Euroforum

Stars, and rising stars, among the candidates. See page 3.

E 6/79
6-4-1979

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Euroforum is published by:

Directorate-General for Information,
Commission of the
European Communities,
Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Bruxelles,
Belgium
Tel. 735.0040/8040

Editor-in-chief: Peter Doyle

Stars, and rising stars, among the candidates

Former Prime Ministers, fresh faces in politics, ecologists and a number of other attractive candidates are now in the running for the 410 seats in the new European Parliament.

It won't be until after the votes are counted in June that the voters throughout Europe will know who will represent them in the first directly-elected Parliament. But it is already clear that they will have a lot to chose from when they cast their votes from June 7 to 10, in what is probably the first such international election in history.

This unique political campaign is now in full swing throughout the Nine European Community countries. Colourful posters have begun to draw attention to the elections, major political parties have closed ranks with their neighbours to form Community-wide groupings, campaign programmes have been drawn up and the mass media are devoting more and more attention to this unusual event. In some countries, such as the United Kingdom and France, the subject of the European Parliament elections has already become a lively and spirited national issue.

But it will be candidates as much as anything that will provide the spark for the elections themselves as well as determining the nature of the new European Parliament. While the newly-elected Parliament will not have any additional powers that the existing appointed Parliament lacks, many observers feel that this new breed of European political figure will at least plunge with enthusiasm into the task of exercising their role as the democratic representatives of the public in the European Community machinery.

And with candidates of the calibre of former heads of government like Willy Brandt, Jacques Chirac, Emilio Colombo and Leo Tindemans standing as candidates for the elections and probably sitting in the Parliament, the institution should be blessed with articulate, prestigious and powerful members.

In the coming final weeks of the campaign effort, the electors will become increasingly familiar with the lists their parties—and some new ones—will be presenting.
In virtually all cases there is a welcome blend of the well-known and ilustrious, and the new blood that make politics such an exciting pastime.

The big Community countries have included some of both. Among the candidates in Britain are Sir Henry Plumb, who formerly was the head of the farmers' organization; Basil de Ferranti, the industrialist who is the past President of the Community Economic and Social Committee, and former Labour Minister Barbara Castle.

In France, the party lists will be headed by some of most popular party leaders, such as Jacques Chirac, former Prime Minister and now Mayor of Paris; Socialist leader François Mitterrand; Communist leader Georges Marchais; current Health Minister Simone Veil, and a number of other proven vote-getters.

Germans will find former Chancellor Willy Brandt and trade union leaders Heinz Oskar Vetter and Eugen Loderer on the ballot, along with Hanz Katzer, former Minister of Labour, and Martin Bangemann, who is already one of the most active members of the present European Parliament.

Other former Prime Ministers in the running include Emilio Colombo, in Italy; Leo Tindemans, in Belgium, and the current Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Gaston Thorn. Holland will have current members of the Parliament such as Cornelis Berkhouwer, one of its former Presidents, and Piet Dankert, and Ireland has former Ministers Richie Ryan and Mark Clinton on the ballot. Denmark also has its share of well-known personalities such as Poul Møller and Niels Haagerup.

While these familiar names may attract the most attention at this stage of the campaign, there is also ample representation of new names and faces, either on the main party tickets or among the new parties. There are also a number of civil servants from the Community institutions standing as candidates.

One of the most interesting political developments in recent years has been the emergence of the so-called 'Green Parties' whose members are devoted to the cause of preserving the environment. After surprising successes in a number of local and national elections, a number of national ecological parties have also indicated they will be fighting for seats in the European Parliament as well.

All these men and women, once elected will then become the representatives of their constituencies, just like members of any other Parliament. How they perform will be watched not only by the press and the body politic in their home countries and in Europe, but should also be a matter of direct concern to the voters who elected them.

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Euroforum (Circulation),
Berl. 2/68,
Commission
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Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels.

IN BRIEF

The European Parliament has re-elected Emilio Colombo as its president until the new elected membership takes its seats after the June elections.

PERSONALITIES

Jean Monnet, the Father of Europe, dies, aged 90

Jean Monnet, the man most often described as the 'father of the European Community' has died at the age of 90. Following the death of Mr Monnet, who made the construction of the Community virtually his life's work, Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, said that the Community was his greatest memorial.

With the exception of a few years spent overseeing his family's renowned cognac business in France, Mr Monnet spent practically his entire life in the cause of international cooperation.

In both world wars he served as an intermediary between France and its allies striving to organize supply and production efforts. Shortly after both wars he also helped nations in their rebuilding effort—firstly with Austria, Poland and Romania after the first war and in his native France after the second. At one point he held the post of Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

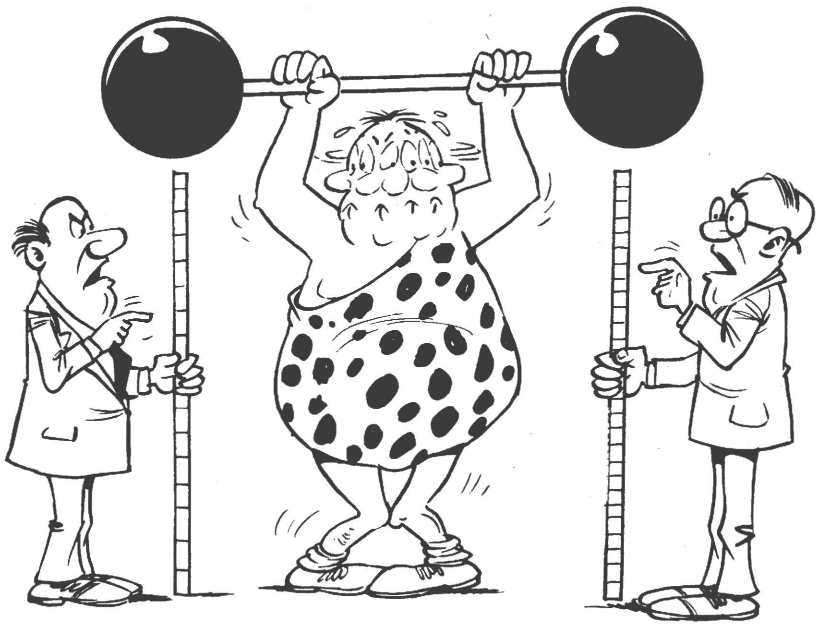
It was in the 1940s and 1950s that he set in motion some of his main ideas concerning international integration. After the war, he drafted and promoted the concept of the creation of a European coal and steel pool, which was subsequently proposed by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman and which became the forerunner of the European Communities.

He eventually became the first head of the European Coal and Steel Community, a post he later resigned to return to private life in order to work on his ideas for closer European integration. He was the founder and head for many years until his recent retirement of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe.

IN BRIEF

Scotch whisky is currently helping the Community's balance of payments to the tune of around £ 335 million. Many hangovers separate it from cognac, the second biggest spirit seller abroad, which is currently earning around £ 94 million.

REDUCING BARRIERS



Putting your best metre forward

What do the letters kg, mol, cd and ft have in common? They are all symbols for units of measurement, of course. Every schoolboy knows kg and ft. Mol (mole) and cd (candela) measure the amount of substance and luminous intensity respectively.

But if the Community's Council of Ministers adopts a European Commission proposal only the first three will continue to be legal; poor old ft will have to give way eventually to m (metres).

What the Commission wants to do is to introduce the same units of measurement throughout the Community. Not in order to satisfy its bureaucratic instincts but to make life easier for housewives and manufacturers and safer for industrial workers.

The use of a single system of measurements in all member countries will make trade between them easier. It will also do away with complicated conversion operations.

However, during the transitional period the units to be phased out will appear alongside the others, although generally in smaller print.

Sadly, the curie and röntgen, tributes to two famous scientists, will disappear by 1985. But units dear to British hearts, such as the inch, fathom and troy ounce, could be around in the 1990's.

The Commission is not inventing its own system of measurements, of course. The units which it hopes to make legal throughout the Community are international, in fact, having been adopted by the General Conference on Weights and Measures, of which all nine Community countries are members.

The UK, for example, decided to switch over to this international, or SI, system well before it joined the Community.

This will not be the first Community law harmonizing units of measurement; the first was adopted in 1971, before the enlargement in 1973 which brought the UK, Ireland and Denmark into the Community.

All is not lost in the world of the wastemakers

In a world in which many raw materials are in short supply and the cost of commodities is on the increase, it makes sense to conserve materials such as metal, paper, rubber, glass and plastic.

And yet, despite the fact that a high proportion of waste materials arising from the manufacturing industry is already reclaimed, the Nine European Community countries together discard annually between 49 and 66 million tons of assorted industrial materials.

This figure does not even include the 40-60 million tons per annum (tpa) of food waste arising from domestic kitchens, agriculture and the food industry, or residues from mining such as colliery spoil (approx. 160 million tpa), metal mine tailings (30-35 million tpa), metallurgical slags (5-10 million tpa) and pulverised fuel ash-PFA (approx. 10 million tpa).

Waste on this scale not only poses major environmental problems but can also give rise to balance of payments problems in view of Europe's dependence on imports to satisfy many of its raw material needs.

Would it not be possible to recover and re-use much of this waste material or is the cost of reclamation prohibitive?

A report, 'The Economics of Recycling', just published by the European Commission shows that, for most materials, there is at least one recovery route where the potential value of the material recovered is likely to exceed the costs involved.

Waste arising in the Community each year has a potential value which is probably in excess of £5 billion. Overall, the report estimates, savings in imports could be in the order of £2.5-3.5 billion out of a total Community import bill of some £100 billion, a not insignificant amount.

Nor are the benefits of recycling confined to import savings. The report maintains that considerable energy savings can be achieved by making use of secondary raw materials while at the same time reducing the environmental damage arising from the extraction of primary resources and the disposal of waste.

But the report warns that, in the absence of fiscal or regulatory measures designed to increase the financial attractions of recycling, a large proportion of potentially valuable waste materials will continue to be discarded.

At present, many obstacles stand in the way of greater and more effective recycling. To begin with, European industry in general is not geared to accepting secondary raw materials. In addition, technical considerations often mitigate against the use of secondary raw materials or prevent their efficient reclamation.

Organizational difficulties also loom large: it is difficult to persuade individual householders to separate recoverable materials from domestic waste while waste handlers themselves (local authorities and private contractors) have historically been primarily interested in waste disposal rather than recycling.

The report makes a number of recommendations to encourage further reclamation in Europe:

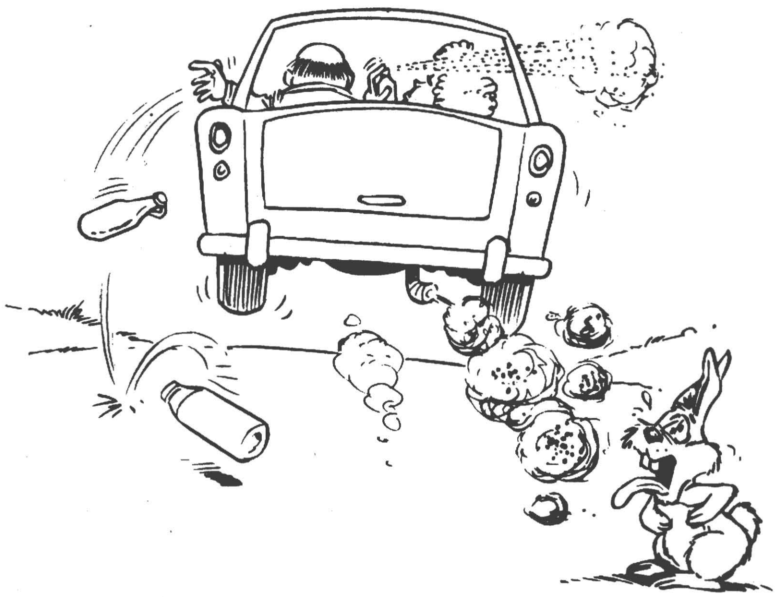
— there should be procurement policies to increase the proportion of secondary materials used in products;

— industry should be asked to co-operate in laying down specifications for reclaimed materials and products and the categories of uses to which these could be put. At the same time there should be publicity to inform industrial and domestic users about these standards;

— there should be financial incentives to encourage further reclamation and the possibility of discriminatory taxes should be considered;

— information on the incidence of waste, methods of recovery, etc. should be collated and disseminated. Here the report recommends that the European Commission set up information centres to assist waste producers, handlers, secondary materials processors and users. These centres would provide information on collection schemes, recovery methods, availability of materials for recovery, etc.

— the Commission should promote research into materials recovery, including separation and upgrading techniques and uses for secondary materials.



Given the strategic and trade implications of reclamation to individual Member States and for Europe as a whole, the report concludes that the Community should set up a Waste Reclamation Committee with the task of drawing up and implementing a Waste Reclamation Programme.

The Community in fact has a Committee on Waste Management which has been active in bringing together 'waste exchanges' from the Member States. These exchanges provide a forum for buyers and sellers of industrial waste and give advice to companies on waste disposal.

The Community is currently funding research in the field of waste paper recycling and re-use and also in the field of packaging (use of more easily recyclable material, development of packaging products with lower material/unit volume ratios, re-use and recycling of containers, etc.).

CONSUMERS

Community-wide ban on killer lamps sought

European customers who bought a certain make of attractive liquid-filled lamps or ashtrays naturally had no idea that these bright, decorative additions to their homes would prove to be dangerous and even lethal.

It was not until a number of cases occurred in various European countries in which the containers were broken, the liquid escaped and gave off fumes leading to unconsciousness or death that investigators connected the cause and effect.

By then one Belgian youth had already died as a result and a number of other victims had been injured.

Moving quickly, the French Government in August 1978 imposed an urgent ban of one year on the sale, production or importing of the potentially deadly lamps, ashtrays and other decorations. A Belgian decree in November also struck out against the lamps after they had claimed one life. The German Government is also looking into the need for similar restrictions.

The warning signal from the French authorities was also sent to the European Commission in Brussels with the recommendation that a similar crackdown be applied throughout the Community countries. The European Commission is now asking for just that.

Because there already exists a Community-wide law on the books which restricts the sale of certain dangerous products or substances, the Commission feels that action could be taken quickly in view of the urgency involved.

It has therefore asked the Council of Ministers to add the chemical substances in the products involved to the list of prohibited substances throughout the Community. The lamps, ashtrays and other decorations contain either tetrachloride, tri- or tetrachloroethylene.

While proper procedures, such as the consultation of the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament still have to be observed, the Commission wants the Council of Ministers to complete action and adopt the prohibition by June 30 of this year.

TAXATION

Italian taxman sets a premium for drivers

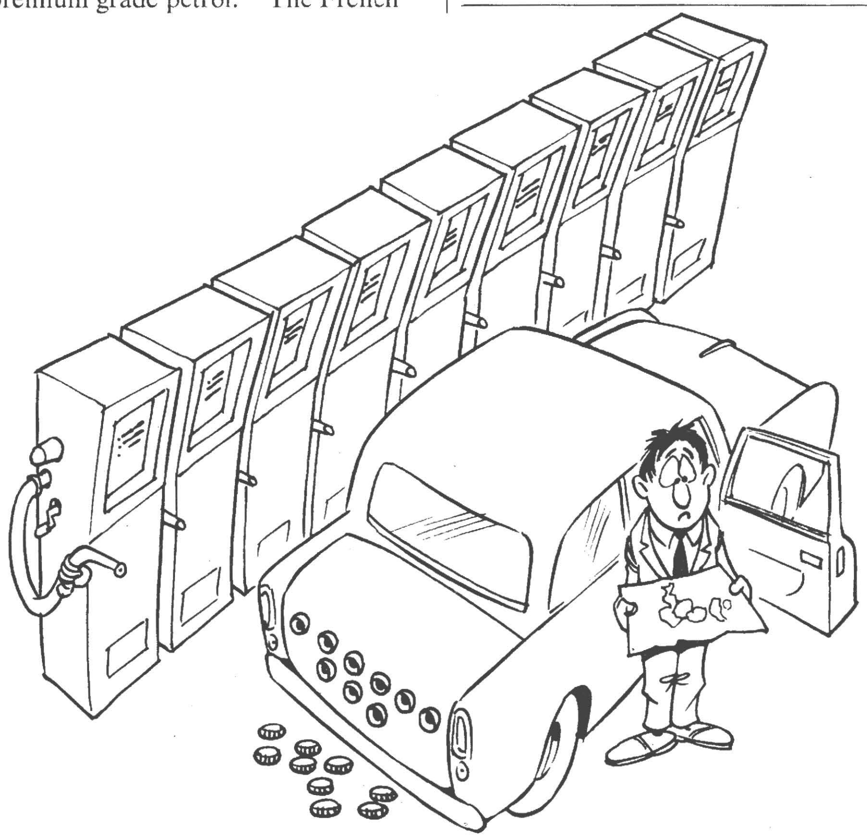
When motorists complain about the price of petrol they usually blame the oil sheikhs. Yet in seven of the Nine Community Member States government taxes account for over half the price.

The two exceptions are the United Kingdom and Luxembourg but even there the share of taxes in the retail price of petrol is only marginally under 50%.

The Italian motorist is the worst hit. Taxes in the form of excise duty and VAT make up 71% of the cost of premium grade petrol. The French motorist is only slightly better off—68% of the price of petrol is made up of taxes.

Our table shows the tax percentage in the final retail price of 4 Star (Premium) petrol, as well the cost of 100 litres.

Country	%	Cost	
		EUA	£
Italy	71.2	44.16	29.58
France	67.9	48.24	32.32
Denmark	61.7	42.60	28.54
Belgium	58.5	43.00	28.81
Netherlands	57.7	42.59	28.53
Germany	57.6	37.56	25.16
Ireland	56.2	30.23	20.26
United Kingdom	49.3	25.77	17.27
Luxembourg	47.3	33.62	22.52



Unequal treatment of women may lead to legal showdown

Women may, in law, be equal to men, but some are less equal than others. The inequality of treatment suffered by many working women was spotlighted in a recent issue of EURO-FORUM (2/79).

Now the European Commission, which is responsible for monitoring the application of Community laws, has decided to begin the first stage of legal proceedings against Member States which are not facing up to their obligations to working women.

The two Community laws in question are one which came into force in 1976 and which was designed to guarantee women the same pay as men for the same work or for work of equal value; and a second which was due to be incorporated into the nine national laws last August guaranteeing women the same opportunities as men when they look for a job, for promotion or for training, as well as guaranteeing them comparable working conditions.

The Commission has now decided that as many as seven out of the Nine Member States are not applying the first law properly. These countries are Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, France, Belgium and the United Kingdom. The exceptions are Ireland and Italy.

According to the Commission, different countries fall down on their obligations in different ways. For example, the Danes recognize equal pay for equal work but not for work of equal value. In the Netherlands, women in the public service are excluded. In a number of other countries special allowances such as 'head of household' are paid to men but not to women.

In the case of the second law, action is to be taken against Germany and the Netherlands which have not yet incorporated the Community law into national law. While the other Member States have done so, the Commission is examining each national law in detail to ensure that it conforms with the Community law.

So what happens now? In both cases, the Commission writes to the governments concerned, inviting them to reply within 60 days. The Commission may then, if it considers it necessary, issue a reasoned opinion detailing the action that the government should take to conform to Community law. If this action is not taken within a specified time the Commission can take the matter before the Court of Justice.

Both the Member State governments and the Commission are generally anxious to avoid allowing a matter to go so far and differences are frequently settled at an early stage of the proceedings. If a matter does go as far as the Court, all parties concerned naturally accept its judgment as final.

Helping the needy: a question of national priorities

Social security systems offering a wide range of benefits exist in every European Community country, but some have different priorities than others.

The United Kingdom spends a higher share on pensions (43% of total social security benefits) than any other country. Belgium with 38%, France (37%) and Luxembourg (37%) also distribute sizable amounts under this heading. On the other hand, in Germany the figure is just 28%. All other countries devote just under a third of their benefits to helping their old people.

The other major item of expenditure in any social security scheme is sickness benefit—an area to which Ireland in particular appears to attach great importance, spending 35% of its benefits in this area. Most other countries show a remarkable similarity, with between 24 and 30%.

If, however, you are a surviving dependent, then you might prefer to be in Germany or Luxembourg. Each country spends 15% of its benefits under this heading. For other Member States the figure varies between 1% (Denmark, Ireland and Belgium) and 6% (France and Italy).

Belgium and France, however, are the countries that attach the greatest importance to children, spending 14% and 13% respectively on family allowances. Elsewhere in the Community the figure varies between 9 and 11%.

The emphasis placed on unemployment benefits also shows considerable differences from country to country. It takes up 10% of the social security budget in Ireland and Denmark, 8% in Belgium, but only 2% in Italy, 3% in Germany and 4% in France. For the Netherlands and the UK the figure is 6%.

One of the greatest disparities between the Nine occurs on invalidity. Italy and the Netherlands consider state help so important that they spend respectively 18 and 13% of their total social security budget under this heading. In all other countries spending ranges between 5 and 8%.

But how is all this expenditure funded? Generally, three major sources—firms, central government and the citizens themselves—provide the vast majority of the funds. This is topped up by local government, social security and miscellaneous finance.

It is undoubtedly the firms themselves that make the greatest contributions, with an average throughout the Community of 36%, which is expected to increase to 38% in 1980. The range is from 6% in Denmark to 52% in Italy and 46% in France. Belgium and Germany are around the Community average, while the Netherlands, United Kingdom and

Luxembourg hover around the 28% mark.

Central government is the largest contributor in the three newest Community countries, providing 59% in Ireland, 56% in Denmark and 41% in the United Kingdom. In the remaining members its contributions range from 22% in the Netherlands to 38% in Belgium and Luxembourg.

The only country to depend to any significant extent on local government finance is Denmark, where it supplies 32% of social security receipts. In no other country is it more than 7%, while in Ireland it is only 1%.

The heaviest burden on the individual is in the Netherlands where he provides about one third of total social security income. Contributions are also fairly hefty in Germany, (27%), Luxembourg (25%), France (22%) and Belgium (21%). In Italy, Ireland and the United Kingdom, it is around 15%, while in Denmark it is no more than 2%.

Finding work for the handicapped

Six of the Nine European Community Member States have laws obliging employers to take on handicapped workers, the European Parliament was told at a recent sesion.

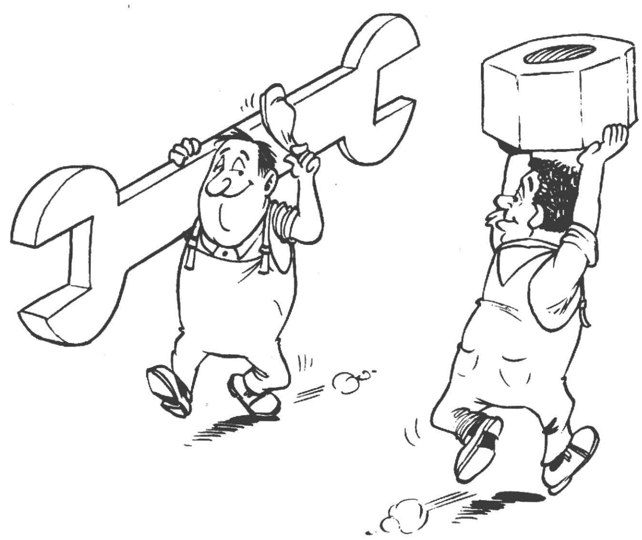
Commissioner Henk Vredeling, who is responsible for social affairs, said that the proportions of the total work force varied between 2% in Luxembourg and 15% in Italy.

However, the quotas are not fully respected in any Member State. The strictest application of the law is in Germany.

Apart from Luxembourg, Germany and Italy, the other three Member States which have passed laws to ensure that a certain proportion of handicapped workers are given jobs are the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands.

Mr. Vredeling said that Belgium had a law imposing an obligation on employers in principle but he said that he knew of no fixed quota.

YOUTH



Chance to find out how the other 8/9ths live and work

Building a united Europe depends not only on closer contacts between politicians and bureaucrats but also between young working people whose vote at election time could be decisive.

Since a first programme was adopted in 1964 more than 1500 young workers have taken part in Community exchange schemes. At the same time about 25 000 have taken part in private exchange schemes.

The Treaty of Rome specifically provided for the launching of a Community programme to provide vocational training, improve job prospects and encourage the free movement of workers within the Nine Member States.

The first exchanges lasted up to six months which was generally longer than the private exchange schemes. They thus enabled people to gain a better idea of living and working conditions in the other Member States.

However the results of the Community's first programme were disappointing. There was not enough publicity. Only a small number of people took part and the impact was slight. Because of the economic recession young people were cautious about risking their jobs by going away on a six months course. They were also often at a disadvantage because they did not know the language or had not been briefed about the host country.

Over the past two years the European Commission has carried out a number of test projects to see how the programme could be improved. Armed with these results it has now proposed a second joint programme to take effect from 1 July 1979. £435 000 would be provided this year. This amount would be doubled in 1980 and tripled in 1981.

The new programme will consist of long courses lasting from 4-8 months and short courses from 3 weeks to 3 months. In the second half of 1979 the Commission will organize 200 long and 250 short courses. This will be increased to 500 and 1 000 respectively in 1981.

The Commission will provide £100 per month for each trainee on a long course and £57 for each trainee on a short course. In addition the Commission will provide £83 per week for each trainee taking a language course. It will also pay 75% of travel expenses.

Many more pepole will be encouraged to take part in the new programme wich will be open to young workers aged 16 to 28. So as to favour workers who have not benefitted from higher education the courses will only be open to those who have not studied beyond the age of 20. In the first programme farm workers and savings and credit bank staff were the main participants. Many other types of workers are expected to take part in the new programme.

'oint efforts can ›ave the way to high technology

High technology may not be the stuff that dreams are made of. Nor do most of us lie awake at night worrying whether or not our scientists are keeping ahead of the opposition.

Yet, in this highly-competitive world, the knowledge that our society holds a lead in the field of technology could be just the pill that will in the future help us all to get a good night's sleep.

With the industrialisation in recent years of developing countries which have lower labour costs and cheaper raw materials than are available in Europe, it is becoming increasingly obvious that we can only hope to survive by developing, to borrow a phrase, 'good old European know-how.'

Yet it is not as easy as it sounds nowadays. Technology only comes as the result of research. And esearch is costly, particularly for small countries.

That is where the European Community can help. Its Nine Member States, big and small, can, by pooling their research funds, effort and knowledge, take on bigger and more complicated projects which they could not contemplate tackling alone.

For this purpose, the Community has ıts own Joint Research Centre (JRC) with four permanent research facilities at Ispra (Italy), Karlsruhe (Germany), Geel (Belgium) and Petten (Netherlands).

For a number of years these centres have been carrying out their own research, particularly in the field of energy, and have been helping to coordinate research being done in individual Member States.

To enable this valuable work to continue, the European Commission has just proposed to the Council of ⁄inisters which must agree to make he funds available a new four-year programme for the 1980-83 period.

The main thrust of the programme would be in helping to ensure greater nuclear safety and in discovering new forms of energy, both subjects which have been the focus of attention for the Community's researchers in recent years.

In the field of nuclear safety, which is certainly something most of us worry about, work would concentrate on light water reactors and fast breeder reactors, as well as the plutonium fuel cycle, the problems of the permanent storage of radioactive waste and the improvement of the management of fissile materials.

The development of solar energy would be a feature of the programme covering new energy sources. This includes the improvement of solar power plants, assisting industry to make use of the new technology, new processes for the conversion and storage of solar energy, and 'Project Habitat' which would study the use of solar energy all the year round in industry, agriculture and in the home.

The four-year programme would also look at better ways of protecting the Community's environment, and work on making more use of computers in industry.

European gas production not so natural

Declining production at the Dutch Groningen gas field coupled with increasing demand has meant that the European Community is becoming increasingly dependent on gas imports from third countries.

According to preliminary figures for 1978 Dutch production fell by nearly 9% while Community imports from third countries rose by 76%.

Nearly all the extra gas imported came from Norway, which is now the Community's second most important supplier just behind the USSR. The Community also imports gas from Algeria and Libya but in much smaller quantities. However, imports from Algeria are expected to expand rapidly over the next decade.

In 1978 the Community imported nearly 19% of its natural gas compared with only 8% in 1976, thus clearly reflecting the change in its domestic supply structure.

Only German gas production increased last year—by 9%. A decline in British gas production had no repercussions on other Member States because the UK gas network is not connected to the Continental grid.

There was a small decline in French and Italian output. An increase in Belgian production of gas extracted from coal mines is not significant at Community level.

Community Gas Production 1978

	(in thousands of TeraJoules)	% Change '77-'78
Germany	734.9	+ 9.2
France	294.3	− 1.5
Italy	510.5	− 2.9
Netherlands	3 110.7	− 8.7
Belgium	1.5	+ 15.4
United Kingdom	1 515.0	− 4.4
Community	6 166.9	− 5.0

Uranium prospection beginning to yield encouraging results

Faced with a bleak future on the energy front, the European Community has been investing a great deal of capital and effort into developing alternatives to imported oil. Among these is nuclear energy for which uranium, preferably produced within the Community, is needed in increasing quantities.

Since 1976 the European Community has spent some £7.2 million on 29 projects to evaluate and discover uranium resources in the Nine Member States. Meanwhile, as we reported in our last issue, it has just issued another invitation to tender worth £3 million for projects between 1979 and 1981.

The European Commission, which administers the aid, believes it has played an important role in helping to evaluate the Community's uranium resources, and that the programme to date has resulted in the extended evaluation of known resources and the discovery of new resources.

The Commission's programme started modestly in 1976 when it backed seven projects lasting one year with a total of £670 000.

Three of these were in Ireland since both Commission experts and the Commission's advisory geologists considered the country to have untested uranium possibilities. This led to the first comprehensive evaluation of uranium potential in Ireland, although it is too early to comment on the economic significance of these finds.

A major drilling programme took place at Kvanefjeld in the South West of Greenland. As a result the uranium resources of the area rose from 5 800 tons of 27 000 for reasonably assured resources and from 8 700 to 16 000 tons for estimated additional resources. However, the uranium content of the ore is low and further progress in the treatment of ore will need to be made for the deposits to be economically viable.

A broad regional reconaissance programme was started in Lower Saxony in Germany and carried through into 1978. Another programme in the upper part of the Val Seriana Valley in Italy assessed the area's potential, which had been first noted in 1960, but was terminated when it was found that it was not economically worth exploiting.

Not all programmes have had a smooth passage. Of the original seven launched in 1976, one in the Orkneys (Scotland) did not get underway, as the local Islands Council refused planning permission. Powerful opposition by sections of the public also halted work at Val Rendena in Western Italy, when the exploration licence was withdrawn by regional authorities in 1978.

1977 saw the Community's support stepped up with an extension of the financial aid to the Irish and Greenland projects. Two regional uranium exploration programmes were backed in Italy and four in Germany, although these were modified when the results of two of them no longer justified further work. Exploration was also initiated in Northern Ireland and Belgium.

Many of the 1978 programmes are only now getting underway, but the Commision considers initial results in Bavaria and Northern Italy to be encouraging.

New projects may point the way to economies

Oil will not always be a cheap and abundant source of energy. This was first made clear by the 1973 oil crisis when the oil exporting countries imposed an embargo on supplies and quadrupled prices. The recent stoppage of Iranian production and doubts about future deliveries have once again reminded us of our vulnerability and brought home the need to economize on the use of energy.

The European Commission has been studying ways of saving energy. It has selected another 36 energy saving demonstration projects and wants the Community to provide £ 10.4 million to help finance them.

The purpose of the projects is to demonstrate that new energy saving techniques are applicable for industrial purposes. For instance they could lead to important economies in the steel and chemical industries.

Other projects involve economies in urban heating systems. For example, there is a project in the United Kingdom to recycle swimming pool air.

There are also projects using heat pumps and industrial waste in new ways so as to use less energy. For instance, there is a Dutch project to recuperate energy using domestic refuse and sewage.

Last December the Community's Energy Ministers agreed to a first list of 17 energy saving projects and to provide £ 3.9 million. However, these projects have been delayed but it was hoped that both lists would receive the green light when Energy Ministers met in Brussels at the end of March.

The demonstration projects are part of a four-year programme costing £ 37 million.

IN BRIEF

Despite two good harvest years in 1977 and 1978, the world food situation is getting worse. The percentage of the world population which cannot satisfy its basic needs in calories has grown from 15 to 18% and the self-sufficiency of the developing countries in food has declined from 95 to 93%.

Food production has been increasing by only 2.5% while an improvement would require an increase of some twice that amount. The annual food trade deficit of the Third World has nearly doubled in five years.

The European Commission has decided to grant £ 54 000 worth of emergency aid for victims of a recent cyclone in Mozambique. The money will be used to provide food, shelter and other essentials.

Farmers are closing income gap with ndustrial workers

European Community farmers are not doing too badly. Their real incomes per head are estimated to have risen on average 3.9% a year since 1968. The corresponding figure for the total economy is 3.4%. The United Kingdom is not included in this estimate.

The figures come from a report made public by the European Commission and are considered important in the context of the price negotiations for the coming year's farm products.

The Commission is proposing a price freeze on items covered by the Common Agricultural Policy. It argues that this is necessary to prevent any increase in existing surpluses of commodities such as milk, butter, cereals and sugar.

In addition the report notes that the income of producers of milk, which is heavily in surplus, rose more quickly last year than the average for ırmers in general.

COPA, the organization which represents farmers at Community level, is requesting a 4% increase in prices this year.

Many factors can affect what a farmer earns in a year, however. The weather, size of harvests, special national subsidies and other variables such as the energy crisis all combine to cause large annual variations. Good harvests in 1972 helped raise real incomes by as much as 10%, while the 1974 energy and protein crises saw incomes fall 6% in some cases.

The Commission report states that when certain special factors are eliminated, farmers' incomes last year rose by 4.1%, compared with 2.6% for the rest of the economy.

Farmers in Denmark did best, as they saw their earnings climb by 12.4%. Belgium also did well with a 9.5% rise. Sizable increases were also gistered in France (5.4%), Ireland .3%); the Netherlands (4.8%) and Italy (4.4%). In Luxembourg the figure was 3.4%, while in Germany it was 2.5%.

Data compiled in the United Kingdom is not comparable with that available in the other Member States. The report notes that incomes in the UK rose by 2.4%, but this is calculated on the basis of gross value added. The 1978 figures for all the other countries are based on real net value added.

Despite this overall picture of farming prosperity painted by the report, there are noticable differences in agricultural incomes between Community regions.

Taking one of the nine countries with the largest agricultural sector, France, the report shows that farmers in the rich Ile de France area earn on average 4.6% more than their colleagues in Lower Normandy. In Italy, almost the same ratio (4.4%) exists between Lombardia and Molise. But in Germany the gap is less marked. Farmers in Schleswig Holstein earn only 1.7% more than those in the Rhineland-Pfalz or the Saarland.

New proposals to help Europe's poorer farmers

In some parts of Europe, rural communities have been seeking vainly for generations to scratch out a living on land that is inhospitable for crops or animals. Some of these regions continue with the odds against them largely because they do not have the alternative of industrial development to turn to as a refuge from their struggle with the land.

Mechanization of farming techniques and the dramatic migration from the rural countryside to the urban industrial centres have not always helped the situation in these communities because this exodus has also weakened the infrastructure and labour force.

Since the early 1970's, the Community agricultural policy has been aiming at greater modernization and efficiency in these marginal farmlands. Major programmes of assistance for farmers who want to consolidate or modernize have been an integral part of the policy, as has been aid for small holders or older farmers who want to leave their unproductive land.

A substantial expansion of such programmes has just been proposed by the European Commission in Brussels to deal with the most difficult regions needing special additional assistance. These more stubborn pockets of agricultural poverty range around the map from the Mediterranean to the West of Ireland, from Greenland to parts of France and the United Kingdom. Some are too mountainous, others are too dry, but all suffer from the handicap of not being as naturally-endowed with the conditions necessary for a good harvest or herd.

To help remedy this situation, the Commission is proposing a five-year programme that would cost between £382 million and £460 million.

The funds would be specifically aimed at certain Mediterranean regions, the West of Ireland, Greenland, the Western Isles of Scotland, the Lorèze region of France, South-east Belgium and special sectors in the United Kingdom.

Part of this assistance would go for the development of more modern techniques, some to encourage older or unproductive farmers to leave or sell their land, some for additional training of cooperative managers or experts in processing, and some especially for hill or mountain farmers.

New actions would also be destined to cope with the special character of farming in Italy, Ireland and Greenland. The proposal also contains recommendations for broader development of some of the other regions through assistance to processing industries or perhaps activities that would be appropriate to the rural personality of the regions, such as the development of tourism.

Another part would improve the meat processing system in France and Great Britain—from the slaughterhouse to the packing plants.

These new measures are bound to get special attention in the near future from the Council of Ministers, which is already in the midst of an intense review of farm policy.

For the delectation of our palates

Who produces the most meat in the European Community? Answer: France (5.2 million tonnes in 1976). Who produces the least? Luxembourg with 22 000 tonnes.

According to recent Community statistics, Germany and France between them produce almost half the annual 20.6 million tonnes in the Community. They are particularly strong on beef, veal—by far Europeans' two favourite meats—and pork.

Britain in also a major producer of beef and veal (1 million tonnes), while pig farming is favoured in the Netherlands (1 million tonnes of pork a year).

On the other hand, few countries appear to go in for mutton and goat. Only Britain and France are the major producers—250 000 and 150 000 tonnes respectively. This represented 80% of total production of 500 000 tonnes in the Community in 1976.

Learning more about the CAP

Each year the College of Europe in Bruges holds a symposium on the European Community. This year's symposium will take place on 14-16 June, and the subject will be 'Prospects for EEC Agriculture'.

The present state of the common agricultural policy will be reviewed, and special attention will be given to the implications for the future of:

— technological development, productivity growth and structural change;

— the impact on Community agriculture of the accession of Greece, Portugal and Spain;

— the outcome of the multilateral trade negotiations in GATT;

— prospects for world agricultural markets, including food aid.

As on previous occasions, a large attendance is expected. Two Ministers of Agriculture—Mr Humblet (Belgium) and Mr Kofoed (Denmark)—have agreed to speak, as well as Mr Gundelach, Vice-President of the European Commission, who is responsible for agriculture.

Further information from the Secretariat of the Bruges Week, College of Europe, Dyver 11, B - 8000 Brugge (Belgium), Tel. : (050) 33 53 34.

MONEY

More protection urged for the small saver

Inflation is no longer a nasty surprise but a fact of life and governments are now resigned to trying to contain it within single figures.

Inflation encourages people to spend rather than save because the money in the bank account is steadily depreciating. One of the main casualties of inflation is the small saver such as the old age pensioner whose life savings are being steadily eroded.

Mr André Damseaux, a member of the Liberal and Democratic Group in the European Parliament, has just produced a report on how to protect savings.

He suggests that banks should provide more information to savers about how to diversify their savings so as to earn more interest.

Small savers could also be offered some form of tax relief. For instance, income earned from bonds could be exempted from tax up to a certain ceiling.

Some form of limited indexation could be introduced so that the value of the savings could keep pace with inflation. The report is against full indexation because it says that this would only make inflation worse. This happened in Finland.

France and Germany have banned indexation clauses. Other Community Member States, while opposed to general indexation, have introduced special provisions to benefit small savers.

The United Kingdom introduced two schemes in 1975 when the inflation rate was very high. Firstly, it issued national savings certificates for retired people. Secondly, it launched the 'Save as you earn' scheme for small savers aged 16 or above. Only the capital is indexed and there are maximum limits of £500 for bonds and £20 for monthly deposits.

Although the scheme was successful the volume of savings was of necessity quite small. Moreover, some savers are reluctant to buy bonds and therefore tie up their money for a long period.

The Irish have a similar scheme to the British. In Luxembourg there is a higher ceiling on deposits but only partial protection against inflation.

Mr Damseaux suggests in his report that some formula could be found to protect small savers and at the same time give them access to their cash.

Distribution poses ›roblems for food aid programmes

One of the ironies of the world in which we live is that certain privileged areas produce so much food they do not know what to do with it while in other areas people are dying in their thousands because of famine.

In the USA some farmers are paid to let their land lie idle. Here in Europe we have from time to time mountains of surplus butter and beef and lakes of wine to try and dispose of.

Why can't the food surpluses in the USA, Canada and Europe simply be redistributed to the hungry millions in Africa and Asia?

There are numerous transport and distribution problems to be overcome before the food reaches the right mouths. Often those in need of food aid live in remote areas undreds of miles from the nearest ort with inadequate road and rail communications.

Checks are also needed to make sure that the food aid is not rerouted and sold for profit by unscrupulous traders. Sometimes the food goes rotten en route or else is eaten by rats in warehouses. Sometimes the food grown in the West is unsuitable for African and Asian diets more used to rice and yams than high protein milk.

Nevertheless, bearing in mind these problems, the European Community gives a substantial amount of food aid to developing countries although it meets only a small part of their growing needs.

It is the largest international donor of food aid, contributing around 30% of all cereals, 50% of skimmed milk powder and nearly 95% of butteroil.

This year the European Commission has proposed that the Community should give food aid totalling £362 million. The aid would consist of 720 500 tons of cereals, 150 000 tons of powdered milk and 45 000 tons of butteroil.

The Commission will ask the Council of Ministers for approval for an extra 615 000 tons of cereals and 10 000 tons of butteroil to be given later this year.

The Commission points out that demands for food aid from developing countries are much greater this year. Demands for cereals aid amounted to 3.2 million tons this year compared with 2.7 million tons last year. Even if the nine Community Member States accept the Commission's proposals then the Community will only be satisfying half the overall demand.

The Community decides on the amount of food aid to give each country according to the recipient's needs, its per capita revenue and the size of its balance of payments deficit.

Most of the aid is given to countries in South East Asia. India, for example, will receive nearly half the powdered milk allocation. Egypt will receive a lot of cereals aid while other Middle East countries will receive a lot of butteroil.

Substantial amounts of Community food aid is channelled through international organizations such as the World Food Programme and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

'Catastrophic' lack of investment, says Cheysson

European factories are heavily dependent on imported energy and industrial raw materials in order to keep producing.

Over 80% of the oil the Community uses is imported. So is over 75% of the raw materials. It is almost entirely dependent on external sources for copper, cobalt, tin and phosphates.

Although a large share of the Community's energy and raw material imports come from developing countries European companies have invested very little money there in recent years in exploration or renewing production equipment. Future supplies cannot therefore be guaranteed.

In 1976, for example, only 10% of the exploration budget of mining companies was spent in developing countries even though these countries possess 40% of the reserves of the main minerals.

Mr. Cheysson, European Development Commissioner, recently drew attention to what he described as the 'catastrophic' level of European investment in developing countries. He said that European companies invested only 120 million dollars in 1977 whereas 1 billon dollars was necessary merely to maintain production. Much more would be needed if the European economy was to continue to grow.

The situation was worst in Africa. Since 1974 there has been practically no European mining and energy investment. The only notable exception has been uranium investment in Niger.

Why have European companies been so reluctant to invest? Political instability coupled with the threat of nationalization are the main reasons.

For example, the invasion of the copper rich Shaba province of Zaire last May severely disrupted production and forced European managers and technicians to flee. Most have not yet returned because they are afraid of more trouble.

At a recent press conference in Brussels Mr. Cheysson criticised the 'complete silence' with which the Member States had greeted the Commission's attempts to promote energy and minerals cooperation with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries which have signed the Lomé Convention for trade and cooperation with the Community.

The Commission has made various proposals which it would like included in the new Convention currently being negotiated. But according to Mr. Cheysson the Member States are not interested in a long-term Community investment policy. Some of the larger Member States, having close traditional ties with certain ACP States, believe they can manage better on their own. The most they will agree to are short-term aid measures. Mr. Cheysson pointed out that the USA, which is only 15% dependent on imported industrial raw materials, had invested more than twice as much as Europe in developing countries.

The Commission has now revamped its proposals made last year to promote investment in exploration and production in order to try and make the Member States take action.

It suggests that the Community could help organize and finance the setting up of national and regional mining exploration funds. The Community could also provide risk capital to finance prospecting carried cut by mining companies.

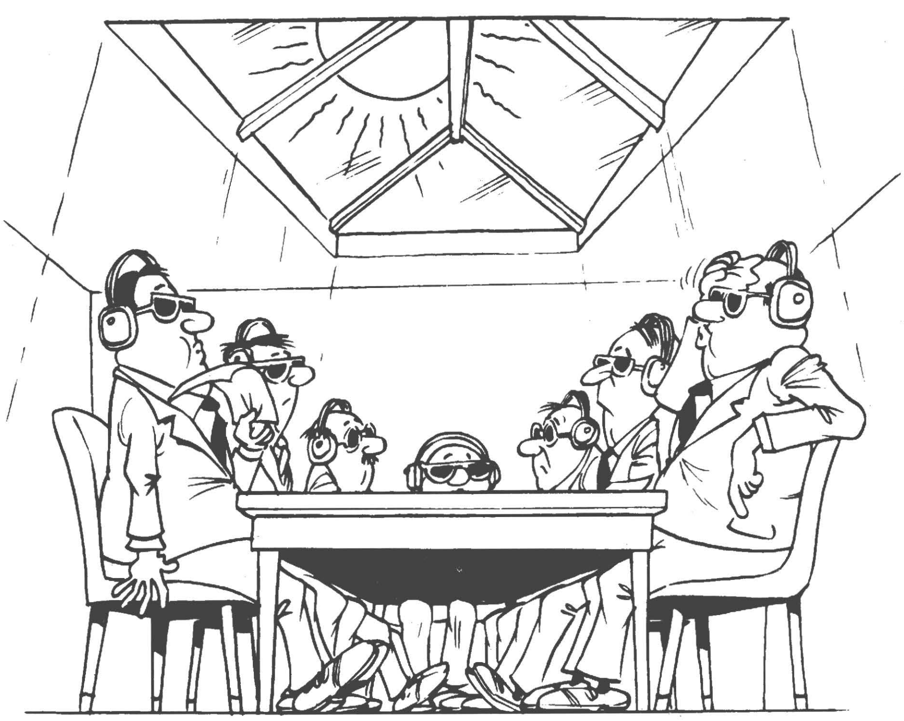
The European Investment Bank could provide more aid to finance energy and mining investment projects. It could also encourage investments in a wider spread of countries.

Political risks could be reduced by encouraging the host country to participate in the fixed capital of new mining firms. Codes of conducts could be included in agreements designed to protect investments.

Community guarantees against certain types of non-economic risk could be provided for investors in mining and energy projects in the ACP States. At present bilateral guarantees given by the Member States vary widely.

Solar power: can it help bridge the energy gap?

Sun power does not appear to offer much potential as a source of energy in rainswept Northern Europe but the situation is different in the Mediterranean region and in developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America.



Developing countries are heavily dependent on energy imports and the cost is a crippling burden on their balance of payments. They are now making efforts to develop their own energy sources: not just traditional forms of energy but also alternative forms such as solar energy.

The sun is one resource which even the poorest developing countries possess. However, until now they have been unable to harness the sun's rays so as to provide mechanical force (e.g. for industrial plant) or heating energy.

The potential offered by solar energy in meeting the energy needs of developing countries especially in rural areas was discussed at an international conference organized by the European Commission at Varese in Italy at the end of March. We hope to carry a detailed report in our next issue.

About 300 experts from more than 100 countries attend the conference whose subject was 'Solar Energy in the Service of Development'. Many of the experts, who include agronomists, engineers, industrialists and financiers came from the Third World.

To prepare for the conference five regional seminars had already been held in Nairobi (for East African countries), Bamako (West Africa), Amman (Arab countries), Caracas (Latin America), and New Delhi (South and South East Asia).

Among the subjects the experts discussed were ways of using solar energy to replace wood for domestic cooking and heating. The heavy dependence on wood has led to serious deforestation in certain areas of India and West Africa and ruined the ecological balance.

One of the attractions of solar energy is that it can be used on a small scale and does not require massive supporting infrastructure. This makes it attractive for remote villages which could use solar energy pumps to provide water for drinking and farming.

TERRORISM

Action against hijackers urged

The European Parliament has called on the governments of the Nine Community Member States to take more action to combat hijacking.

It approved the broad lines of a motion proposed by one of its members, British Conservative Charles Fletcher-Cooke, calling on the governments to subscribe to the commitments on hijacking entered into by world leaders at a summit meeting in Bonn last summer.

These commitments include a pledge by the seven participating nations, including a number of Community countries, to cancel all flights to any country refusing to extradite or prosecute hijackers or to return hijacked aircraft.

PUBLICATIONS

An English-language version of 'Explanatory notes to the Customs Tariff of the European Communities' has just been published. It is available from the Community's Office for Official Publications (see back cover), Catalogue No. CB-24-77-205-EN-C, price £13.30. It already exists in Dutch, French, German an Italian (HFL 55, BFR 800, FF 116, DM 51.60, LIT 21 600).

FOCUS

Where there's smoke there's fire

While tobacco was introduced in Europe from the New World in the 16th century for its supposed medicinal value, it is now the subject of world-wide controversy as a harmful substance.

Sir Walter Raleigh may have been an illustrious soldier, administrator and man of letters, but he was beheaded and the 'sotweed' he helped popularise has become the scourge of many societies.

Another product of the New World, the humorist Mark Twain, once remarked 'It's easy to give up smoking, I've done it at least 800 times myself'. But for those who can't kick the habit, scientific research now indicates that they are much more likely to succumb to lung cancer, heart disease or other ailments than are non-smokers.

American authorities indicate that in 1979 a quarter of a million Americans will die as a direct result of their consumption of tobacco, 72,000 of them from lung cancer. And this phenomena isn't typically American. France has a population one-fourth the United States, but smoking kills prematurely 35,000 persons each year there, 15,000 by lung cancer. Smoking has been designated as a graver menace than automobile accidents—killing four victims for every traffic fatality.

The 49 poisonous substances which have been identified as being contained in tobacco are regularly being consumed by the millions of smokers for whom a pack of cigarettes is a daily necessity. Lung cancer, cardiovascular disturbances, heart attack, ulcers are all the handmaiden of the destructive habit. Innocent victims are also claimed, as pregnant smokers are more likely to give birth to sickly or retarded babies. In women over 40, the use of tobacco and birth control pills together may lead to blood circulatory problems.

Non-smokers are also condemned to inhale the smoke of the smoking population, which according to some reports contains twice as much nicotine and tars as the hot smoke inhaled by the smoker himself.
Luckily there are various solutions to the problem. There is direct action, such as that taken by the American Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Joseph Califano, who of his own will power stopped smoking his regular three packs of cigarettes a day.

There is also the possibility of anti-smoking campaigns, such as the one launched by these same American authorities, which will cost some 23 million US dollars. Its direct results are still to be registered and evaluated.

Up to now, the anti-smoking campaigns waged in Europe have had little impact. This is what the nine European Community Health Ministers meeting in Brussels had to admit a few months ago.

They had facts before them, however, which made the need for such action seem evident. The public costs of smoking, in the form of medical treatment, hospital space required and so on, is far higher than the taxes collected on tobacco products. For instance in Germany, it is estimated that expenses caused by smoking have reached 20 billion DM (or £ 2,3 billion), while the revenue from tobacco taxes was only 9 billion DM (or £ 5,3 billion). These proportions are just about the same throughout the Community.

The Ministers also had a report indicating that smoking among the male population, perhaps increasingly conscious of the health consequences, was going down. In the meantime, however, the habit was increasing in the female population, perhaps as a result of the growing emancipation and responsibilities of women.

Even if there are already some laws in all the Community countries prohibiting or limiting tobacco use in public places, in schools or in hospitals, the nine Ministers agreed that they should study the results of these efforts. They also decided to cooperate on the campaigns they expect to undertake against smoking.

But will laws and regulations be adequate?

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ISSN 0379-3079
Catalogue N° CC-AC-79-006-EN-C