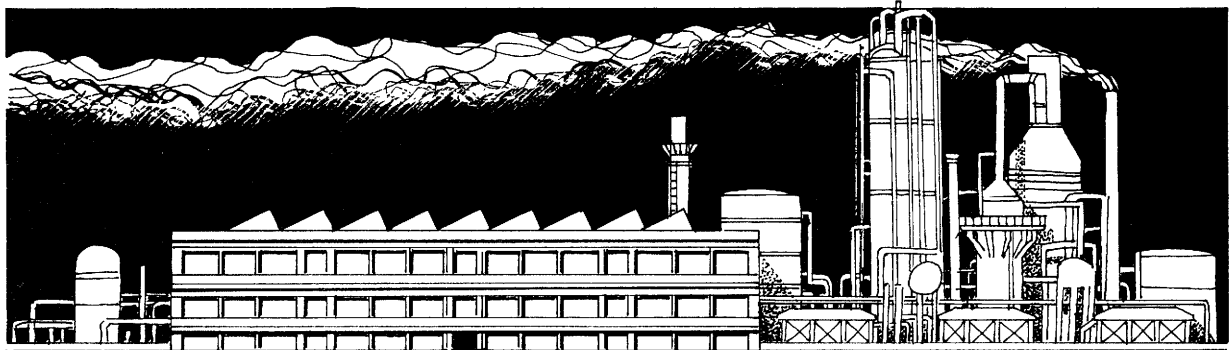


# euroforum

## europe day by day

Brussels, 18 October 1977

N° 37/77



How can Europe help the two million young people in need of a job?  
(see page 3)

X/589/77 -

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**++ EUROPE TACKLES YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**

Four out of every ten people out of work in the Community are youngsters. Some two million young unemployed people fill the long queues outside the Community's labour exchanges, waiting despondently for a job to give them their first step into adult life.

Euroforum presents in Annex 1 the facts and figures, and proposals from the European Commission.

**++ THE COMMUNITY AGAINST AIR POLLUTION**

Sulphur dioxide, black smoke, lead, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrous oxide are just some of the lethal substances in the air we breathe.

In Annex 2 Euroforum outlines what the Community is doing to make breathing safer.

**++ REGIONAL POLICY AT THE PARLIAMENT**

"The success of regional policy is a test of the credibility of the European Community" according to Luigi Noe (Italian, Christian Democrat) who presented to the European Parliament a report on the 'Orientation of the Community's Regional Policy' proposed by the European Commission to the Council of Ministers.

Regional policy is particularly dear to the members of the European Parliament and there were many points raised by other parliamentarians. John Evans (British, Labour) stressed the fact that the gap between the poorest regions and richest was increasing. In 1970 there was a 1 to 5 ratio and by 1975 it had widened to 1 to 6, thereby endangering the basic objectives of the European Community. The Parliament insisted on a revision of the Regional Fund, since this instrument had shown itself to be incapable of dealing with the phenomenon. According to Michael Herbert (Irish, Progressive European Democrat), only 40% of the grants distributed through the European Regional Fund constituted a true transfer of resources, the rest of the allocations had simply been recycled between States.

Several speakers including Michele Cifarelli (Italian, Liberal) stressed that the Regional Policy was the pillar for many other Community policies. Mr. Mascani (Italian, Communist) stated that the Regional Policy was no more than the "programmed Community economic policy". He also affirmed that liberalisation of trade which had been the key work of the Common Market up until now, had aggravated these disparities by concentrating capital in the richest regions.

The Parliament also insisted that Regional Policy be developed in a "global analytical and conceptual framework", so that the Commission could evaluate the regional impact of Community

policies and Member States could coordinate their own regional policies.

In reply, European Commissioner Antonio Giolitti recognised that aggravation of the regional imbalance could endanger the cohesion of the Community. Unfortunately the Council of Ministers' attitude to the 1978 budget does not give rise to much hope of increasing the means at the European Regional Fund's disposal. Under such conditions it will be difficult to improve the quality of a regional policy however indispensable it may be.

++ COMMUNITY NUCLEAR HEARINGS

The European Commission has decided to organise public hearings on the problems posed by the development of nuclear energy, to guide its own work in the field of nuclear power. Two sessions have already been fixed to take place in Brussels on 29 and 30 November 1977, and 1 December 1977. Issues to be covered concern : energy needs to the end of the century and the role of nuclear power; the problems raised concerning safety, health and the protection of the environment.

The general public and the press will be taking part in these debates (invitations are available from the services of the European Commission and are subject only to the limits, naturally enough, of available space), and each participant will be able to put questions to a group of experts, some of whom are for and some against the development of nuclear energy.

The debates will be chaired by European Commissioner responsible for energy, Dr. Guido Brunner.

++ EUROPE AND VAT

The VAT rates applicable in the different Community countries can vary between 1% and 40%. The rates applied by category are presented below:

	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Reduced</u>	<u>Zero</u>
D	11 %		25 %	5.5 %	
B	18 %	14 %		6 %	
DEN	15 %				X
F	17.6 %		33.33%	7 %	
IRL	20 %		35/40%	10 %	X
I	14 %	18 %	35 %	1/3/9 %	X
LUX	10 %			5/2 %	
NL	18 %			4 %	X
UK	8 %		12.5 %		

In countries which apply the zero rate, VAT exemption is given to certain deliveries of goods or charges for services relating to the end user.

++ SUN TAN PILLS

Pills which have been on sale in France since the beginning of the year to help induce a sun tan, are banned in Belgium. Questioned on this anomaly by Mr. Guerlin of the European Parliament, the European Commission has stressed that a Community country can request, at any time, an opinion on the subject from the Community's Committee of pharmaceutical specialists.

Two Community directives lay down certain conditions for pharmaceutical products to be put on the market : the compound should not be harmful and should have a therapeutic effect. Finally, concerning pharmaceutical advertising, the Commission is working on a proposal for a directive which would ensure that the public could never mistake a good looking tan for good health.

++ EUROPEAN CARS ON THE RIGHT ROAD

The idea of rationalising car components and organising the sales activities of the European car industry has been taken up by Michele Cifarelli of the European Parliament in a question to the European Commission.

The Commission in its reply has recalled that the harmonisation of technical specifications is one of the first indispensable stages towards rationalising production (see Euroforum N° 29/77). Regarding cooperation between industries concerning the joint production of car components and the organisation of joint technical assistance, the European Commission takes the view that the necessary initiatives have to come from the industries concerned. In the recent past, various industries have made joint efforts to rationalise production and sales networks in order to raise their competitiveness on the world market by reducing costs. The Commission intends to give all the assistance it can to such cooperation. It will also ensure, naturally enough, that such cooperation is compatible with the rules of fair competition.

++ C.C.C.

A discussion with a distinctly new flavour took place at the latest meeting of the Community's Consumer Consultative Committee. European Commissioner for agriculture Mr. Finn Olav Gundelach spelt out the reasons why the Community should save the common agricultural policy (CAP) and he launched an appeal for consumers to help in certain aspects of the operation of 'Green Europe', which is also the Europe of the shopping basket. The 'prudent price policy' defended by Mr. Gundelach (see Euroforum N° 36/77) was very favourably received by the consumer representatives.

During the same meeting the CCC adopted an opinion on adverse effects of tobacco as well as comments on the draft directive proposed by the European Commission concerning insurance contracts.

Always interested in consumer prices, the Committee requested once more that the consumer price survey conducted by the Community's Official Statistical Office give even more details to the European consumer.

Finally the CCC discussed the two reports concerning the Community energy policy and the nuclear hearings which the Commission is holding in the near future.

++ 51 MILLION STUDENTS

During the 1975-76 academic year some 51.2 million young people followed educational courses in the Community. (The population of the Community amounts to almost 260 million and the working population about 105 million). The change in trend by country is presented below (in thousands) :

	<u>1970-1971</u>	<u>1975-1976</u>
D	9,872	11,466
F	10,206	10,757
I	9,449	10,664
NL	2,719	3,059
B	1,902	1,934
LUX	55	59
UK	10,512	11,548
IRL	634	718
DEN	849	958
<hr/>		
EEC	46,198	51,163

++ JOURNALISTS AND DIRECT ELECTIONS

The Italian section of the Association of European Journalists is organising a meeting October 28-29, between the directors of daily papers, press agencies, radio news and TV programmes in the nine Community countries on the subject of public opinion towards direct elections to the European Parliament.

++ ENERGY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

European Commissioner Dr. Guido Brunner has just put his signature on three new agreements between the European Community and the International Energy Agency. Two of these agreements concern research and development in the field of thermonuclear fusion, the third covers the production of hydrogen from water.

The signing of these agreements covers six projects to be jointly run by the Community and the Agency. Previous agreements concern nuclear security, research and development for the construction of a source of intense neutrons, and for solar heating and cooling.

In financial terms, such contracts would often permit real economies. One of the contracts signed by Dr. Brunner concerns superconducting coils for thermonuclear fusion and will involve a financial commitment of 4-5 million dollars. The Community will benefit from the results of research work on coils which will cost about 25 million dollars. It will also benefit from the results of tests and trials costing around 20 million dollars.

++ EUROPE AND THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

The first European meetings concerning the living environment are to be organised by the French ministry for culture and environment on December 5-7 coming, and will be held in Paris under the patronage of the President of the French Republic. Three main themes are on the agenda : the everyday living environment, everyday lifestyles and social life.

++ STATISTICAL YEARBOOK 1977

The Official statistical Office of the European Communities has just published the 1977 edition of an invaluable pocket book entitled Basic Statistics of the Community. In one volume of two hundred pages are contained the latest statistics concerning the population, labour force, research, national accounts, agriculture, energy, industry, transport, etc.

This booklet can be obtained from the Community's Office for Official Publications, PO Box 1003, Luxembourg. Cost : £2.30, BF 150, DKr 23,45, DM 9.6, FF 20, Lire 3,500, Fl 10.1, US \$ 4.

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## EUROPE TACKLES YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Four out of every ten unemployed in the European Community are youngsters: a frightening total of two million of them go to make up the long queues to be found outside the labour exchanges and wait despondently for their step into adult working life.

All Community countries are experiencing similar problems in finding jobs for young people leaving school, and all have taken measures to try and alleviate the situation. Action is now urgently required to stimulate solidarity between European countries and instigate a European commitment to deal with a problem which is both socially painful and economically unacceptable. The European Commission has taken a step in this direction by recommending, among other things, a job creation premium for companies, and Community aid for employment programmes in the public sector. Employment ministers of the Nine will be discussing these measures in Luxembourg on October 28.

The facts in figures

The sombre statistics of jobless young people in the Community (those under 25 years except Italy which relate to those under 21) are as follows :

UNEMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN 1977

<u>Country</u>	<u>Age-group</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
D	-25	May	108,117	23.3	143,303	29.7	251,420	26.6
F	-25	Jul	142,362	31.3	257,380	48.3	404,742	40.3
I	-21	Jan	257,025	31.5	198,945	40.0	455,970	34.7
NL	-25	Aug	52,102	37.4	43,517	65.4	96,619	46.3
B	-25	Aug	25,753	25.5	58,079	36.9	83,831	32.4
LUX	-25	Aug	259	52.7	229	68.6	488	59.2
UK	-25	July	404,344	37.2	304,173	65.2	708,715	45.6
IRL	-25	June					50,000 <sup>≠</sup>	43.9 <sup>≠</sup>
DK	-25	Jan	19,798	20.1	14,670	34.3	34,468	24.4
<u>EEC 9</u>							<u>2,086,253</u>	

<sup>≠</sup> Estimation based on the results of the Labour Force Sample Survey in 1975.

% Percentage of young people among the unemployed.



This summer 3,700,000 young people left Community schools or universities and are still trying to find jobs. Many of them will face longer Summer holidays than they thought. No 'natural improvement' in the situation as a result of demographic changes can be expected in the medium term. In 1982 there will be some 4.3 million sixteen year olds, whilst the number of people reaching sixty five will only reach two million, due to the low birth rate during the first world war. The net surplus on the job market will be around 2.3 million. It will be another ten years before the population trends are once again balanced.

The demographic imbalance has been aggravated by the economic crisis. There seems little doubt that youth unemployment will remain at an unacceptably high level for several years to come and there is also likely to be a persistence of underemployment. The crisis will be with us for a long while yet.

This situation will be further complicated by an irreversible social phenomenon that increasing numbers of young women are entering the work force and wish to work both before and whilst they are married. The days have gone when girls left school to help Mum in the home and wait for Prince Charming to come along. Many girls now work to contribute to the family income, to achieve a certain independence or to guarantee their future. Nowadays, there is a one in twenty chance that Prince Charming will be out of work.

The European Commission has just published a "Comparative Analysis of Instruments for Employment Policy in Certain Community Countries" in its 'Social Policy' series. The document can be obtained from the Community's publications office : PO Box 1003, Luxembourg.

The employment prospects for youngsters entering the job market have, over the years, become unfavourably affected by legislation aimed at protecting existing jobs. The adult worker who has to feed a family, naturally enough takes priority over youngsters straight out of school. Job security has become an aim of all governments following year long campaigns by trade unions and political parties.

There is also a considerable gap between the education given to these youngsters and the type of job they are likely to be offered. High technology machine tools are increasingly being used in Europe's factories and few young people are likely to have become familiar with them through school or even technical college. Not many employers are likely to want to put a young inexperienced school-leaver in charge of an expensive machine.

Over the last fifteen to twenty years, a contrast has arisen between the educational systems which have been training young people to take responsibility, and stagnation in the place of work where employers are not prepared to place this amount of confidence in them and give them responsibility.

In June 1977, the leaders of the Nine convened a European Council in London where they expressed their concern for youth unemployment. They requested the European Commission to pursue its work in this area so that the Nine's Social Affairs ministers could be fully briefed to examine the overall problem and work out the best course of Community action, taking full account of all the measures already taken by Member States. The 'Social Affairs' Council of Community ministers will take place in Luxembourg October 28. This meeting will determine the nature of the proposals which the Commission will draw up.

Community governments have come to the conclusion that people still have to learn even when they have left school. Among measures taken at the national level to help jobless young people, post-school training has an important role to play. Effective vocational training should contain a large amount of practical industrial experience but industry is unwilling to bear the cost of this. It is here that a public contribution could most help private industry. Already five Community countries are experimenting with vocational training schemes, especially aimed at young people leaving school after the statutory period without taking higher education.

All Community countries have taken measures to help job creation directly, including measures in some cases to alleviate tax and social security costs.

Premiums have been paid to companies to encourage them to increase their labour force. Aid has also been allocated to companies to encourage them to organise apprentice courses. Finally the States themselves have often dipped into their own pockets to organise temporary work of a general nature for young people. Young people have been employed to plant trees in a reforestation programme and have been given jobs in hospitals or in the social services.

In all, about 250,000 young people have benefitted from these various measures which have cost Community governments more than 400 million dollars.

The European Commission, which has been examining closely the various measures taken, has concluded that the different administrative processes which lead the youngster from school to his first job (vocational guidance, training, job finding, placement) form a weak chain which can easily be broken by problems of administrative division of responsibility, or bad communications. It is absolutely essential for them to promote all contacts between those responsible at the various levels. Lacking this, youngsters risk falling into a void between the various administrations.

Youth unemployment is not just an economic problem. Its social consequences are potentially more damaging and also more unpredictable. All through a young person's school days, he or she is preparing for an adult life where work plays an important role. In addition to traditional education, schooling instills a collection of psychological abilities and aptitudes: ability to concentrate, capacity to resolve technical problems, satisfactions for achievements, not to mention more abstract elements which are difficult to quantify: pride in earning one's living, entering into the adult world, participation in team work, development of professional experience.

For young people to be prevented from achieving these aspirations is a virtual catastrophe. Some of these young people find themselves on their own, and without a job at an age when many are thinking of setting up their own home. The result is a shock for which society may ultimately pay the price.

### Community response

Since July 1975, the European Social Fund has allocated close to 300 million dollars in aid to vocational training programmes for the young unemployed. In relation to needs, this aid is still insufficient: requests for aid addressed to the Social Fund since that date totalled more than 600 million dollars. At such a point it became necessary to give priority to young people seeking their first job.

In July 1977 the European Commission sent a 'recommendation' to Community governments aimed at ensuring adequate vocational training for young people out of work, and particularly those whose level of education did not give them direct access to the job market.

Member States were invited, in particular, to develop special courses for young adults to improve their basic knowledge, to help them understand the functioning of the world of work, and to give them practical vocational training over a wide area.

In Berlin (Bundesalle N° 1) the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) assists the European Commission and Member States to improve the vocational preparation of young people.

In December 1976, the Community's education ministers adopted a resolution proposing a three year Community programme of pilot projects and other activities to assist the transition from school to working life. This programme will examine the possibility of including practical training oriented towards working life, during the last two years of school. It would also look at the possibility of establishing closer links with the industrial sector during the last school years, and examine the need for improving vocational direction in the educational system.

#### Strengthening Community action

To meet the needs of Member States, and the expressed wishes of their leaders, it will be necessary, in the Commission's view, to allocate more money to the European Social Fund. In devising measures for young people it is important to link theoretical and practical training with employment. Member States are already spending a lot of money to help unemployed youth. A partial involvement in these activities by the Community would appear advisable as it would ensure a Community framework for these aids, which though originally seen as provisional and counter-cyclical, are now tending to take on a more durable character. Though all countries are confronted with the same problem, not all have the means of resolving the problem. It would be wise to share this financial burden more fairly whilst assuring coordination and cooperation, and at the same time ensure a measure of Community control.

A Community job creation premium has been suggested to support the development of certain Community policies in the industrial field, or in labour market areas with particularly serious sectoral difficulties or particularly high levels of youth unemployment.

Help to public sectors with pressing needs (hospitals, schools, old peoples homes, urban and rural environment) could be given by young people. A large number of areas could be suitable for this sort of action.

European solidarity in a concrete form is desirable, but financial aid in itself will only have limited impact unless it is accompanied by action of a wider scope. It could be accompanied by other measures and the Community could provide

technical support for reforms in progress in Community countries, particularly for vocational training and placement. All the institutions, at various levels, which are responsible for managing the labour market should develop, with the Community's assistance, practical cooperation which would contribute to the implementation of an effective employment policy.

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This is the outline of the European Commission's proposals to simultaneously reduce the number of young people out of work and attack the basic causes of unemployment. The next stage is for the Council of Ministers to take up the debate to enable the Commission to proceed in formulating detailed proposals which would make European solidarity more concrete.

## THE COMMUNITY AGAINST AIR POLLUTION

Sometimes it is visible hovering over an industrial complex or city. Sometimes it's more insidious and infiltrates our homes. Air pollution is virtually everywhere today. It is also international, and its ability to drift over frontiers makes it vital for the Nine to work together to defeat it.

Experts of the European Commission have been working on the problem for some time now. Research and coordination work was given a boost in the Community's Environmental Action Programme adopted in November 1973. Since then, concrete progress has been made but a lot still remains to be done since the problem is so complex.

### Data collation

One of the most dangerous enemies of the air we breathe is sulphur dioxide - black smoke - which is the first priority for Community action. Next in order come lead, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons and finally nitrous oxide. They are produced by either fixed sources (industry and cities) or mobile ones (transport). Their preferred locations are the main areas of human and industrial activity : Paris, London, the Ruhr industrial region, etc.

To counter this environmental hazard at the Community level, the first step is to assemble all the facts and figures. This is a long and delicate task, which has not yet been achieved. Its goal is to define 'criteria', i.e. the precise effects of each pollutant on the health of man, the environment, animals and plants. All depends naturally enough on the dose level and the concentration level. Since 1975 there has been an exchange of information between Community countries on sulphur dioxide and suspended particles and this is to be extended to other pollutants. Three hundred stations covering one hundred urban areas and forty rural zones have been supplying about 100,000 pieces of information each year.

### Atmospheric quality standards

From the basis of this information, atmospheric quality standards have been drawn up to enable safe ceiling limits to be set for the Community. The proposed ceiling levels are often exceeded throughout the Community, and the Council of Ministers are currently discussing whether to make them law. At this stage at least the degree of protection needed and the standards which Member States should aim at to guarantee a minimum quality of air have been established.

It is also necessary however for the information collected to be comparable and harmonised. Without this, estimates can be out by as much as 100%.

### Fuel oil

The samples have been taken, the conclusions drawn and the quality standards laid down. Now is the time for measures to be taken to safeguard human health and the safety of the environment by attacking the sources.

The European Commission have drawn up the proposals and in 1970, the Council of Ministers adopted a directive on exhaust gas emissions from motor cars despite the commercial problems that such limits would present. This was strengthened in 1974, and since this year covers not only carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons but also nitrous oxide.

Also, in 1975 the Nine adopted another directive on the reduction of the sulphur content of fuel oil, which came into force on 1 October 1976. The standards demanded will be introduced by stages since, it appears, severe national fuel supply problems could be caused. The introduction of these standards consequently has to be staggered. Thus in 1980 the permitted maximum will drop from 0.5% to 0.3% for high quality fuel oil whose use is strictly limited (especially in polluted regions).

### Hesitations

Progress has been made, but certain reservations have been difficult to overcome. The proposal concerning fuel oil - which aims to reduce the content of SO<sub>2</sub> in the air - has been held up by discussions in the Community's Council of Ministers. These disagreements reflect divergent policies at the national level.

Member States do not always have the same approach to the problem of atmospheric pollution and do not always give it the same level of importance. They have consequently not reached agreement on several proposals drawn up by the European Commission. Apart from the fuel oil proposal there are also drafts for directives concerning SO<sub>2</sub> and suspended particulate matter, lead, as well as one fixing the content of lead in petrol.

### Greater efforts

Another complex question involves emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels in manufacturing processes. The Commission's experts are currently examining ways and means of reducing the pollution at source, i.e. in the installations themselves.

In the case of coal, for instance, the task is particularly delicate since national energy policies also have to be taken into account.

The Community should of course take greater care in keeping its air pure. But to do this is expensive. Results, however, can be spectacular. The infamous London smog was disposed of by improving the quality of fuel used in factories and establishing smoke free zones.

Commission proposals adopted by the Council (with date of adoption)

- Directive concerning air pollution caused by positive ignition engines used in motor vehicles (March 1970). This directive was twice adapted to technical progress in 1974 and 1976.
- Directive concerning the harmonisation of Member States' legislation relating to control of polluting emissions from diesel engines used for propelling vehicles (August 1972).
- Directive identical to the one above but relating to wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (June 1977).
- Decision instigating a joint information exchange procedure between the monitoring and surveillance networks concerning atmospheric pollution caused by certain sulphur compounds and suspended particles (June 1975).

Proposals under discussion in the Council (with date of presentation)

- Directive concerning the harmonisation of Member States' legislation relating to the composition of petrol. The problem of lead content (December 1973).
- Directive concerning atmospheric quality standards for lead (April 1975).
- Directive concerning the use of fuel oil with a view to reducing sulphur emissions (Dec. 1975).
- Resolution concerning the fixing of criteria for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulate matter in the urban atmosphere (February 1976).
- Directive concerning health protection standards covered by the resolution above (February 1976).

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

**BELGIUM**

1049 BRUSSELS  
Rue Archimède 73  
Tel. 735 00 40/735 80 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. 8 92 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  
Bâtiment Jean Monnet B/O  
Plateau du Kirchberg  
Tel. 43011

**NETHERLANDS**

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

**UNITED KINGDOM**

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

CARDIFF CF1 1WF  
4 Cathedral Road  
P.O. Box 15  
Tel. 371 631

EDINBURGH EH2 4PH  
7, Alva Street  
Tel. (031) 225.2058

**CANADA**

OTTAWA, Ont. K1R 7S8  
350 Sparks St.  
Suite 1110  
Tel. 238 6464

**CHILE**

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

**GREECE**

ATHENS 134  
Vassilis 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, N.Y. 10017  
245 East 47th Street  
1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza  
Tel. (212) 3713804