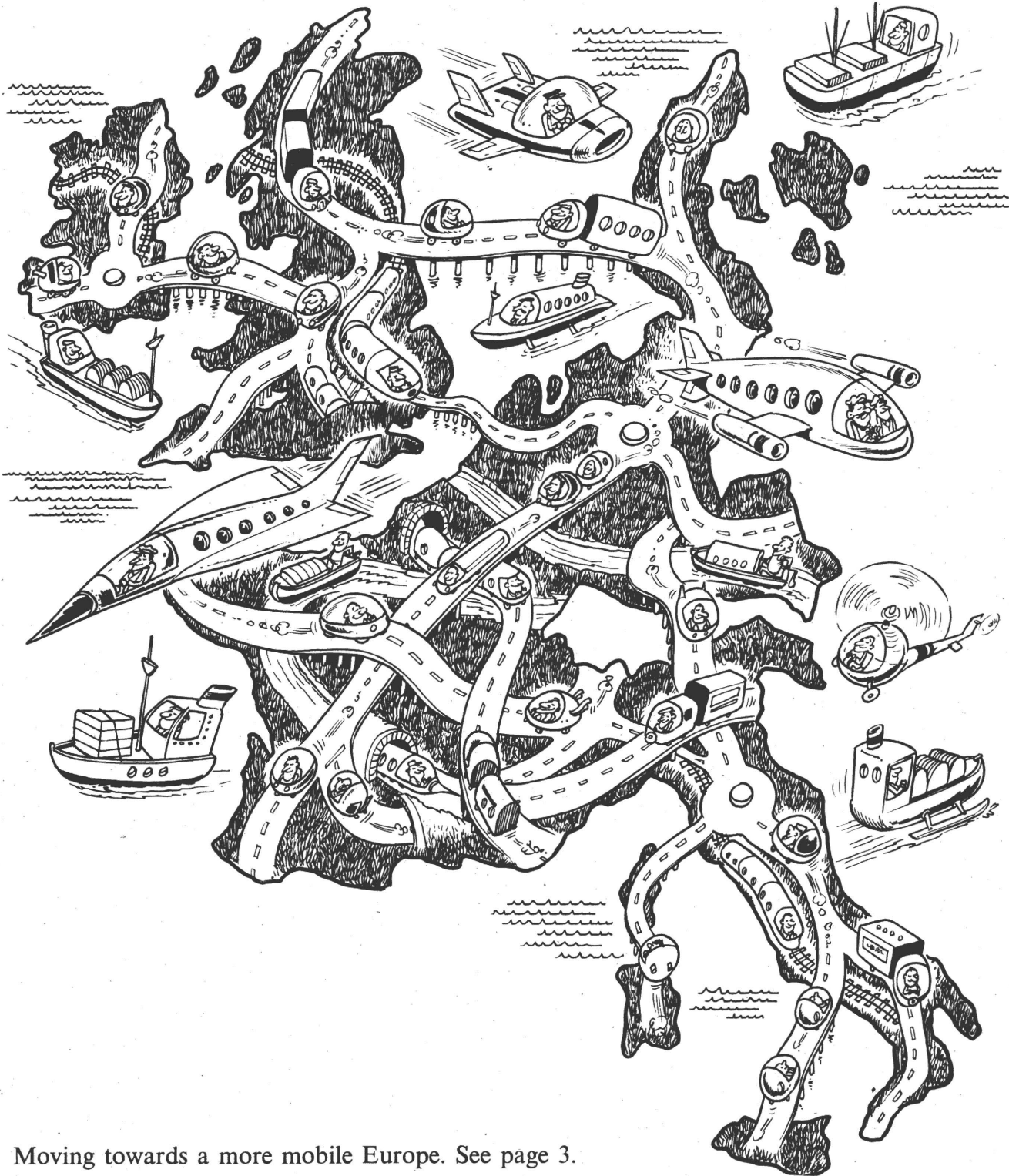


Euroforum



Moving towards a more mobile Europe. See page 3.

€18/79
23 - 11 - 1979

Euroforum

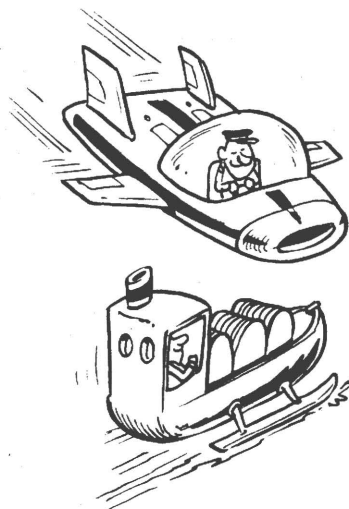
Contents

Transport	3	Moving towards a more mobile Europe
	4	Euro-MPs support Commission campaign for lower fares Lawyers seek more protection for the low-budget tourist
Health	5	Community action is called for in fight against alcoholism
Youth	6	Community dimension to Belgium's 150th anniversary celebrations
Taxation	7	Increased Community-level cooperation to beat the dodgers
Lifestyle	8	Adopting yet another part of the American way of life?
Employment	9	New initiatives aimed at creating jobs: youth a priority
Research	10	Waste not, want not
The budget	10	Commission ideas get backing of the Parliament
Education	11	Handbook will help students who wish to study abroad Community grants aim to promote inter-university cooperation
Third World	12	Cambodian refugees: Commission to send additional aid Increased Community aid urged to combat widespread hunger S.E. Asian refugees are still coming
Energy	13	Coal may yet prove to be even blacker gold than oil
The economy	13	Some consolation in inflation figures
	14	The news at a glance
Focus	15	Eurobabble, or how to lose friends and confuse people

The contents of Euroforum—which do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the European Community Institutions—may be quoted or reproduced without further permission. An indication of Euroforum as the source would be appreciated, as would a copy of any article published.

Euroforum is published by the
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



Moving towards a more mobile Europe

The idea of a fixed link (tunnel or bridge) across the English Channel has been around in some form or another since Napoleonic times. Now the project could be given a new and perhaps decisive boost following the publication by the European Commission of a Green Paper on the improvement of transport infrastructure in the Community.

The Channel Tunnel plan is just one of more than a dozen projects mentioned in the paper as being examples of major infrastructure schemes of potential Community interest which the Commission would like the Council of Ministers to approve. Others include better cross-border links in Ireland and better communications between Dublin and Cork and Galway.

The main theme of the Green Paper is that while the Community is constantly taking steps to eliminate trade barriers between the nine Member States through the abolition of customs duties and similar hindrances to free trade, other no less obvious barriers remain. These are natural, geographical barriers (e.g. mountain ranges, rivers and other stretches of water) which obstruct the free flow of goods and people, and often create special hardships for the Community's outlying regions.

Although the Member States have devoted a good deal of their resources to the development of their international transport infrastructures, there are several reasons for closer Community involvement in the planning and execution of infrastructure projects.

The most significant of these is the importance given to the development of a common transport policy in the Treaty of Rome.

Transport accounts for some 6% of Community GNP (more than agriculture), 15% of total capital investment and as much as 40% of capital investment in the public sector. It is therefore, the Commission feels, a sector comparable with agriculture and steel, which have for many years been the subject of Community action and investment.

Another reason for Community involvement is the changing shape of transport in Europe. Over the past decade, the growth in traffic between Member States has increased twice as quickly as the volume of purely national traffic. This trend is likely to continue, the Commission says, and the demand for transport could double by the year 2000. The Community must be in a position to respond effectively to this demand.

The current practice of conceiving and executing infrastructure projects in purely national terms can lead to duplication of effort and does give rise to serious inadequacies. A disproportionate priority is given to roads and motorways, for example.

The Commission stresses that the role of the Community would be to supplement, not to replace, national action. The Community would provide financial assistance and ensure coordination.

The advantages of the Community taking part in the development of transport infrastructure are by no means purely economic. There are important social implications, especially for frontier regions. These areas, many of them at present financially disadvantaged, should be the first to benefit from the improvement of cross-frontier links in terms of improved living standards and employment prospects. Improved infrastructure, by redressing the dangers of centralization in the Community, could be an essential part of existing regional policy.

Infrastructure is also closely linked with the Community's energy policy. Transport consumes about 14% of total Community energy, and 24% of petroleum products. Getting the best return on that consumption, and ensuring the right choices in terms of the most 'energy economic' forms of trans-

port, are problems that infrastructure planning can play a part in resolving. The quality of the infrastructure network for each mode of transport influences the choices made by transport users.

The Commission is, however, not unaware of the fact that the development of transport infrastructure can have disadvantages, both socio-economic and environmental, and these have to be borne in mind.

What shape, then, does the Green Paper envisage the Community role in transport infrastructure taking? The Commission stresses that the Member States should retain the right of initiative for infrastructure plans. A project proposed by one Member State would be discussed by its eight partners and the Commission, and its value to the Community as a whole assessed.

The Green Paper suggests that Community intervention would become necessary when a desirable project did not command sufficient priority at the national level, or where it might over-tax national resources. Community action could also be useful where a number of Member States were involved in a project, but where there was no way of sharing costs effectively.

Aid, where appropriate, would be provided by a special financing mechanism for infrastructure investment, which has already been forwarded to the Council of Ministers for approval. The adoption of this mechanism (expected by some sources in June 1980) is seen as being one of the most important developments so far in the Community's transport policy.

Money has already been voted by the European Parliament to finance a series of studies aimed at examining the weak points in the Community's current infrastructure network and the conditions under which bottlenecks are produced. Earlier this month, during its debate on next year's Community budget, the Parliament voted £30 million to help finance improvements in transport infrastructure throughout the nine Member States.

In addition, a committee on transport infrastructure has been set up and is hard at work examining every aspect of transport communications in the Nine.

The role of the Commission document is, as the term 'Green Paper' suggests, to promote a wide-ranging discussion

and debate on the future development of transport infrastructure in the Community, a debate which is particularly relevant in the light of the accession of Greece in 1981.

A symposium planned by the Commission for the first half of next year will attempt to draw the threads of this discussion together.

Euro-MPs support Commission campaign for lower fares

The European Commission has secured the strong backing of Members of the European Parliament for its plan to introduce greater flexibility into air transport in the Community.

At their October plenary session in Strasbourg, the Euro-MPs virtually without exception spoke in support of the Commission Green Paper published this summer which examines the possibilities of increasing the efficiency of our airlines, thereby reducing the cost levels of air transport in the Community. If anything, they thought that it should have perhaps gone further.

MPs obviously relished the opportunity to dwell on the cost and difficulties of flying in Europe, one of them saying that it took him up to nine hours to fly from Edinburgh to Strasbourg. In the same vein, several speakers urged that inter-regional services be stepped up. These already exist, as between Cork (Ireland) and Rennes in Brittany.

Replying to the many points raised in the debate, Transport Commissioner Richard Burke emphasized that the Commission's aim was not to disrupt existing arrangements; rather it was to start an evolution—and not a revolution—in the industry.

This would, he said, help to give travellers efficient services with prices which are as low as possible and at the same time guarantee the financial viability of airlines.

He told members that the common transport policy was entering a new phase in its development and that it should now get 'prime viewing time'. The Green Paper was essentially a discussion paper, he said, concentrating on areas where Community action could yield more fruits than purely national measures.

The Green Paper puts forward a number of suggested policies, including the opening of existing routes to include other airlines, a rethinking of tariff structures including cheap 'no-frill' fares and a simplification of administrative formalities that would reduce the time spent waiting at airports.

Lawyers seek more protection for the low-budget tourist

Organized travel—the now ubiquitous 'package tour'—is a relatively recent form of travel that has become immensely popular during the last 15 years. Estimates show that more than 20 million organized travel holidays are

booked in the nine European Community countries every year.

Some of the reasons behind this phenomenal growth are the general increase of disposable income, the fact that paid holidays for wage earners have become very common, and the recognition that travel enhances one's social development.

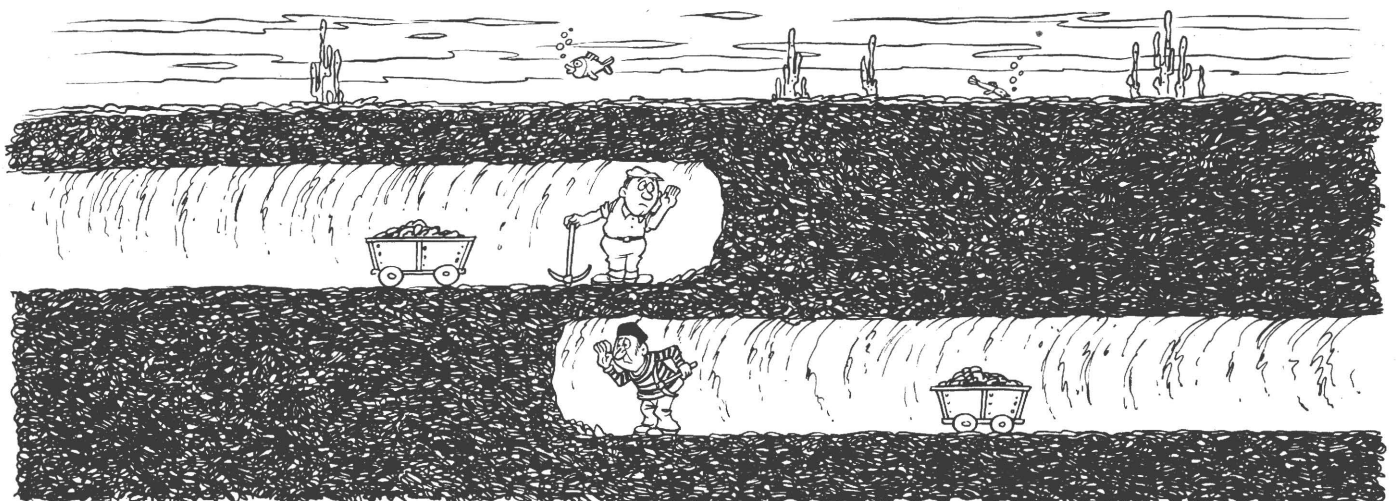
However, one aspect of this booming industry that has been neglected in recent years is the protection of the consumer.

The last notable attempt that was made to adopt some form of international code of practice on organized travel took place at a conference in Brussels in 1970. But consumer organizations were not consulted and all but Belgium and Italy of the Community Member States failed to ratify the ensuing convention.

Now, an independent group of European lawyers has called for stricter legislation in the Community to offer greater protection to people who take package holidays.

The European Consumer Law Group (ECLG) says: 'The protection of the consumer in the field of organized travel must be achieved by adequate legislative actions which so far are wholly or partially lacking in Member States'.

The ECLG is a group of lawyers with common interests in consumer affairs. It meets several times a year in Brussels to review the Community's consumer legislation and that of its member countries.



HEALTH

Community action is called for in fight against alcoholism

Unless you're a child or a convinced teetotaler, the chances are that you enjoy drinking a glass of wine with your meal, or popping down to the pub for a drink with some friends, or relaxing with a beer in front of the telly. From time to time you may even feel like going out and getting thoroughly sloshed at a party, or feel in need of a drink to steady your nerves in a crisis.

You wouldn't be unusual, but you would be one of the reasons why alcohol consumption has increased dramatically in recent years all over the world, and particularly in Europe—a fact which is causing considerable alarm amongst doctors and social workers.

In their report, just published, on the Medico-Social Risks of Alcohol Consumption, a working party set up by the European Commission's Health and Safety Directorate refers to figures showing that as far as the European Community is concerned, over the two decades between 1952 and 1972 the amount of alcohol consumed in the Netherlands went up a striking 276%, while in Germany the increase was 182% and in Denmark 133%. France, though still the Community's biggest consumer of alcohol, was the only member country where consumption had gone down.

The experts attribute the reasons for this increase mostly to social changes which have caused people to alter their drinking habits. In Mediterranean countries, for instance, people who traditionally drink wine with their meals have started drinking beer and spirits socially as well, and the traditional beer drinkers of the North have started taking wine with their meals.

Another factor is relaxing social attitudes which make it more acceptable for women and young people to drink, but perhaps the most important reason is the increase in the production and advertising of alcoholic drinks, their relative cheapness and easy availability in self-service stores.



In a 20-page paper, the ECLG asserts that although some countries have introduced legislation protecting the consumer against unreasonable demands by tour operators, no one country has done enough and it therefore believes that action at the Community level is the answer, particularly as this is a cross-frontier problem.

The paper points out that European tour operators can unilaterally change the price of a journey, the departure time, the destination or the category of accommodation. When a journey is cancelled, it happens often 'without any or only a small compensation to the consumer'.

The ECLG proposes that travellers pay only 75% of the package costs prior to departure and the remainder upon their return, depending on the quality of the service rendered.

'It is a well-established rule of law in all Community countries that the contract price is paid after a service has been delivered. In a restaurant, you start with an aperitif, not with the payment of the bill', the lawyers point out.

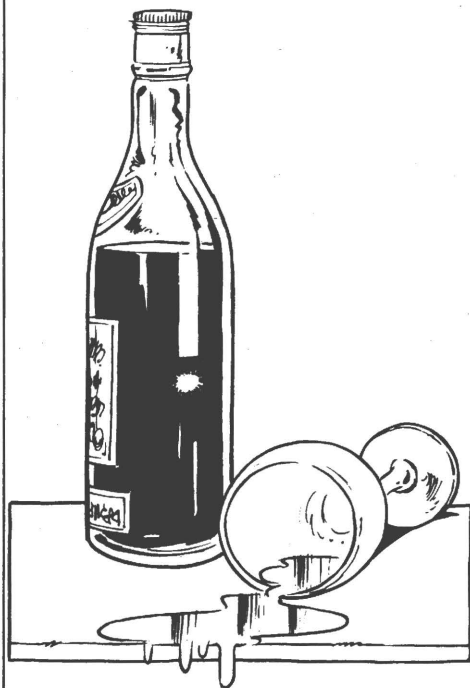
On the practice by certain tour operators of increasing the cost of the tour to take account of changes in exchange rates, they comment that consumers do not enjoy similar advantages when currency changes favour the agent.

'We see no reason to permit a unilateral price increase—in particular when the consumer has paid the contract price in advance. Changes in exchange rates are in the 'risks' sphere of travel organizers and should not be charged to consumers'.

According to the report, tour operators often 'forget' to tell consumers about important unattractive factors which might affect the choice of holiday booked, such as the fact that their hotel is a long way from the beach or overlooks a noisy nightclub.

'We think that consumers should be given all relevant and accurate information necessary to make their choice. In this perspective, we welcome the decisions of the courts in France and Belgium which have a tendency to treat catalogue contents as contract commitments', the lawyers add.

What worries the experts about all this is that they feel many people enjoy drinking alcohol and like the effect it has without realizing just how dangerous it can be. They are afraid that the conspicuous alcoholism of the 19th century described by writers like Zola and Dickens, which tended to be associated with extreme poverty and the lower working classes, is being replaced by a less obvious but just as frightening form of alcoholism associated with leisure and a higher standard of living.



They are also concerned that alcoholism may occur not just, as had previously been supposed, in people with a certain kind of physical or mental make up, but, given the appropriate social circumstances, in anyone.

It seems there are good reasons for believing that even the lowest amounts usually consumed may endanger health, and the number of people at risk is therefore much greater than was previously thought. Even a so-called 'moderate' drinker risks getting seriously overweight and damaging his or her digestive system, without showing any visible signs of drunkenness or physical dependence. The combination of alcohol and tobacco is particularly harmful.

Excessive drinkers risk physical dependence and withdrawal symptoms, chronic illness, behaviour problems, loss of memory, brain damage and premature death. What is so inviolable is that it's a vicious circle—excessive drinking sets up the depen-

dence, which gives rise to further drinking. What is more, as well as endangering himself, or herself, the drunkard also risks having accidents and endangering other people.

The working party believes that the European Community, as a free trade area providing probably 78% of the world's wine and 50% of its commercially-produced beer, has an important role to play.

They suggest that, as a matter of urgency, the Community should review its current economic practices so as to minimize the dangers of alcohol to health and social well-being. Member States need to reconsider their policies on alcohol production and promotion with a view to reducing the amount we consume.

They also suggest there is a need to examine and compare the alcohol control policies we already have, such as taxation, opening hours, age limits, alcoholic strength of drinks and their distribution.

More research also needs to be carried out into the effectiveness of present measures, as well as comparative studies on a European level. The Commission is urged to take the initiative in promoting a European research strategy on alcoholism and the foundation of a European Alcohol Research Society like those in Japan and the United States.

As the experts point out, moderate drinkers need to be helped to remain so, and excessive drinkers need to be recognized early, whether they have problems or not. Health education programmes could provide information to both young people and adults, and help change public attitudes to drinking and drunkenness.

Emphasis is placed on the need for people to be encouraged to seek help for drinking problems without risking losing their jobs. Governments have an obvious role to play in providing adequate services to detect cases of alcoholism, channel them to treatment, and provide support for those who need it.

The report suggests that prevention of alcoholism should concern all drinkers and not just those labelled 'alcoholics'. In a society, they say, where sedentary habits make us liable to die prematurely from overweight, and where increasingly fast transport and busy roads require us to be constantly alert if we are to avoid accidents, daily

drinking should not be encouraged as the socially 'in' thing to do.

The working party concludes by hoping that the European Commission, together with governments and other international bodies in Europe especially, will draw attention to the problem and use its special powers to help reduce the dangerous effects of alcohol.

YOUTH

Community dimension to Belgium's 150th anniversary celebrations

Belgium will next year celebrate the 150th anniversary of its independence and, appropriately for the country which provides a provisional home for a number of Community institutions, it has decided to add a Community flavour to its celebrations.

The emphasis will, above all, be on the Community's young people, who will be the beneficiaries of a special programme which will have as its slogan 'The young are building Europe'.

As part of this programme, 8 000 boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 18 from the other eight Member States will be invited to spend 10 days with Belgian families.

All expenses will be paid by the Belgian authorities and the lucky teenagers will also be given free passes for public transport and for different exhibitions and other events which they wish to attend.

Three visit periods are planned: 20-30 June, 1-10 July, and 11-21 July. During each of these periods Belgium will welcome 540 boys and girls from the United Kingdom, France and Germany, 400 Italians, 330 Dutch, 130 Danes and Irish, and 70 Luxembourgers.

The visits will be organized with the help of national youth organizations in each of the Member States.

Steady progress

Industrial production in the Community in July, for which figures have just become available, was 4.3% up on July of last year. This continues the upward trend which began early in 1978.

TAXATION

Increased Community-level cooperation to beat the dodgers

At first glance coal miners, wealthy industrialists and popular singing stars would seem to have little in common. But they are just some of the Europeans who are increasingly finding themselves the subject of increased attention from the taxman.

In virtually every European country in recent months there has been a growing interest by governments in stemming what they once considered an acceptable drain on resources. What they are aiming to do is reduce—though hardly eliminate—the drain on national treasuries because of various forms of legal or illegal tax evasion.

In *Euroforum* 17/79 we reported on an agreement by the Council of Ministers to combat evasion of value-added tax. But this is only one form of tax dodging which is ultimately at the expense of the honest citizen and which national authorities are determined to defeat.

While the label 'tax evasion' or avoidance sounds like a crime, some of it is very deeply rooted in the traditions of different countries or professions. For instance, British tax authorities are closely scrutinizing the various industrial and business practices that grant employees tax-free benefits such as company cars, meal money or even free coal for coal miners. The Inland Revenue Service estimates that millions of pounds are being lost each year because of such practices and is considering a crack-down on this and other forms of tax evasion.

The same is true in France, where 'Open Season on Tax Fraud' was the

title of a cover story in one of the country's leading weekly magazines in October. According to the article, if all tax cheats had paid all their taxes in 1979, income taxes could have been reduced by half.

A number of the country's top musical stars have been the subject of tax investigations in the past few years, as has been one of the country's leading industrialists.

In Italy, the issue has engulfed household names in the business world but also involves 'ordinary' citizens. Investigators there have estimated that some six million people were engaged in 'black work'—undeclared jobs on which they pay absolutely no taxes or social security. This type of under-cover work is also widely practised in other countries.

Individuals and companies in Germany, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands have all come under the prying gaze of tax detectives.

The problem of tax evasion has become so widespread that international organizations such as the European Community, as well as the Council of Europe and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have for some time been making a serious study of the problem.

One of the headaches they have been increasingly concerned with involves uses of 'tax haven' countries which have generous tax laws and serve as 'headquarters' for thousands of 'mail-box' companies. Other practices that cut a company's tax bill include 'transfer pricing' and other methods of shifting money or profits from subsidiaries in one country to another at the most advantageous prices.

With the post-war spurt in international business activity, there has been

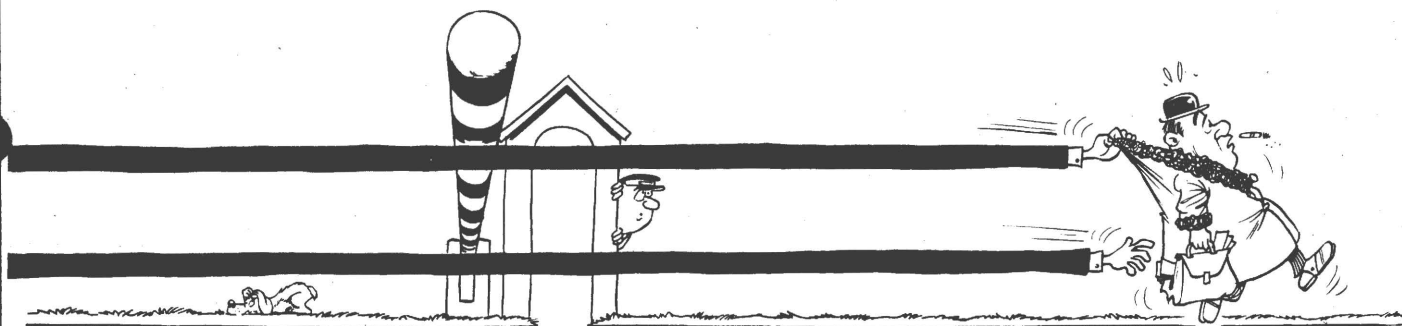
an accompanying surge in the ways of manipulating tax laws. In order to keep a more watchful eye on both the legal and illegal tax practices, national administrations have realized that there must be more international cooperation.

That's why the Community's Economics and Finance Ministers have decided to increase the cooperation between them which began in 1977, in cases involving both direct taxation and value-added tax collection.

Tax Commissioner Richard Burke does not think enough is being done to fight tax evasion. Criticizing the lack of cooperative action on the part of the Member States' governments recently, he said: 'It begs the question as to whether there is a political will to make progress in this area'. Mr Burke was addressing trade union representatives in Brussels.

The European Commission in Brussels, which is in charge of seeing that these new cooperation laws are applied, recently told the European Parliament that most Member States have now incorporated the first Community measure to beat the dodgers, which was agreed in 1977, into their national laws.

In addition, a major international symposium under the auspices of the Council of Europe is being planned for early 1980. This will be followed closely by the Commission and the nine governments, all of them equally anxious for any new ideas that will help them crack down on the multitude of tax avoidance practices that increase the taxes for other citizens.



LIFESTYLE

Adopting yet another part of the American way of life?

'They're always getting together, no matter what their age or class or outlook. Not just in the commerce and industry associations which everyone joins, but for a thousand other reasons: religious or moral, weighty or frivolous, wide-ranging or highly-specialized, vast or tiny'.

Thus Alexis de Tocqueville describing American life 144 years ago (*Democracy in America*, 1835) and what he saw astonished him; 144 years later he would probably be equally surprised to discover to what extent this American approach has spread to a less strait-laced Europe.

Over half the people living in the European Community today, for instance, are paid-up members of at least one association. In some countries, like the Netherlands and Denmark, the proportion is as high as 75-80%.

So who are all these people who form associations and join groups, and why do they do it?

Giving a speech to the European Association for Voluntary Service recently, Jacques-René Rabier who is in charge of a number of surveys regularly carried out by the European Commission to find out what Community citizens think or how they live, referred to some research the Commu-

nity has done on this and related subjects.

Nearly 9 000 people were questioned about the clubs and associations they belonged to, anything from trade unions and mutual aid societies to political parties, religious organizations, cultural or educational groups and sports clubs. When the results were analysed certain clear patterns emerged.

Throughout the Community, it's the men who are the keenest group-joiners, though in countries where joining groups is most popular, the difference between the sexes dwindles to insignificance. Where it is least popular, in Italy for instance, the gap is much wider—there, twice as many men as women belong to an association. It seems to be a cumulative thing too: in countries where joining groups is most common, people are likely to belong to several organizations.

However, we mustn't assume that everyone who joins a group is necessarily going to be an active member. In Belgium, for instance, 71% of the people questioned belonged to an association, but only 20% claimed to be active.

What accounts for these variations? One reason seems to be nationality, another what Mr Rabier calls 'cognitive mobilization', which he measures in terms of how keen a person is to talk politics and try and convince those around him. The keenest tend to be mostly men between the ages of 25-50. These 'opinion leaders' are likely to belong to several organizations.

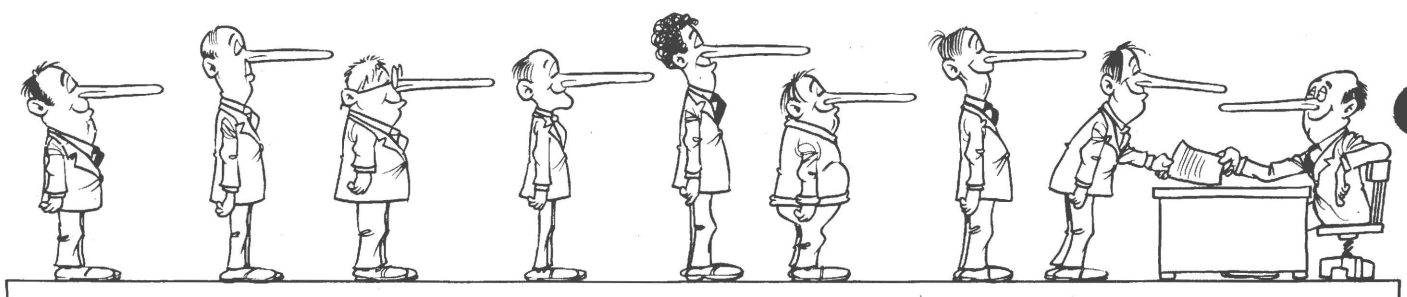
However, as de Tocqueville noted, groups exist for an enormous range of activities. Belonging to a bowling club or a parent teacher association cannot really be compared with militant activity in a political party or trade union.

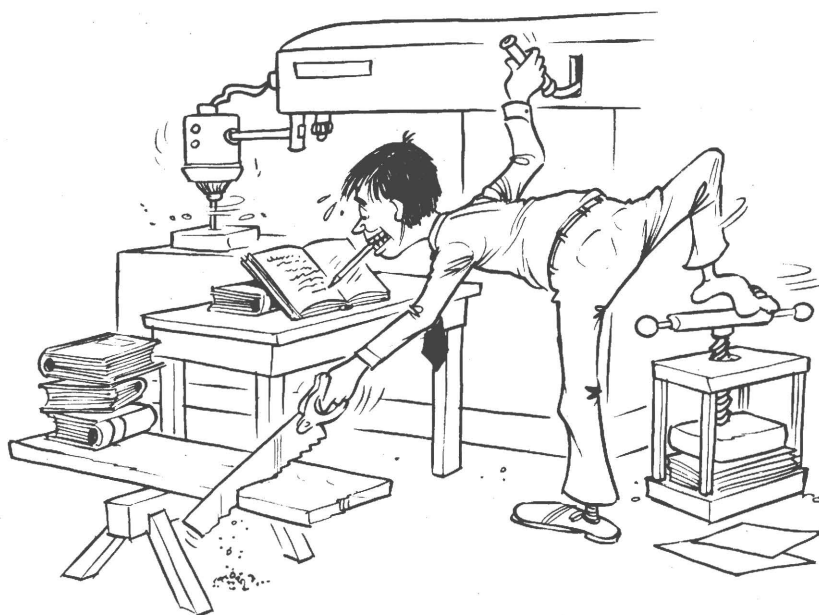
However, the survey did discover that the most popular associations for Europe as a whole are the trade unions, mutual aid societies and sports clubs, closely followed—at least for women—by religious groups. Political associations trailed far behind.

Generally speaking, women seem to be more interested in social, religious and cultural activities, and men in trade unions, sports and politics.

Certain differences are notable between countries—if they belong to any organization, Italian men are most likely to choose a trade union. For Italian women it is often the only organization they would think of joining. The Germans and the Irish on the other hand, especially the women, prefer religious or philosophical organizations, and hardly anyone anywhere, but especially not in France, and especially not women, is interested in joining a political group.

Perhaps we can leave the last word to de Tocqueville: 'Among the laws which govern human society, there is one which seems clearer and more precise than all the others. For men to stay civilized—or achieve civilization—it is essential that they develop and perfect the art of getting together with each other'.





New initiatives aimed at creating jobs: youth a priority

One of the most depressing statistics to emerge recently indicated that nearly 40% of the almost six million currently unemployed in the European Community are young people under the age of 25. A large proportion of these have just left school and are still waiting to find their first job.

The conclusion of some experts is that a lot of these young people need additional training to enable them to slot more easily into the working world. The European Commission in Brussels also believes that there is too little contact between the economic and academic sectors to better prepare the school leaver for work.

One of the results is a Commission proposal for the Community member countries to expand the efforts and the cooperation of the various national administrations, and of industry and the trade unions to increase the possibilities for training of young people.

This could include more use of apprentice training, of other on-the-job training schemes, combination study and work programmes and many other similar activities.

This measure is one envisaged as a result of an intensive examination the Commission and the Member States' governments have been engaged in for the past several months in order to relieve the unemployment that afflicts all of Europe.

The problem has been studied all the way from a summit meeting of the heads of Community governments earlier this year to working sessions involving government representatives, industry and labour.

These discussions have sometimes been highly animated, especially when they covered what has become known as 'work sharing' or a reduction of the working week. This has become one of the main requests of European trade unions as a means of creating more jobs.

Recognizing the importance of this issue for so many Community residents, the last European summit meeting in Paris asked the Commission to study the possibility of modifying work schedules or laws in order to create more job openings.

As a result of this effort, the Commission has prepared a proposal that would reinforce the individual policies of the member countries in a number of areas. These include not only the subject of further vocational training for the young but also such

possibilities as earlier or more flexible retirement at the other end of the age scale, as well as part-time employment, which has become increasingly used as a means of providing work for some who would otherwise have none.

Other possibilities involve temporary work, the creation of another shift, and the reduction of the amount of time worked over the whole year by those who already have jobs.

The proposal also recognizes the difficulties and the additional costs that might be represented by a reduction of the time worked or the creation of additional shifts. It therefore recommends that the additional costs be shared equitably in order to avoid passing on too high extra cost burdens to industry, which might discourage the investments necessary for a dynamic economy.

The two sets of proposals are expected to be considered by the nine Ministers of Social Affairs before the end of this year.

IN BRIEF

The bare minimum

What is a minimum income and what should be the minimum wage? The European Commission has completed a study into the first and is completing one into the second. On the basis of these results it will decide if there is scope for Community action.

Equal rights

The European Commission is planning to bring together shortly representatives of employers' and workers' organizations to work out better methods of eliminating wage discrimination against women as a result of job classification schemes. This is part of its efforts to ensure full implementation of the Community's equal pay legislation.

Women's rights

The European Parliament is planning a full-scale debate on women's rights to define what action it will urge the Council of Ministers to take to improve women's situation in law.

RESEARCH



Waste not, want not

In 1976 we produced 4.2 million tonnes of waste per day, or 1 500 million tonnes for the whole year.

Since then the amount of waste, ranging from potato peel to toxic chemicals, churned out from homes and factories in the European Community has been increasing by 3% per year.

Farmers are, somewhat surprisingly, the greatest waste makers. In 1976 they left 950 million tonnes of cabbage leaves, potato roots and other waste. But, as this is mostly organic matter, it is not too difficult to recycle.

The average citizen is also a huge waste maker. In 1976, 200 million tonnes of sewage sludge had to be disposed of—equivalent to 0.8 tonnes per person. This far outstripped the 90 million tonnes of household rubbish removed by dustbinmen.

Mining and quarrying generated 150 million tonnes of waste and industry 115 million tonnes. Although smaller in volume, these two kinds of waste are much more difficult and expensive to dispose of.

Buried beneath the millions of tonnes of rotting, stinking and corroding waste are many valuable raw materials. In addition, much of the remainder can be burned to provide a valuable source of energy. With escalating mineral and energy prices and the Community heavily dependent on imports, there is a growing incentive to recover and recycle waste materials.

The Research and Development (R&D) Ministers of the nine Member States recently adopted a £6 million four-year programme to improve the recycling of municipal and industrial waste. Financial incentives will be

given to encourage industry to develop new techniques.

Research will be carried out into four main sectors:

- Better sorting to recover materials and energy from domestic waste
- Burning waste to recover materials and energy
- Waste fermentation
- Recovery of rubber waste

The Community has already adopted three R&D programmes concerning primary raw materials, uranium prospecting and mining and the recycling of paper and board worth £16 million.

THE BUDGET

Commission ideas get backing of the Parliament

Members of the European Parliament have taken a major step towards trying to cut expenditure on the Community's common agricultural policy.

After a three-day debate in Strasbourg on next year's Community budget, they voted to transfer around £255 million from funds used to support prices in the dairy sector, where there is massive over-production, to a special reserve section.

The money will still be available to finance spending in next year's budget, but it will need the Parliament's approval before it can be used.

The decision, which divided members, even within the same political group, shows the Parliament's determination to try and cut down the volume of Community funds being used to finance growing surpluses in the dairy sector.

Several members, especially from farming backgrounds spoke against the decision, which was voted in conjunction with a recommendation for an increased tax on milk production. They urged the Parliament to delay its decision until its agricultural committee had had sufficient time to examine the CAP in its totality and come up with comprehensive proposals for change.

The 410 Euro-MPs also supported the European Commission in its bid to allocate £800 million towards tackling regional imbalances in the Community. They voted to reinstate the funds which had been cut by the Council of Ministers at its first reading of the Commission's proposals for the 1980 budget last September. Various Community social policies also received a boost. The Parliament supported amendments which added another £175 million to projects aimed at helping women, the handicapped and migrant workers, and to tackling youth unemployment.

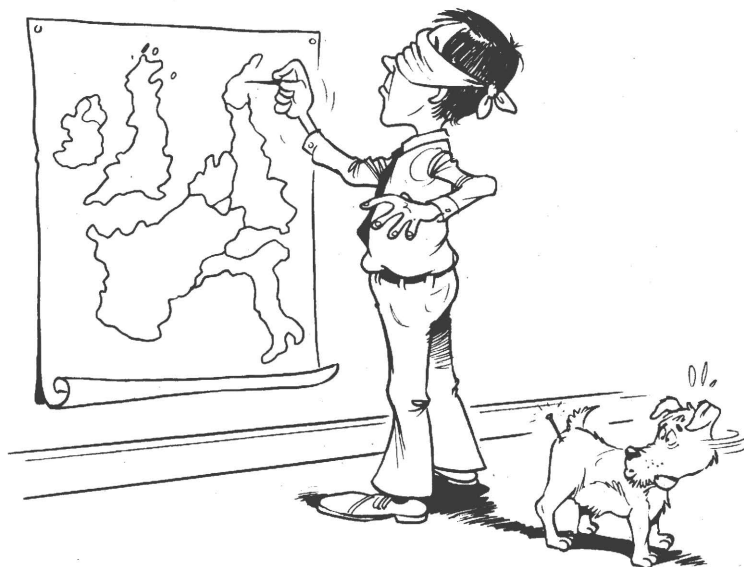
Members also showed their awareness of the importance of fisheries to the Community by adopting proposals to allocate funds for marine research and to pay for surveillance vessels which will be used to patrol Community waters in a bid to prevent over-fishing.

Plans to help the road and rail networks in the Community also received a boost with the decision to make £32 million available for financing transport infrastructure projects of Community interest.

The money is intended to back up the Commission's new plan (see cover story) to aid such projects. But before it can be spent, the nine governments will have to adopt the necessary legislation—something they have refused to do for almost two years.

As a result of the various decisions taken in Strasbourg, the MPs have added approximately £1 200 million to the draft budget adopted by the Council of Ministers in September. This is considerably over the £280 million limit the Parliament has been allowed under the Community's complicated budgetary procedure, thus bringing it into conflict with the Council.

The budget will now be examined once again by the Council before it is finally adopted by the Parliament. This should take place shortly before Christmas.



Handbook will help students who wish to study abroad

The European Commission has just published the 1979 revised edition of the Community's Handbook for Students, which was first published in 1977, in collaboration with the Member States' educational authorities.

The purpose of the handbook is to assist students who wish to pursue their higher education in another Community country. It contains an entry for each of the Member States.

Each entry consists of two main sections, a descriptive text and an appendix. The text gives general information on the structure of the higher education system, its institution and the types of qualifications obtainable. It also summarizes admission conditions and application procedures, and provides details of fees, language requirements and grants as well as an indication of important social elements such as social security, counselling and accommodation.

The appendix to each country entry contains a list of addresses of organizations and institutions from which further information and/or application forms may be obtained. An annotated bibliography of national information material is provided with, in most cases, a table of subjects taught at each institution.

In addition to the national entries the Handbook contains separate entries for the College of Europe at Bruges and the European University Institute at Florence.

The Handbook is being distributed widely to institutions of higher education and to organizations promoting student exchange. Copies are on sale through the sales offices listed on our back cover.

The European Commission has announced the appointment of Geoffrey Martin as head of its new press and information office in Belfast. A native of Bessbrook, Co. Armagh, he studied at Queen's University, Belfast, and was president of the British National Union of Students from 1966-68. He spent the past five years on the diplomatic staff of the Commonwealth Secretariat and was previously Director of Shelter.

Community grants aim to promote inter-university cooperation

The European Commission has announced the award of a further 74 grants to institutions of higher education in the Community for the development of joint programmes of study among institutions in different Member States.

In all, the Commission is supporting 121 different programmes in almost every academic discipline or area of study which involve 212 higher education institutions.

Total Community support is now running at around £185 000 a year, and the programme is beginning to have a real impact on inter-institutional cooperation in higher education.

- At the same time, the Commission announced a number of awards:
- 90 grants to teachers, researchers and administrators in higher education for 4-week study visits to other Member States;
 - 158 grants to local and regional administrators of educational establishments catering for the 11-19 year age range, for one-week study visits;
 - 150 grants to specialists in vocational education and guidance for two-week study visits.

With some 400 'multipliers' undertaking study visits to other Member States under these programmes in the present academic year alone, and with Community support now running at the rate of over £250 000 a year, a considerable interchange of knowledge and experience among the Community countries is now taking place.

This in turn is stimulating new developments in inter-institutional cooperation, new thinking in curriculum design and development, and new teaching and administrative ideas.

All four schemes of grants will be offered again for the academic year 1980/81, and applications or nominations will be invited at the beginning of next year.

High-level talks

Talks have begun on a cooperation pact between the Community and the Andean Group—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

Cambodian refugees: Commission to send additional aid

The European Community led the way at a special United Nations conference in New York earlier this month to mobilize aid for Cambodian refugees.

The Community and the nine Member States have together pledged an extra \$48.5 million aid. This is in addition to the \$7 million already given.

The Community will therefore finance nearly half the \$111 million emergency plan drawn up by Unicef and the International Red Cross to cover the refugees needs over six months between now and next March.

Speaking on behalf of the Community, Ireland's ambassador to the UN, Mr Paul Keating, told the special conference that the immediate humanitarian needs of the Cambodian people must be met with the utmost urgency.

Mr Keating said that in order to prevent a calamity of unprecedented proportions relief must be brought quickly and effectively to all those in need. He added that if the aid can get through and if more is needed then the Community would be prepared to meet its obligations.

Distribution of aid has been hindered because the international community does not recognize the Vietnamese backed Heng Samrin government, as well as fears that the aid might be seized by the Khmer Rouge forces of the deposed Pol Pot.

The Community aid will be provided mainly in the form of food, clothing and medical aid. In addition, 20 000 tonnes of rice worth \$7 million will be provided.

Representatives of the European Community will shortly visit Thailand to study the situation and to show support for the Thai Government which is confronted with the huge refugee problem. It is estimated that about 350 000 Cambodian refugees have sought food and safety in Thailand. To cope with this mammoth influx the government has had to shift 90 000 Thais living near the border 25 miles inland.

Increased Community aid urged to combat widespread hunger

Members of the European Parliament, concerned that 70% of the world population are suffering from under-nourishment and that 24% are starving, launched a major debate on ways of tackling the problem at their October session in Strasbourg.

There was some scepticism expressed at the outset as to whether well-fed European MPs would be able to make a large contribution in a town more famous for its foie gras and good wines than hunger, but this soon disappeared during the five-hour debate.

All speakers sympathized with the moral issues involved, but they refused to use this as an excuse for not tackling the enormity of the issues at stake. Instead, they urged that a start be made somewhere, especially by increasing Community food aid to those parts of the world in most need.

Representing the Commission, Claude Cheysson added some extra details to the debate. He pointed out that only 35% of mankind, including Europe, supplies two thirds of all food produced, and that for undernourished peoples to be able to survive the production of food in the Third World should be increased.

Food aid, while indispensable, is only a temporary palliative, he said, and is no real answer to trying to increase food production, which has been made more difficult by the increase in oil prices.

Looking at Europe's role in particular, he pointed out that, whereas we are responsible for 50% of the world's production of dairy products, we fail to play our full role in stabilizing prices and securing long-term food supplies. He highlighted the Community's refusal to sign a long-term contract to supply cereals, milk powder and sugar to Egypt, although the United States, Japan and Canada have concluded such contracts.

He stressed the need for Europe to play its full role in the world food conference, by allocating a reasonable increase in financial aid, by granting

aid to create stocks for regions in short supply and by improving the range of activity which can be undertaken whenever a disaster strikes, for example, getting away from the one-crop economy.

S.E. Asian refugees are still coming

More than 75 000 refugees from South-East Asia have now been welcomed by European Community member states and preparations are underway for the arrival of many thousands more.

The major reception centre has been France which has welcomed around 65 000 and is expecting 7 000 more, according to Irish Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, David Andrews who was giving details of the aid to the European Parliament on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

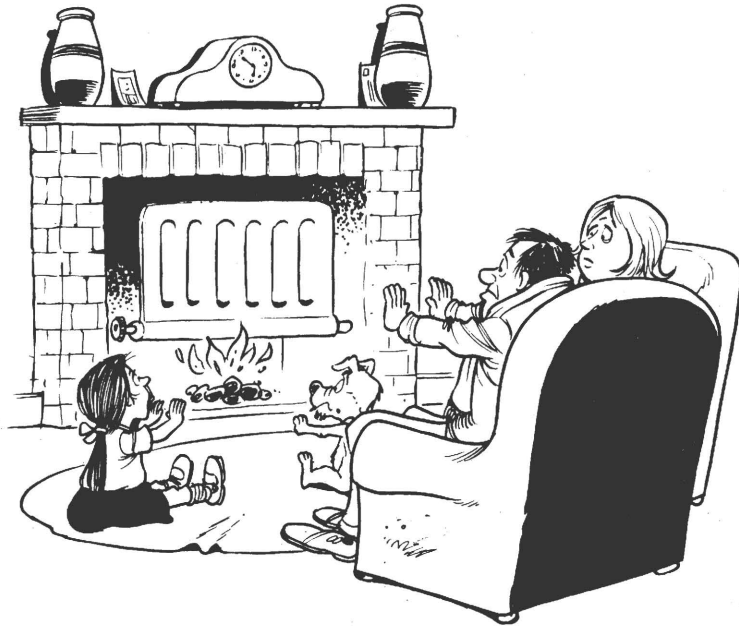
Other details: Belgium has received 2 500 and it expecting 3 000 more. Denmark has welcomed 900, of whom 100 were found at sea. Germany is about to receive 1 300. The United Kingdom has taken in almost 4 000 and a further 11 000 are expected. Ireland is accepting around 200 and Luxembourg 100.

Lomé II signed

The second Lomé Convention has been signed by the Community and 57 ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) States in Lomé, the capital of the West African State of Togo. The trade and aid pact will run for five years. See *Euroforum* 16/79 for details.

Dragging their heels

Only three Member States—the United Kingdom, Denmark and Italy—have fulfilled their obligations under a 197 agreement on a code of conduct for Community firms operating in South Africa by sending the European Commission a progress report. This was revealed by Industry Commissioner Etienne Davignon at the last session of the European Parliament.



Coal may yet prove to be even blacker gold than oil

Amidst all the gloom surrounding the energy crisis old King Coal's merry old soul is glowing brightly. Long neglected during the era of cheap and abundant oil supplies, which ended abruptly in the winter of 1973, coal is now coming back into favour.

In striking contrast to oil, the Community has plentiful reserves of coal, especially in the UK and Germany. But the problem has long been that it was more expensive to mine domestic coal than import foreign oil. Moreover, high wages were insufficient to attract enough men to accept the danger and discomfort of working underground.

Mining also became more costly as the shallower and easier seams were exhausted. But there has never been any question of shortages.

Now coal is ready for a comeback. Speaking recently at the German coal mining centre of Saarbrücken, Mr Guido Brunner, European Commis-

sioner responsible for Energy, said that coal would increasingly replace oil and gas as a source of energy. He added that in a period of high unemployment, prospects in the coal industry were good.

Mr Brunner pointed out that, in contrast to the oil and gas industries, investment in the coal industry had been rising steadily with £675 million being invested annually.

While some Community Member States prefer to buy coal on the cheaper world market, Mr Brunner pointed out that only 10% of world production is traded internationally. The world market will therefore be unable to meet the growing demand for coal. He also pointed out that petrol and gas can be produced from coal, thus greatly increasing its utility.

Mr Brunner said that the Community would continue to encourage domestic coal production through cheap loans and special loans on the international markets. He added that £675 million will be provided to develop new coal technology, not only to reduce costs but also to exploit more inaccessible reserves.

Some consolation in inflation figures

Inflation is a phenomenon that has become the curse of modern society and it has the unique ability of uniting everybody whenever there is an argument about the constantly rising cost of living.

The European Community is, of course, a victim of this global pattern. Consumer prices in the nine Member States rose 6.8% last year and 9.6% during the twelve months to last August.

However, although the figures may appear to be high they actually compare very favourably with other comparable industrialized countries, as figures just released by the Paris-based OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) show.

The average increase in 1978 in the inflation rate for the OECD Member States—all the industrialized, developed States of the West—was 7.9%, and 10.3% during the twelve months to last August.

And if these average figures sound high, it may be some comfort to know that the consumer price increase in Iceland in 1978 was 44.9% and a whopping 61.9% in Turkey.

Dearer oil

Oil price increases of 10% before the end of this year were forecast recently by Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner. He was addressing a conference in Brussels on 'New ways to save energy'. The conference brought together some 700 experts to discuss research in this field which has been backed by almost £7 million of Community finance. The Community's proposed research budget for the next four years is £65 million, with nearly £17 million targeted for energy conservation.

Fuel from Down Under

Talks have begun between the Community and Australia which hopefully will mean a secure supply of uranium for the Community. Australia, with 20% of known world reserves, is the second largest supplier after the US.



THE NEWS AT A GLANCE

Summit agenda

The economic situation in the Community, budgetary problems and the continuing energy crisis are expected to occupy the minds of the Nine heads of government and the Commission President Roy Jenkins when they hold their third European Council of the year in Dublin this week. Employment questions, industrial technology, European Union and the report of the Three Wise Men on Community reforms in the light of enlargement to 12 Member States in the coming decade are also expected to figure on the informal two-day agenda.

Increased spending

A budget of £130 million has been proposed for the European Coal and Steel Community's activities next year. This is an increase of some 17% over this year's budget of almost £112 million. The Community was formed in 1952 to help develop Europe's coal and steel industries.

Presidential parley

Commission President Roy Jenkins visited Egypt at the end of last month for talks with President Sadat and a number of his ministers. The talks dealt mainly with a review of the first year of operation of the cooperation agreement between the Community and Egypt, as well as the political situation in the Middle East.

PLO representative in Brussels

Aid for Palestinian refugees was one of the main topics of conversation when Mr Farook Kaddoumi, the head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, called on Development Commissioner Claude Cheysson in Brussels. They also discussed the continuing Euro-Arab dialogue in which the PLO participates.

Terrorist teamwork

Terrorist organizations in all Community Member States have now established links with one another, Ireland's Justice Minister, Gerry Collins, told a meeting of the Nine's Interior Ministers in Dublin recently. The Nine have been negotiating a Community convention on terrorism but it has not yet been finally agreed.

Out of kilter

The Community's trade balance is showing no signs of improving and reached a deficit of £1100 million in July, according to the latest figures. The main reason is the rise in world raw material prices.

A slow-down?

Industrial production in the Community may have started to slacken, say the experts. Figures show that the increase in August over the same period in 1978 was only 3.7%, compared with increases of 6.7% and 5% in June and July.

Running dry

Agriculture Commissioner Finn Olav Gundelach has warned that, even if guarantees for farm prices are not increased, the Community budget will not be able to cover expenditure, perhaps as early as next year. He warned that the Council of Ministers would have to vote an increase in the Community's income (so-called own resources) but that this was unlikely as long as milk surpluses persisted.

Fishing for agreement

The Nine's Fishery Ministers will be meeting at the beginning of December to try once again for a common fisheries policy.

Relentless rise

Consumer prices in the Community rose by 1% between August and September, the last period for which figures are available. The year-on-year rise compared with September 1978 was 11.4%. The figure for the US is 11.9%.

International Children's Year?

The European Parliament has issued a strong protest against governments which, according to a recent Amnesty International Report, have been guilty of the maltreatment, imprisonment and, in some cases, the torture of children. It has also protested against the arrest and conviction of Czech dissidents.

A fairer deal

Tax Commissioner Richard Burke is working on proposals to end income tax discrimination against the 200 000 workers who regularly cross the 11 intra-Community frontiers on their way to and from work. They are frequently caught unfairly between the tax provisions of the two States involved.

In the consumer interest

A number of department stores in different Community countries have, following intervention by the European Commission, dropped clauses from proposed trade association agreements which the Commission felt could limit competition between them to their customers' detriment. The associations contain the largest department stores in eight Member States (all but Ireland).

Third World aid

Community aid worth around £68 million is to be sent to developing countries, most of them in Asia, which are not associated with the Community through the Lomé Convention.

Eurobabble, or how to lose friends and confuse people

'The Commission will be aware of the need to make the activities of the Community comprehensible to its citizens'. Thus, Lord O'Hagan, a British Conservative, in a European Parliamentary question, pinpointed a problem of which the Commission is very much aware.

While one of the main tasks of *Euroforum* is to help the Commission overcome this problem, Lord O'Hagan's question, and the Commission's reply, are, we feel, lucid enough to require no rewriting or subediting.

So here, warts and all, is the exchange on what Lord O'Hagan calls 'Eurobabble':

1. Does the Commission know that the phraseology it uses is jargon-ridden, technocratic, and often difficult to translate correctly into any of the official languages?
2. Does the Commission recognize that 'Communityspeak' discourages public interest in the EEC?
3. Does the Commission accept that woolly, bogus, pseudo-technical language is often a cloak for slipshod or superficial thought?
4. What steps is the Commission taking to ensure that its pronouncements are issued in the languages of the Member States, and not in 'Berlaymargot'? (a reference to the Commission's Berlaymont building in Brussels.)



5. Until the Commission reduces the extent to which it degrades the languages of the Community, will it issue a handbook of all those words and phrases which have a special EEC meaning?

And the Commission's reply?

1.2.3. The Commission is aware that the phraseology used in its documents and publications is frequently subjected to the criticisms outlined by the Honourable Member. The Commission would point out however that a number of factors inhibit the achievement of universal felicity of expression which the Honourable Member seeks.

■ The language policy of the Commission requires translation of most documents; few translations ever match the quality of language and style of original language versions.

■ Norms of expression and style vary from language to language and what is sauce for the gander in one Member State is not sauce for the goose in another.

■ Many documents concern legislative and technical matters and the language used may often

be fustian or arcane. The Commission does not accept, however, that this reflects superficial thought or is dramatically less intelligible than documents produced on technical or legislative matters in a national context.

4. The Commission has already reformed the content, style and presentation of its publications aimed at the public at large. These are produced in the languages of Member States and the Commission believes are devoid of the criticisms made in questions 1, 2 and 3. The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to centrally produced publications such as press releases, *The European Community—your future*, the fortnightly magazine *Euroforum* and the regular series *European File*, as well as to publications produced by information offices in Member States such as background reports, weekly newsletters, etc.

5. A glossary of Community terminology is produced and updated regularly by the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers.

What more can we say?

Euroforum

Press and information offices of the European Community

BELGIUM

1040 BRUSSELS
Rue Archimède 73
Tel. 735 00 40/735 80 40

DENMARK

1045 COPENHAGEN K
4 Gammeltorv
Postbox 144
Tel. 14 41 40

FRANCE

75782 PARIS CEDEX 16
61, rue des Belles-Feuilles
Tel. 501 58 85

GERMANY

53 BONN
Zitelmannstraße 22
Tel. 23 80 41

1 BERLIN 31
Kurfürstendamm 102
Tel. 8 92 40 28

IRELAND

DUBLIN 2
29 Merrion Square
Tel. 76 03 53

ITALY

00187 ROME
Via Poli, 29
Tel. 68 97 22 to 26

LUXEMBOURG

LUXEMBOURG
Bâtiment Jean Monnet B/O
Rue Alcide de Gasperi
Luxembourg-Kirchberg
Tel. 430 11

NETHERLANDS

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

UNITED KINGDOM

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

CARDIFF CF1 9 SG
4 Cathedral Road
Tel. 371631

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

CANADA

OTTAWA, Ont. K1R 7S8
Inn of the Provinces -
Office Tower (Suite 1110)
350 Sparks St.
Tel. 238 64 64

LATIN AMERICA

CARACAS (VENEZUELA)
Quinta Bienvenida
Calle Colibrí,
Valle Arriba
Apartado 67076
Las Américas
Tel. : 92 50 56 - 91 47 07

SANTIAGO, CHILE
Avenida Ricardo Lyon 1177
Santiago 9
Postal address :
Casilla 10093
Tel. 25 05 55

GREECE

ATHENS 134
Vassilisis Sofias 2
T.K. 1602
Tel. 743 982/83/84

JAPAN

102 TOKYO
Kowa 25 Building
8-7 Sanbancho
Chiyoda-Ku
Tel. 239-04 41

SWITZERLAND

1202 GENEVA
37-39, rue de Vermont
Tel. 34 97 50

TURKEY

ANKARA
Kavaklidere
13, Bogaz Sokak
Tel. 27 61 45/46

UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C.
20037
2100 M Street, N.W.
Suite 707
Tel. (202) 862-9500

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
245 East 47th Street
Tel. (212) 371 3804

Sales offices for publications of the European Community

Belgique - België

*Moniteur belge -
Belgisch Staatsblad*
Rue de Louvain 40-42
Leuvenestraat 40-42
1000 Bruxelles — 1000 Brussel
Tel. 512 00 26
CCP 000-2005502-27
Postrekening 000-2005502-27

Sous-dépôts — Agentschappen:

Librairie européenne
Europese Boekhandel
Rue de la Loi 244
Welstraat 244
1040 Bruxelles — 1040 Brussel

CREDOC

Rue de la Montagne 34 - Bte 11
Bergstraat 34 - Bus 11
1000 Bruxelles — 1000 Brussel

Danmark

J.H. Schultz — Boghandel
Møntergade 19
1116 København K
Tel. (01) 14 11 95
Girokonto 2001195

Europa-Bøger

Gammel Torv 6
Postbox 137
1004 København K
Tel. (01) 14 54 32

BR Deutschland

Verlag-Bundesanzeiger

Breite Straße
Postfach 10 80 06
5000 Köln 1
Tel. (02 2 1) 21 03 48
(Fernschreiber : Anzeiger Bonn
8 882 595)
Postscheckkonto 834 00 Köln

France

*Service de vente en France
des publications
des Communautés européennes*

Journal officiel

26, rue Desaix
75732 Paris Cedex 15
Tel. (1) 578 61 39
CCP Paris 23-96

Sous-agent

D.E.P.P. — Maison de l'Europe
37, rue des Francs-Bourgeois
75004 Paris
Tel. 887 96 50

Ireland

Government Publications

Sales Office
G.P.O. Arcade
Dublin 1

or by post from:

Stationery Office

Beggar's Bush
Dublin 4
Tel. 68 84 33

Italia

Libreria dello Stato

Piazza G. Verdi 10
00198 Roma — Tel. (6) 8508
Telex 62008
CCP 387001

Agenzia

Via XX Settembre
(Palazzo Ministero del tesoro)
00187 Roma

Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

Office des publications officielles des Communautés européennes

5, rue du Commerce
Boîte postale 1003
Luxembourg
Tél. 49 00 81 — CCP 19190-81
Compte courant bancaire :
BIL 8-109/6003/300

Nederland

Staatsdrukkerij- en uitgeverijbedrijf

Christoffel Plantijnstraat,
s-Gravenhage
Tel. (070) 62 45 51
Postgiro 42 53 00

United Kingdom

H.M. Stationery Office

P.O. Box 569
London SE1 9NH
Tel. (01) 928 6977, ext. 365
National Giro Account 582-1002

United States of America

European Community Information Service

2 100 M. Street, N.W.
Suite 707
Washington, D.C. 20 037
Tel. (202) 862 95 00

Schweiz - Suisse - Svizzera

Librairie Payot

6, rue Grenus
1211 Genève
Tel. 31 89 50
CCP 12-236 Genève

Sverige

Librairie C.E. Fritze

2, Fredsgatan
Stockholm 16
Postgiro 193, Bankgiro 73/4015

España

Libreria Mundi-Prensa

Castelló 37
Madrid 1
Tel. 275 46 55

Other countries

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

5, rue du Commerce
Boîte postale 1003
Luxembourg
Tel. 49 00 81 — CCP 19190-81
Compte courant bancaire :
BIL 8-109/6003/300



Office for Official Publications
of the European Communities

ISSN 0379-3079
Catalogue N° CC-AC-79-018-EN-C