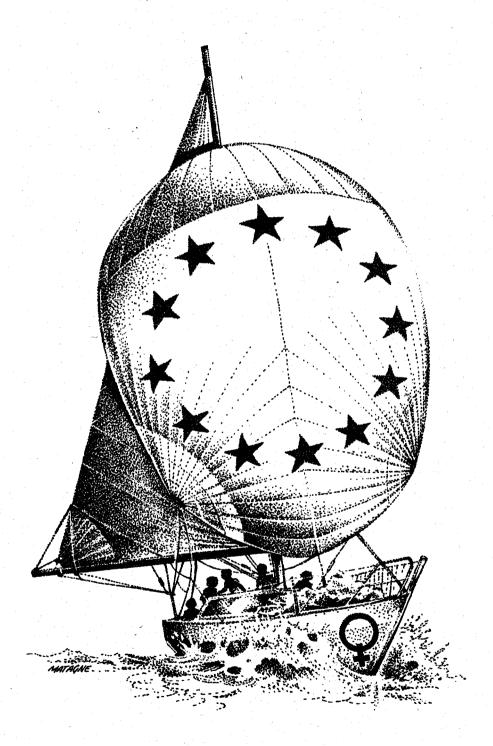
# Women of Europe

Brussels, 15 March/15 July 1987 nº 50



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# Women of Europe no. 50 - 15 March/15 July 1987

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To celebrate the Year of the Environment, "Women of Europe" is to be printed on recycled paper from now on

> Editorial work on this issue of "Women of Europe" was completed on 8 July 1987

#### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

This is the 50th issue of Women of Europe.

At the same time, the 25th of the supplements to Women of Europe has appeared ("Community law and Women").

And 1987 is the year in which we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Women's Information Service.

All good reasons for reviewing the past and looking to the future.

Women of Europe is only one of the resources set up by the Women's Information Service in pursuance of its mission: to encourage women to help with creating a united Europe, to inform them on the rights newly conferred on them under Community equal opportunities policy and to promote a change in the mentality of society.

The judicious use of other resources and channels has contributed towards performing this task: seminars and conferences have been held in conjunction with women's associations and movements; there has been close contact with the women's press; videos, booklets and posters have been produced; and so on.

Nevertheless, in the minds of our public the Women's Information Service is identified mainly with Women of Europe. It came into being as a bulletin for informing and liaising with women's associations in our country, but it was not long before women themselves ensured that it played a far broader role. It has set an example of how information can become a direct instrument for participation in the life of a town, a society or a political world, and how this instrument in turn accelerates the process once it has begun.

In publicizing all the hundreds of activities, schemes, research projects and plans implemented by women and their movements. Women of Europe has forged a ring of solidarity, it holds up a mirror for women's creativity, it serves as an inexhaustible fund of models and experience. As our readers (men as well as women) often tell us, it is "a window on Europe".

The 50 issues of Women of Europe contain about 2,480 pages, 6,000 addresses, over 9,000 news items. It has tackled some 40 different themes – not counting the 25 supplements on special subjects, another 1,470 pages.

Over the past ten years, everything has been changing faster than in the previous four decades or so. The European Community has acted as a motive force and a pioneer in legislation on parity, leaving a clear mark on national legislations. The influence of women's associations has been growing. Women have acquired a clearly perceptible awareness, assurance and confidence.

<sup>(1)</sup> This is a section within the Commission of the European Communities. It is the only information agency specifically directed towards women's public opinion in a European institution.

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Women of Europe has tried to reflect and take part in the change. There is no doubt that the general evolution we have all witnessed has been promoted by the reciprocal exchange of information. Information has circulated among women's organizations, political parties, unions and local, national and international authorities — as testified by the news published in Women of Europe and the reactions it has provoked. A close-knit network is being created, a network that disregards frontiers.

The value of publicizing pacesetting efforts is that they suggest how to overcome a difficulty, how to bring pressure to bear, how to introduce change. In European Community directives, action programmes and legal precedent on equal opportunities, this proliferation of experience and example is both testimony and an inspiration.

In Women of Europe we have also borne witness to the way in which information can help to mobilize and launch joint action (the appeal to the Copenhagen summit for the date of European elections; support for the candidacy of a women to the Economic and Social Committee; the women's manifesto for the first elections to European Parliament; pressure on the Council of Ministers to adopt certain directives, etc.).

The thousands of pages published up to today, then, cover a vast field, ranging from private life to international relations, from small women's groups to world conferences. Even so, the feeling of unity has always prevailed. The quest for a fairer and more humane society has been the constant thread. Where women have taken the centre of the stage, they have acted not for themselves but to improve all our lives. In entering political and social life, women transform that life by contributing their own fresh values.

Today women are aware of being Europeans. Women of Europe has also shown that they are committed to the process of European integration as a global project. This project has a growing need for support from citizens. It needs their ability to exert pressure in order to overcome practical difficulties and national diffidence. It needs their imagination to weather crises and face up to challenges. In the run-up to 1992, the date by which the great European market without frontiers is to be fully operational, the contribution, enthusiasm and dynamism of all the citizens of Europe, both women and men, are vital.

We hope to be able to report in future pages that women have taken their rightful place in this mobilization of the community.

Fausta Deshormes La Valle

To celebrate these anniversaries, one of the forthcoming Supplements to Women of Europe, due to appear before the end of the year, will be an analysis of the 50 issues that have come out up to this time. It will also provide an opportunity to trace the ways in which the status of women have been been changing over the past years, both through their own efforts and as a result of Community policy, within the context of European society and cultural transformations.

# THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Equal opportunities: the Ministers responsible, meeting informally in Brussels, have asked the Commission to put forward a recommendation on the vocational training of women.

An informal meeting in late April of the Ministers from the Twelve Member States whose responsibilities include women's status, chaired by Miet Smet, Belgian Secretary of State for social emancipation, has given the Commission the go-ahead for the recommendation it intends to make on the vocational training of women. Meanwhile, the Commission has forwarded a communication (ref. COM(87)155 fin.) reviewing the problems attendant on training (with special reference to new technology, girls, women wishing to resume work after a break and continuing training). It also examines measures already adopted at national level to give women a wider choice of careers, as well as initiatives at Community level in the context of the European Social Fund. (It is estimated that a million women benefitted from the Fund in 1985, receiving 38% of its total aid.)

In the chapter on proposals for action, the Commission suggests general measures (awareness campaigns, decentralization), closer involvement of the beneficiaries in projects, actions in the fields of career guidance and higher education (reinforcing the links between universities and business), continuing training and measures to publicize and improve training for adult women, as well as provisions for follow-up and support.

This communication was presented by Mr Marin, Vice-President of the European Commission, with the support of all the delegations. It forms part of the medium-term programme for equal opportunities, 1986-90.

Ministers also heard the Commission's interim report on sexual harassment at work (entitled "The Dignity of Women at Work", Ref. V/412/87). The report defines and analyses the problem in terms of the equality of women, mentions the laws enacted in member countries and makes certain recommendations. The Commission points out that the gap between legal provision and everyday reality is wide: steps must be taken to arouse public awareness. Some countries (the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Ireland) seem to have taken a lead in this field.

A large majority of Ministers expressed support for the Commission's communication on **legislation protecting women** in the Member States, some stating that their Governments were already taking the steps recommended (COM(87)105 fin). The exceptions were Spain and Portugal.

In its report, the Commission notes that some protective legislation (particularly for night work and heavy or tiring jobs) in fact goes against the principle of equality. Measures originally intended to afford protection are now having a discriminatory effect. For his part, Mr Marin stressed that the removal of such protective measures should be undertaken in a uniform, concerted way so as to avoid discrepancies between countries. A further problem is the need to abide by international conventions in this field.

Useful address: Odile Quintin, Head of Bureau for Equal Treatment for Women,
Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Education
Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels

Outside the formal meeting, a delegation from the European Confederation of Trade Unions (ETUC) addressed the Council on the subject of women's rights. During the discussion, Miet Smet dispayed great interest in the Unions' "Women's" programme.

**Useful address:** ETUC, 37 rue de la Montagne aux Herbes Potagères, <u>1000</u> Brussels

Later on, the "Social" Council, meeting at the end of May, adopted the following conclusions relating to the subjects mentioned above:

Conclusions regarding the vocational training of women (in response to the Commission's communication of 6 April 1987 referred to above). The Council outlined the special difficulties facing women on the labour market, particularly those arising from lack of training. It urged that the training available be adapted to the needs of women, including women jobseekers. It called for close cooperation between training institutions and the labour market, stressing the importance of women applicants for training, as well as their trainers, unions and employers, being aware of the principle of equality of opportunity for men and women, so that training effectively leads to a career. Finally, as regards the draft recommendation being drawn up by the Commission, the Council has already stressed its interest in a series of courses of action.

Conclusions regarding legislation protecting women in the Community Member States. The Council acknowledges that protective laws of this kind should be revised if they do not further equality of opportunity for women or are ineffective in affording protection. It calls on Member States, employers and unions to review such legislation. The Council asks the Commission to update its report on national legislation in the light of the timetable for the medium-term Community programme on equal opportunities for women (1986-1990).

The Consultative Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Len, at its May meeting in Brussels, elected a new Chair, Carlota Bustelo (Spain) to succeed Astrid Lulling (Lux). Mr. F. Boddendijk (Netherlands) and Astrid Lulling are vice chairmen.

The Committee members represent the organizations (voluntary committees or government bodies) responsible for equal opportunities within Member States.

The Committee's role is to advise the Commission on the formulation of policy.

At this meeting, the Committee gave its views on the Commission's communications on possible initiatives for promoting training for women, on the onus of proof and on upholding the rights of pregnant women and mothers.

The People's Europe: The European Commission has co-sponsored a series of events designed to encourage women to take part in sport, in response to an appeal from European Parliament's Women's Rights Committee:

the Brussels marathon, in May, with a Community trophy for the first woman home;

the ascent of K2, in the Himalayas, where a team led by Martine Rolland (the first woman high-mountain guide) is to plant the European flag (see p.14);

the European Community swimming championships in Leeds, with a men's and a women's team from each country, (see p.14);

a woman skipper's entry in the "Round Europe Sailing Race" in July and August flying the European flag (see p.15).

Enterprise in Europe: The Community believes in small business and industry. To demonstrate its concern, it has launched a pilot scheme "Centres for European Business Information", designed to encourage an ongoing dialogue with small and medium-sized firms, these vital elements of a country's economic life (they make up 80% of European businesses).

28 such Centres have been chosen throughout the Community. They have been given the task of informing small firms of the opportunities under Community policies and helping them to draw up applications and make their wishes known. So this is a two-way operation, with feedback to the Commission about what small firms regard as important or necessary.

Useful address: "SME Task Force", European Commission 80 rue d'Arlon, 1040 Brussels

A brochure on European policy on small business, with a preface by the Commissioner responsible, Mr. Abel Matutes, can be obtained from the Office of Official Publications of the European Communities, 2985 Luxemburg, or from the address given above.

In "Social Europe" 3/86, the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Education reviews developments in the social field, including equal treatment for men and women under Spanish and Portuguese law and the return of women to work. There is a chapter on training and careers guidance, under the auspices of the European Social Fund, for the young jobless, another on guidelines for managing the Fund over the period 1987-89 (ref. ISSN 0255-0972). In 1987 the Commission has decided on aid totalling 3 thousand million ECUs, the bulk of which will go towards national employment schemes designed to help the under-25s. (Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.)

**Europe: dream, adventure, reality.** People actively engaged in the adventure of building Europe make their voices heard in accounts of their personal experience, published in book form by Elsevier, Chaussée de Louvain 325, 1930 Woluwe/Zaventem. Note that only two of the 45 contributions are from women: Katherina Focke and Simone Veil, both members of European Parliament.

NGOs and development: a vital role. Lorenzo Natali, Vice-President of the European Commission, speaking at the annual assembly of Non-Governmental Organizations in Brussels at the end of March, stressed the vital role of NGOs. They act in a spirit of solidarity and on the basis of dialogue, pluralism, tolerance and equality, he said. They should not be regarded as having a purely executive role, but should be consulted more in the formulation of policy.

For its part, Youth Forum has taken a stand on the specific responsibilities of women in the development process, by calling for discussion of this issue in the negotiation of the next Lomé Convention. The demand is expressed in the January issue of Youth Forum magazine (useful address: rue de la Science 10, 1040 Brussels). The issue featured the Lomé 4 Partnership Conference for Young People, the first official gathering of young people's organizations from Europe and ACP countries.

The ERASMUS programme, encouraging student mobility within the Community (see Women of Europe 49), was finally adopted by the Council of Ministers on 14 May. The funding allocated, though, is far less than the Commission had wished: 85 million ECUs over three years, as against the 175 million proposed by the Commission.

Late in 1986 the European Commission launched a "research-action" project designed to promote equality of opportunity for girls and boys in education. The operational phase of this 18-month programme is timed to coincide with the 1987-88 academic year.

Spain, Greece, Ireland and Portugal are arranging a <u>poster competition</u> on the same theme. The Commission will award a prize for the best poster from each Member State. For further information, contact the Eurydice European Unit, rue Archimede 17, 1040 Brussels.

Training and equipping young people for adult life and work: The Commission has adopted an action programme in this field. It is based on a European network of joint training initiatives that brings together projects in different member countries, technical assistance and support for innovative projects, comparative research and the exchange of specialists.

Useful address: Eurydice, as above.

In last year's December issue of "Nouvelles Universitaires Europeannes/European University News", there was a survey of scholarships and research programmes in European institutions and organizations. Special mention was made of bursaries for European integration, administrative training courses, courses for interpreters, the Irene Scizier prize, the Robert Schuman Scholarships and language courses.

Useful address: Information Universitaire,

Directorate-General for Information, Communication and Culture Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels

The European Commission's 1987 programme for training young European executives in Japanese language and management, in which 43 people have taken part since 1979, includes no women (and in 1986 there were only two women participants). Three women had been selected but then withdrew.

Vocational training for migrant women: Colette de Troy has written a report for the European Commission setting out the specific training needs, facilities at present available and recommendations on how to meet the shortfall (ref. CEEV/1909/86-FR). Eight States are subject to scrutiny: there are wide variations, but the overall situation is unsatisfactory. An institutional policy, concludes the author, must provide for real job opportunities once training is completed.

Useful address: Bureau for Women's Equality,

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Education Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels

Family planning cannot be forced on people. They must decide for themselves. This was the view expressed by Rose Waruhiu, a member of Kenyan Parliament and rapporteur on this subject at the ACP/EEC Assembly on Equality at Arusha (see Women of Europe n°49), in an interview in the ACP/EEC Courrier. This bi-monthly publication, edited by Hélène Birindelli, can be obtained from the Directorate-General for Development, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

To mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, Sir Henry Plumb, President of European Parliament, wrote to hundreds of newspapers and magazines in Europe with a message for young people. "Be proud," said Sir Henry to the rising generation, "that your fathers and mothers have created a European Community which, though not perfect, is democratic, representative and free. Be proud to be Europeans; you have it in your power to make of the Community what you would wish it to be."

This message, we would stress, is addressed to young women and young men alike.

At its May session, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on **continuing** training, with an amendment by the British Conservative Mr. Tuckman calling for special attention to be paid to the training of women, with due regard for the position of inferiority in which they are generally placed in working life, particularly when it comes to promotion.

Parliament's May debate on **nuclear power** revealed a concern to avoid two kinds of danger: danger from nuclear accidents, but also the danger of choices which would slow down economic development and lower standards of living. Members stressed one aspect or the other, according to their political complexion. German "Green" Undie Bloch von Blottnitz, reporting on the aftermath of Chernobyl and foodstuffs, painted a somewhat pessimistic picture of the situation one year after the catastrophe.

After the "mothers of Algiers" affair, (see Women of Europe no 49), Parliament's President Sir Henry Plumb, nominated the French Socialist Marie-Claude Vayssade as Parliamentary mediator for abducted children. (This was in response to "the mothers" call for the appointment of a mediator.) Marie-Claude Vayssade, who will work under the auspices of the Petitions Commission chaired by Mr Chanterie (PPE, Belgium), will gather information and act as coordinator in disputes between separated parents over access to their children.

MEP <u>Eileen Lemass</u> (RRDE, Ireland) asked the Council whether it was not the right time to encourage women's participation at all levels of society. In its reply, the Council acknowledged the need for women to play a greater role and mentioned the ten categories of measures set out in the second resolution on equal opportunities, and also the paragraphs concerning women in the resolution on an action programme to increase employment.

An Equal Opportunities Committee has been set up for the staff of European Parliament, in response to the resolution on the status of women in Europe adopted by Parliament in January 1984. The seven-member Committee is chaired by Clare Wells. It will propose all the measures needed to promote equal opportunities and will make sure that such measures are implemented.

To mark the opening of the Year of the Environment on 19 March, German Socialist Beate Weber made a speech at the Palais d'Egmont in Brussels. She stressed the transnational dimension of environmental issues and the opportunity offered by the Single European Act to make progress in this sector.

Do Europeans know how much "non-Europe" is costing? According to a report by British Conservative MEP Sir Frank Catherwood, the cost could amount to approximately 112 thousand million ECUs. Sir Frank adds that his estimate is a very cautious one, certainly short of the real figure, being based on the following factors: the cost of inviting tenders on a national rather than international basis (50,000 million); the cost of administering customs checks at internal frontiers (12,000 million); non-harmonization of norms; the absence of a single domestic market; duplication of research and investment; tax barriers; the absence of a common defence policy.

**Errata**: In the last issue of Women of Europe we gave the addresses of European Parliament Information Offices. The Rome and Hague addresses were not correct. The actual addresses are: - via IV Novembre, Rome

- Lange Voorhout 27a - 2514 EB The Hague

# COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

To avoid disspation of effort, to give a more coherent idea of itself and to improve its links with the European Commission, the Committee on Women's Rights, chaired by Dutch Socialist <u>Hedy d'Ancona</u>, is concentrating on three main areas in its programme for 1987-89:

- a series of reports on "women and decision-making", to include an analysis of women's under-representation on political bodies, in the higher echelons of banking and insurance, in the media and in pressure groups;
- a series of reports <u>reviewing the first and second action programmes</u>, the situation in Member States, the actual effect of directives and the implementation of recommendations on positive action.

These two topics could be the subjet of a major debate in 1988, with round table discussions attended by members of national parliaments.

- women and poverty. The impoverishment of women, a state of affairs which is becoming more and more pronounced, affects not only Europe but the whole world. This theme should be the subject of a forum, before January 1989, at which the women concerned will talk about their personal experience.

The Committee on Women's rights has adopted certain resolutions, contained in reports to be submitted to the Parliament in full session:

The image and role of women in the media (rapporteur Ms Lenz, PPE, Germany). The report proposes a series of measures for the advancement of women, with the aim of achieving greater equality in the jobs they do and the way they are represented. In other words, she argues for positive discrimination in favour of women until equal rights are achieved, to ensure there is no discrimination in recruitment, training or career development.

To achieve this, the Committee on Women's Rights proposes a series of incentives, controls and organizational measures to reconcile working conditions with the demands of family life.

One of the schemes suggested is the creation of a network of women working in the press, radio and TV. The recommendations concerning advertising have been amended to give them more teeth, the aim being to increase the number of women working in advertising as producers and to prevent woman being exploited as an object by advertisers.

# Women in the Community institutions

In its full session in June, European Parliament passed a resolution on the position of women in the Community's institutions. The motion was proposed on behalf of the Committee on Women's Rights by Ien van den Heuvel.

The rapporteur called for a meeting to set up talks between representatives of Community institutions, political groups and a delegation from the Committee on Women's Rights, to draw up a detailed plan for implementing all the recommendations formulated. She also demanded that the Equal Opportunities Committees within European institutions be required to report back once a year to the Committee on Women's Rights on progress with the appointment and promotion of women. It is a fact that, although women make up 50% of the civil servants in European institutions, they account for only 9% of the higher grades.

In a recommendation in January 1984 (Marlene Lenz), Parliament had urged Community institutions to set an example in promoting women's equality; it had to admit on this occasion that it had not followed its own recommendations.

The debate showed that no progress had been made on this issue over the previous 5 years. It was demanded that action programmes be established with clear objectives and an overall strategy, as in the United States. Men and women should learn to work together in harmony so that, in a democratic society, women can exercise their rights at every level of the hierarchy. A woman may represent Europe at the highest level. Why could not Europe serve a model for Member States by having a woman commissioner on the next Commission? Governments and trade unions can certainly do better in this respect. The institutions should apply to themselves the principles they lay down in directives to Member States.

Effort is required all round, said Simone Veil. We must bring about change by a deliberate act of will and take the decision to impose quotas. It is vital that women themselves take part in decision-making at all levels and come forward from the back seats where they have sat too long.

Mr De Clercq confirmed the Commission's commitment to take into account, in its staffing policy, the imbalance between men and women in the various departments, with a view to remedying the situation in both recruitment and career development. Before the end of the year the Commission intends to decide on an action programme with definite goals. It is thinking of setting target figures with the aim of increasing the number of women in categories or careers where they are under-represented. This means reviewing methods and, as it is in the Commission's interests to have highly qualified staff, the Commission cannot afford to disregard the substantial pool of female talent.

# COUNTRY TO COUNTRY:

# FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES

#### BELGIUM

The Advisory Committee on Social Emancipation - Comité d'avis pour l'émancipation sociale - recently set up by the Chamber of Representatives (see Women of Europe n° 49), has elected Huberte Hanquet to its chair.

# Europe for Women, Women for Europe

With Belgium's Presidency of the European Council, the Conseil National des Femmes Belges (Belgian Women's Council) has decided on a campaign to alert women to the urgent need for an independent, effective policy for Europe. In the belief that public opinion – and national parliaments – must place pressure on the European Council to ensure that national Ministers on the Council take a broad rather than a narrow nationalistic view, the Council asked its members to come and talk to the people responsible for European policy-making. This active method of providing information on European policy proved a success: over a hundred members of women's assciations responded to the invitation to a meeting chaired by Huberte Hanquet and led by Jacqueline de Groote.

Aware of the support received by the women's emancipation unit from European institutions, those present spoke of their concern that their political rights should be upheld, clearly expressing their approval of European Union.

Three themes were preselected by the Council's member associations: information on the environment, the application of European directives on social security and the Community's relations with the outside world.

Useful address: Conseil National des Femmes Belges (Chair: Huberte Hanquet) rue de Florence 24, 1050 Brussels

The Conseil National des Femmes Belges and the Nationale Vrouwen Raad - the French- and Dutch-language National Belgian Women's Councils - celebrated 8 March by a press conference at which one point discussed was the UN convention on the elimination of discrimination against women. Secretary of State for Social Emancipation, Miet Smet, reviewed developments in women's status in Belgium over the past year.

The Secretariat for Social Emancipation has published a booklet on women in Belgian society (in French and Dutch), with many tables.

Useful address: Cabinet de la Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Emancipation 56 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels

The debate on the decriminalization of abortion continues. One development: a poll conducted by the newspaper, "Le Soir", has shown that 48% of Belgian women are in favour of fairly extensive liberalization of abortion "on medical, psychological and social grounds".

Action Laïque (CP 236, Campus de la Plaine, Boulevard du Triomphe, 1050 Brussels) has entered the fray in a publication that puts the question (above a photo of a woman watched by a policeman): "160,000 women have an abortion every year. Are they criminals?", It points out that Belgium is the only European country besides Ireland that still regards the voluntary termination of pregnancy as an offence punishable by the law.

A trial is going on in Ghent in which 60 people are charged with practising, having or taking part in abortions. The Comité pour l'avortement en Flandre (Flanders pro-abortion committee) is campaigning for decriminalization.

Useful address: Centra voor Geboorteregeling en Seksuele Opvoeding p/a. J.B. Guinardstraat 34, 9000 Ghent

For two whole weeks, the newspaper "Le Soir" ran a special feature on women, in conjunction with the polling institute INSUOP. Some of the survey findings were surprising. Women said they were happier than their mothers and thought their daughters would be happier than they were themselves, although their optimism was tempered by certain fears: a nuclear holocaust above all, followed by war in general, economic crisis and terrorism.

In the working world, only 24% of women thought they were at a disadvantage compared with men, although 60% considered that women are less work-minded than men. One dismaying finding was that working women were often more sexist than men, preferring a man as a boss rather than another women.

Only one woman out of two was interested in <u>politics</u>, although 7 women out of 10 seemed to regard this indifference as something to be ashamed of, since they said that a woman should be interested. Even so, 35% of women have never voted for a woman.

Asked what has changed women's lives most over the past 50 years, 70% said it was the contraceptive pill, followed by the vote (only 29%) and ... the washing machine (28%).

In the field of women's work, the feature covered such issues as unemployment (women, it seems, are only half as likely to find work as men), the black economy and profiles of outstanding working women. These included Anne Vleminck, who works as a financial analyst in the Société Générale de Banque's arbitrage room; Anne-Marie Godin, a heavy vehicle driver; Cathy De Meester, former manager at Petrofina and now in charge of developing a new Petfofina product with Sigma Coagint; and Mia Devits, the only women with a seat on the Belgian Trades Union Federation council (FGTB).

In overall charge of the series was Catherine Ferrant, 34, head of the political, economic and social section at Le Soir, which she joined in 1974.

Inforfemmes has published two booklets: one on unemployment (registration, allowances, maintaining one's rights); and the other special-status work arranged by the Office National de l'Emploi (national employment board). For a comprehensive list of Infor-Femmes publications, write to 29 rue de Bréderode, 1000 Brussels.

The women's bureau of the Confédération internationale des Syndicats Libres has brought out a booklet on <u>sexual harassment at work</u>, showing women how they can defend themselves.

Useful address: CISL, 37-41 rue Montagne aux Herbes Potagères, 1000 Brussels

The 19 May issue of the Dutch-language newspaper, "De Morgen", was rechristened De Madam (the Lady) for the day. It was entirely written by women, on subjects relating to women: guidance for female students, the role of women farmers and the position and image of women in the media. A full page was devoted to the European Community's equal opportunities policy.

"Supposing your boss were a woman?". The findings of an opinion survey published by Belgian Business shows that management and senior staff are by no means hostile to the idea, although 40% say that there are no women on their company's management staff (because, they say, no women apply for management jobs). But the situation is gradually improving, especially in Brussels and the southern part of Belgium.

In May, the Ministry for Internal Affairs and the Civil Service arranged "information days" to make the various ministerial departments aware of the need for and value of positive action in the public sector.

Useful address:

Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Fonction Publique Direction Générale de la Sélection et de la Formation Rue du Gouvernement Provisoire 15, 1000 Brussels

Our readers write. Joelle Vanhemelryck has written to "Women of Europe" telling us about her own experience. Married, aged 30, with a scientific background, she followed her husband (who is in the forces) to Germany. With a good deal of determination and after many formalities, she managed to obtain a job as clerk of works for Belgian military buildings in Germany. Our correspondent is no heavyweight (she is 5'2" tall and weighs 8½ stone), but she can read drawings, write up specifications and climb scaffolding without feeling dizzy, as the four men under her orders found out during an inspection of eight towers. Their condescending smiles were wiped off their faces as they saw her scale the wind-buffeted metal ladders to the top of the 220-foot towers. An example of perseverance and resolve!

Les Cahiers du Grif have launched a "cultural hotline" known as "Ello". Dial Brussels 537.838.83 for a 3-minute message, updated weekly, giving news of educational and artistic events of special interest to women.

The scholastic route taken by girls after the age of 12 tends to be less job-related than in the case of boys. Miet Smet, Secretary of State for Social Emancipation, hopes to remedy the situation. She has suggested a "model lesson" for teachers which should help children shed their prejudices and set ways when it comes to schooling. The scheme is also directed towards parents: a poster has been produced to explain the courses which will point their daughters towards the most promising careers.

Useful address:

Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Emancipation Sociale 56 Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels

In Belgium today there are over 600,000 widows, who have to tackle many problems on their own. Infor-Veuves helps them in every way.

The Comité de Liaison des Femmes (women's liaison committee) also aims to help the widows of public sector employees, who have been placed at a disadvantage by recent pension legislation.

Useful

Infor-Veuves, rue de la Prévoyance 58, 1000 Brussels

addresses:

Comité de Liaison des Femmes, Place Quetelet 1/A, 1000 Brussels Joint presidents: Raymonde Dury and Hedwige Peemans-Poullet

A piece of advice and a suggestion as to how to protest, from les Femmes Prévoyantes Socialistes: when you make your tax return, give a detailed list of all costs sustained in looking after young children under the heading "expenses incurred in your occupation".

Useful address: Femmes Prévoyantes Socialistes
Place du Champ de Mars 4, 1050 Brussels

A decision reached by the <u>Gendarmerie</u> is a step towards ending discrimination. Its latest recruitment procedure is based solely on examination, without specifying whether applicants should be men or women.

Useful address: Gendarmerie, Direction du Recrutement et de la Sélection Rue Fritz Toussaint 47, 1050 Brussels

#### DENMARK

We regret that we cannot report any news from Denmark, as the copy has not reached us in time for publication.

# FRANCE

A million and a half children are affected by the law on the exercise of parental authority, which has introduced a major change in that it allows children of divorced parents to be placed under the joint control of both parents. The law was passed unanimously (with a few abstentions, basically among National Front MPs) on 7 May. From now on, a parent who has not been granted the "physical" custody of a child may nonethless take part in major decisions on that child, if the other parent agrees. Another change: if parents cannot agree, a court will obtain the child's own views, provided that the child is over 13.

Useful Address: Assemblée Nationale, Palais Bourbon, 75007 Paris

Women have benefited from the war among television channels. TF 1, a recently privatized TV channel, has been reorganized and now has a few women in senior positions.

Christine Ockrent, for example, has been appointed assistant director general (in other words, n° 3 in the channel hierarchy), with responsibility for information, programmes and international development; Michèle Cotta, former president of the Senior Authority, has become director of information; and Anne Sinclair retains her Sunday spot but has also acquired a major weekly news feature programme. Two other women are well placed: Pascale Breugnot and Dominique Cantien (both of whom have created programmes on Channel 2).

Information, Training and Vocational Training for Women is the name of a new women'a association on the front line of action in the Third World. IFPPF—"Information, Formation, Promotion Professionelle des Femmes"— is chaired by actress Marthe Mercadier. Celebrating the European Community's first 30 years, it asked itself the question: who are the main "messengers and beneficiaries" of this changing European Community? The answer: children. It is only logical then, says IFPPF, that children should promote the Community and be promoted by the Community.

IFPPF was founded in 1981. From the very start, it embarked on action in favour of Africa that mobilized women and children. Another operation, "Tous pour Tous junior en action" ("Junior All-for-All in action"), launched in 1987, is designed to help schoolchildren in the Third World fund themselves through the sale of the craft goods they make.

Useful Address: IFPPF, 13 Quai Saint-Michel, 75005 Paris, tel. 43 54 28 57

Family and work: Françoise Euvrard of the Centre d'Etudes des Revenus et des Coûts (centre for research on incomes and costs) has pointed out, in a report drawn up on behalf of the Haut Conseil de la Population et de la Famille, (senior council for the population and family), that reconciling work with family responsibilities is no longer a "women's problem" but society's problem.

But it is women who bear the prime responsibility, doomed to sacrifice either family or work or to live at an intolerable pace. She has suggested solutions: parental leave (for both parents) as the normal practice; greater flexibility in the organization of work (but not a return to working exclusively at home, since this cuts homeworkers off from the working world); a guarantee that, after time taken off to have children, a woman will have her job back and can take refresher training; and more day care facilities for children.

Useful address: C.E.R.C., 3 boulevard de Latour Maubourg, 75007 Paris Tel. 47 35 89 63

"Women of Europe, women of the world" was the theme of a colloquium in Nice in March, organized by the Institut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales with the support of the European Commission's Women's Information Service. The topics of debate were: men's rights, women's rights; women in the European Community; women in Muslim society; European Community action in favour of women in ACP countries; women in political life; and women and scientific and technological progress.

Useful Institut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales

address: Palais de Marbre, 9 avenue de Fabron, 06200 Nice, tel. 9386 3912

European Women's Management Development Network (EWMDN) announces the second annual Hamburg conference on the theme of "Managing the future" in its EWMD News, issue 10. It also reports a "first": the appointment of Christine Clément as the first women pilot in the French Air Force.

Useful Address: EWMD, International Association Centre Rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels

A club from Clichy (the town where EC President Jacques Delors used to be mayor) took first place in the "women's" section of the First European Community Swimming Championship in Leeds (UK) last April. Hamburg and Heemstede (Netherlands) came second and third. Twenty four clubs from every Member State - 12 "men's" and 12 "women's" clubs selected in national heats - took part in the Championship.

Another exploit: Frenchwoman Martine Rolland, 36, formerly the first high mountain guide, is to lead an expedition to the K2 in the Himalayas. At 8,611 metres, the K2 (on the borders of China and Pakistan) is the second highest mountain in the world. Even to reach it takes a 15-day trek over the Baltoro glacier. Its isolation and difficulty make it one of the greatest challenges to climbers, and very few have reached the summit. The K2 is the toughest ascent of the "over-8000 metres". Five Alpine guides are planning an attempt on the Southeast side in June/September 1987, using no oxygen and only the minimal climbing aids. If the little team she leads is successful, Martine Rolland will be the first woman to reach the K2 peak, where she will plant the European flag.

En route for the summit, Martine Rolland sends her greetings to Women of Europe:

[A big hallo from all our team, en route to the top of the K2, hoping we can take the European flag to the highest peak.

"Women, let's go!"]

In the <u>European Sailing Race</u> from 12 July to 15 August in which the 12 EC countries are competing, the European Commission is backing the only boat to be skippered by a woman - Louise Chambaz, Canadian by origin, who has opted to live in Paris and Trinité-sur-Mer. Her boat, the "<u>Women of Europe</u>", flies the European flag. Yet another "positive action" in sport.

The Fédération Internationale des Accueils Français (FIAF), an international federation that arranges for French families and individuals to be welcomed on their arrival in foreign towns and helped to settle in, has published its yearbook. Making no social, political or religious distinctions, this vast network has members throughout the European Community and in the U.S., Latin America, Africa and Asia. The bureau is in Paris, with Jacqueline Teitgen as its president.

Useful Address: FIAF, Secretariat, 6 rue Albert Samain, 75017 Paris

"Le Monde" caught in the (sexist) act. The news item was that Nilde Jotti, 67, Communist President of the Italian Lower House, had been appointed to seek a solution to a Government crisis. The headline chosen by "Le Monde" newspaper: "Exploratory mission for Togliatti's widow"! Nilde Jotti, it is true, had lived with the Communist leader, but he died in 1964 and she has been an MP for 25 years (as well as a Member of European Parliament) and has presided the Lower House since 1979.

#### Women and work

A report on "looking for work" by the Centre National d'Information sur les Droits de la Femme (CNID - national information centre on women's rights) covers the jobseeker's rights and obligations, and actively looking for work (with a useful chapter on "knowing what you want: a career plan and how to put it into practice; an introduction to labour law; job creation"). Clear and full of practical information, this handbook answers the questions put by many women. Price FF.45.

Useful Address: CNID, 7 rue de Jura, 75013 Paris

The March bulletin of the <u>Délégation à la Condition Féminine</u> (DFI - Delegation for women's status) features the subject of career guidance for girls. It points out that, although the standard of education and training available is reasonably high, counselling on the subject remains too conventional.

Useful Address: DFI, 14 boulevard de la Madeleine, 75008 Paris

Dossiers presented by <u>Actuelles CFDT</u> (the women's group of the French trade union federation) at a gathering to celebrate 8 March covered equality at work, shorter and more flexible hours of work, guidance for girls and the general status of women's employment.

Useful Address: CFDT, 4 boulevard de la Villette, 75955 Paris Cedex 19

A book on Simone Veil, "Une femme, Simon Veil" has been published by Editions Laffont, Place Saint Sulpice, 75006 Paris. The author is Michel Sarazin, journalist in the political department of Sunday newspaper "Journal du Dimanche". A portait of a Frenchwoman and a European, it is the first biography of one of France's most popular politicians.

Women in publishing: who are they, how did they make a start in publishing, what do they think about publishing in France? The Association des Femmes Journalistes Françaises (AFJ - association of French women journalists) arranged a debate on the subject as part, with a panel of some 10 women publishers, at the Book Fair in the Paris Grand Palais.

Useful Address:

AFJ, Maison de l'Europe

35 rue des Francs-Bourgeois, 75004 Paris

The European edition of the Annuaire au féminin pour 1987 - the "1987 Yearbook in the feminine" - has come out. Its aim: to promote an exchange of services and mutual support in business and social life, create synergy among working women, help women start up in life and encourage them to move into action. The Yearbook, whose coordinator is Brigitte Cassigneul, can be ordered from FAMES INTERNATIONAL, 10 Tour Boieldieu, La Défense 8, 92800 Puteaux.

Women in the times of the Pharaohs. Christiane Desroches-Noblecourt, former curator of the Egyptian department at the Louvre, professor and writer, has written an account (published by Stock) of daily life in Egyptian society, in which women played a more important role than is commonly believed. Their status was more equal to that of men than in any other ancient civilization. They could inherit and make wills, and married women could reach joint decisions with their husbands.

The Flora Tristan Feminist Research Club is stepping up its activities. It arranges meetings, discussions, the publication of reports, internal seminars for active feminists, unionists and women research workers (this year the theme of the seminar is equality for women at work). One recent report has been on "State and the law; women's rights", with Blandine Barret-Kriegel as a contributor. To be issued in the near future are the proceedings of the debate on women students.

Useful Address: Club Flora Tristan, 26 boulevard Richard Lenoir, 75011 Paris

Antoinette, the magazine of the women's group of the Confédératon Genérale du Travail (CGT), has published an article on Jeanne Deron, a militant in the 1848 revolution who fought for votes for women when universal male suffrage was granted, was arrested, imprisoned and finally exiled. Jeanne Deron, who died in London at 89, declared that she was ready to "take up the fight again in the next life".

Useful Address: Antoinette, 50 rue Edouard Pailleron, 75019 Paris

The April issue of BIBA magazine features an article on French women world champions. The list includes women who have come to the top in cycling, judo and canoeing. But the article points out that far less is being done to promote women's sport than men's. After winning a world championship, men are always congratulated by the French Premier or President, but not women.

Grain de Sel Rencontres, c/ Mme. Deschamps, 11 rue Grammont, 38230 Pont de Cheruy, has announced a research+action project on young children in Europe. Under the project, leaders visited European Parliament to discuss with MEPs ways of solving the problems of young children in the towns in the Rhone Valley and in European twinned towns.

The Institut de Coopération Sociale Internationale (4 avenue du Colonel Bonnet, 75016 Paris) arranged a meeting in April on <u>local development in Guadeloupe</u>, focussing on the concept of "enterprise and women".

Action teams against the slave trade in women and children - Equipes d'action contre la traite des femmes et des enfants - have launched an appeal to extend the membership of the movement and find new subscribers to its journal, Esclavage (21, rue Sainte-Croix de la Bretonnerie, 75004 Paris). The association's needs are great, the social issues it deals with are dramatic; only funds are in short supply.

#### GERMANY

Dr. Hanna Schwopp-Schilling is the new head of the Department of Women's Rights at the Ministry of Youth, the Family, Women and Health. She ranks as head of division, the only woman among 113 heads of division in the Federal Administration. A former vice-president of the Aspen Institute (Berlin), she is the author of many studies on the status of women.

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

Anke Fuchs, vice-president of the Socialist group in the Bundestag and a former minister, is the first woman to hold the key post of "head of administration" in the Social Democrat Party.

Useful Address: SPD Fraktion, Bundeshaus, 5300 Bonn 1

Monika Wulf-Mathies, President of the OTV trade union, and Birgit Breuel, Minister of Finance for Lower Saxony, are the first women to head delegations negotiating collective agreements for millions of blue-collar workers and salaried staff in the civil service and transport industry.

One Land, Hessen, now has a woman Minister of Agriculture. She is Irmgard Reichardt, a small farmer and an activist in the association of women farmers, with no party political affiliation. A first for Germany.

Surrogate motherhood: the German Government wants to prevent this practice being commercialized, and the Minister of Justice is drafting a bill on the subject in order to protect the unborn child. The Social Democrat Party would prefer to see surrogate motherhood banned altogether, not just when it is undertaken for gain.

Useful Addresses: Bundesdjustizministerium, Pressestelle, <u>5300 Bonn</u> Arbeitsgemeinschaft sozialdemokratischer Frauen, Ollenhauerstrasse 1, 5300 Bonn

"Unerhört - die Geschichte der deutschen Frauenbewegung von 1830 bis heute" (An untold story - the **German women's movement** from 1830 to the present day): this is the title of a <u>major TV series</u> in twelve episodes, which the German third channel started broadcasting in April.

Seven women film-makers and four scriptwriters worked together on the series, which concentrates on organized feminist movements.

Setting an example: the chemical industry trade union (Industriegewerkschaft Chemie-Papier-Keramik) has adopted a <u>standard recommended contract for parttime work</u> which, according to the Minster for Youth, the Family, Women and Health, <u>Rita Süssmuth</u>, strengthens the position of women on the labour market and helps them to reconcile work and family life.

Related to this subject, there is a vital need to develop the system of <u>crèches</u> and <u>day nurseries</u>. Heide Ott, President of the Verband Alleinstehender Frauen (Association of single women) is calling for more extensive day care provision, especially for the children of single parents. She points out that several studies have shown that chidren cared for in nurseries from a tender age are not disadvantaged.

Useful Address: Verband Alleinstehender Frauen, Haspelstrick 32, 4630 Bochum

Treffpunkt, a magazine published by the Ministry of Youth, the Family, Women and Health has come out in favour of flexible opening hours for creches and nurseries.

The Deutscher Frauenrat (National Council of German women) has just been accorded UN consultative status.

Its application was successfully advocated by its former president, Dr. Helga Thieme.

The president in office, Irmgard Blättel, after an appeal to women MPs in Bonn, has called on Chancellor Helmut Kohl to ensure that women participate more fully at all levels of administrative and political life.

On the occasion of her 50th birthday, the Council congratulated Rita Süssmuth on her work for women, while stressing that progress in women's rights needs to be guaranteed by law.

Useful address: Deutscher Frauenrat, Südstrasse 125, 5300 Bonn 2

#### Women and music

- Marie-Therese List, the first German woman to be appointed director of a theatre (at Regensburg), intends to press home the importance of music in the theatre.
- Taking its cue from Hessen, Berlin is celebrating its 750th anniversary by putting on a programme devoted to women composers.
- One of the projects arranged by the independent Berlin feminist finance group Goldrausch, (Potsdamerstr. 139, 1 Berlin 30), was concerned with women's music. The group has also arranged ventures in politics, art, books and women's handicrafts.

The "Women's" group in the German civil service union (Frauen im DBB) is calling for women to be more involved in public and professional life, and for measures to help them. A report by Carola von Braun, the Berlin member responsible for the status of women, gives information about "new technology and the training of women", arguing that women should be trained to meet the challenge of new technologies.

The industrial tribunal in Münster has found in favour of a woman who was obliged by her employer to take <u>early retirement</u>, although she wanted to go on working. The tribunal's ruling means that early retirement is not compulsory, but a right that need not be taken up. It also shows that differentiation in the retirement ages for men and women conflicts with the principle of equal treatment.

Useful address: Arbeitsgericht, Münster

The Supreme Court, in the case of a man claiming that men should be entitled to retire at the same age as women (60 rather than 65), has ruled that women, who often have to cope with the responsibilities of both family and a job, should be able to retire earlier if they so wish.

Useful address: Bundesverfassungsgericht, Pressestelle, 7500 Karlsruhe

The Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund (Housewives' Association) has elected a new president, Vera Bubendy-Welker, a lawyer by profession.

In March the Association organized a "world day on work in the home", with the aim of making people aware of the importance and problems of such work.

On the same theme, a research report by Professor Krüsselberg of the University of Marbourg estimates that the value of unpaid family work amounts to 1 thousand million DM a year. The professor calls for this work to figure in the country's gross national product.

Useful addresses: Deutscher Hausfrauen-Bund, Adenauerallee 193, 5300 Bonn 1 Universität Marburg, 355 Marburg

# Against discrimination

A report by the DGB trade union highlights the fact that one woman in two is unable to obtain unemployment benefit: 52.1% to be exact, as against 28.3% of men.

Useful address: Bundesanstalt für Arbeit, 8500 Nuremberg

Discrimination against women over salaries and working conditions was highlighted at the conference of the salaried employees' trade union (DAG-Deutsche Andestelltengewerkschaft), by Uta Rohr in particular. During the conference, calls were made for action to promote equal opportunities.

Useful address: DAG, Karl-Muck-Platz, 2000 Hamburg 36

In schools: according to a study by Sigrid Mentz-Göckel, girls taking chemistry and computer studies in single-sex schools get better results. Is it that girls resign themselves too easily to accepting that boys should play a dominant role instead of competing with them on equal terms?

Useful address: Hochschuldidaktischeszentrum, Universität Dortmund, 4600 Dortmund

At university: Professor Jenny Kien has decided to combat this kind of discrimination by drawing up plans to promote women. She has called on the Bavarian Parliament to take action. (In Bavaria only 6.4% of university teachers are women, even though half the students enrolled are female).

Useful address: Dr. Jenny Kien, Universität Regensburg, 84 Regensburg

The first chair of women's studies in Germany has been established at Bonn. The post has gone to Annette Kuhn, a historian at Bonn University. She wants to have discussions with women in politics and those working on behalf of other women in all walks of life.

### Publications, research, books

- a new magazine, "Die Frau in unserer Zeit" (woman in our time), offers information on the position of women and is designed to help mothers. Useful address: Unfeld Strasse 221, 5047 Wesseling.
- A report by Suzanne Zeller to the conference of the international European training centre on the position of women with handicaps in Europe has been published by the Institut Frau und Gesellschaft.
- -"Freundin" magazine has published the results of a major survey on "children or a job". It comes to the conclusion that women want both!
- -Our correspondent Christa Randzio-Plath has written a book entitled "Frauenmacht, Ausweg aus der Krise" women's power, the way out of the crisis. (Published by Bundesverlag)

### GREECE

Applying the law on the termination of pregnancies: following protest by Greek women about delays in implementing the law (see "Women of Europe" n° 49), the Ministry of Employment and the Health Ministry have issued a joint decision setting out details on how the law is to be implemented in order to protect women who want or have to terminate a pregnancy. The ministerial decision lists the establishments in which abortions may be performed and states how late in a pregancy an abortion may be carried out, as well as clarifying the grounds for abortion. It also sets out regulations on health insurance scheme refunds for abortions.

To mark its tenth anniversary, the Greek family planning association has held a debate on "contraception and the Greek reality". Its chairman, Dr. Kintis, reviewed the contribution the Association has made towards public awareness of the problem and urged closer cooperation with non-governmental organizations. The Association's plans for the future include a seminar on "sex education and health", setting up regional offices and forming a committee to establish closer links with youth organizations.

Useful Address: Eteria Ikogeniakou Programmatismou, Solonos 121, 10678 Athens

The Health Ministry has decided to extend social security cover to working mothers who are unmarried or divorced, as well as to the mothers of handicapped children whatever their children's age. This applies to women already covered by schemes that provide insurance cover to married women, such as Idryma Kiuonikon Asfaliseon (social security organization).

The Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute (MWSI) has been unanimously accepted as a member, with advisory status, of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. MWSI had submitted its application in June 1976, and the Council recognized that this organization performs a supranational role in linking organizations in the Mediterranean.

Useful Address:

Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute 192B Leoforos Alexandras, 11531 Athens

Women's groups are protesting against the image of women as it is projected in the media, especially State television and radio. They have drawn up a list of demands, to include: representation on the Council for the social control of radio and television and on the Committee on advertising; a new law on misleading advertising; simple programmes to explain recent reforms that promote equality; and the consultation of women by film producers ERT (the Greek radio and television authority) and the Greek film centre. Among the signatories to the protest are OGE (Omospondia Gynekon Elladas), Kinsi Dimocratikon Gynekon and Syndesmos Ellinidon Epistimonon.

# IRELAND

The Government formed by Mr Haughey following the latest elections no longer has a Women's Affairs Ministry. On the other hand, the small budget allocated to women's affairs by the previous Government has not been dropped, although it has been cut by 25%.

The Government has, however, promised an Action Programme for women's status. In the meanwhile, the Council for the Status of Women has launched a campaign to alert public opinion and the authorities to the problems arising from these events. Efforts to inform women and the coordination of pressure on the various ministerial departments used to be the responsibility of the Ministry that has now been abolished; that responsibility now falls on the Council, whose funds have not been increased in proportion. The Council is also the body to which women's organizations turn for help with grants.

Another consequence of budget restrictions has been a cut in the public health budget. As the Council points out, this affects women most, both at work (part-time jobs, mainly done by women, are the first to go) and in health terms, since free screening tests for cancer of the uterus have been ended.

Another question raised by the Council was the law on rape promised by the previous Government, backed by the Parliamentary Committee for Women's Rights.

Useful address:

Council for the Status of Women,

64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2 tel. 607 731

At its annual conference, the Council discussed the problem of AIDS. It was critical of the Government for failing to implement a national information campaign or to provide care and support for people contracting the disease, refuting attempts to blame a particular group for the spread of the disease.

The Council also expressed its concern about the recent judgment by Judge Hamilton in the case of the Dublin Well Woman Clinic and Open Line Counselling, which had advised women on the voluntary termination of pregnancy (prohibited under the Constitution). The Council is to arrange a seminar to take a searching look at this problem with the help of experts.

Women are three times less likely then men to apply for a top post in secondary education, a survey by the Teacher's Union of Ireland (TUI) and the Employment Equality Agency has revealed. EEA Chairwoman Silvia Meehan says that the reason why women were not in these jobs was indirect discrimination rather than a conscious decision to exclude them. TUI Assistant General Secretary Maureen Ganly said the survey showed that 31% of men considered they were better at maintaining class discipline, while 17% of women thought they were better.

Useful address:

The Employment Equality Agency

36, Upper Mount Street, <u>Dublin 2</u>

A relatively new movement entitled Network has been set up in Ireland. Its idea is to bring together women executives from all walks of life - industry, business, trade, the professions and the arts - to exchange ideas and establish contacts. There are now over 300 members nationwide, with branches in Cork, Galway and Limerick. Network has arranged regular talks on subjects ranging from car maintenance to publicity and public relations.

Useful Address: The Tower, IDA Enterprise Centre, Pearse St, Dublin 2 tel. 77 56 55

# Health and pregnancy

- . Health issues, especially the problems of pregnant women and the types of cancer from which women suffer most, were the subjects highlighted in a recent conference of women trade unionists.
- . Although the birth rate as a whole has been declining in Ireland, the proportion of babies born to single mothers has continued to rise: in July 1986, 10.2% of births were to unmarried mothers, compared with 4.5% in 1980.

Useful addresses: Irish Congress of Trade Unions, 31 Parnell Square, <u>Dublin 1</u> tel. 748 221

Dept. of Health, Custom House, Dublin 1, tel. 735 777

#### ITALY

# National elections: 90 women in Parliament - 10% of MPs

At the time of writing, the official list of those elected to Parliament has not yet been announced, but unofficially it seems that women have won 20 seats in the Senate (4 Christian Democrat, 11 Communist, 2 Socialist, 1 Social Movement, 1 Republican and 1 Social Democrat) and 76 seats in the Chamber of Deputies (11 Christian Democrat, 49 Communist, 5 Socialist, 1 Social Movement, 2 Radical, 2 Proletarian Democrat and 6 Green).

In the previous legislature there were 68 women (16 in the Senate and 52 in the Lower House).

Since 1946 the percentage of women elected had been consistently below 7%, but now it stands at 10%. Of the 13 successful Green Party candidates, 6 are women. The 60 women Communists voted into the two Chambers represent 28% of Communist MPs.

A total of 1,577 women stood as candidates, more than in previous elections. The Italian press has attributed this increase to the "Vote woman" campaign launched by the National Committee for Parity at the time of the 1985 local elections, which had drawn attention to women standing for office.

The chairwoman of the National Committee for Parity, Elena Marinucci, was re-elected to Senate with an exceptionally large number of votes.

A guide to methods of setting up a positive action programme has been produced by Ilaria Bianca, a member of the National Committee for Parity between Men and Women attached to the office of the President of the Council of Ministers. The guide, directed towards employers wanting to implement a programme of positive action, makes practical suggestions as to ways and means, the selection process, training and career planning.

A presentation of the concept of positive action programmes has been made to several employers, including the Rinascente chain of department stores, the ENI oil group, the Olivetti Group and many associations and universities. There was also a review of the experience of organizations already committed to positive action, including electricity corporation ENEL, IBM Italiana and Banca Nezionale del Layoro.

Another of the Committee's schemes is to promote positive action in prisons. Under the scheme, "Donne et informatica: un'azione positiva nel carcere", women prisoners are being given an opportunity to train for rehabilitation in the working world by learning about computers.

Commissione Nazionale per la realizzazione della Parità tra Uomo e Donna President: Senator Elena Marinucci, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Rome

The National Committee for Parity attached to the Ministry of Employment, for its part, has produced a set of guidelines on training and employment opportunities for women in the tourism, transport and service industries. They suggest that training and retraining be intensified by positive action to "break the mould" of ideas about what work women should do and to end job segregation.

Useful Comitato Nazionale per la Parità, Coordinator: Marta Ajo address: Ministero del Lavoro e della Previdenza Sociale, Via Flavia 6, Rome

The coordinators of the women's sections of the three Italian trade union movements have issued a joint appeal, marking the 8th March. For the first time in union history, all national labour contracts signed in the current year include a section on positive action and equal opportunities, it was pointed out at a press conference.

A new publication on this subject is <u>Le azione positivi</u>, aspetti e problemi - "Aspects and problems of positive action". It contains essays by Luigi Frey, Renata Livraghi, Evelyne Sullerot and Richard Freeman on this strategy, now regarded as a vital component of equality policies throughout the working world. Published by Franco Angeli, Via Monza 106, 20127 Milan.

An international seminar on the two European Community action programmes for equal opportunities has been arranged in Naples by the "Produrre e Riprodurre" group, under the auspices of Coordinamento Europeo delle Donne.

Useful address: Produrre e Riprodurre, Via Vanchiglia 3, 10124 Turin

Guidance and counselling today: a problem of parity is the theme of an international seminar being organized in Rome by Progetto Donna, with the backing of the European Commission. Aimed primarily at teachers, the purpose of the seminar is to alert people to the stereotyped ideas that exert a strong influence over the educational and training choices made by girls.

Useful address: Progetto Donna, Via del Tritone 46 00187 Rome

In March the Italian Parliament approved the new law on divorce simplifying the procedure and giving greater protection to the partner at a financial disadvantage.

The major change introduced by the reform is to cut the period of legal separation required for a divorce from five to three years.

The Centro di Studi Storici sul Movimento di Liberazione della Donna in Italia is a Centre for historical research founded in 1979 to create archives by systematically collecting and classifying written and oral materials, published and unpublished, on the Women's Liberation Movement in Italy.

The Centre encourages research and specific analysis, arranging national and international meetings and seminars. It has a specialist library and publishes an annual bulletin. It has recently completed a major research project, led by Adriana Perrotta Rabissi and Maria Beatrice Perucci: a thesaurus of keywords for use in establishing a catalogue of themes for documentation on women's status. The thesaurus could be computerized and is an experimental instrument whose use could be extended to the European level. It is a subject to which Women of Europe will return.

Useful address: Centro di Studi Storici sul Movimento di Liberazione della Donna in Italia, presso Fondazione Feltrinelli, Via Romagnosi 3, Milan

RAI-TV - the Italian radio and television corporation - has made 28 new appointments to senior managerial posts, all of them going to men. There was a quick reaction, with a letter of protest from 50 women led by Rossana Rossanda, Mariella Gramaglia and Laura Remiddi. A few weeks later, in a second batch of appointments to 35 junior managerial posts, two women were appointed: Lidia Motta and Gabriella Tambroni. The appointment of Marina Tartara, already in a top position, was extended, although her well deserved promotion to a higher grade had been expected - one at which there are as yet no women (director of programmes).

Out of RAI's staff of 14,000, 3,000 are women. They have asked its management to change its "recruitment methods which, in practice, penalize women", calling for an assurance of "equal career opportunities" - in other words a positive action programme.

On the eve of the papal encyclical on Our Lady, feminists have held a seminar in Rome on the "revolutionary role of Mary", arranged by Gioia Di Cristofaro Longo, anthropologist at La Sapienza University.

Ida Magli, an anthropologist and writer, has written a book on "La Madonna" (pub. Rizzoli, Milan), suggesting a new image of the mother of Jesus for believers and non-believers alike.

National League of cooperatives and mutual societies: the League's new Council has more women members than before: 15.7% of its membership. And the League has approved a new article in its statutes on positive action for the advancement of women. A committee is to be in charge of setting up the programme.

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

Italian women: a <u>survey</u> by the <u>Statistical Institute</u> shows that whereas women make up over over half of the population (52%) only one working person out of three is a woman. But there has also been an increase in the number of women working in the service industry and a drop in those giving up work at the time of marriage. "Housewives" has been the only category that has not grown over the years, standing at 41%.

The Sicilian District of FIDAPA held a colloquium in Palermo this spring on "Associations: a challenge or support to institutions?".

Useful address: FIDAPA, Distretto Sicilia, Via Roma 12, Palermo

Named after Wally d'Ambrosio, chairwoman of the Unione Donna Italiana (Italian Women's Union), who died six years ago, the Circolo Wally at Via Amoretti 12, Milan, has reported on its activities in a district on the outskirts of Milan: supporting the bill on sexual violence, discussions on health and pollution, schemes to help pregnant woman and cultural programmes.

# Books, journals and discussions

. "Minerva" - Informazione Donna has brought out its first few issues. This fortnightly supplement to the well known magazine Minerva was launched by
women for women and also for men (as editor Anna Maria Mammoliti explains
in her editorial in the first issue). It aims to act as a channel of information
and publicity on what women are planning, creating and doing in Italy, Europe
and, if possible, the world.

Useful address: Minerva, Agenzia quindicinale - Informazione Donna Viale Giulio Cesare 151, 00192 Rome

- . In its May issue, Minerva presents a new edition of the <u>Italian Musical Year-book</u>, listing the women working as conductors in <u>Italy</u>. All three of them!
- Rome University's Faculty of Political Science was the setting for a major colloquium, backed by the European Commission, on the corpus of laws and regulations, national and Community, on equal opportunities for men and women. The event was attended by lawyers, magistrates and researchers who have to deal with this issue, from throughout Italy. Guest of honour was Prof. Cesare Mirabelli, Vice President of the Senior Council for the Magistracy. This event was one in a series being arranged in Community countries at the request of the Commission's Bureau for the equality of women. Information and documentary material are a prerequisite and guarantee for the application of Community law on equal opportunities.

Useful address: Prof. Francesco Durante, Prof. Maria Rita Saulle Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Università di Roma "La Sapienza" Città Universitaria, Piazzale A. Moro 5, Rome

Noi Donne has brought out a valuable comprehensive list of women's studies in Europe, America and other countries, the "Map of Women's Studies", edited by Anna Maria Crisipino. The section on Italy in this supplement to the March issue of Noi Donne shows a sharp rise in women's studies in Italy, in many cases outside the traditional university circuits and due to individual initiative. The only University chair in studies on women's status is in the Libera Università Italiana degli Studi Sociali (LUISS), whose director is Ginevra Conti Odorisio.

Her profile is given in an article in Noi Donne, together with other women historians and sociologists active in the field of women's studies (will it be accepted as an examination subject? It is still a matter of debate).

Useful address: Noi Donne, Via Trinità dei Pellegrini 12, 10186 Rome

Women and the drug problem. The Unione Femminile Nazionale has brought out a booklet on this topical issue, to help women faced with the problem. It has been officially brought to the notice of secondary schools by the Commissioner for Education in Milan, who has recommended its distribution to schools.

Useful address: Unione Femminile Nazionale, Corso di Porta Nuova 32, Milan

. Women and power, the new frontiers of equality. A panel discussion was arranged by ANDE (Associazione Nazionale Donne Elettrici - the national association of women voters) and the Soroptimist Club to discuss the management of power and women's world.

Useful address: ANDE, Via Ennio Quirino Visconti 8, Rome

. <u>Leggere Donna</u> is a bimonthly magazine now, not a monthly. It invites all its readers to renew their subscriptions and publicize the magazine. In its March/April issue, it features women's newspapers and magazines.

Useful address: Centro Documentazione Donna, Contrada della Rosa 14, Ferrara

Every Wednesday, newspaper Paese Sera has a two-page insert entirely produced by women journalists, who keep a close watch on what women are saying and doing.

Useful address: Eco della Stampa, Via G. Compagnoni 28, 20129 Milan

- Donna & Top Manager is the title of a book by Marisa Bellisario, managing director of Italtel, a large public telecommunications corporation. Published by Rizzoli, it tells of defeat the early setbacks of information technology in Italy and success, the resurrection of Italtel with a woman at its head.
- . A report on "women protagonists in a changing Italy" was presented to the Socialist Party congress by its women's section, setting out a programme for optimizing the use of "women as a resource" in every field of social life: work, the environment, health, culture, the school, the family, peace and development.

Useful address: Sezione Questioni Femminili PSI, Via del Corso 476, Rome

- Donne e Politica is to cease publication but is to be replaced by KORE, the first issue of which is out in October. The editorial group (the Communist Party's women's section) sees this as a a transition from discussing to planning joint effort.
- To mark International Women's Day on 8 March, banking journal La Voce dei Bancari brought out a special issue on positive action and the role of women in banks, a story of 70 years' struggle. Useful address: Loredana Cova, Federazione Autonoma Bancari Italiani, 2110 Varese

In March, 78 women (businesswomen, writers and artists) received the title of "cavaliere" or "commendatore" of the Italian Republic, based on a list drawn up by the National Committee for Parity. Among those receiving honorary titles were: Inge Feltrinelli, publisher; Anna Maria Mammoliti, editor of Minerva; Wally Toscanini, dedicated to work in the social field; writer Elena Gianini Belotti; Anna Razzi, prima ballerina at the Scala; Elena Marinucci, president of the Committee for Equality; and journalist Anna Del Boffino. Two were nominated as "Grand Officers": Raffaela Curiel Bettinelli, who has been working in the fashion world for 30 years, and the writer Flora Volpini.

The Secretary General of the National Road Traffic Policemen (Associazione Nazionale Vigili Urbani - ANVU) is a woman, Enrica Maffei.

A Synod of Bishops is to take place this autumn. Its theme: the vocation and mission of laypeople in the Church. The magazine Alba reports that questions related to women will probably be on the agenda, and calls on women to make their opinions known. A questionnaire for readers is published, including questions on the position of women in the Church.

Useful address: Alba, Via Sant'Antonio 10, 20122 Milan

Demands from women in local authorities. Many women from all parties have called for a Law (not just a decree) establishing a "National Committee for Equality" and a "vote woman" campaign. Their claims were made at a seminar held by the National Committee for Parity between Men and Women, under the auspices of the Council of Ministers, attended by 300 women local authority officials. They also wanted more meetings for women in elected ofice. The urgent need for a reform of the laws on local authorities was highlighted.

Useful address: Commissione Nazionale per la Parità tra Uoma e Donna Palazzo Chigi, Rome

"Women of Europe" reminds its readers that the European Commission has already held two major European conferences of women local authority officials. The next is to be held in Belgium in March 1988, to be arranged by the Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe, 41 Quai d'Orsay, Paris.

#### LUXEMBOURG

The bride: heroine for a day, slave for life was the subject chosen by the Socialist Women for a conference reviewing the role of women in the institution of marriage. The keynote speech was by historian Simone Baldauff-Beck. An exhibition of photographs and objects rounded out the conference.

Useful address: Femmes Socialistes, Place de l'Etoile 1 Boulevard de la Foire, 1528 Luxembourg

Solidarity among women was the watchword for International Women's Day (supported by 8 feminist movements). It highlighted the need for solidarity in Luxembourg, especially in the working world and in the support for women in the Third World. A road was named after Clara Zetkin, who first mooted the idea of an internatonal women's day.

Useful address: Mouvement de Libération des Femmes 1 place des Bains, Luxembourg

A furniture store leaflet - for Magasins Big Confort - showing a naked girl kneeling on a leather sofa, with the caption "Vos fesses ... vous ne les posez pas n'importe où" ("you wouldn't park your bum just anywhere"), has aroused indignation among women's groups, which have protested strongly against an advaertisement that scales new heights of vulgarity.

Useful address: BP 174, 2011 Luxembourg

Women and banking, still a long way to go. The 122 banks operating in Luxembourg employ 11,398 people, of whom 5,140 are women. But there are few women at the top (119 in managerial posts, compared with 1,280 men).

Useful address: Institut Monétaire Luxembourgeois 63 avenue de la Liberté, 1931 Luxembourg Women's Day, a programme broadcast on 8 March by the British satellite TV station Sky Channel, which is beamed to Luxembourg, devoted a feature to Luxembourg women, including Lydie Wurth-Polfer, mayor of the City of Luxembourg, and women artists and writers.

Useful address: Sky Channel, Greet de Leenher, Boulevard Reyers, Brussels

# NETHERLANDS

More women in politics. Women are still under-represented, but there has been some improvement. The percentage of women on town councils has risen from 15.5% to 19% following the recent elections, women mayors from 8.9% to 13%. The information comes from "Vrouwenbelangen", which has launched a campaign to achieve as many women in politics as there are men.

It is also engaged in efforts to combat the slave trade in women and in a women's literacy campaign.

Useful address:

Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vrouwenbelangen Noordeinde 2A, 2311 CD Leiden

Post Office recruitment of women. A campaign lasting from March 1987 to March 1988 offers a 1,000 guilder bonus for women recruited to the telecommunications department (for relatively highly paid jobs).

The Foundation for women and the plastic arts is to celebrate its tenth birthday this autumn with events in Leiden and Amsterdam. Many cultural activities are planned, as well as the award of the Ludith Leyster prize to a woman painter or sculptor.

Useful address:

Stichting Vrouwen in de Beeldende Kunst Keizergracht 10, 1015 CN Amsterdam

# Publications on topical issues

. The Dutch Federation for policy on the elderly has launched research on the social status of women of 50 and over in Europe. All contributions are welcome.

Useful address: Nederlandse Federatie Bejaardenbeleid Eisenhowerlaan 114, 2517 KM The Hague

Info 17, a Dutch Women's Council publication, is on maternity and reproduction technologies, describing all the consequences if technologies for women. A section is devoted to pregnancy and the work done by European Parliament in this field.

Useful address: Neder

Nederlandse Vroudenraad Laan van Meerdervoort 30, 2517 AL The Hague

. The two-career couple - <u>Twee-carrières partnerschap</u> - is a publication by the Dutch association of university women that looks at the growing problem of couples pursuing their own careers. It lists recent publications on the subject in the Netherlands and the United States.

Useful address: Nederlandse Vereniging van Vrouwen met Academische Opleiding, Nassaulaan 1, 3818 GM Amersfoort

In 1985, 877 girls aged 13 to 18 gave birth. It is estimated that the number of abortions in that age group was 2,850. To make people more aware of the problem and seek solutions, the Zorn publishing firm of Leiden has brought out a booklet entitled "Voor je begint" (before you start), for distribution in secondary schools.

Equal treatment: the ban on night and Sunday work for women has been lifted. The Ministry for Social Affairs reached this decision in an effort to end discrimination against employing women on jobs traditionally done by men. Job advertisements will have to be amended accordingly. The Ministry plans to make videos to inform women of their rights.

Useful address: Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid Zeestraat 73. The Hague

Girls, don't be frightened of the sciences! is the message of a nationwide campaign being launched by the Education Ministry to encourage girls to opt for this stream, where the career prospects are bright. It has arranged television ads, posters, booklets and articles in the press.

Useful address: Ministerie van Onderwijs en Wetenschappen Postbus 25000, 2700 LX Zoetermeer

# PORTUGAL

On 30 April, in the run-up to the 19 July elections for the Portuguese and European Parliaments, leaders of the main political parties in Portugal received a letter calling for the inclusion of an adequate number of women in the lists of candidates. The appeal was launched by the Committee for Women's Status, on which are represented many Non-Governmental Organizations. To back the letter, a motion was passed by the Committee's advisory council along the same lines.

Quite apart from the Committee, a group of Non-Governmental Organizations drew up and publicized an election manifesto declaring that "women must vote to give a voice to women".

The signatories of the manifesto urged all the parties to:

- include more women in the lists of candidates

- place women candidates sufficiently high up on the lists to ensure that they had a chance of being elected;

- put forward women candidates with a track record of fighting for women's rights;

- give an assurance that women will have an effective voice in Parliament after the elections.

The Committee for Women's Status pointed out that women account for 52% of the Portuguese population but, despite legal recognition of their equality, their rights are not fully respected in practice, because old habits and attitudes die hard. The manifesto gave rise to a good deal of reaction in the media.

The bodies signing the manifesto are: Intervençao Feminina, Liga dos Direitos das Mulheres, Movimento Democratico das Mulheres, Informação e Documentação das Mulheres and Associação das Mulheres Socialistas.

Useful address:

Comissão da Condição Feminina, Presidencia do Conselho de Ministros, Avenida da Republica 32-1°, 1093 Lisbon President: Regina Tavares da Silva

Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, Portuguese Premier in 1979 and candidate for the presidency of the Republic in 1985, is standing in the European elections. She is on the Socialist Party list, but if elected she will sit as an independent within the Socialist group.

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To mark the 30th anniverary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, and in response to the message to women sent by President Delors for the 8th March (see issue 49 of Women of Europe), Portuguese and Spanish women attending a meeting in Lisbon on 21/22 March called on the Governments of the Twelve for a real commitment to equal opportunities. They stressed the need to bring pressure to bear on institutions in both countries for equality of opportunity. During the meeting, organized by Intervenção Feminina (IF) with the support of the European Commission, the role of Spanish and Portuguese women in Europe today was reviewed in the course of discussions on women and politics, the law, education, health and work.

Meetings are planned throughout the year to monitor the implementation of the resolutions adopted at this meeting.

Useful address: IF, Apartado 2072, 1102 Lisbon Codex

# SPAIN

Elections were held in Spain in June, both for the national Parliament (Chamber and Senate) and for European Parliament. 22 women were elected to the Lower House, 14 to the Senate and 6 to European Parliament, 3 of whom were already MEPs.

The Spanish Government has presented a <u>medium-term plan (1987-1990)</u> for equal opportunities, to bring its legislation into line with the situation in the European Community. This includes a whole range of measures essentially designed to achieve the following goals:

- implement the constitutional principle of equality by refining laws and regulations;
- give women access to every level of information, education and culture, and promote a more balanced sharing of family responsibilities between men and women;
- make it possible for men and women to take free, responsible decisions as to motherhood and fatherhood;
- offer greater protection for the health of the whole female population;
- diversify academic and career options for girls;
- reduce the rate of female employment and the segregation of women in the working world;
- broaden social protection for less advantaged groups of women;
- increase women's participation in political life, and above all their access to positions of senior responsibility;
- draw up international cooperation programmes in favour of women;
- acquire a searching knowledge of women's social status in Spain and ways of exerting a positive influence on that status.

The plan was drawn up by the Instituto de la Mujer, Almagro 36, 28010 Madrid.

The Instituto de la Mujer has also published a report on the social status of women in Spain, presenting comprehensive statistics on women in Spain for the past decade.

Local job creation schemes are an important way of reducing unemployment, especially female unemployment, and the Instituto de la Mujer is making substantial efforts in this direction. It is concentrating on:

- Information. The Institute is relying on the work of information centres on women's rights (at present, 11 are operational throughout Spain) as well as a number of "job leadership teams", which will inform women as to the opportunities and help them decide which direction to take.
  - After a preliminary phase in which they make contact, these teams will be taking part in a week's event on "women and work" to be arranged by the Instituto de la Mujer, with talks, panel discussions and radio programmes to inform people as to what has been done and what could be done.
- Finding out more about the prospects for women entrepreneurs by creating an ad hoc information agency and conducting research, along the lines of the studies already published in El Empresariado Femenino en Espagna and El Cooperativismo Feminino.
- Promotion of self-employment (for example, by subsidies).
- Creation of a network for the pooling of information and experience.

  A new bulletin is to be published on "work in the feminine" "El trabajo en Femenino".
- The incorporation of the goal of equal opportunities in local and other authorities' plans to expand employment.
- Integrated schemes.
- An advertising campaign to change attitudes, directed towards women in general and girls in particular.

"Women and local life": a three-day event took place in Saragossa in March, attended by 130 women in political posts in Spanish local authorities. A list of recommendations was produced at the end of the meeting, calling for the advancement of women in local authorities and for equality. This final paper also covers problems of health, town planning and social life.

#### Other Instituto de la Mujer measures:.

- The publication of a "guide to women's associations" Guide de la Asociaciones de Mujeres;
- the organization of general informative courses (on feminism, education, training and international organizations) as well as more specialized courses (on school, health, women and employment, socio-cultural leadership). These courses will continue throughout the year.

A pilot study on drugs and penal institutions, based on practical experience in Yesterias prison, has been published by the Instituto de la Mujer. It analyses the practical conditions that lead to drug abuse and the links between drugs and crime. Similar experimental work is taking place in Barcelona and Valencia. The findings should be available by early next year.

The social status of women in Spain. A weighty volume (over 1,000 pages) entitled "Situacion Social de la Muer en Espana" has been published by the Instituto de la Mujer. It discusses population movements, the family and new family models, women's health, education, participation in the working world, marginalization and social services, cultural behaviour patterns and attitudes, women's political attitudes and voting behaviour, etc. One chapter is devoted to action by the European Community.

The Instituto de la Mujer also publishes information in "Noticias", a monthly round-up of the Institute's activities and those of other women's organizations or groups. Useful address: see above.

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Women's work: the 16th to the 20th century is the theme of interdisciplinary research seminars being arranged by the Madrid Independent University, to be attended by Spanish and foreign research workers.

Useful address: Universidad autonoma de Madrid, Seminario de Estudios de la Mujer, Edificio Rectorado, Madrid 28049

The Centro de Documentacio de la Dona in Barcelona (co/Sicilia, 321) has devoted one of its regular series of bibliographies on women's issues to "labour questions within the EEC", sub-titled "The Promised Land".

# UNITED KINGDOM

In the June national elections, here again women have made progress: of the 325 women candidates (out of a total of 2,270 candidates, excluding Northern Ireland), 41 were elected to the House of Commons, 6.3% of the total (650 seats). In 1983, there were 189 women candidates of whom 23 were elected, taking 3.5% of the seats in the Commons.

In the by-election in Greenwich, a vic ry was won by Rosie Barnes, Social Democrat/Liberal Alliance, overturning Lobour which had held the Parliamentary seat for 45 years.

The Court of Appeal has ruled on two equal pay cases:

- Irene Pickstone and four other women warehouse workers at Freeman's mail order company appealed for equal pay for work of equal value to that of a higher paid male warehouse checker. The Court based its judgment on Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome. It is expected that the case will be taken to a yet higher court.
- The Court of Appeal, however, dismissed the case of Julie Hayward, the cook at Cammell Laird Shipbuilders. It decided that her pay included benefits other than cash (better sick pay, free canteen meals and more days' paid holiday) and that she was in fact better off than her male colleagues.

The Equal Opportunities Commission points out that the legal procedures are in confusion and urges a "root-and-branch" rethinking of UK equal pay and sex discrimination procedures. Meanwhile, employers and unions in the local authorities are re-evaluating the jobs of a million manual workers in the light of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, so that the workers will not need to resort to the law to enforce equal pay rights.

The Equal Opportunities Commission has published a report entitled Pyrrhic Victories. Some of the successes in equal pay cases have proved illusory: compensations awarded by industrial tribunals are meagre, if they are paid at all; some people endure harassment and even victimization after winning their cases; several leave their jobs. The EOC is recommending changes, including special training for the chairman and lay members of industrial tribunals.

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

The 1986 Social Security Act, introducing a new system of maternity pay and leave, came into force on 6 April. It is so complex, however, that pregnant women (and their employers) find it hard to know what they are entitled to.

Some unions and employers have negotiated better deals than the statutory 18 weeks' maternity paid leave.

Useful address: Maternity Alliance, 52 Camden High Street, London NW1 7JL

A women's Legal Defence Fund has been launched to support women wanting to bring equality claims before the courts. The complexity of equality law deters people from claiming their rights, and the Fund will offer financial and moral support to women during the long struggle through the courts.

Useful address: Maggie Monteith, Rights of Women

52-54 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT

British Airways has its first women pilots: Lynn Barton, Wendy Barnes and Jill Develin. British Caledonian and Air UK have employed women pilots for several years. The reason why BA has had no pilots until now, it says, is that the airline has not recruited any pilots at all for ten years.

Edwina Currie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, is a controversial minister who delights the media. In an interview in Medical Woman, Mrs Currie states that women doctors should be encouraged to take a much more active role on committees and bodies where policy decisions are made. With medical school intake of women students now almost 50%, she expects women to peform well.

Useful address: Medical Woman, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square London WC1 9HX

The Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland has published two controversial investigations on the equality of the sexes:

- . Gender Differentiation in Infant Classes, investigated by the Faculty of Education, University of Ulster. It shows that the early years of school are very influential in determining attitudes and choices made in adult life. The researchers recommend that teachers change their management stuctures to give small girls the same opportunities as the boys.
- . Women in the professions, researched by the Dept. of Education of Queen's University. It reports that women are still under-represented at the top of the professional hierarchy. A representative sample of 55 women was drawn from law, medicine, 6eaching, engineering and accountancy. Family was found to be a strong influence in encouraging women to take up traditional or non-traditional careers. Although career paths are easier today, a woman's decision to pursue a professional career demands extra commitment and more willingness to take on responsibilities.

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

Also in Northern Ireland, two cases in which the courts have upheld women's claims for equality:

An industrial tribunal in Belfast has ruled in favour of two women formerly employed by F.A. Wellworths of Londonderry, who were doing the same work as three male colleagues but for less pay. The company has agreed to pay compensation and also to review its pay structure to eliminate sexbased discrimination.

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The Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary has had to pay £240,000 in compensation to 40 women police officers for refusing to renew the officers' contracts when the force was armed in 1980.

An anniversary: the <u>National Childminding Association</u> celebrates its tenth anniversary in June. It now has a total membership of 22,000 (out of the total of 52,000 registered childminders in the UK). Childminding is the widest form of full-day care for children in Britain, and yet a survey by NCMA shows that childminders are very poorly paid. <u>NCMA will be holding its first conference in Britain in October 1987.</u>

Useful address: Sue Owen, Information Officer, National Childminding Association 8 Masons Hill, Bromley, Kent BR2 9EY

People who regularly work on computers with VDU screens are more often ill, under stress or tired than others. The findings of a survey on this problem of modern life were raised at a conference of the VDU Workers' Rights Campaign in London, which is calling for work with VDUs to be restricted to 50% of the working day, and for pregnant women to be transferred to other duties.

Useful address: VDU Workers' Rights Campaign, City Centre 32-35 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8QX

# Motherhood, Health and Violence

- . The House of Lords and the Court of Appeal have ruled against a father's attempt to save the life of his unborn child. The pregnant 32-year-old student bearing his child sought an abortion and the father tried five times in the Courts to prevent it. The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child is very disappointed by the ruling.
- . The Government has offered £50 million towards national breast cancer screening. Women aged 50-64 will be offered X-ray checks every three years.
- . Many women, particularly the elderly, are in fear of going out at night. Gainsborough Ladies Car Service in West London will ferry women and children to any destination, at below the average minicab rate.

#### Books, magazines and events

- . Babies and Money: Birth Trends and Costs by Jo Roll, published by the Family Policy Studies Centre, offers excellent information on the cost of a baby, which still falls heavily on the individual family and in particular the woman in the family. 231 Baker Street, London NW1 6XE.
- Livewire Books, published by the Women's Press, are written for girl teenagers. The novels have been commissioned and edited by Carole Spedding, co-founder of Sheba Feminist Publishers and organizer of the First International Feminist Book Fair in 1984. 34 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V ODX.
- The National Women's Video Festival is to be held in London on 5-11 October 1987. Apply to Festival Press Officer, National Women's Video Festival '87, 85 Kingsland High Street, London E8.
- . Springboard (Springboard Publishing Ltd, c/o Box 741, London NW6 4YP) is a new "Yellow Pages" directory published by a women's collective, listing a range of businesses and services run by women, from women plumbers to film distributors.
- . Women are now editing venerable magazines: Anne Somers Cooks is editor of Apollo, known as "the magazine of the Arts"; Caroline Elam edits The Burlington Magazine (art history); and Jenny Green has taken over Country Life.

# LATIN AMERICA

So many interesting publications throughout the world are of interest to women that it is hard for <u>Women of Europe</u> to cover them all. But those coming out in Latin America bear witness to the vitality of efforts in a continent which has been coming ever closer to Europe since the Community's enlargement to include Spain and Portugal.

No human being should ever be beaten: this is the battlecry for Lugar de Mujer, a collective for the improvement of women's status set up in the Argentine in 1983, in its campaign against violence directed towards women. Lugar de Mujer has presented a paper on battered women at the Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Days held in Brasil.

Useful address: Lugar de Mujer, 25 de Mayo 242, 1870 Avellaneda Buenos Aires, Argentine

Mujer/Fempress, in its April issue, has articles entitled: Women and the Left (Peru), If the parties don't open their doors (Paraguay); Farewell to marriage, this is the age of bachelordom (Venezuela); and Contraception (Bolivia). It also has particulars of new publications on women's affairs.

Useful address: Casilla 16-637, Santiago 9, Chile

LEPALA (Instituto de Estudios Politicos para America Latina y Africa) has published the conclusions of a conference on "emigration, exile and women" held in Madrid in December 1986. The Institute of political studies intends to step up cooperation with collective groups in Latin America, Africa and Asia and with all the other organizations that took part in the conference.

EUROPE AND THE WORLD

United Nations: against discrimination in its own ranks

UNFPA (the United Nations Fund for Population Activities) has a new executive director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, with the rank of Under-Secretary General. Dr. Sadik has been active in the population field for over 25 years. She joined UNFPA in 1971 and has been Assistant Secretary General since 1982. As Assistant Executive Director from 1977 to 1982, she managed a budget of \$116 million for the planning of population assistance to 134 countries around the world. A native of Pakistan, the new director received her medical training in her own country, the United States and Canada, specializing in gynaecology.

Besides Dr Sadik, women in senior positions within the United Nations are: Margaret J. Anstee, Under-Secretary General, Director General of the United Nations Bureau in Vienna, head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs; Therese Paquet-Sevigny, Under-Secretary General, head of the Public Information Department, UN, New York; Alice Weil, Assistant Secretary General, head of the general services bureau, UN, New York; Tamar Opennheimer, Assistant Secretary General, director of the drugs division, Vienna, and Secretary General to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Traffic (Vienna); and Djuna Pastizzi-Ferenic, Director of INSTRAW, Santa Domingo.

Science, Technology and Development is the theme of the 7th International Congress of Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES) being held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on 20-27 September, to be attended by about 500 women working in these fields. France organized the Congress in 1978, India in 1981, the United States in 1984. This Congress, regarded as a major step towards the advancement of African women in particular, is being organized by the Cercle Ivorien des Femmes Ingénieurs, Scientifiques, Architectes et Techniciennes supérieures, 06 BP.159 Abidjan 06. This news was forwarded to us by Femmes-Ingénieurs, 10 rue Vauquelin, 75005 Paris.

The Council of Europe's working group on <u>Women and Drugs</u> met in March to discuss the following issues: treatment for women drug users in prison; the role of women in the treatment of drug abuse; AIDS; the psychopathology of women drug users; and the special problems of pregnant women on drugs. The experts will decide whether a symposium should be held on some of these themes or whether their study should be extended in some other way.

Useful address: Council of Europe, BP 431 R6-67 006 Strasbourg Cedex Tel. (88) 6149 61

European YWCAs are preparing for the forthcoming World Council of YWCAs in Phoenix, Arizona, in August 1987, to be attended by the delegates of 82 associations. It is being preceded by two seminars, one on Youth for the young delegates, the other on Communication, covering training in the audiovisual, press and public relations fields. Regional meetings are also planned, together with working groups on peace, health, energy and the environment, development and young women, migration.

Useful address: The European YWCAs ELG Secretariat, 94 avenue Brugmann 1060 Brussels, and (for the Newsletter), YWCA of the Netherlands, F.C. Donsertstraat 23, 3572 JB Utrecht, Netherlands

Socialist International WOMEN publishes a regular information bulletin, now combined with the Socialist Affairs journal. It includes features entitled Focus (on a given country), news of women's status, reviews of Socialist books, etc.

Useful address: Socialist International, Socialist Affairs, Maritime House Old Town, Clapham, London SW4 OJW

<u>La Tribune</u>, a bulletin on women and development, is a constant source of a wealth of information on the subject. The title of its issue 10 is "Women who earn their living". It asks questions, announces schemes and makes recommendations.

Useful address: Centre de la Tribune Internationale de la Femme 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

The Association Européenne des Parents d'Elèves, set up in 1983 and based in Belgium (EPA, Den Abt 64, 2151 Vlimmeren/Beerse), is to be more closely linked with European Community work and initiatives. It will be consulted by the European Commission regarding the education of the children of migrants, and there are also to be contacts with European Parliament's Committee for Youth, Employment and Education. The Association's second congress on the theme of "equal opportunities in education in Europe" is to be held in Strasbourg in late January 1988.

Women artists: an exhibition arranged in Brussels by the Union Féminine Artistique et Culturelle, Salons Internationaux (UFACSI) will, from 25 September to 11 October, be putting on an exhibition of recent works by women from over 20 countries, including Chinese and Japanese artists.

Useful address: UFACSI, Mme Deguel, 80/2 Boulevard Louis Schmidt, 1040 Brussels

European teachers reflect on "equal opportunities in teaching". The Comité Syndical Européen de l'Education arranged a three-day colloquium in Brussels in June on "equal opportunities in teaching", attended by some hundred representatives of teachers' organizations from all over Western Europe.

The Committee (CSEE), 3 million members, is the most representative body of European teachers, and in this event it had the support and cooperation of the European Commission.

"Women of Europe" will be publishing the resolution issued at the end of the meeting.

Useful address: President: Louis van Beneden, Koningstraat 203, 1210 Brussels

The World Association of Women Entrepreneurs, formed in France in 1946 but officially registered in 1965, held its 34th Congress last November in an African country - Cameroon - for the first time. The president, Mme Dutry from Belgium stressed the important role of women in the development of Africa.

The 35th Congress is to be held in Denver in the United States in June 1987. its theme: "Towards the year 2000: women entrepreneurs of the future".

A recent meeting of the Baden-Württemberg section of the German Association of Women Entrepreneurs (Verinigung von Unternehmerinnen) was addressed by Prof. Breitschwerdt of Daimler on the management of a large company. He said that 80% of the engineers working in his company are men, even today. To increase the number of women in traditionally male occupations, he recommends a special training effort before and at the time of starting up a career, as well as action to help with the return to the labour market.

Useful address: FCEM, Mme Dutry, 25 avenue de l'Orée, 1050 Brussels

<u>Women and Men:</u> Raymond Lloyd (93 Queen Alexandra Mansions, Hastings Street, London WC1, tel. (01) 837 2058) is pressing on with his campaign for the promotion of women capable of senior responsibilities in international institutions. In a letter dated 30 December to top people in national and international public life, he sets out "a list of 90 women to add to the previous lists, making 850 names (in 58 democracies)". He also reports on Germany's idea of bringing out a series of stamps depicting women who have distinguished themselves in German history.

The membership of International Association of Women's and Home Page Journalists (Secretariat: boulevard Charlemagne 1, Boîte 54, 1040 Brussels) includes men as well as women. The new president, Brigitte Soyer (of Belgium) has announced that the next Congress will take the environment as its theme, to celebrate the European Year of the Environment.

War on Want: this organization, which campaigns against world poverty (new address: 37-39 Great Guilford Street, London SE1 OES), has launched specific action in favour of women. It has noted that the British Aid programme does not take sufficient account of women's problems and has called on the Government for a white paper on the subject.

<u>Women's World Banking</u>: according to the International Soroptimist bulletin, the formation of this independent group, whose aim is the total integration of women in the world of finance, is one of the best things to come out of the United Nations Decade for Women.

Useful address: Friends of WWB/USA Inc.

140 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016

AIDS and sexual mutilation. We must break the silence! With this appeal, received by Brussels Women's University, the Eket Women's Centre in Nigeria has drawn attention to the fact that female circumcision can lead to the wider spread of AIDS.

Useful address: Hannah Edemikpong, Women's Centre Box 185, Cross River State, Nigeria

The problems raised by <u>artificial procreation</u> are matters of concern to women in the Centre Européen du Conseil International des Femmes - the International Women's Council European Centre. They regard it as essential that this issue be regulated by legislation, formulated with due respect for internationally recognized principles and the views of women.

CECIF has recently elected a new president: Jytte Lindgard, who also presides the Danish Women's Council, Danske Kvinder. She takes over from Angelina Hamm-Tonnaer, who has made a remarkable contribution towards enriching and upholding the work done by CECIF. Women of Europe's thanks go to Angelina Hamm-Tonnaer, and it wishes Jytte Lindgard well in her work.

Useful address: CECIF, c/o Danske Kvinders Nationalråd
Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, 1153 Copenhagen K

# RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

A world of difference: gender roles in perspective: in this well documented book Esther Greenglass, Professor at York University (Toronto, Canada), examines the constraints on individuals in their social environment imposed by belonging to the male or female sex. Her approach is both psychological and feminist: she believes that an understanding of the constraints will help to release the full potential of the people concerned. Published by John Wiley and Sons Ltd, Baffins Lane, Chichester, West Sussex, England.

"Der Frau ihre Arbeit" (Woman and her work) by Doris Obschernitzki, published by Hentrich, Albrechtstr. 111/112, 1000 Berlin 41, is the history of the vocational training of women in Germany from 1866, when offers of work for women were first published. An exhibition has been arranged to coincide with the publication of this book.

Uomo-Donna, progetto di vita: the Centro Italiano Femminile reviews relations between men and women within the family, moral theology and sexuality, the biological components of sexuality, individual and conjugal identity, and sex education.

Useful address: Centro Italiano Femminile, Via Carlo Zucchi 25, 00165 Rome.

The family, the welfare state, the generation gap and collective action are considered in a book by Franca Bimbi and Vittorio Capecchi, summarizing discussions at the <u>Italian Sociology Association conference</u> on social reproduction, daily life and community issues.

Useful address: Casa Editrice Franco Angeli, Viale Monza 106, 20127 Milan.

Les femmes et la paix: Quels choix? Quelles actions?. Published by the Conseil National des Femmes Belges (National Belgian Women's Council), this booklet, price BF.100, sets out the conclusions of a conference on women and peace, the choices open to them and the courses of action, held in Brussels in November 1986.

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

Integrations-Probleme von Ingenieurinnen in den ersten Berufsjahren. The problems of women engineers embarking on their careers are considered in a report published by the Hesse Department for Equality. The author, Regine Rundnagel, bases her work on the findings of research conducted in Hesse. Useful address: Bevollmächtigte der Hessischen Landesregierung für Frauenangelegenheiten, Gustav-Freytag Strasse 1, 6200 Wiesbaden.

Noi per Loro: Cronaca di una missione di pace in Africa. This book (also published in a bilingual Franch-English edition) tells the story - in words and with fine photographs - of a mercy mission, the "peace ship" that sailed from Italy to come to the help of Third World people suffering from starvation.

The Association, set up in 1985, works under the auspices of the Italian Red Cross's National Women's Committee chaired by Maria Pia Fanfani, who was also the originator and leader of the mission.

# Publications in Canada and the United States

The <u>Simone de Beauvoir Institute</u> (Concordia University, 1455 Ouest Boulevard de Maisonneuve, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8) has sent us the proceedings of the international colloquium on research and teaching on women.

Despite the delays in publication (the colloquium dates back to 1982), the proceedings are just as relevant today. They can be obtained from the above address free of charge, although the Institute would be grateful for any contribution. It will be used for transferring the full text onto microfiche (suggested contribution: \$20).

Women of Power, PO Box 827, Cambridge, Mass., devotes its sixth issue to international feminism. It has issued an appeal for articles, which may be in languages other than English.

Computer Chips and Paper Clips: Technology and Women's Employment.

Published by the National Research Council (National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20418) this is a summary of the work of its Panel on Technology and Women's Employment, setting out its conclusions on white-collar women workers, the effects of innovation, office behaviour and Government policy on women.

On the Issues, published by the Women's Medical Center (97-77 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, New York 11374) contains articles on women's smoking, AIDS, "invisible" (older) women and rape.

WIN News, from Women's International Network, 187 Grant Street, Lexington, Massachusetts, USA, offers information on women and international affairs, the environment, development, health, violence and the media. It also contains reports from around the world.

UNIFEM, a fund set up in 1976 by the United Nations General Assembly and named UNIFEM since 1985, declares that women hold up half of heaven. It invites anyone interested to contribute towards this venture by publicizing it, co-financing its projects and encouraging professional organizations to give it material help.

Useful address: INFEM, 304 East 45th Street, Room 1106, New York 10017.

A directory of women in the environment is to be published in 1987 with the aim of promoting the work of all women engaged in the defence of the environment.

Useful address: Worldwide Directory of Women in Environment, 1718 P Street NW, Suite 813, Washington DC 20036.

The 1987 American Book Award, founded in 1978, has gone to 15 writers, four of whom are women. Lucia Chiavola Birnbauw is one of the award-winners for her book Liberazione della Donna: feminism in Italy (published by Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, Connecticut), exploring the many aspects of Italian femisnism and comparing it with the movement in other countries and cultures.

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