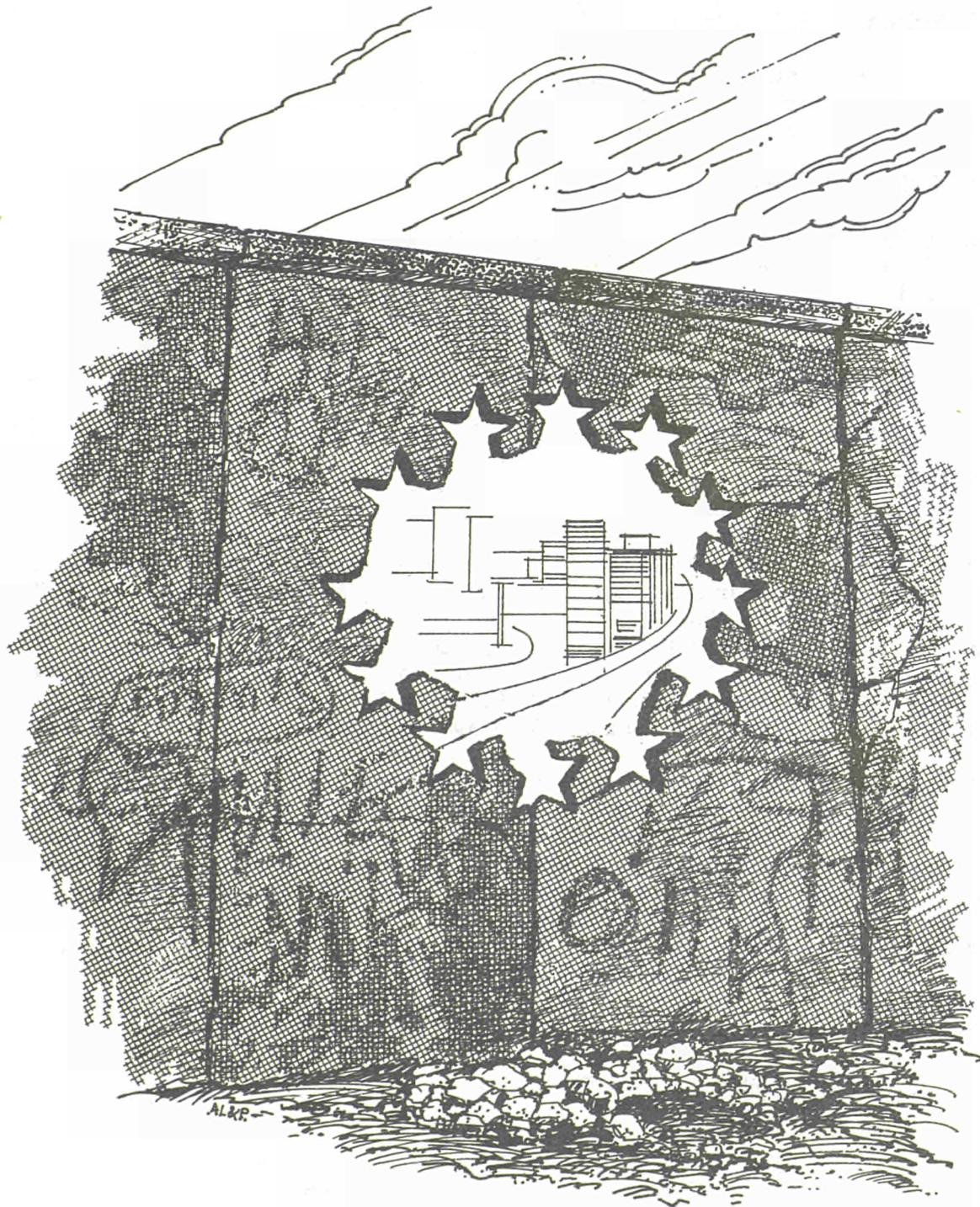


WOMEN OF EUROPE

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THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

SOCIAL CHARTER: Post-1992 Europe will not be merely economic. It will include a social dimension, too. On 27 September, after months of work strewn with pitfalls, the European Commission adopted the Community Charter of Basic Human Rights. This Charter must then be adopted by the Heads of State and Government of at least 11 of the 12 Member States - given the United Kingdom's reservations - at the December European Summit to be held in Strasbourg under the French Presidency.

The Charter is a formal declaration of the major principles underlying the European model of labour law and, more broadly, the European idea of society and the place of work within it. In particular, it proclaims the right to equal treatment for men and women, the right of children and teen-agers to protection, and the rights of the handicapped to be included in the working world, alongside the traditional rights to improved living and working conditions, wages, social protection, vocational training, etc.

To put these principles into effect, the Commission intends to draw up and submit to the Member States before 31 December a priority action programme concerning the most urgent rights.

Social Europe: Antipoverty programme:

- * The European Community's Social Affairs Ministers recently adopted the 55-million-Ecu, 5-year budget of the Community's Third Programme to Combat Poverty. This is a considerable increase over the second programme's four-year budget (1985-89) of 35 million Ecus. The new funds, which cover the period between 1 July 1989 and 30 June 1994, will subsidise local initiatives in the Member States.
- * Annie Bienvenue (France) and Johan Cabooter (Belgium) have won the 1st and 3rd prizes, respectively, for the best articles on the Community's antipoverty programme, ECHANGE, sponsored by the programme's quarterly information bulletin. The August 1989 issue presents the winning articles, which concern single mothers and work and the experience of a cooking group. (ECHANGE, Activities and Distribution Department, ISG Institut, Barbarossaplatz 2, D-5000 Köln 1, Tel.: (+49 221) 23 54 73)
- * Supplement N° 2 to the Commission publication Social Europe illustrates the European Community's contribution to the fight against poverty. It contains two documents by the European Commission: a mid-term report on the Second European Programme to Combat Poverty (1985-89) and a Communication on setting up a programme to promote the economic and social integration of the underprivileged (1989-93). (Useful address: 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels)

FAMILY POLICY: European Commissioner Vasso Papandreou presented the European Community's Social Affairs Ministers on 29 September with the Commission's guidelines for instituting a European family policy. The Commission stressed the key role played by the family against the background of the multiplication of family models, the rising number of working women and the precarious status of certain workers. The pragmatic approach of the Commission's recommended family policy is built on three pillars: information, taking the "family dimension" into account in Community policies and setting up a consultation procedure.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

* The problem of the workers' lack of qualifications, especially in the context of the 1993 Internal Market, was the subject of a seminar held recently in Berlin under the aegis of CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training). A main thread running throughout the debates was the need for training schemes to meet the needs of various segments of the population, e.g., women with obsolete qualifications who want to go back to work, the long-term unemployed, (im)migrant workers and the handicapped. (CEDEFOP, Jean Monnet Haus, Bundesallee 22, D-1000 Berlin 15, Tel.: (+49 30) 884120)

* European Vocational Training Week held in Paris on 12-15 September at the European Commission's instigation was marked by two important symposia, one on the Condorcet talks, the other on "the Europe of Skills". The basic aspects of human resource development for Europe in the '90s, companies' educational roles and the use of new technology were some of the major themes that were covered. (Useful address: APCCI, Direction de la Formation, 45 avenue d'Iéna, F-75769 Paris cedex 16, Tel.: (+33 1) 40 69 37 00)

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT: According to the European Commission's latest report on the job market, "Employment in Europe - 1989", the employment outlook for European women in 1993 is rife with uncertainty. While women make up some 38% of the European workforce, the distribution varies greatly from sector to sector - from less than 10% of labour in heavy industry to 75% of labour in the textiles industry and service sector. Still according to this report, the growth of the service sector and spread of temporary and atypical jobs could improve the employment situation of women. On the other hand, the expected loss of low-skill jobs in the '90s will hit women, who tend to be concentrated at lower levels, particularly hard. (Useful address: European Commission, DG V, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels)

1989 EIB PRIZE: The European Community's European Investment Bank (EIB) Prize, which was created in 1983, was awarded this year to Angélien Kemna, a Dutch university researcher, for her doctoral thesis "Options in real and financial markets", that was presented at the University of Rotterdam in 1988. The biennial EIB Prize is intended to encourage research on investment and financing in European universities. It was first awarded in 1985. The next prize will be awarded in 1991.

EMPLOYMENT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY: The association for non-sexist education *Pour une éducation non-sexiste* (14 rue Cassette, F-75006 Paris, Tel.: (+33 1) 45 86 46 05) held a colloquium in Paris on 18-20 September to assess the European Commission's Action Programme to promote new technology in girls' education. The association, which was given the task of coordinating the efforts deployed by the Member States on the basis of this programme (launched in 1985), reviewed the work carried out to encourage teenage girls to choose the sciences and new technology and related fields.

MEDIA 1992 PROGRAMME: The European Commission has published a handbook called MEDIA 1992 to give AV professionals detailed information about the MEDIA (Measures to Encourage the Development of the AV Industry) Programme, of which it was the instigator. This first in a series of publications contains all the practical information needed concerning the structures and bodies set up to implement the programme's pilot experiments. (Useful address: European Commission, Directorate-General for Information/Communication/Culture, MEDIA 1992 Programme, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels)

EURO-INFO CENTRES: The European Commission hopes to achieve its goal of setting up a complete network of Euro-Info Centres - information centres on Community legislation and action for SMEs - by the mid-1990s, at which time there will be 187 EICs covering almost all parts of Europe.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRE: The Youth Forum of the European Communities has new headquarters in the European Youth Centre, also known as the Erik Eudeline Centre, that was inaugurated recently by the Belgian Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for Europe 1992, Anne-Marie Lizin. The building also houses a documentation centre on European youth policies and related issues, such as social affairs and women's rights. (Contact: Suzanne Hana, Youth Forum, 112 rue Joseph II, B-1040 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 230-6490)

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

1989 ELECTIONS: Although the proportion of women in the 518-member European Parliament is up 2.3 points compared with 1984 (for a total of 95 women MEPs), there are fewer women in positions of responsibility. Only 2 of the 14 Vice-Presidents - Nicole Pery (Soc - F) and Nicole Fontaine (EPP - Spain) - are women, whilst there is one woman co-chair of a political group - Maria Motas Santos (Greens - Portugal). Three of the eighteen parliamentary committees are chaired by women, namely, Social Affairs (Hedy D'Ancona, Soc - NL); Women's Rights (Christine Crawley, Soc - UK); and Petitions (Viviane Reding, EPP - L).

- * The final results of Luxembourg's representation in the European Parliament, which were not available at the time of publications of the last issue of Women of Europe (No. 60, June/July 1989), are pleasantly surprising. Women occupy exactly half of the country's six seats. The lucky women MEPs are Colette Flesch (LDR), Astrid Lulling (EPP) and Viviane Reding (EPP).

SEPTEMBER PLENARY SESSION:

* The European Parliament's September Plenary Session, which was held on 11-12 September, was doubly significant. Firstly, it was the first working session of the newly-elected parliament (the July session was devoted mainly to setting up shop). Secondly, it opened with the announcement of the resignation of Claude Autant-Lara, an eminent French filmmaker who had been newly elected to the Parliament on the National Front ticket. During the ensuing debate, many of the MEPs expressed their solidarity with Simone Veil, who had been the target of some of Autant-Lara's racist remarks. Those taking the floor also warned against the danger of a surge in anti-semitism.

SOCIAL EUROPE 1993: The European Commissioner responsible for social affairs, Vasso Papandreou, assured the assembly that the European Commission would soon put forward concrete proposals for implementing the clauses of the European Social Charter, even though the latter is not binding. The need to make progress in the areas of fair pay, male/female quality and safety in the workplace was stressed by German Social-Democrat Heinke Salisch, whilst German Green Cramon-Daiber called for more fiscal justice for the poor.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY: The Parliament amended the Council of Ministers' "joint positions" on three occupational health and safety Directives (minimum requirements, personal protection and work equipment). The amendments reinforce the workers' participation in decision-making processes that concern them. Nel van Dijk (Green - NL) and Anna Castata (European United Left - Italy) were particularly adamant about guaranteeing "proper participation". In contrast, Mechthild von Alemann (Liberal - FRG) warned against "excesses of perfectionism", which, she contended, could result in the legislation's being held up by the Council of Ministers, thereby leaving workers without protection.

ENVIRONMENT:

* The Parliament heeded the advice of its rapporteur, Ursula Schleicher, on dangerous substances and preparations, in calling for the addition of new substances to the lists in the 8th Community Directive limiting the commercialisation and use of certain high-risk substances. However, British Conservative Caroline Jackson asked for an exception for the lead-based paint used in restoring wooden monuments.

* The Parliament went farther than the European Commission with regard to a ban on smoking in public places by calling for the adoption of a Directive, i.e., legislation that is binding on all Member States, rather than a simple Recommendation.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST TRANSSEXUALS: The proposal to take a series of measures to eliminate all discrimination against transsexuals and help them in their difficult transition from one sex to the other - the subject of a report by Belgian Socialist Marijke van Hemeldonck - was approved by the Parliament.

AID FOR POLAND: The resolutions on aid for Poland that were adopted and which, on the whole, call for more aid and cooperation from the West and the Community, included a resolution put forward by German Green Eva Quistorp insisting on the need for intervention in the area of environmental protection and appropriate technology transfers.

EAST GERMAN REFUGEES: The Parliament adopted a resolution urging the Member States to support the East German refugees and help Hungary, which has taken them in. During the debate, two German MEPs, Barbara Simons (SPD) and Eva Quistorp (Greens), stressed that the refugees' drama must not be used as a "pretext for ideological polemics".

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- * At the first session of the new Committee since the June elections (see the previous issue of Women of Europe, N° 60, June/July 1989), Jean Degimbe, the Director-General of DG V (Social Affairs), introduced Claire Mandouze, new head of the Commission's Equal Opportunities Unit. Degimbe then presented the European Commission's programme of work in this area, during which he emphasised 1990's transitional nature. As he pointed out, the Community will have to anticipate the effects of the Internal Market on employment and set up the Third Community Programme for Equal Opportunities between Men and Women.
- * The latest research by the Women and Employment Experts Network on atypical jobs was presented by network coordinator Danièle Meulders, as was the current research programme focussing on women's jobs in banking & textiles.
- * Given the threats raised by the Commission's proposed reform of the European Social Fund (ESF) for women's training projects that depend on ESF funding, the Committee suggested holding a public hearing to raise public awareness of the issue.
- * Finally, the Committee adopted several amendments to the Community's 1990 Draft Budget concerning the European Commission's policies for the advancement of women. These changes are aimed at increasing the sums earmarked for information - for example, the development of the Women's Information Services' activities, requiring, notably, support for the European Women's Lobby, more publications and financing for an information campaign on the 1992 "deadline" - and the promotion of local employment initiatives (LEIs) for women.

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

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY...

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS, LAWS
AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES

B E L G I U M

WOMEN AND POLITICS: The Regional Council of Brussels-Capital had its first meeting on 12 July. Eighteen (24%) of its members are women.

WOMEN/CAREERS/FAMILY: The office of the Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for Europe 1992 and the Socialist women's group Femmes prévoyantes socialistes (FPS) recently examined the issue of two-career families in Belgium, particularly with regard to the Internal Market of 1992. Their reports' conclusions highlight the difficulties encountered by women when both spouses work, e.g., the problems of reorganising daily routines, marital and family problems, etc. If the job of one member of the working couple "migrates", the situation can become dramatic. (Femmes, familles, published by FPS, rue St Jean 32, 1000 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 515-0409; Mobilité professionnelle des familles à deux carrières dans l'Europe de 1992, Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Europe 1992, rue de la Régence 61, 1000 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 516-8448)

EQUAL TREATMENT:

- * Roughly 20% of Belgium's doctors are women. Although women physicians spend more time with their patients than their male colleagues (5' more per visit, on average), their salaries are markedly lower. A large chunk comes out of their incomes to pay the different costs incurred by their absence from the home. Moreover, women doctors often work their schedules around their families' needs. Such are the findings of a survey by the medical journal Journal des Médecins as reported in the French-language daily Le Soir of 17-18 June 1989.
- * In 1985 the Committee on Female Labour sent out some basic documentation on equal pay that included a list of Community and national legislation, a summary of the jurisprudence in this area and a bibliography. The Ministry of Employment and Labour has now updated this publication, which is available in French and Dutch. (Secrétariat de la Commission du Travail des Femmes, Ministère de l'Emploi et du Travail, 51-53 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 233-4016)
- * The French-speaking National Belgian Women's Council (CNFB) has called attention to a growing trend. More and more men are being appointed directors of schools, although most schools are co-ed.
- * In answer to a written question from MEP Raymonde Dury (SP - B) on discriminatory measures against women in Belgium, Vasso Papandreou, the European Commissioner responsible for social affairs, has stated that Belgium's new regulations on unemployment insurance and sickness and disability insurance do not meet EC requirements. As a result, the case has been brought to the attention of the EC Court of Justice in Strasbourg.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: The Belgian Government adopted the Social Affairs Minister's bill on maternity insurance at the end of July. The new law will enable women to receive "normal" wages for the first month of maternity leave. Under this law, employers will have to pay a sum set at 0.12% of the total payroll into an insurance fund, whether or not they employ women.

LEGALISING ABORTION: A public meeting to support the Lallemand-Herman-Michielsens bill took place in Brussels on 15 October. It was attended by numerous party and union officials and representatives of women's groups.

HOMEMAKERS: After being received by Lord Plumb, then EP President, delegates of the European Housewives Federation (FEFAF) have unveiled a proposal for a "European Social Status" for homemakers. Some 80 million European women would be affected by such a move. (FEFAF, avenue de Tervueren 66, Bte 1, 1040 Brussels)

EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP: The association Euro-Culture, one of whose two co-presidents is Françoise Fillieux, organised a "European Citizens' Celebration" at the Auderghem Cultural Centre on 11 June. The goal was to make Europe better known. The event was very successful in both political circles and with regard to a broader public.

PUBLICATIONS:

* The French-speaking National Belgian women's Council (CNFB) has just published a work on the movement's history called *Le temps des femmes*. One chapter is devoted to the main issues for which women have fought and continue to fight, namely, education, work, law and politics. (CNFB, rue de la Prévoyance 60, 1000 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 514-4949)

* The Women's University (*Université des femmes*) regularly publishes well-researched dossiers on issues of interest to women. The latest studies in the series are on feminism (*Le féminisme, une bonne question*) and nurses' health (*La santé des infirmières*). The university also has a documentation centre open to the public. (Useful address: *Université des femmes*, Place Quetelet 1a, 1030 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 219-6107)

D E N M A R K

POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION: The Equal Opportunities Committee of Arhus has obtained the temporary exemption from compliance with the equal treatment law that it sought. This will allow it to apply positive discrimination in favour of women job applicants for an experimental period if applicants of both sexes apply for a position. The Committee has also published an informative brochure on hiring procedures and organised a cycle of conferences on discrimination.

EQUAL TREATMENT AND THE HANDICAPPED: "Work and Handicap" is the title of a brochure published recently by the Equal Opportunities Committee of Arhus covering the possibilities offered by the law to facilitate the hiring and inclusion of the handicapped in society. These consist primarily of legislation concerning priority in hiring, special facilities in the workplace, vocational training assistance and protection in the workplace.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT: Despite Denmark's legislation on equal treatment and pay for men and women, women have a higher unemployment rate, worse jobs and lower salaries than men, according to the Social Democratic Party's Equality Committee. To correct this situation, the Committee suggests the experimental application of a string of equal opportunity requirements to the labour market. The Social Democratic Party has consequently urged companies with more than 50 employees that receive State aid to draw up programmes to promote equality between the sexes. The Party hopes that this experiment will eventually lead to the adoption of a law tying economic aid for companies to the implementation of internal equality plans.

EQUAL PAY: Landorganisation (LO), the trade union behind the equal pay for men and women campaign that was waged in March 1989, has decided to make the rounds of the 4,000 private companies in the city of Holstebro to check compliance with the 1976 equal pay law. So far, the results have been fairly encouraging. Only 5 of the 20 companies visited to date have not implemented the legislation fully. The experiment should be extended to other towns (Aalborg, Svenborg, Esbjerg, Elsenør and Bornholm).

WOMEN'S PARTY: At its founding roughly two years ago the Women's Party set as one of its priorities action to increase the participation of women in politics. If more women were elected, says the Party, more effective action would be taken in such important areas as sexual equality, child protection, shortening the work week, improving access to the labour market and improving living conditions. (Women's Party Bureau, Dronningensgade 14, 1424 København K, Tel.: (+45 1) 54 03 13)

EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON EQUALITY: Promoting the involvement of women in politics, the economy and administration, especially in light of 1992, will be the main subject of debate at the Council of Europe's 2nd International Congress, to be held in Århus on 6-8 July 1990. (Useful address: Council of Europe, BP 431 R 6, F-67006 Strasbourg Cedex, Tel.: (+33) 88 61 59 61)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF DANISH WOMEN: In the run-up to the municipal and regional elections slated for November the National Council of Danish Women (DKN) held a meeting in Copenhagen on 23 October on the place of women and children in town budgets. The keynote speaker was Kristen Feld, Deputy Mayor of Roskilde. (*Danske Kvinders Nationalråd*, Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, DK-1153 København K, Tel.: (+45 1) 12 80 87)

F R A N C E

FAREWELL, JEANNE CHATON!: Our friend Jeanne Henriette Chaton, WoE correspondent for France, passed away on 18 October. She did so with the discreetness that characterised her throughout her life, despite the eminent services she performed for women, her country and Europe. She was deported during World War I at the age of 15 and decorated for the many services she rendered during World War II. After earning a degree and certification in history she taught in many lycea around Paris. Under President Herriot she worked for Franco-German reconciliation in the inter-war period and was a task officer at the League of Nations Conference on Disarmament. After 1945 she was sent by the Foreign Ministry to Australia and New Zealand to promote France abroad. She then took on various duties at UNESCO, to which she devoted herself to the end of her life. Later she was named France's representative to the UN Committee on Women's Status, where her qualities were appreciated by everyone.

Totally committed to the woman's movement, she was a member of France's Female Labour Committee and active in countless women's associations. She was president of the International Federation of Women University Graduates for three years, chairwoman of the Education Committee of the International Federation of Women Professionals and Tradespeople and vice-chairman of the International Liaison Committee for Women's Associations.

A firm believer in Europe, she wrote and spoke often about the building of Europe. Accordingly, she was a faithful correspondent of Women of Europe, which she promoted enthusiastically.

Jeanne will leave a gaping hole in the movement of European women working for the advancement of women.

APPOINTED: Yvette Chassagne, former President of the Parisian insurance Union *Union des Assurances de Paris* (UAP), became president of the 520,000-member road safety association *Prévention routière* on 21 June. The goals of the association, which is co-financed by French insurance companies, are to encourage changes in drivers' behaviour and engage in repeated, small-scale undertakings related to road safety, according to a statement by the new president. Chassagne intends to stress medical prevention first and foremost.

WOMEN AND WORK: According to a recent INSEE study on regional employment of women, *L'activité féminine dans les régions* (INSEE Première N° 37, August 1989), female employment has risen 4% in 5 years, whereas male employment has fallen 4% over the same period. The overall trend cannot, however, hide the regional differences, such as a higher employment rate in the north than in the south and greater "feminisation" of employment in the west. The trend is most striking in the service sector, which accounted for 71% of female employment in 1986, whereas the importance of industry (16.7% of female employment in 1986) and agriculture (5.8% in 1986) has fallen.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: An in-house survey of women employees conducted by the Committee for Equality of the Marseille-based *Assurances générales de France* (AGF, 65 avenue Jules Cantini, Tour Méditerranée, F-13006 Marseille) shows that fewer chances for promotion are the women's main occupational equality concern. On the other hand, the real progress made in the areas of training and wages is recognised. The Committee subsequently issued its demands to improve male/female equality in the company based on the survey results. These demands concern training, the calculation of seniority, the need to enhance women's roles, parental leaves, and working hours.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: The pilot operation conducted by the Women's Rights Delegation and prefecture of Hauts-de-Seine since March 1987 to encourage company creation by women has been a great success, giving rise to more than 215 undertakings generating 403 jobs in two years. Encouraged by these results, the "Women and Enterprises" support group has decided to continue and broaden its action. From now on it will provide technical assistance and follow-up for projects that are carried out as well as financial assistance to take over where the aid granted by the European Commission under its company-creation incentive programme leaves off. (*Femmes et Entreprises*, 167 avenue Joliot-Curie, 92013 Nanterre, Tel.: 47 29 03 33)

WOMEN'S STUDIES: France's women's studies researchers united on 3 June under the aegis of the women's studies association APEF (*Association pour les Etudes féministes*) and Lyon Women's Studies Centre (CLEF-AFFRRA) to found the first national women's studies association, ANEF (*Association nationale des Etudes féministes*) in France. This new association, which is open to all women researchers, should boost the national and international spread of French women's studies findings. (Contact: APEF, 2ter Passage des Marais, 75010 Paris).

CHILDCARE: Although France leads the European Community in the area of childcare conditions, French women still have to rely more on luck and chance than real possibilities to find satisfactory daycare for their children. As a result, their freedom to choose childcare options without sacrificing their careers is not fully guaranteed. Such is the conclusion of a recent study on preschool childcare ("*Accueil des jeunes enfants*") published by the living conditions study centre CREDOC (*Centre de Recherches pour l'étude et l'observation des conditions de vie*) in issue 41 of *Consommation et modes de vie* (August 1989). A survey of 770,000 children under 3 whose mothers work revealed that only 44% benefited from an organised service. Furthermore, in granting government childcare allowances, priority is given to State-run facilities. Thus, 74% of the cost of collective nurseries is covered, versus 30% of the cost of home childcare and 20% of the cost of a certified childcare aide (*assistante maternelle*). (CREDOC, 142 rue du Chevaleret, 75013 Paris, Tel. 40 77 85 00)

IMMIGRANT WOMEN:

* A national meeting on "Immigrant Women and Social Assistance Centres: autonomy, dependence, indifference?" was held by the French Federation of Welfare and Socio-cultural Centres (FCSF) in Paris on 30 September-1 October with the association for women and migrants FIA/ISM (*Femmes Inter Associations/Inter Service Migrants*). The initiative, which was aimed primarily at welfare officers, was taken to exchange information on measures to help immigrant women and to enable the officers to put their heads together about social assistance centres' strategies for immigrant women. (FCSF, 10/12 rue du Volga, 75020 Paris, Tel.: 43 56 12 59)

* What future can immigrant women hope to have in post-1992 Europe? To try to answer this question, the Oecumenical Interaid Centre, CIMADE, held a 3-day workshop in Paris on 6-8 October attended by women from Europe, Latin America, North Africa, Black Africa and the Middle East. The main themes included the socio-cultural integration of foreign women, women's cultural and religious roles and solidarity among women's movements. (CIMADE, 176 rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris, Tel.: 4550-3443)

WIDOWS: The federation of civilian widows who are heads of households, FEVAC (*Fédération des associations de veuves civiles chefs de famille*, 28 Place Saint-Georges, 75009 Paris), has published the proceedings of its 12th National Congress (Dec. 1988), which focussed on a survey called "Looking at Life" (*La vie en face*). This study was commissioned to help FAVEC identify the weaknesses in its work and ways to overcome them. The proceedings are available from FAVEC for FF50, postage included.

EUROPE 1992: Television and the environment are the two key topics of the meeting organised by *Grain de Sel-Rencontres* (an association that organises meetings for information, thought and communication) in Paris on 14 October. The day of discussion is just one example of *Grain de Sel's* efforts since 1984 to promote the creation of real European citizenship that includes true sexual equality (and its corollary, increased participation by women). (*Grain de Sel*, 62 boulevard Garibaldi, 75015 Paris, Tel.: 47 83 57 15)

FILM FESTIVAL: Nine full-length films by French and other European women film-makers and 12 short films participated in the 6th "*Cinéma au féminin*" women's film festival, which was held at Digne-les-Bains on 19-23 September. In addition, for the first time in the festival's history, American films competed for the prize for the filmmaker giving the leading role to a woman. (Contact: Gilles Ades, 7bis rue des Eaux, 75016 Paris, Tel.: 42 24 43 55)

G E R M A N Y

EQUAL RIGHTS:

- * Promoting male/female equality remains a cornerstone of State Government policy in Schleswig-Holstein, which is ready to back the appointment of women ministers. Proof of this can be seen in the fact that, for the first time in history, the three-year "Work in Schleswig-Holstein" Programme will be implemented by women. What is more, 10 million of the 30 million-Deutsche Mark (about 15 million Ecus) budget will be earmarked for women.
- * The civil service union DBB (*Deutschen Beamtenbundes-Bundesfrauenvertretung*) has proposed that the European Social Charter adopted by the European Commission but on which the Community's twelve ministers have not yet come to an agreement pay special attention to women's rights, especially the right to equal treatment, including access to senior positions. The DBB also called for the adoption of a national law on affirmative action. (DBB, Dreizehnmorgenweg 36, D-5300 Bonn 2).
- * The number of local Committee for Equal Rights between Men and Women in Germany has risen from 100 in 1986 to 460 in 1989.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:

- * In July a Münster court ruled against an affirmative action hiring scheme on the grounds that a new law was necessary to restrict a right that was more favourable to men than women with similar qualifications. This ruling conflicts with the State of North Rhine-Westphalia's policy to promote female participation in the civil service.
- * A congress on affirmative action schemes in savings banks in North Rhine-Westphalia was recently held in Wuppertal under the aegis of the State Ministry of Trade and Industry, Small Businesses and Technology. (Useful address: *Minister für Wirtschaft, Mittelstand und Technology des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen*, Referat 116, Haroldstraße 4, D-4000 Düsseldorf 1)

WOMEN AND CIVIL SERVICE:

- * The Women's Affairs Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, Gisela Böhrk, has just kicked off an action plan for government employment of women. The plan includes affirmative action in hiring and promotions, rules to make it easier to combine a career with family life and action to promote equal treatment for men and women. The Minister underscored the fact that this would serve as a basis for enshrining these principles in legislation.
- * The civil service union DBB (see above) is also working to include in the federal law on the protection of women a clause to encourage government employment of women. The union is in favour of setting aside a minimum of 40% of civil service jobs for women.

BACK TO WORK:

- * A project instigated by the Working Group for the Advancement and Qualification of Women to help women go back to work has been presented by Women's Affairs Minister Gisela Böhrk. The project consists of the implementation of continuing education through a mobile counselling service. The estimated cost of this project is 685,000 DM - 380,000 to be provided by the Ministry for Women's Affairs and the remaining 300,000 by Schleswig-Holstein. The Minister feels that such a programme is a concrete step towards the disappearance of the disadvantage borne by working women in Schleswig-Holstein.

- * North Rhine-Westphalia has allocated 4 million DM to finance a programme to ease the return to work of women who stopped working for family reasons. The State will foot 80% of the cost of each woman's reinsertion (100% in exceptional cases), which could amount to 50,000 DM a year. What is more, an additional 500 DM a month will be paid to cover childcare costs or family expenses.

WOMEN AND BUSINESS: The June 1989 issue of the economics journal Kapital contains a call for talented, ambitious women capable of running a company to vie for a prize to be conferred on the most deserving woman entrepreneur amongst the respondents. All interested parties should write to the editors, mentioning their companies' names and objectives. (Address: Redaktion Kapital, "Management" Ressort, Eupenerstraße 70, D-5000 Köln 41. Mention the word "Fairness-Preis").

WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS: Despite the still mixed results, new action strategies to help women union members cope with new technology in the workplace have been growing apace since the early '80s. This is one of the conclusions of a report by the German Youth Institute "DJI" (Deutsches Jugend Institut) of Munich called Neue Techniken und Gewerkschafterinnen. The report describes at length experiences in the metal-working industry (DJI, Freibadstraße 30, D-8000 München 90, Tel.: (+49 89) 62306-0).

WOMEN SOLDIERS: A newsletter for women soldiers in Germany is born. The bimonthly Info-lettre (first issue - July/August 1989) aims to encourage communication amongst and serve as a liaison publication for women in the military. The subjects covered range from the particular situation of women in the army and family or social problems to travel, literature and other areas of culture. (Contact: Gabrielle Biffar, Hermann-Löns-Weg 23, D-2822 Schwanewede, Tel.: (+49 4209) 4977)

ERRATUM: The remarks concerning the quota law of North Rhine-Westphalia that were reported in issue 59 of Women of Europe (p. 15) were incorrectly attributed to Ingrid Rieskamp, who is a journalist, not a civil servant. Furthermore, Women of Europe would like to point out that the law on quotas and the issue of the division of senior government positions between men and women that was mentioned by Professor Peter Grottian are two separate, unrelated issues.

G R E E K E

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS:

- * The June elections did little to advance female representation in Parliament, where women now hold 13 (4.3%) of the 300 seats (up from 11 seats in the previous legislature). New Democracy has 7 women delegates, PASOK (the Socialist Party) 4 and the Left/Progress Coalition Party 2.
- * Maria Damanaki, Left/Progress Coalition MP, has been elected Vice-President of Parliament.

WOMEN AND POWER:

- * The Tzanetaki Government formed after the June general elections includes only 1 woman. She is Anna Psarouda Benaki, Deputy Education Minister.
- * Anna Athanassiadou is the first woman appointed to the Greek Supreme Court. This is an important step towards making key decision-making positions accessible to women and should open the doors of the judiciary to more women.

EQUAL RIGHTS: After years of experience in non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working for the advancement of women, Rena Lampsas has been named Secretary-General of the government's General Secretariat for Equality. The new Secretary-General immediately called NGOs in the women's movement to a meeting, at which the NGOs suggested that a National Advisory Committee be set up under the General Secretariat for Equality. It was also decided to repeat such meetings regularly, so as to strengthen ties between the Government and the women's movement (General Secretariat for Equality, Moussaïou 2, Plaka, 10555 Athens)

UNION OF GREEK WOMEN: The new Administrative Council of the Union of Greek Women is as follows: Didi Gioannopoulou, President; Maria Kypriotaki and E. Kalavryziotou, Vice-Presidents; T. Pandazi, General Secretary; K. Mantzila, Deputy General Secretary; and A. Karaloglou and E. Sotiriou, Treasurers. (EGE, Ainianos 8, 10678 Athens)

APPOINTMENTS: The new Administrative Council of the Centre of Women of the Open Country (KE.G.Y.) since April consists of F. Anousaki, President; K. Ioanidou, Vice-President; D. Koukoumela, General Secretary; and E. Crisochoou, Treasurer. (KE.G.Y., Lekka 12, 10562 Athens)

WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE ECONOMY: An international seminar on alternative economic solutions for women was held recently in Athens by the Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute (KEGME) and INSTRAW (International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women). The main themes that were covered concerned the integration of women into existing and future economic structures; the place of women in the micro- and macro-economy; women and cultural, political and social affairs; the importance of taking a political approach to the role of women in economic development; and a feminist analysis of economic development. (KEGME, Leoforos Aleksandras 192b, 11521 Athens)

WOMEN AND SOCIETY: "Greek Women confronted by the Year 2000" was the theme of an international conference held by the Eastern Soroptimists Club of Athens this spring. The discussions revealed, amongst other things, that female unemployment in Greece rose 150% over 4 years (1981-85); 60% of working women are in the public sector, but only 11% of them have high-level positions; and 30% of working women are in the media. Turning to health, it appears that cancers of the large intestine cause more deaths among women than men.

I R E L A N D

WOMEN AND THE CONSTITUTION:

- * A bill to amend the Constitution so as to guarantee the right to life of the unborn has been put forward in Parliament (Dáil Eireann). The passage to be added to Article 40.3 reads: "3° the State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right."
- * Women's entry into public life has led to major changes in the situation and role of women in society. Does the Constitution reflect these developments? What future does the Constitution guarantee women? These are the key questions raised by Rosemarie Rowley in a paper read at a meeting of the Constitution Club in Dublin in February 1988. This paper served as the basis of an article called "Women and the Constitution" that was just published in the Administrative Journal of the Institute of Public Administration. One of the author's major conclusions is that women continue to be excluded from positions of political power.

EQUAL RIGHTS: Carmel Foley has just been named new Chief Executive of the Council for the Status of Women (64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, Tel.: (01) 61 52 68) to replace Anne Good. Foley, who was formerly with the Irish Embassy in Luxembourg, is already busy preparing for Ireland's turn at the Presidency of the European Community's (January-June 1990). Her aim is to make the Government aware of women's rights priorities, such as parental leave and childcare.

HOMELESS WOMEN: A large majority of the homeless women using a major Dublin shelter are between the ages of 22 and 35, although the group spans all age groups, from 12 to 70. What is more, close to one-third of these women are travellers. This and other information can be found in a recent report on homeless women and their children by the National Campaign for the Homeless called "Women and Children First". The overall assessment of shelter conditions for homeless women in Dublin is rather negative, and the report concludes by citing the need for an emergency service, improvement of conditions in existing shelters and more legal protection for battered women. (National Campaign for the Homeless, P.O. Box 1459, Dublin 1)

I T A L Y

WOMEN AND POLITICS: Former Cultural Affairs Minister Vincenza Bono Parrino has become the first woman to be selected President of a parliamentary group, in this case the Italian Social Democratic Party (PSDI).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: A bill to update Italian legislation to comply with United Nations and EC texts and Directives on equal opportunity for men and women has been put forward in Italy's Chamber of Deputies. The bill consists of 7 articles aimed at the double goal of increasing women's competitiveness on the labour market and encouraging the development of careers through direct initiatives. The areas of intervention include non-traditional jobs for women, education and vocational training, working hours, and financial support for such initiatives. To prevent the eventual legislation's becoming a dead letter, the text provides for a three-year temporary application period, after which a new law will have to be adopted that takes the first one's achievement's into account.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: The Liberal Women's Group plans to propose an amendment to law 903/77 to facilitate access to employment for women. The law as it now stands is not enough to eliminate sex-based discrimination. Of the 21 million workers in Italy, 14 million are men and 7 million women. On the other hand, there are 1.7 million unemployed women versus 1.2 unemployed men and 0.1 million unemployed young people (both sexes combined). In particular, the Liberal Women are calling for affirmative action schemes that recognise the social value of motherhood. (*Coordinamento delle Donne Liberali*, via Frattini 89, 00187 Roma)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A recent Senate study has sounded the alarm by indicating that the decrease in the number of denunciations of acts of violence against women does not necessarily reflect a decline in such acts themselves. The study reports 265 denunciations for the first quarter of 1989 versus 279 for first quarter 1988. However, the number of reported incidents of violence rose in 1988 (1,244) compared with 1987 (1,140). It can be concluded from the study that today's legislation does not incite women to take their cases to court.

HEALTH:

* The first "National Women's Psycho-physical Health Day" was held recently in Rome. The aim was to draw attention to the close links amongst the physical, mental and social well-being of women and the fact that many psychosomatic disorders in women stem from feelings of frustration and dissatisfaction. (Useful address: Prof. Emilia Costa, VI' Clinica Psichiatrica, Università degli Studi "La Sapienza", Roma)

* Under the impetus of European Year Against Cancer (1989) and the "Barin Project" - a cancer-prevention project launched in 1985 and aimed at promoting the inclusion of cancer-related concerns in medical research -, the women's section of the Regional Federation of Farmers (Federazione Regionale Coltivatori Diretti - FRCD) supports the idea of creating a permanent "observatory" involving some 2,500 women. In addition, a study of cancer mortality in Veneto (Atlante della mortalità per tumori nella Regione Veneto 1975-1977) supervised by Mario Negri Pharmacological Research Institute is the region's contribution to the Barin research project this year. This study consists mainly of statistics comparing mortality due to some 20 different types of cancer in Veneto and other regions of Italy and the conclusions that can be drawn from them. (Useful address; Istituto Mario Negri, via Eritrea 62, 20157 Milano)

WOMEN'S STUDIES: The association *Progetto Donna* announces that a second seminar to stimulate thought on women's studies was held in Bologna in October to continue the work of a first seminar in May. The participants in both seminars were given opportunities to discuss the development, current situation and outlook for women's studies in Italy and compare the situation with those in the rest of Europe and the United States. (Useful address: Tina Leonzi, via B. Castelli 4, 25060 Brescia/Mompiano, Tel.: (030) 2003845)

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: The Province of Pisa recently held a national congress on children's rights against the backdrop of social complexity and legislative limits in order to determine what legislative reforms are necessary to protect and guarantee children's welfare. The myriad subjects discussed (education, right of speech, free time, family policy, etc.) included the key issue of equal opportunity for women and children, including the problem of the childcare options open to working women. (Useful address: *Assessorato alla Pubblica Istruzione e Sicurezza Sociale*, Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, Pisa, Tel.: (050) 23661)

HOMEMAKERS: The Autonomous Trade Union of Male and Female Homemakers recently held its first congress in Naples. The trade union was set up at the instigation of OIKIO, the first movement to unit various associations of Italian housewives and lobby for recognition of the status of "worker" for women who stay at home. The discussions during the congress covered various social, legal and existential aspects of running a household. (OIKIA, via Cefalonia 4a, Verona)

1989 MINERVA PRIZE: The Rome-based Women's Club (*Club delle Donne*), founded in 1983, has awarded its Minerva Prize to the winners of the eight traditional sections (careers, enterprises, science and culture, management, journalists, arts, literature and social action) for the seventh year in a row. The Club's Special Prize went to Ada Grecchi, Chairwoman of the National Committee for Equal Rights of the trade union ENEL. The Club's president is Anna Maria Mammoliti. (*Club delle Donne*, viale Giulio Cesare 151, 00192 Roma)

WOMEN AND THE CONSTITUTION: A study of women and the Italian constitution, 1948-1988, published by the Women's Advisory Board of the city of Trieste cannot be ignored as the bicentennial of the French Revolution draws to a close. The study traces the gradual progress made by women in acquiring social, civic and political rights, but all shows, implicitly, the gains still to be made. (Useful address: *Consulta Femminile del Comune di Trieste*, via Don Minzoni 16, 34124 Trieste, Tel. (040) 306242)

 L U X E M B O U R G

WOMEN AND POLITICS:

* The results of the general elections held on 18 June concurrently with the European elections confirmed that women are starting to bring their weight to bear in Luxembourg's political circles. The Grand Duchy has already beaten all the records with three women MEPs, which is half of its delegation (see "The European Parliament"). Women also did fairly well nationally, filling 10 of the 64 seats in the newly-elected parliament. The breakdown by political party is as follows: Social Christians - 4, Democrats - 3, Socialist Party - 2, Alternative Greens - 1. Unfortunately, the Greens' MP-elect has died in the interim. In contrast, the executive branch has not done so well. Only one government position was given to a woman - Mady Delvaux-Stehres, appointed Secretary of State (Junior Minister). (Contact: Chambre des Députés, 19 rue du Marché-aux-Herbes, 1728 Luxembourg)

* A woman is finally President of Parliament for the first time in the Grand Duchy's 150-year history. Erna Hennicot-Schoepgas, Social Christian Party MP, will guide Parliament's debates for the first two years of the legislature, after which Fernand Rau will take over. Ms Hennicot-Schoepgas was a piano teacher at the Luxembourg Conservatory until 1972. In 1972 she ran in the general elections for the first time. A mother of three, she is also mayor of Walferdange. (Contact: Chambre des Députés, 19 rue du Marché-aux-Herbes, 1728 Luxembourg)

ELECTION LAW: A bill put forward by Deputy Anne Brasseur (Liberal) in 1988 provided for the abolition of Article 9 of the voting law that stipulates that "married women and widows shall be registered under their husbands' surnames, followed by the wife's surname and Christian names". A married woman proved the absurdness of this regulation in the following letter addressed to the president of the City of Luxembourg's voting office: "Since - as you certify in your voter's summons - I was born and not deceased, then reborn with another identity involving a sex change, I completely fail to understand why you are asking my husband to vote in my stead in the general and European elections of 18 June 1989. I hereby inform you that my husband, who is German, does not have the right to vote in Luxembourg...If your idea was to have me vote under the surname and Christian name of a person other than myself, I hereby inform you of my categorical opposition to this". (Useful address: *Ministère de l'Intérieur*, 19 rue Beaumont, 2933 Luxembourg)

WOMEN IN THE UN: Kaminda Sekels, of the United Nation's Human Resources Management Office, recently gave a much-noticed talk on the recruitment of administrators, which usually involves some type of examination. Ms Sekels stressed that the Grand Duchy was under-represented in the UN, which allows a minimum of 3 and maximum of 14 civil servants from the country. Luxembourg has only 4 people at the UN, two of whom are women. The speaker also announced that the UN had firmly decided to increase the number of women in its staff, especially in senior positions, on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution. The same applies to the advisory and administrative bodies dealing with personnel matters. Part-time employment will also become more widespread. Ms Sekels ended by stating that the United Nations Organisation wanted 30% of positions filled in accordance with the rules of geographical distribution to be filled by women by 1990. (Useful address: *Association luxembourgeoise pour les Nations-Unies*, 99 route d'Arlon, 1140 Luxembourg)

MATERNITY BENEFITS: The trade union OGB-L has published a brochure called *OGB-L Info-femmes* containing a question-and-answer game to explain the laws and procedures to be followed by pregnant women in Luxembourg. The brochure, which is free, is available in German and French and is intended primarily to help the country's large foreign population. (Contact, OGB-L, 60 Bod J.F. Kennedy, 4170 Luxembourg)

COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE: Socialist Deputy Mars di Bartolomeo has called the Ministry of National Solidarity to task with regard to the difficulty of interpreting the government's texts on the cost-of-living allowance. Why, for example, in the case of the death of the principle insured party, does his spouse - who continues to meet the eligibility criteria - lose her right to this benefit? This would appear to be a clear case of discrimination against the female co-insured party. (Useful address: *Ministère de la Solidarité nationale*, 14 avenue de la Gare, Luxembourg)

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

POLITICS: The Women's Party (*Vrouwenpartij*, Postbus 1120, 5602 BC Eindhoven, Tel.: (040) 452519) got only 0.1% of the votes cast in the general elections of 6 September and therefore no seat in the National Assembly, in contrast to its pre-election target of getting up to 17 seats. The disappointment for Nel Roggebend, who led the ticket, was great. The poor showing can be explained by the lack of time to prepare for the elections, as the party had been created only 6 months before (on 8 March - see issue 59 of Women of Europe, p. 21).

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: According to a report from the Social Affairs Ministry called *Vrouwen worden met nadruk verzocht te solliciteren* (Women asked urgently to apply), the percentage of women who apply for a job is higher (77%) when the classified ad stipulates that the position is particularly well-suited for women. Without this guarantee, women account for only 20-45% of the jobs advertised. (Useful address: *Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid*, Zeestraat 73, 2318 AA Den Haag, Tel.: (070) 715812)

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION:

* The new agreement on reducing working hours in primary, secondary and specialised education (*Arbeidsduurverwerking* - ADV) will in practice discriminate against women, according to the research conducted by the National Ombudswoman Foundation (*Stichting Landelijke Ombudsvrouw*). This foundation's goals are to improve the situation of women on the labour market and support their complaints.

* A woman has been awarded compensation for the damages (*pretium doloris*) caused by discriminatory action against her for the first time in Dutch history. The importance of the decision far outweighs the magnitude of the award (250 guilders) itself, for the Court found the defendant (a bus rental company) guilty of refusing to hire a bus out to the plaintiff, who is a professional bus driver, solely because she is a woman.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: An executive secretary has been awarded 20,000 guilders in moral damages for the years of sexual harassment to which she was subjected by her boss. The judges also sentenced the guilty company to supplement its former employee's unemployment benefits to the tune of 100% of her former salary. This is the first ruling to award such high damages in a case of sexual harassment in the workplace.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: Married women who are eligible to receive unemployment benefits from 23 December 1984 to the expiration of their rights to unemployment payments may legitimately collect their allocations retroactively. Such is the measure that must be respected by all Dutch communes as a result of a recent ruling by the EC Court of Justice. The European judges found the Netherlands guilty of failing to comply with the Community Directive on social security and male/female equality. Specifically, the definition of "breadwinner" contained in Dutch law is not in conformity with that set down in Community legislation.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND TRAINING: *Perspectieven voor meisjes* (Outlooks for Girls) is the name of a project promoted by the Commune of Amsterdam for girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 who are in search of vocational guidance. This project provides guidance both in and outside the schools.

BACK TO WORK: Erasmus University in Rotterdam recently held a symposium on the reinsertion of women with university training in the working world. The university working party studying this issue plans to set up a course in the near future to prepare women university graduates who want to resume working for taking the plunge.

HEALTH CENTRE: A women's aid and health centre will open for business in Rotterdam in 1990 thanks to the efforts of a group of Rotterdam women. The services of doctors, psychologists, gynaecologists, social workers and mutual assistance groups will be available at this centre, whose reason for being is the tendency of traditional health centres to ignore women's problems or consider them "typically female".

MEETING: *Vrouwen Laat je Gelden*, a committee for jobless women, held a meeting in Utrecht on 5 October that covered several topics of interest to women, e.g., women in politics, women and poverty and woman as an individual. (Useful address: *Landlijk Steunpunt*, Utrecht, Tel.: (030) 314143)

PUBLICATIONS:

* *Jongeren en arbeid* (Youth and Work) is a research report from the University of Leiden that shows that boys usually make career plans whereas girls manifest less ambition if they want to raise a family and work. (Useful address: *Dienst Voorlichting*, Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, Leiden, Tel. (071) 278026)

* *Positieve actie voor vrouwen bij de Vijhs overheid* (Affirmative Action for Women in the Civil Service) informs us that some 5,000 women - almost half of the new hires - joined the civil service in 1988. As a result, the total number of women working in the civil service made an unprecedented leap, from 0.7% (in 1987) to 24.6%. (Useful address: *Ministerie van Sociale Zaken*, Zeestraat 73, 2318 AA Den Haag, Tel. (070) 715812)

P O R T U G A L

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT: Assunção Esteves, former Social Democratic MP, is the first woman to be named to the Constitutional Court, a traditional male preserve.

PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS: To spur the participation of women in Portuguese politics, which has been on the wane in recent years, the CDU (*Coligação Democrática Unitária*) has decided to put forward a woman candidate for the presidency of each of the three Houses in the region of Porto.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OF WOMEN: The Alternative European Parliament of Women met recently in Athens at the instigation of Portugal's Democratic Women's Movement (*Movimento Democrático das Mulheres*) to discuss the problems of violence against women. The meeting closed with the participants' decision to ask the EC Member States for more effective protection for the victims of violence at work and in the home. (*Movimento Democrático das Mulheres*, Avenida Duque de Loulé 111/4°, Lisboa 1000, Tel.: 557853)

WOMEN'S STATUS: Graça Vasconcelos is the new representative of the association *Intervenção Feminina* in the NGO Section of the Commission of Women's Status's Advisory Board. (The Commission, it may be remembered, is under the authority of the Presidency of the Portuguese Council of Ministers). The association also elected Teresa Santa Clara Gomes Executive Director and Isabel Barreno President of the General Assembly. (*Intervenção Feminina*, Apartado 2072, Lisboa Codex 1102)

WORKING HOURS: The Free Union of Cleaning Women (*Sindicato Livre das Empregadas Domésticas*) has asked the Industrial Bargaining Board to revise the decree-law governing working hours. The union is in favour of a 48-hour work week, 3 hours of daytime overtime (optional) and 10 hours of nighttime overtime and 30 days off a year. (SLED, Avenida da Liberdade 232/1°, Lisboa 1200, Tel.: 555866)

WOMEN DOCTORS: Statistics from the national Order of Physicians show that in 1987 only 9,931 (37%) of the 26,381 Portuguese doctors registered with the Order were women. Furthermore, women tend to remain GPs (8,229 women versus 10,885 men) and have limited access to specialisations (only 1,850 women versus 6,175 men).

WOMEN AND COMPANIES: The 1989 Antonia-Adelaide Ferreira Prize has been given to Maria Rosário Carvalho Teixeira, a 22-year-old manager of a 100-person automotive company. Thanks to her abilities, the company has tripled the number of people on its payroll since its founding 15 years ago. This prize was created recently by Ferreira (see *Women of Europe* N° 60, p. 29) to recognise the outstanding achievements of a woman executive or manager over the past year. (A.A. Ferreira S.A., Rua Carvaldosa, 4400 Vila Nova de Gaia, Tel.: (02) 300866)

PUBLICATIONS: Of interest among the latest publications (most of which are free) put out by the Commission of Women's Status (*Comissão da Condição Feminina*, Avenida da República 32/1°, 1093 Lisboa Codex):

* *Distorções sexistas nos materiais pedagógicos* (Sexist bias in our teaching materials) gives guidance in putting together, selecting and publishing teaching materials so as to avoid falling into the trap of sexist stereotypes and preconceived ideas that damage the image of women.

- * Profissoes técnicas profissoes de futuro (Technical professions - professions of the future) informs girls in search of vocational guidance of new career prospects in science and technology so as to improve the integration of women into the working world. The job prospects in various areas (public works, electronics, software engineering, etc.) are presented in the form of succinct information sheets giving precise job information and useful addresses.
- * Guia dos direitos das mulheres (Women's rights guide) gives a very practical overview of the legal problems that women may come up against. Many facets of life are covered, e.g., property, divorce, separation, kinship, adoption, political participation, the rights of resident aliens, labour law, social security, violence and how to take legal action.

S P A I N

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

- * Six months after the launching of the Spanish Government's Equal Opportunity Plan for Men and Women (at the beginning of the year), 20% of the total of 122 measures had been implemented and 67% were under way. Social Affairs Minister Matilde Fernandez also announced to the EC Council of Ministers that 17 other measures were on the drawing board.
- * The "Teams for the Promotion of Female Labour under the Same Conditions as for Men" created by the *Instituto de la Mujer* (Women's Institute) recently took stock of their activity and the outlook for 1990. These teams' work is linked to either the EC's Action Plan for Equal Opportunities for Men and Women 1989-90 or the Annual Programme for Employment established by the Joint Committee set up to enable the EC Ministers in charge of social security and social affairs to collaborate. (*Instituto de la Mujer*, 36 Almagro, E-28010 Madrid, Tel.: (+34 1) 410-5112)

EQUAL RIGHTS: The first prize for work in favour of equal rights for men and women created by the Autonomous Government of Catalonia was awarded this year to the Catalonian association of entrepreneurs and executives (Associacio Catalana d'Empresaries i Executives de Barcelona) (Plaça Catalunya 4/3', E-08002 Barcelona).

HEALTH: According to recent statistics collected from medical circles, a declared 1,712 voluntary terminations of pregnancy (i.e., abortions) were performed in Spain in the first 7 months of the year, private and public centres combined. The two main reasons for the current bureaucratic delays affecting terminations are the "conscience clause" invoked by doctors who refuse to perform abortions and women's fears of the public's reaction.

WOMEN AND ENTERPRISE: The Spanish Federation of Women Executives, FEDEPE (*Federación Española de Mujeres Directivas, Ejecutivas, Profesionales y Empresarias*), has appointed Teresa Mendizabal, Martina Castro and Trinidad Lopez President, Vice-President and Secretary to the Treasury, respectively, of the federation. (FEDEPE, calle Orense n° 6, E-28020 Madrid)

EUROPE 1993: A seminar on "vocational and entrepreneurial training for women with a view to 1992", the first in a series of European seminars covering various aspects of post-1992 Europe, was held recently in Barcelona under the auspices of the *Instituto de la Mujer*, the European information network IRIS and the Ministry of Education and Science. The second seminar was held in Italy and the third one will be hosted by Portugal. The series will be wrapped up by an inter-regional conference in Greece.

ABSENTEEISM IN THE WORKPLACE: At the occasion of the workshop on career strategies for women executives held recently in Spain it was revealed that women were on the job more than men. The figures in the Women's Institute survey speak for themselves: an absentee rate of 25.8% for men versus 12.4% for women. (*Instituto de la Mujer*, 36 Almagro, E-28010 Madrid, Tel.: (+34 1) 410-5112)

SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMME: Social Affairs Minister Matilde Fernandez presented her programme of subsidies for the current fiscal year, amounting to a total of 7,625 million pesetas, in July. Of this total, 2,328 million will go to NGOs, 605 million to women, 937 million to young people and minors and 826 million to drug addicts.

WOMEN WRITERS:

* Madrid's Women's Library has won second prize in a contest honouring achievements to spread culture in 1989. The first prize was awarded to the Directorate-General for Book and Libraries.

* Castalia publishing house has launched a new collection, "the library of women authors", with the help of the *Instituto de la Mujer*, to make leading women authors of Spanish classics known to the public. The first titles selected for publication include an anthology of poetry by 16th- and 17th-century poetesses, *Los Alemanes en Francia vistos por una española* by Josefina Carabias, three short stories by Maria Zayas and *Una mujer por caminos de Espana* by Maria Martin Sierra.

WOMEN AND SOCIETY: The Civil War Section of the National Historical Archives of Salamanca sponsored a three-day study session on 5-7 October devoted to the status of women during the Spanish Civil War. The debates revolved around three main topics, namely, the social status of women during the Second Republic; women and the war; and women in the post-war period. The event was paralleled by an exhibition that was prolonged for the entire month. (Useful address: *Archivo Historico Nacional "Seccion Guerra Civil"*, *Secretaria Tecnica*, calle Gibraltar n° 2, E-37001 Salamanca)

CONGRESS: The organising committee of the congress on women and the city (...) that will take place in March 1990 to commemorate the fifth century of the city of Alicante is looking for speakers. The Congress, which is built around the major theme of the body, space and language, will study the conditioning that prevents women participating in society on an equal footing with men. (Contact: Margarita Borja, calle Alona n° 33-5°, E-03007 Alicante, Tel.: 522-0840)

PUBLICATIONS:

- * The Advisory Committee of the Equal Opportunities Plan for Women (PIOM 1989-90) has just published its first quarterly bulletin (issue 0). this publication, which is distributed free of charge, provides information on the progress made in implementing the plan. (Useful address: *Comision Consultativa de Seguimiento del PIOM*, Almagro 28, E-28010 Madrid)
- * *Espacio de la Mujer* has likewise just launched the first issue of its magazine. The issue is devoted to the second meeting of Spanish women writers, which took place in San Sebastian in June. (Useful address: *Espacio de la Mujer*, Juan de Bilbao 17, E-2003 San Sebastian)
- * The latest publications of the *Instituto de la Mujer* include a study on employment prospects for women (*Perspectivas del empleo femenino*) which covers the situation of women in the job market, training, transportation and changes in the hotel industry, banking, the garment industry and car manufacturing. (Useful address: *Instituto de la Mujer*, 36 Almagro, 28010 Madrid, Tel.: 410-5112)

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

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND REFORM: The South Glamorgan Women's Workshop (SGWW), a member of the Women's Training Network (WTN), has written to European Commission President Jacques Delors to express its concern about proposed changes in ESF funding that, it contends, threaten the existence of the SGWW (a voluntary organisation for the training and education of women that is dependent on ESF funding) and similar schemes. The SGWW criticises the Commission's proposals to exclude rent as an eligible cost, lower the intervention rate, and use a basic unit cost per trainee hour from 1990 on that will not take into account the need for childcare and support services, the quality of training and regional variations in overhead. (SGWW, Edena House, East Canal Wharf, Cardiff CF1 5AQ, Tel.: 493351)

APPOINTED: The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has named Valerie Amos, a 35-year-old black woman who was born in Guyana and has lived in the United Kingdom for 26 years, to be its new Chief Executive. Ms Amos has extensive knowledge of racial and equality issues, a strong academic and research background, and a sound track record of managing scarce resources in public authorities. The appointment is effective as of October 1989.

WOMEN AND POLITICS: The Campaign for a Scottish ASsembly, which is supported by women's organisations, local authorities, political parties, trade unions, churches and professional groups, is considering ways of ensuring that a Scottish Assembly would give fairer representation to women than is currently the case in Westminster. Only three of the 72 MPs that Scotland sends to the UK Parliament are women.

WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS: The Trade Union Congress (TUC) elected 15 women to its 54-member ruling general council at its annual conference in Blackpool in September. While this was a step in the right direction, the TUC still has a long way to go if one bears in mind that one-third of its members are women and, according to projections, women will outweigh men in the union by the year 2000. Debates at the TUC conference also reflected the concern of some women trade unionists that issues of importance to women were given low priority.

CHILDCARE:

* The right-wing Adam Smith Institute has joined the ranks of those campaigning for the abolition of taxation of workplace nurseries, arguing that more mothers would be encouraged to go back to work if the Government abolished the tax. The institute, which is opposed to government funding of childcare, proposes enterprise allowances for companies that set up childcare businesses.

* Meanwhile, the TUC has launched its new Childcare and Nursery Education Charter, which calls for a national childcare development plan based on a strong foundation of public funds.

SHADOW MINISTRY FOR WOMEN: Following the example of their Spanish, French, Austrian and New Zealand sisters, British women have created their own Shadow Ministry for Women as a first step towards creating a Ministry for Women. The Shadow Ministry, which has already published its first information bulletin, will focus on such issues as childcare, the rights of working women, security and the problems of women belonging to ethnic and racial minorities. (Shadow Ministry for Women, P.O. Box 1101, London SW1A 2HY)

WOMEN AND CAREERS: A report from the Association of London Authorities recommends that local authorities should set up "one-stop shops" where local businesses can get advice and information on childcare facilities, training and employment issues. Not only would this centralise information for employers. It would also make it easier for employers to encourage women to return to work by giving them all the information they need in one place. (Association of London Authorities, 36 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JF)

WOMEN VOTERS: The Labour Party needs women's votes to win the next election and there is new evidence that women, who previously were thought to be more inclined to the Conservative Party than men, are now more likely to vote Labour, says a pamphlet by Patricia Hewitte and Deborah Mattin published by the Socialist research and education organisation the Fabian Society. However, argue the authors, women's support cannot be taken for granted. Women's dual role in the family and at work must be at the heart of Labour's economic, social and employment policies and the party must make fundamental changes in its constitution. The authors recommend that Labour aim for a target of 40% of women MPs by the end of the century (the figure is currently just over 6%), three additional shadow cabinet positions for women, and a second Deputy Leader to represent women. (Women's Votes: the Key to Winning may be obtained from the Fabian Society, 11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BN for 2 pounds sterling)

EUROPEAN CITY OF CULTURE: Two women's art groups, Women 2000 and Women in Profile, have received backing from Glasgow City Council for their plan's to involve women in the community during Glasgow's year as European City of Culture (1990). The groups will highlight women's role in culture and art.

CANCER: According to a study by gynaecologist Wendy Savage and sponsored by the British Medical Association, only 11% of women understand that cervical smears detect abnormalities at a pre-cancerous stage and that early diagnosis can enable them to get treatment to prevent cancer.

PUBLICATIONS:

- * The Fawcett Society - the successor of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, founded in 1866 - has published its 1988/89 annual report. The Society's main objectives are working to eliminate inequality and discrimination between the sexes and promote equal opportunity and education. (The Fawcett Society, 46 Harleyford Road, London SE11 5AY, Tel.: (01) 587-1287)

- * The Women's Environmental Network (WEN) was set up recently to inform and educate women about environmental issues. Membership (individuals or organisations) entitles one to receive its quarterly newsletter, attend the WEN Council and be informed of all public meetings and events of environmental interest. For more information, contact the WEN office (287 City Road, London EC1V 1LA).

NEWS FROM
EUROPE AND THE WORLD

WOMEN AND POLITICAL POWER: The influence of Japanese women (who constitute 50% of the voters) on politics has risen considerably in recent years, especially in the framework of environmental and antinuclear movements. More ground was gained in the latest ministerial reshuffling, which added two women to the Japanese government. In an unprecedented move, Mayumi Moriyama was named Secretary-General of the Government, which is the second position after the Prime Minister. Sumiko Takahara is the new Director-General of the economic planning agency.

SOCIAL EUROPE 1993: The goal of the round table "1993: Which partners for Social Europe?" that was held recently in Brussels by the International Association of Charities (AIC) was to urge national and European officials to take coordinated action in the area of social affairs. Three major points were stressed: 1) post-1992 Europe should not limit itself to being an economic and commercial union, but should also be a "social Europe" built on the solidarity of Europe's citizens; 2) the close cooperation of the associations working in the social field is indispensable; and 3) the role of the AIC, which unites some 40 associations combating poverty in the world, in Europe was spelled out. (AIC, rue d'Alsace-Lorraine 38, 1050 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 511-2488)

EUROPEAN MIDWIVES 1993: Europe's midwives are also preparing for the Single Market. The dismantling of the Community's internal borders calls for closer relations amongst the Community's 70,000 practicing midwives. Consequently, the midwives' association *Sages-femmes du Monde* will be holding a European Congress in Brussels in 1992 on the peri- and postnatal care given by midwives in Europe. Prizes will also be awarded for research or action linked to maternity in Europe and the world. (*Sages-Femmes du Monde*, 20 rue Commandant René Mouchotte, F-75014 Paris, Tel.: (+33 1) 43 27 97 10)

WOMEN'S STUDIES: Journal of Women and Gender Studies, an annual publication in English and Chinese born of National Taiwan University's 4-year-old Women's Research Programme, is calling for papers for its second and subsequent volumes (the first volume came out in August 1989). Papers should be no more than 35 pages long and abstracts no more than two pages. All references must follow the Chicago Manual of Style. Send papers and abstracts (deadline for the second volume: 1 February 1990) to Nora Chiang, Coordinator, Women's Research Programme, c/o Population Studies Centre, National Taiwan University, Taipei, 10764 Taiwan R.O.C.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND REINTEGRATING THE LABOUR FORCE:

* What can Europe learn from vocational training schemes set up under the US's 1978 Equal Opportunity Programme? Issue 1/89 of CEDEFOP-Flash, published by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), gives some answers to this question in the form of the conclusions of a delegation of five European women sent, with the help of the German Marshall Fund, to the United States to study the affirmative action policies and practices used to implement the EOP. The programmes placed special emphasis on achieving equal treatment for low-income and black women with regard to training and their inclusion in the labour force. (CEDEFOP, Bundesallee 22, D-1000 Berlin 15, Tel. (+49 30) 884120)

- * Athena Petraki Kottis, Professor of Political Economy at the Economic University of Athens, reviewed the results of an experimental training programme on the re-entrance of non-working women graduates into the Greek labour market at the World Congress on Women and Men in the Economy of the Future that was held in Athens at the end of August. Kottis obtained funding for this programme, which was her brainchild, from the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Greek Government. (A.P. Kottis, 3 Marasli Street, 10676 Athens)

PEACE SCHOOL: The Polish Cooperation Committee of Women's Organisations and Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) held a "Peace School" in Warsaw, Poland, on 31 August-3 September to study women's contribution in building our "common home" 50 years after the outbreak of World War II. Women's roles with regard to the following topics were discussed: security and cooperation in Europe; disarmament; new technology and the environment; working for equality and human rights; and the fight against fascism, racism, militarism and violence. (*Internationale Demokratische Frauenföderation*, Under den Linden 13, 1080 Berlin, GDR)

CONGRESSES/SEMINARS:

- * The 14th conference of Socialist International Women, which took place in Stockholm on 17-18 June, adopted a string of resolutions expressing the association's positions on issues as varied as women and work, women's right to health care to abortions, children's rights, disarmament, El Salvador, China, the Third World's foreign debt and South Africa. (Socialist International Women, Maritime House, Old Town, Clapham, London SW4 0JW, Tel.: 627-4449)
- * The International Federation of Widowers and Widows (FIAV), which currently has 23 member organisations representing 17 countries in Europe, America, Africa and the Pacific, held its Fourth International Conference in Brisbane, Australia, on 17-20 September. The key themes of conference were the family, government policies, social welfare and other points of law. (FIAV, Cremerstraat 3, NL-6665 CZ Driel, the Netherlands).

WOMEN AV PROFESSIONALS: The Brussels-based Women's University (*Université des femmes*, 1A Place Quetelet, 1030 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 219-6107) and Florence-based *Laboratorio Immagine Donna* (Via Aretina 98, I-50121 Firenze, Tel.: (+39 55) 661852) have launched the idea of a European network of women film-making and audiovisual professionals. This permanent forum for exchanges amongst European producers, distributors, film-makers and journalists will be used to organise seminars and training possibilities, as well as encouraging joint projects. The official decision to create the network is expected to be made at the seminar to be held in Florence on 10-11 November.

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

ARGENTINA:

* Buenos Aires:

The Buenos Aires Provincial Council for Women (*Consejo provincia de la Mujer*) was created in 1987 to have women's interests taken into account in the province's sectoral policies, to create a permanent framework of consultation with groups, organisations and agencies involved in social and economic affairs and to hold national and international meetings on subjects that concern women. Its achievements to date include the setting-up of a programme to prevent violence in the family and the home, accompanied by the publication of a brochure to raise awareness of these problems. (Useful address: *Casa de la Provincia de Buenos Aires*, Av. Callao 237, Planta Alta, Buenos Aires).

The Women's Union of Argentina (*Union de Mujeres de la Argentina - UMA*) has sent letters to Argentine President Raul Alfonsín and Interior Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese protesting the campaign of "ideological persecution" being waged against it. The Government's hostility was triggered by a public demonstration organised by UMA calling for the right to food, health and education for children and social justice. (UMA's temporary address: Casilla de Correo n° 3901-del Correo Central, C.P. 1000 Buenos Aires).

BOLIVIA

The Association of Institutions for Advancement and Education, AIPE (*Asociación de Instituciones de Promoción y Educación*), has announced the latest publication in its study series. *El PROCEP: Una propuesta de formación y organización* takes stock of three years of setting up PROCEP, a programme launched by AIPE in 1986 to enhance the country's ability to teach the population by training instructors and educators. This study is a must for all who are convinced that social change in Bolivian society depends on educating the population. (AIPE, Castilla 10384, La Paz, Bolivia)

COLOMBIA:

Colombia's Farm Ministry has launched a regional programme to encourage the participation of rural and Indian women in economic and social development. The main ingredients of this programme, which has the financial support of UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), are the organisation of awareness and education campaigns, including the distribution of teaching materials, audio-visual materials, etc., and encouraging the creation of rural communities and associations run by women. (Useful address: UNICEF, Oficina Regional para America Latina y el Caribe, Apartado Aereo 7555, Bogotá, Colombia)

GUATEMALA:

Livingstone: Our Lady of the Rosary Mission (*Nuestra Señora del Rosario, Hijá de Nuestra Señora de las Misericordias*, Livingstone, Izabel, Tel.: 481580) has set up women's advancement groups of 15-35 people in the areas of information, vocational guidance and labour. This year was marked by a series of meetings of these groups to discuss women's rights and dignity.

MEXICO:

In its monthly women's supplement published in June (Issue 27), the daily Doble Jornada focussed on the place of women in Mexican politics. Women currently hold 64 of the 500 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 10 of the 64 seats in the Senate. As for the Supreme Court, 5 (23.3%) of the ministers, 16 (9%) of the magistrates and 86 (36%) of the judges are women. (Doble Jornada, Balderas 68, CP 06050, Mexico DF)

PERU:

Lima: The national women educators' association Asociación Nacional de Educadoras Sanpedranas (Maximo Abril 695, Jesus Maria, Lima, Tel.: 310562) has elected its new Executive Board. The new Chairwoman is Raquel T. Herrera de Caravito.

EL SALVADOR:

IMU, Instituto de Investigación, Capacitación y Desarrollo de la Mujer (Apartado Postal 1703, San Salvador, El Salvador CA) has inaugurated its women's legal aid centre, CALMUS (Centro de Asistencia Legal para la Mujer Salvadoreña). The Centre, which is staffed by three legal experts, provides women with assistance in connection with labour, civil and criminal law and sexual violence.

URUGUAY:

Montevideo: The daily La Republica has been publishing a weekly women's supplement, "La Republica de las Mujeres", since mid-1988. This is a first in the Uruguayan press. The aim is to contribute to women's liberation by circulating information on various subjects linked to women's status.

VENEZUELA:

* Caracas: The National Parliament instituted in June a General Committee on Women's Rights composed of 15 women Deputies and 2 women Senators and chaired by Mercedes Pulido de Briceno.

* Maracaibo:

The Maracaibo Feminist League or LIFEM (Liga Feminista de Maracaibo, Apartado 30, Maracaibo, Venezuela, Tel.: (061) 75833) celebrates its tenth anniversary in November. LIFEM works for the promotion of the rights of Venezuelan women by organising a host of conferences, seminars, fora, expositions, lectures and other events and publishing philosophical studies on the problem of women's status.

The philosophy department of the Humanities and Education Faculty of Zulia University celebrated the bicentennial of the French Revolution and its own thirtieth anniversary by organising a series of seminars on the French Revolution. One of the themes concerned the role of French women during these events and the revolution's influence on the participation of women in Latin American independence movements. (Universidad de Zulia, Escuela de Filosofia, Apartado 526, Maracaibo, Edo. Zulia, Venezuela)

BOOKS, STUDIES, CONTACTS

WOMEN'S STUDIES: The European Research Centre of Loughborough University, Leicester, has announced the publication of the 1989 edition of the Research Register of the Standing Group on Women and Politics of the European Consortium for Political Research. The Register records the interests and expertise of 42 women political scientists from 18 countries (Western Europe plus the United States and Turkey), organised by country and institution. Each record includes the scientist's address, areas of research and publications. (European Research Centre, Department of European Studies, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leics., LE11 3TU, Tel.: (+44 509) 22981)

WOMEN AND SOCIETY: In her book Mothers in the Fatherland: Women, Family Life and Nazi Ideology (also available in French: Les mères-patrie du IIIème Reich), Claudia Koonz analyses women's roles in Hitler's Germany and their involvement in the fascist movement. The author shows that, like the numerous minorities excluded from the regime during this period, women were also victims of male/female segregation, albeit to a lesser extent. She explains that, despite the desire of thousands of German women to play a role in the history of National Socialism by participating in various women's movements, Nazi women never had political power. The book also follows the itineraries of women who fought Nazism. The conclusion of this examination, however, is that Nazi women cannot really be considered victims of the regime. (Published in English by Cape; published in French by Lieu commun Histoire, price: FF165)

WOMEN IN AFRICA: In publishing Statistics and Indicators on Women in Africa 1986 the United Nations' goal was to provide a handy reference for policymakers and analysts worldwide. The information is culled from the United Nations Women's Indicators and Statistics Data Base (WISTAT), which was completed by the UN's Statistical Office in 1987. The publication includes 31 tables of statistics concerning the areas and issues affecting African women, such as the composition of, distribution of and changes in the population; marital status and fertility; the breakdown of the economically active population; incomes; health; housing conditions; political participation; and criminal justice. (UN publications may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world or the UN's Sales Section in New York or Geneva, Switzerland.)

ABORTION:

* The September issue of the quarterly newsletter Planning IVG-Info, the newsletter and liaison bulletin of the Federation of Marital and Family Support Centres (Centres de Promotion conjugale et familiale) of Femmes prévoyantes socialistes, is devoted to adolescence in Belgium. The questions covered by this special issue - most of them through opinion polls or surveys - concern problems linked with drugs, tobacco and alcohol, social alienation, preventive protection of young people, children's rights in Europe and marital violence. This special issue is available free of charge from Femmes prévoyantes socialistes, 32 rue Saint-Jean, 1000 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 515-0401.

- * The contributions of various specialists (professors, psychologists, social agency representatives, etc.) attending a colloquium on the reasons for abortions that was held some time ago in Bologna have been published in a book, Aborto, perché? (Why abort?), by the Social Services of Emilia-Romagna. The papers include a review of legislative developments in this area, discussion of the problems raised prior to law 194, examination of individual behaviour and discussion of preventive means such as birth control. (Aborto, perché?, published by Saggi/Feltrinelli, January 1989. Price: 25,000 lire)
- * Emilia-Romagna's regional Social Services have also published a research report on individual behaviour with regard to contraception. Called The Paths of Change, the book also considers various social, cultural and psychological aspects of the birth control methods used by women (especially young women) and the significance of motherhood. (I percorsi del cambiamento, published by Rosenberg & Sellier, Torino, 1989. Price: 21,000 lire).

GUIDE TO FEMINIST MOVEMENTS: Women's Movements of the World is billed as a unique, topical, country-by-country directory and reference guide that "provides detailed information on more than 800 women's groups and agencies concerned with women's issues worldwide." It describes the genesis, aims and activities of each movement, as well as the political, economic and social contexts in which they operate. The descriptions are completed by the necessary names, addresses and phone numbers. (Keesing's Reference Publications, April 1988. Price: 58 pounds.)

ILO INFORMATION: "Single-parent, female-headed families in Western Europe: social change and response" is the title of a study published in issue 1/89 of the International Social Security Review. The authors, Sheila B. Kamerman and A.J. Khan, look mainly at families in which women are the heads of households. Such families are becoming more and more frequent throughout Western Europe. The investigation analyses this phenomenon from a sociological, social and economic standpoint. It ends with a question: What policies should these countries adopt to solve the problems of the economic disadvantages and risks of poverty faced by these single mothers? (International Labour Organisation Liaison Office with the European Communities, rue Aimée Smekens 40, B-1040 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 736-9916)

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