

The opening of a new chapter. See page 3.



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Euroforum

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# The opening of a new chapter

The first international elections in history, the direct elections to the European Parliament, have now taken place. There were some disappointments of participation, but we should now concentrate on the possibilities, for the future.

The average turnout, at some 61%, was respectable — these were after all the first elections of their kind. But the level of participation shows that we cannot afford to take the Community for granted, and that both we the Commission and the new Parliament itself have a task before us to make clear the relevance of the newly-elected body.

Of course, I would like to have seen a higher turnout, particularly in the United Kingdom; I would also have liked to see a better balance between the major parties there. The unbalanced result is partly the result of the British electoral system, and I hope this will be corrected when, as has been agreed, all Member States adopt the same system for the next European elections in five years' time.

However feeble was the turnout in one country, this by no means invalidates the results or casts doubt on the authenticity of the mandate of the newly-elected members. The challenge and opportunity which face them are the same.

The challenge of a directlyelected Parliament is to ensure that it concerns itself with European issues, with Community issues, and not with the narrow lines of national politics; to bring home to the elector that his vote was not cast in vain, to the abstainer that the Community and its Parliament are living organs of concern for the issues affecting his daily life. Direct elections have given the voter, the citizen, an extra opportunity to affect and influence decisions on matters which concern him and not merely on remote abstractions — and the new Parliament must now live up to this challenge.

To do so it will need to engage itself with the major problems confronting the Community and its Member States which cross national frontiers and which are beyond the capacity of national governments acting alone to I speak particularly of solve. unemployment, whose international character forces us to take action on a Community-wide This is why we have put basis. in place the European Monetary System, why we are restructuring the steel industry, why we are trying to coordinate and increase the funds available to maximize their impact.

The opportunity lies in the greater influence and increased moral authority which direct elections will give to the European Parliament. I am not initially concerned about the question of the powers of the Parliament — with its increased authority it will find plenty of scope for exercising greater influence with its presently described powers.

Direct elections will encourage the Parliamentarians to exercise their new authority in a way that Parliamentarians know best by keeping the executive on its toes. This is right, this is democratic, and I very much hope that the Parliament will indeed use its existing powers and its extra authority in this way to make us in the other institutions - both Commission and Council - more sensitive to parliamentary opinion. We will need to give more attention to the Parliament, to take more account of its views, and to make a better presentation of our policies.

How far Parliament meets the challenge and uses the new opportunity depends not on how many votes a member was elected by, nor even on which party-grouping is the largest, but on how effectively members of the new Parliament use their new legitimacy to improve the quality of decision-making and legislation in the Community.

Our institutions are strengthened by direct elections, a vacuum has been filled by the addition of a new democratic dimension to the Community which is so firmly rooted in the principles of representative democracy. Our decisions are now subject to the possibility of much more effective direct control by the representatives of those in whose name the decisions are made the citizens of the Community.

This is a new chapter in the development of the Community.

President of the European Commission.

# Political line-up of new Parliament still in balance

Nearly two out of every three of the European Community's 180 million electors turned out to vote in the firstever direct elections for the European Parliament, which were held in the nine Member States between 7 and 10 June.

In doing so they elected 410 brand new European MPs and ensured that the combined forces of the right of centre parties will have a majority in the new Parliament.

The Socialists just managed to hold on to their position in the old Parliament as the largest single political group. The final composition of the new Parliament is likely to be: Socialists— 111 seats (27.07%); Christian Democrats—106 seats (25.85%); Conservatives—63 seats (15.36%); Communists and allies—44 seats (10.73%); Liberals and Democrats—40 seats (9.75%); Progressive Democrats— 25 seats (5.12%).

The 21 'others' embrace a number of minor parties as well as independents, including Italian radicals, revolutionary socialists. regionalists and neofascists, as well as four anti-Common Marketeers and independent left wingers from Denmark, Linguistic parties from French and Dutch-speaking Belgium, a Scottish nationalist and representatives of the Protestant Unionist and Catholic Nationalist communities in Northern Ireland.

However, the future shape of the political groups is far from certain and will be the subject of intense negotiation between national parties, particu-

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larly in the week before the first session of the new Parliament which opens on 17 July.

The average turnout of just 61% of the Community electorate disguised significant differences in the national polling figures. These ranged from 92% in Belgium and 85.6% in Luxembourg—where voting is obligatory—and 85.9% in Italy to just 31.3% in Britain and 47.1% in Denmark. Particular surprise was expressed at the polls in the Netherlands (58%), France (61%) and Germany (65.9%)—all well below the levels normal for a general election.

Commenting on the results in the early hours of 11 June as the votes were being counted in the nine countries and sent to Brussels, the President of the Commission, Roy Jenkins said: 'I do not think the turnout invalidates the results or detracts from the effectiveness of the European Parliament.

'What counts in the future is how effective the newly-elected members are in the new Parliament. It is bound to have more influence, to have increased moral authority and to have the opportunity to use its powers more effectively.'

The President of the old, appointed assembly, Signor Emilio Colombo, was only one of several commentators who claimed the results showed a swing to the parties which were most enthusiastically pro-European.

This, however, was an interpretation which was contested by others. It is clear that in the Netherlands, Belgium Germany and Luxembourg there was a swing to the Christian Democrats mostly at the expense of the Socialists. In Ireland, there was a swing away from Fianna Fail, part of the European Progressive Democrats but, as in Italy (where the Christian Democrats lost ground) the Irish Socialists did well.

In France the fact that the list headed by Madame Simone Veil, which supported the pro-Community policies of President Giscard d'Estaing, came top had the effect of mainly boosting the fortunes of the Liberals and Democratic groups. However, the Liberals lost power in the Luxembourg general election (although the former Prime Minister, Gaston Thorn, who lost his national parliamentary seat, will be a Euro-MP) and did indifferently in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. In Britain, the Liberals polled more than 13% of the votes but, thanks to the British 'first-past-the-post' election system won no seats at all. The 5%

representation rule in France and Germany narrowly prevented the ecologists from winning seats in the new Parliament.

The most dramatic result was, however, the Tory triumph in Britain where they won 60 of the 78 British seats (excluding the three Northern Ireland seats). It seems that the sour mood in Britain towards the Community expressed itself in abstention rather than a positive vote for Labour which fought on a platform highly critical of the Community.

However, there were bigger swings to anti-Community Labour candidates than to those known for their pro-Community convictions. Something of the same mood was evident in Denmark, where a total of seven of the 16 seats were won by opponents of Danish membership of the Community. This, however, has to be balanced by the swing to the pro-Community Giscardiens and against the anti-united-Europe Gaullists in France.

The Communists more or less held their share of seats in the new Parliament, gaining ground slightly in France but losing it in Italy. However the two parties are sharply divided on the attitude they take to European questions with the Italian CP more pro-Europe than the French party.

Meanwhile, there were reports that the governing party in Ireland, Fianna Fail, which at present is allied to the neo-Gaullist RPR in the European Progressive Democrats Group, may be looking for new partners. Suggestions that the British and Danish Conservative group might merge with the Christian Democrats are denied on both sides.

Since the election the parties have been actively lobbying for the election of a President of the Parliament. The favoured names are Madame Veil, former Chancellor Willi Brandt (leader of the German Social Democrats), Leo Tindemans (EPP and former Belgian Prime Minister) and Gaston Thorn (Liberals).

When the 410 new members gather for the opening session of the Parliament on 17 July they will be addressed by the Irish Prime Minister, Jack Lynch, whose country takes over the Presidency of the Council of Ministers at the end of June. Top of the agenda will be the election of the Parliament's President and the chairmen of the all-important parliamentary committees.

EUROFORUM 29-6-1979

# **REDUCING BARRIERS**

# Nurses win right to care for us where they please

Nurses need no longer take jobs as au pairs or as companions to cantankerous old ladies to get the chance to travel or work abroad. They now have the right to practise their chosen profession in any European Community country.

A Community law came into force last Friday which gives nurses who are Community citizens the right to establish themselves in any of the nine Member States provided they have proof of their formal qualifications.

The ruling applies to State Registered Nurses in the United Kingdom and General Registered Nurses in Ireland or their equivalents in other Community countries.

They should effectively have been employed as nurses responsible for general care for at least three of the five years prior to getting their diplomas, including taking full responsibility for planning, organizing and carrying out nursing care of patients.

Some countries, like Belgium, already employ nurses who have qualified in other Member States. Now all nine countries will be obliged to consider job applications from any Community nationals. And, of course, successful job hunters will automatically have the right of residence and benefits like social security and health insurance.

This doesn't mean that nurses everywhere will be packing up and looking for jobs in other countries. In most instances they will have to be able to speak the language of the country they are planning to work in. But it does mean that the categories of professional workers allowed to practise in all nine countries is on the increase.

Doctors and lawyers already benefit from the Community's basic principle of free movement for its citizens. It is hoped that vets will be granted the same rights next year and dentists shortly afterwards. The European Commission is working on similar proposals to give midwives, architects, accountants and tax advisers the same professional freedom.

Footballers have even been taken into consideration. A decision taken by the European Commission and European Football Federations gives professional footballers the right to play where they like within the Community. They are not, of course, eligible for national teams, but they can play for clubs in whichever country they want.

Blue-collar and non-professional white collar workers have had the freedom to work in any Community country since 1969. But giving professional workers the same rights has posed problems. Qualifications and professional demands vary from country to country and some compromise is necessary.

It is not just a matter of granting workers freedom but getting all nine Member States to recognize each other's qualifications. Even so, problems may still arise.

To keep those involving nurses to a minimum, a second law has just come into effect dealing with the coordination of training for nurses.

An Advisory Committee on training in nursing has been set up to help ensure a consistently high standard of training of various categories of nursing personnel throughout the Community.

The Committee is made up of three experts from each Member State—one from the practising profession, one from a recognized training establishment and one from the national health authority or competent equivalent. A Committee of senior officials on public health has also been set up to cope with any difficulties that might arise from implementing the law and to identify any changes that might be needed.

For, although free movement for the professions works in theory, it will be some time before the practice is seen to be perfect.

# Cutting the cost of keeping in touch

'Someone, somewhere wants a letter from you' runs the Post Office slogan. All very well, but it can be fairly expensive if your friends live abroad, especially if you are writing from Britain or Ireland to other European Community countries.

Most of the Nine now treat letters to other Member States as if they were domestic mail, and you will therefore pay the same rate for letters up to 20 grams in weight. The European Commission is now proposing that this custom be adopted by all Community countries.

It would help merge the economies of the various countries and create a greater sense of Europeanism among the Community's inhabitants.

And the cost? Even the most pessimistic estimate has it that internal rates would not need to rise by more than 1.5% to cover the fall in external rates.

The technical problems are also capable of being resolved. The only slight complication involves the United Kingdom, which allows its citizens to write a great deal for the price of their postage stamp.

Letters can be sent weighing up to 60 grams within the UK and to Ireland for the lowest postage rate, whereas the limit for those going elsewhere is 20 grammes.



# CONSUMERS

# Service or quality does not have to be a thing of the past

We all have had experience of shoddy goods which fail to live up to manufacturers' claims or to our own expectations—the washing machine that begins to leak, the almost-new family car that starts to show rust, the TV set that flickers and splutters yet again as soon as the repair man has left.

In the case of goods, the manufacturer usually gives a guarantee which can last for a year or more, but it is more usually valid for only a few months. And once the guarantee has run out the unfortunate owner of a faulty piece of equipment often does not know how much he or she can expect to pay for repairs.

In recent years, however, a new problem has begun to add itself to the headaches you may have to suffer in buying 'tangible' goods. This is the question of the value you get from intangible services, whether they are package holidays, how a bank handles your money or how a garage repairs your car.

The services sector of the economy has become increasingly important in recent years. It now employs half the total working population in the European Community and eats up a growing proportion of household budgets.

For this reason, the European Commission has outlined a strategy for giving the consumer better value for money in the purchase of services in its second Consumer Information and Protection Programme, which has just been published.

The Programme is a follow-up to the first, which has been in operation since 1975. It proposes to continue and expand the policies of the first programme and to concentrate on new sectors, including the wide range of services now on offer which have become such an indispensable part of our lives.

The Commission, which has presented its programme to the Council of Ministers for approval, has identified three forms of service—commercial services connected with products, commercial

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services not connected with products, and public or quasi-public services.

The first category deals mainly with after-sales service for consumer durables. The Commission plans to examine ways of improving the quality of this service, and it particularly would like tighter legislation on guarantees. It also favours the wider use of fixed estimates, the drawing up of detailed invoices, and improved service once the guarantee period has expired.

Since the creation of the Community has led to a massive increase in the trading of goods between the nine Member States, the Commission would like to ensure that the same conditions of warranty and after-sales service apply irrespective of the location of the producer. In this way, a British or an Irish housewife who buys an Italian washing machine will have the same rights of redress as her Italian counterpart if it breaks down.

Once the new programme is approved by the Council, the Commission intends to concentrate its first efforts in this area on warranties and aftersales services for motor cars and household appliances.

In the second category, where the services are not concerned with goods, the Commission would particularly like to see improvements in services linked with travel, the transport of freight and the movement of money.

In the area of public or quasi-public services, where there is usually no competition and prices and policy are decided by the public authorities, the room for manœuvre is more limited. But the Commission intends to press for the right of the general public to be consulted more often.

Greater consultation is, indeed, one of the main themes of the new programme. The Commission's two primary targets are, firstly, to ensure a much closer dialogue between consumer representatives and manufacturers and distributors, and, secondly, to see that consumers' rights are promoted rather than just protected, as was largely the case under the first programme.

The second programme, like the first, is designed to run for five years and will continue to operate under five main headings:

 protection of consumers against health and safety hazards;

- protection of consumer's economic interests;
- improvement of consumers' protection at law
- improvement of consumer education and information;
- more consulation and representation of consumers.

# New law will help shoppers judge value for money

It will soon be easier for shoppers throughout the European Community to compare the prices of food on sale in shops and supermarkets.

Under new legislation adopted recently by the Council of Ministers, all foodstuffs offered to consumers must indicate the price per kilo or litre, as well as the total selling price.

The new law, which the nine Member States will have two years to implement, covers food which is not measured or weighed until it is sold, as well as food which is pre-packed in ' various quantities.

Prices will have to be unambiguous, easily identifiable and clearly legible. And any advertisements relating to the food which mention the total price must give the unit price as well.

Although it is up to individual countries to decide, the Council has recommended that food sold by the piece or from automatic vending machines, fancy goods and take-away food need not indicate the price per kilo or litre.

Perishable food sold at reduced prices would also be exempt from mentioning the unit price.

For the time being, the British and Irish governments will have the right to decide whether the unit price should relate to the imperial weight system or the international system.

Member States will also decide for the moment whether the gross or net weight of food packed in preestablished quantities, such as jars of jam or packets of tea, will be used to calculate the unit price.

# FORESTRY

# Long-term planning needed if woods are to survive

Anyone who has ever taken a walk in the woods will realize that they provide us with one of the world's finest recreational amenities. But how many of us appreciate that woods and forests also furnish some of the most precious raw materials nature has to offer?

Indeed, only oil imports cost the European Community more than wood, with the wood import bill standing at around  $\pounds$  7 000 million annually.

For centuries, our woods have supplied Europe with vital fuel, and the raw material for furniture, tools and household implements, not to mention the paper on which we write.

However, the vast, romantic forests which once covered Northern Europe have now shrunk to a fraction of their former size. Although forests still cover one-fifth of the Community land surface, internal production today accounts for less than half our demand, which has doubled over the past 25 years. Each of the nine Member States is a net wood importer.

Total imports have grown from 40 million cubic metres of wood in 1950 to around 120 million cubic metres in recent years. The shortage of wood in the Community is brought home when one considers that in some cases, prices are three times higher than in North America.

Wood is one of the few natural resources whose quantity scientists are still unable to estimate accurately. For example, we know roughly how much oil there is under the ground, but no survey exists of the enormous forest resources in, say Canada or Sweden.

Community production is currently scheduled to grow by 1% annually, unless there is a change in forestry policy—even though demand will grow by twice that figure.

France and Germany are the main producers, accounting for 75% of Community production. But average yield from Community forests is still three times lower than that achieved elsewhere. One of the problems is that 60% of woods within the Nine are owned by some three million small forest owners.

While Europe's trees have long been recognized as one of nature's most beautiful sights they are also an important source of employment. In the hands of a skilled craftsman, wood can take on an added beauty.

Wood is the basic raw material for many of the small, skilled and craft industries which play such a vital part in a nation's cultural and economic life. Industries based on wood employ over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million people in the Nine. With the exception of those engaged in paper-making, most plants employ less than 20 people.

These industries have survived the economic crisis better than most. Their employment level dropped by only 2.9% between 1974 and 1976, compared to a drop of 4.6% for the economy as a whole.

A difficulty in ensuring the survival of these industries is the need for very long-term planning when dealing with forestry policy. A tree can take from 20 to 200 years to reach maturity, and we have to think now in terms of demand centuries ahead.

Another problem is that national forestry policies very often differ greatly from one another. The European Parliament recently urged the Community to draw up an effective common forestry policy to replace what it described as 'piecemeal, conflicting national policies'.

What is known is that, while the Community already accounts for more than one-third of the world's trade in wood, it can expect little extra supplies from its main traditional source, Scandinavia. Extra supplies from natural forests in North America, the USSR and the tropics will become more expensive as less accessible trees have to be cut down.

The demand from Third World countries for wood is also rising, pushing world prices up. Third World producers are themselves turning out increased amounts of more expensive wood products rather than raw wood.

In the light of this situation, the European Commission wants the Council of Ministers to agree on a common forestry policy, aimed at ensuring the survival of the Community timber industry.

The Commission emphasizes the need for an effective forestry authority in each Member State, which could implement forestry policy decisions taken at Community level. It wants to see better education and training facilities in forestry, and more research and consultation at Community level.

The Commission believes that forestry taxation and financial aids could provide an incentive for more efficient and stable forest management.

But the visual joys of our woods have not been forgotten. The Commission realizes that forests cannot be turned into factories and is therefore anxious to balance economic development with the recreational needs of the public.

A walk in the Black Forest should continue to be a pleasure open to all.



# TRANSPORT

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# Cheaper air fares: Commission outlines ideas for future

A basic no-frills point-to-point ticket; the introduction of a third-class fare; special fares for a limited number of seats on a no-refund or limited refund basis; a European round-trip ticket.

These are among the ideas the European Commission has come up with in order to bring air fares more within the reach of the average citizen in the European Community and to help airlines become more profitable as a result of greater use.

In the slipstream of the Commission's initiative, Sir Freddie Laker, the British airline operator who introduced cut-price fares on the Atlantic routes, announced that he hoped to start a similar service to 35 European cities from next January.

In a memorandum setting out its ideas for the nine Community governments, the Commission points out that it is anxious to help develop the Community's air transport industry to suit modern conditions which would enable it to take advantage of recent important changes in civil aviation on a world scale.

In addition to promoting lower fares, it would like to see more competition between airlines on scheduled services. It also favours an end to over-booking by the introduction of a compulsory scheme of compensation for passengers left stranded in this way at airports. The Commission wants the airlines to provide a more comprehensive service to the public, particularly by the development of more flights between regions in the Community, as well as taking into account the protection of the environment—for example, by using less noisy aircraft.

In addition, the Commission sketches out ways in which action at Community level could help improve the financial soundness of airlines and reduce their operating costs. It is also interested in improving the lot of airline workers.

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However, the Commission's power to change the practices of the Community's airlines is limited and it is dependent on the nine governments to take action. It is hoping that it will be able to start a dialogue on the future of air transport that will lead to specific measures later.

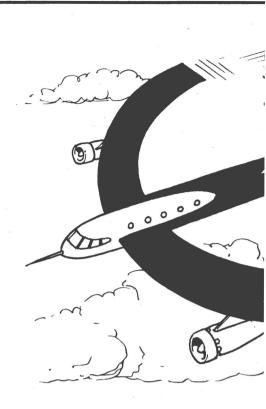
In its memorandum, the Commission points out that the structure of air transport is dominated by extensive government influence over bilateral agreements, routes, fares and capacity. This means that direct competition on fares is limited on scheduled flights, although there is competition between airlines on other forms of air transport such as charters or special low-budget services.

The Commission feels that the governments should agree to ask the airlines to introduce a certain number of cutprice fares on scheduled flights and that if the established airlines are slow to do so other operators should be allowed to fly on a limited number of routes which are currently closed to

The Commission would also like to see the development of more crossborder services between regional centres which are at present neglected by the major operators who prefer to confine themselves to the more profitable main routes between capitals and other large centres of population.

Percentage of capital held by the States in main European AirlinesAir France98.80% Air InterAir Inter49.90% AlitaliaAlitalia99% British AirwaysBritish Airways100% KLMAir Lingus100% LufthansaLufthansa82.16% LuxairSabena100% SASBritish Caledonian UTAprivate						
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One of the difficulties faced by the Commission in ensuring that there is no abuse by an airline of a dominant position and in ensuring that competition exists as far as possible is that it does not have the same powers of investigation as it has for other industries where it can impose penalties on firms which distort competition and thus limit consumer choice. The Commission suggests that it should be given this power.



While lower fares might appear to be primarily in the interest of the passengers, the Commission believes that they would help make airlines costeffective because they would encourage more people to fly and thus increase the productivity of costly aircraft.

It also suggests that it can help make airlines more profitable through the simplification within the Community of procedures and customs documentation in air freight transport, and the harmonization of technical standards in the construction of aircraft. It can also use Community funds to back research into the development of new and more efficient aircraft.

The next step is for the Commission's ideas to be discussed in the Council of Ministers. While we await the outcome of these discussions, it might be worthwhile pondering over a few statistics to put the current controversy over European air fares into perspective.

Although European fares on scheduled flights are generally compared unfavourably with those in the United States, they are in fact only about 20% higher on average.

A more comforting thought is that air fares in Europe have actually become much cheaper over the years when compared with the rise in the standard of living. If we start with a base of



100 in 1964, the index for the cost of living had risen by last year to 270. In the same period, the index for air fares rose from 100 to only 206.

Nevertheless, the Commission believes that there is room for improvement both in the interests of passengers and of the airlines themselves.

# The sky's the limit for European aviation cooperation

A new breed of plane spawned by growing European aerospace cooperation is nearly 10 years old and is proving so successful that it could serve as a model for other products and industries.

The highly-popular Airbus widebodied aircraft programme was originally launched in 1969 and has since carved out a spot in aviation history by grabbing a large chunk of the commercial market from American giants which have traditionally enjoyed a near monopoly in international skies.

Already the plane is the second most popular king-sized aircraft after the Boeing 747 and ahead of such wellknown producers as Lockheed and Douglas. This masterpiece of European cooperative engineering is bringing an increasing number of jobs in five European countries.

The results are felt not only in skies all over the world but all the way down to the small towns near factories in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Spain. Some 18 000 people are currently at work on the Airbus programme and it is estimated that the number could grow to 40 000 by 1983.

As a truly European type of undertaking which has been urged for years by experts as the only way to meet the American challenge, the programme could serve as an example for the computer, microelectronic or other industries. In each case, European national companies are hardly a match for their continental-scale American rivals.

Increasingly cost-conscious airlines have ordered some 200 of the economical models and the potential could reach some 2 000 planes. Companies such as Lufthansa, Air France, Alitalia, KLM, Swissair, and even American lines such as Eastern, which is run by ex-astronaut Frank Borman, have purchased the planes. Airlines from China, Japan and other distant countries are also contemplating orders. Last year, Airbus Industrie raised its share of world commercial airliner orders from 6% to 19%.

The future looks bright as more and more airlines look for replacement planes and find in the Airbus a plane that consumes less fuel, makes less noise and provides other cost benefits.

This most illustrious example of European aviation cooperation is by no means the first and experts hope it will be followed by other successes. The first attempts included the Anglo-French Caravelle and Concorde.

There has also been steady development of cooperation in the aerospace field which will lead later this year to the launching of the first European Ariane rocket from the European Space Agency test centre in Latin America.

But experts as the European Commission in Brussels for years have urged an intensification of such efforts. These attempts began in the early 1970s under industrial affairs Commissioner Altiero Spinelli and have been supported by the current Commissioner Etienne Davignon. Both have urged increasing cooperation among the aircraft manufacturers in Europe to plan ahead for the next generation of civil airlines. They have argued that, like in so many other industrial and technological fields, the costs of financing and providing a market for such ambitious undertakings are too great for any one European country to bear.

To continue to produce such aircraft in independent fashion, as in the past, would merely allow the American giants to continue their dominance of the world markets. So far, however, such efforts to stimulate cooperation have met with only limited success at the official level.

But the Airbus experience, led by France's Aerospatiale, Germany's Deutsche Airbus and the British Aircraft Corporation, needs to expand to other partners if it is to meet international competition, especially the American one. American producers even benefit from the Airbus as well since the engine and electrical equipment are American-produced and 31% of the income from Airbus goes to them.

But the main lesson to be learned is that the smaller European national aviation producers need to stop competing among themselves. This is unfortunately the case with two European planes with 120-seat capacity which are competing for the same market: the British BA 146 which will hit the market in 1983 and sell an estimated 45 planes a year, and the Dutch Fokker 28 which sells some 14 models a year.

The Airbus project has proved, however, that European manufacturers can sometimes overcome their own rivalries, and work together successfully. The recent rates of production of two planes per month and three a month in 1979 are no longer enough to meet the orders.

The President of Airbus Industrie, Bernard Lathière, said that production should be increased to six or even eight planes per month by 1982-83, which would require a workforce expansion to 40 000.

The advocates of greater cooperation point to this increase in work, which could be the fruit of more such successful joint undertakings, as an inducement in a period of record unemployment.

# ENERGY

29-6-1979

EUROFORUM

An Indian summer if we don't take energysaving more seriously

Despite the warm summer weather, the pressure is still on to save more energy. This is the season of replenishing stocks in preparation for next winter but, due to the oil supply shortages and rocketing prices caused by the Iranian crisis, this is proving difficult.

Some progress has been made in cutting down consumption. Between 1974 and 1977 the Community managed to save 80 million tonnes of oil equivalent (mtoe) annually. This is equivalent to about 8% of its total energy needs.

But, in order to reach the target set for 1985, an extra 1% will have to be saved over the next six years.

Looking further ahead, the European Commission has now suggested a longer term target. It wants gradually to reduce the ratio between economic and energy demand growth below 0.7 by 1990.

This would mean that an increase in the use of energy of less than 0.7% should be needed to fuel each 1% growth in gross domestic product.

In proposing new lines of action, the Commission urges that the nine Member States should adopt comprehensive energy-saving programmes by 1980.

The Commission has proposed two new measures in order to save more energy. Firstly, it intends negotiating voluntary fuel consumption targets with the European car industry for both motor cars and light vans.

Secondly, the Commission suggests that work in setting international standards for measuring energy consumption, especially of heaters and domestic appliances such as cookers and fridges, should be speeded up.

Saving energy, points out the Commission, does not necessarily mean a lower standard of living. Instead, it should be viewed as a change of life style an incentive to develop new industries and products which use energy more efficiently.

The Commission has put forward its own energy-saving ideas consisting, on the one hand, of price guidelines and, on the other, ways of encouraging a better use of energy.

For example, better use can also be made of energy in the home, industry, public offices and transport. In the home, more efficient heating systems and individual metering in apartment blocks and other buildings shared by different families could be introduced. Industry could be given financial aids for investment in energy-saving equipment. Offices should be built to stricter standards while heating, cooling and ventilation should be more closely controlled.

In addition to its energy-saving proposals, the Commission has now come up with a new import target for 1990. It wants to limit the Community's dependence on energy imports to 50% and to freeze oil imports at the 1978 level of 470 million tonnes for another 5 years beyond 1975, which was the date originally agreed by the Nine.

This, of course, will require a much greater effort on the part of all the Member States at the same time, as well as a change in public attitudes towards energy. The Commission is concerned both with the disparity in the energy policies of the Member States and also with the fact that they are unlikely to limit imports to the 1985 target level.

The Commission suggests a number of measures to help achieve the 1990 target. Apart from greater efforts to save energy and to inform the public about the need to do so, it believes that nuclear, coal and hydrocarbon programmes should be stepped up.

The Commission suggests that more coal and nuclear power stations should be built. It thinks that they should provide at least 75% of the Community's electricity supplies, instead of 60% at present.

The Commission regards 1990 forecasts of Community oil and gas production as insufficient. It wants more efforts made in exploring new reserves.

To underline the seriousness of the situation, Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner said in Brussels recently that between now and 1990 the Community would need to invest around £25 000 million a year in the development of its own energy supplies.

He added: 'We have no time to lose. What is not invested in right now will not exist in 1990'.

# Location of nuclear plants can be more than national issue

Each year a number of new sites have to be found for nuclear power stations within the European Community in order to meet demand for electrical energy over the next decade.

Choosing suitable sites is no easy task, especially in densely-populated Community countries. In addition to the all-important safety requirements, the sites must satisfy economic, environmental and land-use planning criteria.

The sites must be suitably placed in relation to cities and major electricity transmission routes. Pollution and risks to local population must be considered as well as technical factors such as availability of cooling water and ground stability.

Special problems arise where power plants are situated near frontiers. For example, radioactive effluents either in the air or in water may be carried over into a neighbouring State. The discharge of sulphur dioxide from conventional thermal power stations can pollute the atmosphere across the border.

It is estimated that about 33 nuclear power plants are either planned, under construction or in operation within 25 miles of national borders. This represents about a quarter of the total number of nuclear power plants in operation or under construction.

What is more, 15 of the power plants are located less than six miles from a border.

In 1976 the European Commission proposed that the nine Member States agree to set up a consultation procedure on the location of power plants which could affect other Member States. The Nine rejected the proposal as premature.

Now, in a climate of increased awareness of the possible risks of nuclear power, the Commission has repeated its proposal. It believes there is an urgent need for a Community consultation procedure, partly because existing consultation between Member States has in some cases proved inadequate and also because public sensitivity has grown far more acute.

Under the Euratom Treaty, Member States undertook to inform the Commission about how they intend to dispose of radioactive waste from nuclear installations. The Commission can then investigate whether there is a risk of radioactive contamination of another Member State.

However, this procedure is not always fully effective as the Commission is usually only informed in the final phase of plant construction.

Member States are not obliged to provide information about other possible effects on neighbouring countries.

If the Commission's proposal is accepted, a Member State likely to be affected by the building of a new power station across the border can request consultations.

The Member State responsible for the power station would then give the Commission all the data necessary to judge what the likely effects across the frontier would be.

Together with a group of experts from the Member States, the Commission would give its opinion. It is understood that this would be given before the power station is built.

There are a number of advantages in Community rather than bilateral consultations. The main advantage is that they would be more impartial. They would also ensure that standard criteria are applied in choosing sites. Experience gained in assessing power plant sites would be accumulated and Member States would be able to draw on this expertise when analysing the complex technical problems involved.

Finally, people living near frontiers would be more confident about the safety of power stations on the other side if they had the assurance that Community level consultations had been held.

The importance of nuclear energy must not, however, be exaggerated. It still accounts for only about 10% of total electricity production in the Community. But its share is rising steadily while its emotional impact, especially after the Three Mile Island accident in the USA, is of a far greater dimension.

Belgium is the Member State most heavily dependent on nuclear energy. It provides about 25% of electricity production. In the United Kingdom it provides 12%, in Germany 10%, in France 8%, in the Netherlands 6%and in Italy less than 2%.

Ireland, Denmark and Luxembourg have no nuclear power plants.

## IN BRIEF

Applications for assistance from the European Social Fund, which is used to help retrain workers, are currently double the amount available. The Fund dispensed around £ 380 million last year.

Irish Steel Holdings, Ireland's only steel works, is to get a  $\pounds$  17.5 million loan from the European Commission for modernization.

We all know that rail has steadily been giving way to road. But do we know by how much? In 1965, twice as many goods traded between the Community Member States were carried by rail as by road. By 1976, the roles had been reversed to a 3 to 1 ratio in favour of the roads.

# TECHNOLOGY

Push-button data may be on the (computer) cards

A computer with a human face?

Not exactly, but that's almost what could emerge from the interconnection of two new forms of communications.

Experts involved in the Euronet data system being established in a number of European Community countries (see Euroforum 10/79) are currently looking into the possibility of mating their computer-based operation with an emerging system called Videotex (or Viewdata), which is a revolutionary concept of picture transmission via the telephone system.

The latter has been under development for some time to enable the public to obtain information from a data centre using the telephone coupled to a domestic television set.

The European Commission in Brussels has been watching these twin developments for some time and has organized wide consultations between promoters, manufacturers, users and the national post and telecommunications authorities.

Its experts are currently examining the possible compatibility of such Videotex systems as the Bildschirmtext in Germany, the Antiope in France and the Prestel in the United Kingdom with Euronet.

While it is still some way off, such an innovation could eventually result in instantaneous computer data being available on our television screens.

We may even be able to dial-a-book from our nearest lending library.

# SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Mine work safer now, but fatalities still all too frequent

For the past 15 years, orphans of workers in the coal and iron ore mining and steel industries have been helped by European Community grants to further their education.

The Paul Finet Foundation, named after a former President of the European Coal and Steel Community, was set up in 1965 to help orphans of workers who have died as a result of industrial accidents or occupational diseases.

It applies in the case of deaths that occurred after June 1965 in the original six Community Member States or since 1973 in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark.

Because of limited funds, the Foundation can only help needy children who prove their aptitude and produce good school results.

They have to be 14 years old or more, unless they are particularly bright, and must be following second level or higher education courses. The size of the scholarship is fixed according to the merits of each case, particularly the candidate's economic situation.

The Foundation's Executive Committee examined 428 cases this year and has just approved aid to 300 applicants totalling around  $\pounds 40000$ .

Figures recently published by the Community's Mines Safety and Health Commission show that, although the number of fatal accidents is falling there is still a need for an agency like the Paul Finet Foundation.

There were 116 fatal underground accidents in coal mines in the Member States in 1977, compared with 170 in 1976. The total number of accidents (fatalities plus casualties resulting in at least four days absence) was 88 058 —a slight decrease on the previous year.

The Commission, currently chaired by Commissioner Henk Vredeling, is nearly 22 years old: It has made a major contribution to improving safety in coal mines and now plans to extend its scope to cover all the extraction industries.

12

The Commission's work has led, among other measures, to Community legislation which was adopted in 1977 making safety signs at the work place compulsory.

It has also done important work on the prevention of rock bursts and the stability of tips—the Aberfan-type disaster is something the Commission hopes not to see the likes of again.

In its recently-published annual report, the Commission also urges that priority should be given to the hazards of blowouts in oil fields, which are a major source of danger to thousands of people working at wells and on drilling platforms, not to mention the risks of explosion and fire which could jeopardize rescue attempts.

# IN BRIEF

We have been asked by Ecoropa (European Ecological Action) to make clear that the organization did not itself put forward candidates in the European elections, as might have been inferred from an article in Euroforum 9/79. Ecoropa points out that it is merely a meeting point for European ecologists. Its declaration on the occasion of the elections was, incidentally, signed by a number of Nobel Prize winners in addition to Heinrich Böll whom we mentioned.

There are no plans to harmonize the opening hours of offices and businesses which vary from one Member State to another. The European Commission pointed out to a curious European Parliamentarian that this time-keeping was a reflection of national or local customs.

If the Community reduced its oil imports this year by 5% it would save  $\pounds 1500$  million.

A special scheme designed to avoid double taxation when works of art, antiques and collectors items are sold across the Community's internal frontiers has been proposed by the European Commission.

The Community has about  $\pounds 4\,800$  million tonnes of crude oil in recoverable on-shore and off-shore resources, it has been estimated. By way of comparison, its current oil imports amount to 470 million tonnes a year.

# EMPLOYMENT

# Luxembourgers top of yet another league table

Living standards of manual workers in the European Community have, despite some recent setbacks, generally shown a steady increase. But who has shown the biggest gain from this increase in prosperity?

Judged by one criterion, the increase in hourly earnings, it looks like the Italians. Manual workers in Italy enjoyed a 70% increase in average gross hourly earnings between October 1975 and April 1978.

According to figures which have just been published the other end of the scale was occupied by German manual workers, whose earnings rose by only 18% during the same period.

However, the difference is not really as big as it seems. If inflation is taken into account, the gap in real terms between the two countries is only 5%. The real increase in Italian earnings is 12% while that of the Germans is 7%.

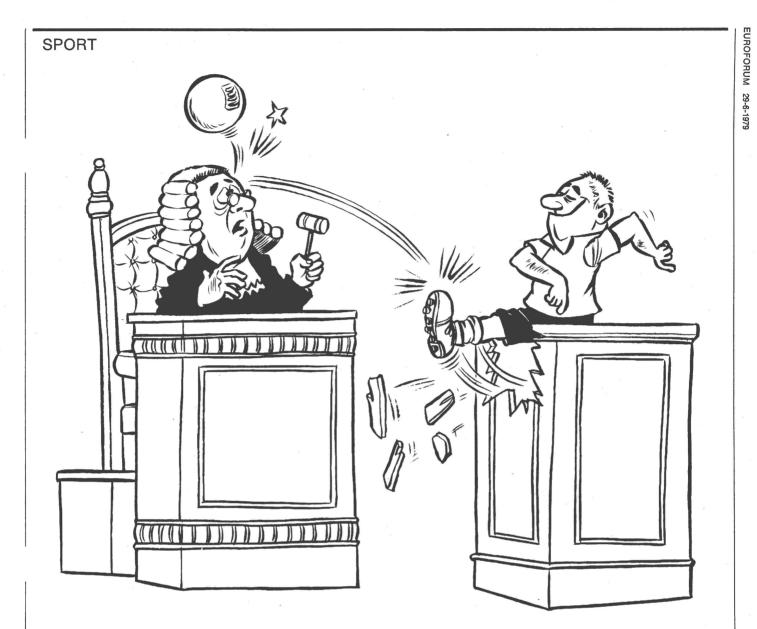
In fact, workers from the tiny State of Luxembourg recorded the greatest increase in real hourly earnings (17%). French, Belgian and Dutch workers also raised their real wages from between 5 and 12%.

Real wages of British, Irish and Danish workers fell slightly between 1975 and 1978, even though in nominal terms they rose between 28 and 39%.

In the final 12 months to April 1978, real earnings rose more quickly in Italy and the Netherlands but slowed down in Belgium, France and Germany.

Hourly earnings increase Oct. 1975 - Apr. 1978 (Oct. 1975 = 100)

	Nominal	Real
Italy	170	112
France	140	112
Ireland	139	99.8
Luxembourg	136	117
UK	132	97
Denmark	128	98
Belgium	126	107
Netherlands	123	105
Germany	117	107



# British TV football result will please all European fans

When the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) cried 'Foul' recently, the European Commission had to blow its whistle and intervene to ensure that the high British standards of fair play were maintained.

The home side was the the BBC, which for years has been screening on TV the popular 'Match of the Day' football programme on Saturday evenings. The team playing away from home was London Weekend Television (LWT), which was the champion of all the independent television companies in Britain.

BBC considered that LWT were definitely offside when they reached an agreement with the English Football League to record and transmit all English football league matches (Scotland has its own league). If the move had been allowed to stand, the BBC would have been excluded from covering these games. But the ripples would also have been felt on the Continent, since other Community countries would have been able to get their recordings showing the finesse of English football from only one source —the independent programme companies.

Definitely not cricket, said the BBC. The European Commission, which is responsible for ensuring free and open competition throughout the Community, agreed, arguing that this created a monopoly in an area of significant public interest to the Community as a whole. Football is, after all, one of Europe's major sports.

With the threat of legal proceedings hanging over them, the participants decided to shake hands and replay the game. Now both the BBC and independent companies may record English football league matches and make these available to other Community countries.

# ENLARGEMENT

# Second Community loan for Greece

The European Investment Bank, which makes long-term loans for regional development in the European Community and in associated countries, has just granted Greece five loans worth  $\pounds 46$  million to help it prepare for its accession to the Community in 1981.

The money will be spent on irrigation, forestry, hydroelectric projects and industrial investment.

The loans have been made under a financial protocol to the 1962 Association Agreement between Greece and the Community. The Luxembourg-based bank has now given £60 million worth of loans under this protocol, which came into force last August.

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

29-6-1979

EUROFORUM

# Europeans gearing themselves to boost trade with China

Just as another European named Marco Polo first opened up the unknown Chinese world to Western traders several centuries ago, a new generation of European merchants is re-discovering the Chinese after years of isolation.

While most of the attention concerning this renewed contact between Europe and China has focused on the big political and economic implications of the development, the prospects of expanding trade between the two could have an impact that reaches down to the regional and local levels in most European countries.

Historic meetings between ministers and treaties, such as the five-year commercial agreement between the European Community and China in 1978, may grab all the headlines. But they set the stage for what are perhaps the more important day-to-day contacts. These later encounters by businessmen, bankers, officials and other technicians translate the political good-will and declarations into solid orders that set factories from Birmingham to Milan working.

Community trade with China (1978)

	Exports to the People's Republic of China	
Germany	£521 million	£185 million
France	£103 million	£118 million
Italy	£ 98 million	$\pounds 105$ million
Netherlands	£ 69 million	£ 65 million
Belgium/Luxembourg	£106 million	$\pounds$ 23 million
United Kingdom	£ 92 million	$\pounds 109$ million
Ireland	£ 690 000	$\pounds$ 2.7 million
Denmark	$\pounds$ 4 million	$\pounds 624$ million
Total (EUR 9)	£993 million	£ 17 million

These transactions range from buses to coal-mining technology and are expected to reach as high as £10 billion a year within four to eight years. This two-way trade traffic between Europe and China should have a profound impact on the economies of both. The emerging China, of course, is hoping to use Western technology and products to help modernize the country after years of isolation and austerity.

During his visit to China earlier this year, European Commission President Roy Jenkins expressed the European hope that 'it may well be in China, with a fifth of the world's population, that we rediscover that historic impulse of demand which could enable us to continue and extend the rise in living standards throughout the world'.

If there is any uncertainty about the extent and impact of this trade, one thing is certain and that is that both sides are anxious to do business.

It doesn't happen overnight, but after the glitter of the reciprocal group tours to the Great Wall and the steelworks in the Rhur or the port cities of Antwerp or Rotterdam are over, firm deals are discussed and regularly concluded.

That's why German workers in Munich are now busy on parts and equipment for seven petrochemical or metallurgical plants in China that will bring in some £ 50 million. Similarly, a British firm and its workers are involved in recently announced plans to establish a motor vehicle assembly plant in Shumchun, just across the Chinese border from Hong Kong to build buses and perhaps trucks and later cars.

A French company last year received  $\pounds$  10 million contract for spare parts for three ammonia-urea plants it was already building in China and is also bidding on two more plastic plants costing over  $\pounds$  50 million.

Such deals are being repeated over and over again in all European Community countries and among the most familiar industrial names. Many of the Community's larger companies are in the market competing for orders. And when such big organizations obtain a contract, work for other subcontractors and their employees trickles down as well.

But unfortunately it's not just a matter of exchanging visits, having long copious business banquets and then clinching deals that will relieve unemployment in Lorraine, Campania or in the Liverpool area. There's the problem of competition, first with companies from the United States, Japan, other European countries. Then there is the expected and accepted need for China to sell some of its goods to the European Community. It's part of the fair play that all trading partners demand and usually obtain from each other-that the trade will roughly balance so that each can earn enough through sales to buy from the other.

Some of these Chinese sales may mean shipments of scarce oil, which all of Europe desires. But some may also be goods produced by Chinese industries that compete directly with European factories. China turns out a lot of textiles, such as its renowned silk, and this could put further pressure on an already depressed European textile industry.

Negotiators from the European Commission in Brussels have already begun discussions with their Chinese counterparts to try to ensure that any sales of Chinese textiles in the Community will not be too disruptive.

These are the widespread consequences for every worker in Europe of what at first appears as a remote headline about statesmen and world politics. Just as Marco Polo and his family established a mutually-beneficial caravan route between Europe and China, this century's merchants are hoping to make their own historic impact in the Chinese market place.

# EUROFORUM 29-6-1979

## FOCUS

# Making the voice of youth heard in the Community

Brussels these days is a centre for pressure groups — there are groups representing industrialists, agriculturalists, trade unionists, consumers and so on. But, until recently, there has been nobody representing young people.

However, with the establishment at a meeting in November 1978 of the first Youth Forum of the European Communities, young people can now make their views heard in Europe.

Gilbert Véron, the Forum's General Secretary, sees it as 'the mouthpiece of organized youth in Europe'. Its task is to act as a political point of contact between young people's organizations and the European institutions, especially the European Commission and the Parliament.

Although its finance comes from the Community budget, it is completely outside the Community institutions and, as is the case with any other such pressure group, the European institutions are not officially obliged to listen to it or even to ask for its views. Nevertheless, a wellorganized pressure group is hard to ignore.

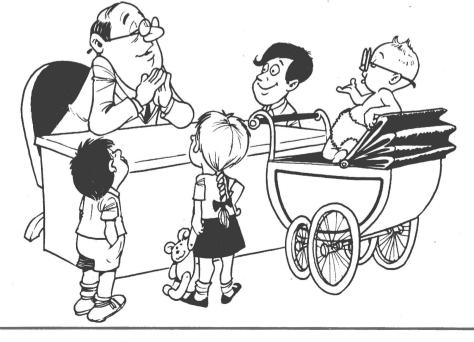
The Forum brings together youth associations of a social, cultural or general nature, as well as youth organizations of many political colours. Its membership is composed, on the one hand, of the nine Member States' National Youth Committees and, on the other, of 21 international youth organizations, some, but not all, of which are politically or religiously motivated. So, although the Forum cannot claim to speak for all young people in Europe, it does represent a very wide crosssection of young people who are active in one way or another. For Gilbert Véron, the wonder is that such a mixed bag could even come to agree on the creation of the Forum.

The Forum now has its own permanent secretariat in Brussels and has already got down to work. The subjects in which it is interested are wide-ranging and include unemployment among young people, their living and working conditions and the Community's educational and cultural situation.

Priority subjects so far, though, have been the current renegotiation of the Lomé Convention, the Community's relations with South Africa and the 5th UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD V) in Manila. The Forum's working parties have already drawn up reports on these subjects.

Gilbert Véron is hopeful of getting a fair hearing at European level. The European Parliament, whose role in setting up the Forum was crucial, has recently stated that is considers it important that there should be close and regular contacts between it and the Forum. For the Commission's part, its Social Partners Office maintains close links with the Forum and coordinates relations between it and the rest of the Commission.

One of the Forum's main handicaps is the fact that young people do not stay young for ever and that it therefore has a very fast turnover in membership which may cause problems in the continuity of its work. Its trump card is, though, that since many of the young people belonging to the organizations which make up the Forum will in years to come hold positions of influence, the views they express now are worth listening to.



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