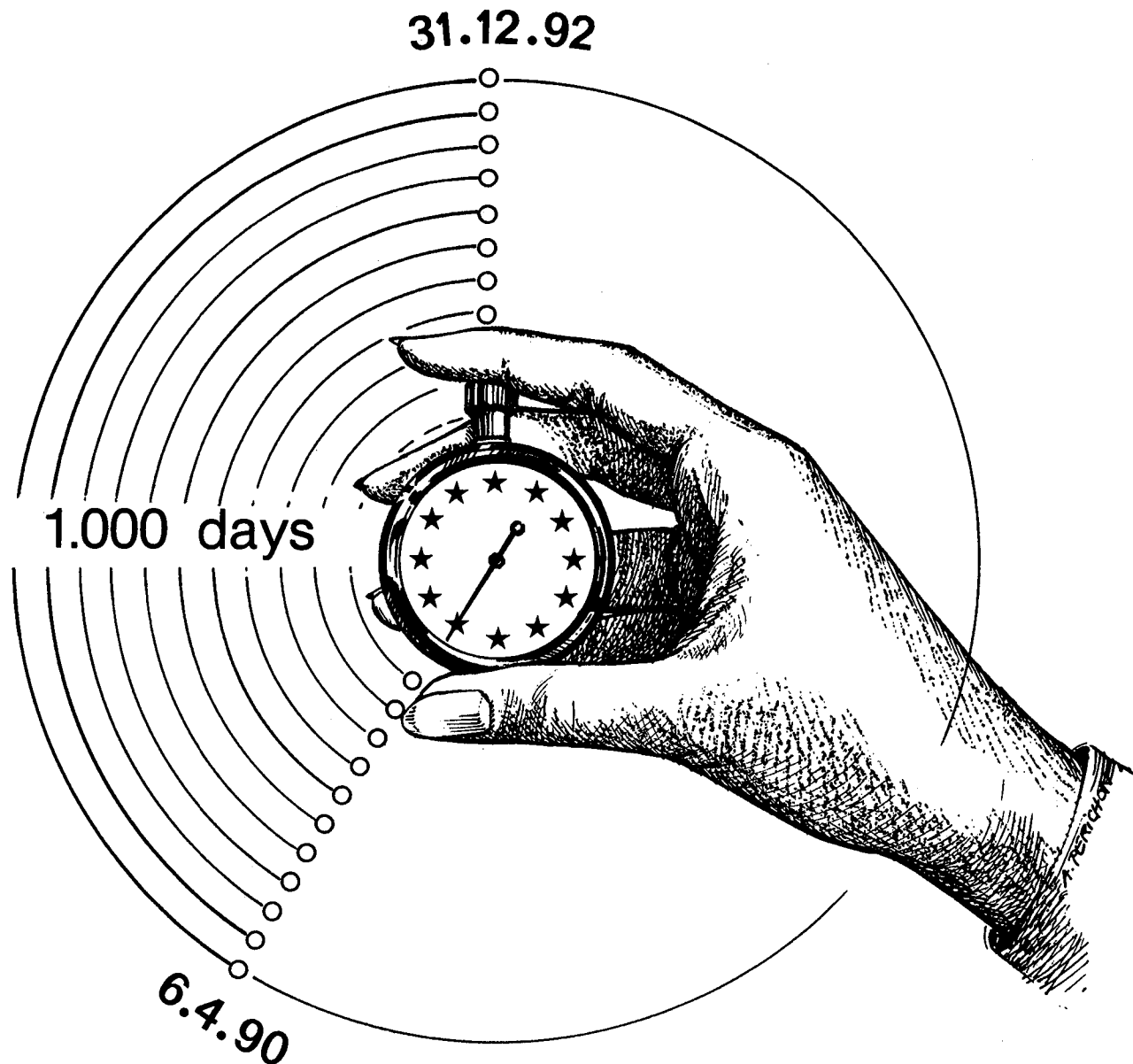


# WOMEN OF EUROPE



N° 64 - 1990  
MARCH/APRIL



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Editorial work on this issue was completed on 2 May 1990.

The drawing on the cover was designed by the Commission to mark the 1,000-day countdown to completion of the Single Market, which began on 6 April 1990.

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THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
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**APPOINTMENT:** Luxembourgger Colette Flesch, Vice-Chairperson of the European Parliament's Liberal Group, has just been appointed Director-General for Information, Communication and Culture (DG X). Flesch, who has held several ministerial posts in her country's Government, including that of Foreign Minister, will begin her new job on 1 June.

**IRISH PRESIDENCY:** Bertie Ahern, Irish Labour Minister, considers the implementation of the Social Charter a priority. By means of a resolution that the Council of Ministers should adopt in May, Ahern will propose launching a string of pilot projects to help the long-term unemployed, who, at 7.5 million, make up half of the Community's jobless. These projects will be linked to the ERGO and LEDA programmes, aimed respectively at promoting schemes for the long-term unemployed and developing local employment, and located in areas of high unemployment. They should enable the beneficiaries to find work or set up their own businesses. Ahern would also like to see the Council adopt a resolution on sexual harassment.

**SEMINAR:** A European seminar was held in Dublin in February by the Irish Government and Commission of the European Communities to assess the consequences of 1992 on the job market. During this seminar, proposals were made to protect women's employment in line with the European Commission's Third Equal Opportunities Action Programme. According to Mary Daly, Chief of Research of the Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin, the three major effects of 1992 will be more rationalisation of operations, specialisation and geographic and sectoral concentration. During the seminar, Christine Crawley, Chairperson of the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights, stressed the problems raised by the increasing popularity of atypical employment, segregation of the labour market and family responsibilities, which are borne primarily by women.

**REPORT ON EQUALITY:** The assessment of the implementation of the Community's Second Action Programme on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women has just been published. Determining how attitudes have changed as a result of the measures taken in the Member States to promote equal opportunity is difficult, given the lack of surveys conducted. Nevertheless, it can be concluded that 1) the Member States must make a huge effort to make equal opportunity a priority of trade union strategies; 2) due to the quality of their work, women's associations have won more and more respect and are included more often in the development of government equal opportunity policies; 3) dialogue between the representatives of women's interests and media people is needed to set up strategies to promote equality in each country; 4) politics continues to be a male stronghold; and 5) quotas, while considered very effective by some parties, have not won unanimous support. The States with the best equality track records are Denmark and the Netherlands.

**POVERTY 3:** The Third European Anti-Poverty Programme was officially launched by Commissioner Vasso Papandreou. The five-year programme is built around 39 pilot projects. To fight social exclusion, "Poverty 3", as the programme is known, emphasises partnership between the national Governments and promoters of local initiatives, partnership between the Commission and the Member States, and multidimensionality. (GEIE A et R, rue Royale 93, B-1000 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 219-7970).

**IRIS NETWORK:** In December 1988 the Commission launched IRIS, a European Network of Training Schemes for Women, to back the implementation of the Recommendation of 24.11.87 on women's access to all types and levels of vocational training. The IRIS news bulletin informs training officers and employers of the various training schemes available in Europe. A data bank on vocational training has also been set up. Four IRIS seminars were held in 1989, in Spain, Italy, Portugal and Greece. The Athens seminar, held this winter, ended the network's first year of operation. The conclusions of all four seminars focus on the outlooks for the completion of the Single Market in 1992 and the priorities for action under the Third Community Action Programme for Equal Opportunities (1991-95). Analysis of the consequences of 1992 on female employment, coupled with the rapid rate of technological advances and demographic trends, points to the need to continue and step up action to help women return to the labour market. (IRIS Unit, CREW, rue Stévin 38, B-1040 Brussels)

**YOUTH FORUM:** The Women's Labour Group met last fall under the chairmanship of Anke Van Der Mei to collect information on the participation of women in the Youth Forum's member organisations and determine ways to increase this participation (only 20% of the Executive Committee delegates are women). It decided to encourage women to participate in general meetings, encourage women to be nominated to stand for elected office, set aside two positions in the Forum's bureau for women, and make it easier for women to work in the Secretariat and attend meetings (Bulletin of the Youth Forum of the European Communities, YF, 112 rue Joseph II, 1040 Brussels).

#### **YOUTH AND TRAINING:**

- \* TEMPUS (Trans-European Mobility Programme for University Studies), a programme specially designed to meet the training needs of the East European countries, should be operational by the 1990/91 academic year. It will basically cover economics, science, languages, agriculture, ecology and the promotion of the teaching of European affairs. A central coordinating office will work in close collaboration with the European Commission's services in Brussels and the various national TEMPUS units set up in Central and Eastern Europe.
- \* In May the Council of Ministers is slated to adopt a proposal to create a European Foundation for Training (EFT) which will become operational by fiscal 1991. This initiative, which is open to participation from non-EC countries, state agencies and private foundations, will help the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to adapt their training schemes. Its functions will include helping the East and Central European countries to define their training needs; setting up special multinational teams for specific projects; finding specialised institutes or private organisations responsible for implementing and managing individual projects; and serving as a clearing house for the information that is collected and experience that is gained.
- \* The Commission of the European Communities launched in January 1990 the "Youth for Europe" programme to sponsor one- to two-week exchanges of young people in the European Community. This programme is open to all citizens between the ages of 15 and 25 who reside in an EC country. Young East Europeans will also be able to benefit from these exchanges, for the European Parliament has allocated an additional 1 million ECUs to the programme to enable young people in the EC to invite young people from the East European countries that have diplomatic relations with the Community. (*Agence National Jeunesse pour l'Europe, Institut National de la Jeunesse, rue Paul-Leplat, F-78160 Marly-le-Roi*)

**EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE TRAINING IN JAPAN:** Japan offers one of the most fascinating and promising markets for exports, especially for European exports of machines and industrial equipment, in the world. To help European firms become more familiar with this market, the Commission of the European Communities has been running a business assistance programme called EXPROM since 1979. ETP, the European Training Programme for Young Executives, is one of the key elements of EXPROM. ETP is designed to improve the effectiveness of European companies' efforts to crack the Japanese market. The 18-month programme consists of intensive language training, seminars and company visits and a 6-month traineeship in a Japanese company. More than 350 Europeans have benefited from this scheme since 1979. Participants must be nationals of an EC Member State and have marketing or management responsibilities in a company that has a concrete project targeting Japan. The European Commission has just selected five women (Heidi Pfeffer-Trojel, Ghislaine Blezinger, Fiona Prophet, Sybille Scheuring and Diane Tilot-Van Bockstael) and 42 men to participate in the 10th ETP.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

- \* The Third Action Programme for Equal Opportunities, which is currently on the drawing board, should be adopted before the end of the year. According to a report by the Centre of Research on European Women (CREW), Infrastructures and Female Employment, sexist stereotypes and the working hours and schedules of schools and many services (post office, insurance offices, etc.) are the main obstacles encountered by women wishing to work. The report asserts that the ideology that considers women responsible for their husbands, children, elderly parents and home cannot but result in a situation of stress.
- \* Unemployment figures remain high in the European Community. Total unemployment is running at 8.7% of the working population, with women and young people the main victims. While more than 3/4 of the jobs created between 1983 and 1987 were filled by women, 60% of these jobs are part-time. Moreover, studies show that 13% of part-time are filled by people who have no other option.
- \* A recent Equal Opportunities Unit (EOU) report underscores the need for a substantial increase in the funds available for the creation of childcare facilities in the European Community. The European Social Fund (ESF) is the only Community structural fund to have invested in childcare.

The foregoing information has been excerpted from CREW's "Info" news bulletin (CREW, rue Stévin 38, B-1040 Brussels).

**CHANNEL E:** Channel E, the first multilingual European educational and information television broadcasting service, began broadcasting in March. Channel E is an experimental service set up under the European Commission's DELTA programme to study and assess the possibilities for setting up a European educational channel. (For information: Philip Crookes, Channel E, The European Institute for the Media, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK, Tel.: (+44 61) 273-2754)

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**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

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**INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:** At the February Plenary Session, Commission President Jacques Delors unveiled a 7-point "code of good conduct" aimed at improving relations with the European Parliament. With regard to the job market, he underlined the radical change in women's position. Everywhere one looks, women are more active on both the supply (new types of part-time employment) and demand sides. He also reminded his listeners that the Commission would present the Council of Ministers with a proposal for the Third Community Action Programme on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women before the end of the year. This programme will be the Commission's major accomplishment in this area in 1990.

**GERMAN REUNIFICATION:** The MEPs discussed the consequences of the process of German reunification for the Commission's plans, the Intergovernmental Conference on Economic and Monetary Union, and Parliament/Commission cooperation. Council President Geoghegan-Quinn, Ireland's European Affairs Minister, stated that a special EC summit might be necessary and, indeed, a decision was made to hold such a summit in Dublin on 28 April. Referring to German reunification, Delors stated that the Commission's work consisted, "in the most probable scenario of unification", in reasoning by analogy with what it would have done if faced by the addition of a new Member State. The MEPs, for their part, stressed the East Germans' right of self-determination and the link between German unity and progress towards European unity.

**ELECTED:** The temporary committee set up by the European Parliament to examine the impact of the German reunification process on the European Community has elected Simone Veil (Liberal, F) its first Vice-Chair. The other committee members include Maria Cassamagnago (EPP, It) and Birgit Cramon Daiber (Greens, FRG).

**ABORTION:** The European Parliament has adopted a resolution by Nel Van Dijck (Greens, NL) calling on the Member States that have not already done so to legalise abortion and urging all the Member States to give women faced with the problem of abortion the same assistance and financial possibilities. The Parliament's resolution refers to specific situations in various countries, such as Ireland, where even the sale of condoms is banned or obstructed, Spain and West Germany, where women and doctors are still prosecuted and sentenced for undergoing or performing abortions, although abortions are legal. During the debates, French Socialist Marie-Claude Vayssade expressed the hope that every woman in the Community be given the necessary information and freedom of choice. Belgian Socialist Raymonde Dury added that no man could experience the drama of abortion.

**WOMEN AND DEMOCRACY:** The Leftist Women's "Intergroup" (Socialists, Greens, Unitarian Left and Left Unity) of the European Parliament held a debate in Strasbourg in March on women and democracy. Invitations to this event were extended to women from Central and Eastern Europe and the Third World.

**EDUCATION:** In 1988, the European Commission disbursed 8.185 million ECUs for education and 1.75 million ECUs to promote male/female equality. The Parliament gave its unconditional support to the Community's education and training schemes while regretting that the programmes concerned primarily universities.

**RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION:** The European Parliament recently approved a resolution put forward by German Socialist Christa Randzio-Plath on the trade and economic cooperation agreement between the EEC and USSR. During this session, a Supreme Soviet delegation met with an EP delegation led by German Socialist Magdalena Hoff.

**CANCER:** The European Parliament adopted in March a resolution put forward by French Liberal Simone Veil calling for an increase (from 55 to 80 million ECUs) in the funding for the "Europe Against Cancer" programme. The Parliament wants more credits for the Community's programme and a ban on advertising tobacco. In its resolution the Parliament suggests a string of measures, notably preventive measures, to control cancer. During the debate, Professor Léon Schwartzberg (French Socialist and oncologist) stated that cancer was the second cause of death in the EC.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** The recent developments in South Africa were welcomed by the MEPs during their emergency debate on the issue. Most of the MEPs nevertheless feel that it is too early to lift sanctions - first apartheid must be truly abolished.

**A SEAT FOR PARLIAMENT:** The Bureau of the European Parliament has taken a stand on the controversial issue of where the EP's sessions should be held. A compromise was adopted, whereby the twelve "ordinary sessions" will be held in Strasbourg (which was at the same time authorised to rent another building that is yet to be built) while the special sessions will be held in Brussels.

**COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS:**

\* At its meeting of 29-30 January, a resolution was adopted on the creation of a European prize to recognise the personal merits of women in the arts, culture, research and labour. During this meeting MEP Nel Van Dijck presented a study on women and health care. Women working in the fields of medicine and social services have been waging a determined battle for years for recognition of their professions and improved working conditions. The report shows that the Commission of the European Communities must set safety standards and guarantee the harmlessness of contraceptives that are based on hormones.

\* Ria Oomen-Ruijten, a Committee on Women's Rights member, has drafted a report on the implementation of Directive 79/7/EEC on implementing the principle of equal treatment for men and women in social security matters. According to this report, there are several flaws in the Directive, e.g., the very definition of social security, problems of interpretation, applicability to statutory schemes only, etc.

**COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS:** At its February meeting this committee adopted an opinion supporting the request submitted by the Women's Liaison Committee (Place Quêtelet, 1a, 1030 Brussels) on Belgium's failure to implement Directive 79/7/EEC (equal treatment in social security matters) based on written and oral information obtained from the Commission of the European Communities. In response to a written question from MEP Raymonde Dury (Belgian Socialist), the European Commission cited the Kingdom of Belgium in the EC Court of Justice in July 1989 for failure to fulfil an obligation under the Treaty of Rome (Article 169) (see Women of Europe No. 61, p. 8).

**FORUM:** Commissioner Vasso Papandreou focused her talk at the Women's Rights Committee's "Women and Employment 2000" Forum on female employment in the Community after the completion of the Single Market and the effects that the latter will have on female employment. She pointed out that the Commission planned to put forward one draft Directive on part-time employment and another one on protection for pregnant women in the workplace. The Committee on Women's Rights adopted by a large majority a Communication urging the Commission to draw up a draft Directive on childcare. The forum's poster was designed by a young Franco-Belgian, Patricia Paye, and will be used henceforward as the symbol of the European Parliament's work in favour of women. The poster displays all the seats (ministerial chairs, tractor seats, race-car seats, etc.) that continue to be filled by too few women in Europe.

Useful address (for the entire section): European Parliament, *Centre Européen du Kirchberg*, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



**COUNTRY TO COUNTRY...****FACTS, INSTITUTIONS, LAWS  
AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES****B E L G I U M**

**ABORTION:** The partial legalisation of abortion has been adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The bill, which had already been adopted in the Senate, was approved by 126 (60.9%) for, 69 (33.3%) opposed and 12 (5.8%) abstentions. Abortions will no longer be a crime if they are performed by the twelfth week of pregnancy (the maximum is raised if the woman runs a serious health risk or the foetus has an incurable disease) and the woman is in distress, a state to be determined by the patient and the doctor. Ireland is now the only EC Member State where abortions are totally illegal. (see Women of Europe N°s 61, 62 and 63)

**HONOURS FOR WOMEN:**

- \* Eliane Achten, 57, doctor of law, joined the shipping agents Van Dosselaere & Achten in 1958. She went on to climb all the rungs to become Chairman of the Board of Directors of Assiport, the association of Antwerp port interests. The European Shipping Press Association recently conferred the "Maritime Award of the Year" on this outstanding figure.
- \* Two women received honorary doctorates from the French-speaking Catholic University of Louvain, UCL, in February. The American soprano Barbara Hendricks was singled out for her work as ambassador to the UN's High Commission for Refugees since 1987 and her firm support for the work of Amnesty International. Maria De Lourdes Pintasilgo, chemical engineer, former Prime Minister of Portugal (1979/80) and former MEP, is a member of the University Council (Board of Administration) of United Nations University. UCL wished to recognise her efforts to enable women to make themselves heard in society and the church.

**SOLIDARITY WITH POLAND:** Following an invitation extended by the women's section of the EPP (European People's Party) to 20 women members of *Solidarnosc* (see the section on Central and Eastern Europe), MEP An Hermans (CVP) showed a 3-woman delegation from Poland around Flanders for four days in early March. H. Suwala, a professor of French literature at Warsaw University, E. Seferowicz, Member of the Polish Parliament, and Y. Marcinkowska-Koranowicz, an engineer, had a chance to visit and study the operation of various bodies and institutions in their areas of interest. The conclusions that they draw concerning the models that they observed and the opportuneness of adapting them to Poland will contribute to current plans for a complete overhaul of Polish society. (*Katholieke Arbeiders Vrouwen* - KAV (Women's Section of the Dutch-speaking Christian Workers' Movement) -, Poststraat 111, 1210 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 220-3011)

**LABOUR COMMITTEE:** The Female Labour Committee of the Ministry of Employment and Labour celebrated its fifteenth birthday in February. The Committee, which is composed of equal numbers of representatives of management, labour and the civil service, issues opinions aimed at the gradual disappearance of sexual inequality at work. It also organises symposiums, carries out studies and publishes brochures. Its latest recommendations concerned ways to boost the employment of women in the private and public sectors (training and placement, Opinion No. 51/2 of 28/08/89), the creation of a parallel "maternal insurance" scheme (Opinion No. 53 of 4/10/89), and the effects of certain administrative positions on civil service pensions (Opinion No. 54 of 4/12/89). The Committee has published a booklet listing all of the opinions that it produced since its creation. (*Secrétariat de la Commission du Travail des Femmes, Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail, rue Belliard 51, 1040 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 233-4016 to 233-4020*)

**SOCIAL EMANCIPATION:** Miet Smet, Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for Social Emancipation, reviewed the achievements of her office to date at the latest meeting of the Chamber of Representatives' Advisory Committee for Social Emancipation. Since taking office in 1985, Smet has worked to give her office its own administration and budget. She has a budget of 71.5 million Belgian francs for 1990. A temporary staff of 10 has been responsible for logistic support since 1987. The Council for Emancipation, which was set up in 1986, has already issued eight Opinions. Since 1987, subsidies may be granted to projects that contribute to women's emancipation and to this end, a guide to subsidies has been published. The Emancipation Office's policies are built around three major goals, namely, the integration of women in socio-economic life; the participation of women in decision-making; and combating violence against women and children. (*Secrétariat à l'Environnement et à l'Emancipation sociale, rue de la Loi 56, 1040 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 230-4925*)

**HELPMATE SPOUSES:** Since the end of 1989, the importance and specificity of spouses' contributions to a family business are recognised by the country's new tax legislation. Spouses who help with the family business may be granted their own net incomes of BF 350.000 a year. Moreover, the so-called "marital quotient" will be applied automatically from now on to households with only one working spouse, meaning that 30% of the income will be attributed to the other spouse without requiring proof of the latter's contribution. Moreover, the December 1989 law authorises the helping spouse to sign up for coverage under the statutory illness and disability insurance scheme. The spouse will be able to receive maternity benefits, benefits in case of illness and a better pension. As a result of this legislation, Belgium finally complies with the EEC Directive of 11/12/86. (*Association des conjoints-aidants de médecins (ASCAM), rue d'Arquet 30, 5000 Namur. Tel.: (081) 223747*)

**JOB DIVERSIFICATION:**

- \* Since December 1989 a tram for emancipation decorated by N. Van Goethem, the winner of an Oscar for her animated film "*Vrouwen ook vurig in mannenberoepen*" (Women are also keen on men's professions), has been circulating in Antwerp to raise the awareness of young women, whose career choices remain very limited, and their entourage. (*Dienst Emancipatiebeleid, Van Immerseelstraat 11-23, 2018 Antwerp*)
- \* INOM (Institute for Post-scholastic Training in Metalworking) has produced a video film on the different training possibilities open to girls. (INOM, Mrs. I. Dielen, Lakenweverstraat 21, 1050 Brussels)

**CHILDCARE:**

\* Who will mind our children and how? More and more working women (70% of women between the ages of 25 and 35) are asking this question. This acute problem is already a reality for 500,000 households in which both parents work. 56% of the children in this group are looked after by the grandparents, 9.4% are in pre-nursery schools or daycare centres and 7.6% in recognised nursery schools. For the remaining cases, the parents resort to other alternatives. The latest tax reform has revealed that there are almost as many "independent" nursery schools as ONE-certified ones (ONE = Office of Births and Childhood). As a rule, such facilities do not report their earnings and the parents thus cannot deduct them on their income tax declarations. From now on, the Ministry of Finance accepts a forfeit of BF 290 a day per child. This measure is deemed insufficient by nursery schools. In some parts of the country, one-third of the childcare facilities stopped operating in 1989. Some of the nursery schools have banded together to form four non-profit associations (one in Namur, one in Liège, one in Luxembourg and one in Brabant) to enjoy a more flexible status than that of ONE nursery schools. (Tel.: (081) 613292 (Namur); (061) 223227 (Luxembourg); (041) 522236 (Liège); (010) 657406 (Walloon Brabant).

\* PSC women, who held a congress on working conditions at the end of March, are calling for reorganisation of working hours, improved childcare facilities with a professional status for all nursery schools, and after-school childminding in schools. M. Bribosia, President of PSC-Women, has suggested re-allocating surplus child allowance funds to childcare facilities. (PSC Women's Section, rue des Deux Eglises 41, 1040 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 238-0111)

**CHILD ABUSE:** In mid-March the agency Lenders Derrost Katté launched a controversial campaign against child abuse whose hard-hitting hoardings (three portraits of children who had been either beaten, raped or drugged and the caption "thank you for minding someone else's business") have raised violent reactions in some circles. Be that as it may, the Minister of Justice, Melchior Wathelet, has given it his backing. According to official statistics, there are close to 3,000 child prostitutes in Belgium and two cases of child abuse are reported each week. According to the minister, it is time to break the silence.

**DEVELOPMENT:** In January the association Femmes d'Europe (not to be confused with this publication, which is put out by the Women's Information Service of the Commission of the European Communities), which is composed of women from the European Community, handed checks worth a total of 6.88 million Belgian francs to the heads of 30 projects conducted in Europe and the Third World in 1989. (Femmes d'Europe, rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 649-5819)

**HELP LINE:** The Dutch-speaking Socialist women of Ghent have created a women's help line (244444) open to all women wishing to discuss their problems. (Socialistische vrouwen, Keizerslaan 13, 1000 Brussels)

**CINEMA:**

- \* The international seminar to set up the European network Pandora mentioned in Women of Europe No. 62 (p. 25) culminated at the end of 1989 in the network's official birth in Florence. Pandora is a European women's film network founded to effect a change in Western attitudes through the circulation of films and other audio-visual productions produced from a woman's perspective. Its current members are Basis Film Verleih (Berlin), Festival Créteil (Paris), Laboratorio Immagine Donna (Florence), Uni-Portugal (Lisbon), Université des Femmes (Brussels), Ateneo Feminista (Madrid), Cinemien (Amsterdam), and the London Film Festival (London). It has two offices, one in Brussels, the other in Florence. (Université des Femmes, Violaine De Villers, place Quêtelet 1a, 1030 Brussels. Tel: (02) 219-6107; Laboratorio Immagine Donne, Paola Paoli, via Aretina 98, 50121 Firenze. Tel: (055) 661852)
- \* Zebra is sending out a call to all organisations and individuals interested in Third World development who produce, use or distribute audio-visual materials that contribute to narrowing the North/South gap. (Zebra Belgium, Violaine De Villers, rue des Liégeois 22, 1050 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 649-8764)

**PUBLICATIONS:**

- \* The missionaries' overseas development office, *Service de Coopération missionnaire au développement* (COMIDE), has just published its 1988 activities report. (Rapport 1988, COMIDE, bd Léopold II 195, 1080 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 427-4720)
- \* La femme belge dans l'Europe is Infor-Femmes' latest publication. It contains an inventory of the measures (history, equal pay, etc.) taken by the EEC to help women. (Infor-Femmes, rue Bréderode 29, 1000 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 511-4706, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- \* The French-speaking National Council of Belgian Women, CNFB, has published the proceedings of the European symposium on social security that was held in April 1989. (Une autre sécurité sociale, CNFB, rue de la Prévoyance 60, 1000 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 514-4949)
- \* Issue 33 of Chronique féministe attempts to shed some light on the lives of today's teenage girls (their attitudes towards contraception, specific health problems, etc.) ("Les adolescentes", Chronique féministe, Université des femmes, place Quêtelet 1a, 1030 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 219-6107)
- \* Incest overleven (Surviving Incest), by C. Boston & K. Lison, gives the victims of incest a chance to be heard and reviews the possibilities for therapy that are available to them. One out of six women in Belgium has had a brush with incest. Afterwards, such experiences often lead to feelings of shame and guilt. (Incest overleven, Kluwer-Kosmos Publishers, avenue Jules César 2, 1150 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 762-9260)

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D E N M A R K

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**EXCHANGES:** The National Council of Danish Women, DKN, has been contacted by a number of Eastern European women's organisations about the possibility of sharing experiences on women's status and the role of women in political decision-making. To this end, the DKN will hold a seminar in Copenhagen in June as part of the parallel activities that will take place between 2 and 27 June 1990 in the wings of the Second Diplomatic Conference on Human Rights. The DKN will participate in drawing up the Conference programme in order to make sure that the issue of women and human rights is given the proper attention. (*Danske Kvinders Nationalråd*, Niels Hemmingsensgade 8, 1153 København K, Tel.: 33 12 80 87)

**CHILDCARE:** Speaking at a press conference in March, Finance Minister Henning Dyremose and Social Affairs Minister Aase Olesen expressed their desire that solidarity with families with young children be put on the agenda of the forthcoming collective bargaining rounds. The Interministerial Committee on Childhood is examining various proposals to improve the situation of families with children. The Council for Equal Treatment (*Ligestillingsraadet*) put out a special issue of its magazine, *Lige NU*, on 8 March that was devoted to childcare and the situations of families with children. International Women's Day was also marked by the presentation of a video cassette showing the importance of training, childcare, work schedules and equality in the home for the careers of women. This cassette was commissioned by the Council for Equal Treatment. (*Ligestillingsraadet*, Frederiksgade 21, 1., 1265 København K)

**CONFERENCE:** The Danish trades union confederation LO held a conference in February attended by various women's organisations. The speakers included Beatrice Hertogs (Women's Committee of the European Trades Union Conference), Joanna Romm (EP Committee on Women's Rights), and Kaj Westergaard (Danish Employment Administration). One of the issues discussed was the projected consequences of the Internal Market on women with regard to working conditions, equal pay, childcare and unemployment. With regard to implementing the principles of the Social Charter, the participants gave priority to the problem of childcare and a decision was made to draft a framework directive on this matter. Parental leaves to take care of sick dependents and maternity or paternity leaves were also considered prerequisites for equality.

**RIGHT TO VOTE:** Danish women won the right to vote and run for Parliament in 1915. June 5, which is Constitution Day, is thus a special day for women. The 75th anniversary of women's acquisition of the right to vote will be celebrated by various events throughout the country. The women MPs have decided to publish a book on women and the right to vote and demonstrate in Parliament on 5 June.

**RESEARCH AND GENETICS:** The Board of Ethics held a public hearing in April on the protection of human reproductive cells, fertilized eggs, embryos and fetuses. The hearing was tied to the board's 1989 report to the Health Ministry in which it set out its opinions and proposals to protect these links in the chain of human reproduction. The Board of Ethics proposes creating a regulatory body to oversee research in this field. This body would consist of scientists and non-scientists, with the latter in the majority. Attention will be paid to equal representation of women and men in both groups. (*Etiske Raad*, Ravnsborggade 2-4, 2200 København N. Tel.: 35 37 57 55).

**CHURCH:** A study of the changes in women ministers' work in the parishes and church hierarchy has been published by the Ministry of Social Affairs. Women account for only 24.4% of the country's ordained ministers. There are no women bishops and only three women deacons. The report concludes that discrimination with regard to ordination and the assignment of duties and reluctance in the parishes are the major obstacles to equality within the Church. (*Socialforskninginstituttet rapport 90:2*, Borgergade 28, 1330 København K. Tel.: 33 13 98 11)

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FRANCE

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**ORGANISATIONS:** The UFF (French Women's Union), a movement born of the resistance's women's committees, has been official since 1945. This organisation opposes all forms of sexism, fights for the right to work, defends the right to housing, the right of culture, etc., and strives for European solidarity and friendship. (Excerpted from the manifesto of the UFF) (*Clara*, Magazine of the *Union des femmes françaises*, rue du Faubourg Poissonnière 146, 75010 Paris. Tel.: 4526-0333)

**DISCRIMINATORY PROCEDURES:** Janine Chouvac, Chairperson of the Women's Committee of the Centre of Political and Social Studies (CEPS) of the Louise Michel Club, has spent years studying changes that should be made in divorce proceedings to avoid discrimination against women. In the case of divorce after six years of *de facto* separation, income taxes and other costs related to the couple's joint property must be borne by the abandoned spouse (usually the woman), even if the latter's sole income is the monthly allowance ordered by the judge. In addition, the fees and other expenses of the proceedings are borne in practice by the woman (who has been abandoned by her husband). Given these injustices, Chouvac demands that mutual insurance company premiums be borne by the husband who is seeking divorce, the monthly alimony payments no longer be taxed, and that the costs of the proceedings, as well as the fees for winding up the property, actually be paid by the spouse who is seeking the divorce. (J. Chouvac, avenue de la Jonchère 18, 78170 La Celle Saint Cloud)

**OPINION POLLS:**

\* CSA (*Conseils-Sondages-Analyses*), a French polling company, carried out a poll on women and politics in January 90 at the behest of the National Federation of Socialist and Republic Elected Officials (FNESR). Of the 969 adults polled, 52% thought that women had too little political power. 79% would like the political parties to put up more women for election, 77% would vote for a man or a woman to be President of the Republic, MP or mayor. 64% of the women would not like to hold political office due to either lack of knowledge or lack of time. (*Fédération Nationale des Elus Socialistes et Républicains*, Cité Maiesherbes 12, 75009 Paris. Tel.: 4526-3080)

\* Another poll conducted by CSA and published in a recent issue of *Libération* reveals that 1/3 of working women are willing to accept priority hiring of men over women in times of high unemployment. (Article by François Wenz-Dumas in *Libération*, 5 March 1990)

**ILLITERACY:** Complete illiteracy is relatively rare in France. In contrast, there are some 6 million functional illiterates (people who have learned to read and write but have great difficulty doing so) in France. This is both the cause and result of social alienation. The regional delegates of the Office of the Secretary of State for Women's Rights have been combating functional illiteracy for years. Their experience has shown that literacy training is effective when incorporated into other training programmes, such as back-to-work training or the regional "Compter, Lire, Ecrire" (reading, writing, 'rithmetic) centres. The largest number of women, especially housewives, can be reached through such centres. (*Centres CLE, Fédération Léo Lagrange, rue de Provence 21, 75009 Paris*)

**POLITICS:**

\* Michèle André, Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for Women's Rights, has announced that she will soon submit a bill that will, among other things, stiffen the sentences to which violent spouses are liable. (*Secretariat d'Etat aux Droits des Femmes, rue Le Peletier 31, 75009 Paris*)

\* Paul Quiles, Minister of the Post, Telecommunications and Space, seized the occasion of International Women's Day to announce a string of measures to improve the situation of women in the civil service. These include a special institute that will oversee the advancement of the 193,000 women working in the French postal and telecommunications system. (*Ministère des Postes, des Télécommunications et de l'Espace, avenue de Ségur 20, 75700 Paris*)

**CROSS-TRADE AGREEMENT:** A national cross-trade agreement on occupational equality for men and women was signed in November. This agreement will contribute to the creation of an environment likely to foster occupational equality and better protection for female employment through respect for equal rights. The signatories to this agreement are the CNPF, CGPME, UPA, CFE-CGC, CFTC and CGT-FO.

**HEALTH:** Under a ministerial order of 7 February 1990, medical assistance for reproduction shall henceforward come under the social security system, thereby putting an end to the anarchy that prevailed until now in this area (fees could be exorbitant). This order will limit the reimbursement of biological acts of assisted procreation to those who use the services of a centre approved by the Ministry of Health (the lists of the approved laboratories will be made public soon). This measure foreshadows the institution of regulations allowing government oversight of this branch of medicine, which sometimes gives rise to objectionable commercial practices. (*Arrêté ministériel published in France's Journal officiel of 7 February 1990*).

**ABORTION PILL:** The abortion pill RU 486 is a less traumatic alternative than an abortion, provided that it is used within 7 weeks of conception. It will now be distributed, under medical supervision, in the 793 centres in France that are authorised to perform abortions. RU 486 is less traumatic for the woman and will undoubtedly carry less risk for future pregnancies.

**OVERSEAS TERRITORIES:**

- \* Michèle André has just completed a trip to France's South Pacific territories (Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis-et-Futuna archipelago). She was received warmly by the women everywhere, who informed her of their frustration at being excluded from decision-making and not being able to speak as equals with men.
- \* Marie-Claire Beccossi was instated as the Territorial Delegate for Women's Rights in Noumea, New Caledonia, on 1 January 1990.
- \* A referendum on self-determination for New Caledonia is planned for 1998. Women will have something to say, provided that they can make themselves heard. This is difficult when one is raised in traditional communities, as is the case for many of them, and has been taught not to speak without a man's permission. (Excerpted from Le Monde of 8 February 1990)

**EVENTS:**

- \* The CFDT labour union's Women's Delegation organised an event called "*Actuelles 90*" in March. The first day of this event, which was placed under the sign of "Europe, an opportunity for women", gave women labour leaders from various Member States a chance to talk about their efforts to achieve equality. The first European rally of women unionist, organised by ETUC, was also held in March. The participants demanded the right to work and its implications (equal pay, maternal protection, childcare, etc.), the right to vocational training, the right to health, and other basics. Marie-Victoire Louis, historian and president of the association against violence in the workplace, AVFT (*Association contre les violences faites aux femmes au travail*), showed how women employees have yet to win their dignity. Also at this meeting, Michèle André, Secretary of State for Women's Rights, and Claude Evin, Minister of Health and Social Protection (Welfare), unveiled the legislation that the Government intends to adopt to meet the needs and demands of women salaried employees. (From the magazine Syndicalisme of 1 February 1990, Bd de la Villette 4, 75955 Paris Cedex 19. Tel.: 4203-8180)
- \* A seminar on women's rights in the Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) was held in March at the Arab studies institute *Institut du Monde Arabe*. Special attention was paid to the situation of North African women in Europe. The goals of this seminar were to provide these women, whether in the Maghreb or in Europe, a place for information and thought. (*Colloque Droits des Femmes au Maghreb*, rue Nanteuil 14, 75015 Paris)
- \* The association *Dialogue* was founded in 192 for all women who want to take part in local and national government. Its aims are to get women to realise that politics concerns them by encouraging them to take an active approach to government. *Dialogue* held a conference in March on eliminating poverty in Europe and France that was attended by Edith Roquette, Deputy Mayor of Marc-en-Baroeul (*Dialogue-Loiret*, rue des Murlins 2, 45000 Orléans)

**FIRST:** Marie-Ange Parère is the first woman in France to be appointed fire chief. The event took place in Béziers.



**PUBLICATIONS:**

- \* The information bulletin of the documentation service of the Office of the Secretary of State for Women's Rights celebrated its 100th issue last year. This monthly informs its readers of all of the documents received, analysed and filed (each month) by the documentation service. It also includes a list of the publishers and distributors of these documents. (*Service de Documentation du Secrétariat d'Etat chargé des droits des femmes*, Bd de la Madeleine 14, 75008 Paris)
  
- \* The women's rights guides *Guide des Droits des Femmes* and *Guide des Droits du Travail - Femmes salariées*, prefaced by Michèle André, have just been published by the National Women's and Family Information and Documentation Centre (*CNIFF-Edition*, rue du Jura 7, 75013 Paris. Tel.: 4331-7700)
  
- \* The final report on corporate management and family duties drafted by the working group set up by the Higher Board of Occupational Equality may be obtained from the Office of the Secretary of State responsible for women's rights (*Gestion des entreprises et prise en compte des reponsabilités familiales*, *Secrétariat d'Etat chargé des droits des femmes*, rue Le Peletier 31, 75009 Paris)
  
- \* A study of women and AIDS that was conducted in 1989 may be obtained from the association APARTS (rue Rebeval 45, 75019 Paris).
  
- \* The proceedings of the colloquium on women and the French Revolution that was held in Toulouse in April 1989 have been published by *Presses Universitaires du Mirail* (allée Antonio Machado, 31058 Toulouse)
  
- \* In *Le 20ème siècle des Femmes*, published by Nathan and prefaced by Elisabeth Badinter, Florence Montreynaud has set out to tell the global history of women from 1900 to 1989. This book presents the women who have marked the 20th century and political, social, economic, cultural and other events of the 20th century that have been particularly important for women. (Editions Nathan, rue Mèchain, 75014 Paris. Tel.: 4787-5000)
  
- \* The women's civic and social union UFCS has published seven special reports on Europe. Under its new Board of Directors and Bureau UFCS has decided to take on a European dimension by participating in federations of European associations and working for consumer safety from this perspective. (*Union féminine Civique et Sociale*, rue Béranger 6, 75003 Paris. Tel.: 4272-1918)

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G E R M A N Y

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**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:**

- \* The Federal Minister for Youth, the Family, Women and Health, Ursula Lehr, has submitted "the first national report on the equal rights situation in the Federal Republic of Germany" to the UN. Lehr notes in her report that there is still room for improvement in certain areas, notably politics, where women are still under-represented. At 9.4%, the female unemployment rate is the lowest in the past eight years, but still remains higher than that of men. An assessment of the key notes of the government's women's policy for 1987-90, Schwerpunkte zur Frauenpolitik, testifies to the improvements that the current federal government has managed to make in its women's policy. (Schwerpunkte zur Frauenpolitik, Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie, Frauen und Gesundheit, Kennedyallee 105-107, D-5300 Bonn 2).
- \* Under the provisions of draft legislation under study at the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs, the employer found guilty of sex discrimination would have to pay damages of up to four times the monthly wage for "serious human rights violations". (Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialsachen, Postfach 140280, D-5300 Bonn 1)

**WORLD CONFERENCE:** During the 34th session of the United Nations Committee on Women's Rights, which met in Vienna, the members of the Steering Committee of the 10.5 million-strong National Council of German Women (Deutsches Frauenrat) and Tatjana Bohm, the minister of the German Democratic Republic who is responsible for women's affairs, decided to plead for another global women's conference in 1995.

**WOMEN'S ALLIANCE 90:** Women politicians of all political leanings, religious denominations and trade union affiliations have formed a women's alliance, Frauenbündis 90, to call for solidarity against the radicalisation of the right and xenophobia. Rita Süssmuth, Bundestag President, warned against the "creeping dehumanisation" and demanded objective discussion during this period of upheaval in both Germany and Europe.

**HOUSEWIVES:** The German housewives' union Deutscher Hausfrauenbund (DHB), a member of the European Housewives' Federation, is 75 years old! The association is fighting for social security for homemakers, who work 40 to 70 hours a week. (Deutscher Hausfrauenbund, Adenauer Allee, 193, D-5300 Bonn 1)

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING:** In April 1989 thirty women began training to become environmental consultants with funding from the DHB's "environmental consulting budget". The aim of this pilot project, in addition to increasing the participants' knowledge, is to spread the idea that, to be effective, environmental protection must start in the home. (Deutscher Hausfrauenbund, see above)

**BUSINESS NETWORK:** Pömps - Netzwerk für Frauen is a network created by a group of women from North Rhine-Westphalia to promote and achieve recognition for the skills and special abilities of women, share experience and boost cooperation amongst women in business, administration, politics and social affairs. (Pömps e.V. - Netzwerk für Frauen, Karlin Vogel, Haus Haag, 4232 Xanten 3. Tel.: 0 28 04 - 82 81)

**APPOINTED:**

- \* The Education and Cultural Affairs Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, Eva Ruhmkopf (SPD), will chair the Conference of Education and Social Affairs Ministers of the country's eleven *Länder* in 1990.
- \* A woman has been named president of an *Oberlandesgericht* (Regional High Court) for the first time in the history of West Germany. Helga Oltrogge is the new head of the *Oberlandesgericht* of Celle, Lower Saxony.

**GDR:**

- \* *Unabhängige Frauenverband* (Independent Women's Association), the association that coordinates all women's initiatives in the GDR, was present at a conference-debate organised by Heide Pfarr (SPD), Senator from West Berlin responsible for relations with the Federal Government, that was held recently in Bonn. The debate covered the protection of the rights of East German women after the collapse of the communist regime and the possibilities for future cooperation with West Germany's women's associations.
- \* A group of women representing the East German CDU (Sylvia Schultz), Democratic Revival (Brigitta Kogler), *Neues Forum* (Karin Luck) and Women's Union of the CDU in the Federal Republic of Germany (Rita Süssmuth) founded in East Berlin a "Joint Women's Union". Their twelve-point plan calls for the right for women to be included in the work to develop a new legal framework for the GDR.

**WAGES:** A woman, Lilo Fink, is the best-paid individual of either sex working in the services, trade, banking or industry in Hesse, which has a population of 5.5 million. She has an annual income of 1.8 million DM or 0.88 million ECUs.

**PROTECTION FOR EVERYONE:** The Women's Affairs Working Group (*Arbeitskreis Frauenpolitik*) of the Green MPs in the Bundestag is calling for a new law to protect prostitutes. Women who choose on their own to work as prostitutes must have the right to decent pay and recourse to the courts, medical insurance, and protection of their rights as workers.

**WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS:** ISU (*Interessengemeinschaft Selbständiger Unternehmerinnen*), an association of women entrepreneurs, has just been created to provide a consulting service to women who run their own companies. ISU hopes to open branches throughout Germany as quickly as possible. (ISU, Vosstraße 62, 3000 Hannover 1. Tel.: (0511) 662255)

**WOMEN'S SHELTERS:** There are 180 women's shelters or homes in North Rhine-Westphalia, 46 of which are financed by the federal government to the tune of 6.06 million DM. The demand is so great that a second shelter would be necessary in most big cities. The federal government estimates that at least 24,000 women make use of these establishments each year. (Information: *Landesregierung Nordrhein-Westfalen*, Mannesmannufer 1a, 4000 Dusseldorf 1. Tel.: (0211) 837-1226)

**EVENTS:** The women of Schleswig-Holstein held their first forum under the banner "*Frauen kommen zu Wort and zur Sache*" (women take the floor and take action). The aims of this forum were to discuss the problems of housing, poverty (especially amongst the elderly), female unemployment, social, political and occupational commitment, and returning to work. (*Landeshaus*, 2300 Kiel 1. Tel.: (0431) 596-1)

**SURVEY:** The results of a study of 10 women's centres that was commissioned by North Rhine-Westphalia's Delegate for Equality, Ilse Ridder-Melchers, has just been published by the state government. The detailed report on the situation of the children in these centres (housing 50 women and 91 children in all) reveals that half of the children accompanying their mothers were also the victims of physical, mental or sexual violence. This violence is often experienced even before birth. Very often, the commonest and most severe injuries are seen in very young children. Even if some children are not mistreated, they often exhibit behavioural disorders, are anxious or introverted. Sixty percent of the children in these shelters experienced frequent abuse (from one or two days a week to daily). Most of the institutions are helpless to deal with this problem for lack of financial means or manpower. (*Landesregierung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Mannesmannufer 1a, 4000 Düsseldorf 1. Tel.: (02) 118 37 12 26*)

#### PUBLICATIONS:

- \* The German Institute for the Study of the Problems of the Blind (Deutsche Blinden-Studienanstalt) of Marburg has just published a periodical, Unter uns (Amongst Ourselves), for blind women. (*Deutsche Blinden-Studienanstalt, am Schlag 8, 3550 Marburg 1*)
- \* The institutionalisation of women's affairs, state government institutions for equal treatment and prospects for and limits on government policies to advance women are the subjects of a new book (*Die Verstaatlichung der Frauenfrage : Gleichstellungsinstitutionen der Bundesländer - Möglichkeiten und Grenzen staatlicher Frauenpolitik*) by Uta Krautkramer-Wagner. The book describes the scope of the institutions that work for the advancement of women and equality and the obstacles to achieving real equal treatment in the Federal Republic. (*Kleine-Verlag GmbH, Postfach 4822, 4800 Bielefeld. ISBN 3-89370-120-6. Price: DM 26.90*)
- \* The State Chancellor for Women's Affairs of Lower Saxony has just published a 200-page brochure containing suggestions for the self-improvement of elderly women, courses that they may attend and ways to reorganise their private lives. (Frauen um 60, Staatskanzlei, Planckstraße 2, 3000 Hannover)
- \* Gabriele Kokott-Weidenfeld, lawyer and CDU deputy in the *Landtag* (State Parliament) of Rhineland-Palatinate is the author of a book on women and their rights called Die Frau und ihre Rechte. This publication tackles the broad range of legal issues that concern women and the legal instruments at women's disposal. (Available from Bastel Lübbe Verlag, Postfach, 5070 Bergisch-Gladbach. ISBN 3-404-667171-0. Price: DM 12.80)
- \* The Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family, Women and Health has just published a booklet on women in the Federal Republic of Germany called Frauen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. This work describes the evolution of women's status in Germany from the first major developments (in 1949) to the present. It covers the main demands that have been met in a variety of areas. It also includes a chapter analysing the major international achievements to boost the advancement of women. (*Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie, Frauen und Gesundheit, Kennedyallee 105-107, Postfach 200220, 5300 Bonn 2*)

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G R E E C E

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**PRIZE:** Christina Damoulianou is the winner of the annual Paulos Paleologos Prize awarded by the Greek Women's Rights League for her contributions to male/female equality through her articles in the magazine Kathimerini. Eleni Tsolakidou received honourable mention for her articles in the magazine Exormisi.

**HEALTH:** Fewer than 10% of Greek women over 20 have the annual gynaecological check-ups recommended by physicians. In 1988, 10.3% of the country's pregnant women were under 20. In 1974, this figure was 5.3%. The number of abortions performed on teenagers between the ages of 14 and 19, although difficult to estimate, rose sharply in 1989 (+35%). These figures were announced at a recent seminar held by the Greek Family Planning Association (Solonos 121, 10678 Athens)

**FEWER BIRTHS:** According to Hary Simeonidou, journalist, speaking at a recent Congress for the Family in Athens, the fall in Greece's birth rate is the result of women's poor working conditions. In addition to not taking children who are less than 2½ years old, government daycare centres fall far short of current daycare needs.

**ENCOURAGING STUDY:** The Women's Studies Group of Aristotle University, Athens, is offering a full cycle of open lectures on women artists this spring. The Women's Studies Group has been offering such semester-long open lecture series for 5 years. It would also like to open a women's studies library. (Women's Studies Group, Law School building, room 207, University of Salonika, 54006 Salonika)

**PENSIONS:** Officers' widows lose their rights to a widow's pension if they remarry. Maria Damanaki and Eva Kotamanidou, Members of Parliament, have brought a delicate case to the attention of Parliament. It concerns a widow who lost her pension after the birth of a child out of wedlock.

**EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY:** The women of Greece's non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are holding meetings on participating in the European Women's Lobby. During two meetings in March, Efi Kalliga, serving as unofficial liaison officer, explained the goals and outlook of the lobby that is taking shape with the help of the European Commission's Women's Information Service.

**UPSET OUTCASTS:** In view of the worsening, almost complete exclusion of women from Greek government, the Coordinating Committee of Women's Organisations has published a resolution attacking this unacceptable attitude and sent this resolution to the country's intergovernmental organisations and the mass media to prevent this policy's becoming an accepted practice in Greece. Shortly after the resolution was published in the Greek press, women were completely excluded from the new Board of Directors of the State television and radio for the first time in the latter's history. (International Women's Alliance, Lycavittou 1, 10672 Athens. League for Women's Rights, Solonos 41, 10672 Athens)

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I R E L A N D

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**NEW WOMEN'S COMMISSION:**

- \* Prime Minister Charles Haughey has announced that he will establish a second Commission on the Status of Women to review the work done in implementing the first Commission's recommendations and examine the legal and administrative means to enable women to participate on equal terms with men in all aspects of life. The Commission will pay particular attention to the needs of women in the home and study the feasibility of positive action to improve the status of women. The announcement was made to the Fianna Fail National Women's Conference held recently in Kilkenny (the Fianna Fail is the country's largest political party). The Labour Minister told the delegates that only 10% of the party's National Executive and 9% of elected Fianna Fail Councillors were women. (The Department of the Taoiseach, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2. Tel. 01-68 93 33)
  
- \* The Chairperson of the Council for the Status of Women, Carmel Foley, has welcomed the establishment of the proposed Commission on Women, saying that it provides a major opportunity to revitalise and redefine the agenda for action on equality. Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the Employment Equality Agency, Catherine McGuinness, said her agency would contribute to the Commission's work but hoped that the priorities already outlined by the agency (e.g., childcare and part-time working) would not be delayed as a result of the Commission. (Council for the Status of Women, 64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2. Tel.: 01-61 52 78. The Employment Equality Agency, 36 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. Tel.: 01-60 59 66)

**DIRECTORY OF WOMEN IN RADIO AND TELEVISION:** RTE, the National Radio and Television Station has published its first directory of women contributors to radio and television. The directory contains over 1600 names of women with expertise ranging from business to the arts and culture. The project was funded by the EC with contributions from the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Women's Rights and R.T.E. (*Radio Telefis Eireann*, Montrose, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Tel.: 01-64 31 11)

**EMPLOYMENT:** Catherine McGuinness, Chairperson of the Employment Equality Agency, stated at the European Commission-sponsored seminar on women and the completion of the Internal Market held recently in Dublin that a new policy approach, particularly in relation to childcare and the use of EC structural funds, was required if equality at work for European women was to be achieved. McGuinness added that the priority must now be to ensure that the huge sums spent on education and vocational training by the Community and Member States act as positive agents for change and be spent only if equality is the result. (Kevin Foley, Employment Equality Agency, 36 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. Tel.: 01-60 59 66)

**EVENTS:** Margaret Nolan of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions' Training and Equality Office told the participants of the ICTU's recent Annual Women's Conference that, since 1974, women's hourly industrial earnings have risen by only 8 points, from 60 to 68% of the average industrial earnings of men. Clare O'Connor, Chairperson of the ICTU's Women's Committee, praised the decisions of Labour Minister Bertie Ahern to extend the protection of all labour legislation to part-time workers and to table a resolution on sexual harassment to the European Commission before the Irish Presidency's term is up. (The Irish Congress of Trade Unions, 19 Raglan Road, Dublin 4. Tel.: 01-68 06 41)

**CHILDCARE:** The Chairwoman of the Employment Equality Agency, Catherine McGuinness, has called on the Government to produce a policy on childcare. According to recent statistics, 678,000 Irish women are engaged in home duties compared with only 3,400 men.

**BUDGET:** The budget submitted recently by the Finance Minister, Albert Reynolds, includes 500,000 Irish punts for women's organisations. It also announced increases in social welfare benefits and tax adjustments that should help many low-income families. Nevertheless, the Council for the Status of Women is critical of the fact that the key issue for women - childcare - is not mentioned in the budget and is disappointed that there is no innovative system of tax relief, allocation for facilities, or mention of support for women in the home. (The Department of Finance, Government Buildings, Merrion Street, Dublin 2. Tel.: 01-76 75 71)

**PRISON:** The suicide of a young prisoner held in Mountjoy Women's Prison has sparked calls for the prison's closure. The Council for the Status of Women, which has been focusing on the position and treatment of women and girls in the Irish justice system, met with Justice Minister Ray Burke and asked for the prison to be closed. The Minister answered that, due to financial constraints, that was impossible, but the existing facility would be refurbished extensively and security improved. (The Department of Justice, 72 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel.: 01-78 97 11)

**PUBLICATIONS:** Women's Work is the title of a new anthology of women's poetry that includes poems by well-known authors as well as novices. It also contains a selection from the over 600 poems submitted for the National Women's Poetry Competition held to mark International Women's Day. The anthology, which costs 5 Irish punts + 1 punt for post and packing, may be obtained from The Works, St. Brendan's, Waterloo Road, Wexford.

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I T A L Y  
-----POLITICS:

- \* The majority of the political secretaries attending a meeting with the National Committee for Male/Female Equality made a solemn promise to include more women among party officers, in institutions and on the election lists. A survey conducted by the Committee reveals that women are under-represented in the town councils (only 9,750 (6%) of the total of 150,494 town councillors) and even more under-represented within the ranks of the assessorati and mayors (5.6 and 2.2%, respectively). These figures are very low compared with female representation in the national and European parliaments (12 and 19%, respectively). This situation must change starting with the next electoral campaign, slated for May, said the Committee's Chairperson, T. Anselmi. (*Commissione nazionale per la parità uomo/donna, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Palazzo Chigi, 00187 Roma*)
- \* The number of women in all of the Christian Democratic Party's committees and divisions has been raised as a result of an agenda adopted by the National Council. They now account for close to 20% of all positions. The delegates are elected by the congress or named by the Christian Democratic Women's Movement. A document was submitted to the national leadership that outlined various forms of affirmative action to increase the number of women in local institutions. In preparation for the local elections of 6-7 May, the Movement has published a manifesto, *La nostra città* (Our City), outlining women's positions and aspirations with regard to various key issues (women's status in society, the environment, etc.). (*Movimento femminile D.C., Mariapaola Colombo Svevo, corso Rinascimento 113, 00186 Roma. Tel.: (06) 654-2229*)
- \* "*Le donne cambiano i tempi*" (women are changing the times/tempo) is the pun-filled slogan of a drive launched by the Communist Party's Women's Section at the end of March to collect signatures in favour of a law drawn up by popular initiative to change working hours and the infernal tempo imposed by modern life. (*Sezione nazionale femminile del PCI, via delle Botteghe oscure 4, 00186 Roma*)

JUSTICE:

- \* Seven of the eight magistrates newly appointed to the Prosecutor's Office and court of Locri (a hotbed of Calabrian mafiosi activity) are women. E. Milelli, M. Nuccio, D. Rinaldi and M.E. Sighicelli (her first assignment) are the new assistant prosecutors. G.M. Campagna, G. Paolitto and P. Talerico will be in the front lines in the war on kidnapping.
- \* Rosetta Console, 36, teacher by profession and alderwoman for social solidarity of the town of Cassano Iono, Calabria, is one of the rare people to put the Rognoni-La Torre law to turn over property confiscated from the mafia to charities into effect. Thus, she decided to redistribute the property seized from the head of a local clan who is in detention in Ancona to a drug rehabilitation centre. The clan member's response was immediate - they set fire to the official's home.



**EQUAL TREATMENT:** The National Commission for the Achievement of Equality between Men and Women (Foreign Ministry) recently published the Italian Government's first report on the implementation of the International Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (UN, 1979). This report gives a detailed review of changes in Italy's legislation in different sectors (health, culture, politics, education, etc.) and lists the international treaties on sexual equality that Italy has signed. (*Primo rapporto del governo italiano, Commissione nazionale per la realizzazione della parità uomo/donna, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Palazzo Chigi, 00187 Roma*)

**CAREERS:**

- \* As part of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the women's network *Donne in Carriera* that was held in Marino Palace, the mayor of Milan honoured the association for its role in upgrading women's job qualifications and raising awareness of their skills in companies. (*Donne in Carriera, Federica Olivares, President, via S. Maria alla Porta 1, 20123 Milano*)
- \* The association of women entrepreneurs and executives AIDDA (*Associazione Imprenditrici e Donne Dirigenti d'Azienda*) is offering scholarships to girls wishing to complete a master's in business administration at Luigi Bocconi University, Milan. Applicants should contact AIDDA (via Ripoli 207/H, 50126 Firenze) for more information.

**EAST/WEST TIES:** A colloquium on ties between East and West European Women (*Donne dell'Est - Donne dell'Ovest : per una grande Europa, sociale e aperta*) was held in Rome by the association Olympia, the Women's Policy Department of the Italian Socialist Party and Mondoperaio Cultural Centre. The colloquium was attended by the heads of these organisations and numerous women from East European political circles. (*Centro culturale Mondoperaio, via Tomacelli 146, 00186 Roma*)

**HOUSEWIVES:** The Interregional Organization of Housewives Associations *Organizzazione Interregionale Casalinghe Indipendenti Associate* created the OIKIA *Città di Verona* Prize this year to reward the tireless "managers" for their unrecognised, unpaid, daily commitment. Besides giving and taking care of life, homemakers are the guarantors of peace and stability in the world. This year's recipient was Giovanna Di Serego Alighieri, who was also named honorary president of the association. (OIKIA, via Cefalonia 4a, Verona)

**BATTERED WOMEN:**

- \* Violence in the home is no longer a shameful secret. Women now dare to denounce the abuse to which they are subjected. The "women's home" project on which the Italian Women's Union of Milan has been working for the past 4 years is aimed at this group, for women who are in temporary difficulty need a haven where they, with their children, can enjoy the calm needed to work out a new plan for living that will enable them to take on full responsibility for their lives. This fact led UDI to design an efficient mode of operation. The first step is the women's aid service, which is open 12 hours a day (from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.). It is staffed by counselors who have discussions and group meetings with the women by appointment. It also offers a documentation centre. UDI has also created a network of exchanges with other women, organisations and public services in order to improve understanding of all the aspects (legal, social, etc.) of the problem. (*Casa delle donne, UDI di Milano, via Bagutta 12, 20121 Milano. Tel.: (02) 7600-8212, 7600-6988*)

\* *Telefona Rosa* (the pink telephone), created in Rome by a group of representatives of the Women's Day Tribunal, offers a telephone help line (679-1453) manned by some twenty volunteer psychologists, lawyers and police officers trained to answer the calls of battered women. This help line has been operating for almost two years. The association is also working for the rapid adoption of the anti-rape law.

**HEALTH:** *Forte comme una donna* ("strong like a woman"), a committee set up by the Roman section of the Italian League to Control Tumours, plans to open a centre for women who have to cope with health problems. The discovery of a tumour, whether benign or malignant, often causes women to rethink their lifestyles. This centre will provide such women and their families with the right support at such critical periods in their lives. (*Forte come una donna, Sezione provinciale di Roma, Lega italiana per la lotta contro i tumori*, via Salaria 300, 00199 Roma. Tel.: (06) 884-4501)

**DATA BANK:** A data bank on women's training schemes has been operating in the Donnalavorodonna Centre, Milan, since June 1989. The centre's periodic bulletins provide information on the job market, women's training, vocational training and retraining schemes, training centres and women's studies. (*Centro Donnalavorodonna di Milano*, Marisa Guarneri, via Bagutta 12, 20121 Milano. Tel.: (02) 506-0849)

**HISTORY:** The Italian Society of Women Historians, which was founded in February 1989, will publish a periodic calendar of information on initiatives, research and teaching experiments conducted by women or concerning the history of women. (*Societa italiana delle storiche, c/o Centro di documentazione delle donne*, via Galliera 8, 40124 Bologna. Tel.: (051) 233-863)

**CULTURE:** *Donna Poesia*, a volunteer association created two years ago, created a new national prize, *Donna-Poesia*, a year ago to promote women's poetic achievements. The all-woman jury selected the winners from a field of 120 poetesses. The association has published a small booklet containing the winning poems and some of the runners-up. *Donna-Poesia* also organises weekly encounters with known or unpublished poetesses. (*Centro Donna-Poesia*, Amanda Knering, piazza della Rovere 101, 00165 Roma)

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

\* The February issue of the magazine *Minerva Dossier* is devoted to a systematic study of women's commitments to public life and participation in politics from Ancient Greece and Rome to today. (*Dalle Civiltà greco-romana ai nostri giorni : tutte le donne impegnate nella politica, Minerva Dossier*, Anna Maria Mammoliti, viale Giulio Cesare 151, 00192 Roma)

\* In *Donne di denari*, Maria Luisa Minarelli shows how women of all walks of life forged the economies of their countries, from Byzantium to the dawn of the French Revolution. Such well-known figures as Theodora, Eleanore of Aquitaine, Mathilde De Toscane and Elisabeth of England and other lesser-known women rise up out of the mist of the past. (Edizione Olivares, via Santa Maria alla Porta 1, 20123 Milano)

\* Need information on women and the Constitution? *Cittadine : le donne e la costituzione*, published by *Commissione nazionale per la parità uomo/donna* (*Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri*, Palazzo Chigi, 00187 Roma), gives some interesting information.

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L U X E M B O U R G

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**POLITICS:** The women attending the last Socialist Women's Congress expressed their displeasure at the role that they are allowed to play in the party's affairs. Although 31% of the members are women, there is not one woman on the Steering Committee. They feel that discussion of quotas will be necessary in the future. The party's leaders urge them to become part of all of the party's structures. (*Femmes socialistes*, 1 bd de la Foire, 1528 Luxembourg)

**AGRICULTURE:** The recent congress of the women's section of the independent farm movement, FLB, focused on the commitment of and information for women in agriculture. Its Chairwoman, Maria Marx-Meyers, urged the 400 members to enter all of the profession's representative structures. "He who does not participate in public life, he who does not know what is going on in our profession, is lost before he starts". With regard to information and training, the women farmers have already organised several trips to West Germany. They have also supported the FLB's leaders in the latter's quest for effective cooperative structures. (*FLB - section femmes*, c/o. Robert Mehlen, *Chambre des Députés*, rue du Marché-aux-Herbes, Luxembourg)

**EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCE:** Following in the footsteps of Robin Norwood, a US family and marital counselor, *Action familiale et populaire* has created a new discussion group to help women who exhibit excessive dependence on their companions. Interest in only what the companion does, the habit of starting every sentence with "He..." and, above all, the tendency to excuse all his fancies, changes of mood and indifference by putting them down to an unhappy childhood are indicators of this type of uneasy relationship. The discussion group will enable such women to broaden their horizons, share their experiences and acquire, little by little, the confidence that they lack. (*Action familiale et populaire*, *Service consultation*, 3 rue du Curé, 1368 Luxembourg)

**DIVORCE:** The University Psychiatric Centre of Brussels Free University and Luxembourg Society of Psychology held a conference recently on the effects of separations on children's behaviour. According to projections, 40% of marriages in Luxembourg will fail and 20% of the country's children will have divorced parents. According to Nicole Dopchie, head of the psycho-medical department at St. Peter's Hospital, Brussels, the change in the mother's role and attitudes leads to a change in the child's ideas of the couple and parenthood/kinship. If there is strife between the parents, the extent to which the child is perturbed will depend first of all on the nature of the dissension. Thus, a lack of kindness will encourage the development of a fragile personality and create a feeling of insecurity vis-à-vis one of the parents. A separation or divorce always traumatises the child. Nevertheless, he will be able to regain his balance if the parents are on good terms with each other and communicate the idea of potential happiness. (*Extension de l'Université libre de Bruxelles*, c/o Dr. Alfred Lamesch, Centre Hospitalier, 4 rue Barblé, L-1210 Luxembourg)

**MOTHERS' HELPERS:** Luxembourg's Parliament has just voted to approve a European agreement on placing mothers' helpers. This agreement sets down a legal basis for the incorporation of young men and women in their host families. The project is expected to put a stop to the abuses that have followed the restrictions placed on the entry of immigrant workers. It has taken the MPs twenty years to modify their legislation to comply with European standards. (*Chambre des députés*, rue du Marché-aux-Herbes 17, 1728 Luxembourg)

**ANNIVERSARY:** The 10th anniversary of the founding of the *Maison des Femmes*, a women's shelter founded in 1980 by *Femmes en détresse*, was marked by a week of festivities under the patronage of the Commission of the European Communities and Luxembourg's Ministry of Education. A training seminar, round table on violence in the family, international conference on new initiatives to help women, and various cultural events constituted the highlights of this event. 338 women and 469 children have found refuge in the shelter over the last ten years. (*Femmes en détresse a.s.b.l.*, BP 1024, Luxembourg. Tel.: 448181)

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### THE NETHERLANDS

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**POLITICS:** The Dutch association to defend women's interests *Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vrouwenbelangen* sent out letters to all voters prior to the March local elections to urge them to vote for women. This initiative is part of a campaign launched last year - "M/V 50/50" - to achieve equal representation in political institutions. The association hopes to obtain a quota of 34%. This would be a first step towards achieving equal representation by 2000. (*Aktie M/V 50/50*, Noordeinde 2a, 2311 CD Leiden. Tel.: (071) 120603)

**ELECTED:** The General Assembly of the Dutch Women's Council (NVR), meeting at the end of March, elected its new President. She is Anky Salverda-Van der Kar, 47, member of the town council of Beverwijk from 1978 to 1982 and alderwoman for women's emancipation, among other things, from 1982 to 1986. For the last three years she has been a member of the Advisory Office for Alcohol and Drug Control in the region of Haarlem.

**POLITICAL EMANCIPATION:** The Minister of Social Affairs and Employment published recently an updated edition of the brochure *Vrouw en Rijk* (Woman and the State). This brochure gives an overview of the emancipation policies waged in the various government departments under the 1985 Emancipation Guidelines (*Beleidsplan Emancipatie*). The brochure attaches great importance to interactions between emancipation policies and social upheavals. It is also available in English. (*Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, Centrale Directie Voorlichting, Bibliotheek en Documentatie*, Postbus 20801, 2500 EV Den Haag)

**WOMEN IN POWER:** Should a woman or a man be put in charge of a department? A report on managerial approaches commissioned by the Ministry for Social Affairs, shows that the differences that do exist depend less on the boss's gender than on the corporate culture, type of department and nature of the employees' work. Based on research carried out in the USA, the investigators (De Jong & Van Doorne Huiskes) interviewed 18 department heads of both sexes. The result is *Stijl van leiding geven van vrouwen en mannen* (management styles of women and men), ISBN 90-3639761-8, price: 14 guilders. (BSW/*Administratie Centrum Delft*, Postbus 500, 2600 AM Delft. Tel.: (015) 145742)

**CAREERS:** Marianne Den Hartog, Director of the company Business Center Management b.v., in The Hague, has received the *Vrouwennetwerk* (Women's Network) Foundation's annual prize for the way she runs her company and her contributions to the network. The Foundation, which will celebrate its 10th birthday this year, has some 2,000 members. its aim is to enable women to share experience and information on jobs and careers.

**CAREER ADVANCEMENT:** The women's section of the FNV trade union has singled out eleven employers who are trying to implement active emancipation policies in their companies for awards to encourage their efforts in this direction. The winners include Centraal Beheer (Apeldoorn) and Van Doorne's Transmissie (Tilburg). (*Vrouwenbond FNV*, Postbus 8576, 10005 AN Amsterdam. tel.: (02) 581-6300)

**MATERNITY LEAVE:** The First Chamber has approved the bill to extend maternity leaves from 12 to 16 weeks. Under the new law it will be possible to take part of the leave (4-6 weeks) before the due date. If the baby comes earlier than expected, the young mother will be able to carry the prenatal leave over to the postnatal leave. If the baby is late, she will receive sick pay for the extra days, which will not be subtracted from her maternity leave, and she may thus be absent for more than 16 weeks. Self-employed women or women working in their spouses' businesses will also be eligible for maternity leaves.

**CHILDCARE:** 646 of the 672 Dutch communes want to benefit from the measure applied by the Ministry of Welfare, Public Health and Culture (see *Women of Europe* No. 60, p. 27) to increase the capacities of their childcare facilities. However, the applications for subsidies to create new State-run childcare centres or private facilities in 1990 will exceed the 130 million guilders initially earmarked for this. Consequently, not all of the requests can be met. The Ministry has already informed the local authorities of the amounts that they will be eligible to receive. Places for 40,000 children will be created this year.

**VIOLENCE IN THE HOME:** A doctoral thesis by Dr. Cachet (*Politie en sociale controle*) attempts to determine whether the police's role in protecting the population from insecurity and crime meets the public's expectations. He found that police action apparently has little effect without the support of organisations that are instrumental in socialisation or social control. The investigator concludes, based on a case study, that the immediate family and friends are reluctant to go to the police when private problems arise. Moreover, the victims, those who report the incidents and witnesses rarely cooperate fully with the police and courts so as to ensure the outcome of legal prosecution. (*Politie en sociale controle*, Dr. Cachet, Gouda Quint B.V., Arnhem. Tel.: (085) 454762)

**EVENTS:** The Multidisciplinary Women's Studies Working Group (*Interfacultaire Werkgroep Vrouwenstudies*) of Utrecht University will be holding an international congress, called "Double Trouble", on 17-18 May. Women's studies researchers from a number of countries (France, Canada, England, the United States and Norway) have been invited to talk about their ideas of feminism. ("Double Trouble", Drift 13, Utrecht. Tel.: (030) 392125 - Ask for Nelleke Van Zessen, congress coordinator, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**PUBLICATIONS:** The emancipation studies group *Stimuleringsgroep emancipatieonderzoek* (STEO) has published an English translation of the book *14 jaar vrouwenstudies in Nederland* (14 Years of Women's Studies in the Netherlands), published in 1988. This book describes the achievements of women's studies over the 14-year period and analyses the history and evolution of theories in this field. (*The Development of Women's Studies: a Report from the Netherlands*, ISBN No. 90-6765439-6 Foris Publications Holland, Postbus 509, 3300 AM Dordrecht. Price: 28 guilders.

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P O R T U G A L

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POLITICS:

- \* Luisa Oliveira Nisa and Deolinda Martins are the new Municipal Assembly President and town councillor of Fronteira, respectively, two positions that were recently vacated.
- \* What policies for people will be conducted in the nineties? What strategy should the Social Democratic Party (PSD) adopt? These were some of the questions tackled at the second national meeting of Social Democratic women, which was attended by MEP Margarida Salema, among others. The more than 600 women attending this meeting in Lisbon discussed the changes that the nineties will produce for women and the party's stand on working for equal opportunity and treatment. Only 24.5% of the PSD's members are women, and they are even less well represented in the party's institutions. Women fill only 15% of the seats on the National Policy Committee and 7.2% of the National Council seats. They account for only 6.8% of the group's MPs. (PSD, rua de Sao Caetano n° 9, 1296 Lisboa Codex)

JUSTICE:

- \* A woman - Maria De Jesus Lopes - has been named President of the Portuguese Bar for the first time in this institution's history. She will serve a three-year term. (*Ordem dos advogados*, Largo de S. Domingos 14 2°, 1194 Lisboa)
- \* At the request of the Portuguese Association of Women Lawyers (*Associação Portuguesa de Mulheres Juristas - APMJ*), the Justice Minister has referred a request that a Supreme Court decision be declared constitutional to the Constitutional Court. The contested decision stipulates that the clauses on the non-transmissibility of lease rights cannot be applied to unwed couples who separate, even if they have minor dependents. The APMJ contends that this measure violates the rights of children born out of wedlock, because it creates discrimination on the basis of their parents' marital status, which is contrary to the Constitution. The Justice Minister considered the association's request timely and founded. (Rosemary Stau Monteiro, Tel.: 661776 or 539189)

OPEN LETTER: The Women's Democratic Movement (*Movimento Democrático de Mulheres - MDM*) has addressed an open letter to the Assembly of the Republic in which it proposes opening a parliamentary inquest on the infringement and non-enforcement of the 1984 laws on women's rights, maternal and child protection, sexual violence and contraception. MDM contends that the Government lacks the will to solve problems such as the lack of support structures for childbearing, illegal abortions, the lack of sex education, the large number of teenage mothers and infant mortality. (MDM, avenida Duque de Loulé 111 4°, 1000 Lisboa)

**EMPLOYMENT:** The Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for Employment and Vocational training, Bagao Felix, chaired the recent plenary meeting of the Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment, CITE (*Comissao para a Igualdade no Trabalho e no Emprego*). This body discussed the situation of female labour and the new employment and vocational training programmes developed for them and approved by the European Community. Job possibilities rose 2.2% in 1989 and the average hiring rate was higher for women (3.2%) than for men (1.2%). Nevertheless, women continue to be harder hit by unemployment (7.1%) than men (3.2%) (*Comissao para a Igualdade no Trabalho e no Emprego*, avenida da Republica 62 8° Esq., 1000 Lisboa. Tel.: 778963)

**WOMEN'S STATUS:** The Advisory Board of the Committee on Women's Status has met to give its opinion of the CWS's 1990 agenda. This is the first year that the CWS will have a budget of 10 million escudos, allocated as a result of the long fight waged by the opposition MPs. This budget meets the demands that NGOs have been making for years. (*Comissao da Condicao feminina*, avenida da Republica 32 1°, 1093 Liboa Codex)

**OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESSES:** There were 1,302 cases of occupational illness in Portugal in 1989, according to the General Labour Inspection Office's latest health report. The non-metal mining industry headed the list with 355 cases of illness, followed by metalworking (278), building and public works (159), the mining of metallic ores (128) and the chemicals industry (76). Men between the ages of 21 and 35 were the hardest hit, followed by the group between the ages of 36 and 50. The pattern was identical for women. However, the figures for women under 21 were also high. The accident rate was generally higher for men (14.2%) than women (7.7%). (*Inspecção Geral do Trabalho*, Praça de Alvalade 1°, 1700 Lisboa. Tel.: 775176, 772397)

**EXPATRIATES:** *Mulheres de expressao portuguesa* (Portuguese-speaking Women) is the name of a new organisation founded recently in Switzerland to serve as a meeting place for all Portuguese or Portuguese-speaking women who live in the country. (*Mulheres de expressao portuguesa*, Ana Maria Marinho Witzig, Oberseldstrasse 5, CH-8500 Fravenveld, Switzerland)

**ARMY:** A major first in the history of the Portuguese army - a woman has finally received the officer's sword. Guilhermina Maria Brito Lima was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in the medical corps along with eleven other physicians who have left civilian life for active duty in the army. (*Baltalhao do servico de saude*, Brancanes, 2900 Setubal. Tel.: (065) 23036)

**ADA OURO AWARD:** Fernanda Pires da Silva, President of Grao-Para (an economic group), has received the Ada Ouro merit award for her services to the country's economy. Pires da Silva has founded and set many companies back on their feet, instilling them with the necessary dynamism. Until now, this honour had been conferred only on the President of the Republic, Prime Minister, and Spain's Ambassador to Portugal.

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S P A I N

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**SEXUAL HARASSMENT:**

\* The women's affairs office of the trade union association CC.00 (*Secretaria Confederal de la mujer de CC.00*) launched a campaign against sexual harassment one year ago. The publication of a book on labour union action against sexual harassment, *Acción sindical frente al Acoso sexual*, is the second phase of this campaign. This brochure is a useful tool for coping with this problem. It contains a definition of sexual harassment and describes the attitudes of women, men and labour unions towards this serious problem. It also advises employers to publish a statement establishing the right of women workers to live free of sexual harassment and punishing sexual harassment; to inform women workers of existing procedures for complaints; to guarantee that no woman shall be subject to reprisals if instances of harassment are denounced; and to create the position of confidential counselor to help victims of sexual harassment. (*Secretaria Confederal de la Mujer de CC.00.*, Fernandez de la Hoz 12, Tel.: 308-5699)

\* The court of Castilla-La Mancha has ruled that the National Social Security Institute and National Institute of Health must recognise the rights of a 35-year-old nurse who was sexually assaulted by one of her colleagues and pay her 10% disability for the 26 months of psychological inability to work that followed the attack. The court equated this incident with an occupational accident. (see address above)

**RAPE:** The Spanish umbrella group of women's organisations, *Coordinadora de Organizaciones Feministas*, which currently has 40 member organisations, has expressed its indignation at the Provincial Court of Oviedo's ruling that reduced the sentence of a man who had raped his wife, arguing that "marital fidelity limits their sexual freedom"!! The *Coordinadora* has called for a reform of the penal code, which considers marital duties extenuating circumstances in rape cases (*Coordinadora de Organizaciones Feministas*, Barquillo 44, 28004 Madrid)

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:** A cooperation agreement has been signed between the Education and Science Ministry and the Social Affairs Ministry to develop a Women's Equal Opportunity Plan for education. In doing so, Spain heeds the Community's various recommendations on the need to draw up specific policies for women and equal opportunity in the entire educational system. (*Instituto de la Mujer*, Calle Almagro 36, 28010 Madrid)

**WORKING CONDITIONS:** The Women's Collective, trade unions and administration celebrated International Women's Day (8 March) by means of various festivities that highlighted the need to denounce all cases of sexual harassment in the workplace and to increase the number of women in the working world. According to an EC census of the working population, women make up only 21% of Spain's working population (versus a Community average of 32%). According to the Women's Institute's data, more than 36% of female employees, i.e., some 1.5 million women, must cope with precarious, irregular working conditions. Moreover, a Spanish woman earns 19% less on average than a man working at the same job in the same company. (*Instituto de la Mujer*, see above).



**TRAINING AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES:** With the backing of the National Employment Ministry and help of autonomous and local administrations, the Women's Institute is expanding a vocational training programme for women over 16 who are the sole means of support of one or more children. Some 1,000 women received grants enabling them to begin these training courses in September. The programme is conducted in six provinces: Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla, Valencia, Zaragoza and Murcia. (*Instituto de la Mujer*, Almagro 36, 28010 Madrid. Tel.: 410-5112 or 410-5114)

**AIDS:** According to a study by the Spanish Paediatrics Association, 1,416 HIV-seropositive babies were born in 1989 in Spain. Most of the mothers were seropositive drug addicts. 70% of these women did not know that they were carriers of the virus before delivery.

**WORKERS' BENEFITS:** Of the 3,000 requests for minimum guaranteed incomes sent to the Welfare Department of the government of Cantábrica in 1989, 68% were from women between the ages of 25 and 34. Most of these women had minor dependents and received no alimony from their former spouses.

**EMILIA PARDO BAZAN PRIZE:** The Emilia Pardo Bazan Prize was created to call attention to published or unpublished textbooks and teaching materials that depict the roles of women and the status of women in society. Four young teachers - Teresa Canales, Clara Garcia, Encarna Hidalgo and Assumta Sopena - are the co-authors of this year's winning textbook on the history of civilisation (published in Catalan and Spanish). During the awards ceremony, Carmen Martinez Ten, who is directress of the Women's Institute and presided over the ceremony, stressed the high quality of the material that had been submitted and the need to combat sexist stereotypes in teaching materials and textbooks. (*Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia*, Alcalá 34, 28014 Madrid. Tel.: 532-1300)

**SEMINAR:** The Women's Studies Seminar of Basque Country University is offering a series of seminars from January to May 1990 on "women in the creative process" to spread and encourage knowledge of women's contributions to Basque culture and society. (Teresa Del Valle, *Universidad del País Vasco*, c/. Triunfo 4, bajo San Sebastian. Tel.: (94) 468478)

**EVENTS:**

\* The Fourth International Feminist Book Fair will be held in Barcelona on 19-23 June. This event will be attended by some 80 publishers from around the world. The major theme this year will be "Women as publishers, vectors and consumers of culture in the '90s". (Information: 4th International Feminist Book Fair, Casa Elizalde, Valencia 302, 08009 Barcelona. Tel.: 487-2894, 487-1393)

\* The women's association *Agora Feminista* held a series of seminars on avant-garde women authors of the 20th century, in which various important literary figures were studied. (*Agora Feminista*, calle Almagro 28, 28010 Madrid)

\* The Community of Madrid's General Directorate for Women's Affairs held a symposium on drafting a municipal equal opportunity plan for women. The two sole women mayors in the region and many local councilwomen and officials in areas affecting women attended. The conclusions concerned the need to create advisory services and meeting places for women. (*Dirección General de la Mujer de la Comunidad de Madrid*, P° Castellana 60, 6 a planta. Tel.: 411-6560)

- \* The "Women and Working Conditions" Days were kicked off on 8 March (International Women's Day). The participants included Carmen Martinez Ten, Director of the Women's Institute, and Concepción Serrano Herrero, Director of the National Institute of Safety and Hygiene. In her opening speech Martinez Ten underscored current changes in women's status and their rapid inclusion in the labour market, with a reminder that this phenomenon could not be separated from the massive influx of women in the educational system. Indeed, there were 3,933,900 working women in Spain in 1984. This figure was 5,026,600 in 1989, which is an increase of 26.2%. (*Instituto de la Mujer* - see above)
- \* The Confederal Women's Affairs Department of the General Labour Union, UGT, held a series of round table discussions in the 1st quarter of 1989. The 3rd Working Women's Day/Conference was celebrated in Madrid at the end of November with 147 labour union delegates from across Spain and 67 representatives of various national and international bodies attending. The objectives set for the next four years include employment and unemployment, training, the strengthening of women's affairs departments and/or the creation of a Women's Secretariat, and women in trade unions and society. (*Union General de Trabajadores*).

**PROEMOLA PRIZE:** The Spanish Federation of Women Executives, Professionals and Entrepreneurs (*Federación Española de Mujeres Directivas, Profesionales y Empresarias* - FEDEPE) has conferred its Proemola Prize on Ma Jesus Prieto, head of the International Division for Advanced Services of the telephone company, where she has worked for 20 years. This wife and mother of four is a senior engineer in telecommunications and speaks several languages.

**IRISH/SPANISH EXCHANGES:** A group of young women from Derry, Northern Ireland, recently travelled to Catalonia to meet with the women of this region and learn about their language, culture and the problems with which they are confronted. This project was a great success from all points of view and made the participants more aware of a European dimension through which they can set up ties with women from all walks of life.

**PUBLICATIONS:** The Women's Institute recently published a book called *Mujeres, tecnología y desarrollo* to determine the place of women in development. This book is intended for all women and men who work in the field of development in some capacity, especially in government development agencies, NGOs and social volunteer organizations. (*Instituto de la Mujer*, see above).

**REMARK:** A reader has pointed out that the remark that Carmen Romero "has no intention of neglecting her family life and the raising of her three children" (*Women of Europe* No. 62) was sexist. We agree and ask our readers to please excuse us.

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THE UNITED KINGDOM

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**WOMEN AT THE TOP:** Seventy years after women won the right to vote, few women make it to the top in the major institutions of the UK, says the report of the Hansard Society's Commission on Women at the Top. The report recommends government action to end discrimination against women in the honours system and in ministerial appointments, the appointment of equal opportunity officers in all universities, compulsory reports on equal opportunity policies and practices in all company annual reports and more official encouragement for legally qualified women to move up the judicial hierarchy. The Commission, which is chaired by Lady Howe, a former Deputy Chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission, has also called for a Speaker's Conference (cross-party group) to examine the way in which parliamentary and political party procedures discriminate against women and to make proposals for change. (Women at the Top is available from the Hansard Society, 16 Gower Street, London WC1E 6DP. Price: 7.50)

**RETURN-TO-WORK CAMPAIGN:** BBC's "Women's Hour", the Department of Employment and the Pepperell Unit (the Industrial Society's equal opportunities department) have pooled their expertise in a campaign to help women return to work. The nationwide "Back to the Future" campaign, which was launched in London at the end of January with a live broadcast on "Woman's Hour", is based on a series of conferences run by the Pepperell Unit and funded by the Department of Employment. The campaign aims to give women the information they need about careers and training opportunities to help them make the right decisions about going back to work. (The Industrial Society, Africa House, 64-78 Kingsway, London WC2)

**PREJUDICE:** The Southern Derbyshire Health Authority has admitted discriminating systematically against women with children when recruiting for midwifery training at Derby City Hospital because it assumed that such women would have difficulty coping with the training and family responsibilities. The situation was revealed by a formal investigation by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

**CANCER:** A report in the medical journal The Lancet based on a study of 45,000 women says that Britain's breast cancer screening system is saving few lives and could be a waste of money. The report is not against screening for breast cancer in principle, but condemns the way it is organised in Britain. According to the report, the current system has cut the death rate from breast cancer over a 7-year period by only 17%, while other countries have achieved reductions of 30%. The main reason for this lack of success is that women do not come forward for testing when invited because, *inter alia*, they are afraid of the treatment if cancer should be detected.

**ROYAL NAVY:** For the first time in its long history, the Royal Navy is to allow women to serve at sea on warships. Women will serve on all front-line ships except submarines (because of the limited accommodations). Severe recruiting problems have forced the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Navy to depart from the centuries-old tradition that women did not go to sea on Royal Navy vessels. All three armed services - the Army, Air Force and Navy - face recruiting problems in the 1990s. The first two have already opened new roles to women, but only the Navy seems prepared to put women into combat roles.

**CHANGE:** Change, the UK-based organisation that works to promote understanding of the status and development of women worldwide, is ten years old. Set up in 1979 to meet the need for educational materials and information on the lives of women and their unrecognised contributions to national economies and related issues, Change, under its founding Director Georgina Ashworth, publishes reports and country profiles commissioned from women in developing countries, as well as handbooks and resource packs for women's groups. (Change, P.O. Box 824, London SE24 9JS)

**CHILDCARE:** A new deal negotiated between the Treasury and trade unions will give 500,000 UK civil servants greater opportunity to share family responsibilities. The agreement will entitle a new father to two days' paternity leave on the birth of his child and a new mother an extra week's paid maternity leave. It will also provide more flexible access to special family leave.

**CAPITAL OF CULTURE:** Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, has passed the torch of European Capital of Culture to Susan Baird, Lord Provost of Glasgow. The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attended the ceremony. Glasgow is the sixth city to be crowned "European Capital of Culture". Its predecessors are Athens (1985), Florence (1986), Amsterdam (1987), Berlin (1988) and Paris (1989).

**NEW TECHNOLOGIES:** Women into Technology in the European Community and the University Enterprise Training Partnership (WITEC-UETP), established in 1988, is a European network of centres for the motivation, development and support of women in science, technology and enterprise. WITEC centres include representatives from universities, industries and enterprise promoters who are all interested in training and guidance for and research on women in technology; their members are drawn from every EC Member State. WITEC-UETP has active links with other entities seeking the same goals, namely, GASAT (Girls and Science and Technology), SEFI (Working Group on women in Engineering Education), UNESCO's Working Group on Women in Higher Education and WES (Women's Engineering Society). For more information, contact Dalene McShane, Project Officer, Centre for Continuing Vocational Education, University of Sheffield, 65 Wilkinson Street, Sheffield S10 2GJ. Tel.: (0742) 768653.

**EVENTS:**

\* Dundee hosted a conference in March called by the Tayforth Training Consortium in an attempt to redress the present imbalance in women's positions in social work management and help further women's careers in social work. The conference is part of a comprehensive strategy that should have far-reaching, positive implications for women social workers in three central Scottish Regions - Tayside, Fife and Central. About 80% of the combined workforce in the three Region's Social Work Departments are women, but only 20% of the senior posts are held by women. The Conference and Positive Action Plan drawn up during the conference are major breakthroughs in promoting equal opportunities and better career prospects for women in Central Scotland. Particular attention was given to women who are doubly disadvantaged because of disabilities or ethnic origin. (Fife Regional Council, Social Work Department, Caledonian House, 3 New Row, Dunfermline. Tel.: 736434)

- \* The 9th International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists will be held at the University of Warwick on 14 to 20 July 1991. The conference is an important forum for debate on the technical and social problems that affect both the industrial and developing world. (Conference Services Ltd., Congress House, 55 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7RE)

#### PUBLICATIONS:

- \* Women's enjoyment of human rights - freedom from fear and want and freedom of speech and belief - is vastly inferior to that of men, argues Georgina Ashworth in a new publication called Of Violence and Violation. The author, who is director of the organisation Change (see above), based her report on more than ten years' work with human rights organisations from all over the world. She argues that sex bias has ensured the neglect of certain forms of violation. (Change, P.O. Box 824, London SE24 9JS)
- \* The magazine Everywoman has just published the first national directory of enterprises owned and run by women, Women Mean Business. The 1990 edition, which was published with the support of the Women's Information Service of the European Commission, contains information on more than 750 businesses and 100 business advice agencies. (Women Mean Business: The Everywoman Directory of Women's Cooperatives and Other Enterprises 1990. Address mail orders (Price: 4.50) to Everywoman, FREEPOST, London N1 8BR. Address: 34 Islington Green, London N1 8BR)
- \* The NI EOC (Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland) has published A Casebook of Decisions on Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay. "This Casebook is the first of its kind to be devoted to decisions in the areas of sex discrimination and equal pay in Northern Ireland," said NI EOC Chair and Chief Executive Mary Clark-Glass, adding, "The publication aims to provide an overview of how the law has developed to protect people from unlawful sex discrimination in Northern Ireland over the past fifteen years". (Evelyn Collins, Chief Equality Officer, 22 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 2BA. Tel.: 242752)

CENTRAL AND EASTERN  
EUROPE

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE:** Hungary, Poland and the Soviet Union have special guest status at the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly since 8 June 1989 with 6, 6 and 18 members, respectively. As a result of recent developments, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia have also asked for this status. On 16 November 1989 Hungary also became the first Central European country to submit a request to become a full member of the Council of Europe.

**BULGARIA:** Bulgaria's women and men have been recognised as equals by law since 1941. This law stipulates that people of both sexes have the same economic, social, cultural, public and political rights. The 1947 and 1971 constitutions likewise proclaim this equal status for Bulgarian women. Now for a few figures on the status of women in Bulgaria: In 1978, women accounted for 49.1% of the working population; 21% of the national delegates were women, while 3 of the 28 members of the Council of State were women. The current Government includes two women, Nora Ananieva, Vice-Chair of the Council of Ministers, and Ekaterina Marinova, Ministry of Trade and Services.

**HUNGARY:**

\* Speaking at the invitation of the state of Berlin's Women's Council (*Landesfrauenrat Berlin*), Eniko Bollobas, a professor at Jozsef Attila University, Hungary, painted a very bleak picture of the status of Hungarian women. Their specific demands are rarely listened to in the official bodies and parties, in which they may or may not be represented. Their chances of having careers are slim, their wages are about 30% lower than those of their male colleagues and, moreover, their work day starts all over again when they come home after work. (Eniko Bollobas, associate professor, Department of English, Jozsef Attila University, Szeged Egyetem utca 2, Budapest, H-6722 Hungary)

\* The first East/West European Training Conference was held in Budapest in January of this year. The event was organised jointly by the Hungarian Ministries of Employment and Labour and National Education and two West European organisations, the Berlin-based European Center for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) and the Paris-based European Institute for Vocational Training. 300 specialists from 24 European countries had the opportunity to meet and learn about each others' teaching methods. Luciano Baroncelli, representing the Human Resources, Training and Youth Task Force of the European Commission, reminded his listeners that Community programmes such as EUROTECNET, ERASMUS and COMETT are storehouses of experience that could easily be adapted to Hungary and Poland. Mathias Hinterscheid, Secretary-General of ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation), put emphasis on having everyone, i.e., the public powers, management and trade unions, participate in drawing up a vocational training strategy.

**POLAND:** The Women's Section of the European People's Party (EPP - the federation of Christian Democratic Parties of the EC), invited 20 women members of *Solidarnosc* to come to the EC in late February to early March to study politics and the workings of associations in the West. Close to half of these delegates are members of the *Diet* or Senate, the two houses of the Polish Parliament. (EPP, 16 rue de la Victoire, B-1060 Brussels. Tel.: (02) 537-2589)

**SOVIET UNION:** The Soviet Women's Committee (SWC), founded in 1941, now has 355 representatives of the 15 federated republics, various autonomous republics and major regions and all the professions in which women are found. It has a 55-person praesidium. 75 women in the Assembly of Nationalities come from SWC-backed women's associations. During the first free local elections (held in March 1989), female representation in the Supreme Soviet was halved (from 33 to 15%). Being a man is currently a *sine qua non* for political success. Nevertheless, the SWC has already won several battles, such as the creation of a parliamentary "Committee on Women's Status, Family Protection and Children" (chaired by a Deputy who is also a member of the SWC's praesidium) and the recent creation of government department with the same attributions. This department shall monitor compliance with existing law and may draft bills. It is directly accountable to the Premier.

**CORRECTION:** The English title of the bilingual Canadian magazine *Cahiers de la Femme* mentioned in the last issue is Canadian Woman Studies ("Soviet Women", Canadian Woman Studies Vol. 10, No. 4, Suite 212, Founders College, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario M3J 1P3)

NEWS FROM  
WESTERN EUROPE AND THE WORLD

**CHINA:** Two Chinese towns, Shanghai and Yangzhou, have banned tests to sex children before birth. The measure could soon be extended to the entire country, for these tests tend to be followed by abortions if the foetus is female. Boys are favoured in traditional Chinese society; sexing the children before birth helps increase the already large disproportion between males and females in China. (From the Belgian daily *Le Soir* of 21.03.90)

**HAITI:** On 13 March 1990 Ertha Pascal-Trouillot became the first woman head of state in the history of Haiti. She was named to the post after the former President, General Herard Abraham, resigned. Judge and widow of a lawyer, she was instrumental in crafting social emancipation in general, women's emancipation in particular, in the seventies. In 1986 she became the first woman named to the *Cour de cassation* (final court of appeal). Before that, she was the first woman to sit on the Executive Committee of the Bar of Haiti and the Appeals Court. These posts enabled her to preserve her reputation of independence from the government. Pascal-Trouillot stressed that she would carry out her new duties for a brief transition period. According to statements, she sees her task as one of "holding the reins of government" during the electoral period which should culminate as soon as possible in the election of a new, definitive Government chosen freely by the people. (From the Belgian daily *Le Soir* of 14.03.90)

**IRAN:** The Democratic Organisation of Iranian Women, which was created in 1940, is the only independent organisation in Iran that is fighting for women's lib. The 1953 coup led to the exile and imprisonment of many women's rights activists. The 1979 revolution institutionalised the submission of women and some of the organisation's leaders, such as Marianne Firouze (co-founder of the International Democratic Federation of Women) were arrested (she is still in gaol today). The situation of women prisoners in Iran is alarming. They are kept separate and in isolation. An Iranian woman correspondent of Clara, the French Women's Union publication, has called on European Governments officially to raise the issue of the fates of women prisoners in Iran. (Clara, *Union des Femmes Françaises* - see the section on France for address)

**MALI:** Once again, Third World women are showing that they are participating actively in the development of their countries. According to a press release from the Malian Consulate in Luxembourg, the women merchants and entrepreneurs of the Republic of Mali have grouped together not only to coordinate their dealings with trading partners (both in the subregion and internationally), but also to help promote trade between Mali and foreign countries. (Malian Consulate in Luxembourg)

**WOMEN IN POWER:** Violetta Chamorro is the second woman to become president of a Latin American country. (The first one was Isabel Peron of Argentina, who governed between 1974 and 1976.) Chamorro will thus join the select circle of women in high political office in the world, i.e., Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Great Britain; Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, President of Iceland since 1980; Corazon Aquino, President of the Philippines; Benazir Butto, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan since December 1988; Mary Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of the Dominican Republic; Maria Liberia-Peters, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles; and Rita Süßmuth, President of the Bundestag of the FRG.



**QUEBEC:** The University of Montreal was the scene of a horrible massacre at the end of last year. On 6 December 1989 a man armed with a shotgun burst into a classroom, separated the men from the women, and began firing. Fourteen women were killed simply because they were women. Thirteen other people (9 women and 4 men) were injured, some seriously. While this dramatic incident is unprecedented for its violence, violence directed at women nevertheless continues to exist throughout our society. The January issue of the news bulletin *Communiqu'ELLES* is dedicated to the victims of the University of Montreal massacre and all women who are subjected to violence. Such acts force us to fight for the eradication of all forms of violence against women the world over.

**SENEGAL:** The African cultural exchange and activities centre *Centre Africain d'Animation et d'Echanges culturels* (CAEC) is a non-governmental organisation for the promotion of literature and culture. In less than two years, the Centre has acquired international renown and put out a quarterly agenda of activities that include debates on issues of general interest, specialised seminars and workshops and cultural events. CAEC holds an annual literary competition that has already honoured authors in various countries. It also publishes books. One noteworthy publication is *Le dard du secret* by Sokhna Benga, available from *Editions CAEC-Khoudia*, BP 5332, Poste de Fann, Dakar.

**UN:** On the 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the UN has reaffirmed its determination to work towards achieving the ideal expressed by the Social Charter, namely, equal rights for men and women for the good of all mankind. An information pack containing, among other things, the complete text of the Convention, information sheets on the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Commission on the Status of Women, statistics and indicators of the status of women in the world, a rundown of women's participation in politics, the situation of women in the developing countries, etc., may be obtained in English, Spanish or French by writing to: Economic and Social Development and Human Rights Programme Section, Room S-1061, Department of Public Information, United Nations, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017. Periodic reports from the countries that have ratified the Convention may be obtained from the Women's Advancement Division (Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500A, A-1400 Vienna, Austria)

**GREENPEACE:** In the autumn Greenpeace launched an East/West educational project to make children east and west aware of environmental concerns. Eighteen schools from nine different countries are participating actively in this project. Representatives of all of these participating schools will meet in the Soviet Union in July.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

- \* The Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press (WIFP) has published a directory of women's media for 15 years already. This directory is an efficient tool for research, to facilitate contacts in the field and strengthen exchanges between journalists and the public. It lists 702 periodicals and 111 women journalists and publishers. It is the only international directory of its kind. Since 26 January 1990 the Directory of Women's Media has been taken over by the National Council for Research on Women, a non-profit organisation that consists of 60 centres worldwide and provides research assistance, policy analyses and programmes. The Council will publish the 1990 Directory. It also publishes A Women's Mailing List Directory, which lists 148 international women's studies centres located in 47 countries. (The National Council for Research on Women, Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House, 47-49 East 65th St., New York, NY 10021, USA. Tel.: (212) 570-5001)
  
- \* In her latest book, Women's Asia (published in English), the Japanese journalist and coordinator of the Asian Women's Association Yayori Matsui denounces Japan's opulent society for contributing to the impoverishment of Asian women. She documents cases of child prostitution and the spread of the sex industry to the Philippines and Thailand. At the same time, she draws a powerful, optimistic portrait of a very different reality, i.e., Burmese women's confidence in the vitality of their matriarchal traditions, the bravery of Filipino women under the Marcos dictatorship, and Korean women's fight for democracy. Yayori Matsui is also a co-founder of the Asian Women's Association, which, among other things, is working to abolish sex tours in Asia.

## L A T I N A M E R I C A

**ARGENTINA:** The Argentine Women's Union UMA, which never ceased to fight during the worst years of repression and military dictatorship, held its first international women's meeting last year, in November. The theme of "*Del Campo Popular*" was "defending life to change it, changing life to defend it". Several hundred women from trade unions, church organisations, and human rights organisations attended. The meeting was wrapped up by UMA Secretary Maria Inés Brassesco. (Union de Mujeres de Argentina, Teresita De Ivan, President, Lavalle 1370, 3, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel.: 40-1813)

**BRAZIL:**

\* Brazil's new president, Fernando Collor, has unveiled a particularly austere economic recovery plan. To get a handle on inflation, which is running at almost 100% a month, the new team led by Zelia Cardoso de Melo has decided to freeze bank deposits, tax banking operations conducted as of the plan's entry into effect and tax stock market revenue. The other measures announced in the recovery plan will be accompanied by numerous firings, the end of subsidies, etc.

\* At 54 years of age, Luiza Erundina (*Partido dos Trabalhadores*) is the first woman mayor in the history of Sao Paulo. She must face the difficult task of running the largest city in South America. It is also the city with the highest crime rate. Her priorities are to improve housing conditions and extend such municipal services supplying water and electricity to the poorest neighbourhoods.

**CHILE:** COFECH (Collective of Chilean Women Exiled in France) has provided Chilean women living in France with a place to think, meet and help each other for the past 16 years. (COFECH. President: Maria Loreto Vargas, 3 rue Beaugrenelle, F-75015 Paris, France)

**COLOMBIA:** The Ministry of Agriculture recently launched a project to organise and training rural women that is sponsored by UNICEF. The aim of this project is to support and increase the participation of women in rural affairs and local, regional and national organisations. To this end, the Ministry has published an illustrated book, with the help of the National Association of Rural and Native Women of Colombia, ANMUCIC, designed as a teaching tool to inform rural women of the various administrative bodies that exist (*Nosotros y el municipio, Asociación nacional de Mujeres Campesinas e Indígenas de Colombia*, Apartado Aéreo, Carrera 10, 20-30, OF 601, Ministerio de Agricultura, 1041 Bogotá, Colombia)

PERU: Lima's Women's Information and Documentation Centre opened for business in 1985. Since then it has been visited by thousands of people eager to learn about the richness and complexity of women's views through articles, testimony, studies, etc. The Documentation Centre is going to open a woman's bookshop for the sale and spread of publications. (*Centro de Documentación sobre la Mujer*, Av. Arenales 2626, 3° Piso, Lima 14, Peru. Tel.: 426898)

TRAINING: CLACSO, the Latin American Council for Social Sciences, has chosen aid for training and research in women's studies as one of its main objectives. It has thus organised, within the context of the Latin American Women's Research and Training programme, its third competition for research grants. For information, contact: *Secretaria Ejecutiva de CLACSO, Programa Latinoamericano de Investigación y Formación sobre la Mujer*, Av. Callao 875, 3° "E", 1023 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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 BOOKS, STUDIES AND MEETINGS
 

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EQUAL TREATMENT:

- \* The yearbook *Pari e Dispari* is designed as a reference and source of information for all those who are interested in the complex relationships among women, work and society. The first volume analyses the labour market and the schooling of women in Lombardy (*Pari e Dispari - Donne, scolarità, mercato del lavoro, legislazioni, contrattazione*, Franco Angeli Libri, viale Monza 106, I-20127 Milano)
- \* The Swiss Federal Office for Male/Female Equality, which was set up on 1 January 1989, has published a handbook on sexual equality at work. It contains a chapter for companies and organisations, another chapter for personnel associations and unions, and a third chapter aimed specifically at women. (*La promotion de la femme, une promesse à tenir*, Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes, C.P. 5653, CH-3001 Bern. Tel.: (031) 616843)

SOCIOLOGY:

- \* Issue 25 of the magazine *Memoria* is devoted to feminist strategy in the USA. The essays attempt to reproduce the confrontation between American feminist culture and one of the most complex theories spawned in Europe, post-structuralism. (*Genere e soggetto, strategie del femminismo fra Europa e America*, *Memoria* No. 25, presso Fondazione Basso, via della Dogana Vecchia 5, I-00186 Roma)
- \* In Algeria's patriarchal society, working and providing for the family are legally the man's responsibilities. Given the tight job market, the number of working women (2.3% in 1977) is exceptional. This phenomenon is primarily urban. It mainly affects a marginal group of young women or women who are excluded from the traditional roles of wives and mothers, i.e., single women, widows and divorcees. Working outside the home changes the male/female relationship, which is one of subversion/neutralisation. As a result, tension between the sexes has been heightened. (*L'honneur face au travail des femmes en Algérie*, Dahbia Abrous, published by L'Harmattan, 16 rue des Ecoles, F-75005 Paris)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES: The Human Resources Task Force has published a brochure on equal opportunities. This brochure summarises the Commission's report on this subject, the first fruit of the action undertaken and local initiatives in this area. (*Equal Opportunities*, Task Force: Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels)

EDUCATION: The Human Resources Task Force has also put out a booklet that takes stock of the introduction of new technology in education from 1983 to 1987 (*Introduction of new technologies in education from 1983 to 1987*) and a guide to the different networks for education, training and the exchange of students between teaching establishments in the twelve Member States (*Guide to the European Community Programmes in the Field of Education, Training and Youth*). (Human Resources Task Force - see above)

**DEVELOPMENT:**

\* African women are still wrongly considered to be the ones who are chiefly responsible for desertification in the Sahel. They have long been aware of the acuteness of this problem and taken part in environmental protection projects. Femmes du Sahel, la désertification au quotidien, by Marie Monimart, describes how these rural areas are being abandoned by men. It also questions whether the various development projects sponsored from abroad show a genuine desire to include women in the development process. (OECD/Sahel Club, CILSS, published by Karthala, 22-24 Bd Arago, F-75013 Paris)

\* Fifty percent of the population of Mali is under 15 years of age. Health care and possibilities for instruction are limited. The women bear the burden of feeding the families; they also bear a large share of other social responsibilities. These women exhibit amazing creativity to survive. The UNICEF publication Enfants et Femmes au Mali paints a general picture of Mali and analyses the problems of schooling and health that are encountered there. (Published by L'Harmattan, 16 rue des Ecoles, F-75005 Paris)

**HISTORY:** The Women's History of the World, by Rosalind Miles, gives us a fresh version of history in which a spotlight is thrown on the role of women in even the most ancient times. (Paladin Grafton Books, a division of the Collins Publishing Company, 8 Grafton St., London W1X 3LA)

**WOMEN'S LIB:** Lexicon vrouwen, Tweehonderd jaar emancipatie van A tot Z is the first Dutch compendium on women's liberation movements from the French Revolution to the present. It describes the two main waves of demands that rose up in the 19th and 20th centuries. (H. D'Ancona, A. Klostenaar, S. Leydesdorff, A. Van Oostrom, B. De Wit and M. Groenewald, Froger Scala, Het Spectrum Publishers b.v., Postbus 2073, NL-3500 6B Utrecht)

**EUROPE:** L'Europe des administrations, la mise en oeuvre de la législation communautaire dans les Etats Membres reveals how Community directives and regulations are implemented in ten Member States (Spain and Portugal were not included because these two countries had not yet signed accession treaties when the study began). (Published by the European Institute for Public Administration, Maastricht, the Netherlands)

**ENVIRONMENT:** Caroline Jackson, spokeswoman for the British Conservatives in the European Parliament, underscores in the brochure Europe's Environment, a Conservative Approach, the need for a European environmental policy. (Target Europe Papers No. 2, 1989, Office of Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985 Luxembourg)

**FEMINISING LANGUAGE:** Concern for removing masculine bias from language is one of the major trends of the second half of the 20th century. The most conservative States are now the ones to propose the most radical solutions. In Terminology and Translation, the Commission of the European Communities gives an overview of the situation in the twelve Member States. (Terminology and Translation, No. 2, 1989, Office of Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985 Luxembourg)

**PORTRAIT:** The queen of African song, Miriam Makeba, is also known for the struggle against the South African regime that she has waged for years from her place of exile, Conakry, Guinea. Miriam Makeba, la mia storia, by Miriam Makeba and James Hall, traces her sometimes painful itinerary. (Lavoro Coordinamento Donne & Sviluppo, via Raffaele Cardorna 29, I-00187 Roma)

# EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Commission of the European Communities

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