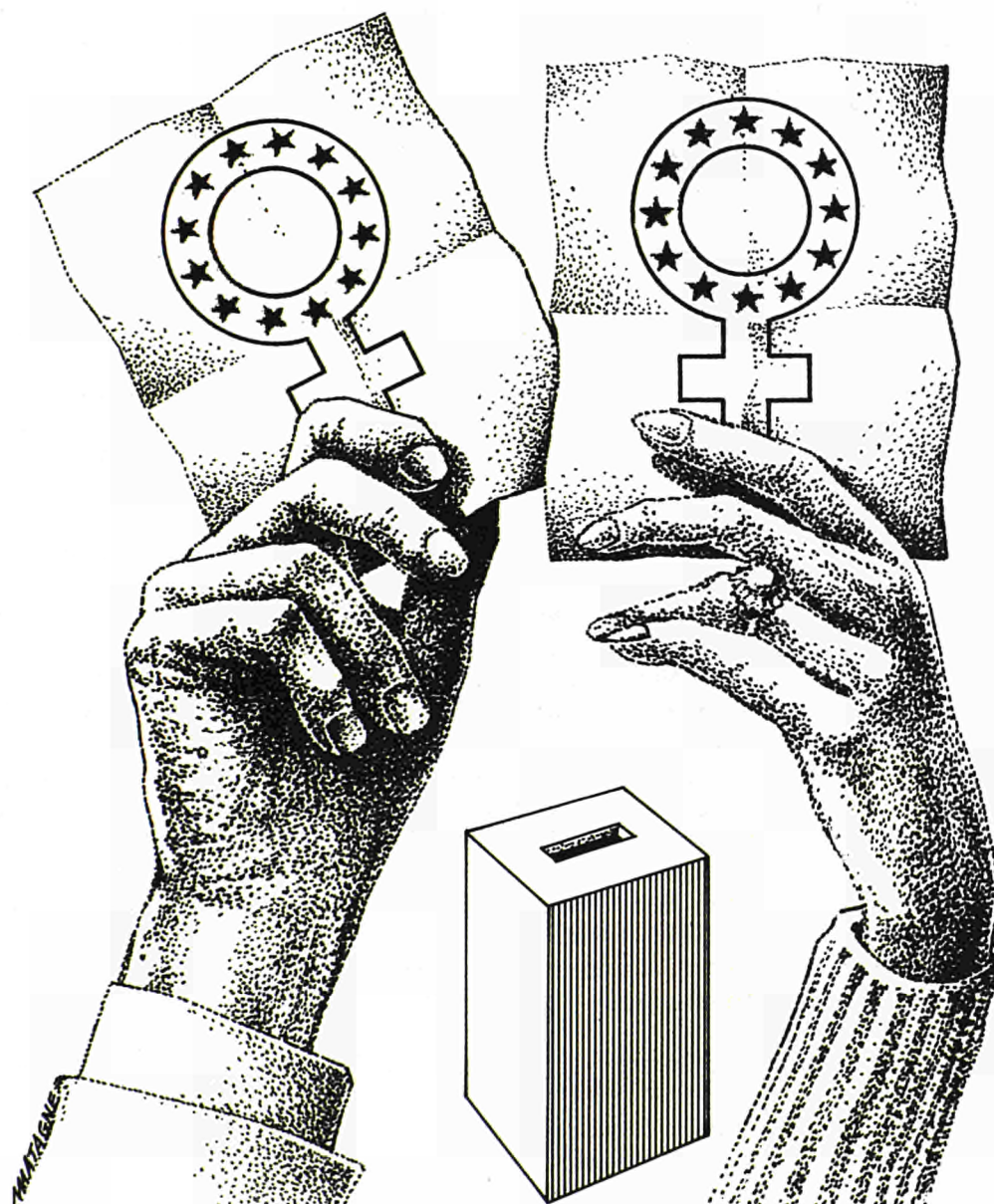


WOMEN OF EUROPE

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IN THIS ISSUE

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	3
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	5
Plenary Sessions.....	5
Committee on Social Affairs and Employment.....	7
Committee on Women's Rights.....	7
Written questions.....	8
 COUNTRY TO COUNTRY	
Belgium (8) Greece (16) Netherlands (21)	
Denmark (12) Ireland (17) Portugal (23)	
France (13) Italy (18) Spain (24)	
Germany (14) Luxembourg (20) United Kingdom (26)	
 NEWS FROM EUROPE AND THE WORLD.....	 27
LATIN AMERICA.....	30
BOOKS, STUDIES, MEETINGS.....	32

Our correspondents:

Denmark:	Danske Kvinders Nationalrad, N. Hemmingsensgade 8, 1153 København
Germany:	Christa Randzio-Plath, Hadermans Weg, 23, Hamburg 61
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, 00187 Roma
Luxembourg:	Alix Wagner, 7 rue Henri Frommes, 1545 Luxembourg
Netherlands:	Anneke Groen, Reynier Vinkeleskade 64, 1071 SX Amsterdam
Portugal:	Eugénia Pires Ribeiro, Rua Oliveira Martins, 3, 3° Dto, 2735 Agualva-Cacém
Spain:	Carmen Saez Buenaventura, Calle Rafael Salazar Alonso, 14 - 28007 Madrid
United Kingdom:	Morag Alexander, The Coach House, East Rossdhu Drive, Helensburgh, Glasgow G84 7ST, Scotland
European Parliament:	Lydia Gazzo, 17 Avenue de Tourville, 75007 Paris
Text:	Laurence Bonsom Claire Saille
Editor:	Fausta Deshormes la Valle Head of Women's Information Service 200 rue de la Loi 1049 Brussels

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THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND: On 15 February the European Commission set new guidelines for the European Social Fund aimed primarily at combating long-term unemployment and encouraging the hiring of young people. The work outlined is in favour of the categories of people who have special difficulty finding work, i.e., immigrant workers, the handicapped and women. With regard to women, priority is given to training and easing their return to work after a break in their careers. (Reference: Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 45, p. 6, of 24 February 1989).

SOCIAL DIALOGUE: A high-level meeting of the "Steering Group" created in the wake of the Val Duchesse social dialogue meeting held on 12 January 1989 (chaired by Jacques Delors) was held in Brussels on 21 March. The Steering Group, which is chaired by Vasso Papandreou, EC Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, expressed its firm political desire to have the social dialogue enter a second phase. Its task is to give a permanent impetus to this dialogue, stimulate thought on the different themes that are selected, and assess the joint opinions and whatever results they may produce. Two major subjects were discussed during the meeting, namely, education and training and the prospects for a European labour market. The Group is supposed to meet twice a year and act like a governing board for the social dialogue. Vasso Papandreou is the only woman in the group, whose 14 members are split equally between UNICE/employers on the one hand and the CES/trade unions on the other.

REFERENDUM AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT: The Italian Parliament has adopted a law providing for a non-binding people's referendum to be held in tandem with the European elections. This referendum will concern the granting of a mandate to the European Parliament to write a draft constitution for the European Union. The Italian Parliament's decision has great political significance, for it is the first move to comply with the desire, expressed on numerous occasions, of Europe's citizens to have their voices heard. Several surveys have confirmed this trend. Moreover, such a referendum fits in perfectly with the logic of the democratic institutional procedures underlying parliamentary government. Through this move the Italian Parliament hopes to create a dynamic link between the national legislatures and European government of the future.

EDUCATION: At their recent informal meeting in Segovia the EC's Education Ministers acknowledged the need for joint action in education, despite the reservations of principle that are still upheld by the representatives of several Member States. Joint solutions should thus be found for the problems of language learning, access to higher education, learning the fine points of leading-edge technology, and high drop-out rates. The Ministers stressed the importance of education as a linchpin of the development of "Europe without Frontiers" (i.e., borders). Ms Papandreou announced that she would be presenting, by the end of April, a medium-term programme drawn up by the European Commission that emphasises diversity, subsidiarity and partnership. This programme will be reviewed every six months. Ms Papandreou also suggested creating a "troika" (current, past and future Presidents of the EC Council of Ministers) in which the Commission would participate to give more impetus to this Community initiative.

LABOUR LAWS: The 5 April "Social Affairs" Council, which was chaired by Spanish Minister Chaves Gonzales, adopted joint positions on three specific Directives on health and safety in the workplace. These Directives set minimum conditions of the use of production equipment and individual protection equipment. However, the United Kingdom issued a reservation, pending examination of the Directives by its national parliament, thereby delaying the official adoption of these texts until the end of the year. They are due to go into effect by the end of 1992.

PART-TIME WORK: A Commission Expert Group has completed a study of "atypical" work within the Community under the supervision of Danièle Meulders of Brussels Free University (ULB). The report reveals a clear increase in part-time work since 1975. It is most popular in Denmark and the United Kingdom (20% of total employment, 40% of female employment). Part-time work has gained a great deal of ground in Belgium and Spain, especially among women (90% of part-timers in Belgium). However, such schedules usually involve low-skill or low-level jobs. What is more, the law in some countries (including Belgium) stipulates that workers who put in less than a certain number of hours are excluded from social protection.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING: The European Commission has selected the 52 European executives who will participate in the new phase of the Executive Training Programme (ETP) for young European management personnel in Japan. This group left for Tokyo on 20 May for 16 months' intensive training in Japanese and Japanese management. There are only two women in this year's batch. (Address: EC Office, Kowa 25 Building, 7-8 Sanbancho Chiyoda, KU Tokyo 102, Japan.)

CITIZENS SERVICES: A fourth "Citizens Service" opened in Europe (at the Bonn Information Bureau of the European Communities) at the end of 1988. The three other offices are located in The Hague, Brussels and Copenhagen. Their purpose is to inform European citizens of the individual and collective rights guaranteed by Community legislation and, if necessary, help them in making their claims. (Address: *Informationsamt der EG, Bürgerberatungsstelle, Zittelmannstraße 22, D-5300 Bonn*)

EURO-BAROMETER: According to the surveys conducted in October and November, a majority of Europeans are in favour of the European Union. Eighty percent of the respondents said that Community affairs were important, even very important. The European Commission's popularity has also risen, whilst the population seems to view the European Parliament more and more favourably. A growing number of electors intend to vote in the June elections (Directorate-General for Information, Communication and Culture, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.)

YOUNG PEOPLE: The Youth Forum of the European Communities' 8th General Assembly insisted on the place that young people will occupy in post-1992 Europe and the need for North/South cooperation (especially between the EEC and ACP - African, Caribbean and Pacific - group) in order to lay the foundations of a true partnership. It also highlighted the need to reassess the value of all human resources. The March Youth Opinion dossier (supplement), "1992, the European Social Area and Young People", gives a precise, thorough picture of this set of problems. (Address: Youth Forum, rue de la Science 10, 1040 Brussels.)

PUBLICATION: A new publication has seen the light of day at the instigation of the European Commission's Women's Information Service. The Women of Europe Newsletter is designed for the quick exchange of information on the equal opportunity policies conducted by the European Communities. It is available in French and English only in order to speed publication. (Address: Women's Information Service, DG X, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.)

E U R O P E A N E L E C T I O N S : 18 JUNE 1989

One of our readers has sent us an open letter that we are publishing below most willingly:

Open letter to the European other half:

WE make up half of the population
WE are your wives or companions
WE are the mothers of your children
WE are your officemates,
WE share your joy and your sorrow,

with YOU we have studied, thought and invented,
with YOU we have enriched culture and the arts,
with YOU we have tilled, sown and reaped,
with YOU we have fought and campaigned,
with YOU we have built peace,
with YOU we have built the world,

and WE are also building EUROPE with YOU

EUROPE needs ALL of us and ALL of us need EUROPE.

Voting for women is not granting them a favour,
it is restoring a proper balance.

E U R O P E A N P A R L I A M E N T

MARCH PLENARY SESSION:

SOCIAL AFFAIRS:

The European Parliament followed the recommendations of the report by Thomas Megahy (British Labour) on the age of retirement urging the Council of Ministers to send a new Recommendation out to the Member States (the previous one dates back to 1982). The Parliament also called on the Commission and the budgetary authority (i.e., itself) to release the funds required to finance the programmes to prepare people for retirement. It felt that much more flexibility should be allowed in choosing when to retire and that the discrimination existing between the two sexes must be eliminated. The Parliament suggested that the Commission draw up minimum

rules to reinforce the legal security of seasonal workers. Attention was also given to the problems of wives working without pay on farms and in family businesses. The MEPs adopted the report by Andrew Pearce (British European Democrat) calling for a change in the 1986 EEC Directive whereby wives would be considered associates so that they would have the same social protection as employees in all circumstances.

APRIL PLENARY SESSION:

CITIZENS' RIGHTS: The European Parliament adopted a Declaration on Citizens' Fundamental Rights that enshrines some economic and social as well as political and civil rights. This Declaration, which the Parliament is exhorting the other Community institutions to adopt, stipulates in particular that men and women are equal and bans all discrimination on the basis of sex.

PROGRESS REPORT: European Council President Felipe Gonzalez gave the Spanish Presidency's mid-term report on progress in completing the Internal Market that paid special attention to the Market's social dimension and the need to make progress in People's Europe.

ENVIRONMENT: The Parliament approved German Social Democrat Kurt Vittinghoff's report on the pollution caused by cars with small engines, calling for much stricter antipollution measures than those of the Council of Ministers. This report will have strong impact on the environment and the quality of life. The Parliament also found an ally in EC Commissioner Carlo Ripa Di Meana, who assured the assembly that the Commission would back its positions.

WOMEN:

* The Parliament did not proceed with a vote on the report on health and women by Dutch Green Nel van Dijk. First of all, the Conservatives tried to have the report sent back to committee. The Christian Democrats then tried to postpone the vote until the next session, in vain. Finally, after a brief debate, the Christian Democrats asked for confirmation of the presence - or rather, the absence - of a quorum, it being Friday morning. This tactic worked. Vera Squarzialupi, exasperated, asked whether the "men of the Right hadn't wives, mothers and daughters." Ms van Dijk, for her part, felt that the report upset people because it dwelt on some taboos and very delicate subjects (such as violence against women). Finally, the vote on the resolution and its 82 amendments was postponed to 22 May. The Parliamentarians who opposed it will thus have time to amend it by democratic process.

* The Parliament adopted Spanish Conservative Carmen Lorca Vilaplana's report on the exploitation of prostitution and the traffic in human beings using an accelerated procedure that did not require a plenary session debate. The Parliament asked that Member States that have not yet ratified the 1949 UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others please do so and that they take the requisite measures to enable prostitutes to return to "normal" life with the help of NGOs with recognised experience in this area.

* The Parliament also adopted several reports drafted by women Rapporteurs:

- human rights: two reports by Dutch Socialist Ien van den Heuvel on the rights of native Americans and support for the activities of the International Red Cross Committee;
- education: report by Eileen Lemas (RDE, Ireland) supporting the LINGUA programme for language learning;
- food laws: reports by Mary Banotti (EPP, Ireland) on fruit juice and similar products; by Danish Conservative Marie Jepsen on foodstuffs to be used in dietetic foods; by British Conservative Caroline Jackson on government inspection of foodstuffs; and by Ursula Schleicher (EPP, Germany) on food labelling;
- regional policy: a report by French Socialist Colette Gadioux on the Regional Fund's management;
- development policy: a report by French Socialist Yvette Fullet on the Development Fund's management.

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT:

The Committee met in Brussels on 28 February and 1 March under the chairmanship of Portuguese Socialist Fernando Gomes, at which time Ms Papandreou presented the European Commission's social programme for the current year. This programme emphasises *vocational training that is adapted* to the job market's real needs, with contributions to be expected from projects such as ERASMUS, COMETT and SCIENCE. Concerning labour law, the Commission intends to draft a code of conduct for the protection of pregnancy and maternity. Finally, several programmes for the handicapped (HELIOS and HANDYNET) and against poverty (aimed at the economic and social integration of the underprivileged) are under way. At the end of her speech the Commissioner answered questions from the Committee on the position of women in the labour market, the need for social legislation as an accompanying measure in setting up the Single Market, etc.

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

* The Committee met at the end of March under the chairmanship of Hedy D'Ancona (Dutch Socialist). It adopted the report by British Labourite Christine Crawley on improving conditions for women in prison using the accelerated procedure (without a vote in full session). This report pays special attention to women inmates with children. The Committee also approved, by the same procedure, the report by Carmen Lorca Vilaplana (Spanish Conservative) on the exploitation of prostitution and the traffic in human beings.

* Marijke Van Hemeldonck, MEP (SP), and Lode Van Houtryve, criminologist, have finished their study of female criminality for the Committee on Women's Rights. According to this study, 5% of prison inmates are women and their numbers have been rising over the past ten years. More than 40% of female inmates are in preventive detention for drug-related offences or forgeries. Their level of schooling is often very low. Nevertheless, they are not provided with appropriate vocational training opportunities. Finally, their specific psychological and physiological needs are neglected and they may not keep their children with them past the age of 2. The report recommends raising this age limit to 3 years.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The European Commission has answered a number of written questions related to women's affairs that were put to it by various MEPs, as follows:

- Replying to Belgian Socialist Raymonde Dury, it has confirmed that officials of both sexes will participate without distinction in the negotiations on the next EEC/ACP convention.
- In answer to British Socialist Christine Crawley's request for clarification on the court's enforcement of equal opportunity legislation, the Commission has pointed out that it stressed, in its review of the grounds for the European Communities' Medium-term Action Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women (1986-1990), the difficulties of transposing the existing European Directives into national law; that it has just adopted a draft for a Council Directive on the burden of proof in equal pay and treatment suits; finally, that, as part of this Action Programme, it is sponsoring a series of conferences in each Member State to make judges and solicitors more aware of these issues.
- In answer to British European Democrat Sir Scott-Hopkins' queries about equal treatment in retirement schemes, the Commission replied that it has already taken steps to get the national governments to implement the European Directive that has been adopted in this area and that it intends very shortly to send each Member State a questionnaire on its progress in implementing this Directive.

**COUNTRY TO COUNTRY...
FACTS, INSTITUTIONS, LAWS
AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES**

B E L G I U M

POLITICS:

- * The French-speaking Christian Socialist Party (PSC) now has a third female representative in the National Parliament. She is Pierrette Cahay-André. Ms Cahay-André replaces Michel Hansenne, who has left to take up his new duties as Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO). The other two women are Huberte Hanquet and Anne-Marie Corbisier.
- * Paula D'Hondt, former head of the postal and telecommunications administration, has been appointed Royal Commissioner for Immigration.
- * Magda De Galan has been chosen burgomaster of Forest, one of Greater Brussels' 19 communes. The commune is back in women's hands after a 200-year hiatus that began with the French Revolution following seven centuries of uninterrupted female management.

LABOUR DEMANDS: Several ministers and delegates of the French-speaking Socialist Party seized upon International Women's Day (8 March) to present a series of measures for women. They include raising the minima for widows' pensions, abrogating the *arrêté* penalising widows of civil servants, instituting maternity insurance, raising nurses' wages, improving women's image and promoting equal opportunity in training. The FGTB (Socialist trade union), for its part, called for saving the fund for collective equipment and services for children. It also proposed extending maternity leave and limiting the physical demands that can be made of pregnant women. Secretary of State (Junior Minister) Leona Detiége also suggested setting the same retirement age for men and women - 60 years - although, paradoxically, this would hurt tomorrow's women pensioners who, if they retire at age 60, would collect smaller pensions than pensioners today.

WOMEN AND POWER:

- * The Interfederal Women's Committee of the Socialist Party and the association *Présence et Action culturelles* held a colloquium on "Women and Power" at Brussels Free University's Sociology Institute on 21 January. The debates were chaired by Raymonde Dury, MEP and Interfederal Women's Committee Chairwoman. The speakers covered women's relationships with the State, politics, economic, union and judicial powers, research and conflicts within the couple. The conclusions stressed the distance that remains to be covered and the clear imbalance in politics, where the adoption of quotas would be a means of correcting the underrepresentation of women.
- * A new women's association has seen the light of day in the country's Dutch-speaking communes. *Gemeentelijk vrouwen-emancipatie-beleid* (Liedtsstaat 27-29, 1210 Brussels) will support the initiatives of groups, organisations, communes and councils aimed at including more women in local politics. According to a survey conducted by the Secretariat for Emancipation, the number of women elected to town councils is rising (368 more today than in 1982). Nevertheless, their numbers are still judged insufficient to have an impact on local strategies.

WOMEN AND CAREERS:

- * Many women in high-level jobs manage, very successfully, to combine careers and family lives. Three women executives with *Générale de Banque* have given their recipe for success to a woman journalist from *Le Soir* (the capital's leading French-language daily). The main ingredients? Efficient management of one's time and women's solidarity.
- * Women are climbing the corporate ladder. Whereas they were nowhere to be seen ten years ago, they are now earning their stripes in Belgian companies, although their chances for high-level promotion are still slim. A survey conducted by *Générale de Banque* shows that men are still reluctant to have a member of the "weaker sex" as their boss; to succeed, women have to imitate the behaviour of their male colleagues; and having children is often put off until their career goals have been achieved. This last finding has been confirmed by the International Active Woman Association (IAWA, rue Osseghem 46, 1080 Brussels), which was created recently by a group of high-level self-employed women and businesswomen.

CHILD CARE: FEFAP (*Fédération Européenne des Femmes Actives au Foyer*, Françoise de Bellefroid, Av. de Tervueren 66, 1040 Brussels) has raised some points that the recent tax law concerning the deductibility of child-care costs overlooks. The law considers the fees paid to ONE (*Office national de l'Enfance*)-approved daycare facilities and totally ignores the case (three times more frequent) of couples who resort to other solutions (housewives, grandmothers, etc.). Moreover, it increases the amount of government aid to facilities that are already well off. The homemakers' association thus proposes raising the ceiling on child allowances for all children up to the age of 3 years, applying the amounts slated for daycare centre aid to the budget line for the child allowance fund, and letting parents choose the best solution.

TRADE UNIONS: A new wave of leaders is rising within the FGTE (French-speaking socialist trade union). The union's next president will be seconded by Mia De Vits as Secretary-General. This is the first appointment of a woman to such a high position in the history of Belgian trade unionism.

IMPROVING THE IMAGE OF WOMEN: The recent International Women's Day has already borne some fruit. In the French-speaking camp, drafts for two decrees, sponsored by parliamentarians of all parties, have emerged. One concerns improving the image and place of women in the audiovisual sector, the other feminising the names of trades, functions, titles and ranks. In the Dutch-speaking camp, a consciousness-raising campaign targeting elementary and secondary schools has been launched by Miet Smet, Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for the Environment and Daniel Coens, the Dutch-speaking Community's Education Minister. The aim is to inform pupils that the different types of studies are open to both sexes.

HEALTH: The national Council of Ministers has adopted a bill for an *arrêté royal* (royal order) submitted by Social Affairs Minister Philippe Busquin. The *arrêté* adds a fifth category of medicinal substances (Cx) to the four already covered by the compulsory health and disability insurance scheme. This new class will include oral contraceptives, which will be eligible for a 25% refund on the purchase price.

ABORTION: The members of the Senate Committee on abortion have worked out a procedure to speed their work. The oldest bill, the Lallemand-Michielsen bill, will be considered the reference framework, and all later opinions will be added on as amendments.

FAMILY CLINIC: The *Centra voor Geboorten regeling en Seksuele Opvoeding*' (CGSO-Brussel, Barthelemylaan 32, 1000 Brussels) is an approved family planning and guidance centre where women can obtain medical, legal and psychosocial advice and assistance from qualified experts. It has recently published the fourth edition of its "Book of the Year". The subjects covered this year are sexuality, relationships and birth spacing.

WOMEN OF THE YEAR:

* The French-speaking National Belgian Women's Council has pared the number of candidates for its "Woman of the Year" award down to five: Pascale Cochau, researcher at Erasmus Hospital; Lucienne Herman-Michielsen, MP, who is working for a consensus on the abortion issue; Fabienne Ilzkovitz, economist; Jo Walgrave, industrial conciliator and Chairwoman of the Committee on Female Labour; and the country's nurses, in view of their work to improve their profession. (*Council national des Femmes belges, Prix Femme de l'Année*, Chantal Tyvelein, Rue de Florence 24, 1050 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 538 03 04).

- * Véronique Toefart is the first and only woman in the world to work as a professional "dealer in antique wines". She was recently appointed expert of the "rare and collectors' wine" section of the Chamber of Belgian Art Experts that was created at her instigation.

EVENTS:

- * The fourth edition of *Filmer à tout prix* (filming at all cost), a festival of Belgian and foreign films and video productions, was held in Brussels on 25-29 April. As usual, the festival was the hub of numerous exchanges and symposia. The film "*Madame V, Monsieur S*", by Violaine de Villers and Jean-Marc Turine, was presented during the festival.
- * The *Botanique* Cultural Centre in Brussels will be hosting a series of exhibitions, lectures, films and a concert on "Women of Africa" on 7-18 June. The event is organised by the association *Coopération par l'Education et la Culture* (CEC, rue du Marteau 21, 1040 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 217 84 02) with the support of the French agency for cultural and technical cooperation, *Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique* (ACCT, France), and the Ministry of the French-speaking Community of Belgium.

PUBLICATIONS:

- * The French-speaking National Belgian Women's Council has just published the proceedings of its symposium on "Women and Taking Responsibility" that was held in late September 1988. Most of the talks concern the role and participation of women in local politics (CNFB, rue de Florence 24, 1050 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 538 03 04).
- * *Les femmes au foyer, qui sont-elles, que font-elles, que veulent-elles?* is a 72-page brochure put out by the homemakers' association *Association des Femmes au Foyer* in which the AFF first summarises its history, goals and initiatives, then backs up its positions on various issues (female unemployment, falling birth rate, child care and facilities, etc.). (AFF, Avenue Georges Henri 509, 1200 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 734 28 41).

D E N M A R K

PENSIONS: At the 4 March Conference of the Danish National Women's Council (DKN), DKN President Jytte Lindgard called the participants' attention to changes in the pension scheme for women. Recent studies have shown that women are likely to be hurt by the future general pension scheme because, whilst the scheme is intended to reduce economic inequality between future pensioners, the method of calculating the pensions (based on prior employment) will result in discrimination against women, since there have always been fewer women on the labour market. Ms Lindgard also stressed that pension insurance is currently more expensive for women, ostensibly because women live longer than men.

SPOUSES AND INCOME TAX: On 16 March 1989 the Danish Parliament (Folketing) adopted new legislation amending the previous law on withholding tax. The new Directives, which will take effect on 1 July 1989, will give spouses running a business together the possibility of concluding wage agreements with each other. The measure affects mostly women, who will henceforth be able to choose between the status of either a paid employee or a family member who helps with the business. The law will give spouses the possibility of choosing between a wage agreement or using the existing rules on the transfer of profits to a spouse who helps with the business. These clauses will improve the wife's situation, especially as regards social security benefits. The Danish association of women working in small trades (DKH), which represents this category of people, participated in the preparations for drafting this law, supported in this by the DKN.

CHILD-CARE FACILITIES: Denmark's regulations on child-minding are in trouble once again. The national and local authorities are planning to cut the daycare budgets, despite the fact that the waiting lists for nurseries, kindergartens and recreational centres are continuing to grow. Opening hours will be reduced, fees raised and the unemployed and parents of children 10 years of age or older urged to withdraw their children. What is more, the Social Affairs Minister has suggested that the communes introduce part-time daycare schemes. In this way, two children could share the same spot in a daycare centre if their parents were unemployed, worked part-time or were able, for other reasons, to take on the job of minding their children at least part of the time. The DKN's general assembly is worried about these latest rumblings. In response, it has proposed a programme whilst insisting on the need to safeguard the economic independence of women who would otherwise have to withdraw, even partially, from the labour market. It has also suggested that the daycare fees charged parents be calculated on the basis of their income.

WORK AGAINST TORTURE: Inge Kemp Genefke, medical director of the Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (RTC), has been made doctor honoris causa by the University of Bologna. (She is already the winner of the 1978 Women of Europe Award.) The RTC was founded in 1983 to provide shelter and help for torture victims and their families. A 34-person team of doctors, psychotherapists, physical therapists, nurses, etc., provides medical and psychological care. An international documentation centre was opened officially on 1 October 1987 to provide people involved in such work useful data and information. This initiative is starting to snowball, for an international fund for torture victims, *Fonds international pour l'Assistance aux Victimes de Torture* was opened in Paris on 28 September 1978 at the urging of Robert Badinter. (RTC, Juliane Maries Vej 34, DK-2100 København 0, Denmark, Tel.: (45 1) 39 46 94)

F R A N C E

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS:

* There are four more women mayors of towns of more than 20,000 as a result of the March 1989 municipal elections. Fourteen of the 393 mayors of communes of more than 20,000 inhabitants who were elected or re-elected were women (10 of them, including 5 Communists, were incumbents). The incumbents who have been returned to office are Jacqueline Poly (Avion, PC); Jeanime Jambu (Bagneux, PC); Suzanne Sauvaigo (Cagnes-sur-Mer, Deputy, RPR); Edith Cresson (Chatellerault, PS); Marguerite Massat (Hem, UDF-CDS); Geneviève Rodriguez (Morsang-sur-Orge, PC); Jacqueline Fraysse (Nanterre, Senator, PC); Françoise Richard (Noisy-le-Grand, RPR); Paulette Fost (Saint-Denis, Senator, PC); and Raymonde Le Texier (Villiers-le-Bel, PS). The four new women mayors are Catherine Trautmann (Strasbourg, PS); Yvette Roudy (Lisieux, Deputy, PS); Frédérique Bredin (Fécamp, PS); and Marie-Noëlle Lienemann (Athis-Mons, Deputy, PS).

* Only one woman has been elected to head a town or commune overseas. She is Auguste Viviane (no political affiliation), the first woman mayor of the newly-created commune of Awala-Yalimapo in French Guiana.

* Re-elected - as expected - mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac has added two new women deputy mayors to his team, one of whom is Michèle Barzach, bringing their total to 7. There are 28 deputy mayors of Paris in all.

POLITICS: According to the report on women "*Une autre place pour les femmes*" that Régine Saint-Crip ("*Femmes élues*" national delegate of the National Federation of Elected Socialists and Republicans (FNESR)) handed over recently to Socialist Party Chariman Pierre Mauroy, women make up only 6.1% of the Party's 1989 membership. The report also reveals that women account for only a small percentage of Socialist Party members elected to office: only 1 Senator, 12.5% of regional assemblypeople, 4.67% of the *Conseil général* members (after the 1988 elections); 11.4% of town councilors; and only one mayor of a town of more than 30,000 (before the 1989 elections - see above).

VIFF-SOS FEMMES: To celebrate its tenth anniversary, the French association for female victims of violence has published a special issue of its magazine *VIFF Ecrit* (March 1989 - N° 3), in which its director, Brigitte Théveneau, reviews the association's goals and objectives. VIFF-SOS Femmes includes a research and study group in addition to running an information and documentation centre for women and a shelter (*Centre d'information et de Documentation, Centre d'hébergement*, 156 Cours Tolstoï, 69100 Villeurbanne, Tel.: 78 85 76 47). The association also provides legal, social and family counseling, help for the victims of violence, and the services of a barrister.

VIDEO: The European Women's Video Festival was held at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris in February. Some 100 government, association and industry representatives and video watchers, for the most part between the ages of 20 and 40 and from a wide range of countries, participated in the four days of meetings and exchanges. Simone Veil, President of the European Cinema and Television Year, seized the opportunity to remind her audience that the audiovisual sector was particularly well-suited to giving an important role to women.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE: At the first international colloquium on sexual harassment in the workplace, which was held in Paris on 18-19 March by AVTFT (European Association against violence committed against women at work) with the support of the European Commission, AVTFT unveiled a "European Charter" urging the European Communities to call on the Member States to protect women against violence at work. The document, which is modelled after a Charter that has been in effect for several years in Quebec, Canada, enshrines the rights to integrity, dignity and respect of one's private life. The employer, in turn, must refrain from all discriminatory behaviour based on sex, pregnancy, sexual preference, age and appearance.

WOMEN'S STUDIES: IVAR (*Institut de Valorisation de la Recherche*) has just launched a quarterly, *Tribune des Mémoires et Thèses*, to put companies in touch with researchers all over Europe. The bulletin is a compilation of personalised information sheets giving an abstract of the scientist's master's and/or doctoral thesis, a brief biography and an outline of the person's career goals. (Contact: IVAR, 58 rue Lafayette, F-75009 Paris, Tel.: 42 46 36 37).

POMPIDOU CULTURAL CENTRE: Héléne Ahrweiler, the new president of the world's most visited monument, the Pompidou Centre, has some ideas and practical solutions to save the 12-year-old centre from the state of crisis and discouragement that is currently threatening its staff and operation. One of her projects is to organise a series of activities around the theme of women and their roles since their emancipation in the 20th century.

FILM: The Créteil Art Centre (*Maison des Arts de Créteil*, Place Salvador-Allende, 94000 Créteil, Tel.: 49 80 90 50) held its second International Women's Film Festival on 11-19 March. (The event, created in 1979, was transferred to Créteil in 1984). Sixty films (15 full-length works of fiction, 15 full-length documentaries and 30 short films) were entered. The public conferred its awards on two full-length films, two shorts, and European short film. The two Jury's Awards went to a full-length documentary and a full-length fictional work. The new Jury of Young Actresses' award that was created this year went to the best French short film. Finally, the Canal+ Award was conferred on a short film that was then bought and broadcast by the station.

G E R M A N Y

WOMEN AND CAREERS: According to official statistics, the number of women working in traditionally male trades in Wiesbaden has risen by 5% or 17,600 over the past ten years (1978-1987). The breakdown of the 1987 statistics show some significant progress. For example, women now account for 15.1% of service station personnel (versus 6.8% in 1978), 14.6% of bakers (versus 2.9% in 1978) and 7.9% of agricultural workers (versus 2.1% in 1978).

QUOTAS:

* More than 4,000 women joined the Social Democratic Party (SPD) in the first three months following the entry into force (August 1988) of the new law on male/female quotas for participation in the party, compared with just 2,600 men. Women currently account for 26.3% of the SPD's total membership of 912,000, compared with only 13.1% in 1964.

* Short-term career prospects for women in Germany's civil service are bleak, according to Ingrid Rieskamp, herself a civil servant, given that some 90% of decision-making positions are currently held by men. The other bastions of male supremacy that she denounces include politics, the courts, business circles and higher education. At this rate, she adds, women will not achieve parity with men in top management before the year 2230. Nevertheless, whilst she is not expecting any miracles, Ingrid Rieskamp is rather optimistic, given the success that an original idea launched by a Berlin professor, Peter Grottian, has had in northern Westphalia. This idea consists of male/female job sharing for high-level political and business positions. She concludes by calling the quota law the sign of a great step towards male/female equality.

WOMEN'S STATUS:

* During a parliamentary debate on women's affairs that was held in the Bundestag on 23 February, the new Minister for Women's Status, Ursula Lehr, and Green MP Verena Krieger stressed that a policy for women must allow for both careers and family life. For instance, the need for an anti-discrimination law and a 50% quota for each sex must apply to both the working world and family life, they contended. The Minister also promised that a Scientific Council would be set up to implement such a policy.

* The Association of Employers in the Chemical Industry and the trade union *IG Chemie, Papier, Keramik* have struck a blow for the advancement of women. Whilst refusing the idea of quotas, they have vowed to give men and women equal chances, whatever the type of work. Companies are being urged to eradicate all forms of discrimination with regard to access to information, training and advancement.

* Elin Horn-Vormschlag is the new official within the Ministry for Economic Cooperation in charge of the status of women in the Third World. Her main responsibilities are to promote projects concerning women and integrate women in development.

POLITICS

* 19 January is a red letter day for Kiel, as it marked the inauguration of the first Ministry for Women's Affairs. Minister Gisela Börk is now in charge of a team of 17 women and 1 man with a budget of DM1.3 million at her disposal, plus the power to veto government initiatives that are contrary to women's interests.

* The new mayor of Berlin, Walter Momper, has appointed an exemplary government composed of 8 women and 5 men. Social affairs and health, Berlin affairs in Bonn, cultural affairs, justice and science are in the hands of Social Democrats Ingrid Stahmer (who is also Deputy Mayor), Heide Pfarr, Hanke Martiny, Jutta Limbach and Barbara Riedmüller. The family, environment, schools and sport go to Anne Klein, Michaela Schreyer and Sibylle Vallholz.

RULING: The Federal Labour Court at Kassel has ordered an employer to pay compensation to a woman who was refused a job because of her sex (Bundesarbeitsgericht Kassel, 8 Senat, Postfach, D-3500 Kassel).

CULTURE: A new association for the advancement of women's literature has been created. The *Stiftung Frauen-Litteratur-Forschung's* main goals are to support women writers, create a data bank on books by women and publish a repertory (Marion Schulz, Prangenstraße 88, D-2800 Bremen 1).

G R E E C E

QUOTAS: The Greek feminist movement "in favour of at least 35% female participation in electoral lists and within political party decision-making bodies" decided to celebrate International Women's Day, 8 March, its own way. The festivities started with a public demonstration. Next, the Coordinating Committee put forward an amendment of the voting law that will be discussed in the coming months. The Government refused to hold a debate on the amendment.

EQUALITY:

- * Theodora Ntoulia has just been appointed Secretary-General of the General Secretariat for Equality to replace Ms Laiou-Antoniou, who resigned (General Secretariat for Equality, Mousseou 2, Plaka, 10555 Athens).
- * The same Secretariat has announced the creation of two new women's associations, one of craftswomen working in mosaics (Aristomenous 108, Platia Attikis, Athens), the other, called "H Artemis", of women who cook traditional cuisine (Aivatzidou 32A, Evgenia Keratsiniou, Piraias).

TRADE UNIONS: Failing to reach an agreement, the Greek Women's Union (*EGE - Enosi Gynaikon Elladas*) still has no Administrative Board or president following the recent resignation of the current president, Margaret Papandreou, and certain board members. The Civil Court will therefore have to appoint the new members (*Enossi Gynaikon Elladas*, Aenianos 8, 10434 Athens).

CONGRESSES/SEMINARS:

- * Representatives of some 16 women's NGOs and the women's sections of six political parties participated in a seminar held in Athens in February as part of the Council of Europe's North/South Campaign. The major themes brought up were the economic and political aspects of North/South interdependence; social and cultural aspects of this interdependence; and the environment and development.
- * The "social history of European women" was the theme of the congress held in Athens by the Institute of Mediterranean Women's Studies (*Kentro Eravnon gia tis gynaikes tis Mesogeio*) with the support of the Council of Europe and Dutch Ministry of Education and attended by close to 170 women (including 150 Greeks). Various aspects of family life, work, sexuality, education, science, politics, the mass media in Greece and resistance movements were discussed.

EXHIBITION: A trip through posters to trace twenty years of feminist movements in Greece was proposed by the Greek Housewives' Association (*Syllogos Ellinidas Noikokyras*) in its March exhibition, "Women - Civilisation", in Athens.

I R E L A N D

RAPE: The Department of Justice (72 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Tel. (01) 78 97 11) has ruled out various amendments sponsored by a number of Senators to change the definition of rape contained in the Criminal Law Bill 1988. These included provisions broadening the definition of rape to unlawful sexual intercourse with a women without her consent and the definition of aggravated sexual assault. The Bill will now be considered as is by the *Dail* (Parliament).

POLICE: The *Garda Siochana* (police force) has appointed its first woman superintendent. She is Phyllis Nolan, who joined the force in 1960. There are less than 400 women in the 11,000-person police force and only ten of them have risen through the ranks, one to become an inspector and the other nine sergeants.

POLITICS: The well-known woman activist Niamh Breathnach has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Irish Labour Party despite the opposition of outgoing Vice-Chairman Emmet Stagg, MP. This achievement comes after Ms Breathnach's years of active participation in the Labour Women's Council.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

* The Electricity Supply Board (Fleet Street, Dublin 2, Tel.: (01) 77 29 61) has adopted a code on the practice of equality. It has also introduced flexible working hours and job-sharing. The ESB employs women in non-traditional areas and recently noted an increase in the number of women in middle management, up from 22 in 1982 to 33 in 1988.

* Maura Geoghegan Quinn, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister's Office), has produced an interesting report on government action in the different departments between March 1987 and September 1988. The report reveals that the number of women representatives appointed by the Government to State-sponsored bodies has risen from 225 to 242, whereas only 62 members of the currently 13,489-strong permanent defence force (29 officers and 33 other ranks) are women. The report also mentions a national study of Irish women alcoholics undergoing treatment to identify the characteristics of women at the highest risk of succumbing to alcohol and drug abuse. The report is available for IR#4.00 from the Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

1992: According to "Women in Ireland: the impact of 1992", a research document just published by the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union (Transport House, 102 High Street, Belfast BT1 2DL, Tel.: (0232) 23 23 81), the struggle for economic and social rights for women is likely to move on to a wider arena by the mid-90s as a result of the completion of the Single Market in 1992.

CANCER: The Irish Cancer Society recently held a conference on "Women and Cancer" in association with the Council for the Status of Women and the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA, 58 Merrion Road, Dublin 4) to increase the application of the European Code against Cancer. The event took place at ICA headquarters.

CHILD ALLOWANCES: The Government has backed down in the face of the criticism levelled at it from many quarters and abandoned the proposal made in its recent Budget to tax child allowances being paid to the better off.

Useful address: Government Information Services, Government Buildings,
Upper Merrion Street, Dublin, 2, Tel.: (01) 60 75 55.

SINGLE PARENTS: The self-help organisation for lone parents, Gingerbread Ireland (12 Wicklow Street, Dublin 2, Tel.: (01) 71 02 91), celebrated its tenth anniversary recently. The organisation runs a free information service and provides advice on social welfare, family law, housing and child-care problems. It also has a legal clinic and family mediation service.

MARRIAGE, THE FAMILY: The AIM Group for Family Law Reform (AIM Group, P.O. Box 738, Dublin 4) has produced a series of information leaflets (cost: IR£1.50 a set) on family home rights, legal separation agreements, judicial separation, family violence, maintenance and the law and church annulments.

NURSERIES: The NCNA (National Children's Nursery Association), created in June 1988, already has a core membership of thirty nursery workers and is to have its public launch soon. In the long term the association would like to establish regional branches. It has already made submissions with regard to the Child-care Bill and minimum requirements and standards for children's nurseries.

RADIO, TELEVISION: The national radio and television station, RTE (Donnybrook, Dublin 4, Tel.: (01) 69 31 11) has announced that it is compiling a directory of women contributors to be circulated to all programme editors. The operation has received funding from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Women's Rights and the European Commission.

I T A L Y

MALE/FEMALE EQUALITY:

* Following the European Community's Recommendation on promoting affirmative action to achieve male/female equality, the Chamber of Deputies' Committee on Labour is studying some bills on this subject. The Committee on Male/Female Equality of Emilia-Romagna, for its part, has already begun taking measures in this area.

* *Parità tra uomo e donna: il diritto e la giurisprudenza italiana e comunitaria* (Ed. Franco Angeli) contains the proceedings of a seminar on equality between men and women and Italian and Community law that was held in Turin by the Piemonte Regional Women's Advisory Board (*Consulte Femmine Regionale del Piemonte*) with the help of the European Commission.

CANCER: 1989, proclaimed European Year against Cancer by the European Community, has spawned numerous public information initiatives, especially about the risks of breast cancer for women. For example:

* ANDDOS (*Associazione nazionale Donne Operate al Seno*, Via Udine 6, Trieste), the National Association of Mastectomized Women, has held a seminar on "Breast Cancers: What future?" in conjunction with the local authorities and University of Trieste. The seminar, chaired by Professor Paolo Veronesi, reviewed the latest in diagnostic imaging, surgery, social rehabilitation and plastic surgery.

- * Rome's Women's Club (*Club delle Donne*, Viale Giulio Cesare 151, Roma) held a meeting and debate in Rome on "The breast between health and beauty" attended by Elena Marinucci, Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Health.

POLITICS: A study sponsored by the National Committee for Male/Female Equality set up by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers shows that women are elected more readily in northern Italy (67% of national total) than in southern Italy (19%) or the centre (14%). The study, "*Indagine sulle donne elette nelle regioni, province et comuni*" (published by the *Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato*, Rome, 1987), was carried out by Marisa Ferrari Occhionero using 1986 data. It also shows that the proportion of women among all local elected officials is less than 10%, or 10,025 for 145,176 men. Women are just slightly better represented at the regional level (72 women elected officials, or 6.8% of the total) than at the provincial (179 elected officials, or 6.3% of the total) or local (9,774 elected officials, or 6.5% of the total) levels.

WOMEN'S STUDIES: Whilst women's studies are fully accredited in most European and American universities, Italy continues to trail badly. The International Free University of Social Science in Rome (*Libera Università Internazionale di Studi Sociali - LUISS* -, viale Pola 12, Roma) is the only Italian university to have instituted a course on the "history of the 'women question'", taught by Ginevra Conti Odorisio. Ms Conti Odorisio has also edited a collection, "*Gli studi sulle donne nelle università: ricerca e trasformazione del sapere*", that reviews the history and current state of affairs of women's studies carried out in Italian and foreign universities.

PERIODICALS:

- * A broad overview of the arts, professions and business as done by women is offered each month in the magazine *Notiziario FIDAPA*, published by the *Federazione Italiana Donne Arti Professioni Affari* (via Domenichino 45, 20149 Milano).
- * The monthly bulletin published by the association *Il Paese delle Donne* (via Matteo Boiardo 12, 00185 Roma) provides information on and announcements of exhibitions, seminars, courses, meetings and other cultural events concerning women that take place in Italy's major cities.
- * The magazine *Noi donne* is organising a trip to Paris on 11-17 July for the French Revolution's bicentennial celebrations. (Contact: *Cooperativa Libera Stampa*, via Trinità dei Pellegrini 12, 00186 Roma, Tel.: (06) 686-4562).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: The Committee on Equal Opportunities has made it! Until now an all-woman (6 union representatives and 6 civil servants) study group within ENEL (see *Women of Europe* No. 55), it is now an institution under Ada Grecchi, Assistant Director of Personnel at ENEL (national energy and electricity company). Ms Grecchi has just won a striking victory in her fight against unequal treatment, namely, the signing of the first national labour agreement (within ENEL) that protects women's rights.

FEMINIST STRATEGY IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY: "Give us half of the PCI" (Italian Communist Party) is effectively what was demanded by the women delegates attending the 18th party congress (in March). So far they have succeeded in getting 34.5% of the party's executive positions set aside for women. This is an undeniable victory, given that only 18.2% of the PCI's Central Committee members are women and women hold only 4 of the party's 40 executive positions.

FEMINIST MOVEMENT: The participants in the first European Left's Women's Convention, held in Milan in February with the help of the European Commission, wrapped up the proceedings by adopting a manifesto containing an appeal to all European women to work to achieve the essential goals for women in a progressive European democracy, namely, social and political equality; equal participation in the building of society; protection of children's rights; protection against sexual violence and poverty; solidarity with Third World women; and combating discrimination against foreign women in the European Community (Contact: Alma Agata Cappiello, Italian Socialist Party official).

UNIONS: From now on, women will be called upon to vote for women shop stewards, Rosy Mauro, UIIM-City of Milan official, stated recently, so that women union delegates will eventually be in the majority. Currently, there is only one woman on the UIIM's 18-person provincial council. The first woman elected Secretary-General of a trade union is Anna Maria Acone. The FIOM has eight women among its 47-person leadership and the FIM seven out of 32.

EXHIBITION: The National Italian Women's Council (CNDI, Liliana Richetta Scolavo, Piazza dei Quiviti 3, Roma) held an exhibition called "Europe is Woman: The long road to equality, from the Treaty of Rome to 1992" in Milan with the collaboration of the European Commission.

FILM: The "International Meetings of Cinema and Women" were held by *Laboratorio Immagine Donna* in Florence in March. It was an occasion to point out that the Italian film industry makes little room for women directors and producers and call on everyone to work for change. (*Laboratorio Immagine Donna*, via Avetina 98, 50136 Rome).

WOMEN AND PROFESSIONS: The association *Esistere come donna* (*Centro azione donna del Comune di Milano*, via Tibaldi 41, Milano) is looking for volunteers to help it achieve its project of compiling a dictionary of famous women of Lombardy who have helped write the political, artistic, cultural and industrial history of the region "in the feminine". 1,500 of the 5,000 figures to be included have already been identified and catalogued; help is needed with the rest!

L U X E M B O U R G

POLITICS: The delegates attending the recent Socialist women's congress called for more socialism, whilst the movement's president reminded her audience that, despite the fact that women were granted the right to vote in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg seventy years ago, their emancipation still remains a challenge in a conservative society. "It is up to women to solve their own problems," she concluded. 20% of the candidates on the Socialist Party lists for the coming elections (legislative or European) are women. A woman will head the list in the central voting district. (*Femmes socialistes*, 1 Bd de la Foire, 1528 Luxembourg, Tel.: 45 05 78)

WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE WORLD: The French Cultural Centre and UNICEF-Luxembourg have organised jointly a conference-debate on "the situation of women and children in the Maghreb". The discussions focused on the alarming, extremely difficult situations of women in the Third World. Often illiterate, weakened by hard work and multiple pregnancies, these women are often excluded from the decision-making process. Yet the absence or unemployment of their husbands forces them more and more, both in town and in the villages, to become the family wage-earner. This overload of responsibility has negative effects on their child-rearing abilities. The UNICEF-Luxembourg Committee has expressed its concern over this problem and is currently funding a project in Madagascar to correct such conditions.

T H E N E T H E R L A N D S

POLITICS:

- * The *Vrouwenpartij* (Women's Party) was founded on March 8 (International Women's Day) by a group of women from women's movements all over the country who feel that, after 14 years of political emancipation, they still do not have enough spokeswomen to make their demands heard. The party would like to take part in elections for the Lower House in 1990. (*Vrouwenpartij*, Postbus 1120, 5602 BC Eindhoven, Tel.: (040) 45 25 19, Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Wednesdays, 7-10 p.m.)
- * The sums earmarked for *Rijksbijdrageregeling-Emancipatiewerk* (the state grants scheme for emancipation work) are to be cut out this year once again. They will probably be paid into the provincial and communes' funds. The *Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad* (Dutch Women's Council - NRV) hopes to convince the authorities to include the emancipation policy among their priorities. (NVR, Laan Van Meerdervoort 30, 2517 AL Den Haag, Tel.: (070) 46 93 04)

WOMEN AND POWER: The Dutch Union for Women's Interests, Employment and Equal Citizenship has launched a campaign for equal numbers of men and women on the country's ballots. Called "M/V 50/50", this initiative is being taken to prepare for the European elections of June 15 and the legislative and local elections in 1990. (*Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vrouwenbelegingen, Vrouwen arbeid en Gelijk Staatsburgerschap*, Noordeinde za, 2311 CD Leiden, Tel.: (071) 12 06 03).

BUSINESS: In 1983 a woman invested a substantial portion of an inheritance in the creation of "Mama Cash", a fund to provide financial support for feminist projects. Five women run the fund, the goal of which is clearly defined as contributing to the emancipation of women and freeing them from the economic dependence of which they have always been prisoners. (Mama Cash, Postbus 15686, Amsterdam, Tel.: (02) 93 75 32).

WORK: The brochure *Een kind krijgen en blijven werken* (Having children and continuing to work), published by the Dutch Institute for Labour Conditions (*Nederlands Instituut voor Arbeidsomstandigheden*), presents the conclusions of a recent survey about maternity and parental leaves. The survey shows that current Dutch laws in favour of young mothers who wish to continue working are inadequate and fail to come up to the standards of decisions applied in neighbouring countries. It should be added that the Government has expressed its desire to produce an emancipation policy for young mothers. Many women find it almost impossible to continue to work and raise a family, for the following reasons: The maternity leave (6 weeks) is often too short; daycare facilities for tots are lacking; and the chances of finding part-time work slim. Consequently, half of them stop working after the birth of their first child. (*NIA*, De Boelelaan 30-32, Postbus 5665, 1007 AR Amsterdam, Tel. (020) (549-8403)

SOCIAL INTEGRATION: The working party on women and the minorities' policy (*Vrouwen en Minderhedenbeleid - VEM*), which is delegated by the Government to handle the affairs of ethnic minority women, has launched an information and training campaign to enable such women to cope with various situations (looking for work, choosing training and academic options, etc.). Under this programme, subsidies are available for organisations wishing to engage in education work and able to defend their interests. A flyer (available in Dutch, Turkish and Arabic versions) gives all the necessary information on procedures to be followed, conditions that must be met to be eligible for funding, etc. It may be obtained from the following address: *Ministerie van WVC, Hoofdafdeling Minderhedenbeleid*, Postbus 5406, 2280 HK Rijswijk.

HEALTH: Breast cancer is the leading cancer in women in the Netherlands. Each year, 3,000 women die of it and 16,000 new tumours are diagnosed. Despite these statistics, the Government has failed to implement a single prevention policy. Henceforth, women may come to the Gyneprevent Foundation - recently created in Amsterdam - on their own initiative to undergo the necessary screening. The cure rate for breast cancer is very high if the mass is detected early. (*AOC WG Plein 170*, 1054 SC Amsterdam, Tel.: (020) 83 05 12).

MEDIA: AVTV (Amsterdam's Women's TV) began broadcasting in mid-January. The monthly 45-minute programme was broadcast on Channel 4 several times between 6 p.m. and 2 a.m. The special information contained in the broadcast is intended to create a communications network linking single women, women's businesses, and institutions working for the emancipation of women. (*Amsterdamse Vrouwen Televisie*, Soova, 2e Van der Helststraat 2A, 1072 PC Amsterdam, Tel.: (020) 24 33 79)

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS:

- * As part of the International Women's Day celebrations the women's movement documentation centre *Internationaal Informatiecentrum en Archief voor de Vrouwenbeweging* (Keizersgracht 10, 1015 CN Amsterdam, Tel.: (020) 24 42 68 or 24 21 43) held an "open house" on the theme "Women and Poverty". The centre puts out a quarterly magazine called *Lover* (Foliage).
- * The *De Born* training centre (*De Born*, Bornweg 12, Bennekom, Tel.: (08389) 14131), created in 1983 by the Confederation of SDAP Women, offers summer courses and a workshop. The centre also designs custom-tailored training programmes for all interested organisations.

* The Limburg Women's Council is composed of nineteen women's organisations in Limburg Province. For information on this year's scheduled activities, contact *Limburgse Vrouwen Raad*, Zwartbroekstraat 10, 6041 JM Roermond.

PUBLICATIONS:

* *Stichting Emancipatie Steunpunt Overijssel* (Wierdenstraat 40, 7607 GJ Almelo, Tel.: (05490) 10161) has published an investigation about the financial assistance granted to women at Twente. The publication includes some general information, the addresses of ongoing projects, and other interesting tidbits.

* The Dutch Women's Council (*Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad*, Laan Van Meerdervoort 30, 2517 AL Den Haag, Tel.: (070) 46 93 04) has just published a study of health care costs that tries to answer a string of questions such as "Who should pay, the individual, the community, the State?".

P O R T U G A L

PARLIAMENT: The Parliamentary Committee on the Status of Women (*Comissao Parleментар da Condicao Feminina*), one of the first such entities to have been created within a European country's parliament, is no more as a result of a restructuring of the *Assembleia da Republica* (Portugal's Parliament). It has been replaced by a parliamentary subcommittee on "Women's Rights and Participation", which will operate under the Committee of Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Liberties and Guarantees. Useful address: *Sub-Comissao Parlametnar dos Direitos e Participao das Mulheres*, Palacio de Sao Bento, Rua de Sao Bento, 1200 Lisboa

WOMAN FARMER OF THE YEAR: Maria Joao Festas, 24, was chosen "Woman of the Year" in the competition for young Portuguese farm women. She went on to represent her country at the European event held in Verona, Italy, to promote the modernisation of farms and the spread of cooperatives in Europe.

BARRISTERS: The Portuguese association of Women Barristers assembled its 200 members to decide upon the new courses of action to take to defend and ensure that male and female judges are treated equally. Useful address: *Associação Portuguesa de Mulheres Juristas*, Rosemary Stau Monteiro, Tel.: 66 17 76, Lisboa

BANKING: The women members of the banking sector trade union *Sindicato dos Bancarios do Sul e Ilha* (Rua de San José 136, 1198 Lisboa Codex, Tel.: 37 17 61) recently held a congress at which they denounced a string of discriminatory measures currently affecting women in job recruitment and promotion in banks. They called for mandatory hiring quotas and condemned the administration of the Portuguese Commercial Bank (Banco comercial português), which refuses to hire women. Such a practice is in clear contradiction with Portuguese legislation on equal access to employment.

UNEMPLOYMENT: The total number of unemployed in Portugal rose slightly in 1988. Women accounted for 63.4% of jobseekers in 1988, up from 58.7% in 1987.

UMAR: The *UMAR-União de Mulheres Antifascistas e Revolucionárias* (Union of Antifascist Women Revolutionaries) changed its name during its recent fourth national meeting. Its official name is now *UMAR-Movimento pela Emancipação Social das Mulheres* (Movement for the Social Emancipation of Women). It also approved a list of demands calling for, among other things, the creation of a child-care network and structures to support women who are the victims of violence. The participants also called on the public powers to recognise the "social function" of maternity. Useful address: UMAR, Apartado 513, Torcatas, 2800 Almada.

DEBATE: "Woman in Society" was the subject of a series of debates that took place in Lisbon in March on the initiative of the Union of Commerce, Office and Service Employees of Lisbon. The organisation has 30,000 members, half of them women. Women MPs, journalists, managers, cinema and television directors, painters and photographers led the discussions. Useful address: *Sindicato de trabalhadores do Comercio, Escritorios e Servicos de Lisboa*, Avenida Almirante Barroso 3, 1000 Lisboa, Tel.: 57 40 73.

FEMINISTS: "Women, what are we?" was the question that some dozen feminists tried to answer at a recent exchange of opinions organised in Lisbon by the Women's Rights League. The participants underscored the need to mobilise women to get women to take on their new roles and actually use the rights that they have acquired in modern society.

NEW ADDRESS: The Porto delegation of the Committee on Women's Status (*Comissao da Condição Feminina*) has moved to Rua Ferreira Borges 69 20°C., 4000 Porto.

BOOKS:

* The *Comissao da Condição Feminina* (Av. da Republica 32 1°, 1093 Lisboa Codex) has just published two works on violence and women, *Violência contra as Mulheres na Família* (violence in the home) and *Violência contra as Mulheres na Rua* (violence in the street) (available in Portuguese only).

* The Federation of Workers in the Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Industries has just published a report on a seminar held in 1987, with the support of the Commission of the European Communities, on the problems of women working in these sectors: *A Mulher na textil, lanificios, vestuário e calçado : pensar o presente, construir o futuro!* Encouraged by this first success, the union plans to hold another seminar on Community standards with regard to equality and the Single Market's impact on female employment in the second quarter of 1989. Useful address: *Federação dos sindicatos dos trabalhadores texteis, lanificios, vestuário, calçado et peles de Portugal*, Rua Clemente Meneres 47 1°, 4000 Porto

S P A I N

PENAL CODE REFORM:

* The Congress of Deputies examined in March the bill to revise the alimony clauses of the Penal Code that was put forward by the Spanish Socialist Party and Catalan minority. These two groups' aim is to have the nonpayment of alimony upgraded to a criminal offence.

* Following a ruling by the *Audiencia Provincial de Pontevedra* acquitting a defendant charged with sexual violence, the Anti-assault Committee of Madrid's Feminist Movement is calling for the immediate reform of the current definition of violence in the Penal Code, which reflects a patriarchal, macho attitude that considers women to be sex objects. The Committee contends that sexual violence should be considered an attack on women's sexual freedom instead of just an attack on their honour.

RAPE:

* The feminist organisation *Muleres Nacionalistas Gallegas* has denounced publically the way an examining magistrate and a physician in a town in Orense Province interrogated an 11-year-old rape victim. The association claims that the rough, intimidating, angry tone used subjected the girl to further mental torture.

* The president of the *Audiencia Territorial de Barcelone* expressed his disapproval of two of the three judges who acquitted an employer of sexually abusing a 17-year-old female employee on the grounds that the woman "triggered a physiological and psychological reaction" by wearing a miniskirt. He also condemned the defendant's release on bail set at the ridiculously low sum of 40,000 pesetas.

* The Constitutional Tribunal has pronounced null and void an examining magistrate's decision requiring a *vaginal examination* in a case of presumed rape, arguing that such action violated the basic right of privacy.

ABORTION: According to a survey by two Spanish physicians, 51% of 251 women who underwent abortions admitted that they had not used any means of contraception to avoid resorting to such an extreme. The survey was conducted by Drs. Vita Arrufat and J.L. Carbonnell in a private clinic in Valencia in September and October 1986 and has been published under the title Analysis of the demand for abortions. 14.7% of the women had elementary school educations, 17% had gone to secondary school, and 23.9% had university educations.

POLITICS:

* Isabel Alberdi, until now assistant director of the Women's Institute and member of the Spanish Socialist Worker's Party (PSOE), has been appointed to head the newly-created Directorate-General of the Community of Madrid. This body, which has a budget of 1,700 million pesetas, considers the problem of female unemployment a priority.

* Social Affairs Minister Matilde Fernandez used the occasion presented by the recent days of study of "Socialist women in local administrations" to call for the unity and renewed enthusiasm of Socialist women, who suffered a slight blow at the last Socialist Party Congress. Women account for only 25% of the Party's membership.

WIDOWS: The Spanish Federation of Widows' Associations has announced the recent publication of a sociological study of widows in Spain (second edition, December 1988, Madrid) conducted by Inés Alberdi and Pilar Escario. The study covers the past and current economic and social situations of widows in Spain and their future prospects (*Federacion de Asociaciones de Viudas Hispania*, calle Alfonso XI, 4, 2814 Madrid, Tel.: 531 3577).

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

EQUAL PAY:

- * The Equal Opportunities Commission (Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN) has sent out a consultative document on ways to make equal pay laws effective to trade unions, employers, other organisations and individuals, asking for responses to this document to be sent in by 31 July 1989. The document considers ways of improving the notoriously complicated procedures for equal value claims, the introduction of US-style class actions, extending the impact of individual cases, and, to combat the discriminatory effects of some collective agreements, giving trade unions and employers access to arbitration as an alternative to multiple claims.
- * The EOC and its Northern Irish counterpart (NIEOC, Chamber of Commerce House, 22 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 2BA) have condemned the Government's proposals to abolish Wages Councils, which set minimum rates of pay. Three-quarters of the workers covered by Wages Councils are women. The NIEOC says that Wages Councils play an important role in providing basic protection to women workers vulnerable to exploitation because of their concentration in low-paid areas of industry. The EOC says that their abolition will increase family poverty, is inconsistent with the Government's commitment to "equality proofing" legislation, and will result in women's pay levels' falling even lower.

WOMEN AND PROFESSIONS:

- * Professor Margaret Turner-Warwick, consulting physician at the Brompton Hospital, is to become the first woman President of the Royal College of Physicians in the establishment's 471-year history.
- * Victim of its own success and the unprecedented demand for child-care information, the Working Mothers Association has had to move to larger premises and expand its information service. Its new address is: 77 Holloway Road, London N7 8JZ.

TRADE UNIONS: Vasso Papandreou, EC Commissioner responsible for social affairs, employment, and education, addressed more than 300 delegates from all sections of the UK trade union movement at the 59th Trade Union Congress Women's Conference in Blackpool in March. She dealt specifically with the concerns expressed in the conference resolutions about the impact on women of the completion of the Internal Market in 1992, particularly a composite motion calling for better child-care provision, a fair deal for part-time workers, better maternity and parental leave, and affirmative action in recruitment and training.

CHILDREN, FAMILY:

- * According to new estimates published by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, there are now more than 1 million single-parent families in the UK and lone mothers outnumber single fathers by 14 to 1. The Government is conducting an inquiry into single mothers' reliance on social security benefits, as only one single parent in 15 has maintenance as her main source of income.

- * Child care has become a major issue in the UK for trade unions, employers, and the Government as well as working parents. Between now and 1995 the number of 16- to 19-year-olds in the workforce will fall by almost 25% and women workers will be needed to meet expected skill shortages. Moreover, within a decade women will account for more than half of the UK workforce, and lack of good-quality, affordable child care is the single biggest barrier to women's full and equal participation in the working world. According to a new report put out by the EOC (Recent Development on Child Care - a Review, available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office for £8.00/copy), a coherent child-care policy that gives more power to local authorities is needed.
- * "Who works for me?" is the name of an ongoing school project to find out through texts, drawings, paintings, and project work how children view the work their mothers do for them as well as the work women do on the land and in the community in industrialised and Third World countries. An exhibition of selected contributions was held at King's Cross Women's Centre in March. A national exhibition will be held in October. Useful address: Time Off for Women, P.O. Box 267, London NW6 5QU, Tel. (01) 837-7509

ERRATUM: An error was made in the item on DIVORCE in issue No. 56 of Women of Europe (Sept./Oct. 1988, page 31). The text should read "more than 50% of divorced men [not 5%, as originally stated] and 25% of divorced women regret having left their spouses."

NEWS FROM
EUROPE AND THE WORLD

WOMEN AND PROFESSIONS: Some 1,250 women in 64 democratic countries currently hold key political or diplomatic positions (Head of State, minister, director of an international or scientific organisation, etc.), according to the latest statistics published by Women & Men (93 Queen Alexandra Mansions, London WC1N 9DP), a bulletin created to encourage men to share career advancement with women. The 21 lists drawn up between 1982 and 1989 show that 421 women in the EC's twelve Member States reached very senior posts during this period. The United Kingdom leads with 114, followed by Germany (92) and France (71). The others come far behind, in the following order: Italy (43), the Netherlands (28), Belgium (26), Denmark (24), Greece (22), Spain (21), Ireland (19), Portugal (15), and Luxembourg (6).

WOMEN AND POVERTY: A tribunal on women and poverty in the European Community was held in Brussels in November by the European Network of Women with the help of the association "29 rue Blanche". One hundred and seventy women from all twelve Member States testified for the first time about the poverty in which they lived and, together, tried to find ways to correct the situation. Economic dependence, inequality on the job market, flaws in their training and career choices, unemployment, and elderly women were among the subjects discussed. The participants also denounced the EC programmes and initiatives that pay no heed to the lot of underprivileged immigrant women. ENOW is now scrutinising the European Commission's Third Anti-poverty Programme. (ENOW, 38 rue Stévin, 1040 Brussels)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS: In the wings of the European Parliament's March Plenary Session several representatives of FEFAF, the European Federation of Active Homemakers, handed Lord Plumb, European Parliament President, a draft for a social status for homemakers. Their demands include the recognition of the economic value of the work done by women in the home. (See also CHILD CARE in BELGIUM.) (*Fédération Européenne des Femmes Actives au Foyer*, Françoise de Bellefroid, Av. de Tervueren 66, 1040 Brussels).

A F R I C A

MEDIA: The magazine African Woman has been created to serve as a forum for exchanges among African women, enabling them to discuss serious questions that concern them. The magazine comes out six times a year. A year's subscription costs US\$12.50. (Write to *Akina wa Afrika*, London Women's Centre, Wesley House, 4 Wild Court, London WC2B 5AU, England.)

STRIKE: The women of Kolwa Est Location, Kisumu District, in Kenya, began a 365-day sex strike in February. The arguments of the government officials dispatched to settle their grievances failed to change the women's minds. The reason for the strike is simple: The women are fed up with being their husbands' slaves.

A S I A A N D T H E P A C I F I C B A S I N

POLITICS: The participation of women in government and politics in eight Asian and Pacific Basin countries is the subject of a new preliminary report on a project launched recently by UNESCO's Regional Unit of Human and Social Sciences in Asia and the Pacific. The study uses the information culled from a survey and series of information to examine women's behaviour, political awareness and participation in politics. (Information: UNESCO Regional Adviser for Social Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, 24/1 Sukhumvit Soi 59, GPO Box 1425, Bangkok, Thailand.)

The Population Crisis Committee has announced two publications on birth control and the social situation of women throughout the world, accompanied by wall maps. The first investigation, called "Access to Birth Control: a global assessment", examines access to and the use of birth control methods in industrial and developing countries. The second document is called "Classification of woman's status by country: poor, helpless, and pregnant". The Committee scores the countries in which information on the social status of women could be collected on the basis of these data, then ranks them from high to low and puts them in categories from "excellent" to "extremely poor". Interestingly, according to the study, none of the countries included in this study made "excellent". (These documents are available at no cost from the Population Crisis Committee, 1120 19th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036, USA).

Media:

- * The magazine WIN News, put out by the Women's International Network, opened its 15th year of publication with an editorial by editor-in-chief Fran P. Hosken that takes stock of one of the situation in one of the areas given the greatest coverage by the magazine, "Women and Professions". Hosken notes bitterly that little has changed concerning women and work worldwide since the 1980 international conference on facilitating women's return to work (held in Paris). A host of reports and surveys show that the difficulties and barriers confronting women (combining work and family duties for Soviet women; unequal chances for promotion for Hungarian women; wage discrimination and child-care problems for French, Italian, American, and Swedish women; etc.) persist. Hosken ends this sorry review by asking a basic question, "Why not change the structure of the labour market?" She feels that the time has come not just for adjustment, but for fundamental social change that takes into account the new possibilities opened by the new developments in communications technology and women's growing role in the working world.

- * The March issue of the English-language edition of the monthly Women of China (50 Deng Shi Kou, Beijing, China) contains a noteworthy series of articles in which Chinese journalists describe certain aspects of Chinese society:
 - Zhang Liying draws attention to the phenomenon of overemployment in state firms. Women are particularly affected, as they are transferred to other, lower, positions or put on "technical unemployment" at a fraction of their normal wage whilst waiting to be reassigned to another job.

 - He Han analyses the fear expressed by women at the recent labour reform aimed at giving women who have just given birth or have children under 30 months three-year maternity leaves. In one coal-sector work unit that had 1,271 women out of a total of 6,419 workers, 92.4% of the beneficiaries of this new policy voluntarily asked to return to work after only 6 months' leave!

 - Finally, various reports and interviews combine to give a good overview of primary education in girls' schools and consider the problems of educating children belonging to ethnic minorities and the girls' night schools that exist in certain provinces.

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

URUGUAY

- * San José: The idea of creating a group uniting the women of the country's rural dairy region was born in 1985 in the wake of a series of friendly meetings of dairy farmers' wives through which they became aware of the daily responsibilities that they tended to share (e.g., milking, collecting the milk, etc.) They thus asked the Milk Producers' Corporation to organise the first women's meeting as part of the seventh Milk Festival, which was held in 1986. Women social workers, school teachers, and veterinarians joined the core group to prepare this event, which also received the backing of the *Planarion de Mujeres Uruguayas*. The movement has since rippled out to the neighbouring communes. The second national colloquium was held the next year, in Florida, to discuss such work-related subjects as production quotas and relationships with the cooperatives. The originally spontaneous movement has been trying to organise itself more formally since 1988. It is already collaborating closely with several national organisations on a series of workshops. The association has ten minutes of air time weekly on the radio "CW 41 Broadcasting San José" and also has a column in the daily *Mujer*. (Address: Beatrix anon de Poey, 18 de Julio 371, San José, Uruguay).

ARGENTINA

- * Cordoba: The city's Christian Oecumenical Centre has been running a shelter for women alone or with their children since 1985. In the winter, the demand often exceeds the 15-bed shelter's capacity; Most of the inhabitants are in their twenties and are often jobless and have been abandoned by their families. They sometimes have children already. The *Centro Ecumenico Cristiano* helps them find work or with other undertakings aimed at enabling them to look out for themselves.

- * Buenos Aires:

Twenty years ago, the *Centro Evangelico de Accion Social*, since then renamed *Centro Ecumenico de Accion Social* (CEAS), created a 25-person shelter for unwed mothers to try to help them find solutions to their problems. To ensure security of housing for its pensioners, the CEAS founded a self-run community house in the capital five years ago. A new people's housing project, *VAMOS (Viviendas Autoconstruidas por Mujeres para su Organizacion Solidaria)*, has been under way since the beginning of the year.

Graciela Daleo, who was gaoled and tortured under the military junta, is once again behind bars. Upon her release she had gone on a European tour to denounce human rights violations in Argentina. After returning to Argentina she testified a number of times against the junta's leaders. She then turned to preventing the atrocities of the pass from falling into oblivion, to consolidating the country's democratic gains. However, her actions were considered too disruptive by a Buenos Aires provincial judge, who ordered her arrest.

The *Centro de Estudios Cristiano* has published a special report called *Mujeres diferentes para una iglesia cambiante* in the January issue of its bulletin. This report presents the thoughts of women theology students at the *Instituton Superior Evangelico de Estudios Teologicos* on women's contributions to society and the development of a new theology.

VENEZUELA

* Guaicaipuro:

A group of women has formed the *Centrol Cultural Guaicaipuro* for the purpose of improving living conditions in their neighbourhoods. The cultural centre can count on the steady collaboration of about 100 people. It organises a wide range of activities such as cleaning the streets, excursions for children, and films and debates on a variety of subjects. It also publishes a liaison bulletin full of advice and practical information for its members.

The *Colectivo Companera* celebrated its sixth anniversary last year and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have supported its activities.

EL SALVADOR

- * A number of women's committees merged to create, on 23 January 1988, the *Asociacion de Mujeres Salvadorenas* (AMS), which now boasts 800 members. Given the success of this initiative, the association's sphere of action has gradually spread to the entire country. From now on the movement also concerns women city-dwellers. AMS publishes a bimonthly bulletin, *Nueva Sociedad* (Address: Centro de Gobierno, San Salvador, APDO 3271, El Salvador).

 B O O K S , S T U D I E S , C O N T A C T S

WOMEN AND POLITICS:

- * The sixth update of *Der Weg der Frau in die Politik*, originally written by Gabriele Strecker in 1960, has just been published (Verlag Ernst Knoth GmbH, , Postfach 226, 4520 Melle 1, 135 pages, DM12.80). This new edition, which was revised by Marlene Lenz (MEP, Christian Democrat, Germany), reviews the advances made by women since 1965 to participate more fully in politics and society. The different chapters cover, among other things, women's movements and organisations and the situations of women in the EC Member States and are backed up by statistics on the number of women in the Governments, national parliaments and administrations.
- * A similar evaluation, albeit somewhat more restricted, since it refers to contemporary Italy and women elected to national and local offices, is given in the collective work *Da Donna a Donna: Come si vive nei luoghi del potere* (Woman to Woman: How to live in places of power), published by *Centro Stampa Comunale de Como (Documenti e ricerche n° 44, Gennaio 1989)*. The second part of the book relates the interesting experiences of various women in politics.
- * In their analysis of the information gathered from a series of equal opportunity consciousness-raising seminars held by GEFA (*Groupe d'éducation et de formation à l'autonomie*), the authors of *L'égalité des chances, un choix social et individuel* (EDITEST, rue de Chambéry 16, 1040 Brussels) try to answer a series of questions on the definition, starting point, ideologies, repercussions and place of equal opportunity in society and its importance for the individual.

ILO Information (ILO Liaison Office with the European Communities, rue Aimée Smekens 40, 1040 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 736-9916): The two 1988 issues of Women at Work devoted to the theme of unions and female employment try to determine the most important aspects of the efforts made to implement the International Labour Organisation's recommendations concerning equal opportunity and equal treatment of men and women. The first issue covers unions' roles and action in this area. The second one emphasises women's roles in unions and their participation in union activities to get more women to join.

Women and education: Issue No. 3 (September-December 1988) of the education science magazine *Rivista di Scienze dell'Educazione* (IAS, Piazza dell'Ateneo Salesiano 1, 00139 Roma, Tel.: (06) 881-2140) contains an analysis of the report discussed during the international symposium "Towards the education of women today" that was held at Frascati, Italy, in August 1988. The aim of this document was to trigger interdisciplinary and intercultural examination of this problem and determine the commitments that must be given priority in order to promote a dynamic education effort aimed at women.

In *La bolchevique aux bijoux* (Edition Pierre Horay, 1988, Paris), Colette Cosnier, Senior Lecturer at Rennes University, traces journalist Louise Bodin's short life (1877-1929) combating injustice. She gives a portrait of an activist who was suffragette, feminist, pacifist, socialist, and communist rolled into one, torn between her bourgeois upbringing and her faith in the revolution.

In her book *Voilées, dévoilées* ("Veiled, unveiled"), Noria Allami, an Algerian psychotherapist and psychoanalyst, takes an original approach to the question of the Arab woman's veil and tries to explain the real significance of wearing (or not wearing) the veils that have always intrigued the Western media (L'Harmattan, 16 rue des Ecoles, 75005 Paris, 1988).

Conferences/Seminars:

- * The NGO *La Cimade (Service Oecuménique d'entraide)*, 176 rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris, Tel.: (1) 45 50 34 43) is celebrating its 50th anniversary by holding a series of "Study Days" (workshops and conferences) in Paris in October and November 1989. The three main themes covered will be the Europe-ward migrations of people from the South; the rights and statuses of immigrant, refugee, and French women in Europe in 1993; and the need for democracy in matters of technology, human rights, and development.
- * Belgium's Dutch-speaking women's council, *Nationale Vrouwenraad*, is following up its December 1988 congress on "family and demographics" with a congress on the theme "In shape and in good health after 40 years", to be held on 10 October. (Address: NVR, 83 Avenue Louise, 1050 Brussels, Belgium).

Research/Studies:

- * A special report on *physical and sexual violence* against women has been published in the February/March issue of *Chronique féministe* (Issue N° 30), the bimonthly of *L'Université des femmes de Belgique* (1 Place Quetelet, 1030 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 219-6107).
- * After publishing its study "*Stato e rapporti sociali di sesso*" (Ed. Franco Angeli, 1989), the Paduan research group of the same name (*Università degli Studi di Padova*, via del Santo 28, 35100 Padova, Italy) has unveiled a research project on the social policies and social relationships of sex in Europe, especially in France, Italy, and Great Britain, at Italy's national research Centre, CNR.
- * "*Storia, storia delle donne, storia di genere*" is the title of a study by Gisela Bock that is a must for all feminist historiographers (Ed. Estro Strumenti, Borgo Pinti 33, 50121 Firenze, Tel.: (055) 247-9654).
- * "*La femme de mon mari, anthropologie du mariage polygamique en Afrique et en France*", an anthropological study of polygamy in Africa and France, is the result of a survey conducted jointly by two French women investigators, S. Faizang and O. Journet, in Senegal and the immigrant community in France. The book looks at the institution of polygamy, how it works, its ideological bases, and the daily lives of the "co-spouses" from the inside. (L'Harmattan, 16 rue des Ecoles, 75005 Paris, 1989).

WANTED

Voice of America, the United States Information Agency, and Radio Marti have been found guilty by a US court of having discriminated against thousands of women who applied for jobs with them and ordered to seek out the thousands of victims of sexual discrimination who applied for jobs with them between 8 October 1987 and 16 November 1984, inclusive.

All of these women have the right to file for damages. The women involved were information specialists, radio announcers and MCs (in 44 languages), technicians, etc.

If you are one of these women, please make yourself known to the law firm of:

Webster & Frederickson
1819 H Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel.: (202) 659-8515

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Information offices Bureaux de presse et d'information Uffici stampa e informazione Voorlichtingsbureaus

BELGIQUE — BELGIË

Bruxelles/Brussel

Rue Archimède/Archimedesstraat, 73
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel
Tél.: 235 11 11
Télex 26657 COMINF B

DANMARK

København

Højbrohus
Østergade 61
Postbox 144
1004 København K
Tél.: 1441 40
Télex 16402 COMEUR DK

BR DEUTSCHLAND

Zitelmannstraße 22
5300 Bonn
Tel.: 23 80 41
Kurfürstendamm 102
1000 Berlin 31
Tel.: 8 92 40 28
Erhardtstraße 27
8000 München
Tel.: 23 99 29 00
Telex 5218135

ΕΛΛΑΣ

Οδός Βασιλίσσης Σοφίας
Και Ηρώδου Αττικού
Αθήνα 134
τηλ.: 724 3982/724 3983/724 3984

FRANCE

61, rue des Belles Feuilles
75782 Paris Cedex 16
Tél.: 451.58.85

C.M.C.I./Bureau 320
2, rue Henri Barbusse
F-13241 Marseille Cedex 01
Tél. 91 91 46 00
Télex 402538 EUR MA

IRELAND

39 Molesworth Street
Dublin 2
Tel.: 71 22 44

ITALIA

Via Poli, 29
00187 Roma
Tel.: 678 97 22
Corso Magenta 61
20123 Milano
Tel.: 80 15 05/6/7/8
Telex 316002 EURMIL I

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Bâtiment Jean Monnet
Rue Alcide de Gasperi
2920 Luxembourg
Tél.: 43011

NEDERLAND

Korte Vijverberg 5
2513 AB Den Haag
Tel.: 46.93.26

UNITED KINGDOM

Abby Building
8, Storey's Gate
Westminster
LONDON — SW1P 3AT
Tél.: 222 81 22
Windsor House
9/15 Bedford Street
Belfast BT 2 7EG
Tel.: 40708
4 Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF1 9SG
Tel.: 37 16 31
7 Alva Street
Edinburgh EH2 4PH
Tel.: 225 2058

ESPAÑA

Calle de Serrano 41
5A Planta-Madrid 1
Tel.: 435 17 00

PORTUGAL

Centro Europeu Jean Monnet
Rua do Salitre, 56-10º
1200 Lisboa - Tel. 54 11 44

TÜRKIYE

15, Kuleli Sokak
Gazi Osman Paça
Ankara
Tel.: 27 61 45/27 61 46

SCHWEIZ - SUISSE - SVIZZERA

Case postale 195
37-39, rue de Vermont
1211 Genève 20
Tél.: 34 97 50

AUSTRALIA

Capitol Centre
Franklin Street
P.O. Box 609
Manuka ACT 2603
Canberra ACT
Tél.: 95 50 50

UNITED STATES

2100 M Street, NW
Suite 707
Washington, DC 20037
Tel.: 862 95 00

3 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
245 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
Tel.: 371 38 04

CANADA

Inn of the Provinces
Office Tower
Suite 1110
Sparks Street 350
Ottawa, Ont. K1R 7S8
Tel.: 238 64 64

AMERICA LATINA

Avda Américo Vespucio, 1835
Santiago de Chile 9
Chile
Adresse postale: Casilla 10093
Tel.: 228 24 84

Quinta Bienvenida
Valle Arriba
Calle Colibri
Carretera de Baruta
Caracas
Venezuela
Tel.: 92 50 56

NIPPON

Kowa 25 Building
8-7 Sanbancho
Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 102
Tel.: 239 04 41

ASIA

Thai Military Bank Building
34 Phya Thai Road
Bangkok
Thailand
Tel.: 282 14 52

TAJ MAHAL HOTEL
Suite No. 222/1
Mansingh Road
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110011
India
Tel. 38 66 62

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