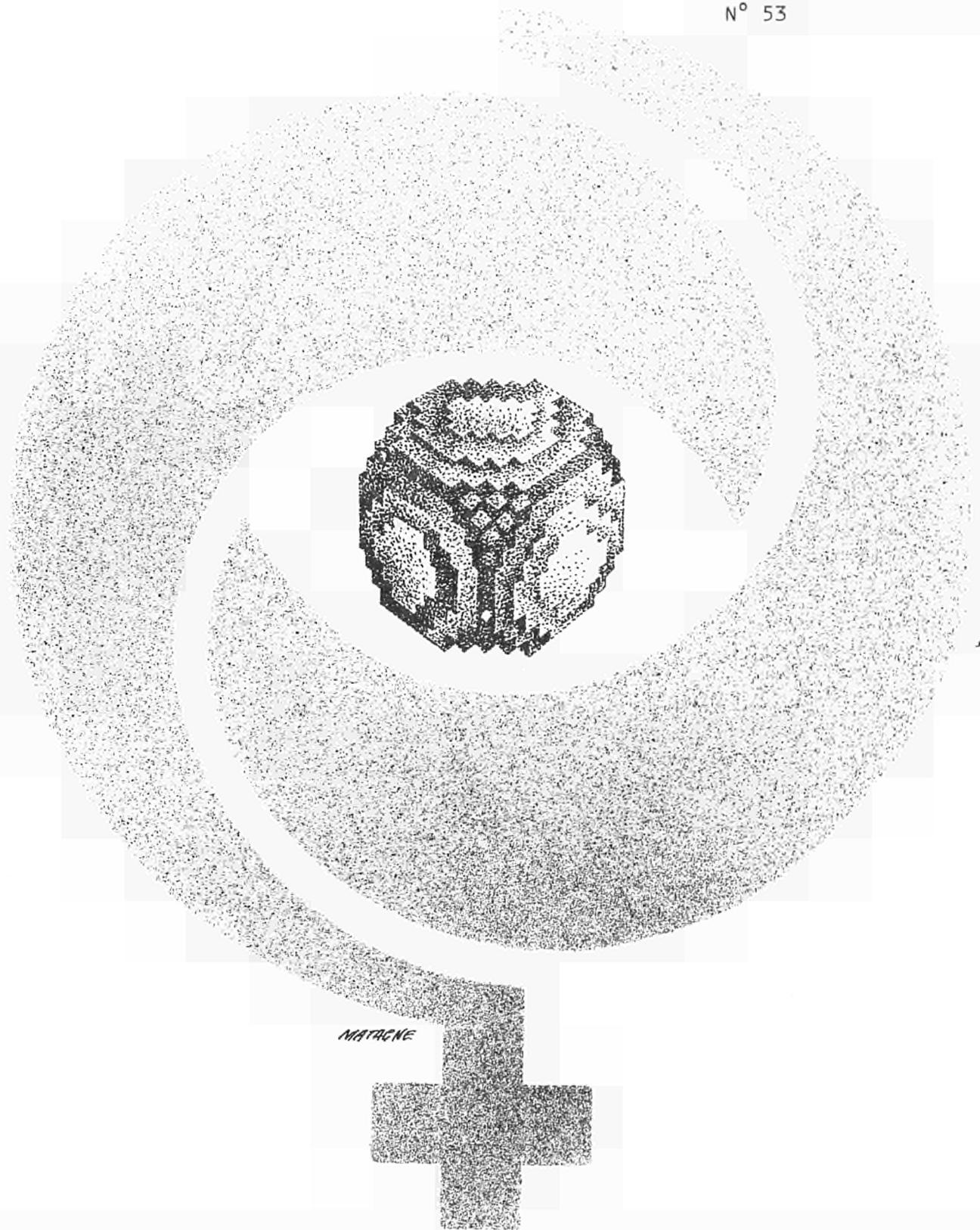


Women of Europe

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Our Correspondents :

Germany :	Christa Randzio-Plath, Hadermans Weg 23, Hamburg 61
Belgium :	Nanette Nannan, 33 rue E. Bouillot, Bte9, 1060 Brussels
Denmark :	Danske Kvinder Nationalrad, N.Hemmingsensgade 8, 1153 Copenhagen
Spain :	Carmen S. Buenaventure, Calle Rafael Salazar Alonso 14, 28007 Madrid
France :	Jeanne Chaton, 43 Avenue Ernest Reyer, 75014 Paris
Greece :	Effi Kalliga-Kanonidou, 10 Neofytou Douka, 10674 Athens
Ireland :	Yvonne Murphy, 19 Palmerston Park, Dublin 6
Italy :	Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, Piazza di Spagna 51, 99187 Rome
Luxembourg:	Alix Wagner, 7 rue Henri Frommes, 1545 Luxembourg
Netherlands:	Patricia Niedzwiecki, Admiraal de Ruyterweg 90/2, 1056 GN Amsterdam
Portugal :	Comisao da Condicao Feminina, Av. Da Republica 32-1, 1000 Lisbon
United Kingdom:	Morag Alexander, The Coach House, East Rosdhu Drive, Helensburgh, Glasgow G84-7ST
European Parliament:	Lydia Gazzo, 17 Avenue de Tourville, 75007 Paris
Text :	Lydia Gazzo.
Editor :	Fausta DESHORMES LA VALLE Head of Women's Information Service 200 rue de la Loi <u>1049 Brussels</u>

Editorial work was completed on this issue of Women of Europe on March 15, 1988. The cover design was inspired by the symbol of the European Year of Cinema and Television.

MARCH 8 : INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Demonstrations on the streets, lectures, exhibitions, meetings - all these are just some of the ways women in Europe and worldwide celebrated and marked this day which, year after year, becomes more of a symbol. "Women of Europe" gives a brief overview of some of the initiatives we have heard about.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTS A POSITIVE ACTION PROGRAMME (PAP) IN FAVOUR OF ITS FEMALE PERSONNEL.

It was on March 8 that the European Commission decided to start up a Positive Action Programme for its female personnel.

This three-year programme (1988-1990) is an innovation in the European civil service.

It contains a series of reference recommendations and objectives with figures, the aim of which is to make it possible to make up the ground women have lost as part of their unequal heritage, so that in the long term the Institution can in the long run consist of a better balanced number of men and women.

The objectives set for the end of 1990 represent an annual increase of women in Category A of more than 10% of the present figure, a greater effort than was asked for by the European Parliament in June 1987. The Commission has also decided to increase the number of women in positions of responsibility. Its proposed minimum objective is the appointment of three women Directors, and the doubling of the number of women Division Heads.

In the remaining categories, the Commission considers that we must seek a better balance of the ratio of men to women in the scientific, technical and technological functions. It intends to make a priority of the effort to improve women's career chances and progress within their jobs, specifically by training and a re-evaluation of the jobs.

The Commission has taken on the resources necessary to implement its programme in terms of recruitment, careers policy, in-service training, auxiliary measures, social infrastructures to facilitate the combination of a family life and a career, and education.

With regard to recruitment and careers, the principle of "preference for women with equal qualifications and/or merit" will be applied as long as there is a need to make up lost ground.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

A group of members of the European parliament (belonging to the Socialist, Communist and Rainbow groups) organized a round table on "Women and the Internal Market" during the plenary session of the parliament in Strasbourg.

This round table, chaired by the French Socialist Marie-Claude Vayssade, was a opportunity to take a look at some of the chances the "unified market" will be offering women in 1992, as well as the risks it brings with it for women, and to underline the motion that the market must not be created at the expense of progress towards equality.

ETUC ASKS FOR MARCH 8 TO BE DECLARED A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

The European Trades Union Congress (ETUC) Women's Committee launched an appeal to its affiliated unions to take part en masse in the activities organized for March 8 so that this date, by analogy with May 1, Labour Day, can become a public holiday devoted to celebration and reflection.

According to the ETUC, there is still a wide gulf between political declarations of equality between men and women, and reality.

Discrimination against women at work is aggravated by the economic crisis, unemployment affects women more severely, and our societies continue to treat women as "second class citizens"; so says the ETUC communiqué.

BELGIUM

The Belgian unions (CSC and FGTE) teamed up to organize a conference on the theme of "The integration of women into professional life, an unavoidable reality". Employment, jobemployment lessness, working conditions and positive action - these are just some of the themes that were discussed by experts and union representatives throughout the day, which closed with a proclamation of the "Working Women's Charter" in favour of equality and the right to work.

The Ministry of the French-Speaking Community organized a series of lectures and debates, and exhibitions on the history of the International Women's Council and on women painters before 1935, in Brussels, to coincide with another exhibition on the different images of women in artistic expression "Tell me who is the loveliest of all".

The Comité de liaison des femmes (1a, Place Quetelet, 1030 Brussels) organized debates on the theme "Are you ill ? Because of the age you live in ? Because of love ?", with the participation of Raymonde Dury (MEP) and Hedwige Peemans-Poullet, Co-Chairwomen of the Committee.

FRANCE

The Maison des Femmes de Paris (Cité Prost, 75011 Paris, Tel.:43-48-24-91) organized five days of debates on violence against women : women in captivity (prisons, psychiatry), rape and incest, women and militarization, pornographic violence and prostitution, violence at work, women and religion.

At Thionville, the Service des droits des femmes (29, Boulevard Jeanne d'Arc), organized an open day on the theme of "Women and the Third World".

At Enghien, (46, Avenue de Ceinture, 95880 Enghien-les-Bains), Radio Enghien transmitted testimonies by European, African and Asian women, an initiative by Erica Chauvin. (The "Europe is our affair" spot, which was celebrating its birthday, has devoted a number of programmes to women).

ITALY

In Italy: hundreds of parades, thousands of colloquiums, exhibitions of paintings and sculptures, theatre and cinema performances, torchlit processions, these initiatives were taken not just by women's associations and movements, but by unions, and by local and regional authorities too (such as the municipalities of Florence, Milan and Senigallia).

This year, the keynote of the March 8 celebrations was the struggle against violence. The President of the Chamber of Deputies, Nilde Iotti, undertook to see the sexual violence bill had a swift passage through the house. Two bills on this subject are at present being read in parliament: one is based on a popular initiative, submitted 10 years ago by the Women's Movement, with the signatures of 300,000 citizens (men and women), and is now being submitted again; the second is a new bill drafted by a group of women MPs from the left-wing parties (PCI, PSI, PSDI, Radicals, Greens) and one Christian Democrat, Maria Fida Moro. Among the features of this text is the granting to women's associations and movements of the right to bring charges in rape cases.

The whole of the daily press also celebrated Women's Day. "Il Mattino", the Naples daily, for instance, published articles written and signed by women journalists only.

PORTUGAL

The Commission of Women's Place in Society chose as the theme for the March 8 celebrations "Position Actions" in Favour of Equality".

The same day, the Portuguese parliament voted a law establishing the "rights of women's associations to participate in and intervene with public and private organizations whose terms of reference concern the place of women in society, with a view to promoting equal rights in society and doing away with the discrimination they suffer from".

THE UNITED NATIONS

"It's time for action" was the slogan adopted by the UNO for this day. In his message, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary General of the UNO, appealed to governments to take the necessary measures to encourage and apply programmes expressly aimed at improving women's place in society. Underlining the importance of cooperation with women's associations, he stated that "only this cooperation (.....) will enable us to implement to the full the prospective action strategies for the promotion of woman until the year 2000", adopted at Nairobi in 1985.

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

SUMMIT ON WOMEN: On April 26 in Berlin, the German Presidency of the Council of Ministers will organize an informal Summit on the question of "Women", as has become traditional since 1984. (The Deutscher Frauenrat was particularly in favour of this initiative.)

The agenda includes the following items : women and unemployment, an assessment at the halfway stage of the implementation of the Action Programme on equal opportunities (1986-1990), the proposed directive on equal treatment in Social Security, and women and AIDS.

WOMAN COMMISSIONER: A woman could become a member of the next European Commission, early next year, at least according to rumours in the British press. That woman is Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office who frequently chaired the Community Council of Ministers' meetings during the British presidency (second half of 1986), as Sir Geoffrey Howe's number two. (At a meeting of the European Parliament Commission on Women's Rights, Chairwoman Hedy d'Ancona expressed the view that there should not be just one woman Commissioner in the next European Commission, but three or four.)

OPINION POLL: "Women of Europe" published its Supplement No. 26 which, under the title "Men and Women of Europe in 1987" analyses the replies to the questions asked in March and April 1987 as a complement to the "Euro-Baromètre". The results of this poll give a better picture of the attitudes of men and women to the place of women in society and of its evolution.

A CARREER AT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES COMMISSION: This is the title of a brochure published by the European Commission to serve as a guide for those who wish to work there, and which, in our view, is of particular interest to women, who are often unaware of the opportunities available to them (the publication reminds readers that the Commission respects the principle of equality of opportunity for hire, promotion and working conditions, and that a Committee has been set up to monitor progress in this area).

Useful address: Commission of the European Communities, 200, rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES The European Commission has just published a list of the **local employment initiatives it subsidized in 1987**. There are 13 in France, 12 in Germany, 6 in Portugal, 6 in the United Kingdom, 4 in Ireland, 3 in Greece, 3 in Italy, 2 in Belgium and 2 in the Netherlands. We will quote a few examples : **in Belgium:** an office cleaning cooperative in Charleroi; **in Denmark:** a weaving cooperative in Silkeborg (women will reproduce on Northern Europe's largest weaving room paintings designed for them by local artists); **in Germany:** the production and sale in a market at Bremen of organic vegetables; a business manufacturing children's clothing in Berlin; language courses taught in trains (with the agreement of the authorities, of course) for people who have to travel to work every day; **in Greece:** the creation of tourist infrastructures in Thrace; **in Spain:** audiovisual and written communication services (information folders, presentation and publishing of documentation, etc.) for business; **in France:** the creation at national level of a network of itinerant multimedia kiosks for the under-15's (baptized Livrambule);

the creation at Narbonne of an "Intermediate local association of service jobs", providing maintenance or household work, child-minding services, aid for the bedridden, etc.; **in Ireland**: the organization of a food cooperative in the Ballymun district of Dublin, where the unemployment rate is 61,5 %; **in Italy**: a "Rosa Luxemburg" cooperative in Turin, supplying information on environmental and recycling problems; **in the Netherlands** the organization of a camp site where women can get together for leisure activities; **in Portugal**: a craft wool making plant, at Kelva, baptized "Combate ao frio"; **in the United Kingdom**: the opening in London of a hotel reserved for women (tourists or businesswomen); a cooperative that aims to teach the art of self-defence to deal with the spread of violence.

THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF CINEMA AND TELEVISION: The European year of cinema and television has been the occasion for a number of initiatives launched in performances by women. Here are those that Women of Europe knows about, and that the Women's Information Service has helped to back:

- **THE MAGDALENA PROJECT**, which has become a permanent organization since last year and the success of MAGDALENA '86, the first international festival of women in experimental theatre. A new festival will be held in the South of France in 1988. A feminine theatrical creation project began in Denmark on January 18, under the direction of Zofia Kalinska. The show, which will be visiting the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany and Portugal, has been put on with the participation of women from a number of European countries.

Useful address: The Magdalena Project, Chapter Market Road, Canton, Cardiff, CF5-1QE, UK, Tel.: 396061, or PERSONA, Brigitte Kaquet, Cirque Divers, Rue Roture 13, 4020 Liège, Belgium, Tel.: 410244.

- **THE FESTIVAL DER FRAUEN**, which will be held in Hamburg with the support of the City of Hamburg, and the participation of women artists from Europe and the Third World. The programme features ethnic drama workshops (Gardi Hutter, the first woman clown, Switzerland), ethnic song (Giovanna Marini, Italy), folk dance (Joan Chara, Chile), modern dance (Tanztheater Hamburg, Germany), instrumental jazz and improvisation (Co Streiff, saxophone, Switzerland; Marilyn Mazur, percussion, Denmark; Annemarie Roelofs, trombone, Netherlands); respiration and diction (Donata Höffer, Germany).

Useful address: Festival der Frauen, Kampnagelfabrik, Jarrestrasse 20, 200 Hamburg 60, Germany, Tel.: 271-3316.

- The **DONNE E MEDIA** project, consisting of the organization of an international festival of videos by women, in March 1988 at Milan, at the initiative of Quotidjano Donna Distribuzione, Milan. This is the first European initiative aimed at giving a complete picture of international video production by women. Quotidjano Donna Distribuzione, which organized a first, national video meeting of the same type with the title "Images de Femmes-Videodonna", in November 1986, intends to show the productions in a number of European cities after the festival.

Useful address: Quotidjano Donna Distribuzione, Via Chavez 1, 10123 Milan, Italy, Tel.: 837-4866.

"FEMINALE", a forum of films produced by women, will be held in Cologne from June 29 to July 3 next. This is the third time around for this event, and this time it will be open to all the Community countries, not just to German participants. Prizes will be awarded to the best full-length film, short, documentary and experimental film.

Useful address: FEMINALE, Neuenhöfer Allee 45, 5000 Cologne, Germany, Tel.: 466072.

"LES FEMMES ET LE CINEMA", an exhibition put together by Annick Leroy, a Belgian photographer and cineast, for the Centre Cinémien in Amsterdam, will be presented in Brussels from mid-October. The exhibition, which will feature a selection of photographic documents from the silent cinema to our own time, will be enriched by the scheduling at the same time by the Brussels Cinema Museum of films presented in this retrospective.

Useful address: Université des Femmes, Place Quetelet 1a, 1030 Brussels, Belgium.

THE SINGLE ACT: In early December 1987, the Social Affairs Council adopted the first directive based on Article 118/A of the Treaty, which, after the Single Act becomes law, will be the basis of the Community's social policy. The directive (under the abbreviated title of "Carcinogens") concerns the protection of workers by the prohibition of certain specific substances and/or certain activities.

Elimination of restrictions based on nationality: The Commission has decided to undertake a systematic action in order to do away with restrictions based on nationality prohibiting the nationals of other member states from having **access to employment** in certain public sectors (health, education, civilian research, public services, such as transport, gas, electricity). One of the tasks the Community has set itself in the Single Act is that of creating, by 1992, an area without borders, in which the free circulation of individuals is a fundamental factor. To confirm this, the Court of Justice has just published a judgement which in the commission's view represents a step forward for the construction of the citizens' Europe. In this judgement the Court condemned the Italian government, which reserved for its own nationals the right to social housing. The preliminary inquiry in this case began in 1984, when a Belgian national complained after having an application for a loan for the purchase of a home at Mordano (Emilia-Romagna) refused, although he was resident there, and carried on a non-salaried activity there.

CITIZEN'S RIGHTS: The Commission has just published a "little encyclopedia of the rights of the European citizen", featuring a chapter entitled "Equal Treatment for Men and Women". This 400-page work, in file form, can be consulted in the Commission's press and information offices in the member states.

OPENING OF EURO-WICKETS: An initiative that should be of interest to the many women who are active in small and medium businesses: the opening of "Euro-wickets" (39 during the one-year pilot phase, 200 eventually), which will provide information, education and advice for small and medium businesses (SMBs) which cannot afford a representative in Brussels to keep abreast of the evolution of the functioning of Community policy.

Useful address: Commission of the European Communities, SMB Task Force, 200, rue de la Loi (Bât. ARLN 80), 1040 Brussels, Belgium, Tel. : 235-0538.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Grigitte Henrich, a German "Green" MEP, died at the age of 46, at the end of the last year. She had been a member of the Rainbow Group since 1984, and was a member of the political commission, as well as a substitute member of the women's rights commission and the development commission. She was replaced by Egbert Nitsch, one of the founders of the Greens' electoral list in Germany in 1978.

JANUARY PLENARY SESSION: THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME

This year's first plenary session of the European Parliament was, as usual, marked by the presentation of the **European Commission's Programme** for 1992, and the programme or the country holding the Presidency for the first six months of the year. This time round, both Mr. Delors and Mr. Genscher devoted a considerable part of their speeches to the most immediate problem of the future financing of the Community, the same problem that was to occupy centre stage at the extraordinary Summit meeting on February 11 and 12 (and that was to be settled there, despite considerable difficulties, especially in agriculture). The President of the Council and the President of the Commission set forth before the Parliament the positions that the German presidency and the Commission, with a few shades of difference, were to maintain with firmness throughout the Summit; the need to give the Community a solid financial base, and the accompanying need for more reliable discipline in the budget; the urgency of improving control of agricultural expenditure, without losing sight of the problems of small farmers and family farms; the need to achieve the "single unified market" by 1992, but also to prepare the underprivileged countries and regions by reinforcing cohesion and increasing the appropriations to structural funds (the Social Fund, the Regional Fund, and the Agricultural Fund).

The Parliament's other decisions were :

- to set up a committee of inquiry into the **processing and transport of nuclear materials**, as a result of the revelations of illegal transport of highly dangerous materials between Belgium and Germany. The Chairman of the committee is the British Conservative Andrew Sherlock, with the German Green Undine Bloch von Blottnitz and the Belgian Liberal Anne André as Vice-Chairwoman. There are two other women members, the Belgian Socialists Anne-Marie Lizin and the German Christian Democrat Ursula Braun-Moser;
- to adopt a report by the Dutch Liberal Jessica Larive on **violence and vandalism in sport** which asks for measures to be taken at Community level to complement the steps already taken to put a stop to this increasingly worrying phenomenon. The suggested Community measures are the extradition of hooligans between member states, provisions governing the consumption of alcohol and the control of ticket sales, and consultations between member states before major international matches;
- to adopt a report by Undine Bloch von Blottnitz asking the European Commission to announce a **"year of replacement energy sources"**.

- to adopt a report by the Chairwoman of the environmental committee, the German Social Democrat Beate Weber (you will note that the women MEPs are always very active when it comes to environmental questions), asking for the negotiations on the implementation of international **environmental** agreements to be entrusted to the European Commission, not the member states.

FEBRUARY PLENARY SESSION: AID FOR THE THIRD WORLD, CANCER, EDUCATION AND MUSIC

During its February session, the European Parliament :

- adopted a report by the British Conservative Margaret Daly on **aid to developing countries** in Asia and Latin America. Contrary to the wishes of Mrs. Daly, whose report stressed the poverty in many Asian countries, a majority of the Parliament asked for the percentage of Community aid to Latin America;
- adopted a report by the Italian Communist Giovanni Papapietro asking for Community initiatives in favour of **the teaching and promotion of music**. This report was very positively received by Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana.

Finally, the Parliament broadly supported two Commission health programmes, adopting the Vernier Report (French RDE) on **cancer prevention** and the Ulburghs Report (Belgian Independent) on the **fight against smoking and nicotine addiction**. With regard to cancer, the rapporteur noted in particular that very few Europeans are aware that a poor diet is one of its principal causes (the second most common after tobacco), and hoped that faster early detection processes would be found, especially for cancer of the uterus and of the intestine. With regard to tobacco, the Parliament voted for a series of measures intended to discourage, or in certain cases to prohibit, its consumption (although certain speakers raised the problem of the tobacco growers).

In taking stock of the action on behalf of the "**Algiers mothers**" undertaken by the European Parliament just one year ago, Anne-Marie Lizin (the Belgian Socialist member who launched the action), Lord Plumb, the President (who personally committed himself to it), and Marie-Claude Vayssade (the French Socialist who acted as a mediator for the European Parliament) underlined the need to sign a framework agreement to provide a legal framework that will take into account the interests of children whose parents are in conflict with one another, and unable them to defend themselves. The members consider that any such agreement should include the creation of an arbitration commission with real powers.

MARCH PLENARY SESSION: EMPLOYMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

The Parliament adopted the report by the British Conservative member Margaret Daly on **women and employment**. Essentially, Parliament is asking :

- the Commission to amend the directives now in force concerning equal treatment to include **positive action programmes** covering the public and private sectors of the economy;
- the Commission to submit a proposal on **reversing the burden of proof in cases of discrimination** against equal opportunities. Parliament deplores the fact that the sanctions provided in such cases are not sufficiently dissuasive, and that they do not provide for adequate compensation for the victim;

- the member states to set up procedures to encourage and monitor the increase in the number of women represented at decision-making level in public and private organizations;
- the Council to approve as soon as possible the directive on **voluntary and part-time work**, so as to prevent further discrimination against women who are "obliged to accept a job that does not guarantee them economic independence or a career, whereas it does offer numerous advantages for employers, by enhancing the flexibility of the labour market and favouring illegal, underpaid work";
- the Council to approve quickly the directive on **parental leave** and leave for family reasons;
- the member states to assist women's access to the labour market, in particular by offering them the choice of **separate taxation**, and by doing away with the outdated stipulations regarding job in protection for women;
- for **equal pay** to become a reality, whereas at present, women are always paid 70 % to 75 % of what their male colleagues receive.

Mrs. Daly reminded the members that the number of unemployed women in Europe had increased by 5 % in 1986, from 6.7 to 7 million. In addition, although employment and promotion discrimination was prohibited, it was common in reality.

Vice-President Mr. Martin, for the European Commission, remarked that discrimination is most common in the question of professional classifications, a theme the employers refuse to discuss with the Commission. He also announced that the Commission will shortly be presenting a proposed directive on the reversal of the burden of proof; as regards parental leave, he reminded the Parliament that the Council is blocking the directive on this issue.

Indirect discrimination: During the plenary session, the Parliament voted for the report by Mrs. De Backer-Van Ocken (Belgium, EPP) on the problem of **indirect discrimination** against women, which notes that the application and the transfer into national law of the three EEC directives on equal pay have not done away with all of these forms of discrimination. Mrs. De Backer therefore remarks that the **European Commission has not fulfilled with sufficient care its role** as the guardian of the Treaty, and invited the Parliament to ask it to take the necessary measures.

The report underlines the fact that the directives quoted on equal pay, equal treatment and equality in social security **clearly refer to the notion of indirect discrimination, but without defining it**; some national application legislations (Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Italy) adopt this notion, while others do not do so, but do quote examples of indirect discrimination. Mrs. De Backer also mentions another problem, that of the reference to marries or family status. These terms appear in the application legislation in four member states (Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark and Italy), whereas in the others the situation is less clearly referred to. The directive on **social security equality**, the aim of which is to put a stop to all discrimination, whether direct or indirect, based on sex, in state systems for the protection of citizens against the risks of illness, disability or old age, inability to work, occupational illness or unemployment, is, in the Commission's view, very difficult to interpret in the area of indirect discrimination.

The other forms of discrimination mentioned in the report are age limits for hiring and career advancement, and certain protective legislation, which lead Mrs. De Backer to ask the European Commission, first and foremost, for : **a definition of the notion of indirect discrimination**; a Community guide to professional classifications; a proposal for a directive aimed at obtaining **individual taxation**, calculated exclusively on the basis of their own income for married couples and those living together. The report also points out that it is often difficult for the women suffering from indirect discrimination to prove it, whether the discrimination contains salary, working conditions or social security. She therefore suggests that the Commission draw up a directive to **reinforce the burden of proof** as soon as there are grounds for supposing that indirect discrimination is going on.

COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Speaking at the meeting of the Women's Rights Committee of the European Parliament, Mr. Ripa di Meana announced the creation of a **European prize for the TV programme that succeeded best in representing the image of women in today's social reality**, as part of the European Year of Cinema and Television. In so doing, he answered the wish expressed in the "Comen and the Media" resolution voted by the European Parliament in its October 1987 session.

At the meeting, Mr. Ripa di Meana presented to the members the 1988 information programme for the feminine public, underlining the major part played by information, "the aim of which is to stir up support among the people of our countries for the idea of a united Europe". In this context, he informed the members of his intention to reinforce and develop further the Committee's education action for women, reminding them that it was thanks to the Committee's action and the pressure from the European Parliament that **equal opportunities for men and women had become a true expression of European society and, as such, a leading testimony to the existence of a citizens' Europe**.

He referred to the great deadline of 1992, and its challenges, in which women too will be called upon to play a full part.

The Commissioner also recalled another important date in 1989: **The European Parliamentary Elections**. On this subject, Mr. Ripa di Meana stated that he was convinced that **the new social problems caused by the progress of science and technology more than anything else, would be at the core of the debates in the next European election campaign**. Mr. Ripa di Meana concluded by saying that "With the unified European market of 1992 in mind - this extended area of liberty and dynamisms which will be opened up to the men and women who are citizens of Europe, we must give voters their say so that they can tell us what kind of society they wish to pursue. **Now that they are aware of their rights and values, women will have a leading role to play in these debates**".

FAMILY POLICY: The Presidency of the "Women's" Section of the European People's Party (EPP) unanimously adopted a document in favour of a European family policy, a policy that must contribute to "the self-development of each of its members, without privileging some to the detriment of others". The document will be the basis for the EPP European Parliamentary party's study days in Ireland next May.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE SOCIAL SECURITY EQUALITY

At the end of February, the Economic and Social Committee came down in favour of the Council's proposal for a directive to complement the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in state and professional social security systems.

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES' COURT OF JUSTICE

The Court of Justice has recently been called upon to deliver judgement in two somewhat unusual cases : one of these concerns the question of whether it is permissible to pay a woman less if she does better, not just equal work, to a man, while the other concerns a claim of discrimination not against women, but against men. Here is the gist of these two cases :

- **In Ireland**, Mary Muphy and other women employed by "An Board Telecom Eireann" are less well paid than men whose work, as has been recognized by the Irish Labour Court and Equality Officer, is of inferior quality to theirs. The European Court of Justice, in the interlocutory statement it was asked for, states that Article 119 of the EEC Treaty which establishes the principle of "equal pay for equal work" also applies to employees who perform work of greater value than that of the work of a person takes as a basis for comparison. Otherwise, it points out, the way would be left open to uncontrolled distortions of competition, as any business could hire women to perform work of higher quality than that of the male employees, and then underpay them.
- **In the United Kingdom**, The London Employment Appeal Tribunal has put interlocutory questions to the European Court of Justice concerning the interpretation of Article 119 and directives 75/117 regarding the principle of equal pay and 76/207 on equal treatment in access to employment and training, job advancement, and working conditions.

Mr. Newstead, a civil servant at the Department of Transport, felt that he was the victim of discrimination because, although unmarried, he had to contribute to his employer's widows' pension fund, whereas the female employees were not obliged to do so. The Court concluded that : as the contribution being withheld from his salary was intended for a professional retirement scheme, Article 118, not 119, was applicable; Directive 76/207 did not prevent employers from withholding from the salaries of male employees only, even if they were unmarried, a payment for a widows' pensions fund as part of a professional system replacing the government social security fund, while applying the same gross salary for both men and women.

Useful address: Court of Justice of the European Communities,
Centre européen de Kirchberg, Luxembourg.

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS, LAWS AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES

GERMANY

QUOTAS: At the request of the women's organization, the Social Democratic Party has decided to suggest a quota of at least 40 % for all political offices and appointments at its Münster Congress next August.

The executives of North Rhine-Westphalia and Hamburg are preparing to include in their civil service legislation provisions to favour women with equal qualifications. At an experts' hearing in Hamburg last February, a majority of women (and this is a radical change) voted in favour of the introduction of a 40% quota for hiring and promotion for all jobs at all levels. The Greens, for their part, will present a bill requesting that half the job training places and the half the jobs in the public and private sectors be allocated to women.

Useful addresses:-

- DAG, Karl-Muck-Platz, 2000 Hamburg 36
- DGB, Hans-Böckler-Haus, 4000 Düsseldorf
- SPD, Ollenhauerstrasse 1, 5300 Bonn 1
- Staatssekretärin Ilse Ridder, Staatskanzlei, 4000 Düsseldorf
- Leitstelle Gleichstellung der Frau, Poststrasse, 2000 Hamburg 36
- Die Grünen, Bundeshaus, 5300 Bonn 1

PRIORITIES: The Deutscher Frauenrat

(5300 Bonn 2, Südstrasse 125, Tel. : 316094), in the press conference given by its **Chairwoman Irmgard Blättel**, stated its priorities for 1988. First of all, a national campaign will be launched for "**more women in politics**". In addition, ways and means of improving the position of foreign women in Germany will be discussed (in conjunction with **Liselotte Funcke**, the government's appointee to deal with all immigration issues and a whole series of bills - tax, retirement, protection of the embryo, etc.). Community-wide, **the Deutscher Frauenrat** would like to see actions aimed at giving women the same opportunities as men in the prospects opened up by the 1992 "**great market**".

MILITARY SERVICE: The Deutscher Frauenrat has organized for the end of January in Bonn a meeting of various associations on the question of the amendment of Article 12/a of the constitution regarding military service. Conclusion : None of these associations is in favour of an amendment of this article that would open up military service to women.

ALLOWANCES: There will be more education allowances for children born in Germany as of January 1, 1988 : The 600 DM per month allowances will no longer be paid for ten months only, but for twelve. (In Germany, only 12 % of families have children aged under 6, compared to 18% in 1962.).

POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION: The complaint by a judge who felt that he had been penalized by the Bremen Senate's directive aimed at promoting women in the civil service was dismissed.

The plaintiff considered that seniority rather than sex should be the criterion for persons with the same qualifications. But the administrative court found that the December 1984 recommendation on positive action stipulates that, for equal qualifications, women **"may be favoured"**.

EXHIBITION: The EXILE organization (Hansastraße 55, 4100 Duisburg 1, Tel.:340907) evokes the theme of equality between men and women in an itinerant exhibition of caricatures entitled **"Half of Heaven"**. The exhibition will be put on in some twenty German cities (it can be borrowed at 400 DM for two weeks). The exhibition consists primarily of caricatures from a number of countries, some of them outside Europe. They describe the position of women in Germany, Greece, Austria, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Israel, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

PORNOGRAPHY: EMMA, the feminist periodical, is on the warpath against pornography. It has devoted an entire issue to this question, and editor **Alice Schwarzer** suggested a bill that would enable any women to consider her dignity to be offended by pornographic publications to bring charges.

UNIVERSITY AND TRAINING Whereas 38% of students in Germany are women, the number of women university teachers is on the wane. In 1987, 77 women passed the qualifying examinations as teachers, and 994 men. The **CDU member of parliament Roswitha Wisniewsky**, who is herself a teacher, asks for women to be better motivated for scientific subjects (**useful address** CDU, Bundestagsfraktion, Bundeshaus, 5300 Bonn 1). IBM has offered ten grants to provide concrete encouragement (address : IBM, Stiftenverband der Deutschen Wissenschaft, Brucher Holt 36, 4300 Essen). Women are still concentrating on languages (59.3% of language students are women), arts (57.1%), medicine (40%), rather than on scientific subjects. In addition, fewer girls are pursuing their studies to university level : 59% of girls who pass the university entrance examination (81% of boys) go on to university, whereas ten years ago the percentages were 77% and 88% respectively. On the other hand, more women every year sit examinations qualifying them to set up a craft enterprise in a technical trade. In 1986, four-fifths of women (as compared to three-quarters of men passed examinations of this kind in 65 different trades, representing 10% of the total.

HEALTH: The 8th. psychology and psychotherapy congress meeting in Berlin noted that 70% of those who suffer from psychic illness are women, that women consume twice as many medicines affecting their psychic makeup as men, and that, while marriage seems to protect men against this type of illness, the opposite is true for women. Unmarried men, on the other hand, appear to be more fragile than unmarried women.

CAREERS: Gertrud Barbara Bergkemper-Marks is the first woman police president (in Leverkusen) - **Ellen Ratschneider-Lehnee** is the first woman member of the Bundesbank Executive Committee - **Lianne Paulina-Mürl** is the second woman to be President of a Regional Assembly (Schleswig-Holstein), after **Helga Elstner** in Hamburg - **Professor Wagner** is the second woman Vice-President of the University of Hamburg - **Ursula Lehr**, professor and expert on aging, has calculated that in the year 2030, more than 35 % of German women will be aged over 60: we have to think about that now - **Gertrud Höhler**, Professor, was the first woman to be decorated at the Aachen Carnival with the **"Orden wider den tierischen Ernst"** (The anti-seriousness order) for her humour.

BELGIUM

MEMORANDUM 1: The **CNFB** (National Council of Belgian Women) has sent a memorandum to the competent authorities, pending the formation of a government, in which it calls, among other things, for the continuation **"by a fully-fledged member of the government"** (who could be a woman minister holding the "women's rights" portfolio), of the work accomplished by the Social Emancipation Secretariat. The **CNFB** presents a series of claims regarding social security, work, taxation, abortion, the family, violence against women, education, the struggle against poverty, the fight against prostitution, the environment. In addition, the Council deplored the total absence of women in the regional executives.

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

As a result of the elections held on December 13, 1987, there are **two more women**, for a **total of 18**, in the **Lower Chamber of the Belgian Parliament**: **6** of these women represent the **Flemish Christian Democratic Party**, **4** the **Flemish Socialists**, **2** the **French-speaking Socialists**, **2** the **Volkunie** (Flemish Federalist Party), and **one each** **Agalev** (Flemish Ecological Party), the **PVV** (Flemish Liberals), **FDL** (Francophone Liberals) and **PSC** (Francophone Christian Democrats).

MEMORANDUM 2: The **Women's Liaison Committee** (which unites a number of associations and most of the women's movements in the French-speaking parties) has sent a memorandum to the future government in which it asks for Community directives on equality to be observed so as to **"make up for Belgium's inexcusable backwardness in this respect"**. The future government should launch a series of positive actions (in particular concerning the individualization of social security entitlements) and guarantee minimum female presence at all decision-making levels.

Useful address: Comité de Liaison des Femmes, 1/a, Place Quetelet, 1030 Brussels.

SUCCESSION: **Michèle Bribozia** was elected **National President of the PSC Women** (the PSC is the Francophone Christian-Democratic Party) in February, taking over from **Pierrette Cahay**.

She will endeavour to give the **PSC women** a more dynamic image, by urging them to take an active part in the political life of the country, and in particular at the October 9, 1988 local election.

Useful address: Parti Social Chrétien, rue des Deux Eglises, 41/Bte 4, 1040 Brussels.

BROCHURE: The emancipation of women, particularly in communal life, is the theme of a brochure brought out by **"De Wakkere Burger"** (Le Citoyan Vigilant, rue Liedt 27-29, 1210 Brussels.

Tel. : 242-5415), to remind us that the local elections are not so very far away

CENTENARY: The **Conseil National des Femmes Belges** and the **Nationale Vrouwen Raad** celebrated the opening of the festivities for the centenary of the **Conseil International des Femmes** in Brussels on February 10. During a solemn ceremony in the presence of the King and Queen, the two Chairwomen, **Senator Huberte Hanquet** and **Lily Boeykens**, underlined the role of the women's associations, and **Miet Smet, Secretary of State for Emancipation**, evoked the progress achieved in Belgium between 1985 and 1987 (in particular, she recalled that her department's budget had tripled since 1986, and presented a number of positive actions conducted in favour of women, especially in education and employment).

APPEAL: The February-March issue of "**Objectif +**" (the periodical of the National Council of Belgian Women (CNFB)) came out with an appeal to "**capable women to take the reins**", inviting all "capable" women, who are far from being "**a rare species**" to come forward, and to state their field of competence, their educational background, their special skills, etc...

WOMEN OF THE YEAR: This prize, organized by the CNFB for the past 6 years, was awarded this year to **Monique Rood**, aged 64, the **Head of the Anesthesiology Department of the Erasmus Hospital** in Brussels. This department, with some thirty specialists, performs about 12,000 operations a year.

REVERSE DISCRIMINATION: **Sabena** (the Belgian national airline) was sentenced to pay five years' salary to a steward it had obliged to retire five years before the legal retirement age for men (60 years). Sabena had invoked the principle of equal treatment practiced by the company as a result of charges brought by a hostess twenty years ago, which had ended in a verdict by the European Court of Justice. But the Brussels Labour Court did not agree, and ordered Sabena to pay the steward who did not want to retire at 55 like his lady colleagues, five years' salary.

RAPE: Six policemen and one policewoman have been assigned to the "**victims of indecent acts**" office created in the central district of the Brussels **CID**, to help women who are victims of rape and to make their questioning less of an ordeal. They will try to be present in pairs at all times, one of the pair being a woman.

ADOPTION: **Infor-Femmes** recently organized an informative meeting on the new adoption and filiation legislation, which allows more facilities for the adoption of children wilfully abandoned by their parents, with the consent of the parents.

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

PUBLICATIONS: **The Feminist Research and Action Centre** (Place Quetelet 1/a, 1030 Brussels, Tel.: 219-6107) is open : 3,000 books to be consulted or borrowed, 100 magazines, catalogues, dossiers, etc...

DEATH: **Mouvement ATD Quart Monde** (12, Avenue Victor Jacobs, 1040 Brussels, Tel.: 647-9900) : the movement's founder, **Father Joseph Wresinski**, died on February 14, after a life spent in the service of the fight against poverty.

JOURNALISTS: **The Belgian Theatre and Cinema Journalists' Association** has elected a woman as its President, **Catherine Degan**, and another woman, **Claire Diez**, as its Secretary.

TRAINING: **The Christian movement for peace** organized in January a "**training day**" entitled "**Women's power, men's power**". The debate centred on the obstacles encountered by women in their everyday life and their career (in particular, the movement claims that "since war is the supremely masculine act, women are the last chance for peace").

Useful address: rue de la Sablonnière 18, 1000 Brussels, Tel.: 219-5720.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Mrs. Delors, the Honorary President of the "Women of Europe" Association, our namesake, and an apolitical, philanthropic organization whose members are **European women** living in Belgium who wish to work without profit for the benefit of the most underprivileged members of our society, handed over cheques for 3.93 million Belgian francs to Belgian, German, Spanish and Irish aid organizations which carry out small-scale, one-off projects on behalf of those in need.

DENMARK

LEGISLATION: At the start of this year a new bill was tabled with the aim of reinforcing the areas of competence of **the Council for Equal Opportunity for Men and Women**. The Council can now look into cases involving equal pay on its own initiative, and employers and employees will be obliged to provide it with information on such matters. With regard to equal treatment, the innovation consists in the reversal of the burden of proof in cases of dismissal after absence owing to pregnancy, childbirth or adoption. On the other hand, as the Minister of Labour, **Henning Dyremose** explained, the reversal of the burden of proof is not stipulated in other cases, in particular cases involving equal pay, which is however one of the demands made by **the Council for Equal Opportunity** (Ligestillingsrad, Frederiksgade 21, 1265 Copenhagen) last February at a hearing in Copenhagen on the theme of equal pay. Their work has shown that, since the **Equal Pay Act** was passed in 1976, the gap between men's and women's salaries, far from narrowing, has widened, and that the same is true of bonuses. Participants asked for the Act to give a clearer definition of the concept of **"equal pay for equal work"**, and denounced the many forms of indirect discrimination. To remedy this problem, a more transparent system was proposed, in which the criteria for the structure of salaries in each firm would be made public.

REPRESENTATION: On February 1, 1988, the **Commission** set up by the Ministry of Justice in August 1987 to look into ways and means of ensuring more representation for women on executive committees of private companies, profit-making foundations, and housing corporations, completed its work. A minority of the members of this commission, which consists of representatives of the ministries and of the feminist organizations, asked for a sufficiently tough bill to be tabled on this subject, while the majority was in favour of a vaguer formula, to the effect that the authorities would "endeavour" to make sure that executive committees be made up of equal numbers of men and women "as far as possible".

SICK CHILDREN: In its report, the commission on the everyday life of children, established in early 1987 by the Ministry of Social Affairs, suggests that the parents of sick children be allowed a certain number of **"care days"**, equally shared by mother and father, and provided with a per diem allowance to compensate for the lack of work. The report, which should lead to a bill, suggests that considerable amounts of credit should be assigned to initiatives in this area, particularly for the parents of children aged under six.

NORDIC FORUM: Hundreds of proposals for various activities have reached the National Council of Nordic Women for the organization of the "**Nordic Forum**" (Nordic Women's Conference) to be held in Oslo from July 30 to August 7, 1988.

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalrad, Niels Hemmingsgade 10, 1153 Copenhagen, or Nordisk Forums Sekretariat, Nedre Vollgaten 8, 0158 Oslo 1.

SPAIN

EXECUTIVE BODIES: The Congress of the PSOE (Spanish Workers' Socialist Party) began to discuss on January 22 a proposal on the presence of women on the electoral lists and in the executive bodies of the Socialist movement. It will be recalled that Article 14 of the constitution prohibits any form of discrimination, specifically on grounds of sex.

The confederal congress of the **Central Sindacal Comisiones Obreras** in early December 1987 elected **Maria Jesus Vilches** to take charge of the Secretariat for Women. Mrs. Vilches has been a member of this union for many years.

WORK: The **Instituto de la Mujer** (Calle Almagro 36, 28010 Madrid, Tel.: 450-5112) has published a report on **women at work in Spain**. According to the report, at the end of 1986, women made up 31,2% of the working population, while 25,5% of women were unemployed, as compared to 20,4% of men, and 39,7% of women had completed their primary studies. In addition, working women were concentrated in five sectors of activity: trade 19%, agriculture 15,7%, personal or domestic service 13,3%, education 8,6%, and health 6,6%. Women employed in industry were particularly numerous in the Rioja (38%), and women in services were more numerous in Madrid (85,1%) and Andalusia (78,8%).

OPINION POLL: In January, the **Instituto de la Mujer** carried out a fourth opinion poll on its own image and the part it was expected to play. It was able to note that it is increasingly well known among women aged 18 to 34, in Catalonia and Central Spain.

Among the institute's activities, those which most interest the women polled are: the fight against unfairness to women (55%), assistance for women in difficult situations (43%), encouragement for employment (26%), family planning campaign (22%), information centres (11%), dissemination of women's rights (11%), support for women's associations (7%), professional orientation campaign (6%).

THE BASQUE COUNTRY: On November 20, 1987, the **Basque Regional Assembly** unanimously decided to consider the proposed bill to **create a Basque Woman's Institute** (Ema Numearen Euskal Institutoa). It will be recalled that the autonomy of the Basque Country allows it full competence in matters concerning women, among other matters.

SEXUAL CRIMES: On the occasion of the days against attacks on women held in early November in Barcelona, 173 women from all over Spain called for the striking off of the offence of "**moral outrage**", to be replaced by the offence against "**sexual freedom**". Among the resolutions approved were a call on the government to establish a commission to draft the proposed amendments to the penal code concerning sexual crimes.

PUBLICATIONS: The **Instituto de la Mujer** is publishing a report on "**Actividad laboral de la mujer en relacion a la fecundidad**" (Serie estudios, N.10), and a report on lady judges in Spain, entitled "**Senora Juez**". The second issue of a theoretical magazine "**Desde el Feminismo**" (Apartado de Correos N. 9084, 28080 Madrid), featuring chapters on motherhood, women and organization, and women dramatists. In addition, the **Primitiva Casa Baroja** (Pl. Constitucion 2, 20003 San Sebastian) is publishing "**La Mujer y la Palabra**", on women in the Basque Country. Finally, the **Centre d'Investigacio Historica de la Dona** of the University of Barcelona (Brusi 61, 08006 Barcelona) illustrates its activities with a booklet in Catalan.

FRANCE

PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION: The coordinators of 104 local missions and 26 regional delegates, all concerned with the place of women in society (Ministère des Affaires sociales, Délégation à la Condition féminine, 14, bd. de la Madeleine, 75008 Paris) held a working meeting in January on professional and social integration of young women, along with the Bureau of Professional and Social Integration of Young People in Difficulty. They noted that, since they were created, the local missions have attracted 360,000 young people, 52% of them young women, and regretted that young women today still limit their choice to about 30 of the 300 existing careers, so that the vast majority of them work in the tertiary sector, in administrative jobs. The two bureaus have published a brochure entitled "**What if they found a job ?**", insisting on the new qualifications women can acquire.

"WOMEN" COMMISSION: A "**Women's** Commission has just been created at the Centre d'Etudes Politiques et de Société, chaired by **Janette Brutelle-Duba**, and having as its honorary president the President of the Senate **Alain Poher** (8, rue Léon Vaudoyer, 75007 Paris). The Centre, which was founded in 1963, created a **Louise Michel prize** to mark its 20th birthday. The first of these prizes was awarded to **Simone Weill**, and this year's winner was the Spanish Prime Minister **Felipe Gonzalez**.

DOSSIERS: DFI (Délégation Féminine Information, 14, bd. de la Madeleine, 75008 Paris), includes in its December 1987 issue a dossier entitled "**Women who created a business**", and which features conclusions drawn by **Odile Quintin**, who is in charge of the **Action in Favour of Employment and Equality for Women at the European Communities' Commission**, 200, rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels, regarding the seminar held at Sophia Antipolis in October 1987, as well as a dossier on the social status of mothers.

ADVERTISING: On the occasion of the **European Year of the Environment**, the Seine-Maritime local "**Femmes pour l'Europe**" committee, part of the local European movement, chaired by **Mrs. Bernadette Bras** (111, rue Verte, 76000 Rouen) organized a colloquium on advertising, specifically on advertising and women, with the attendance of **Hélène Gisserot**, the national women's delegate.

ELLE: **Hélène Gordon-Lazareff** has passed away, at the age of 78. In 1945, she founded the women's magazine "**Elle**", with a circulation of 100,000. Today, "**Elle**" has seven international editions, including the newly launched Chinese version (two issues this year, four next year).

MUSICAL ARRANGER: The French Audiovisual Production and Creation Company has hired its first female orchestra arranger : **Laurine Fourgaut**, aged 23, who will become the first woman in Europe to occupy this position. Her job will be to deal with all musical questions arising before, during and after a programme.

SOLITUDE: The association known as "**Alliance Brisée**" (59, Avenue Georges Clemenceau, 92330 Sceaux), chaired by **Andrée Roblin**, is open to all women, not just in France, but in Belgium, and elsewhere too, who are older, divorced, or who cannot any longer see any chance of social integration.

GET TOGETHER: Grain de Sel-Rencontres (5, rue Chaillot, 75116 Paris, Tel.:47 20 29 53), created in 1984 to reflect on today's problems and to give women "**a taste for taking on responsibilities in the world of business**", organized a get-together with European MPs and trade unionists in Paris in February. The theme was "**European woman from day to day**", and many women from European Community member states participated, under the slogan "**Action so that Europe will not be created without women**".

Jacques Delors, the President of the Commission of the European Communities, gave the closing speech, on what is at stake in the Europe of 1992, and what the prospects are.

A WOMAN AT NOTRE-DAME: **Marie-Hélène Mathieu**, a specialist in child rearing and the founder in 1963 of the Christian Bureau for the Handicapped and Maladjusted, will be the first woman to speak at the Lenten lectures in Notre-Dame in Paris, which will be devoted to "**Mary, mother of the redeemer**" this year.

PUBLICATIONS: The **Bibliothèque Marguerite Durant** (21, Place du Panthéon, 75005 Paris, Tel.: 43 26 85 05) has published a series of postcards of reproductions of ancient documents from among its collections. It will be recalled that **Marguerite Durand** founded the daily paper "**La Fronde**" in 1987, and that this newspaper was entirely written, composed and run by women.

Les Femmes et l'égalité professionnelle", by **Evelyne Serdjénian**, is published by **INSEP** Edition (31, rue Mogador, 75009 Paris, Tel.:42 85 79 79), and aimed particularly at personnel policymakers in companies. It is an action guide backed up by the experience of companies that have been innovative in management. Concrete measures are presented for hiring, communication, personnel development and training, career evolution, etc.

GREECE

THE CHALLENGE OF 1992:In Greece, and in the Community as a whole, a number of women's associations are concerned about the effects of the completion of the single market on the fate of women. The Athens branch of the Greek Women's Union held a public hearing on this theme on February 1, with the participation, among others, of **Tina Pantazi**, a **Socialist MEP** and the Director of the European Commission's office in Athens, **Georges Tsogiopoulos**

Useful address: Enossi Gynekon Elladas, Ainiános 8, GR 10434, Athens.

In addition, the Athens branch of **Soroptimists International** (Diethnis Soroptimistiki Enossi Ellados, Panepistimiou 6, GR 10678 Athens) were able to listen to **Professor Nikos Skandamis**, Director at the European Commission, during a seminar on liberty of circulation and settlement in the community.

SOCIAL SECURITY: On February 18, The **Greek Parliament** passed a Ministry of Health and Social Security bill to extend social security coverage to certain categories that did not previously enjoy such coverage. The category most affected is that of the unpaid family helpers, who are primarily women (12.8% of women, as compared to 1.9% of men, employed outside agriculture are in this category). **The General Secretary for Equality** (Mousseou 2, Plaka, GR 105 Athens 55), which had brought pressure to bear to achieve this result, is now asking for the cooperation of organized women's groups so that they can inform their members of this important innovation.

THE FEDERATION OF GREEK WOMEN: A number of preparatory conferences took place before the fourth Pan-Hellenic conference in March. A meeting at Larissa (Thessaly) examined the specific problems of women in the country and their prospects for the year 2000, and passed a motion containing a series of demands aimed at improving these women's situation, which is far from satisfactory.

Useful address: Omospondia Gynekon Elladas, Acadimias 52, GR 106 Athens 79.

UNEMPLOYMENT: The programmes in progress or planned to reduce unemployment among women were examined at a press conference organized in February by the **General Secretariat for Equality, Employment and Social Security**. Among the activities planned for 1988 are efforts to train and rehabilitate women who have been absent from the employment market for some time and an increase in women's participation in the new technologies. A particular aim is to encourage unemployed women aged over 25 with a university qualification to follow a specialized course of study.

MEDITERRANEAN: The **Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute** (Kentro Erevnon gia tis Gynekas tis Mesogiou, Leoforos Alexandras 192/B, GR 115 Athens 21) organized a conference on "**women and research in the Mediterranean**", at which the difficulties encountered by feminist research were discussed, among other subjects. The Institute decided to present the results of women's research work on a monthly basis, and to organize a summer course on the theme of "**A non-sexist approach for the Mediterranean**" on the island of Spetses (near Athens) from July 4 to 15.

FAMILY: This subject is at present the inspiration behind a number of initiatives. **The Women's Rights League** (Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas, Solonos 41, GR 106 Athens 72) will be organizing this year a series of discussions on the structure of the family in Greece, the recent reform of family law, violence in the family, etc. And the women's branch of New Democracy, the leading opposition party (Tmima Gynekon tis Neas Dimocratias, Bassilissis Sofias 4, GR 106 Athens 74) has declared that 1988 will be the "year of the family", and invited all women's organizations, irrespective of their political line, to organize events around this theme.

CRECHES AND DAY NURSERIES: **Sylvia Acrita**, the under-secretary for Social Security, has announced her intention of extending the opening hours of creches in Athens to 8 pm, in order to take account of the problems many working mothers have encountered as a result of the change in shop opening hours.

CANCER: An association of women who have undergone a mastectomy has just been created, to inform and help the women involved, and to underscore the importance of detection.

Useful address: Panellinios Syllogos Mastecomimenon Gynekon, Sachtouri 104, GR 185 Pireefs 37.

IRELAND

REPORTS ON DISCRIMINATION: **Maura Geoghegan-Quinn**, Minister of State to the Prime Minister, has informed the Irish Parliament that in future, all ministries will have to produce a six-monthly report on measures taken to eliminate discrimination against women.

Useful address: Department of the Office of the Minister of State, Mrs. Geoghegan-Quinn, Department of the Taoiseach, Merrion Street, Dublin 2, Tel.: 689333.

NOMINATION: **Catherine McGuinness**, a former Independent Senator, has been named Chairwoman of the Employment Equality Agency. She succeeds **Silvia Mehan**, to whose work achieved over a number of years we wish to pay tribute here. Mrs. McGuinness, a lawyer by profession, was also a member of the Adoption Board, Chairwoman of the National Social Services Board, and played a role in the Synod of Churches. We hope she will enjoy her work !

Useful address: Employment Equality Agency, 36 Upper mount Street, Dublin 2, Tel.: 605966.

In the meantime, the Equality Board had a discussion with the Minister of Labour, Bertie Ahern, who underlined the need for effective legislation to promote equality of opportunity, and announced that the government would revise the law on equality as well as the legislation on unjustified dismissal and on salaries. His ministry has published a document with the options for reform, which has been submitted to the groups involved.

DECLARATION: The unions condemned a declaration by Frank Callaghan of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, who stated that Aer Lingus should give priority to men in its hiring policy. The Executive Committee of the **Irish TUC** claimed that it is difficult for unions to persuade employers to treat men and women as equals if unionists are making this kind of remark.

Useful address: Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Ragland Road, Dublin 4.

TECHNICAL COURSES: **AnCo** (the Industrial Training Authority) reserved 10% of places on technical courses for women in 1987, in order to enable women to find their way into non-traditional sectors of work. Only 3,6% of these places were taken up, however. Some young women appear to have justified their refusal by the fact that their parents do not consider the sectors being opened up to them as appropriate, and prefer them to work in an office for less pay, rather than "get their hands dirty".

Useful address: AnCo, Baggot Street, Dublin 2, Tel.: 685777.

CONFERENCE: The Women's Political Association held its eleventh annual conference, with the presence of women from other countries, such as **Pat Schroeder** (who abandoned her candidacy for President of the United States) and **Nelya Ramazanova**, a Soviet journalist. The Association also hear a speech by **Gudrun Agnasdottir**, an Icelandic MP, who described to them the progress made by Icelandic women since the last elections (13 of the 63 members of the Icelandic Parliament are now women).

Useful address: Women's Political Association, 6, Cross Avenue, Co. Dublin.

REFORMS: **Fine Gael** (now in opposition) has put forward a bill which includes radical reforms of the marriage and separation laws (it will be recalled that the party of the then Prime Minister, G.Fitzgerald, fought for divorce legislation, but a referendum showed that a majority of the Irish people were opposed to divorce). The spokesman on this issue, Alan Shatter, declared that the party hoped that Irish family law would finally be able to leave the 19th century behind and enter the 20th.

Useful address: Fine Gael, Mount Street, Dublin 2, Tel.:761573.

PREGNANCY: **Ally**, the organization that helps unmarried women who are pregnant, notes that the public's attitude towards these women is increasingly negative; in a report on the period 1986-87, the organization observes that more and more people believe that girls get pregnant simply in order to receive the allowance for unmarried mothers. It would also appear that only half of 62% of the fathers who were aware of the pregnancy intended to help the mother of the child in any way.

Useful address: Ally, Dominican Priory, Dorset Street, Dublin 1, Tel.: 732200.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE: **The Law Reform Commission** (Ardilaun Centre, 111 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Tel.: 715699) has recommended that new laws be passed to ensure that rape within marriage is considered as an offence, and that boys aged over 14 are prosecuted for sexual violence offences.

OPINION POLL: A recent poll by the Market Research Bureau of Ireland on behalf of the Irish Association for Victim Support (2, Belvedere Place, Dublin 1, Tel.: 364388), shows that 43% of the population of Dublin, and 23% of that of Ireland as a whole, have been victims of some form of violence. In addition, some 200,000 people claim that they do not feel safe at night (170,000 of these are women).

ITALY

DOCUMENTATION OF THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY: **An European colloquium** on initiatives by women in favour of information and documentation on the place of women in society will be organized in Milan on July 4 and 5 by the **Centro di Studi Storici sul Movimento di Liberazione della Donna** in Italia, with the support of **the European Commission's Women's Information Service**. The aim is to compare the initiatives taken by women in this respect, and to organize systematic cooperation between the organizations that are active in this field.

Useful address: Centro Studi Storici sul Movimento di Liberazione della Donna in Italia, presso Fondazione Feltrinelli, via Romagnosi 3, Milan, Tel.: 874175.

CAREER: The **"Commissione di studi per la condizione femminile nell'ENEL"**, has conducted an inquiry, coordinated by **Ada Gracchi**, among the seven hundred women who work for **ENEL** throughout Italy, and came to the conclusion that most of the women who want to **"have a career"** are more often satisfied in appearance than in reality.

Useful address: Via Dalmazia 15, 00198 Rome.

EARLY RETIREMENT FOR MEN: The Lazio administrative court has just granted widowers with children the **right to early retirement** (five years). In so doing, the court answered Salvatore Amitrano, a Professor from Viterbo, a widower with a five-year old child he must care for himself. The court referred to Act 903 of 1977, which provides for complete equality of treatment between men and women, as well as stating that the benefits provided for the family are allocated alternately to working husbands and wives.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME: The Minister for Special Affairs, **Rosa Russo Jervolino**, has set up a special commission to look into the problems of accidents in the home. About 100,000 people, mainly children, die in Italy as a result of accidents of this kind.

CRIMINALITY: The National Commission for the Achievement of Equality between Men and Women (Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Rome) publishes **"Female Criminality in Italy"**, by **Gemma Marotta**. This extremely interesting study reveals that over about a century, female criminality has diminished in absolute terms with respect to male criminality and to population growth. However, this process has been combined with tougher imprisonment measures for women. The author also notes that this phenomenon affects housewives more than other women, as well as students and unemployed women, and, regionally, it is moving from the South (Lazio, Campania) towards regions like Lombardy, Piedmont, Liguria and Veneto.

EQUALITY: A commission for equality for women has been set up in the Piedmont region to find and promote **"positive actions"**, and to react against all forms of discrimination, direct or indirect.

PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE: A number of initiatives to report : **Orientamento Lavoro** (via Vincenzo Monti 56, Milan, Tel.: 439-0601) has been organizing courses since last year, with very positive results, for women aged between 25 and 50. **Donnalavorodonna** (via Bagutta 12, Milan, Tel.: 706988) has published **"Progetti di donne in-formazione"**, describing numerous activities in the field of training.

GENETICS - HUMAN RIGHTS: The **Christian Democratic Party** (DC) has just put before the other parliamentary parties a resolution asking the government to take legislative action on genetic engineering, artificial procreation and biotechnology, with a view to protecting the inviolable rights of the individual. The DC is also asking the government to take steps to implement the Abortion Act : it sees considerable red tape, and therefore underlines the usefulness of voluntary work to supplement the services offered by the state.

PRESS: The **Movimento di Liberazione della Donna group** (via Zecca Vecchia 3, Milan) has created a **"Coordinamento Stampa delle Riviste della Donna"**, in order to promote the distribution of the feminist press and cooperation between the different publications. **"Leggere donna"** (Centro Documentazione Donna, Contrada della Rose 14, 44100 Ferrara) has published a special issue on women satirical cartoonists. L'Associazione per l'Informazione **"Il paese delle donne"** (Via san Francesco di Sales 1, 00165 Rome) has been publishing a weekly pamphlet **"Il paese delle donne"** since December 1987, which they manage and finance themselves. This pamphlet, distributed by subscription, will inform its readers on all events of interest to women in Italy and worldwide. There is a permanent column devoted to the debates and activities of the European Parliament on "women's" issues. For information and contacts : M.P. Fiorenso-Jorno, Via Gran Sasso 38, 00141 Rome.

SHORTHAND TYPING: Rosario Leone, the Chairman of the Unione Professionale Stenografica Italiana (via Roma 25, Alzano Lombarda) has denounced the discrimination against this type of education, in which most of the teaching staff are women. The Vice-President of the Social Affairs Committee of the lower house of the Italian Parliament, Lino Armellini, has suggested that this type of education should be integrated into certain institutes of university faculties, as Professor Leone reminds us.

LUXEMBOURG

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION: A school cleaner who had been hired before 1982, when the new collective agreement for workers from the Southern districts became effective, and who had remained in a lower category than her male colleagues, took her case to the Pétange District Council. The Council is now examining the question of whether this difference in treatment is in fact related to the cleaner's sex, along with the Labour and Mines Inspectorate.

Useful address: Labour and Mines Inspectorate, 26, rue Zithe, Luxembourg.

The Ministry of Education (6 Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg) has also been accused once again of discrimination against women teachers. The quota system is said to be still in use, and the Ministry is even said to want to introduce it into pre-school education.

EDUCATION: The government has decided to establish a 10,000 franc per month education allowance, graduated according to income and number of children, which can be awarded to whichever parent deals with the education of the children, for a period of two years. One-parent families will also receive this allowance, which was immediately subjected to severe criticism by Liberal women, who consider that its concealed aim is to encourage women to return to being housewives and to bear more children.

Useful address: Ministry of the Family, 14 Avenue de la Gare, Luxembourg.

On the subject of one-parent families, **the Centre for Single-Parent Family Training** (47 Avenue de la Liberté, Luxembourg, Tel.: 490051) has just set up a **home child-minding service for sick children**.

ARMY: Three of the Luxembourg army's 49 new recruits are women, so that there are now a total of nine women soldiers.

Useful address: Ministry of the Armed Forces, Plateau du St. Esprit, Luxembourg.

THE "NEW" TRADES: A 24-year old Luxembourg woman will be assigned to the "weather forecasting" service of Luxembourg Airport, which up to now had been all-male. We might remark, en passant, that the weather forecasts of various European television stations are increasingly being presented by women, but they are almost always announcers rather than meteorologists, unlike the men.

Useful address: Aéroport de Luxembourg, Service de la Météorologie, Luxembourg-Findel.

WOMEN OF THE THIRD WORLD: The non-governmental organizations AFC Solidarité Tiers Monde (39, rue Fort Neipperg, 2230 Luxembourg), have cooperated with the Association des Cap-Verdiens à Luxembourg to launch an appeal to finance a women's promotion centre in Santiago (Cape Verde). This initiative is part of the International Year of the Homeless.

THE NETHERLANDS

POSITIVE ACTIONS: The government has announced the introduction of an incentive premium for institutions and firms that apply positive action programmes. In addition, the Cabinet has passed a resolution including measures that will facilitate access to male professions for women, with a reference to firms that are attentive to working conditions (for example, the requirement to have toilets for women) and to cases of sexual harassment.

RETIREMENT: "Vrouw en Pensioen" (Landelijke Stichting Ombudsvrouw, Postbus 11666, 2502 AR The Hague) is a book that provides detailed answers to questions on the position of women with respect to retirement, and notes that equal treatment will not have been introduced in this area by 1990.

UPPER RANKS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE - DOCUMENT: The European Institute of Public Administration (O.L. Vrouwplein 22, 6211 HE Maastricht) has published a working document on women in the upper ranks of the civil service in Europe. This document, edited by **Maria José Castello-Branco**, features chapters on the positive actions in the Post Office in the Netherlands and Hamburg, and at EDF in France.

CONGRESS: A congress on the participation in society of the elderly, with particular attention to the contribution of women, will be held at The Hague on May 30 and 31. (Nederlandse Bond van Plattelandsvrouwen, Jan van Nassaustraet 63, Postbus 90652, 2509 LR The Hague).

HEALTH: Adverse Effects - Women and the Pharmaceutical Industry, published by the Stichting DES-Aktiegroep, Maliesingel 46, 3581 BM Utrecht, analyses the frequently adverse effects of medication on women, and how women are getting organized to combat this hazard.

TRADE UNIONISM - INQUIRIES: An inquiry on women supporting strikes in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (Vrouwen Bovengronds) underlines the part played by women in trade union action (Vrouwenbond FNV, Postbus 8456, 1005 AL Amsterdam).

ORGANIZATIONS:

- The Vrouwenraad Tilburg (Mrs. J. Visser-Alderlieste, Kasteel Montfoorstraat 30, 5037 HL Tilburg) unites women's organizations with differing views in order to stimulate the participation of women in all the activities of society.
- The Clara Wichmann Instituut has just been created in Amsterdam (Singel 373, 1012 WL Amsterdam). This institute is particularly interested in women and the law, notably in encouraging the automatic processing of jurisprudence, and documentation of interest to women.

EXHIBITION: On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the death of **Annie Romein-Verschoor**, one of the pioneers of the feminist movement in the Netherlands, the Historical Museum of Amsterdam organized an exhibition on the theme of **"our great aunts; five lady historians in word and image"**. Tribute is also paid to Truitje Bosboom-Toussaint, Johanna Naber, Sini Greup-Roldanus and Willemijn Posthumus-Van der Groot...

PORTUGAL

POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVITY: In January, the **Socialist Party** organized a seminar on the theme of the place of women in the political parties, with particular reference to the situation of the Socialist Party, and an examination of strategies that would emphasize the role of women. The participants considered that a minimum percentage of women (25%) in the decision-making bodies of the parties, the Portuguese Parliament and the European Parliament, should be established, and a **"Socialist Plan for Equality"** should be drawn up.

Useful address: Ana Coucello, Conselho Consultivo das Mulheres, Partido Socialista, Largo do Rato 2, 1200 Lisbon.

Another party, the **Centro Democratico Social** or **CDS** (Social Democratic Centre) now has a women on its political executive for the first time (**Elizete Carvalho**), and four women in another internal body (the political committee).

Useful address: Centro Democratico Social, Largo Adelino Amaro da Costa 5, 1100 Lisbon.

TRADITION: The Associação Académica de Coimbra (a century-old association of the students of the university town of Coimbra) has also had a first, which breaks with its long tradition : a woman, **Ana Paula Barros**, a 22-year old final-year law student, has just been elected President of the Association.

PRIZE: **Maria Elisa Domingues**, a Portuguese TV journalist, has been awarded the prize which the Association of European Journalists awards annually for the best journalistic work on a European theme. Maria Elisa Domingues received the prize in a tie with the Irish journalist Val Dorgan.

DOCUMENTATION AND STATISTICS: The Comissão da Condição Feminina (Avenida da República 32, 1000 Lisbon), wishes to remind readers of its documentation centre, which has been in existence since 1976, includes a specialized library of about 5,000 publications (including a set of very old books and rare publications), a regularly publishes a Folha de Informação Bibliográfica. The Comissão has published a series of statistics on women in agriculture, which show that the **"rate of feminization"** in this sector is particularly high among **"the self-employed without personnel"** (71.2% of women employed in agriculture) and **"unpaid workers who are family members"** (20.4% of women). It would also appear that women farm workers are younger than men : 13.1% of men in agriculture and 13.3% of women are aged under 20; 13.9% of men and 17.5% of women, between 20 and 29; 7.9% of men and 14.5% of women between 30 and 39; and 24.5% of men and 11.8% of women over 60.

WOMEN FARMERS: The first Associação das Mulheres Agricultoras Portuguesas (women in agriculture) (Calçada Ribeiro Santos 19, 1200 Lisbon) was founded as a result of the European seminar organized in January 1987 by the **CEJA** and the **Commission of the European Communities** (Women's Information Service). Among the problems raised at this seminar were the recognition of the legal status of women in a family agricultural business; access for women farm workers to information, training and new technologies; and the development of quality, modern agriculture.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

A NEW CHAIRWOMAN OF THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION: **Joanna Foster** will replace Baroness Platt of Writtle. She is at present in charge of the Pepperell Unit, the equal opportunity division of Britain's largest managerial training organization, Industrial Society. Her husband's work took her to Fontainebleau, where she organized a bilingual kindergarten and a language school for adults (and where she also worked for two newspapers at the INSEAD business school), as well as to the United States, where she was in charge of training and rehabilitation at the Pittsburgh Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. Joanna Foster, who believes that women have a great ability to administer change and to adapt to new situations, told Women of Europe that she is very pleased about the role she will be playing in the European Committee on Equal Opportunity. We hope she enjoys her work !

WOMEN AND PUBLIC LIFE: The Equal Opportunity Commission and the Cabinet Office's Public Appointment Unit have just published jointly new directives on the need to hire more women in the civil service. The directives underline the need to hire more women by preventing discrimination and by opening up to women new sectors, other than their traditional sectors, such as health, for instance. In addition, women who already work in public bodies should give the names of other women who could be hired. The Equal Opportunity Commission underscores the fact that this is a unique initiative in the European Community.

Useful address: Equal Opportunity Commission, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3-3HN.

A NEW TRADE UNION PUTS WOMEN AMONG ITS PRIORITIES: The new trade union **MSF** (Manufacturing Science Finance, created by the merger of **ASTMS** and **TASS**), which has more than 600,000 members, including 126,000 women, considers the promotion of women's work as a priority. It has asked **Anne Gibson** and **Terry Marsland** to look into this question. Their primary intention is to launch a vast information campaign on the "equal pay for equal work" legislation.

DISCRIMINATION: In Northern Ireland, the Belfast Industrial Tribunal considered that **Carol Mitchell**, who had brought charges against the Sun Alliance Insurance Group for discrimination, had in fact been discriminated against because she had been transferred from one post to another as part of the firm's general reorganization. Mrs. Mitchell, after being employed by this firm, had been named a section head in the personnel insurance department in 1979. In September 1985, as part of the company's general reorganization, she was transferred to a lower post. Two months later, two posts became vacant at the level she was entitled to, and she applied along with four other people, but, although she was the only one of the four who had experience as a section head, she was not offered either of the posts. The Tribunal's conclusion : Mrs. Mitchell had been deprived of her post as a section head to create a vacant post "that would attract Mr. X".

Another victory for women in Northern Ireland : **Frances Finnegan**, an employee of Clowney YPT Ltd., in Belfast, brought charges against her employer because he had obliged her to stop working in April 1986, in accordance with the company's retirement policy (retirement at 60 for women, 65 for men).

The industrial tribunal upheld Frances Finnegan; **Beverly Jones** of the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission, underlined the importance of this decision, which means that women who do not wish to retire before men will no longer be obliged to do so, even if Irish law (unlike British law) has not yet been changed to recognize this right, which, may we remind you, was recognized for public sector employees as a result of **the Helen Marshal affair**, brought before the European Court of Justice in 1986

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

TAXATION: A report by the Women's Committee Unit of the Edinburgh District Council (City of Edinburgh District Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh, EH1-1YJ) denounces the expected effects of the Community Charge (Poll tax) which is to be introduced in Scotland in 1989, and in the rest of the United Kingdom in 1990. The report claims that this new tax will increase the number of taxable citizens, by affecting the poorest among them, particularly women (who represent about 70% of retired people and 80% of single-parent families).

FAMILY ALLOWANCES: The Secretary of State for Social Security, John Moore, has announced that family allowances will not increase with inflation this year, but will stay at £ 7.25 a week. The Equal Opportunity Commission has expressed its concern about this decision, which it calls "**profoundly contrary to the interests of a very great number of women**". John Moore's justification : this allowance does not achieve its aim, because it is not aimed primarily at the poor (people who think the way he does always quote the example of the Duchess of Westminster, who could theoretically claim family allowance). But, as **Sandra Shulman** of the Fawcett Society states (Fawcett Society, 46, Harleyford Road, London SE11-5AY Tel.: 587-1287), this allowance plays a crucial part in the fight to prevent poverty, especially as it is aimed at families with children rather than those which do not have children.

HEALTH: A new report from the Office of Health Economics (12 Whitehall, London SW1A-2DY), **Women's Health Today**, shows that women in the United Kingdom drink too much, smoke too much, weigh too much, and do not get enough exercise (their state of health is worst in Scotland). More women than men smoke between the ages of 16 and 19, for example (twice as many in secondary education), and 50 to 70% of women aged under 20 get no exercise at all.

A report by gynecologists, pathologists, and other medical specialists, drawn up with the support of the Faculty of Community Medicine, hopes for improved prevention of cervical cancer (which kills 2,000 women a year in the United Kingdom), by means of three-yearly testing for women aged between 20 and 64. At present, the authorities recommend five-yearly testing.

BOOKS: VIRAGO Press (41, William IV Street, London WC2N-4DB), the feminist publishing house, will be celebrating its 15th birthday this summer. It will be recalled that the firm was founded by **Carmen Callill** to "**publish books that clarify all aspects of women's lives**", and is run entirely by women.

The British magazine **EVERYWOMAN** (34, Islington Green, London N1-8DU), has just published under the title "**Pornography and Sexual Violence : Evidence of the Links**", a report of the public hearing Minneapolis City Council organized in December 1983 to look at the relationship between pornography and violence.

WOMEN BARRISTERS: According to a report by the **Law Society's Women's Careers Working Party**, women barristers, although they often begin their careers with better qualifications than men, rarely become partners in their law firms. There is however a shortage of barristers, and women should play a more important role in this activity in the future.

UNIVERSITIES: In the United Kingdom 42% of undergraduate students and 37% of postgraduate students are women, but in 1985, only 20% of the academic staff of British universities were women. **Marilyn Ricci**, of the women's Committee of the Association of University Teachers (United House, 1 Pembridge Road, London W11-3HJ) also states that in 1985 about two-thirds of women hired in universities were research personnel on short-term contracts, and only 25% of men were in this category.

MUSEUMS: A woman (a rarity in museums) has become Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. **Elizabeth Esteve-Coll**, who was the museum's chief librarian, has earned this honour.

STUDY: A study by the Young Women's Christian Association of Great Britain (Clarendon House, 52, Cornmarket Street, Oxford OX1-2EY, Tel.: 726110) underlines the obstacles encountered generally by girls in jobs normally reserved for men, in three specific sectors of activity (engineering, construction, printing).

WOMEN MATHEMATICIANS: **The Warwick Women in Mathematics** (Mathematics Institute, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4-7AL, Tel.: 523523) are organizing their third annual conference on European women and mathematics, for a week, starting on December 10, 1988. The previous meetings were held in Paris and Copenhagen. Women mathematicians are expected from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Poland (for the time being).

SUBSIDIES GUIDE: **Bedford Square Press** (26, Bedford Square, London WC1B-3HU, Tel.: 636-4066) publishes the fourth edition of the Government Grants, a **"Guide for Voluntary Organizations"**, with very up-to-date information on the various government grants available for voluntary organizations.

Representatives of 26 women's organizations recently got together in London to discuss their financing problems, as they had been particularly affected by the abolition of the Greater London Council in 1986. This authority provided material support for many of these organizations. Nine national women's organizations have now joined forces to form **Women's Way UK**, which will collect funds for its members.

EUROPE AND THE WORLD

THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT: The International Women's Committee of the European Movement has elected its new Chairwoman : **Anita Garibaldi**, a member of the movement's French Council. The elected Vice-Chairwoman are : **Charlotte von der Herberg** (German Council), and **Janine Lansier** (French Council). **Francisca Tarazaga** (Spanish Council) is the new Secretary.

Useful address: Rue de Trèves 66, 1040 Brussels.

COMPANY PRESIDENTS: The 36th World Congress of Women Company Presidents will be held in Italy from June 9 to 12, 1988. It will open in Milan, and will then include work at the Ispra Joint Research Centre (Theme : "Energy at the service of world economic development") and Stresa, where the Congress will end.

Useful address: Maria Grazia Randi, Comitato organizzatore, 20122 Milan, Corso Europa 14, Tel.: 780803.

TURKEY: The new Turkish government, after the November 1987 elections, includes one woman, **Imren Aykut**, responsible for employment and social security.

NORDIC FORUM: About 7,000 people are expected in Oslo from July 30 to August 7, 1988, for the largest women's conference ever organized in a Scandinavian country. The organizers consider this "Nordic Forum" as a regional follow-up to the United Nations' "**Women's Decade**".

Useful address: Nordic Forum, Nedre Vollgaten 8, 9158 Oslo 1, Tel.: 116971.

"WOMEN'S POWER - MEN'S POWER": This was the title of a seminar organized in Octobre 1987 at Sieverhausen/Hanover by the Christian Movement for Peace, on the theme of "**The Situation of women in time of economic crisis and possible strategies for change**".

Useful address: Mouvement chrétien pour la paix, rue Stévin 92, 1040 Brussels.

HEALTH: May 28, 1988, will be an "international day of action for women's health", with the theme of "**how to prevent mortality of women in childbirth**". This event is organized by the "Women's Global Network on Reproductive Rights" (P.O. Box 4098, Minahassastraat 1, 1009 AB Amsterdam, Tel.: 923000), with the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network/ISIS International.

UNO: THE UNITED NATIONS' SECRETARIAT: has just published as part of the promotion campaign for the objectives of the "**Women's Decade**" a brochure on the theme "**Women and Shelter**", containing information of interest to women regarding housing, their influence on building policy, and their difficulties in emergency situations, such as refugee women or displaced women.

Useful address: JUNG/NGO Programma Group on Women, UNESCO, 7, Place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris.

WOMEN AND DRUGS: This is the theme to which "**Women 2000**" (a publication whose aim is to promote the implementation of UNO strategies for the advancement of women) has devoted an issue, underlining the particular hazards to which women are exposed through drug abuse.

Useful address: Branch for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna.

WIN NEWS: A quarterly publication of the "**Women's International Network**", open to "women of all backgrounds, creeds, nationalities and ages", would like to have contributions from and by women on any themes that interest them. Up to now, Win News has published among other articles, information on the initiatives taken during the Women's International Year and Decade. In addition, there are regular columns with information on women and health, women and development, women and the environment, women and the media, women and international affairs.

Useful address: WIN, 187 Grant Street, Lexington, MA 02173, USA, Tel.: 862-9431.

BIOCHEMISTS: The International Union of Biochemistry will be organizing its 14th international congress in Prague from July 10 to 15, 1988. On July 14, the congress features a panel on women biochemists, the first of its kind on the theme "**prepare a career and adopt priorities**".

Useful address: Zoe Nakos Canellakis, Department of Pharmacology, Yale University School of Medicine, P.O. Box 3333, New Haven, Connecticut 06510-8066, Tel.: 283785.

BANK: Women's World Banking (104, East Street, New York 10016, Tel.: 953-2390), notes numerous examples of progress in its annual multilingual report for 1986, and refers in particular to the fact that, with its help, more than 20,000 women have been able to "progress towards self-sufficiency..... by managing their family's income thanks to job creation and the production of goods and services for local economies".

CHINA: On February 17, 1988, the start of the "year of the dragon", the magazine "**Woman of China**" (50 Deng Shi Kou, Beijing) announced a series of articles on the participation of women in the reforms announced at the 13th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, in October 1987.

TELEVISION: British TV's Channel 4 has asked **Equal Media Limited** (1 Wakeman Road, Kensal Rise, London NW10-5BJ) to schedule a series of films directed by women from Latin America, Africa and Asia, as well as by black women from Europe and the United States. The programmes are scheduled for November 1988.

LATIN AMERICA

FEMINISM - THEORY AND REALITY: The fourth "Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Meeting", held at Taxco, Mexico, in October 1987, was the occasion for many questions to be raised, and in particular the question of what are the respective roles of the "historical" feminists, who analyse situations theoretically, and of the women who, like working women and peasant women, are fighting machismo on the battleground of everyday life.

Participants at the meeting were able to see the marked progress in the feminist struggle of Latin American women, as well as this movement's creativity and the original contribution it has made to world feminism, and to deal with specific problems in the workshops : violence, trade unionism and feminism, feminism among the people, feminism and lesbianism, feminism and human rights, feminism and the church. In the view of the participants, these meetings should take place a little more frequently than every two to three years (the next is to be held in Argentina in 1990).

URUGUAY: The Instituto de la Mujer was created by Presidential decree in 1987, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Culture. Among its tasks is to suggest legislative and other reforms to enable women to participate in society, and to suggest the measures required to implement the resolutions passed by the Conference on **"Women, Population, Development"**.

Useful address: Ministerio de Education y Cultura, Instituto de la Mujer, Reconquista 536, Piso 80, Montevideo.

ISIS INTERNACIONAL: (Italy, Via San Saba 5, 00153 Rome; Chile, Casilla 2067, Correo Central, Santiago), along with the Red de Educacion Popular entre Mujeres del Consejo de Educacion de Adultos (Population Education Network among Women of the Adult Education Council) of Latin America, have published the anthology "Crecer Juntas" (Growing Together), on "women, feminism and popular education" in Latin America and the Caribbean, with articles on the situation in Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. ISIS have also published the fourth issue of **"Women in Action"** for 1987, and supplement no.9, in which the Red Feminista Internacional section denounces instances of repression of activist women in a number of Latin American and Asian countries.

MUJER-FEMPRESS: has already published two editions in 1988, with articles on **"The invisible half of Latin American history"** and **"The new couple"** respectively. In addition, a special issue explains the demands of women in a number of Latin American countries, ranging from general political demands to specific claims concerning work, the family, health, communication or violence.

Useful address: Casilla 16-637, Santiago 9, Chile, Tel.:231-4787, or 231-5486.

BOOKS, STUDIES, MEETINGS

Des Femmes en Politique, by **Mariette Sineau** (researcher at the French National Centre for Scientific Research and co-author, with Janine Mossuz-Lavau, of the "Enquête sur les femmes et la politique en France", PUF, 1983), has just been published by ECONOMICS, 49, rue Héricart, 75015 Paris. This work is the fruit of an inquiry conducted among women holding national political office (except for those with ministerial responsibilities). In this book, the author denounces France's backwardness in feminizing its political personnel : only 6% of MPs are women, 3% of senators, 10% of regional councillors, 4% of country councillors and 14% of district councillors (and mainly in smaller rural districts). Mariette Sineau also underlines the phenomenon of "enforced specialization" of women in politics, the "links that are still weak" in the chain of female solidarity, their "bad conscience" as wives and mothers, their inferiority complex in some cases, their "subservience to masculine standards", but also their criticism of masculine "show" and ambition.

Frauenhaus in Ländlichen Raum, published by the German Federal Ministry of Youth, Family, Women and Health (Bundesminister für Jugend, Familie, Frauen und Gesundheit, 5300 Bonn 2), describes three years' experience in the "Rendsburg women's home", a model project by the Ministry to help ill-treated women in agricultural areas. The authors, **Karin Bergdoll** and **Christel Nangalies-Trechler**, tell how this initiative made it possible to help woman who were victims of violence from July 1982 to September 1985. They remind readers that it is estimated that almost one woman in three in Germany is ill-treated by her husband, and that the 150 or so existing "women's homes" are often full.

Blanche Edwarde-Pilliet, *Femme et Médecine, 1858-1941*: This biography by **Françoise Leguay and Claude Barbizet** (published by Editions Cénomane, 1 rue Auvray, 72000 Le Mans, Tel.:43 24 21 57) tells the fascinating story of the daughter of an English doctor who gained her doctoral degree in 1889 at the Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris. Blanche Edwards, who was burned in effigy in the Latin Quarter by her detractors when she passed her doctoral examination, also fought for sexual education for women, protested against the "mutilation of the waist by the corset", supported the creation of day nurseries (she herself had three children, with whom she was left alone at the age of forty), and continued to fight for freedom for women all her life.

UILM (Anna Rea, Segretaria UILM, 80100 Naples) has published the minutes of its national colloquium held in Naples in September 1987, at which the women delegates in this metal and mechanical industry union were able to take stock of the situation of equal opportunities in this industry. The delegates underscored many weaknesses and raised problems of employment, careers and health. In the introduction, **Irene Spezzano** underlines the need for women to play a bigger role in the union.

The "Trade Union and Social Information" division of the Directorate General of Information, Communication and Culture, Commission of the European Communities, (200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels) has published a report on "Equality of Opportunity between Men and Women, the Italian Case". Marcella Chiesi, an expert on working conditions for women (who cooperated in the first experiments with "positive action" in Italy), takes stock of "community policy and union negotiations" in Italy in late 1986 and early 1987.

Travail des femmes, pouvoir des hommes: This is a book that takes us all the way back to the "origin of oppression of women", seen from an anthropological, ethnological, historical and economic viewpoint. A series of French and American authors, under the responsibility of **Nicole Chevillard and Sébastien Leconte**, attempt to explain why women are oppressed. This book has already been published in English with the title "Women's Work, Men's Property". La Brèche, 2 rue Richard Lenoir, 93218 Montreuil, France.

Also published by La Brèche, in the "Lutte des femmes" collection, **Les femmes dans la révolution chinoise** by Katie Curtin, a Canadian feminist; an anthology of **Conférences sur la libération des femmes** by Alexandre Kollontai; **Femmes et mouvement ouvrier - Allemagne avant 1924, Révolution russe and Révolution espagnole**, by Annick Mahaim, Alix Hôlt and Jacqueline Heinen.

Gli emarginati della politica - crisi della rappresentanza. Giulia Paoli di Nicola deals with the crisis in the political representation of the outcasts among the citizenry - women, the young, the elderly, and manual workers. As regards women in particular, who make up something like 52% of the population, the author (a sociological researcher at the Political Science Faculty in Teramo) notes that they are represented "institutionally, in political life", with variations depending on time and place, by a percentage from zero to 18, the peak value, with an average of 5-6%. Marino Solfanelli Editore, Chieti.

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