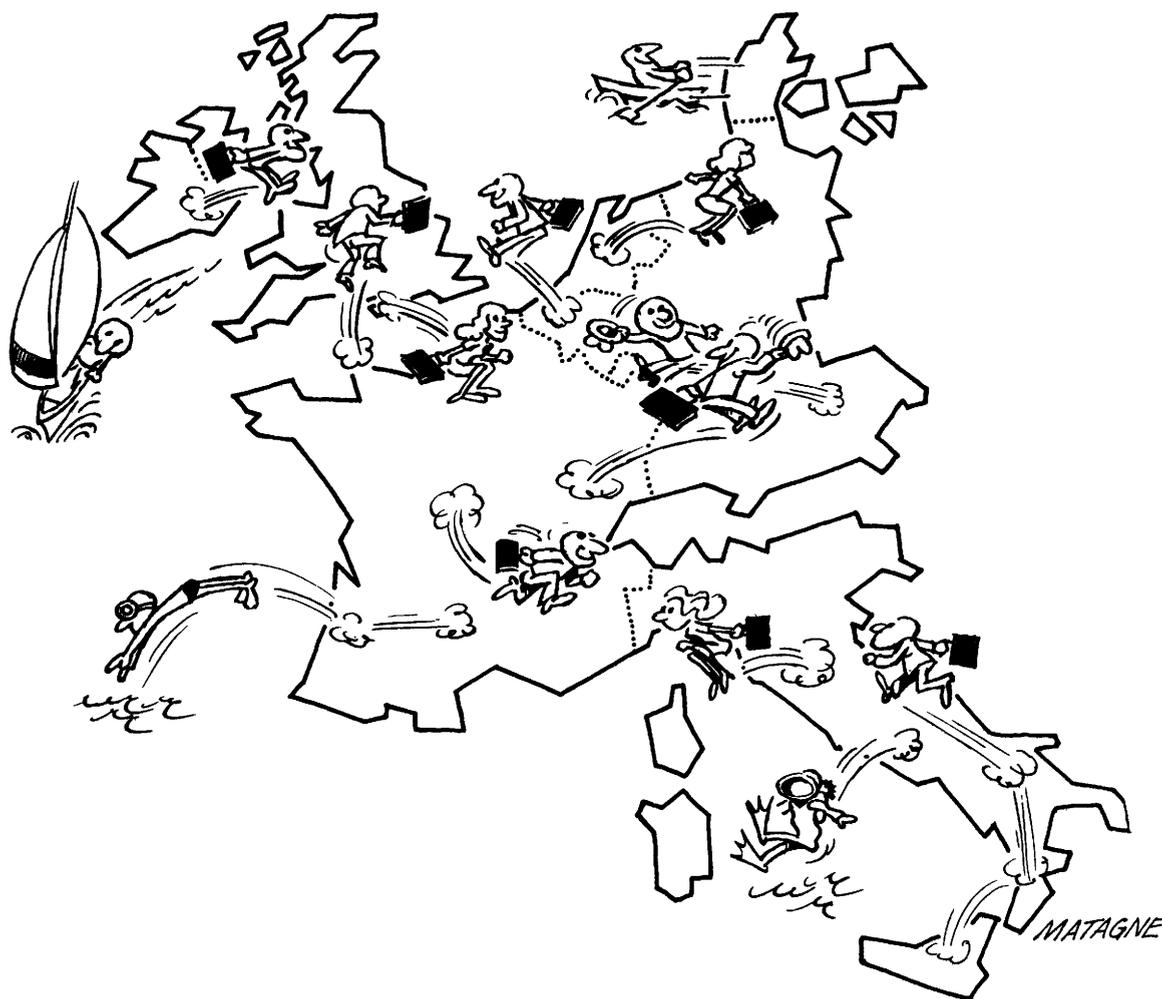


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## europa day by day

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BONNES VACANCES!

Euroforum is off on holiday. The next issue (No 31/76) will be datelined 7 September 1976.

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Commission of the European Communities  
Directorate General of Information  
Rue de la Loi 200  
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Further information is available from the Commission's press and information offices in the countries listed on the back page.

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**\*\*HELP FOR YOUNG JOB-SEEKERS**

The number of under-25s out of work in the Community passed the 1 500 000 mark in the spring of this year. The employment outlook for the next four years or so is gloomy and the situation could well become more acute partly because fewer workers will be reaching retirement age. In fact no real improvement can be expected before 1985.

The European Commission is convinced that action should be taken now rather than later. It has drawn up a draft recommendation - which has still to go before the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee - calling on all Community countries to see to it that young people entering the labour market receive adequate preparation. It recognizes that this preparation will take various forms but feels that it should include:

- vocational guidance;
- consolidation of basic skills (including the three R's);
- grounding in the elements of economic and social organization, social security legislation, industrial relations and labour law;
- initial training in a broad skills area;
- some experience of the work situation.

The European Commission also recommends that young people threatened by unemployment be allowed reasonable leave of absence from work to attend training courses and be given grants to cover living expenses and fees for approved vocational courses.

**\*\*THE ECONOMY: PROGRESS IS SLOW BUT SURE**

A survey carried out among industrialists in the nine Community countries last spring provides further evidence of the expansionary trend of business activity. Although the rate is moderating somewhat in Germany, France and the Netherlands, there is no evidence of a slow-down in Luxembourg, the United Kingdom or Italy.

Industrial production has made further rapid progress thanks to the consolidation of domestic demand. For the Community as a whole, the seasonally-adjusted index (excluding building and construction) rose by almost 4% in the first four months of the year. Employment has been rather slow in picking up since the winter months. So far recovery seems to be confined to Germany and Denmark. In May the seasonally-adjusted number of wholly unemployed in the Community as a whole represented 4.3% of the labour force, making it only 0.1% down on last winter's peak.

The month-on-month increase in consumer prices in the Community, expressed at an annual rate, fell from 17% in April to about 12% in May - a little below the figure recorded in the first quarter.

The Community's trade balance, which had improved somewhat during the first quarter, began to deteriorate again in the spring. This was partly explained by increased trade deficits in member countries whose currencies have depreciated. In general, growth of both exports and imports has been slower in recent months.

Although the expansion in domestic demand for consumer durables seems to be losing momentum, several member countries, notably Germany and France, are experiencing a recovery in investment in plant and equipment and a revival in export demand. In addition, the process of rebuilding stocks of intermediate products in the various branches of manufacturing industry is apparently continuing.

**\*\*PREPACKAGED PRODUCTS: FEWER NASTY SHOCKS IN STORE**

Several hundred products from cooking salt to toothpaste are covered by a recent European Commission proposal for a directive on approved "ranges of nominal quantities" for prepackaged products (see Euroforum No 22/76).

The proposal deals with three categories of product. Category 1 covers products which are put up in specially designed (rather than standardized) packages - for example pasta or cocoa powder (foodstuffs sold by weight), yoghurt (foodstuffs sold by volume), cleaning products, cosmetics, engine lubricating oils ... For this category it proved possible to preselect simple values - for instance 125 g, 250 g, 500 g, 750 g and so on for jams and marmalades - though not exactly easy because commercial practice and consumer habits could not be ignored. The market upheaval which a radical change in production techniques would provoke would certainly not be in the interests of the consumer; the costs involved would be so high that the consumer would be no better off than before.

Category 2 covers products - such as canned foods or powdered detergents - which are put up in standardized containers. Approved capacities for these have already been defined by international standards organizations. For instance spices, pepper and herbs will have to be sold in 25 ml, 50 ml, 75 ml, 100 ml, 175 ml, 200 ml, 250 ml or 500 ml containers. And to ensure that there is no chance of the consumer being misled by the size of the container the weight of the contents must be clearly marked.

Category 3 covers products sold in aerosols. To facilitate comparison shopping and guard against underfilling, the European Commission's proposal specifies the volume of active product to be put up in each container size: for example 25 ml of product in a 40 ml aerosol, 100 ml in a 140 ml one, 400 ml in a 520 ml one and so on.

**\*\*FOOTBALL: EUROPE 1 - ITALY 0**

In the Europe v Italy match the referee's decision was final: Italian football teams can employ players from any Community country.

The question was raised by a dispute between a Mr Mantero and a Mr Dona. Mr Dona was instructed by Mr Mantero to make enquiries in footballing circles abroad in an attempt to find a young player for the Rovigo team. Mr Dona inserted an advertisement in the Belgian sports press but Mr Mantero refused to interview the applicants - or repay the cost of the advertisement - on the grounds that the Italian Football Federation's rules specify that only members of the Federation can play in matches, membership in theory being restricted to Italian nationals.

The case was referred to an Italian court which in turn referred it to the Court of Justice of the European Communities. In its recent judgment the Court of Justice found that any national rules or code of practice which reserves the right to participate in football matches to national professionals or semi-professionals is incompatible with the Treaty of Rome.

The Court stated once again that the Treaty prohibits any form of discrimination against a person providing services based either on his nationality or on the fact that he is resident in a Community country other than the country in which he provides services.

The only exception to the rule that the Court could accept was the exclusion of foreign players from certain matches for non-economic, in other words purely sporting, reasons.

**\*\*TOXIC AND DANGEROUS WASTE**

The days of cyanide being hidden away in rusty drums or arsenic being allowed to seep into underground springs will soon be over thanks to a proposal for a directive recently presented by the European Commission to the Community's Council of Ministers. Its aim is very basic: to ensure that toxic and dangerous waste is disposed of without either endangering the population or harming the environment.

At first glance it would seem that there is no reason for the European Community to get involved in what is, after all, an essentially local problem. The fact of the matter is however that Community intervention may prove necessary where elimination and recycling depend on economic resources, added to which existing legislation on waste disposal varies considerably from one Community country to another and could well distort trade and influence the distribution of investment.

If approved, the European Commission's proposal would introduce a system of prior authorization for the disposal of toxic and dangerous waste. Provision is also made for an identification form which would provide a foolproof method of tracing the producer, subsequent holders (including transporters), and the final disposer of the waste. Measures to encourage recycling and processing are also envisaged.

**\*\*THE COMMUNITY'S FRUIT-TREES**

Not eating fruit can be an expensive business! The European Community has spent 200 million units of account (1 u.a. = approx. US \$1.1) over the last three years on withdrawing fruit from the market and expenditure is expected to be even higher than usual in 1976. These facts emerge from a report by Mr Lucien Martens recently adopted by the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture. If the European Community is to take effective measures to deal with the fruit market - now in surplus - it needs precise information. This is why the European Commission is planning to conduct a full-scale survey in 1977 to establish the production potential of the Community's plantations of apple, pear, peach and orange trees. The survey will be the first to be synchronized in all Community countries and the results will be transmitted to the European Commission during 1978.

**\*\*MAN AND BEAST**

There is a very close link between healthy animals and a healthy population: in fact you can't have one without the other! The European Commission feels that the improvement of animal health and the gradual elimination of the major animal diseases are as essential to public health as they are to profitable stockfarming. And of course free trade in meat and animals will never be achieved until the health situations in the Nine are brought closer together. This is why it is now proposing that animal health requirements be gradually harmonized, the ultimate aim being to make the strictest national standards the Community rule. It has also announced its intention of outlining proposals in the very near future for a Community programme, backed by Community funds, to eradicate swine fever, brucellosis and foot-and-mouth disease.

**\*\*THE UNIVERSITIES AND EUROPE**

The Community now has no less than 246 universities in the traditional sense and about the same number of university-level institutes for higher education.

A total of 165 universities offer courses in European integration (economic, political, commercial and agricultural) and 138 provide instruction in Community law, usually in the form of optional seminars in the final years of study. During the 1975/76 academic year 51 universities offered postgraduate courses in European studies.

**\*\*EUROPE'S AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY**

The "passenger/kilometre" is the strange unit used by airlines to measure the volume of air traffic. In 1975 airlines in the 131 member countries of the International Civil Aviation Organization clocked up an estimated 676 000 million passenger/kilometres. Nearly 14% of this total was accounted for by Community airlines.

The Community's aircraft industry has rather less to be proud of as its share of the world market plummets. The table shows the relative size of the various markets in terms of value and the Community's share of each of them. The lion's share of the remainder is held by the United States aircraft industry.

	World market			Community share		
	1970	1976	Change	1970	1976	Change
EEC	14.7 %	18.2 %	+ 3.5 %	33.0 %	20.2 %	-12.8 %
Other Western European countries	6.3 %	7.7 %	+ 1.4 %	23.1 %	4.7 %	-15.4 %
Europe	(21.0)%	(25.9)%	+ 4.9 %	30.1 %	15.6 %	-14.5 %
USA	63.9 %	44.5 %	-19.4 %	2.1 %	0.1 %	- 2.0 %
Rest of the World <sup>1</sup>	15.1 %	29.6 %	+14.5 %	12.2 %	12.4 %	+ 0.2 %
World <sup>1</sup>	100.0 %	100.0 %		9.5 %	7.7 %	- 1.8 %

<sup>1</sup> Excluding Eastern bloc countries.

**\*\*CONSUMERS IN DENMARK**

The Forbrugerrådet has sent us this report on the latest engagement in the Danish consumer's battle for his rights:

Shopping hours are fixed by law in Denmark. Shops can only open from 6 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. These rather restricted hours are a source of discontent to consumers. Single people and married couples who go out to work find it difficult to get to the shops, particularly if they live in the suburbs or in any event have to travel a fair distance to work. In practice they are forced to shop on their way to work - or indeed during working hours - and they find that their choice in the matter of price and quality is restricted too.

A committee set up five years ago to examine the situation has now produced a report. The majority were in favour of shopping hours on Friday and Saturday being reduced by four and a half hours so that shops would open from 6 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 6 a.m. to midday on Saturday. Shops would however be free to stay open for an additional two hours three days a week. Consumer associations regard this as totally inadequate: in effect it only extends opening hours by ninety minutes. Ideally consumer associations would like to see the law repealed completely but are prepared to accept a compromise whereby shops would open at 7 a.m. (instead of 6 a.m.) - and stay open as now until 2 p.m. on Saturday - but would then be free to open for ten additional hours a week at their own discretion.

**\*\*SAFETY AT SEA**

Safety aboard pleasure craft has hit the headlines again with the news of Eric Tabarly's victory in the single-handed transatlantic race. The European Commission is concerned to ensure that all pleasure craft built in the Community are up to standard as far as safety requirements are concerned and recently proposed that national legislation in the matter be harmonized.

As things now stand the Nine subject pleasure craft, and their component parts and equipment, to a variety of inspections. Trade is being hindered not only by the absence of uniform specifications but also by the need to go through the same inspection routine, in a different form, in each importing country.

The European Commission's proposal makes provision for mutual recognition of inspection procedures by Member States and for EEC pattern- and type-approval for pleasure craft, their component parts and equipment.

Implementing directives spelling out Community requirements will be introduced gradually to replace existing national provisions.

**\*\*NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO TRADE**

A booklet entitled "The elimination of non-tariff barriers to intra-Community trade", recently published in the European Commission's European Documentation Series, provides an up-to-date commentary on action taken at Community level to ensure that trade is not impeded for purely technical reasons.

The booklet, which costs 25p, is available from the Publications Office of the European Communities, boîte postale 1003, Luxembourg.

**\*\*EVERYMAN'S GUIDE TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

What should a French worker do if he is struck down with raging toothache in Gibraltar? What are the pension rights of an Italian technician working in Karlsruhe? The answers to these and many other questions will be found in "Guide No 1: Social security for Migrant Workers", recently published by the European Commission. There are nine different editions - one for each member country - all of which include detailed information on social security rights and obligations.

As its title would suggest this guide is the first of a series. There are four others viz:

- Guide No 2 - Temporary stay (designed for persons going to a Member State for a short period (holidays, family visits, business trips))
- Guide No 3 - Workers posted abroad or employed in more than one Member State (intended for posted workers, international transport workers and other workers regularly employed in more than one Member State (e.g. commercial travellers))
- Guide No 4 - Pensioners (designed for pensioners and pension claimants)
- Guide No 5 - Family members (intended for members of a worker's family who reside in a different Member State)

Copies of one or all five guides can be bought from the Publications Office of the European Communities, boîte postale 1003, Luxembourg.

**PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

**BELGIUM**

1049 BRUSSELS  
Rue de la Loi 244  
Tel. 735 00 40

**DENMARK**

1045 COPENHAGEN K  
4 Gammeltorv  
Postbox 144  
Tel. 14 41 40

**FRANCE**

75782 PARIS CEDEX 16  
61, rue des Belles-Feuilles  
Tel. 553 53 26

**GERMANY**

53 BONN  
Zitelmannstrasse 22  
Tel. 23 80 41

1 BERLIN 31  
Kurfürstendamm 102  
Tel. 886 40 28

**IRELAND**

DUBLIN 2  
29 Merrion Square  
Tel. 76 03 53

**ITALY**

00187 ROME  
Via Poli, 29  
Tel. 68 97 22 à 26

**LUXEMBOURG**

LUXEMBOURG  
Centre européen du Kirchberg  
Tel. 479 41

**NETHERLANDS**

THE HAGUE  
29, Lange Voorhout  
Tel. 070-46 93 26

**UNITED KINGDOM**

LONDON W8 4QQ  
20, Kensington Palace Gardens  
Tel. 727 8090

**CHILE**

SANTIAGO 9  
Avenida Ricardo Lyon 1177  
Casilla 10093  
Tel. 25 05 55

**GREECE**

ATHENS 134  
Vassilisis Sofias 2  
Tel. 743 982/83/84

**JAPAN**

102 TOKYO  
Kowa 25 Building  
8-7 Sanbancho  
Chiyoda-Ku  
Tel. 239-0441

**SWITZERLAND**

1202 GENEVA  
37-39, rue de Vermont  
Tel. 34 97 50

**TURKEY**

ANKARA  
Kavaklidere  
13, Bogaz Sokak  
Tel. 27 61 45/46

**UNITED STATES**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037  
2100 M Street, N.W.  
Suite 707  
Tel. (202) 872-8350

NEW YORK 10017  
277 Park Avenue  
Tel. 371-3804

**URUGUAY**

MONTEVIDEO  
Calle Bartolome Mitré 1337  
Casilla 641  
Tel. 98 42 42