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As at the end of each year, the publication of Euroforum will cease for the holiday period. This year however, the next issue of Euroforum will not appear until January 28, 1979 to give us time to prepare the new format of Euroforum.

Next year will see the first direct elections of the European Parliament and Euroforum, which has been expanding its circulation continuously, will be further extended which will require a new layout, new printing arrangements and new distribution methods.

The first issue of the "new-look" Euroforum, N° 1/79, will be datelined January 28, 1979.



Too few forests in Europe? See page 3.

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*This bulletin, which is produced with journalists in mind, gives an informal account of Community activities. It does not necessarily reflect the official position of the Commission.*

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**++ FORESTS AND RAW MATERIALS**

Each person in the Community has an average of 600 m<sup>2</sup> of forest available to him. This is not a great deal considering the recreational possibilities it could offer and considering its important ecological role. Forests also have an important economic role since the Community lacks sufficiently extensive and productive wooded areas and is obliged to import more than half of its wood requirements.

The arguments for better coordination of forestry policies as proposed by the European Commission are presented in Annex 1.

**++ FAIR DEAL FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Amateur photography is on the increase and more than half the families in Europe own at least one camera. Professional photographers, by contrast, are finding it a bit difficult to make a decent living.

A number of measures have been proposed in a study drawn up for the European Commission, to give greater protection to this aspect of "cultural work". These are presented in Annex 2.

**++ REFUSE INTO COMPOST**

With the exception of the Netherlands, European countries make little use of a technique which can turn refuse into fertiliser. The compost produced by this process is also very saleable and can be used in agriculture and horticulture to provide the necessary biological balance in the soil and can be used as a foundation material in landscaping.

The conclusions of the study on composting are presented in Annex 3.

**++ COMPETITION : HEAVY FINE FOR KAWASAKI (UK)**

If you want to buy a Kawasaki motorbike in Belgium, you will pay 30% more than if you buy it in the United Kingdom. This was known to a Belgian motorcyclist who consequently tried to buy the bike of her dreams in England. Kawasaki UK refused to sell her one and she complained to the European Commission.

The enquiry which followed revealed that the retail price recommended in several Community countries was up to 50% higher than that in the UK. It also emerged that the wholesale price to German distributors was some 25% higher than the retail price recommended by Kawasaki Motors (UK) for sales to individuals in the United Kingdom.

It also became evident that the British firm Kawasaki Motors (UK) had imposed an export ban on its distributors since 1975. The aim of this was to protect the high prices being charged in other countries from parallel imports from British distributors, thereby preventing UK dealers from handling orders from other countries.

These practices have earned Kawasaki (UK) a heavy fine of 100 000 European units of account (1 EUA =  $\pm$  1.3 dollars) from the European Commission. The Commission welcomed the initiative taken by an individual in revealing a contravention of the Community's competition rules. A good example to the rest of Europe.

#### ++ AID TO THE REGIONS

Aid accorded by the Community to its regions in 1978 from its Regional Fund amounted to 562 million European units of account (1 EUA =  $\pm$  1.4 dollars). The aid was distributed as follows:

|                | (a)          | (b)          | (c)         | (d)           |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Belgium        | 1.39         | 4.76         | -           | 6.15          |
| Denmark        | -            | 5.58         | -           | 5.58          |
| Germany        | 25.33        | 23.40        | -           | 48.73         |
| France         | 29.68        | 44.68        | 8.27        | 82.63         |
| Ireland        | 14.91        | 16.61        | 3.43        | 34.95         |
| Italy          | 50.26        | 169.21       | 4.73        | 224.20        |
| Luxembourg     | -            | 0.50         | -           | 0.50          |
| Netherlands    | 5.52         | 2.66         | -           | 8.18          |
| United Kingdom | <u>57.50</u> | <u>91.03</u> | <u>2.93</u> | <u>151.46</u> |
| <u>Total</u>   | 184.59       | 358.43       | 19.36       | 562.38        |

- (a) Industrial, craft and service activities
- (b) Infrastructure
- (c) Infrastructure in farming and mountain areas
- (d) Total

**++ THE ALCOHOL LEAGUE**

In 1977, German beer drinkers beat all records and the French maintained their place at the top of the wine drinking league. Consumption for the Community countries was as follows:

|                | <u>Litres of beer</u> | <u>Litres of wine</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Germany        | 148.7                 | 23.4                  |
| Belgium        | 130.1                 | 17.5                  |
| Denmark        | 116.06                | 11.67                 |
| France         | 46.21                 | 100.91                |
| Ireland        | 126.2                 | 4.3                   |
| Italy          | 14                    | 93.5                  |
| Luxembourg     | 127                   | 49.3                  |
| Netherlands    | 83.90                 | 11.73                 |
| United Kingdom | 119.5                 | 5.41                  |

These figures are taken from a booklet published by the Dutch organisation "produktchap voor gedistilleerde dranken" on how much alcohol is drunk in the world. The work (in Dutch only) can be obtained from the organisation's office at Westmolenstraat 2, 3111 BS Schiedam, Netherlands.

**++ CONTROLLING GENETIC RESEARCH**

For the first time, the European Commission has proposed legislation in the field of scientific research into genetics.

Microbiologists have proved that it is possible to modify living cells and transfer genetic information in ways unknown to nature. After fragmenting the nucleic acid in a cell (DNA, the carrier of hereditary information fundamental to life) by way of enzymes, and introducing it into other cells, these can multiply to form identical units called clones and the characteristics of these clones will be completely changed.

Whilst manipulating the DNA code (deoxyribonucleic acid) may open up interesting possibilities for agriculture and industry, this type of work can be dangerous to man and the environment. Genetic changes can even be catastrophic in

the short and long term if they lead, for example, to a propagation of cancer, changes in the ecological balance, a break in the food chain etc. Fortunately, none of these dangers have been confirmed in practice up until now.

The European Commission is proposing a set of principles covering control procedures in certain areas of genetics. Based on these principles, Member States of the European Community should adopt safety legislation as they choose. The terms of the directive proposed by the Commission will be frequently revised in the light of scientific developments.

#### **++ YOUNG FISHERMEN**

Does the life of the fisherman attract young people? According to 1977 figures the situation varies according to country:

|             | <u>Total number of<br/>sea fishermen</u> | <u>Percentage under<br/>21 years</u> |
|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Belgium     | 1 326                                    | 22%                                  |
| Germany     | 4 949                                    | 6.6%                                 |
| France      | 28 852                                   | 6.4%                                 |
| Netherlands | 2 718                                    | 11.1%                                |

#### **++ COMMISSION AND STEEL**

The steel industry is in a state of crisis throughout the world. In the European Community serious efforts are being made to reorganise the industry and cope with the serious social and regional problems involved.

The European Commission has special responsibilities for the steel sector as a result of the treaty creating the European coal and steel community (ECSC) and the Commission has decided to hold a series of hearings over the coming months in the main steel areas, in cooperation with local and national authorities and trade unions. The aim is to define the new initiatives needed at the Community level to ensure suitable coordination of local or national efforts.

#### **++ EUROPE-CANADA MEETING ON ASBESTOS**

Asbestos, a material which is now extensively used in construction, presents a possible serious risk to health. Inhaling asbestos dust can lead to asbestosis, which causes the fibres of the lungs to degenerate and is an illness

which gets worse whether the patient is exposed to further asbestos or not. The outcome is often fatal, and there is currently no known treatment.

To precisely identify the risks involved and define actions to take, the European Commission recently organised a meeting of representatives from the Canadian government and industry, European industry and officials from the European Commission.

Following an exchange of information, the participants detailed the areas in which cooperation between the Community and Canada could accelerate the adoption of measures based on solid scientific fact.

#### ++ TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

The European Commission has just published a reference list of directives dealing with the removal of technical barriers to trade. It lists the directives already adopted by the Council of Ministers and others which are at the proposal stage. The work is published by the Community's office of publications entitled "Recapitulatory list of directives and proposals of directives relating to the elimination of technical barriers to trade for industrial product in the Community" (ref : CB-25-78-001-EN-C) priced £2.

#### EUROFORUM CARTOONIST AWARDED EUROPEAN PRESS PRIZE

Michel Matagne, who has drawn the front page cartoons for Euroforum over the last four years has just been awarded the "European Press Prize 1978" by the Antwerp section of the Union of European Federalists. His work has been, in the words of the Federalists, "a valuable factor in the campaign we have been conducting for European unification".

The prize will be presented to Michel Matagne at the session of the "Senat d'honneur europeen", on February 17 coming, at the Maison Osterrieth in Antwerp.

FORESTS AND RAW MATERIALS

Less than 1% of the earth's forests are located within the European Community and even amongst the EEC partners the distribution of wooded land is very unbalanced as shown by the following figures (amount of wooded land per head) :

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| France         | 0.23 |
| Luxembourg     | 0.24 |
| Italy          | 0.12 |
| Germany        | 0.12 |
| Denmark        | 0.09 |
| Ireland        | 0.09 |
| Belgium        | 0.06 |
| United Kingdom | 0.04 |
| Netherlands    | 0.02 |

(Sweden by contrast has 2.4 hectares per head).

Ecological function

Forests have a principal role to play in the conservation and protection of the human environment:

- they retain the soil and help prevent soil erosion by water and wind;
- they reduce the risk of floods and droughts by acting as a sponge to absorb water and then release it slowly;
- they provide a home for fauna and flora : even small forests contain several thousand different living organisms. Certain forests also constitute unique "gene banks" whose value is just beginning to be recognised by genetic researchers;
- they help regulate the carbonic acid cycle;
- they help retain sand dunes and can (in the case of motorways etc.) act as a screen against wind and noise;
- finally they are an important element in the variety and beauty of our countryside and offer the population the chance of enjoying nature and finding areas for recreation and relaxation.



### Wood production

The forests supply wood - one of the rare renewable raw materials - without causing pollution. Wood production in the European Community has hovered around 80 million m<sup>3</sup> over the last twenty years, with the largest producers being Germany (32 million m<sup>3</sup>) and France (30 million) in 1974.

The Community, however, consumes more than this and at least half of our requirements for wood and derived products have to be met by imports. Every Community country is a net importer and the Community trade deficit in this sector amounts to 8 billion European units of account per year (1 EUA = approx. 1.3 dollars) which is only exceeded by the oil deficit.

Demand for wood which has almost doubled over the last 25 years should continue to increase by over 2% per year till the end of the century. Community production by contrast will only increase by about 1% per year. Europe will have to import more wood but will it be able to get hold of the quantities it needs? Increasingly it will be competing with other buyers from developing countries where the current low level of consumption is expected to accelerate.

The conclusion is evident : the Community needs to produce more wood itself. The way to do this is as follows:

- harvest more wood;
- increase the production potential of existing forests (better management and plantation techniques);
- plant trees on unused land (that which is marginal for agriculture);
- utilise wood more effectively and recycle wood derivatives (saw mill wastes, and, in particular, paper).

### Who owns the forests?

In the Community 60% of the forests are privately owned and the other 40% are managed by the State and other public bodies. The proportion of public forests is relatively high in Germany, the United Kingdom and Ireland. France has a large area of public forests but this only represents a small proportion of the total wooded land.

The Community's public forests are generally open to the public though access to private forests varies from country

to country. Generally, Europeans are not over-endowed with forests in which they can stroll. Each European has on average only 600 m<sup>2</sup> at his/her disposal. This figure varies from country to country : from 2 400 m<sup>2</sup> in Luxembourg to 150 m<sup>2</sup> in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Of the Community's 31 million hectares of forest, only 16 million are open to the public and used for recreation.

The different types of ownership cause another problem. Public forests are managed effeciently by an administration of highly qualified forestry officials and wardens, and new policies and technical innovations can easily be introduced. As for private forests, though certain of them are amongst the best managed in the world, the quality of their management is on average less good than in public forests. The reasons for this are : lack of motivation for an activity which is not well rewarded, management difficulties when the forests are small and, in certain cases, lack of knowledge about forestry economics.

In the case of privately owned forests two principles seem desirable : in the first place the appropriate information has to be made available (technical advice, information on available grants, etc.) On the other hand the inconveniences of small-scale operations need to be eliminated by the creation of associations for forestry owners and companies who manage the forests and the harvests.

### Three objectives

Following its report to the Council of Ministers on the different aspects of forestry policy, the European Commission has just proposed a resolution aimed at improving the coordination of national policies. Such coordination should, according to the Commission, be guided by three objects to be jointly pursued:

- increase the production of wood for economic uses;
- conserve and improve the environment;
- provide public access to forests for recreative purposes.

To provide a framework for coordination between the King's forestry policies, the Commission proposes creating a forestry committee which would have a consultative role.

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## FAIR DEAL FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

In Europe the camera is a common-place object and photographic equipment is owned by one family in two. In countries such as France, the average is around 60% and as high in 75% in households with one or more children. Photography is not just a weekend hobby - it is also a profession which provides a livelihood (good or bad) for some 22 000 persons in the Community.

Photographers are essentially "cultural workers" and need protection. The question is how to save both photographic quality and creativity. These two questions have been examined in a detailed study undertaken for the European Commission by Mr. Wladimir Duchemin, director of France's artistic rights society "SPADEM". The report which is discussed below, represents the views of the author and not necessarily those of the European Commission.

### Categories of photographers

Amongst professional photographers are:

- portrait photographers. For a long time public demand was limited to portrait photography and it still provides much of the photographer's "bread and butter", often being complemented by a small photographic supplies business.
- advertising and fashion photography, whose importance can be gauged by perusing a few magazines and newspapers.
- industrial photography. In industry, photos are taken either by staff photographers or by free-lancers specialised in taking technical photos : machines, workshops, factories etc.
- press photography and reporter photographers. In the press there are journalists who present their stories by way of photos. An on-the-spot action shot can convey the impact of a story and often be more striking than the accompanying article. In the USA photo-stories have been used from the outset as a social tool. Brady and his colleagues were busy taking photos during the civil war to ensure that war would never be wished upon the country again. Around 1900 it was photographic surveys which induced the demolition of the New York slums.
- documentary photographers. Being less concerned with scoops, these photographers prefer less dramatic photos, ones which are deeper and convey aspects of life in modern society. With the exception of the leaders in this field, most find it difficult to market their work.

On the way out?

A distinction needs to be made between staff photographers who are better protected than the self-employed, and the free-lance photographers who, with the exception of a few successful individuals endure a low and precarious standard of living. They also have to face increasingly threatening competition from amateurs who are not subject to the same tax and financial regulations. The number of free-lance photographers in the Community has dropped by 10-15% in recent years.

No precise legal code

Striking differences in legislation covering photographers exist within the Community. There is in fact no precise legal code in any Community country. In certain cases, Belgium in particular, access to the profession is protected but there are no restrictions in France, Italy or Denmark for example.

It is consequently very urgent, in Mr. Duchemin's view, for the Community to respond to the efforts of professional groups and organise better protection for photographers within the European Community - the future of many photographers could depend on it. In France, for example, where photographers have been organising themselves in recent times to strengthen their rights, their clients have started turning to neighbouring countries. They are thereby able to exploit the disparities in legislation and the lack of protection for photographers in other countries.

A new impulse should be given to the European photography industry and the free movement of photographers within the Community should be made a reality, stresses Mr. Duchemin.

Harmonise and simplify

It is also necessary, according to Mr. Duchemin, to harmonise national legislations. They should be based on a simple and practical system.

To achieve this it is necessary to:

- protect all categories of photographer without exception;
- recognise the photographer's right to exclusive rights over his work, including reproduction rights, representation rights and lending rights;

- recognising the moral rights covering crediting, and respect for photographs;
- limiting the duration of these rights to a period which is reasonable and easy to establish;
- encouraging the public management and control over these rights.

Any photographer should be able to make sufficient earnings from the exploitation of his work.

An autonomous system of protection, as is applied in Denmark, could, in Mr. Duchemin's view, provide the most equitable solution for the Community.

#### The Danish example

Legislation in Denmark takes into account the particular nature of photography - both the technical and intellectual aspects. It contains special provisions aimed at protecting photographers. The photographer is defined not as a creator but as "he who produces a photographic image", which gives the photographer more control over his rights when drawing up contracts.

In all cases however, Danish legislation limits the exclusive rights of photographers by making the reproduction of photographs lawful, though it specifies that remuneration is due to the "producer" of photographic images when the works appear in public exhibitions, in works for educational use, in journals, on television. In the latter case, TV producers may not take film of photographs without prior authorisation from the photographer.

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Legislative differences between Community countries need to be removed and the provisions simplified so as to reinforce photographers' rights. This could facilitate the diffusion of photos throughout the European Community. With Community help the photographer could regain his creative position and add to Europe's cultural dimension.

## REFUSE INTO COMPOST

In centuries gone by a town's refuse would be taken away on carts by farmers and spread on the fields as fertiliser. There is no chance of this happening today, however, since our country dwellers would have to cope with the 250-300 kilos of paper, food waste, plastic packaging, textiles and metal thrown away by each inhabitant in the European Community each year.

Interest in this method of disposing of city waste is on the increase and the European Commission has had experts studying the techniques of processing waste into fertiliser or compost, examining the advantages, the limitations and measures needed to make it practicable.

### Dumping, burying, burning

Composting is not greatly used in Community countries and whilst the Dutch deal with 18% of their refuse in this way, most other countries are not as advanced. Germany only converts 2% of its refuse into compost.

The largest part of our consumer refuse (more than 50%) is simply "thrown away" - often in a haphazard fashion, or stored in "ad hoc" places using methods which provide limited guarantees of environmental safety. The main inconvenience of this system is that too much space is taken up.

Incineration is the second (by quantity) method used in European countries and whilst this resolves the problem of volume, the cost of the incineration plants is high and there is still the problem of disposing with the residual ash.

When the energy released during this operation can be utilised, the process can become economic, particularly in large cities with a high turnover of refuse.

### Turning refuse into compost

The main interest in the compost method compared to the other two methods is that it enables products which are no longer useful for anything to be turned into something useful and saleable since the compost can be used as fertiliser in farming.

The basis of the process is simple fermentation, which can be applied to all organic waste (vegetal and animal wastes) under certain conditions of humidity, heat, light and oxygen. When for example dustbins are not cleaned regularly, mould forms in the bin and produces micro organisms (bacteria, mushrooms, etc.) - the principal agents which decompose waste and produce humus. After about six months the organic

waste becomes usable as a raw material.

#### Plant food, soil balance

The final product of this biological chemical and physical process is compost which is rich in the various substances needed by the soil to feed plants and agricultural crops, e.g. mineral salts, nitrogen, etc. The organisms provide the earth with a proper balance, and by ensuring this ecological balance in the soil, the use of compost can help keep parasites at bay and other products harmful to the environment. Also, organically healthy soil absorbs more of the minerals which it needs and this itself can lead to economic savings.

#### Dumping waste

The composting process requires a number of operations which can in some conditions reduce its economic and ecological advantages.

Refuse has to be transported by special wagons to the composting centres which are usually run by local or regional authorities. Transport is expensive and to ensure the cost is not prohibitive, the centres need to be near to the source of refuse.

In factories, the refuse has to be put into large silos and mixed with sewage sludge. This sludge, which is produced by the sewage works for household or industrial waste water, introduces the appropriate humidity and nitrogen needed for fermentation. The liquid has to be agitated several times during fermentation, and the process can be accelerated by more sophisticated systems.

#### Eliminating foreign bodies

Next it is necessary (though this operation can also be introduced before fermentation) to remove the undesirable elements i.e. the materials which will not ferment and are not good for fertiliser e.g. glass (10% of waste) synthetic materials (3%) and metals.

These foreign bodies must be removed and disposed of, and this can pose new problems. This is why they are often crushed or pulverised into fine particles and mixed with the compost, though this reduces the quality of the compost as a fertiliser. The separation and pulverisation of such materials cause complications which are often put forward as arguments against composting.

It seems however that though the proportion of plastics, glass and metal has greatly increased since the war, partly due to the advent of the supermarket, quantities are currently stabilising.

#### The use of compost

There are two benefits for the soil:

- intensive crop cultivation requires fertiliser with good nutritive and balancing qualities, in particular for fruit, mushrooms, vines and also for horticulture and certain species of trees.

Though some farmers are reluctant to use compost, this is mainly due to the lack of precise standards on composition, and the quality can be highly variable, making it sometimes not suitable for agricultural use.

Some are concerned about the presence of toxic materials in compost, essentially heavy metals arising from industrial wastes and polycyclic aromatics in city waste.

- on the other hand there are no obstacles to the use of compost in landscaping, where it can be used as a base for creating parks, sports fields, municipal gardens. It can also be used to add greenery to motorways and open spaces.

#### European quality norms

Compost is of particular interest since it can make waste valuable and turn it into a product which can be sold.

Composting is not however the miracle solution; the type of waste, the quantity, the size of the borough or town, the proximity of processing centres are all factors which need to be carefully considered before choosing the optimum disposal process.

In agricultural regions where the refuse tends to be more "ecological" than in cities, and where the volume of waste cannot justify the expense of incinerators, it could be highly beneficial.

It is also necessary that the process can be used in the right conditions, that the process is simple, the end product is of good quality and will not pollute the soil, and that there is effective marketing to find outlets.



These requirements, maintain the authors of the study undertaken for the Commission, call for Community legislation on composting processes and on the quality of the end product. This will avoid any nasty surprises for the end users.

This study, which is just being published by the Community's office for publications, will be available in the coming months as a "EUR" report.

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