.

He said that the Commission was cooperating with Parliament and was ready to launch a joint programme to promote equality.

Finally, he expressed his dissatisfaction with the situation as regards women staff at the European Commission and suggested measures (possibly including recruitment quotas) that might bring about an improvement.

**AT THE COURT OF JUSTICE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

The European Commission has called Luxembourg before the Court of Justice on the grounds of **discriminating against women in the appointment of public service officials**. The authorities give preference to former (male) "army volunteers" in recruiting customs officers, postmen, prison officers and gamekeepers. A limited quota of officer and other positions in the gendarmerie and police force are reserved for women, but applicants have to be single and under 25.

Equal pay for men and women was the subject of three requests for preliminary rulings in the Arbeitsgericht (industrial tribunal) in Oldenburg, Germany, in a legal dispute between the Dato-Druck company and one of its employees, Ms G. Rummler, who was demanding a higher grade in the salary structure. The standard wage agreement sets out seven wage categories depending on the degree of skill, concentration, effort, stamina and responsibility involved in a job. Ms Rummler wanted to be in a higher category because she was doing heavy physical work (lifting parcels weighing over 20 kilos).

The German courts referred the question to the European Court of Justice, which said that a job classification system is compatible with the principle of equal pay provided that the same criteria are used for male and female workers and that it is set up in such a way as to prevent sexual discrimination. When it comes to very demanding physical work, it is permissible to base criteria on the physical effort required, provided this is assessed objectively. This and any other criteria that determine the level of pay should be scrutinized to ensure that they are not discriminatory. Any assessment of how much physical effort is required to carry out a particular job that is based on the average ability of one sex alone is a form of sexual discrimination in breach of the Community Directive passed in 1975.

Equal Opportunities for Women

In the past the European Community has played a major role in promoting equal opportunities; it is now time for Community action in this area to be streamlined, developed and adapted to political, social and cultural changes and advances in technology. The European Commission has suggested that a second Community action programme be launched to cover 1986-90 (the first came to an end in 1985).

The programme would include measures to:

secure wider application of existing regulations;

adapt women's education and training to economic and social changes;

increase, diversify and coordinate schemes to improve the employment situation of women;

study social security benefit problems;

encourage a fair division of responsibilities in the home and at work (parental leave, child care provisions, organization of working hours, etc.);

launch more systematic campaigns to promote a change in attitudes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, ASK FOR "WOMEN OF EUROPE" SUPPLEMENT 23: EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES - SECOND ACTION PROGRAMME, 1986-90.

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY:FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWSAND MILITANT ACTIVITIES

B E L G I U M

Women and the Martens Plan are the subject of a report entitled Vrouwen in het Pinksterplan, produced by Secretary for Social Emancipation Miet Smet. It stresses women's right to supplementary income and the need to promote employment for girls (63% of the jobless under the age of 20 are girls). Miet Smet is also appealing to the two sides of industry to take special measures for the employment of women.

Useful address: Cabinet de la Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Emancipation
Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels

A new "Women's Status" Committee consisting of 13 women MPs has been set up. Chaired by Social Christian Huberte Hanquet, it is to act as a watchdog over the Secretariat's activities.

The Committee for women's employment attached to the Ministry of Employment has published its report for 1985. It reviews what has been done by its work groups on social security and pensions, the implementation of directives, positive action and new technology, night work and Nairobi.

The Committee has also submitted the formal view that physical ability should never be the sole criterion or test for recruitment to a job unless this is strictly justified.

Useful address: Commission du Travail des Femmes, Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail, Rue Belliard, Bâtiment B, 1040 Brussels

The "death" of the Directive on equality in social security led the Université des Femmes - "Women's University" - to place an obituary notice in the press (see "Women of Europe" n° 46). One of the people to whom it was addressed was President of the European Commission Jacques Delors. His reply was that he sees the directive as being alive and well and is prepared to prove this to any governments who may doubt it by recourse to infringement procedures where necessary.

Useful address: Université des Femmes, 1/A Place Quetétet, 1030 Brussels

Femmes Prévoyantes, together with women in the Socialist party, women unionists in the Belgian union federation and women in the cooperative movement arranged a demonstration to protest against the Government's economic policy under the banner of "Les femmes ripostent" (women answer back). The July/August issue of the bimonthly journal of the Femmes Prévoyantes Socialistes contained a feature on "Belgian Government: a swingeing attack against women workers".

Useful address: La Femme Prévoyante, rue Saint-Jean 32, 1000 Brussels

The National Women's Council has taken a stand on the economy measures that have been taken without thought as to the problems they create for women. It singles out for criticism the cuts in the pregnancy allowance, social security for married women who work and pensions for women. The Council says that it might accept the principle of the retirement age being the same for men and women, but only if it is 60 for both. The current debate is on whether the retirement age for both should be 65.

Useful address: Nationale Vrouwenraad, Avenue Louise 183, 1050 Brussels

Belgian women one year after Nairobi: the National Council of Belgian Women held a seminar in mid-October, at which a report was presented evaluating the United Nations Convention on all forms of discrimination against women. The Council noted that, although Belgium has ratified the Convention, in practice the situation is still unsatisfactory. In an attempt to do something about it, the Council is to set up a "post-Nairobi Committee".

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

The second world congress of prostitutes was held in Brussels in October, on the invitation of a group of MEPs. The subjects of debate included the decriminalization of prostitution, and health problems.

The "Information Quart Monde" Bulletin comments: "Without taking sides in the debate, we should like to point out that only Thai women seem to have said "in our country, women do not choose to be prostitutes. Many Thai women sell their bodies because they have no other option if they are to survive". But women of the Fourth World are all too familiar with this experience, and rarely do they embark on prostitution out of choice. When one of their number is forced to take this path for want of any other, it almost always causes them inexpressible suffering. The congress has not helped to publicize this little known suffering, nor to have aroused the public out of its indifference to the links between poverty, ignorance and prostitution."

Useful address: Association Solidarité Européenne Quart Monde
12 avenue Victor Jacobs, 1040 Brussels, tel. 649.86.17

On the same subject, French feminist associations have been writing to us to stress that "it has never been the intention of feminists to condone prostitution or otherwise but to denounce the sexual slavery it implies".

Useful address: Dialogue de Femmes, 12 rue Georges Berger. 75017 Paris

Women with legal problems - divorce, separation, adoption, retirement or housing - can now turn to a group of lawyers who have formed an association for women's rights, **Association pour les Droits de la Femme**, rue Blanche 29, 1050 Brussels. It is open to women seeking advice every Thursday from 12.30 to 2 p.m. or by appointment: tel. 538.47.73.

Preparations are going ahead for **1987 "company elections"** for the members of company staff councils and committees for health and safety will be chosen. These elections are important for women, and the Belgian Government is campaigning to persuade a large number of women to stand as candidates.

Useful address: Groupement Belge de la "Porte Ouverte" pour l'émancipation
économique de la travailleuse, rue Américaine 16, 1050 Brussels

The **local election in 1988**, on the other hand, is the concern of Secretary of State for Social Emancipation Miet Smet. She is urging women to display maximum solidarity, ensuring that many women are placed high up on the list of candidates.

In another field, the payment of alimony, Miet Smet would like the public social support centres - Centres publics d'aide sociale - to advance alimony payable for children and then take over responsibility for recovering payment from the defaulting parent. These centres already have heavy financial commitments, however, and the Socialists are proposing that a European fund be set up with the responsibility of recovering alimony. We would remind our readers that in 1974 Ms Hanquet, Social-Christian senator, was the originator of the first bill to set up an agency for the recovery of alimony.

Useful address: Cabinet de la Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Emancipation
rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels

Feminist bookshop **Dulle Griet** has held a "women's book week" in November.
Useful address: Dulle Griet, Tiensestraat 45, 3000 Leuven

The women's centre for continuing education is reporting on its activities in the first quarter of 1986-87 and arranging an "open-door" day to celebrate the thirty years of its existence.

Useful address: Centre féminin d'éducation permanente
Place Quetélet 1/A, 1030 Brussels

For its part, **Infor-Quart Monde**, the focus of solidarity with sub-proletariats, has been celebrating the tenth year of the "people's university". It reminds us that it has a listening ear for everyone's concerns, quoting the little girl who described her need to learn by saying "I'm hungry in my head".

Useful address: Infor-Quart Monde, 12 avenue Victor Jacobs, 1040 Brussels

D E N M A R K

Unemployment is still the number one problem for Danish women: 10.6% were without jobs at the beginning of the year, compared with 5.8% of men. These are the some of the conclusions set out in the Ligestillingsrådet (Equal Opportunities Council) report for 1985 presented to the public by Council Chairwoman Helle Degn. That there should be such a high rate for women at a time when total unemployment is starting to improve is a matter of particular concern, she said, pointing out that the main victims are women in the 25-39 age group.

A similar tendency has been occurring with pay: men's wages have risen by 5.5% in 1985 over 1984, but women's by only 4.2%.

What is to be done? Helle Degn suggests:

- * the enforcement of equal pay by legislation or regulations;
- * more day care centres for children or shorter hours of work so that fathers and mothers can share in the care of the family. Some people advocate a "housewife's wage" to encourage women to stay at home, but the Chairwoman feels this is just as undesirable an option as the choice made by certain women who cannot cope with the twofold demands of work and family life: divorce. Children are best raised by two, not one. The father must take over more responsibility even if this means that he has to relinquish something in his working life.

Helle Degn nonetheless pointed out a positive tendency: women are better represented on administrative and consultative bodies. The percentage, which was 12.7% in 1981, stood at 28% in 1985.

The annual report, which comes with a summary in English, contains some very useful information: a review of existing equal opportunities legislation, up-to-date statistics, an outline of the main problems still to be tackled. It is an invaluable handbook for everyone, man or woman, concerned with equal opportunities.

Useful address: Ligestillingsrådet, 21 Frederiksgade, 1265 Copenhagen

The first conference on immigrant women in Denmark was held in May in Copenhagen, attended by 350 women from 25 countries. The largest group was of Turkish and Kurdish women.

There is a major problem, with 50,000 foreign women living in Denmark, half from other European countries and half from developing countries or other regions. Numerically the largest contingent is from Turkey and Yugoslavia, followed by Pakistan, Vietnam and some of the Latin American and African countries. The most recent immigrants are from Iran, many of these women being political refugees.

Even though 80% of immigrant women have no training, there are considerable differences between groups: Latin American and Asiatic women, for example, tend to be well qualified on the whole and are less likely to be unemployed (15% to 20%) than the more disadvantaged groups such as the Turkish and Pakistani women.

The organizers of the conference, the **National Danish Women's Council** - Danske Kvinders Nationalråd - managed to bring together women representing all the groups and persuade them to tell their life stories. Despite differences in origin, language, culture and education, essentially they want the same things:

- * more information on the educational system, health, training opportunities and the right to work. At the same time, Danish men and women should be better informed about the foreigners in their midst, to dispel their prejudices.
- * fair opportunities for training, to include teaching the Danish language. Training should be tailored to individual needs (many immigrant women are illiterate). Political refugees have an advantage over others in this respect, since they are offered 18 months' tuition free of charge.
- * the right to the help of an interpreter free of charge. No such provision is available in Denmark, unlike Sweden.
- * the setting up of a point of reference for immigrant women, i.e. a centre offering them counselling, courses, a meeting place and cultural and social activities as well as serving as a "crisis centre".
- * finally, a resolve on the part of the Danish authorities, unions and women's organisations to think "in a different way" and learn to view foreign women without prejudice, so that they can be helped to emerge from their isolation and poverty.

Nevertheless, there is one prerequisite for any genuine improvement: immigrant women must themselves express their needs and aspirations. The conference has been the first step along this path.

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalråd
Niels Hemingsensgade 8-10.2. 1153 Copenhagen

In its general assembly, the Council also raised the problem of work and family life. Danish society has been changing but the problem of caring for children has not been solved. Men assume very little responsibility for family duties. Karen Ytting, chairwoman of the Council, stressed that hours of work must be shorter. She called on the 38 organizations taking part in the meeting to launch a searching debate on the issue.

Among the other subjects on the agenda were: a plan of action for equal treatment; juvenile delinquency; unemployment; women and politics; young women; the Decade for Women; and tax reform.

The conference regretted that the number of women in ministerial office has now dropped from 5 to 3. It also deplored the lack of subsidies received by women's organizations from the authorities. For additional information, see the above address.

FRANCE

The official inauguration of the Delegation for Women's Status (see "Women of Europe" n° 46) gave the head of this new agency, Hélène Gisserot, an opportunity to explain her terms of reference. The Delegation is to deal with every aspect of women's lives. As an inter-ministerial body, one of its tasks is to establish close liaison among the main Government departments. Good working contact has already been established with some of them, she said, pointing out that she is also relying on the links created by regional delegates and on contact with women's associations, so ideally placed to create an understanding of women's aspirations.

The Minister for Social Affairs and Employment, Mr. Seguin, uncompromisingly declared that "any policy on women's status must be ambitious". Women should no longer be in the minority in the seats of power, he added, pointing to the example of Françoise Giroud, the first Secretary of State for Women's Status (in 1974). The Minister wondered how the pioneers of feminism would feel if they could see how things are now. His reply: they would find that a good deal of progress has been made.

Useful address: Délégation à la Condition Féminine
14 boulevard de la Madeleine, 75008 Paris, tel. 42 66 57 15

Since 1 July, the French have been entitled to take their mother's name. The mother's maiden name is shown in all a citizen's papers but cannot be transmitted from one generation to the next. It may now be placed before or after the father's surname, under a 1985 law on equality between spouses and parents. The authorities, however, predict that the system will prove to be complicated in practice, especially since computers automatically disregard the final letters of any over-long names.

"Women of Europe" very much regrets to announce that "Nouvelles", the bulletin of Agence Femmes Information launched in 1982, is ceasing publication for financial reasons. Claire Poinsignon, publication manager and editor, announced the demise of this very useful newsheet.

Useful address: Agence Femmes Information, 9 rue de Trévisse, 75009 Paris

Association européenne contre les violences faites aux femmes - the European Association to combat violence against women - has as its honorary president Yvette FUILLET, Socialist MEP, who was responsible for raising this subject before European Parliament. The Association is now publishing a bulletin. The first issue contains information, discusses the issues and launches an appeal for membership. Among its plans are a vade mecum, meetings and a compilation of personal accounts.

Useful address: 71 rue Saint Jacques, 75007 Paris

Antoinette, the CGT trade union federation women's magazine, has been ordered to pay token damages of one franc for reporting instances of sexual harassment of women post office employees.

Useful Address: Antoinette, 5 rue Edouard Pailleron, 75019 Paris

New ventures:

- * A new network for women coming under Muslim law, Femmes sous les lois musulmanes. Its address is 34980 Combaillaux (Montpellier). It is to publish dossiers in French and English from time to time, exchange information and publicise case histories.
- * It was a women's war too; in Les femmes au temps de la guerre '14, published by Stock, Françoise Thébard discusses the all too little known role of women during the "great war". After the war ended, they were often refused the compensation to which they were entitled.

GERMANY

The sphere of responsibility of Dr. Rita Süßmuth, Minister for Youth, the Family and Health, has been extended to the field of women's status. In announcing this decision, Chancellor Kohl commented: "A second decisive question for the future - together with the environment, the conservation of nature and nuclear reactor safety - is equality for men and women". The ministerial tasks now include the legislative domain, pointed out the Chancellor. "In this way," he concluded, "for the first time in the history of the Federal Republic the foundations have been laid for an effective policy for women".

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit
Kennedyallee 105-107 5300 Bonn 2

1987 elections: promises and undertakings from the political parties

In the run-up to the 1987 elections, the political parties are giving thought to the electoral and political power represented by women. The Christian Democrat party, for example, has a "women's" policy in its manifesto, promising that it will have women elected in the same proportion as women members of the party under a new partnership between men and women. The Greens have introduced the principle of parity, whereas the Socialists, at their Nuremberg conference, have accepted a proposal from Socialist women that there should be a 25% quota of elected women (this assumes that they are placed high up on the party lists). The Liberals are promising to "improve" the position of women in their party but are unwilling to give any commitment as to numbers.

Useful addresses: CDU, Konrad Adenauer Haus, 53 Bonn 1
SPC, Ollenhauerstrasse 53 Bonn 1

In the Regions

In North Rheinland/Westphalia. Minister/President Johannes Rau has appointed Ilse Ridder-Melchers, Socialist MP for the Land (Region), as first Parliamentary Secretary of State for equality between men and women. She will be backed by a staff of 15 men and women.

Useful address: Parlamentarische Staatssekretärin für die Gleichstellung von Mann und Frau in NRW. Jürgensplatz 38, 4000 Düsseldorf 1

In Hesse. Marita Heibach has been replaced in the position of Secretary of State for Women's Status by Vera Rüdiger. Marita Heibach is to stand in for her when necessary.

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

Only a few weeks after her appointment to this position, Dr. Vera Rüdiger chaired a meeting in Wiesbaden of women lawyers, doctors, researchers and the representatives of the judiciary, police and support services on "Violence against women" (Gewalt gegen Frauen). Acknowledging that the source of violence is often someone known to the victim, the men and women present at the meeting called for: more training for judges and other people who have to deal with this problem; tangible support for groups coming to the aid of women victims of violence; informing the victims about their rights; and setting up an interdisciplinary group to consider all these questions.

Useful address: Die Bevollmächtigte der Hessischen Landesregierung für Frauenangelegenheiten, Gustav-Freytag Strasse 1, 6200 Wiesbaden

The **German Women's Council** arranged a hearing in Bonn in August to find out whether parties could incorporate the principle of quotas for women in their party regulations, since efforts to arouse concern are of little avail unless they are enforced. Irmgard Blättel, who has just been re-elected to the chair of the Council, feels that legislative channels must now be attempted.

Useful address: Deutscher Frauenrat, Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Frauenverbände und Frauengruppen gemischter Verbände, Südstraße 125, 5300 Bonn

A policy on women at home: a six-point paper on helping them return to the labour market. The Ministry for Youth, the Family, Women and Health is publishing a data sheet on pilot schemes designed to help women return to the working world after they have taken time out to bring up their families. The group responsible is Bildungswerk der Hessischen Wirtschaft.

Minister Rita Süßmuth has said she will do everything in her power on the administrative level to ensure that such schemes are successful. One way she is doing this is to reappoint a person within each Manpower Agency with special responsibility for women. She also stresses the need for more day care units for the children of working mothers.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie, Frauen und Gesundheit
Kennedyallee 105-107 5300 Bonn 2

An important first: Elisabeth Steup, 58. Ministerial adviser to the Federal Ministry of Justice, is to be presiding judge of the Federal Patents Court in Munich. As the first woman in the history of the Federal Republic to reach the highest position in a Federal Court, she hopes this will encourage other women.

Another first: Lufthansa has finally accepted two women to train as pilots. Early this year, the airline decided to allow women to join the course. There were 112 places on the course, and 300 girls aged 19 to 24 applied - 5% of applicants. None of them, however, was short-listed. One of the reasons stated by the airline was that the applicants were motivated by the wish to show how liberated they were rather than a real desire to fly. The training manager in person, Mr Scheffers, said: "We don't like over-liberated women here. They have too high an opinion of themselves and are too self-satisfied. You can feel their hostility". Now, partly because of pressure and protest from the National German Women's Council, Deutscher Frauenrat, and Marlene Lenz, who chairs the Committee of Women's Rights in European Parliament, a door has at least been opened.

Nicole Lunemann has written to Marlene Lenz to thank her for her support, particularly in contributing towards making her aware of the difficulties encountered by women in obtaining respect for their rights.

Home skills: the first international Congress is to be held in Germany in 1992. This was decided by the Internationaler Verband für Hauswirtschaft (IVHHW - International Domestic Economy Union) at the annual meeting of its board in July. The organization has about about 215 member associations and 2,565 individual members from 80 countries. Its aim is to encourage the teaching of domestic economy in schools and in post-school training.

Useful address: Deutscher Landfrauenverband, Godesberg Allee 142-148, 5300 Bonn

Women they are talking about:

- * Lieselotte Berger, who chairs the Bundestagspetitionsausschuss - the Federal Parliament committee on petitions - and has been campaigning for the rights of men and women citizens for 13 years, has been named "woman of the year".
- * Four women scientists - Bier-Fleiter, Gutschmidt, Growe and Riemann - have been awarded the Elisabeth Selbert prize for those who work for a better understanding of women's problems.
- * All the women, 800 of them, who applied to go on the next Spacelab flight.
- * The new Regional Secretary for Women's status in Niedersachsen, Antonia Wigbers.
- * The Constitutional Court's second woman judge, Karin Grasshof. And the growing number of women representing Germany as heads of diplomatic missions. The seventh, Gudrun Pleuger-Hgast, has been appointed Consul in Nancy.

Liberal women meeting in conference at Erlangen concentrated their debate on discrimination against women in the working world. One of their demands is for part-time work to be available in more senior positions as well.

Useful address: FDP, Baumscheidstrasse 15, 5300 Bonn 1

A report issued by the Ministry for the Family notes that poverty is a female condition: 79% of recipients of social welfare above the age of 65 are women. The pensions received by women should be higher, argues the report, with account being taken of the years they spend bringing up the children.

Useful address: Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie, Frauen und Gesundheit
Kennedyallee 105-107 5300 Bonn 2

A few figures on women in local Government. In towns with a population of over 20,000, one out of seven local councillors are women. The breakdown by parties is: 29% of Greens, 15% of Socialists, 14% of Liberals and 12% of Christian Democrats.

Issue 2/86 of **Konsens**, the journal of the Deutsche Akademikerinnen-Bund - the German University Women's Union - reports on a seminar on women in the media arranged by the National German Women's Council. Apparently women in public sector television and radio have to work a good deal harder than men to carve out a career for themselves. in spite of promotion plans. It is true that these plans have only recently been introduced and are as yet being implemented only by Channel One, ARD, and HR (Hesse Radio). In response to pressure. however, it seems that the second channel, ZDF. is about to adopt a more open policy to women. But a good deal remains to be done. Marlies Kutsch, a board member of the German Women's Council, notes that only 2 of the 66 members of the board ZDF are women (one is Waltraud Buchholtz, the other Hannemarie Kühler).

Useful address; Deutscher Frauenrat, Südstrasse 125. 5300 Bonn

School education and equal rights: girls are the "silent" losers. This conclusion was reached at an international seminar in Frankfurt before the summer holidays. Those taking part - all of them were women - took note of how stereotypes persist in schools and how traditional is the behaviour of even women teachers when dealing with mixed classes. Uta Enders-Dragässer of the Feminist Interdisciplinary Research Institute of Frankfurt (FIF) gave a preview of survey findings on how teachers behave, to be published next year. Claudia Fuchs Müseler said that many teachers spend less time on girl pupils even though they believe the contrary to be true. (The trouble is, said one teacher attending the seminar, that girls themselves fail to protest.)

And yet in the early 1960s mixed classes were hailed as the height of progress, said Ulrike Holler. Should they be abolished, as some people suggest? "No," answered most of the people at the seminar. But things must change. Credit must be given to specifically feminine qualities, said Helga Deppe, dean of the Teacher Training Institute in Frankfurt. There should be more discussion of research on women within teacher training studies, argued a delegate from the teachers' union, Erziehung und Wissenschaft. A new type of school should be brought into being, declared Barbara Schaeffer-Hefel of Berlin Technical University. But Lynne Chisholm from Britain reminded the meeting of the difficulties of changing attitudes. As an example she quoted how boys objected to a teacher trying to discuss the role of women in a lesson on the French Revolution. Marita Haibach (from the Green Party), former Secretary of State for Women's Status in Hesse, recalled other budgetary obstacles.

Source: Ulrike Füssel, Frankfurter Rundschau, 26-6-1986

A women's dinner was held in Frankfurt in July to celebrate a work of art by American artist Judy Chicago: a triangular banqueting table, each side 15 metres in length, produced with the help of 400 people over a period of five years. The guests were 600 women from Germany and other countries dressed up as important or famous women. Lady Godiva sat side by side with Elinor of Aquitaine, Colette sat next to Agrippina and Fanny Mendelssohn conducted an overture that had never before been played in public.

Should women give up work to bring up their children? According to a World Opinion survey, 57% of German women and 59% of German men think they should. The highest percentage of women disagreeing with this "truth" (48%) occurred among women with higher education in the 30-44 age bracket.

GREECE

The termination of pregnancy: Parliament in favour of decriminalization. Just before the summer break, Greek Parliament voted that abortion should no longer be a criminal offence. It will be permitted up to the twelfth week of pregnancy, with the woman being free to make the decision herself. Operations will be in a clinic or specialist hospital and be refunded out of health insurance. Nea Dimocratia, the main opposition party, voted against the bill. Advocates and opponents waged a heated campaign before the debate, with the Orthodox Church prominent among the opponents. In Parliament, the bill was criticized even by some of its supporters. The Government, they said, should have laid stress on improving contraception, for example by the ready provision of comprehensive information. Other critics said it contained no positive measures to protect mother and child. Most women's groups supported the bill, although they pointed out that abortion should be only the last resort.

Another Secretary of State, the fourth in Greece, has been appointed: Maria Arseni is now Secretary General for Youth within the Ministry for Culture after a long period as Prefect of Pieria in Northern Greece.

The Greek Civil Code was amended late in the summer Parliamentary session, to end sex-based inequalities within the family. The sections amended cover property rights and the right to a share in family property after divorce. Wives may also take their maiden name again at any time, merely on application.

Women and new technology: the League for Women's Rights has held a seminar for representatives of the authorities (at which women's associations were also present) as well as a less technical symposium mainly designed to make women more aware of new technology. About 130 agencies and Government departments (without counting the women's associations) took part in the two meetings.

Useful address: Sundesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas
Solonos 41, 72 Athens

The feminist studies group in Thessalonica University has arranged a series of lectures on women's issues, as seen through women's eyes. Although not officially included in the University curriculum, these open lectures - free of charge to students - have proved highly successful. The subjects discussed included; women's economic and social rights; sexual stereotyping in pre-school children's games; women and the resistance movement; and public space and private space, reflections on sex-based social divisions.

Useful address: Omada Gynekion Spoudon Aristoteliou Panepistimiou
Thessalonikis, Tmima Nomikis, 06 Thessalonica

Another piece of news: the curriculum of the Pantious College of Social and Political Science now includes a **course on equality and working relations** given by Professor Voutyras.

The **statutes of the Nea Demokratia party are being amended to give official recognition to its women's section** as a fully integrated part of the party organization. This decision follows a broad-ranging membership drive on the part of 850 local and regional sections, recruiting over 200,000 new women members throughout the country.

Useful address: Tmima Gynekion Tmimatos Neas Dimocratias
Rigillis 18, 74 Athens

The Greek feminist movement: achievements and prospects by the year 2000. The Women's Committee of the Unified Democratic Union (Enia Dimocratiki Aristera) held a meeting on this subject in June. In addition to the main theme of equality, the meeting discussed; the positive effects of women's direct participation in the administration of justice; the role of women in local Government; and violence against women within the family.

Useful address: Enia Dimocratiki Aristera, Acadimias 62, 79 Athens

Housewives are protesting against the Government's refusal to tackle the problem of their insurance. The Minister for Social Security (a woman) has announced that the issue of social insurance for women in the home will not be considered separately, as they hoped, but as part of general measures for people not entitled to a retirement pension in their own right. This has sparked off a lively reaction from the Housewives' Association, which stresses that housewives are "working" citizens and calls for the implementation of United Nations recommendations. It has also taken the opportunity to deplore the delays in apportioning family income after divorce.

Useful address: Syllogos Ellinidas Nikokyras Fidou 18, 78 Athens

I R E L A N D

In a referendum in which 60% of the electorate voted, two out of three voters came out against Government proposals of **removing the "Divorce Ban"** from the Constitution and authorizing Parliament to introduce a restricted form of divorce. Only 6 out of the 41 constituencies were in favour of adopting this bill. Part of the reason was the influence of the Anti-Divorce Campaign, directed mainly at young people and at young married women, as well as the role played by the Catholic Church (in a country where 90% of the population is Catholic), which urged people to "Vote No". The rejection was regarded as a political defeat for the Government coalition.

A senior **police official** has been given the task of ensuring that women have proper opportunities for promotion in the police force, has announced Nuala Fennel, Minister of State for Women's Affairs and Family Law Reform. She calls for the broader involvement of women at senior levels, but points out that this will be possible only if more women police officers come forward and apply for promotion. She has also launched an appeal for better career prospects for women in the **prison services**. This year, recruitment for prison officers has been opened to women.

Useful address: Office of the Minister of State for Women's Affairs
Government Buildings, Dublin 2

At a seminar recently organized by the National Women's Talent Bank, a group set up by the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and the Women's Political Association, MP Mary Harney said that she had little hope of the number of women MPs rising after the forthcoming elections (14 out of 166 Parliamentarians today are women). She urged people to think about where real political power lies and to become involved in male-dominated sectors. Another MP, Monica Barnes, pointed out that true equality has as yet been neither understood nor accepted.

Useful address: The Women's Political Association
c/o the Secretary, 8 Frankfort Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin 6

The Council for the Status of Women has rejected a proposal put forward by Mr Niall Andrews (MEP and Fianna Fail member of Irish Parliament) to legalize **prostitution** in Ireland. Anne Good (Secretary General to the Council) has said that although she is in favour of the decriminalization of prostitution she would not be happy to see it legalized. The Council has also raised the question of whether aid might be forthcoming for women who want to quit a life of prostitution.

Useful address: Council for the Status of Women
64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2

I T A L Y

Italian women and work. Taking up a proposal made by the "New Technology" group of the National Committee for Parity attached to the office of the Prime Minister, the Statistical Institute (ISTAT) has published the findings of a survey on Italian women and work, complete with supporting figures. And those figures paint a telling picture: women account for 52% of the population but only 35% of the number of people in or actively seeking employment. They make up 17% of the unemployed, compared with 7% of men. Various explanations may be advanced for these differences: the wrong choices at school, discrimination at the time of recruitment, the fact that women leave work when they have children. But the picture is not universally gloomy: the standard of education of working women has risen and there are more women in the top professions. There is a growing awareness among women of their independence and they take a different attitude to marriage.

The role of women in public service is the subject of comment by Elena Marinucci, who chairs the Committee for Parity. Somewhat bitterly, she points out that, although the civil service contains equal numbers of men and women, only 6 women have reached the rank of Director General out of 547 such positions and only 394 out of 5,257 have attained the highest grade. The fault lies mainly in selection procedures. One good scheme is worthy of note: from September, the Ministry for the Public Service has been setting up "employment observatories" to compile information and note criticisms.

Another survey by ISTAT reveals that the number of women entrepreneurs has been growing, although the total is still low.

Useful address		Commissione Nazionale per la realizzazione della parità fra uomo e donna, Presidenza del Consiglio, Palazzo Chigi, <u>Rome</u>
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A judgment by the Constitutional Court has initiated another step towards equality: women may <u>work night shifts</u> . The judgment amends current law, brought in to to protect "female fragility".
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The new Government formed after the crisis this summer is only a slightly reshuffled version of its predecessor. Once again, the number of women is very small. There is only one woman Minister, Christian Democrat Franca Falcucci, who retains Education, and two Under-Secretaries: Susanna Agnelli (Republican) takes over Foreign Affairs, and Paola Cavigliasso (Christian Democrat) is responsible for Health.

A step towards encouraging women to enter management has been taken by the **Associazione Nazionale Iniziativa Donna** (ANID). This independent association for women's enterprise was founded a year ago by a group of women specialists in the service industries. ANID is engaged on training and research projects and organizes seminars and meetings. One of the latest was a panel discussion on "new forms of spirit of initiative", highlighting the role of women in this field.

Useful address: ANID, national representative: Maily Vianini Tolomei
Piazza Capranica 78, 00187 Rome

More politics in the journal of Italian Communist Party women, **Donne e Politica**, with a report on Communist women and the party. It takes an unpromising look at party attitudes to its women activists. In many fields Communists are "not like other people", and the "interfacing" between the women's movement and the party is greater than in any other political movement.

Useful address: Editori Riuniti Riviste, Via Serchio 11, 00198 Rome

This year's **NOBEL PRIZE FOR MEDICINE** has been awarded to a woman, Italian biologist **RITA LEVI-MONTALCINI**, 71. She shares it with Stanley Cohen, for years a fellow researcher on Nerve Growth Factor (NGF). Their discovery dates back to 1951. In September, the two scientists were also awarded the prestige Lasker Prize. Rita Levi-Montalcini is the second Italian woman to receive the Nobel Prize, the first being Grazia Deledda for literature. Only 21 women have won the Nobel Prize to date. The first was Marie Curie, awarded the Prize for physics in 1903 and for chemistry in 1911.

The World Oscar for Photography is going to a woman for the first time. **Letizia Battaglia**, the winner, lives in Palermo and has founded a publishing firm for women's poetry and literature, La Luna. Currently, reports the journal *Minerva* by which she was interviewed, she is to put on an exhibition on Luigi Pirandello in Boston entitled "The stage and the men".

More laurels for Italy. According to a report by the University of Pennsylvania, based in turn on reports from international organizations, Italy is the country where one can live best, after Denmark. Its strong points include women's status, education and participation in political life. In 1970, Italy was in tenth place on the list. It is of interest that the United States is in 27th place (although in 1970 it came 41st on the list).

This year's **Canossa Matilde Prize** has been awarded to **Adriana Zarri**, theologian, writer, journalist and member of editorial group of international theology journal *Concilium*. The traditional prize, a "pomegranate", was presented by Tina Anselmi, who chaired the jury. Adriana Zarri has written essays, novels and poems on subjects such as "our daughter the Church", the "theology of the probable" and "Jacob's well: the geography of prayer of every faith".

Other women prizewinners: the **56 first women to have been awarded the Italian Order of "Cavaliere della Repubblica"**. A few names are well known: Rosita Missoni for fashion, Monica Vitti and Lina Wertmüller for cinema, Valeria Moriconi for theatre, Miriam Mafai for the press, Anna Maria Ortese for literature, Rita Levi-Montalcini for biology. Other names are less familiar. Agata Alma Cappiello, coordinator of the National Committee for Parity, writing in the daily newspaper *Il Giorno*, has expressed her regret that the press mentions only the famous and ignores other women receiving honours.

There was a full agenda for the July meeting of the Italian Women's Union - **Unione Donne Italiane** - in Milan: the environment, training and employment. Set up in cooperation with the **Donna Lavoro Donna** Centre, the meeting included a report on women working in the field of environment. The Centre was formed in 1985 by the Union's job guidance and training section. In 1984 and 1985 it arranged job training courses for women and more are planned for the forthcoming year.

Useful address: Unione Donne Italiane. Via Bagutta 12, Milan

Equality: the police make progress. In Piacenza, 44 girls have entered the Cesare Battisti police college. The watchword is no discrimination but a little positive prejudice in favour of the new cadets.

...But a step backward in the teaching of gymnastics. Women teachers are not allowed to teach boys, according to the Court of Cassation, uttering the last word in a debate that has been going on since 1984. Two women teachers were in danger of losing their jobs because of the 1958 law on the subject, but the local courts ruled that they should continue. The Court of Cassation has decided otherwise.

Working women may apply for the retirement pension from INPS, the national social insurance institute, at the age of 55. This decision by INPS follows a judgment of the Constitutional Court, whose implications are that 55 is not the compulsory pensionable age but that women have the option of applying for retirement from that age.

A practical case of positive discrimination towards women in the press: **Centro**, the first daily newspaper for the Abruzzi, published in Pescara, has 10 women on its editorial team of 16.

Good luck to the new team.

The June magazine for the home helps' association, COLF, raises the issue of a standard profile for these women workers at European level. It predicts a growing role for home helps in caring for the elderly in an ageing society. Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago-Cerretti, Vice President of European Parliament (Christian Democrat), has also raised this issue at a seminar. Note that the demand for a European framework for the profession dates back to 1977.

Useful address: COLF, Via Cola di Rienzo, 111 Rome

La Voce, the journal of the Centro Nazionale Riabilitazione Mastectomizzate (centre for the rehabilitation of women who have undergone mastectomy), gives advice and women's personal stories in their own words. Via Udine 6, Trieste

L U X E M B O U R G

Discrimination against women in official documents was the subject of a question in Parliament raised by Social Christian MP Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, who protested against defining women in the home as having "no occupation" although their tasks and duties are so numerous.

Useful address: Chambre des Députés, rue du Marché-aux-Herbes, Luxembourg

Lydie Schmit, Socialist MEP from Luxembourg, who has headed the Women's Socialist Internationale for three years, has now been replaced. Her successor is Anita Gradin, Swedish Minister for Emigration. The Internationale includes women from 40 European, Latin American and Asian countries. Its latest congress was held in Lima, where its theme was the political, social and racial oppression of women. In late October, Lydie Schmit organized a seminar on "women and space" in Luxembourg. Chaired by the Luxembourg Foreign Minister, it was held under the auspices of the National Coordination Committee for the Year of Peace. The first woman to go into space, Valentina Terechkova, was at the meeting.

Andrée Colas is the **first woman to join the Luxembourg army**. A police captain in the Northern district, this career officer attended the Brussels Royal Military College and studied in Liège and Luxembourg.

Useful address: Direction de la Police, rue de Clairefontaine, Dickirch

A "**child care wage**" is now to be paid to a spouse bringing up one or more children. This decision was taken, in response to pressure from the Social Christian Women, when enacting the bill on the right to a minimum income.

Useful address: Femmes Chrétiennes-Sociales, 38 rue du Curé, 1638 Luxembourg

"Femmes en détresse" - the association working for "women in distress" - has launched a pilot scheme to offer support to **single-parent families**. It covers a whole range of services for this ever-growing group. Courses will be available free of charge, with a nursery to look after the children while their parent is attending the course.

Useful address: Femmes en détresse, 30 avenue de la Liberté, Luxembourg
tel. 49.08.77

Nine women's associations have protested against new **family and school allowance** measures. Although family allowances are being increased, only families with two or more children are entitled to the new "school education payment". The associations have also pointed out that women bringing up their children alone are not covered by this measure and that no account is taken of income.

Useful address: Amazones, 1 Place des Bains, Luxembourg

NETHERLANDS

The final election results have been published, with comments, by "Kwartaal-nieuws" (Quarterly news), the journal of the Emancipation Council, **Emancipatieraad**. There are 30 women deputies in the Lower House, 235 women municipal magistrates out of 1,853 and 4% women mayors (1). In Government, there is no change in the number of women Secretaries of State; there is still just one, for Transport and Navigable Waterways. The Secretariat of State for Emancipation has disappeared. Its tasks are to be taken over by various ministerial departments, but clearly all the advantages of having a specific department to work for equality will be lost.

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

Women's representation at municipal level has been reviewed in a publication forming part of the series issued by Nederlandse Vrouwenraad (Dutch Women's Council), entitled "the local authority as the power base for women". The Council has announced seminars on the obstacles to parity.

To inform women about the role that the European Community can play in their lives, the Dutch Women's Council has issued a companion booklet on "**the Community as a power base for women**".

Useful address: Nederlandse Vrouwenraad, Laan van Meerdervoort 30
2517 The Hague

Successful career women is the subject of a book ("Vrouwen maken Carrière") in which Dorien de Wit recounts the lives of women in management. Practical, bracing and an antidote to misconceptions, the book shows that obstacles are there to be overcome.

Useful address: Aramith Uitgevers, Van Baerlestraat 140, Postbus 5563
1007 Amsterdam

On the same subject, the Minister for Social Affairs and Employment has brought out a report on the **integration of women into the world of management** ("Doorstroming van vrouwen in het bedrijfsleven"). It notes that companies' preconceptions as to the role of women still hamper their promotion up the company ladder.

Useful address: Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid
Zeestraat 3, 's-Gravenhage

One way of helping women make a career for themselves is by resorting to positive action. The report on "key figures for positive action" ("Streefcijfers voor positieve actie") examines the position of women working in public service and the problems with which they have to contend: the persistence of stereotyped ideas, the segregation of sexes, the hierarchical pyramid. The report can be obtained from:

Useful address: Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken, Postbus 20011
2500 EA 's-Gravenhage

The **Women's Movements Information and Documentation Centre** has published its report for 1986. It has a very comprehensive library and offers a wide range of publications.

Useful address: Informatie Dokumentatiecentrum voor de Vrouwenbeweging
Keizergracht 10, 1015 Amsterdam

MaTeM, or the education and emancipation data bank, provides information on research in this field, directed towards teachers, students and parents. It publishes a catalogue, bibliographies and reports, as well as replying to telephone and written enquiries.

Useful address: MateM-Materialenbank onderwijs emancipatie
Buitenveldertselaan 106, 1081 Amsterdam

At its latest conference, the FNV women's union decided what its political line for 1986 to 1990 would be on the redistribution of work, incomes, social security and social change.

Useful address: Vrouwenbond FNV, Postbus 8456, 1005 Amsterdam

Women and the computer

* Vrouwen en Informatica was set up as a working group on women and computing five years ago. Since then it has become a service, coordination and advisory institute, under the direction of Jophien van Vaalen. It operates in a field where a good deal remains to be done, as is recognized by the Emancipation Council.

Useful address: Vrouwen en Informatica, Postbus 1795, 1000 Amsterdam

* The women's computer training centre in Nijmegen is working at grassroots level by providing courses for women in the 25-45 age group. The hours are flexible and, an important attraction for some women, a creche is provided. The centre has awarded its first diplomas, and four of the diploma-holders have already found jobs. Useful address: Opleigingscentrum Informatica voor Vrouwen Nijmegen, Archipelstraat 12, Nijmegen.

* Beldscherm - meaning "screen" - is a publication for women interested in computers. Besides providing information on computing, it has a supplement on other subjects of concern to women.

Useful address: Beeldscherm, Balistraat 2/d, 2585 The Hague

The magazine **Vrouw en Bedrijf**, "women and enterprise", has asked women starting work in the company world to write and send their curriculum vitae, together with comments on their plans. The companies by which they are employed must be registered with the Trade Register.

Useful address: Vrouw en Bedrijf, Postbus 5506, Amsterdam

An architectural and urban environment fit for women, in which they can move around in complete safety: this is the goal of the Women's Foundation for **Building and Homes**, which brings out a journal every two months and serves as an information centre.

Useful address: Stichting Vrouwen, Bouwen en Wonen, Weena 756
3014 Rotterdam

The Women's Bureau for the City of Drent has been a pathfinder. The first bureau of its kind in the Netherlands when it was set up in 1981, it was soon followed by others in every province. It helps women to become more aware of the issues and encourages them to play an active part in economic, political and social life.

Useful address: Drents Vrouwenburo, Noordersingel 29, 9401 Assen

First the good news...

- * The Amsterdam local council has elected Cox Habbema as the new director of the municipal theatre; her appointment is to be for the next five years.
- * Ms Stehouwer is the first women to be appointed to a management position in the Post Office. She is to be assistant director for the district of Groningen.
- * Margaret Spaanderman is the first forewoman in the Leiden highways department. She oversees the work of 80 men and is responsible for the distribution of jobs and for administration.
- * The number of women magistrates is rising: there are six on the Dordt courts (six years ago they did not even have one) and four women bailiffs.

... and then the bad

Women's participation in Dutch projects supported by the European Social Fund in regions with a high unemployment rate is below the European average of 40%. In 1984, it was only 10%, and in 1985 it was 24%.

Marie, word wijzer! (Mary be good!), an organization which has been fighting for 14 years to improve the education of girls, is to close down. It is true that the situation is brighter today. It is now up to the teaching body to modify its attitudes.

Women are the number one target group for advertising: 80% of advertising is directed towards women, notes Man-Vrouw-Maatschappij (Man-Woman-Society) in a recent booklet which combines factual information and humour. And yet, in a field with which women are so much concerned, it is usually men who are responsible for the words. The report points out that few women take advantage of the opportunity to complain to the Dutch Advertising Council about offending ads.

Useful address: Man-Vrouw-Maatschappij, Postbus 361, 3700 Zeist

More attention should be devoted to the problems of **foreign women**, says the Emancipation Council. At the request of the Secretary of State for Justice, it has given its views on possible changes to legislation on foreigners, one of the main concerns being to offer foreign women more protection.

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

Offering a **study cycle for women of the Third World** who need a curriculum that concentrates on certain sectors and field visits (as well as seminars throughout the year), the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague is opening its doors to these women. For additional information, contact: Institute of Social Studies, Academic Registrar, PO Box 90733, The Hague. Women and Development programme, Master of Arts Development Studies.

P O R T U G A L

Three new women's centres have opened in Lisbon:

- * Espaço Maria Lamas, attached to the Women's Democratic Movement - Movimento Democrático da Mulheres - at av. Duque de Loulé 111.
- * Espaço as Mulheres, rua Pedro Nunes 9 A.
- * Espaço IDM (Informação-Documentação Mulheres - Women's Information and Documentation) at rua Filipe da Mata 115 A.

As reported in "the Changing Community", the Comissão da Condição Feminina - the Committee for Women's Status - held information days on the European Social Fund and women, with the support and practical involvement of the European Social Fund and the Women's Information Service of the European Commission. The aim is to inform the general public and employers about opportunities opened out by the Fund. Groups of women who have already planned projects were at the meetings.

Useful address: Comissão da Condição Feminina, Presidência do Conselho de Ministros, Avenida da República 32-1º, 1093 Lisbon

Women in university education. Parallel with the seminar on the role of women in higher education, scientific research and new technology in Portugal on 10-12 December, a small exhibition is being arranged on the first women graduates from the University of Lisbon. The very first pioneers graduated almost a hundred years ago, in 1889. The seminar and exhibition are to be held in the auditorium of the Technical Training Centre of the National Industrial Technology and Engineering Laboratory.

A new chairwoman for the Comissão da Condição Feminina. Dr. Joana de Barros Baptista is leaving the Committee for Women's Status. The men and women who have worked with her will not forget her commitment and competence, nor her good humour and warmth of solidarity.

The European Commission's Women's Information Service, which has cooperated with her on several occasions, would like to take this opportunity to thank her and wish her good fortune in her plans for the future.

The service also welcomes the new chairwoman, Dr. Maria Regina Tavares da Silva, who has been in charge of the Committee's library and is a member of its technical coordination board. She has developed programmes designed to generate new momentum in the role of women. She has edited the bulletin of the Committee for Women's Status and has published several reports on women's affairs. Finally, she is the Portuguese representative on the Council of Europe Committee for Equality. All these are impeccable letters of credit for her work, which we hope will be very fruitful.

Women and Power: the plan subsidized by UNESCO and coordinated by the Comissão da Condição Feminina (see "Women of Europe", 43 and 44) has just been completed. It consists of a research report on the role and work of women in political parties and the formation of a work group which is to launch a multi-disciplinary team to increase the number of women active in politics.

Useful address: Comissão da Condição Feminina
Av. da República 32-1º, 1093 Lisboa Codex

S P A I N

Equal opportunities: a supplement to issue 14 of **Mujeres**, the journal of the Instituto de la Mujer (the Women's Institute) presents the European Community's medium-term programme for 1986-1990. This very useful review comes just at the right time.

In the same issue. **Mujeres** reports on a speech by the Minister of Culture, Javier Solana, to the Congressional Committee for Culture. He took this opportunity to announce his Government's approval of a three-year plan for equal opportunities for men and women. You cannot talk about democracy, declared the Minister, when you still encounter discrimination against women.

Useful address: **Mujeres**, Instituto de la Mujer, Almagro 36, 28010 Madrid

The weekly magazine **Mujer** has published a cross-section of **Spanish women's attitudes to politics**. It finds that they tend to prefer Centre and Left-wing parties (there was a greater increase in votes for the Socialist Party among women than among men in the latest elections). They are often reluctant to reveal their voting intentions. They are poorly represented in politics: 6% seems to be the sticking point, with 6% women members in national Parliament, 6% in the autonomous Parliaments and 6% in central administration. Is there a secret clause in the Constitution or is it a plot, asks **Mujer** ironically, although it reminds its readers that things are not much different in other countries, with the shining exception of Norway.

Useful address: **Mujer**, Instituto de la Mujer, Almagro 36, 28010 Madrid

"Teams for the promotion and support of women's employment" - "Equipos de animación y apoyo al empleo de la mujer" - is a scheme set up in 1985 by the Instituto de la Mujer and the Instituto Nacional de Empleo (National Employment Institute). There has been a meeting to review the first year's experience and to plan the second phase. The programme includes "screening" of sectors where activities could be launched, contact with agencies with a potential concern and the actual formation of teams.

The first **feminist conference on new technology applied to human reproduction and genetic engineering** was in Majorca in the autumn, under the auspices of the Instituto de la Mujer and the Asociación de Mujeres para la Salud (Women's Association for Health), in the presence of international experts.

Spanish women in figures. The Instituto de la Mujer has published an interesting set of statistics on the status of women at work, in the family and in society. Here are a few of the figures:

- * **Work.** Women make up 28.3% of the working population and 25.8% of the unemployed, compared with 10.5% for men.
- * **Education.** Women account for 72.5% of illiterates, of which there are 1,799,000 in Spain.
- * **Political life.** In Spanish Parliament, there is no change in the number of women. After the 1986 elections there are only 33 in Parliament: 23 in the Congress (the Lower House) and 10 in the Senate. In 1982-86 there were 22 in the Congress and 11 in the Senate.
- * **Family life.** In 1948, 17,656 divorces were awarded, 40.5% by consent. As of that date, there were 22,224 separations, 38.74% by mutual consent.

<p>Pilar Miro, a film-maker, has just taken on a very senior position. Felipe Gonzalez's Government has appointed her to be <u>head of Spanish television</u>.</p>

Other publications in Spain may be new to our readers:

- * Desde el feminismo (After Feminism) - a quarterly review edited by Felicidad Orquin, Apartado de Correos 9084, Madrid 1.
- * Trabajadora (Working Woman), a bi-monthly publication of the Women's Secretariat of the Comisión Obreras. Its latest issue discusses social security reform. Fernandez de la Hoz 12, Madrid.
- * La Mujer feminista (Feminist Woman), bi-monthly. Almagro 28, 28010 Madrid.
- * Poder y Libertad (Power and Freedom), academic journal of the Spanish Feminist party: Partido feminista de España, Bailen 18, 08010 Barcelona.

Seminars:

- * in Madrid. Coordinated by Pilar Folguera and held under the auspices of the Instituto de la Mujer (Almagro 36, Madrid), feminist studies seminars have been run for the past five years by the Madrid Autonomous University, which also offers information courses and study travel grants. A recent seminar was on the European Community policy for equal opportunities.
- * in Barcelona. The Universidad Autonoma has been running seminars on topics of interest to young people since 1977.
- * in Pamplona. Seminars on the problems facing women are organized by the Instituto de Promoción de Estudios Sociologicos, San Miguel 8.

UNITED KINGDOM

Women into public life is a new campaign launched by the Fawcett Society in October to support the 300 Group, whose aims are to encourage women to enter public life. At the launching ceremony, attended by the party leaders or their representatives, the names of 500 women with all the qualities for top positions in public life were announced. But the Fawcett Society wants to go further: women prepared to enter the fray ("don't be afraid to put yourselves forward", they are exhorted) should send for an application form from the Fawcett Society, 46 Harleyford Rd. London SE11 5AY. The completed form should be returned to Leah Hertz, 202 Creighton Avenue, London N2 9BJ, who is coordinating the campaign.

Ten years later. The Equal Opportunities Commission Tenth Annual Report notes that some progress has been achieved. A code of practice for the workplace has been accepted by Government and both sides of industry. There is a transformation in press, media and advertising attitudes, and more equal opportunities in education. But progress is static when it comes to such matters as social security, matrimonial law, retirement ages and parental leave. A statistical profile published with the Annual Report, "Women and Men in Britain", depicts the positions of women and men in the mid-1980s.

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

A reform of personal taxation. The Equal Opportunities Commission is "deeply disappointed" at a Government green paper on the reform of personal taxation. The EOC wants independent taxation and increased child benefit, not the proposed system of transferable tax allowances for married couples; it would deter married women from taking part-time jobs because the tax on the additional earnings would be far higher. The EOC believes the Chancellor would prefer women to be in the home rather than in outside employment. For information, write to the Equal Opportunities Commission at the above address, asking about Taxation without Discrimination.

The Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission has reminded the public that women still take too little part in political and public life. In a useful fact sheet, Where do Women Figure?, it also reports that women's average earnings are only 74.7% of men's.

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

Women as Entrepreneurs. The Women's Enterprise Development Agency has opened pilot centres in Birmingham and Redditch. It hopes to encourage women's access to credit, offer financial and advisory services and foster women's economic development through enterprise creation. Jane Skinner, Development Director for the Women and Work Programme, points out that women face more barriers than men in starting businesses.

Useful address: Jane Skinner, Women and Work Programme, University of Aston Management Centre, Nelson Building, Costa Green, Birmingham B4 7DU

The national information centre **Women in Enterprise**, was started in May 1986. It provides information on finance and sources of advice, publicises the achievements of successful women entrepreneurs, promotes training and carries out research. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and advance information about training events and conferences. The sponsors of WE include the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Useful address: Kay Smith, Chairman, Women in Enterprise
4 Co-operative Street, Horbury, Wakefield WF4 6DR

In **The Business Amazons**, Leah Hertz takes a close look at 100 British and American women who have succeeded in the business world. For example: a butcher's daughter who, at 17, bought out a failed driving school and became her own employer's landlord; the overweight wife who became a health farm tycoon; and the imaginative mother who created an empire in educational toys.

Useful address: Women's Institute Books Ltd.
39 Eccleston Street, London SW1 9NT

The Sound Kitchen is a 16-track recording study run solely by women engineers for women. It is part of Women's Media Research Project, a collective launched in 1982 by Siobhan Cleary and Vanessa Sagoe, who found that recording studios were too expensive for most women to use. The studios can be hired out, and the Sound Kitchen also aims to train at least 12 women a year as 16-track engineers.

Useful address: Women's Media Resource Projects, Unit A12
Metropolitan Workshops, Enfield Road, London N1 5AZ

Joyce Winett, President of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), told the annual conference of the Trades Union Congress that many union delegations there had few women members - less than 15% of the 1,100 delegates. She declared that women in Britain need a Ministry of Women's Affairs "to give you men a good kick up the backside from time to time".

Delegates at the Labour Party annual conference demanded that a future Labour Government include a Ministry for Women with full cabinet status.

Useful address: Trades Union Congress, Great Russell Street, London WC1

Mrs Judith Chandler wanted to return to work after bringing up her family, but was told that she was unsuitable for the Community Programme, the Government scheme to help the long-term unemployed, particularly those with out-of-date skills. Her application was rejected by the Sheffield Industrial Tribunal on the grounds that she did not require State unemployment benefit because of her husband's earnings.

Success stories:

- * Following the judgment by the European Court of Justice in the case of Jacqueline Drake (see "Women of Europe, 44 and 46), the British Government has announced a review of the law on the payment of allowances to married women caring for invalid relatives in their own homes. They are to have the same rights as men in this situation. The announcement was made by Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, who said that the decision would cost the country about £55 million a year.
- * Elizabeth Robbins has won damages on the grounds of discrimination. Despite her professional experience, she was refused a job as a teacher in a Scottish school because of its policy of not recruiting women with young children.
- * A woman who was dismissed by the Bavaria restaurant in Northern Ireland because she was pregnant has also been awarded damages. Information from Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland.
- * British Rail employes 11,000 people, but only 6.5% are women. Following a report by the Equal Opportunities Commission on the existence of direct discrimination there, it has created the post of Equal Opportunities Manager.

The Government white paper on encouraging the **creation of new enterprise** (Building Business, not Barriers) does not augur well for women. Its proposals imply that a majority of women will not be entitled to return to work after maternity leave. To have this right, an employee must have worked at least a 20-hour week (for two years or more), not a 16-hour week as before, whereas 87% of those who work fewer than 20 hours are women.

The proposal has been severely criticized by the Equal Opportunities Commission, which deplores the fact that the United Kingdom once more stands out from other European countries in its far from feminist mentality. The Chairman, Lady Platt, has expressed her concern in a letter to Lord Young, Secretary of State for Employment.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission
Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester

Woman's Hour, one of the BBC's most popular radio programmes, is forty years old. It has come a long way: from chat on knitting and cooking to discussions on every issue of concern to women today.

The **Belfast rape centre** is now open seven days a week because of the upsurge of demand. It offers confidential information, support and practical help.

Useful address: Rape Crisis Centre, 105 Royal Avenue, Belfast, N. Ireland

The ordination of women into the church could cause a rift between Catholics and Anglicans. In 1982, Pope John Paul II wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury suggesting that the growing number of ordinations might hamper progress towards "reconciliation" between the two churches. In turn the Archbishop acknowledged that this gives rise to a good deal of resistance within the Church of England. The trend (with 750 women now ordained worldwide) has led to scissions in the United States, Canada and New Zealand.

Magdalena '86 is the first international festival of **women in the experimental theatre** in Great Britain. Held in the Laboratory Theatre, Cardiff, it was a unique opportunity for "theatre women" from the world to come together.

Women in Media, a group formed in 1970 to defend equality in this field, has closed down, but is being revived in another form. It will be a member of the Fawcett Society, which has been campaigning for equality for men and women since 1866. The Fawcett Society newsletter is happy to make the announcement (46 Harleyford Rd, London SE11 5AY).

T W E L V E A N D M O R E

The European Centre of the International Women's Council met in Oslo from 18 to 20 September. One of the most striking speeches was by Astrid Lulling, who chairs the European Community Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities. She described the partial but real results achieved in this field at Community level and outlined its action programme for 1986-90.

Useful address: Angelina Hamm-Tonnaser, Chairwoman, CECIF
Johann Worpstraat 19, 1065 Amsterdam

The International Charities Association dates right back to 1617. Today it is an international body represented in Brussels. It has 32 member organizations. 10 of them European, as well as regional groups and a European group. It holds its general assembly every four years. At the last meeting in Chantilly in October, the decision was taken to arrange a seminar on communication.

The Association is closely concerned with the problem of poverty, especially among women. It has launched a scheme for **the disadvantaged unemployed, 50% of which is funded by the Commission of the European Communities**. The purpose of this scheme, which has benefited girls in particular (60% girls, 40% boys), is human advancement for people who are on the fringes of society because of grave personal handicaps, rather than just finding them jobs.

Useful address: Association Internationale des Charités
38 rue d'Alsace Lorraine 1050 Brussels

Women in the law speak out. The Fédération Internationale des Femmes Juristes (FIDA) held its 23rd Congress in Brussels in July, under the chairmanship of Mrs Postelnicou. The Commission of the European Communities marked the occasion by arranging a "European information day". During lunch, the women lawyers heard a speech by Mr Clinton-Davis, Member of the Commission, who regretted that women still do not play an adequate role in society. He pointed out that progress on the legal level must be accompanied by progress in mentalities. Mme Veil, former president of European Parliament and now leader of the Liberal Group in Parliament, also felt that women are not listened to enough, and that there are too few women in the world of politics.

Useful address: US: FIDA, 186 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10010
Belgium: rue Langeveld 64, 1180 Brussels

The **Council of Europe** held a colloquium in Athens in September on **women in local and regional life**, under the auspices of the Committee for Equality between Men and Women and the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. The men and women there formulated the "Athens Message" calling on the Council of Europe and local authorities, as well as the political parties and the two sides of industry, women's organizations and the media, to work for the nomination or election of more women.

Positive action for women is the title of a preliminary report by Andrée Michel, Research Director for the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CRNS - the French National Scientific Research Centre). The author stresses the inestimable value of action taken by private associations. Programmes of positive action launched, run and supervised entirely by the State would, she feels, be an empty shell. We should not deprive ourselves of the creativity of groups formed in a civil society.

Useful address: Council of Europe, Strasbourg

The International Federation of University Women has sent news on its activities, achievements and plans.

Of special interest is a report on "appropriate technology for women in developing countries", with the stress on solar energy. Another is the Five O Project, in cooperation with other organizations, to help women and girls in the Third World, more specifically in Calcutta, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, La Paz and Mexico. Any contribution will be welcomed by the Five O Project, UNESCO, Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris.

Useful address: FIDU, 37 Quai Wilson, 1201 Geneva

The **International Coalition for Development Action** (ICDA) has a new Programme Director, Georgina Ashworth, and many projects up its sleeve:

- an international workshop on trade and development,
- a meeting on "policies for South Africa",
- a meeting in Stockholm on a joint project with Women Development Europe Network and the Swedish group, Future for Africa.

Useful address: ICDA, Anne Clarke, 22 rue des Bollandistes, 1040 Brussels

This is also the address for the WIDE bulletin (Women in Development Europe), as well as for "Change Reports" on women and society drawn up by women in the countries concerned. In London, they may be obtained by writing to Change Reports, PO Box 824, London SE24 9JS.

The **European Association of Women for Theological Research** was set up in Switzerland in June by 70 European women (60 of whom are under 35) working in theological research. Their aim: the integration of women in academic structures, support for research and the publication of periodicals in various languages, all as part of the quest for greater independence from the United States. An academic qualification is not necessarily a membership requirement.

Useful address: Veerle Draulans, coordinator for Belgium
Schepenenstraat 2, 3000 Leuven

The assembly of the **Ecumenical Council of European Christian Women** also met in June, in Finland. The meeting was attended by 150 women from 26 countries, who expressed the hope that the Catholic authorities would set up a "Women's Bureau" at European level.

In the meanwhile, American bishops are currently analyzing the findings of a major survey on the role of women in the Church and in society, which they will discuss in a pastoral letter to be published in 1987.

A revolution in Japan: a woman, Takako Doi, 57, MP for Kobe and deputy chairman of the Socialist Party, has now been elected as its chairman, the first woman opposition leader. This is all the more unusual in Japan, where women have a long way to go before they achieve equality. Takako Doi was elected with 80% of the votes.

<p style="text-align: center;">RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS</p>

The European Women's Management Development Network is holding its congress in Hamburg from 5 to 7 November. It is being attended by leading personalities: the Mayor of Hamburg, Mr von Dohnanyi, German Minister Rita Süßmuth, former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and the President of European Parliament Pierre Pflimlin, speaking on "Europe today". Among the Congress organizers is Ariane Berthoin Antal, author of the study on Women in Management which she presented to the Colloquium of the Academy of Management in the United States. In it she argues that there are far more human resources to be discovered and put to good use.

Useful address: Ewoid Congress Office, c/o Helga Stödter, Golfstrasse 7, 2057 Wentorf.

Publications and books on women from Germany:

- * Politik für Frauen, distributed free of charge by Presse und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung, Welckerstrasse 11, 5300 Bonn 1, containing information on the current and past situation, the family and work.
- * Die Frauen mit Flügel, die Männer mit Blei ("Women with wings, Men with lead"), is a review of a decade of the women's liberation movement, published by Machwerk Verlag, Postfach 223103, 5900 Siegen.
- * Institut Frau Gesellschaft, in its women's research series "Frauenforschung", publishes articles on women in traditional careers. The booklet can be obtained from B. Kleine Verlag, Friedrich-Verlger-Strasse 10-12, 4800 Bielefeld 1.
- * Emanzipation mit dem Stimmzettel, 70 Jahre Frauenrechte in Deutschland by Joachim Hoffman Gottig, is an account of 70 years of the women's vote. Neue Gesellschaft GmbH, Bonn.
- * Raben Mutter, Na und? ("an unnatural mother, and so what?") by Katja Leyrer, Buntbuch Verlag, Bartelsstrasse 30, 2000 Hamburg 6. The author discusses women who "want to have everything", in other words a job and also one or more children. The author (36 years old) has managed it, but here she allows other women to speak about their lives. At the end, a test quiz shows whether you fall into the category of "unnatural mothers" ...

The journal of the International Democratic Federation of Women, entitled Femmes du Monde Entier, has been published since 1951. Its 1986 issue discusses subjects such as preparations for the World Congress of women, the case against star wars, and women's and children's rights. Editorial and administration address: Unter den Linden 13, 1080 Berlin, East Germany.

Sexism in school textbooks is a constant theme of research. A new booklet on the subject, Down with Stereotypes by Andrée Michel, has been brought out by UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris.

In Oslo, the second international feminist book fair in June was a great success. With a packed agenda, it tackled the problems of women writers throughout the world. For the fair catalogues (all in English, at various prices) write to the Second International Feminist Book Fair, PO Box 2959, Tøyen, 0608 Oslo 6.

WIN NEWS, Women's International Network, 187 Grant Street, Lexington, MA 02173, US, publishes the names and addresses of women, organizations and publications throughout the world. It also brings out special issues, for example on the International Decade for Women, women and development, and women and the media. An invaluable working tool.

In Canada, a comic strip on sexual harassment, Les ripostes de Camille, deals with a serious subject in a lively way. Obtainable from Centre de Documentation de la CEQ, 2336 Chemin Ste Foy, CP 5800, Ste Foy, Quebec.

Also from Quebec come the bulletins of la Gazette des Femmes, published by Direction de la Communication, Conseil du Statut de la Femme, 8 rue Cook, Quebec.

In Ontario, the legal journal "La femme et le droit" considers legal issues of concern to women in depth. The first issue is on Women and Equality. Useful address: 323, rue Chapel, Ottawa.

The OECD has published a report on Girls and Women in Education, describing how girls and young women view their education. The survey covers 24 countries.

Another newly issued report is on employment prospects. Published by OECD, its many statistical tables include breakdowns on employment and unemployment by sex. Useful address: OECD, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris.

In Latin America:

- * The ISIS International Women's Journal has brought out an issue on the Latin American Women's Movement: Reflections and Actions. It contains personal stories from Chile, Uruguay, Peru and the Dominican Republic, a report on the Manuela Ramos movement (training women in the poor districts of Lima) and thoughts on democracy. It also contains a list of feminist groups, meetings and publications. In English and Spanish. Useful address: ISIS, via Santa Maria dell'Anima 30, Rome.
- * Mujer, published by Unidad de Comunicación alternativa de la Mujer, Casilla 16-637, Santiago, Chile, Its July and August issues contain articles on the other face of Mundial, the law on divorce in Argentina and violence against children.
- * The Centro de la Documentación sobre la Mujer, avenida Arenales 2626, Lima, has a booklet on its many activities: advice, documentation, information and help.

Solidarity with women of South Africa against Apartheid. A seminar organized by the Committee against Colonialism and Apartheid and the United Nations International Committee of Solidarity with the struggle of women of South Africa and Namibia was held in Brussels in November. The women who suffer under the Apartheid regime told their stories, and at the end there was a discussion on what action can be taken. For further information, write to the Conference Secretariat, Mrs Frische, European Parliament, rue Belliard 97, Bureau 316, 1040 Brussels.

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