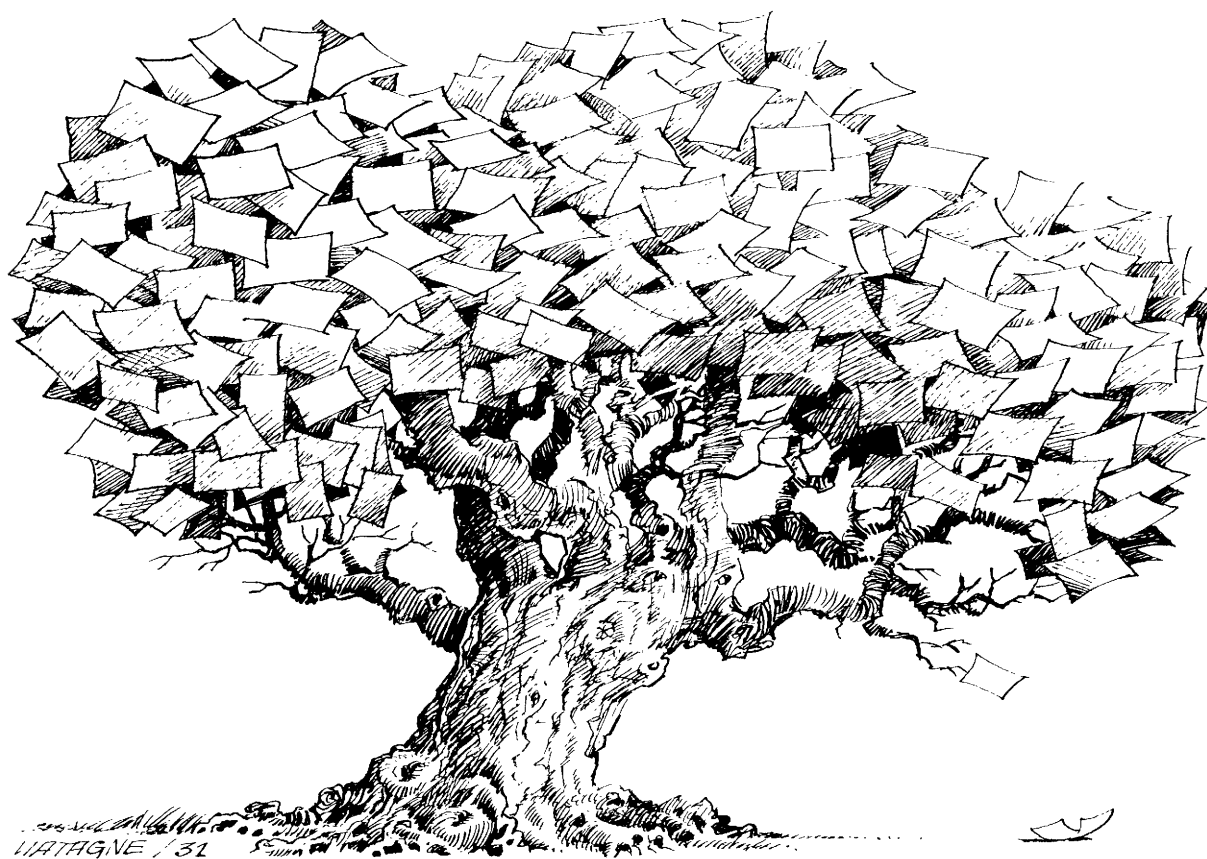


# euroforum

## europa day by day

Brussels, 20 September 1977

N° 33/77



Each ton of recycled paper saves around fifteen trees.  
(see page 3).

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**++ WASTE PAPER NO MORE**

Each ton of paper that can be recycled saves 2-3 cubic metres of forest, equivalent to about fifteen average size trees.

Euroforum explains, in Annex 1, the ecological and economic considerations which have persuaded the European Commission to propose a research programme devoted to the recycling of waste paper.

**++ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT : HOSTILE**

Harsh words were flying at the recent session of the European Parliament.

In Annex 2, Euroforum presents some of the highlights of the session.

**++ THE FOURTH WORLD : TEN MILLION IN EUROPE**

Everyone knows about the third world, but what about the fourth world? In Annex 3, Euroforum presents some extracts from a report on poverty published by the group A.T.D. (Aid to All Distress) - Fourth World.

**++ EUROPEANS MARRY LESS**

The number of marriages (in thousands) in the European Community in 1971, 73 and 75 are presented below:

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1975</u>
D	432	395	386
F	406	401	387
I	404	419	374
NL	122	108	100
B	74	74	73
LUX	2	2	2
UK	459	454	430
IRL	22	23	21
<u>DEN</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>32</u>
EEC	1,954	1,907	1,805

++ EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND HELPS SECRETARIES

Eighty five percent of the participants of a pilot vocational training scheme supported by the European Social Fund, found jobs within one month of the course. The pilot scheme which was aimed mostly at women wishing to gain secretarial qualifications, took place at a research centre for executive retraining in Paris. During the course, the 'students' took part in group discussions to help them help themselves. This technique, it seems, was able to give them a considerable socio-psychological boost.

++ COURT OF JUSTICE SUPPORTS ARCHITECT

The Court of Justice of the European Communities has come out in favour of British architect Mr. Patrick and confirmed his right to set up practice in France.

Even with qualifications from the Architectural Association Mr. Patrick had received a negative response from the French Ministry for Cultural Affairs who maintained that there was no convention of reciprocity between France and Great Britain and that as far as the Treaty of Rome was concerned, the Council of Ministers had not adopted any directives covering the free establishment of architects.

The Court of Justice took a different view, and recalled the case of the Belgian lawyer (see Euroforum N° 19/77). According to the Luxembourg judges the right to free establishment set out in the Treaty of Rome, has become a reality, even if the Community's Council of Ministers has omitted to adopt the appropriate directives. If an architect has a qualification recognised by the appropriate authorities in the country where he wishes to work, that should suffice and no supplementary conditions should be invoked. He should be able to set up as an architect and practice as such under exactly the same conditions as the nationals of the country where he wishes to work.

++ TAX AND MARRIAGE

If you prefer to pay less tax rather than experience the joys of married life, you would be better off single living in Italy. Most expensive would be to live in Denmark married with two children. In Italy you would pay 15.4% tax and in Denmark 33.6%.

The table below gives the percentage of tax paid by an average man working in industry who is paid for 52 weeks a year, whose wife does not work and whose two children are aged 9 and 13 years (childrens' age is a factor in some countries).

The table gives the percentage of wages being deducted in tax and social security payments (including family allowances) :

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SINGLE</u>	<u>MARRIED COUPLE NO CHILDREN</u>	<u>MARRIED COUPLE WITH TWO CHILDREN</u>
B	25.6	24.8	19.8
DEN	39.6	35.0	33.6
F	16.8	13.3	8.5
D	32.0	26.8	25.2
IRL	28.4	24.3	18.7
I	15.4	14.4	13.9
LUX	34.2	25.0	17.6
NL	40.9	36.3	32.2
UK	32.6	29.2	23.9

#### ++ VINYL DANGER TO FOOD

The Bologne Institute of cancer research (Italy) has issued warnings that vinyl used to package foodstuffs which have to be preserved for long periods could cause cancer. The European Commission, which takes an active interest in consumers' health has already been examining the use of potentially carcinogenic polyvinyl chloride (PVC) which is manufactured from vinyl chloride monomer (VCM). The Commission has requested its Scientific Committee for human foodstuffs to examine the possible toxic effects of VCM residue contained in the finished plastic material.

The Community has a number of legal instruments enabling it to act quickly once the results of the studies are known. There is already a Community directive dealing with materials and objects which come into contact with foodstuffs, which can be invoked to withdraw harmful substances from the market.

#### ++ TWIN CALVES

Have Europe's scientists found the problem to our milk surplus((see Euroforum N° 28/77, annex 1, p. 1)? In any case the European Commission is extremely interested in the

research work into producing twin calves. Two cows, naturally enough, drink more milk than one, and also produce more meat.

The Commission is also giving financial support to research work on reducing the interval between calving, on the synchronisation of the oestrus, on sex determination and on super-ovulation and transplantation of eggs.

**++ ENERGY DEPENDENCE**

Most of us still remember vividly the petrol shortages during the oil crisis. The European Community paid a heavy price for being so dependent on the rest of the world for its energy. Here are a few figures showing how this dependence has changed since 1958.

1958	(Europe of the Six)	29%
1963	" "	43%
1968	" "	57%
1973	(Europe of the Nine)	61%
1974	" "	61%
1975	" "	57%
1976	" "	58% (provisional data)

Current forecasts by Member States indicate an energy dependence of the order of 50-55% during the first half of the next decade. The Commission is making it quite clear, however, that if sufficient effort is not put into energy saving and developing other resources, dependence could begin to increase again.

**++ COMMUNITY AID TO STEEL**

Between 1954 and April 30 1977, the Community has lent the steel industry the equivalent of 2,891.7 million units of account (1 u.a. = 1.1 US dollars approx.). 2,762.3 million u.a. have been allocated to industrial development projects and 129.4 million u.a. to reconversion projects in the Community steel industry.

WASTE PAPER NO MORE

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Every month, the inhabitants of avenue Molière, in Brussels, store up their old newspapers and tie them in bundles, ready for collection by a special lorry. The paper collection service covers the whole of Brussels. Similar collections take place in other Belgian towns and other cities throughout the European Community.

The waste paper which is thrown out is, funnily enough, quite likely to be pushed through the letter boxes on avenue Molière at a later date. Many organisations now make a point of printing their publications on recycled paper.

There are, however, many obstacles, both economic and technical, hindering the recycling of paper and cardboard, and the European Commission recently put before the Council of Ministers a research programme to help improve the reuse of paper. Spread over three years (1978-80) the programme aims to improve current recycling techniques and to develop new techniques which are both more economic and ecological.

The economic problem of recycling is basically that the Community depends on Scandinavia, North America and the third world for more than half its paper and raw materials. This represents a burden of 3 billion units of account (1 u.a. = 1.1 US dollar approx.) on the Community's balance of payments.

The Community's forestry resources are scarcely able to make up the deficit and even an intensive afforestation programme could, at best, only double current production in twenty years time.

Recycling of old newspapers and cardboard boxes is consequently vitally important. Waste paper provides about 40% of the raw material input of Europe's paper industry and accounts for 30% of final consumption. The remainder ends up on public waste tips, and part is simply incinerated.

There is a very strong environmental argument in favour of recycling : each ton of paper recycled 'saves' 2-3 cubic metres of forest, equivalent to about 15 average size trees. Even energy can be saved, since the production of wood pulp from recycled fibres uses four times less energy than production from raw wood.

There is, however, still a lot of work to be done in dealing with certain other sorts of paper. Certain types of papers and magazines lack efficient and profitable techniques for removing inks and coatings, staples and plastics, which are mixed in with waste paper. And whilst paper has increasingly come to replace fabric in domestic products such as serviettes,

napkins, etc., recycling techniques have not kept pace with the trend. Research has naturally enough been undertaken by the paper industry, but this deals mostly with machines, products, processes, without taking into account the economic aspects. For example, the development of new inks does not take account of the problems of removing inks at the recycling stage.

The European Commission is taking a global approach to these problems through indirect action, i.e. working in cooperation with (and part financing) public and private bodies in the Member States.

Four research areas have been earmarked for action :

- 1) Classification of recycled fibres and valuation. The effects of multiple recycling on fibres. How many times can paper be recycled? and for what purposes. These questions have to be answered and a detailed study of the inherent properties of recycled fibres (resistance, chemical properties), in comparison with new fibres, is required.
- 2) Elimination of the nuisance effect of additives to waste paper - basically grease, plastics, coatings, adhesive tapes and even metal. Improved technology in this field would reduce the cost of recycling significantly.
- 3) Removal of ink and treatment of effluent from waste paper recycling factories. An improved collection of waste paper for recycling is also desirable though if the current trend continues, there is a risk that the industry will not be able to cope with the quantities involved. Furthermore, current ink removal techniques change the fibres, and make the paper basically only suitable for cardboard. It would be desirable to see waste paper having a second life as newspaper or writing paper. The other drawback of ink removing techniques is that they pollute. The research programme aims at solving these problems.
- 4) Use of fibres from town municipal waste and the sanitary problems involved with the use of recycled fibres. The recycling of fibres contained in household waste is in its early days. The basic problem is the low quality and diversity of fibres, and the presence of other elements which are difficult to remove. It is however a sizeable source of raw material. In the UK, for example, 60% of the total volume of domestic waste is made up of paper. Separation techniques, however, should improve over the years to come, and will be greatly aided by the research programme drawn up by the European Commission.



The programme should also contribute to developing processes for removing harmful substances (notably heavy metals), improve bacteriological purification and sterilisation of pulp processed from "municipal fibres".

Progress in these areas is indispensable to improve the economic value of recycling newspapers and magazines and to provide a new raw material for cardboard production.

According to a study undertaken in 1974 (see Euroforum N° 25/75) the improvements catered for in this research programme should increase the quantity of waste paper reused to around 58% of the Community's production between 1980-85 (as against 42% in 1975).

It is evident that the quantities involved are in no way marginal. Increased use of recycled paper should meet the increase in Community paper consumption (24.7 million tonnes in 1975, of which 7.9% were recycled fibres) without aggravating the shortage of raw materials.

The Community's Environmental Action Programme (1977-81) puts special emphasis on waste management (recuperation, recycling, reutilisation). Greater recycling of paper would, moreover, also help security of supply problems.

The European Commission is setting the example. A large part of the documents it prints for internal use are printed on recycled paper. The net result is that the European Commission's paper bill has been cut by 20%.

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT : HOSTILE

The tone of discussion was particularly sharp during the debate on the Community's 1978 budget, at the recent session of the European Parliament. The Council of Ministers had proposed severe cutbacks in the draft budget drawn up by the European Commission, and the explanations given by Mr. Eyskens, Belgium's State Secretary for the Budget and acting President of the Council, did not meet with much sympathy among the parliamentarians.

"Budgetary austerity responds to the needs of the current situation" Mr. Eyskens told the Parliament. But Commissioner Christopher Tugendhat attacked the 'selective austerity' which hits energy policy and the Regional Fund, but spares agricultural policy. After reproaching the Council of Ministers for regarding the budget as an accounting exercise rather than an instrument of policy, Mr. Tugendhat presented a biting description of the two faces of the Council : that of the European Council of heads of government which was the voice of hope, and that of the budget Council which ignored the grand designs and took that hope away.

Lord Bruce, speaking for the Socialist Group, supported the view of the European Commission and stressed the gigantic disparity between allocations reserved for agriculture and those for all the other sectors. It was obscene, he said, that expenditure on the storage of surplus food should be equal to the money spent on energy and research and the regional and social Funds.

Mr. Martin Bangemann, speaking on behalf of the Liberal Group, was similarly critical of the draft budget which he regarded as a European scandal. 'If we were able to table a motion of censure on the Council of Ministers, concluded Mr. Mangemann, we should do it today.'

In defence of the Council, Mr. Eyskens stated that the increase in the Community's budget (in payment credits) was much greater than corresponding increases in national budgets. Commission President Roy Jenkins took him up on the point and stressed that the budget is partly an expression of policy, but on the other hand, it is necessary that the rate of increase in the budget be greater than that of national budgets for a certain period because the Community was at an earlier stage of development.

The final word was with Michael Shaw who told Mr. Eyskens that the Parliament was worried about the present form of the draft budget and stated that "we hope to convince the Council that this should not just be an accounting exercise. It should spell out the policies we need to carry forward our European ideal".

Marcel Brégère, French member of the Socialist Group, presented the European Parliament with a report on Community consumer policy. Protecting and informing consumers is the main message in his report, and he stresses the urgency of the Council of Ministers and the Commission implementing the preliminary consumer programme as soon as possible.

The resolution adopted by the European Parliament calls on the Commission to draw up a series of proposals concerning: consumer advice centres, conciliation bodies to resolve disputes between consumers and suppliers of goods and services, measures to simplify judicial procedures in legal disputes, waste recycling, etc.

The basic approach of Mr. Brégère's report is that consumers should not only be protected against producers but also protected from themselves, and Mr. Brégère quoted Alfred Sauvy in saying "a man who is not informed is but a subject, a man informed is a citizen".

James Spicer, speaking on behalf of the Conservative Group expressed his disagreement with the rather simplistic way consumers and producers are pitted against each other. Whilst recognising the need to protect consumers, the Conservative Group did not consequently vote for the resolution. Lady Fisher (Socialist Group) took the view that the Community pays scant attention to consumer protection within the framework of its competition policy. Belgian Christian Democrat Guillaume Schyns described the consumer as a 'king without a kingdom'.

#### Direct elections

Doubts have been cast on the actual date of the first direct elections following public statements by certain politicians. During question time Henri Simonet, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs and acting President of the Council of Ministers stressed the political importance and significance of these elections, and hinted that a postponement of a few months could simply be the pretext for a delay of one or two years, which would be intolerable.

Simonet told the Parliament that in any event, those Member States which are ready to do so should prepare for these elections irrespective of whether the others are ready.

Britain's Willie Hamilton asked what would be the position of a 'non-elected' British delegation in such an eventuality. "Very unpopular, I'm afraid" was Mr. Simonet's curt reply in English.

In conclusion, Mr. Simonet warned about the debate becoming clouded by legal obstacles. "The debate is political", he affirmed. Simonet stressed the need to fight to bring legitimacy to the European Assembly by having members elected by direct universal suffrage.

THE FOURTH WORLD : TEN MILLION EUROPEANS

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The concept of the third world is well known to most people, but what about the fourth world? It incorporates ideas such as human rights, the sub-proletariat, poverty, but even these words, as was revealed by the European Commission's opinion poll (see Euroforum N° 30/77), are somewhat vague.

Poverty as a social phenomenon, and particularly the poverty of others, is little known and almost ignored by more than 50% of Europeans. Most people, in fact, have only a vague idea of poverty and only one European in ten can say he sees poor people often.

Poverty, however, is a reality for some 10 million people in Europe. The A.T.D. movement (Aid to All Distress) has recently reported on the material conditions of these families, and their findings have been published in a white paper (out in France and Belgium, soon to be available in the UK, Italy, Netherlands and Luxembourg).

In Belgium, a survey carried out in Brussels, May 1977, on the resources of 150 low income families, revealed that less than 40% of them earned regular salaries. 37% of these families had no income linked to work (unemployment benefit, pension, social security, wages) in the month in question. 42% of the families (averaging five members per family) have a disposable income of 0 to 85 BF per day per person. The gravity of the situation requires no further comment.

Living conditions of Europe's sub-proletariat

Contrary to what one may expect, the majority of poor families are natives of the countries in which they live (France, Belgium, Germany, etc.); others are foreigners who have lived in the host country for one or several generations. Badly housed, badly looked after and badly fed, scarcely able to read, write or count, these families live on the fringe of society and are virtually excluded from it.

Since the elimination of the shanty towns in France, the sub-proletarian families are generally housed in emergency or transit camps (usually for a limited period) which are badly built and far from the main centres of working and cultural life. Otherwise they are isolated in low rent housing. Often even this rent is too high and the families have to move out and take refuge where they can - in abandoned barracks, old lorries, caravans, etc.

In Belgium and in the UK, these families live in the older parts of the cities, the back alleys, the abandoned factories. In Luxembourg, they are usually spread out across the countryside.

In Germany, the sub-proletarian families live in emergency accommodation or in old unused barracks.

Sub-proletarian families in the Netherlands live in the older areas (and therefore the most unhealthy) or live on caravan sites.

In Italy these families live in shanty towns, and there are about 800,000 people living in such conditions on the outskirts of Rome.

It is difficult, nevertheless, to assemble precise statistics on this segment of the population since they have been virtually abandoned for so many years. Public authorities have scarcely ever tried to count them.

### One life

Right from birth, the sub-proletariat are at a disadvantage. Their living environment leaves its mark at an early age. Very early on they learn to distrust others and particularly to distrust the social services, whom, they fear, are out to put them in 'institutions'.

Poorly clothed, and easily discernable, the children from the sub-proletariat are often ridiculed at school by other children. Their schooling is often fragmentary and the experience itself often saps their nervous and physical strength. The victims of prejudice, the youth of the fourth world arrive on the job market badly scarred by the experience of their upbringing. Since they don't have any proper vocational training, they are only eligible for labouring jobs. At the one time when a job could bring some stability into their lives, they are forced to take the sort of jobs which guarantee the least security : navvies, builders' mates, floor sweepers, etc. Employed without contract, they are the first to be sacked. They may also find jobs in agriculture as farm hands or seasonal workers.

The women find jobs as char ladies cleaning hospitals, offices, stations or train carriages.

Everything conspires to keep the fourth world as it is : no job guarantees, low wages, total lack of permanent training, almost total indifference on the part of political parties and trade union organisations, exploitation by employers who often neglect to pay social security, etc.

It would be unjust not to mention some of the favourable measures undertaken by the public authorities, but most of the time these measures are inadequate and ineffective. The problem is basically too vast and too little understood. Almost by definition, the public authorities are preoccupied with the general welfare, and they are consequently ill-equipped to deal with individual problems. This is why

private action can be of help but it needs a little courage, obstinacy and efficiency.

An example

The initiative of Father Joseph Wresinski is worthy of special mention.

Since 1956, Father Joseph Wresinski has been fighting on behalf of those who suffer in the shanty town of Noisy-le-Grand in France. Having been born himself into the fourth world, Joseph Wresinski set up the movement A.T.D. in 1957 with three overriding principles:

- neither charity nor pity can remove poverty
- more than bread, man needs dignity
- the poor should be in control of their own destiny
- to help them it is necessary to live with them, love them, listen to them and communicate with them.

The ATD movement of Noisy-le-Grand has progressively spread to all regions of France and to seven European countries (Germany, Belgium, UK, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland and Italy) as well as to the USA and Latin America (Guatemala, Mexico).

Thanks to some two hundred militants who permanently live among these families, share their worries and their aspirations the ATD Fourth World has been able to become the spokesman of the underprivileged towards the national and international authorities.

Not insubstantial results have already been achieved, but there is a long way to go to reduce the gap between the social partners and the social rejects. It is only too easy to accept the Fourth World as an inevitable 'waste' of our modern societies.

From time to time, the stark reality disturbs our intellectual comfort. Quite recently, the phenomenal New York blackout showed us scenes of violent looting. Everyone had his own explanation and perhaps there were many. But one black woman replied to a reporter: 'Sir, I have been unemployed for two years and I haven't eaten for a week'. And the journalist commented: "America is discovering its poverty".

How many electricity blackouts will we need before the picture becomes clear? And how and when will Europe discover its poor?

The ATD Fourth World movement (122 avenue du Général Leclerc, 95480 Pierrelaye, France) is trying to combat ignorance with its modest means. This year it will celebrate its twentieth anniversary and will have a large rally on 17 November at the 'Salle de la Mutualité' in Paris. This will be a rally in the middle of a large European city. But for how much longer must the ten million underprivileged Europeans camp outside the gates of the city?

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