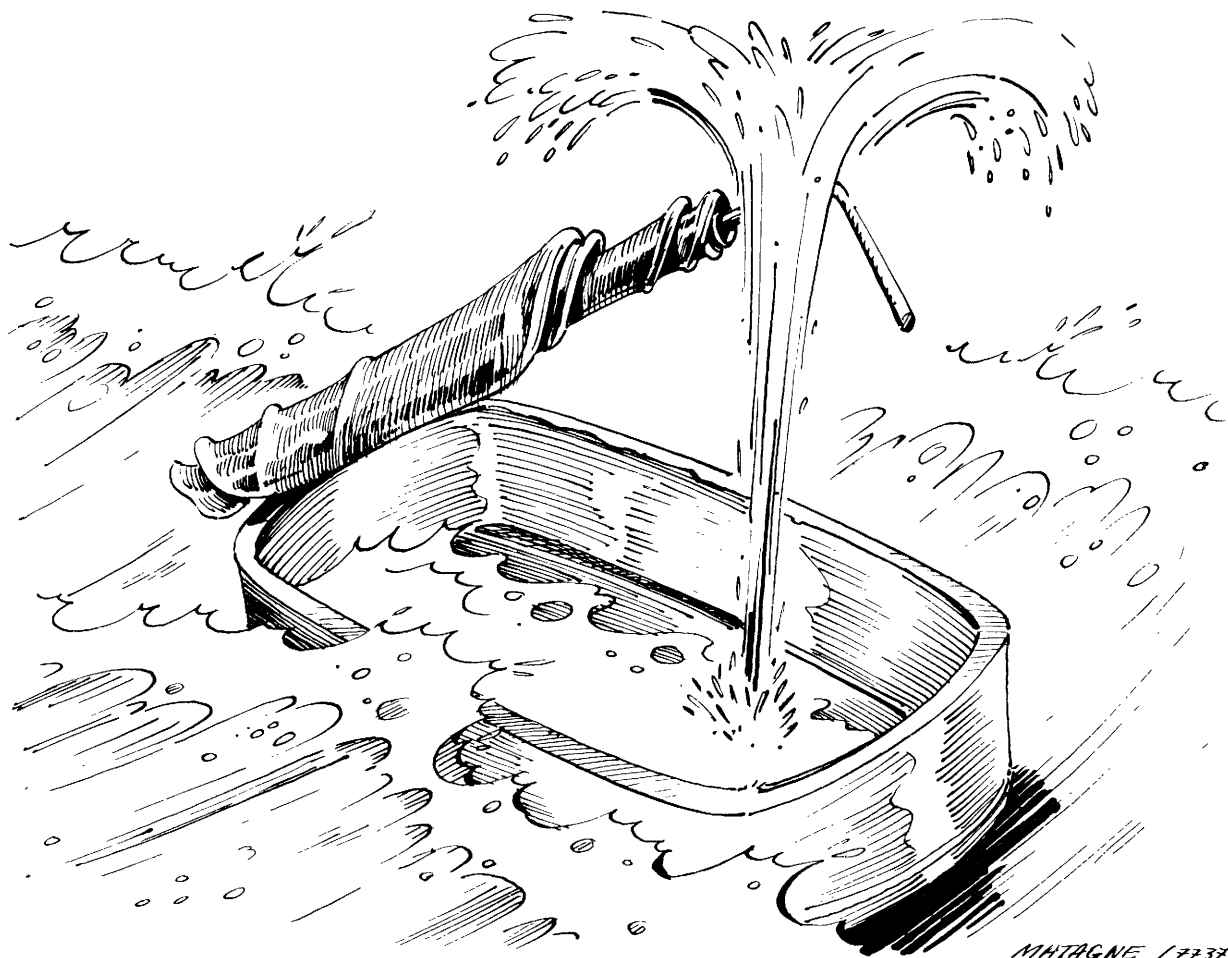


# euroforum

## europa day by day

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How can the Community protect both its fish and its fishermen? (see page 3)

X/599/77 -

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++ SOCIETY AGAINST THE CRISIS

"Unemployment is both a waste and an insult to human dignity". This was the virulent tone of a speech given in Rotterdam by European Commissioner Henk Vredeling.

Some extracts from this highly political speech are presented by Euroforum in Annex 1.

++ PROTECTING FISH AND FISHERMEN

Our fish reserves are in danger of becoming exhausted and with the alarm bells ringing from Iceland to Grimsby, the European Commission has drawn up new proposals to preserve the Community's fishing zone.

In Annex 2, Euroforum outlines what is being done to stop fish and fishermen becoming as rare as white whales.

++ SIX MILLION JOBLESS

In September 1977 the number of registered unemployed in the Community rose to six million - a rise of 2.4% on the previous month. Even taking seasonal factors into account, the overall trend is still slightly on the increase.

Much of the increase in jobless is essentially due to new legislation in Italy where 241,000 young people have registered themselves for the first time as unemployed. The figures have also been greatly affected by the traditional phenomenon in France of massive numbers of school leavers registering at the labour exchanges in September. In Germany by contrast, the number of registered unemployed has decreased 5.4% percent on the previous month. A similar decrease appeared in Ireland (-3.4%), and in the UK and the Netherlands (-1.6%).

The number of women out of work has continued to increase faster than that of men. The proportion of women in total unemployed stands at 43% for the Community with figures of 50% being recorded in Germany, France and Belgium.

++ PACKAGED RUBBISH

Forty percent of the household rubbish collected in the UK is simply packaging material that is thrown away. In France and Germany packaging represents 50% of household waste, and in the Netherlands 32%. In France 10% of the packaging produced is never recovered but simply jettisoned in the wilds of nature. Beverage containers account for a straight 10% of household rubbish.

The packaging boom and the waste involved cannot continue indefinitely. The European Commission is currently examining the possibility of setting up a Community action programme to

deal with packaging, along side the programme already drawn up to deal with the recuperation of waste paper (see Euroforum 33/77). The impact of waste packaging on the environment is considerable (particularly beverage containers). The Commission wishes to encourage manufacturers to use packaging materials which are easier to recycle, or which have a lower material to volume ratio.

When all the necessary information and statistics have been compiled and analysed, the European Commission will then examine the options open : banning the use of throwaway packaging, tax disincentives, container standardisation etc.

#### ++ TRANSPORT FICTION

Is the traffic between Europe's major cities on the increase? If so, should we be building new infrastructure (air, road, rail) or should we not be trying to put a brake on expensive energy-consuming types of transport such as cars and aeroplanes, and encourage the use of trains?

These are the basic questions which have been examined in a research study known as Action COST 33 undertaken at the request of the European Community by the OECD organisation. Twelve countries took part in the study which began three years ago, including all Community countries except Denmark and Luxembourg, the three new applicant members, Greece, Portugal and Spain, and last but not least Austria and Switzerland.

Two reports have been drawn up by the OECD and contain the following conclusions :

Road : the car will be very difficult to replace for the simple reason that three quarters of inter-city traffic is for leisure purposes. On the other hand the demand for automobiles should flatten out around the turn of the century.

Rail : passenger rail transport will find itself on the decrease if the services do not improve quickly. In addition it will be necessary to bring into service trains capable of travelling at speeds of 125 to 150 mph.

Air : there will be no saturation by the year 2000. The number of seats available will reach about 200,000 (as opposed to 60,000 in 1970). At the turn of the century the average plane capacity will be 153 seats, though the most useful size would be only 125 seats (market size : 800 to 1,000 aircraft).

#### ++ EUROPE'S OLD SOLDIERS

The executive committee of the European Confederation of ex-Servicemen have strong views on the forthcoming direct elections and think that "those who paid the highest price for our 'disunion'" should have a few words to say.

"Today, European union has become a necessity which is more

imperative and more urgent than ever for the survival of our countries.

The alternative is an increasing dependence on those countries which are strong, resulting in an irreversible downward slide in our own powers.

The election of the European Parliament by universal suffrage will permit the first major dialogue between Europe and its people. But this election should only take place after people are suitably informed; if not there could be massive abstentions and Europe would find it difficult to recover from such a setback.

The crisis has dominated us principally because a true Europe has been absent. By voting for Europe the people will open the way to the future."

++ JET FOR CULHAM

After two years of discussion and bargaining, the JET (Joint European Torus) is finally to be sited at Culham, near Oxford, it has finally been decided by the Nine's Council of Ministers. JET is the machine which through the efforts of 350 European scientists could pave the way for the production of electricity from controlled thermonuclear fusion and possibly provide us with a major source of pollution-free nuclear energy in the next century.

Thermonuclear fusion has already been produced in the laboratory but to reach the industrial phase, considerable research work has to be undertaken.

The basic principle of nuclear fusion is to fuse light atoms and provide a release of energy which can then be used to generate electricity. The fusion of two light atoms is, however, only possible at a temperature of 100 to 200 million degrees centigrade! At such a temperature the 'fuel' changes into gas-like plasma but plasma can only be contained at such a temperature by means of a giant electromagnetic field, created by a giant electromagnet : the JET.

++ SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

When the Nine's Council of Ministers start talking about flowers and fresh bouquets, it is not because they have been inspired by the beauty of autumn. A regulation fixing the quality standards for fresh-cut flowers has just been modified by the Council of Ministers to make the quality standards easier to control, even during transport.

++ STOLEN TREASURE FILE

As a way of putting the brakes on art thefts (see Euroforum N° 34/76), the European Commission envisages setting up a

Community file on stolen treasure. Such a file would be a better approach to finding and retrieving stolen works than simply setting up a catalogue of all works of art in the nine Community countries. Setting up a complete catalogue and keeping it up to date would be a considerable job and would probably not meet with full cooperation on the part of private collectors of "cultural works". (In addition, a stolen work will generally be considered as a work of art, whilst it would be difficult to make a clear distinction between "cultural work" and a work of art when drawing up a full catalogue).

#### ++ COST OF ELECTRICITY

European Commission experts have been making estimates of production costs for electricity generating power stations which will come into service at the beginning of the eighties. It is assumed they will operate at 75% load (6,500 hours per year).

A 1,000 Megawatt light water nuclear power station will produce one kilowatt/hour at a cost of around 0.022 US dollars (about 0.02 units of account).

A 600 MW classical thermal power station, fired by fuel oil, will produce one kilowatt/hour for about 0.033 US dollars (0.03 u.a.).

A 600 MW classical thermal power station powered by coal will produce one kilowatt/hour for 0.027 and 0.044 US dollars (0.025 and 0.040 u.a.) depending where the coal is from.

#### ++ EUROPE CONVENTION

At the "Europe Convention" organised by the French council of the European Movement, European Commissioner Antonio Giolitti gave listeners a preview of what relations between the European Commission and the European Parliament will be like after direct elections :

" In the legal field nothing will change more or less. But in reality things will no longer be the same. The Parliament will be able to talk and present its views in full and with authority. It will be operating in the role of intermediary for millions of voters, not just in a rather vague and theoretical constitutional sense, but in a very concrete fashion since the views they express will be the opinion of voters. In addition, the new Parliament will not only feel its new authority during plenary sessions, I can imagine there will be an increasing number of parliamentary committee meetings and oral or written questions to the European Commission. We will try to reply to these questions in as complete and precise a manner as possible. Members of the European Commission should be ready to participate in parliamentary committee meetings. Moreover, Commission officials whose job it is to follow the progress of particular topics and are in the position to inform parliamentarians, should be at the disposition of the European Parliament."

At the end of the session, the 2,000 delegates at the Europe Convention adopted a resolution stating that "the enlargement of the Community will only succeed if criteria are fixed for the "progressive participation" of the new members in the Community's activities, and if it resolutely reinforces its decision-making procedures and its industrial, trade and agricultural policy. This should ensure that despite the past and the problems of imbalanced development - a better balance between the regions can be established to improve the lot of the new Community of more than 300 million men and women.

And in conclusion : "the Nine - soon to become the Twelve - who have chosen to join together, should form a body capable of ensuring real independence of its members, in the face of all pressures, of reorientating its growth towards the redistribution of its activities in favour of developing countries, and offering the world a model of alliance, of security, liberty and justice."

++ TRADE UNIONS AND RADIATION

The third information and training seminar on radioprotection took place in Luxembourg October 10-12 and was attended by trade union representatives from the nine Community countries. Three themes were dealt with :

- the progress in scientific knowledge of radio-biology,
- radioprotection of workers occasionally exposed to risk,
- progress in the training and education of radioprotection operatives, and workers in the nuclear industry.

The European Commission regularly organises discussions such as these and the dialogue established with trade unionists helps develop their own measures to guarantee optimal protection for workers, and ensure that protection measures are fully understood by those affected.

The reports of the two seminars, held in 1975 and 1976 can be obtained from the Health and Safety Directorate of the European Commission : bâtiment Jean Monnet, avenue Alcide de Gasperi, Kirschberg, Luxembourg.

++ BUNDESALLEE 22, BERLIN (cont.)

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Bundesallee 22, 1 Berlin 31) have just published the first issue of a revue entitled "Vocational Training". This bulletin will be published quarterly and will contain information and articles dealing with the Centre's work programme (see Euroforum N° 24/77). The publication should also favour the discussion and exchange of ideas on vocational training of interest to the Community as a whole. For subscriptions please contact : the Office of Official Publications of the European Community, PO Box 1003, Luxembourg.

SOCIETY AGAINST THE CRISIS

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"Unemployment is both a waste and an insult to human dignity. In order to preserve the freedom we have within our economic system, we may have to accept some ups and downs as the counterpart. But we cannot accept the sort of situation we are faced with today. Too many or too frequent changes are as unacceptable as having no change at all." This was the virulent tone of a speech given in Rotterdam by Henk Vredeling, European Commissioner responsible for employment and social affairs.

Instead of talking solely about unemployment, the European Commissioner discussed the impact the crisis was having on European Society, in its full political sense.

Lessons of the past

"We should recognise, however, that this recession, no more than the last one, is not the terminal stage of capitalism, explained Mr. Vredeling. A recession is something we must come to terms with as the consequence of being a free economy in a free world. What we must ensure, however, is that in the future, the effects of such fluctuations are minimised and controlled even more than they have been in the recent past and, in particular, that they are not allowed to result in sudden upsurges in unemployment.

We have learnt a lot (since the economic crises of the 19th and early 20th centuries). We have learnt in the post-war period how to offset decline in economic confidence or changes in patterns of trade and taste by encouraging new activities and assisting the process of readjustment. We have learnt how to readapt our skills to changing requirements, how to live with the machine, to make it our slave rather than our master. We are still learning how to use the tremendous possibilities of electronics to release the human mind from the drudgery of mental repetition and to release it for more creative intellectual activity.

We have learnt that cooperation with other countries was not incompatible with competing against them.

What we have failed to do, alas, has been to cope with some of the new problems that have emerged. We have failed to deal adequately with the problem of inflationary forces working within the freedom of our social and economic system, and we have failed to appreciate fully, the extent of the changes which have been taking place in the developing world, both near and far from Europe. Moreover we have failed, to some extent, to react adequately to the rising aspirations of the working population, including an increasing unwillingness to undertake certain types of employment - a trend that is evidenced by a growing dependence on migrant labour, recruited to do what we native Europeans are not prepared to do ourselves.



### Where to next?

The example of the United States has shown that continuous change is possible. Now is perhaps a good time for us in Europe to reflect a little on where we want to go, and how we intend to get there.

It was for this reason that the heads of the employment and economic ministries of the Member States, and representatives of Trade Unions and employers were brought together in June this year at the Tripartite conference.

We chose not to push forward a series of actions but rather to discuss together how we got into the situation and how we could best help one another to pull out of it.

We cannot leave "the system" to solve all the problems of readjustment without help, Mr. Vredeling continued.

At the Tripartite Conference we agreed to maintain Community trade policies, policies to deal with inflation, the use of Community financial instruments, and the role for Community industrial and sectoral policies. But we also agreed to study areas where we do not have clear cut answers : the place of the Community in the world economy, investment expansion, the role of the public sector.

According to Mr. Vredeling, the Community's place in the world economy requires particular attention, given the position of the developing countries. There is a transfer of jobs to the increasingly industrialised Third World and the consequences of this have to be examined.

This process is both inevitable and desirable but it must be done in an orderly, balanced manner. Hence we must plan national and Community employment expansion in the light of external developments and see how best to make internal readjustments.

### Basic desires

Detailed analysis of the national, European and world economy is basically necessary to be able to meet the aspirations of the European individual. Today in Western society, noted Mr. Vredeling, we believe neither that we live to work or that we work to live. We see work from many different viewpoints. We see it as a process by which we give to, and take from, Society, as a place for personal fulfillment, and as a place where we can earn our living.

These complex viewpoints condition our thinking and our actions and hence the objectives we conceive for employment policies must be broad enough to encompass all these different aspirations.

In practice, there is clearly no compulsion on Society to provide the type of jobs that may be requested. The range and number of jobs in different areas will depend on what resources, what money, people individually or collectively wish to devote to different activities. The number of motor car mechanics, dentists, nurses, construction workers, social workers, etc. will be a function of demand.

We cannot establish an equilibrium between what Society wants and what individuals in Society want to do. And we certainly cannot expect the State to pay us for doing just what we want to do.

The balance between Society's wants, (as expressed through the supply of jobs) and the needs of individuals (as expressed through requests for employment) is changing.

Job satisfaction is becoming more important in relation to wages. The current trend is to make work more attractive even if it is at the cost of general economic development.

The Community's economic and social policy should now take into account the whole range of factors which influence them."

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## PROTECTING FISH AND FISHERMEN

The alarm bells are ringing from Iceland to Grimsby : our fish reserves are in danger of becoming exhausted. The European Commission has, in response, drawn up new proposals to cover the Community's fishing zone. To be able to manage and conserve our fish stocks, strict measures have to be taken. No more overfishing, no more chaotic fishing regulations. Indiscriminate and uncontrolled fishing will no longer be tolerated.

Why such a reaction, and why such strict control? Neither ecologists nor avid herring eaters are interested in seeing complete species disappear from our oceans. The problem lies in the interests of fishermen themselves. The fishing industry is currently facing overcapacity which is likely to become worse. It is time for action and even if the necessary measures are painful - some fishing boats will without doubt be laid up in port, some fishermen will have to change their jobs - this is the price that has to be paid now, so that the Community will have a fishing industry in the future.

### Herring survival

The case of herring is a striking example. Unfortunately for the species, this little fish is one of the favourites of the Community gourmets, whether it is smoked, pickled or eaten when still small as "maatje" - one of the favourite dishes of the Dutch. The warning bells were signalled not long ago that if the herring continued to be fished without restriction, it would soon become as rare as the white whale. If a fish is not able to reproduce there will be no future generations. For this reason, it was decided to ban herring fishing at least in the North Sea and the Celtic Sea. To be safe, the Community's Council of Ministers has decided to continue this ban until the end of 1978. Though this measure will make the life of the fish a lot pleasanter, it will have the opposite effect on the life of the herring fisherman. During this transition period, the European Commission has proposed that the fishermen affected receive financial compensation.

### Fish conservation

The herring is not the only species in danger, and to preserve the Community's fish stock, fishing of all species has to be limited. The European Commission has consequently proposed an overall quota for 1978 (based on data provided by the reputable International Council for the Exploration of the Sea). It has also embarked on a plan to work out the shares for each Community country. This calculation has to take into account the particular needs of regions whose economy depends on the fishing industry. In addition to quotas, the Commission will

be introducing other more technical measures to conserve the fish stock. These measures will aim at restricting or banning fishing at certain times and in certain zones, will ban the use of certain types of fishing equipment, and will prescribe the minimum size of fish to be caught.

### Jobless fishermen

All this seems wholly rational from the landlubber viewpoint, but these restrictions will be coolly received by the men aboard the fishing boats. The fishermen will now have to add to the traditional ups and downs of their trade, the problem of having to adhere to detailed regulations. At worst, some of them will wish to abandon a trade which has been part of their family tradition, was part of their upbringing and is basically now in their blood, despite the terrible conditions at sea. The alternative will be a job in a factory or the queue at the labour exchange. How in the name of Community logic can such individual traumas be avoided?

The first remedy will be to direct fishermen towards the species which are underexploited or not fished at all, and towards new fishing grounds. Special premiums will be offered to encourage this. In addition, there will be certain publicity campaigns to promote the consumption of the new species. Another course will be to encourage fishing for human consumption rather than for industrial use.

Redirecting the fishing fleets will not be sufficient on its own. Money will have to be provided to compensate the fishermen temporarily thrown out of work and premiums will have to be offered to fishermen between 50 and 65 years to persuade them to voluntarily leave fishing and undertake vocational re-training courses.

The various measures to which the Community will be making a 50% contribution should add to the other restructuring measures which can be undertaken by the Community's Regional Fund, Social Fund or the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).

These measures will make the changeover problems less painful from the human point of view. The restrictions that have been proposed are severe and are amplified by the problems caused by extending national fishing zones to 200 miles. This new territory should, in principle, be accessible to all Community fishermen, though the UK and Ireland wish to introduce 50 mile exclusive fishing zones around their coasts. To resolve this delicate problem, the Council of Ministers will be meeting on December 5th next.

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