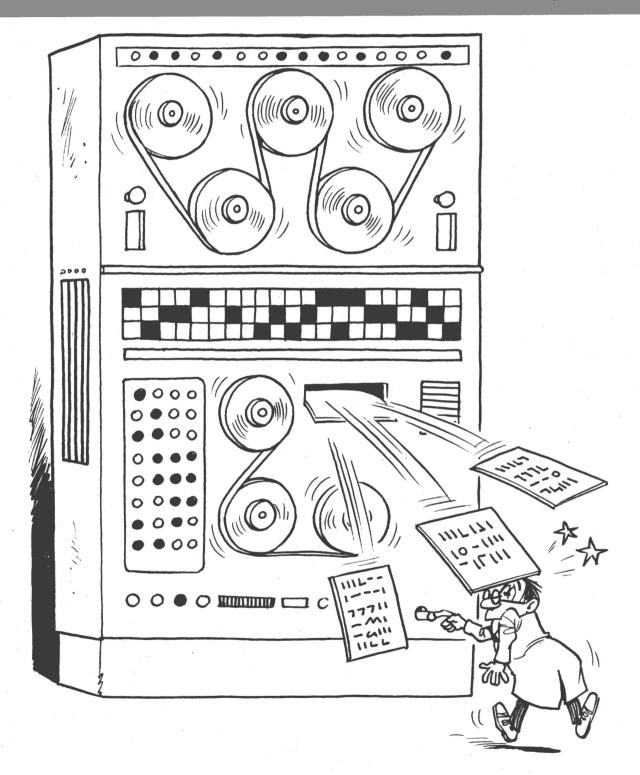
Euroforum



Gearing the Community for the challenges of the Eighties. See page 3.



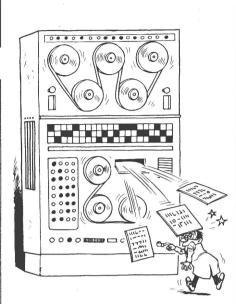


Contents

		- · · ·	
Technology	3	Gearing the Community for the challenges of the Eighties	
Employment	3	A silver lining to brighten the dark economic clouds	
European Council	4	Nine must look to New Year for UK budget solution	
The Member States	4	Commission quells unnecessary alarm over British oil	
Culture	4 6	A thing of beauty may not always be a joy forever Community grants expected to grow	
The law	6	Nine sign agreement to combat terrorism across frontiers	
Business	6	Multinationals may soon have to be more accountable	
Taxation	6	Making it easier to graze on the greener grass	
Travel	7	Happier homecoming for Community holidaymakers	
Energy	8 9	Commission seeks more money to develop coal Car manufacturers say they can cut fuel consumption by 10% Topping up your tank now costs less in most of the Nine	
The economy	9	Nine well to the fore among Europe's most competitive nations	
Competition	10	Protecting the small man from the conglomerates French perfumers: will Court find them inno(s)cent?	
Social affairs	11	Help for working women: no shortage of applications Commission looks for backing for war against poverty	
Third World	12	Nine's contributions to assist ACP countries fixed More Community aid for refugees Additional aid package approved	
The consumer	13	Community Interpol is urged to track down dangerous products	
	14	The news at a glance	
Focus	15	Weathering our way towards a more clear horizon	

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TECHNOLOGY



Gearing the Community for the challenges of the Eighties

The European Commission has launched a major initiative to try and capture one third of the world's telecommunications market by the end of the 1980s.

A document setting out the strategy to be followed was submitted to the European Summit meeting in Dublin at the end of November.

This was briefly examined by the nine Heads of State and Government who have now referred it to their ministers to try and agree on a strategy that will ensure European companies a share of the growing number of orders in the face of American and Japanese competition.

Europe already provides one third of the 26 000 million EUA (\pounds 17 000

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EUROFORUM Berl. 2/68 Commission of the European Communities Rue de la Loi, 200 1049 Brussels million) world market for telecommunications equipment, which is currently growing at a rate of 7% per year.

At the same time, almost one-third of the 45 000 million EUA (£ 30 000 million) market for computers and one quarter of the 41 000 million EUA (£ 27 000 million) market for components is supplied by European companies.

In the face of tough international competition, the Commission is keen to introduce measures which will encourage the development of such companies.

This could lead to a spin-off in a number of other areas. The new technology would help small and medium-sized industries, say Community officials. There would also be new communications facilities for distant regions and for the underprivileged.

But the programme which the nine leaders examined in Dublin is not geared entirely to the efficiency of companies. It also examines the social and employment repercussions of this move towards more high technology industries.

It includes a recommendation that a social policy should be developed to prepare the climate for this innovation. This would cover studies on the impact on employment and other social consequences and include ways of discussing with trade unionists and employers how these changes should be introduced in an acceptable manner.

At the same time, the Commission considers that educational priorities have to be coordinated so that society can be prepared for these changes with systematic studies of future needs and the implementation of a programme involving the exchange of information in the Community.

Private sector investment should be encouraged argues Viscount Davignon, the Commissioner who has drawn up the programme, and who has suggested that a European Association of Suppliers be set up.

Meanwhile, the Commission is waiting for a decision by the Nine's governments before launching specific projects aimed at the agri-business, environment and energy markets.

EMPLOYMENT

A silver lining to brighten the dark economic clouds

Despite continued economic recession and mounting unemployment all is not gloom and doom. Industrial manual workers will gain some satisfaction from the fact that real gross hourly earnings rose in all nine member states of the European Community during the year ending October 1978 for which figures have just been compiled.

British workers were top of the league with a 6% increase, followed by Ireland (+5.4%) and Italy (+4.9%). At the bottom was Luxembourg (+1.5%) with Belgium and France only a little higher.

Workers in the manufacturing sector have done best (+6.7% in UK) ahead of miners, building labourers and civil engineering construction workers.

However, British workers have not done so well over the three years 1975-78. Their real hourly earnings have fallen 1 index point, putting them next to bottom, just above Denmark. Italian workers have recorded the best trend with a 16 point rise over the same period.

If nominal and real hourly earnings are compared, to take account of inflation, then there is a big change in the French and German performances. France, which was in fourth place as regards increases in nominal earnings, slips to seventh place in the real earnings table. On the other hand Germany, with its low inflation rate, climbs from eighth to fourth place.

Our table shows firstly the increase in gross real hourly earnings in the year ending October 1978 and secondly the trend between 1975-78 (Index October 1975 = 100).

Germany	3.3	109.4
France	2.4	111.4
Italy	4.9	116.1
Netherlands	2.6	105.4
Belgium	2.0	108.7
Luxembourg	1.5	111.1
UK	6.0	89.1
Ireland	5.4	104.1
Denmark	3.3	97.5

Source: Eurostat

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Nine must look to New Year for UK budget solution

The European Council (or Summit) held in Dublin at the end of November was one of the most tense for many years. The central issue was whether the nine Community leaders would be able to agree on a formula which would give the United Kingdom a significant refund on its net contributions to the Community budget next year.

Estimates vary as to the likely amount Britain will be paying in, but the Commission has calculated it at £ 1 000 million (1 500 million EUA). Several countries argued that this estimate was too high since part of the UK's contributions do not really come from the UK at all, but are a Community resource. These are the agricultural levies and customs duties collected when goods enter the Community from third countries.

The two days of talks centred on a solution suggested by the European Commission, which sought to tackle the problem from two angles. Firstly, the UK would receive a refund on some of its payments. Secondly, ways would be devised of increasing Community spending in the UK.

Under the first heading the Commission—and here it was supported by the European Council—proposed modifications to a financial mechanism which was created at the last Dublin Summit in 1975 to refund part of the gross contribution of any Member State with below average GDP per head, whose contribution was judged to be excessive. This could be expected to yield £ 350 million in 1980.

On the expenditure side, the Commission suggested Community aid for coal exploration, development of transport infrastructure and farm modernization programmes in the UK. Transport, in particular, received the widest approval from the Heads of State and Government, and the Commission is considering further details to these schemes.

Transport Commissioner Richard Burke recently unveiled a Green Paper for streamlining the Community's transport system and some of the ideas

4

it contained, such as Community support for a Channel Tunnel, could form this basis for such a package.

Despite spending the major part of their meeting on the issue of the UK's budget contributions, the Nine's leaders were unable to come to any final agreement and they decided to come back to the subject early next year, possibly in February.

Discussions took place against the back drop of a gloomy economic situation facing industrialized countries, partly brought on by the increase in oil prices. As a result, it was decided that efforts to fight inflation and reach a common energy policy should be the major priorities to be tackled by the Nine.

The final communiqué, issued after the Summit meeting in historic Dublin Castle, stressed the need to cut oil imports and to develop Europe's own energy resources, in particular coal and nuclear power.

There was a brief discussion on the report prepared by 'The Three Wise Men'—appropriately named as Christmas approaches. This sets out possible improvements to the Community's institutional structure.

THE MEMBER STATES

Commission quells unnecessary alarm over British oil

Fears which are sometimes expressed that the Community intends to take over the United Kingdom's North Sea oil have been swiftly allayed by the European Commission in reply to a question from British Conservative Member of the European Parliament, Lord O'Hagan.

The Commission assured Lord O'Hagan that, as it has already told the British Government, the Community has no intention of interfering with the UK's sovereign rights over its continental shelf, nor with the UK's right to exploit its own natural resources.

Under the Treaty of Rome, the Community Member States are entitled to exploit such resources and to decide the conditions for exploitation, including conditions for extraction, landing distribution, sale, taxation and consumption.

Nevertheless, the Commission does point out that there are clearly-defined legal obligations under the Treaty which the Member States must respect in exercising that right. There should be no quantitative restrictions on imports between Member States, no restriction on the freedom to provide services and no direct or indirect tax on imports in excess of that imposed on similar domestic products.

The Commission is responsible, also under the Treaty, for seeing that Community law is observed, and notes that it would be failing in its duty if it did not use all the measures at its disposal to ensure that these rules are obeyed.

CULTURE

A thing of beauty may not always be a joy forever

'Corot painted 3 000 pictures, 10 000 of which are in the United States' as the old joke goes. Not that Europeans have anything to be smug about in this respect. Forgers have made plenty of money on both sides of the Atlantic.

The problem is, they generally go undiscovered. Most owners never suspect the authenticity of the art objects they or their ancestors have bought. If they do start to have suspicions they tend to hide them for fear of being publicly regarded as dupes, or get rid of the suspicious work as quickly as possible.

'Once a work of art has been declared a fake it suddenly ceases to be glorious and becomes second-rate.' This is how Jean Chatelain of the University of Paris sums up the problem of art fakes in the study he has just completed on behalf of the European Commission.

Professor Chatelain starts off by remarking that almost anything can be regarded as an object of value these days, when people collect anything from Renaissance paintings to waffle irons, so the definition of a fake has less to do with the object itself than with the intention with which it is put before the public.

As he points out, forgery is not just limited to paintings, sculptures and



other art objects. Historic documents, books and stamps can all be faked for profit—and the severest penalties are reserved for the counterfieters of money and banknotes. They are seen as putting the very economy of the country in jeopardy.

It's not just a question of materially falsifying an object—take repairing the leg of antique chair, for instance but of passing the object off as something it is not. But even this, he demonstrates, is not a simple matter.

We tend to regard works of art as things that are unique. Producing exact copies of things is the job of industry, not art. But in earlier times it was common practice for an artist to repeat works he was particularly proud of several times. (More recently, Magritte did it in response to demand).

These works weren't unique, but neither were they fakes. And when famous artists had a large school of pupils, the dividing line between when the master's work was finished off by pupils and pupils' work was embellished by the master is hard to draw.

What is more, people may copy the work of other artists, or choose to paint in another's style for the loftiest motives—admiration for them as a source of inspiration for example. Are these fakes? Clearly there is a problem. The study then goes on to select some of the most famous and representative examples of forgery in recent times to find out what they have in common. Some forgers, like Vrain Lucas who faked letters from Alexander the Great to Aristotle and Pascal to Newton, as well as other ancient documents, deliberately mislead people for monetary gain.

Others—like Rouchomowsky, the nineteenth century Russian craftsman whose 'Tiara of Saitapharnès' was commissioned by intermediaries who sold it as an ancient relic to the Louvre for 200 000 French francs—are unsuspectingly manipulated by the unscrupulous.

Yet others, like the sculptor Cremonese, just wanted to expose the incompetence of the experts—his Venus of the turnips was hailed as a remarkable find, but it never made him a penny. Some forgers, like Van Meegeren, were inspired at least in part by patriotism. He sold his fake Vermeers to Goering and other members of the occupying forces.

Because people are reluctant to reveal fakes, police records are not very helpful on the subject. What is more, laws vary from country to country and none of them are particularly effective. Fakers who have come to court have usually got off fairly lightly, with a fine, for instance, that only represents a tiny proportion of what they can earn from practising fraud. Professor Chatelain suggests that the most effective punishment is not a fine or imprisonment but for the offender to be prevented from working at his job for a reasonable length of time.

Another difficulty arises with the definition of an art expert, the person buyers rely upon to verify the authenticity of their *objet d'art*. No professional or university qualifications are required before someone can set themselves up as an expert, and Professor Chatelain feels that this should change.

'Be careful', is the main conclusion he draws from all this, but he also has some specific suggestions to make. As an aid to defining what an art object is, he suggests that the vocabulary used to describe works of art when they are sold should be harmonized in all European Community countries, preferably by the general adoption of one of the methods at present in use. In this way international buyers would be more certain of knowing exactly what claims were being made for the works they were being offered. He would also like to see the establishment of a profession of 'art expert' with appropriate qualifications, so that both the buying public and the integrity of honest experts could be protected. Though, as he says 'even an honest man can sometimes make a mistake'.

The study also recommends further improvement in scientific methods of analysis, warning that too much faith should not be placed in the ability of present methods to establish authenticity beyond doubt. It recommends that officially recognized advisory services should be established in all nine Member States, like those in Germany and the Netherlands, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The purpose of these would not be to issue certificates or valuations, but to examine objectively things which people own and would like more information about.

But most important of all-and most difficult- is education. The best way to combat fakes, says Professor Chatelain, is to increase people's knowledge of the genuine. He feels that too many people never get beyond the coffee-table picture book notion of art-something with its own mystique to be approached with reverence. The number of art buyers has increased over the past thirty years at a far higher rate than their level of cultural knowledge. He hopes that in the future new, inexperienced amateur buyers may have access to methods of acquiring serious knowledge of the subject.

5

Community grants expected to grow

An orchestra for young people from Community countries, a European Community choir, preparations for an international conference on our architectural heritage—cultural activities like these have for the first time this year been financed by specially earmarked Community funds. The money set aside in 1979 was £46 500. This amount has been almost doubled in the draft budget for 1980.

To receive financial backing like this cultural activities must be of European, not just national interest. They must involve people from several Community countries and be open to an international public. This summer, for instance, the Community Youth Orchestra performed at France's Avignon Festival and in a number of other Member States.

Funds are not allocated on a national or regional basis, but purely on the merits of each activity. A contract is drawn up and grants are paid directly to the organizers.

THE LAW

Nine sign agreement to combat terrorism across frontiers

The nine European Community Member States have signed an agreement which will lead to greater cooperation between them in the fight against terrorists.

The agreement, signed in Dublin, is designed to overcome the problems posed by the reluctance of some countries to extradite terrorists wanted in another country on the grounds that their crimes are political.

The agreement reached by the Nine was to apply throughout the Community the terms of the Council of Europe's Convention on the suppression of terrorism which one of the Nine, Ireland, refused to sign and about which other Member States entered reservations.

From now on, a suspect who is not extradited may stand trial where he or she is arrested, regardless of where the crime was committed.

6

Under the terms of the Convention, a schedule of crimes, such as kidnapping, hijacking, use of bombs or attacks on diplomats has been drawn up. Where one of these is involved in a charge, a country refusing extradition must hold a trial itself.

The agreement will come into effect when all of the Nine's parliaments have ratified it.

BUSINESS

Multinationals may soon have to be more accountable

Social Affairs Commissioner Henk Vredeling has told members of the European Parliament that the Commission intends to introduce draft legislation which would oblige multinational companies to consult their employees and provide them with information about their activities on a far greater scale than they have until now.

Mr Vredeling was replying to a question tabled by the sole Scottish national party member in the Parliament, Mrs Winnie Ewing, who had complained at the intended closure by a large multinational company of one of its plants in her constituency.

He indicated that as far as the Commission was concerned the company was not contravening any Community legislation on collective dismissals. Nor, he added, did it appear to be failing to follow the guidelines adopted by OECD governments in 1976 setting out voluntary norms for company behaviour. Hence the need for new Community legislation.

Trade unions in Europe have been pushing for legislation along the same lines as were indicated by Mr Vredeling, since they often complain they have not been consulted by companies on their decisions to move production or close down plants.

They are demanding consultations prior to these decisions so that they may have some influence on them and thus reduce the impact on local employment and the speed with which the labour force is reduced in the case of an inevitable closure.

TAXATION

Making it easier to graze on the greener grass

The difficulties of living in one country of the Community and working in another can be enormous. Not only are there the practical day to day problems of language differences, going through customs and having to take account of other traditions, but there are the numerous administrative formalities that have to be understood and complied with.

Not the least of these is to whom, and how much, tax you should pay. In fact, there is a tendency for frontier workers, as they are known, to lose out in this area.

They generally pay tax in the country in which they work, but the rate at which they pay it often fails to take account of their personal circumstances. For example, allowances for dependants, from which all resident taxpayers benefit, are not granted to them.

The problem continues to grow and the number of Community nationals working in a country other than their own was, at the last count, 1.6 million.

Most of these came from Italy (696 000) and Ireland (456 000), while the most popular destinations were Britain (632 000), Germany (407 000), France (300 000) and Belgium (170 000).

The difficulties these people encounter have been raised in the European Parliament and the European Commission has taken the Parliamentarian appeals to heart in a recent proposal to the Council of Ministers.

Behind the Commission's draft legislation is the idea that the present situation runs counter to the free movement of persons—one of the Community's main aims—and that workers who are nationals of another Community country should enjoy the same tax advantages as national workers.

Under the proposal, frontier workers, because of their close links with their mother country, would be taxed in their country of residence. On the other hand, people working in a Community country other than their own, who do not return home every evening, will be taxed in that country.

TRAVEL

Happier homecoming for Community olidavmakers

The European Commission has pulled its own Christmas present out of the stocking for Community citizens who travel on holidays or business.

On the initiative of Tax Commissioner Richard Burke, it has decided to ask the Council of Ministers to approve an increase in the allowance granted to people travelling from one Community country to another.

It proposes to boost the allowance agreed last January from 180 European Units of Account¹ to 210 EUA for any traveller aged 15 and over. For those under 15 the allowance would be increased from 50 EUA to 60 EUA.

Under the existing legislation, Denmark and Ireland can exclude from tax exemption goods whose unit value is in excess of 135 EUA and 77 EUA respectively. The Commison has proposed increasing these igures to 160 EUA and 100 EUA respectively.

If there is an early decision by the Council the new allowances could apply from New Year's Day. Allowances for spirits, tobacco, wine, perfume etc., which were increased a year ago, will remain unchanged and we publish a table which may be useful to you when you next take a trip.

The reasons for the Commission's proposal are twofold. Firstly, it is aware that, because of inflation, there has been a fall in the real value of the allowances over the past year.

 $^{1} I EUA = 65p (approx.).$

Secondly, it is its policy to encourage more tax-free concessions.

It is also worth remembering that you can obtain tax relief on small consignments of a non-commercial character. That small gift you wanted to send to Mr Dupont you met at the 'pension' in Avalon will be in the UK or Ireland.

delivered free of turnover tax and excise duty.

Since January 1 last, small consignments worth up to 60 EUA are allowed in free of tax and duty if sent between private persons within the Community. This is £40 if you live

Quantitative reliefs ¹² from taxes and excise duties

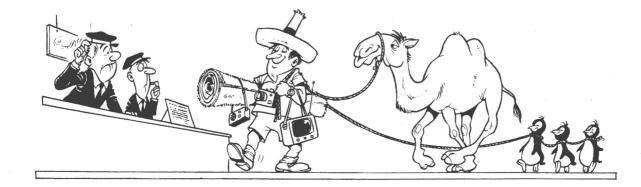
Product	Travellers within the Community	Travellers from third countries	
Tobacco products cigarettes or cigarillos (cigars of a maximum weight or	300	200	
3 grams each) or cigars or smoking tobacco	150 75 400 grams	100 50 250 grams	
Alcoholic beverages ³ distilled beverages and spirits of an alcoholic strength exceeding 22° or distilled beverages and spirits, and aperitifs with	to a total of 1.5 litres	1 standard bottle (0.70 to 1 litre)	
a wine or alcohol base of an alcoholic strength not exceeding 22°; sparkling wines, fortified wines and still wines	to a total of 3 litres to a total of 4 litres	to a total of 2 litres to a total of 2 litres	
Perfumes and toilet waters	75 grams 3/8 litre	50 grams 1/4 litre	
<i>Coffee</i> ⁴ or coffee extracts and essences	750 grams 500 gra 300 grams 200 gra		
<i>Tea</i> or tea extracts and essences	150 grams100 grams60 grams40 grams		

¹ These reliefs do not prejudice national provisions applicable to travellers whose residence is outside Europe.

Member States may reduce certain of these reliefs for frontier zone residents, frontier zone workers and international travel crew members.

This relief does not apply to travellers under 17 years of age.

This relief does not apply to travellers under 15 years of age.



ENERGY

Commission seeks more money to develop coal

With oil supplies becoming scarcer, dearer and more unpredictable, the European Community is doubling its efforts to develop other sources of energy.

Coal is one energy source which the Community possesses in abundant quantities. For a long time it has been considered too expensive and too dirty to mine on a sufficient scale to meet the needs of the nine Member States.

But Ayatollah Khomeini is helping to give coal a new lease of life. Coal has also become more attractive following the development of techniques to convert it into different kinds of energy.

Mr Guido Brunner, European Energy Commissioner, recently proposed the doubling of Community funds to $\pounds 65$ million for coal liquefaction and gasification demonstration projects. These are designed to show that coal can be converted into gas and liquid energy forms on a commercially viable scale.

Last April the Member States agreed to allocate £ 32.5 million for these projects. But the sharp rise in oil prices has made the development of alternative energy sources to oil much more urgent. Member States are now far more interested in such projects and anxious to speed them up. The first call for tenders for coal conversion development projects aroused a great deal of interest. The Community is providing \pounds 10.5 million to finance four projects in the UK, Germany and Belgium. Further credits and projects will be announced shortly.

Car manufacturers say they can cut fuel consumption by 10%

European car manufacturers have promised the European Commission that they will cut the average fuel consumption of family saloon cars by 10% between now and 1985.

The move, which follows similar undertakings given by the manufacturers to the governments of the Community's four major car producing countries (France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom), comes after meetings between the manufacturers and the Commission in September.

One major condition is, however, attached to the manufacturers' offer. No new legislation that would adversely affect fuel consumption or research resources (e.g. increased safety or anti-pollution requirements) should be implemented either at the national or Community level during this period.

The manufacturers also point out that, even with the best will in the world,

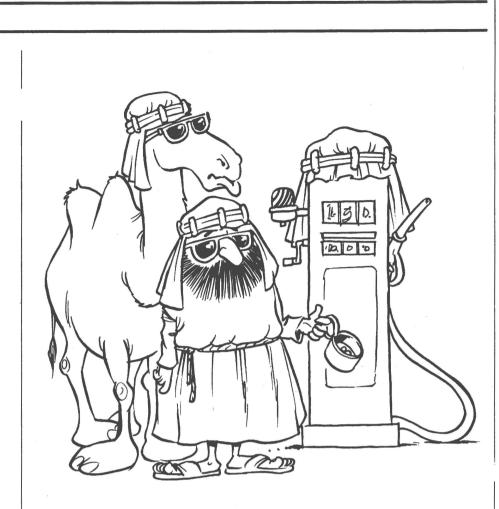
technical improvements take time to develop and incorporate, and furthermore they can only be introduced on new vehicles. As only one tenth of the Community's car fleet is replaced each year, the process will take some time, and results should not be expected immediately.

In the meantime, they claim that national governments and the Commission can play an important role by encouraging better driving habits and improved levels of car maintenance, which along with smoother traffic flow (e.g. synchronized traffic light changes), better overall traffic management and infrastructure, could yield as much in the way of fuel savings as technical improvements.

The Commission will also play a key role in monitoring the implementation of the national fuel-saving efforts, which will all be based on the socalled 'Geneva A 70' method of measuring fuel consumption. The Commission will be involved in more detailed discussions with the manufacturers on ways to coordinate as well as monitor the national level agreements, once the fine points of these agreements have been worked out, hopefully later this month.

Commercial vehicles, for which fuel consumption is already a major competitive feature in design, selling and operation, will not be covered by the manufacturers' undertaking, since the problems involved are more complex owing to the many different vehicle models on the market and their many different uses.

EUROFORUM 21-12-1979



Topping up your tank now costs less in most of the Nine

Few modern-day problems have been as frustrating and disruptive as the oil supply and price situation.

In recent years, there has been almost permanent agitation about the regular increase in oil prices dictated by the world's petroleum producing countries. Major increases have been a regular occurrence since 1973 and have accelerated even more rapidly this year. Needless to say, there are prospects for another round of price increases in the near future.

Economists, political leaders and the public have all reacted strongly to what has seemed to be the impact of these increases on the economic wellbeing of the industrialized countries.

But statistics released recently by the European Commission indicate that the real price of petrol has not been universally or even systematically increased in the Community countries. In some countries there has even been a decline in the real price at the pump compared with the early 1970s.

Of course, the price paid by the motorist has gone up, but the figures show that the rise in petrol pump prices in some cases has not even kept up with the rate of inflation. Which means that, relatively speaking, some are now paying less for petrol than they did before the oil crisis.

That's the case in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, for instance. Starting with a base index of 100 for the price of petrol in 1970, the price is now 86.2 in the UK and 92.9 in the Netherlands. Denmark and Ireland have also experienced a slight reduction in the price—99.8 and 99.3 respectively for 1979 compared with the 1970 base.

At the same time, the actual increases have been the most pronounced in Italy and France, where prices have hit 114 on the scale using 1970 as the 100 base. In Germany the figure is just over 102 and in Belgium 105.

THE ECONOMY

Nine well to the fore among Europe's most competitive nations

The European Management Forum has drawn up a league table of European countries which are classified according to their industrial competitivity. Of the 16 countries considered, including all nine Community Member States, Germany and Switzerland are the clear leaders.

The analysis, which was prepared for next February's annual management symposium in Davos in Switzerland, chose 200 criteria determining the level of competitivity of each country on the basis of macro- and microeconomic statistical data, as well as value judgments on socio-political questions made by European managing directors.

After Germany and Switzerland come a group of seven countries, six of them Community Member States: France, followed by Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Luxembourg, Denmark and Austria.

Further down the list are grouped Finland, Norway, Italy, Spain and Ireland. The last two on the list are Greece and Portugal.

Details of the survey are contained in a report which will be presented at the symposium, whose theme is "A programme for European managing directors: international cooperation, productivity and social commitment".

IN BRIEF

Which is right?

If everyone in the Community drove on the right hand side of the road it would contribute to greater road safety. On that the Commission is in agreement with Michael O'Leary, an Irish member of the Socialist group in the European Parliament. But it told him in reply to a written question that it was also aware of the cost that would be involved if the UK and Ireland changed over and it could therefore understand the two governments assigning a low priority to such a change.

COMPETITION

Protecting the small man from the conglomerates

Removing trade restrictions in the form of cartels; ensuring that excessive concentrations of economic power do not adversely affect consumers or competing firms; and preventing government aids from distorting competition. These are the three major aims of the Community's wide-ranging competition policy.

The policy is policed by the European Commission, on the basis of rules laid down in the Treaty of Rome, and it has had many notable successes.

Last year, for example, it won its case against the large US multinational fruit firm United Brands Company —which markets Chiquita bananas when the Court of Justice in Luxembourg agreed with the Commission that the company had unfairly restricted the market by preventing its distributors from reselling bananas in their green state.

Agreements between companies have also been attacked by the Commission when they may affect trade and 'have as their objective or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the Common Market'.

In 1969, for instance, a number of firms in the so-called 'Dyestuffs Cartel', which covered almost 80%

of the European market, were fined for their price-fixing agreements.

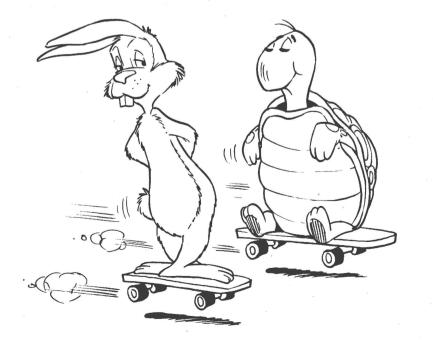
Another example was the sugar cartel in 1973 in which the Commission penalized market-sharing among sugar manufacturers with a fine of £5.5 million which was later reduced by the Court of Justice to £1 million.

In many instances the cases opened by the Commission, either on its own initiative or following complaints from governments, companies or individuals are resolved by voluntary changes made by the firms concerned and no fines are imposed.

The Commission, again using its powers under the Treaty has also laid down a number of criteria which apply to governmental aids to industrial sectors in trouble. It insists that such aid must be exceptional, temporary and geared to gradually restoring the long-term viability of these sectors. It has also set out more specific guidelines for shipbuilding, textiles, synthetic fibres and the steel industry.

These and other aspects of the Community's competition policy are clearly set out in a new pamphlet published by the European Commission. Entitled 'European Competition Policy', it is one in the general series 'European File' which covers a range of Community policy areas.

The pamphlet may be ordered from the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for Information, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels.



French perfumers: will Court find them inno(s)cent?

All is not frivolous and fragrant in the renowned French perfume industry. Several prestigious household names are currently the subject of a legal wrangle at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Certain distributors complained to the Court that they were prevented from selling such perfumes as Nina Ricci, Rochas, Guerlain, Lanvin, Estee Lauder and Lancome. This was because the big names claimed they did not meet their quality and quantity criteria.

The distributors, on the other hand, claimed that these criteria were unfair and infringed the Community's fair trading laws.

However, the Court's Advocate-General, who examines cases in detail before they are passed with his recommendation to the nine judges for their final verdict, disagreed. When he gave his opinion on the case he recommended that the present perfume marketing arrangements should continue.

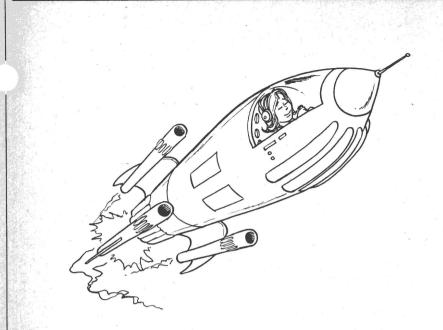
As with all luxury products, French perfume producers are anxious to preserve their reputation. At the same time they want to sell as much as possible. Therefore they insist that their distributors respect strict standards and also have a sufficiently wide marketing network.

The judges' final decision—in the majority of cases they agree with the findings of the Advocate-General, though this is far from automatic—will decide whether they can carry on indulging their discriminating taste.

PUBLICATIONS

Air transport: a Community approach, Supplement 5/79, Bulletin of the European Communities. Catalogue number CB-NF-79-005-EN-C. Price: £1.

Consumer protection and information policy, second report, Commission of the European Communities. Catalogue number CB-24-78-386-EN-C. Price: 70p. SOCIAL AFFAIRS



Help for working women: no shortage of applications

Vhether it's to stop themselves vegetating or to bring in extra money to boost the family income, more and more older women are deciding to go out to work once they have their children off their hands. Unfortunately, few of them have up-to-date experience or qualifications. At a time when the labour market is depressed and even the highly-skilled are finding it difficult to get work, their prospects are very gloomy.

With these problems in mind, the European Social Fund has since January 1978 been helping to finance vocational training schemes in Community countries for women who need or want to work.

More than £ 11 million were set aside in 1979 to support programmes aimed at helping women over 25 who had lost their jobs or who wished to return to work after a long break and whose qualifications were inadequate or non-existent.

As well as offering actual job training —especially in jobs not traditionally done by women—the schemes were also required to help women in their choice of careers, prepare them for working life, and help them get jobs once their training or re-training was finished. However, applications for Social Fund assistance were slow in coming, so the Social Affairs Commissioner, Henk Vredeling, launched an appeal to the nine Member States stressing how important it was politically and economically to strengthen women's employment prospects. As a result, the number of applications increased dramatically to reach almost £20 million, practically double the amount available.

The French have submitted by far the largest number of applications—32— though the total amount involved was only £1.5 million, little more than the amount requested by Italy for five projects. 27 of the French projects have already been approved, and four of the Italian ones. On the other hand, by far the largest amount was requested by Germany: almost £15 million for 14 projects, of which three, at a value of nearly £1.3 million have so far been approved.

Belgium, Denmark and the United Kingdom have all received the grants they asked for. Only one application has had to be rejected so far as not eligible, and a further series of applications is now being considered.

To make more detailed information on the subject widely available, a brochure called 'Women and the European Social Fund' has been published by the Commission's Information Services. It gives a guide to how the Social Fund works, what it can do for women in particular, and practical information on how to apply for assistance for a training scheme for women.

Commission looks for backing for war against poverty

In an effort to find out why there are still so many poor people living in one of the richest areas in the world—the European Community—and what can be done to improve the situation, some 40 pilot projects and studies to combat poverty have been receiving Community aid in all nine Member States over the past four years—anything from a self-help group for single parents to a housing programme, or the complete re-structuring of the social services in the historic Italian city of Padua.

This programme of pilot schemes is due to finish at the end of 1980. Reports will be coming in from all the groups involved, but there is likely to be a gap of several months before any conclusions can be drawn or put into practice.

The Commission is keen to get the Council of Ministers' approval for an interim programme to cover this crucial period. The European Parliament is also concerned about the situation, and has asked for grants to be made annually to ensure that research can continue and that the results of the pilot projects can be translated into action.

With this in mind, the Commission has put forward a proposal to the Council suggesting that an interim programme could concentrate on a small number of areas where there is a real possibility of achieving concrete short-term results. A seminar is planned for next spring where experts from all the nine Member States, including members of the project and study teams involved can discuss the effectiveness of the pilot schemes and clarify which aspects would most benefit from more in-depth study.

Though the details of any interim programme would have to wait for the results of this seminar, the Commission suggests several broad areas of possible interest: for instance, making use of the indicators of poverty drawn from the pilot projects and studies to point to those people and areas in need of special aid. Another possibility would be to consider the integration of social security and welfare services at a local administrative level, and to make an in-depth study of why welfare aid is not always reaching the people it is aimed at.

THIRD WORLD

Nine's contributions to assist ACP countries fixed

The nine Member States of the European Community recently decided how much each should contribute towards the fifth European Development Fund which totals $\pounds 3 100$ million.

This is by far the largest element in the £3 500 million provided by the Community in the new convention signed in Lomé, the capital of Togo, on October 31 last. The aid will be used to finance development projects in 58 African, Caribbean and Pacific developing countries.

The Member State contributions are calculated according to gross national product and adjusted to take account of traditional ties such as those of the UK and France with former colonies. In addition, a special VAT levy is taken into account.

As the table shows, Germany is the main contributor:

	in m	%	
	£	Eua	10
Germany	878	1 311	28.3
France	794	1 186	25.6
UK	559	834	18.0
Italy	357	533	11.5
Netherlands	230	343	7.4
Belgium	183	273	5.9
Denmark	77	115	2.5
Ireland	18	27	0.6
Luxembourg	6	9	0.2

In addition the Community is providing \pounds 632 million in aid for the overseas countries and territories of certain Member States. However, French overseas departments such as Martinique and Guadeloupe will no longer benefit from the EDF. Instead they will benefit directly from the Community's Regional, Social and Farm Funds.

In addition to the EDF aid the European Investment Bank is providing nearly $\pounds 600$ million to the Lomé countries and the overseas countries and territories.

The Community has also stated that, in order to avoid another 'Uganda type' situation, 'appropriate' action would be taken in the event of flagrant violation of human rights in an ACP State. The Community stresses that its aid should directly benefit the populations of the ACP countries.

More Community aid for refugees

The European Community recently responded to a request from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for food aid for about 550 000 refugees in five African and Asian countries.

The following aid will be provided:

Pakistan: 100 tonnes of butter oil and 100 tonnes of milk powder for 200 000 Afghan refugees.

■ Uganda: 100 tonnes of milk powder for 25 000 refuges from Rwanda and Zaire.

■ Somalia: 100 tonnes of butter oil for 300 000 refugees from the Ethiopian region in Ogaden.

■ Zambia: 60 tonnes of butter oil for 12 000 refugees from Zimbabwe.

Botswana: 30 tonnes of butter oil for 20 000 refugees from Southern Africa.

The European Commission has also asked the Council of Ministers to approve a second instalment of food aid. This includes 200 tonnes of milk powder for Uganda, 500 tonnes of milk powder and 160 tonnes of butter oil for Pakistan and 150 tonnes of butter oil for Somalia.

Additional aid package approved

The European Community recently gave further aid to Asian, Arab, African and Latin American countries not linked to it by preferential agreements.

The aid, totalling £29 million, is the second instalment from the Community's 1979 aid programme for non-associated developing countries, which amounts to £74 million.

The aid is provided in the form of nonrepayable grants and will be used to finance 16 development projects. By far the largest project is in India — \pounds 17 million—for the supply of fertilizers. This will help stimulate Indian food production.

Other projects include the reconstruction of about 100 farm centres in Nicaragua and rural water supplies in Honduras. In North Yemen aid will be given to a farm research centre and in Angola aid will be given to the fisheries sector.

The Community is also aiding various regional development and agricultural organizations such as the International Rice Research Institute.

Nearly half the projects are co-financed with other countries or international banking and aid organizations.

The European Commission is expected shortly to approve a third series of projects to be financed under the 1979 aid programme.

IN BRIEF

Driving ambition

Total demand for passenger cars is expected to reach 57 million by the end of this century, according to the OECD. This is almost double current demand. More than a quarter of the potential buyers will be in Western Europe. But what will they put in the tank?

Eurospeak

The European Commission has agreed in the European Parliament that the use of six official languages causes administrative problems and that the accession of three new member states will bring more. However, it does not believe that these are insuperable.

More thrift

Community citizens are saving more, according to the savings banks. The thriftiest are the Danes, the French, the Italians, the Dutch and the Belgians. The Germans, the Irish, the British and the Luxembourgers were more profligate than the Community average.

EUROFORUM 21-12-1979

THE CONSUMER



Community Interpol is urged to track down dangerous products

Prompt action is vital wherever inger threatens. The hazards involved in the use of everyday consumer goods have become increasingly evident over recent years, as has the necessity of ensuring a speedy response when the health and safety of individuals is at risk.

It is with this in mind that the European Commission has decided to propose to the Council of Ministers that a Community-wide system for the rapid exchange of information on the dangers arising from the use of consumer products be set up.

Under the proposed system, any Member State noticing an acute and immediate danger arising from the everyday use of a product, which is on sale in one or more of the other Community Member States, would instantly inform its partners and the European Commission, giving all the relevant data about the product concerned, the nature and gravity of the risks involved and details of the measures it has taken, or intends

king to counter these risks.

The type of products that would be covered by the proposed system include foodstuffs, household appliances, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, textiles and toys, cars and motorcycles. Examples of cases where the proposed system would be invaluable, and moreover where it is urgently needed, are:

cases of food poisoning;

■ cases where certain batches of consumer durables (such as household appliances, motor cars, etc.) suffer from manufacturing defects which make them less safe and which are discovered only after they have been put on the market;

■ products containing a toxic substance whose effects only appear under certain circumstances (e.g. decorative light fittings which are liable to explode and emit poisonous gases);

• the discovery by researchers in one Member State of the dangerous nature of a product which until then had been thought harmless.

Although the Community has passed a good many directives applying minimum standards for a broad range of consumer products, there are still a good number as yet not covered by any form of Community legislation. This gap would be filled by the proposed system.

There would, however, be no duplication of existing safety provisions: the proposed system would act as a supplement to those procedures for the exchange of information in cases of danger which are already in force, as well as to a proposed Community system of information on accidents than those at work or on the roads. other than those at work or on the roads.

Moreover, the Commission points out, the system requires only basic administrative machinery and could easily be slotted into existing structures.

PUBLICATIONS

Doing Business in the European Community, by John Drew. Butterworth, Borough Green, Sevenoaks. \pounds 9.95, provides necessary information on the Community for businesses dealing in Europe; includes description of institutions and their functions, internal and external policies affecting business, and discussion of export investment strategies; gives sources of further information.

Forestry policy in the European Community, Supplement 3/79, Bulletin of the European Communities. Catalogue number CB-NF-79-003-EN-C. Price: $\pounds 1.50$.

Second Community programme for consumers, Supplement 4/79, Bulletin of the European Communities. Catalogue number CB-NF-79-004-EN-C. Price: 70p.

Working together—The institutions of the European Community, by Emile Noël, Secretary-General of the Commission of the European Communities. Catalogue number CC-28-79-245-EN-C.

This booklet discusses Europe's institutional mechanisms and provides basic information on the 'modus operandi' of the European Parliament, the Court of Justice, the Council and the Commission.

It explains the role of the Court of Auditors and shows how the Economic and Social Committee and the Consultative Committee assist the Council and the Commission.

The second enlargement of the European Community, European Documentation 5/79. Catalogue number CB-NC-79-005-EN-C. Price: 50p.

This publication outlines the political, economic and social dimensions of the forthcoming entry into the European Community of Greece, Portugal and Spain. It sketches in the background to the enlargement process and describes the probable effect on the Community and its policies in various fields.

All publications of the Commission of the European Communities are available from the sales offices listed on our back cover.

THE NEWS AT A GLANCE

Movement in Moscow

A Community spokesman has expressed satisfaction with the progress in Moscow recently of talks with Comecon, the economic grouping of Soviet countries. The Community negotiating team was headed by External Relations Commissioner Wilhelm Haferkamp, who faced Comecon Secretary-General Nikolai Fedayev across the table. The trade and cooperation talks are due to be resumed early next year in Brussels.

GATT agreement

Six years of talks aimed at governing world trade in the eighties culminated in Geneva on November 29 when the annual assembly of the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) formally and unanimously adopted the results of the multilateral trade negotiations, known as the Tokyo Round, which began in the Japanese capital in 1973.

More food aid

The Community is to contribute 1.6 million tonnes of cereals to the world Food Aid Convention which is due to last until July, 1981.

A good investment

International banking is the business to be in. Banks giving information to the Bank for International Settlements say their total credits outstanding for the second quarter of this year amounted to \$974 000 million, 30% up over a year. Think of all that interest!

An eye on the till

A comprehensive price survey is to be published in the New Year covering the prices of 1 000 articles on sale throughout the Community.

Getting more from coal

The European Commission has asked the Council of Ministers to approve a proposal to double to £65 million the amount of money available for demonstration projects for the liquefaction and gasification of coal in the Community. Results will contribute to a wider use of coal conversion 14 techniques.

Fewer baahs

The current shortfall in sheepmeat in the Community is expected to continue. The estimated self-sufficiency rate for 1980 will be only 67%. However, major exporters like Australia and New Zealand are expected to produce more so that world prices are likely to fall unless there is a sharp increase in demand.

Reaching the needy

A major factor in food aid is the cost of transport. It is reckoned that this cost the Community almost £29 million last year, about 8% of its total food aid budget.

Burning it up

Industry is losing out to the rest of the Community in its use of electricity. At the beginning of this decade it accounted for 55% of total demand. Now it is down to 49%, thus equalling the consumption of domestic users and the services sector, 10 years ago they accounted for only 42% of demand.

Sharing out the oil cake

The Nine's share of oil imports have now been agreed for 1980: Belgium 30 million tonnes; Denmark 16.5; Germany 143; France 117; Ireland 6.5; Italy 103.5; Luxembourg 1.5; Netherlands 42 and the United Kingdom 12.

Versatile

Despite its reputation as an industrial giant, Germany manages to be the second largest butter producer in the Community, coming just after France. The other Member States in order of importance last year were the Netherlands-despite having the highest (human) population density in the Community-the UK, Denmark, Ireland and Belgium/Luxembourg, with Italy bringing up the rear.

Protecting animals

All nine member states appear to have passed adequate national legislation to implement a Community law on the protection of animals in transit, according to the European Commis-The law was passed in 1977. sion.

For a safer world

Two years of negotiations aimed at a international convention for the physical protection of nuclear material have now been completed. The convention will be open for signature next March by the Community and 58 negotiating countries.

Too much wind?

Although there has been a lot of talk of using wind as an alternative source of energy, it is too early yet to assess its potential, according to the European Commission, which is conducting its own research programme.

Consumer concern

BEUC, the Brussels-based Bureau of European Consumers' Unions, has objected to the Commission's latest proposals for cutting dairy surpluses by suggesting an additional 3% levy on over-production. BEUC would prefer to see lower prices.

Trans-Atlantic talks

The latest round of high-level twiceyearly talks between the Community and the USA concentrated on the difficult international economic and energy situations during two days of meetings in Washington.

For flexibility

The Nine's Social Affairs Ministers recently called on industry and the trades unions to continue to work together to find a way to reduce working hours as a means of reducing unemployment. In addition, the European Commission has been urging such measures as early retirement and the creation of an extra shift.

Nuclear safety

The Community, together with representatives of the nine Member States, has been taking part in negotiations in Vienna aimed at a convention to protect nuclear installations and material against theft, terrorism and other attacks. It is expected that the convention will be signed by more than 40 countries next year.

FOCUS

Weathering our way towards a more clear horizon

In the long, hot summer of 1976 water reservoirs all over Europe looked like deserts of dried mud. Water was no longer something to be taken for granted, it was a precious commodity. Last winter the heaviest snowfalls in years made roads and railways impassable, closed ports and airports, and cut off towns and villages. These were timely reminders that even in our sophisticated modern society, we are still at the mercy of the weather.

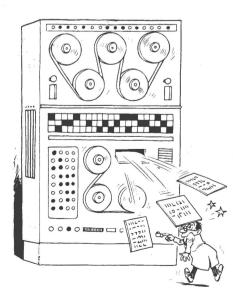
Even at normal times, our economic and social structures are largely dependent on climate, not to mention our supplies of food and drink. And yet our understanding of climate and our ability to predict variations in it are very limited.

To see whether a coordinated programme of research on a Community level would be worthwhile, and if so, what sort of areas it might cover, the European Commission brought together a group of climatology experts from all the nine Member States. The case for action at a Community level quickly became obvious and proposals were put forward for a European Climatology Programme which are expected to be adopted shortly by the Council of Ministers. The programme will be for a fiveyear period starting in January 1980 and has a budget of $\pounds 5$ million.

Research is likely to concentrate on two main areas—understanding and predicting the climate, and studying the effect of climate on us and our resources in Europe. An important part of this study will be concerned with man's own unintentional influence on the climate, especially by chemical pollution of the atmosphere.

The scientific approach to understanding and predicting climate involves reconstructing past weather patterns over long periods of time, using natural records like tree rings (whose width is affected by the weather) and fossils of animals known to prefer certain weather conditions. Man-made records like ships almanacs are also used. The idea is that all this data can then be used mathematically to build up a sort of map, a climate model which can simulate weather patterns and show the gradual changes in the climatic system.

This is a highly complicated business and may take many years to achieve, but in this way it may eventually be possible to predict climatic changes on a regional European scale. One area in which the Community programme could be particularly active is in making an inventory of all the climate data in existence throughout the world something which has never been



done before—so that everyone can have access to this information.

The second research area, called 'man-climate interactions' includes several specific suggestions. Bumper crops and bad harvests, water shortages and floods, have economic and social repercussions that extend beyond national boundaries, so the effects of variations in climate on our land and water resources need to be studied on a Community-wide basis at least.

Some places seem to be specially vulnerable to climatic hazards a de-forested region, for instance, may become eroded, and that in turn may cause flooding. Some method of evaluating these risks could help in preventing future disasters.

Changes in climate also have an obvious impact on our energy needs. If, as some people think, the pollution of the atmosphere caused by man's constant burning of fossil fuels is going to cause a warming up of our climate, then our heating needs will be less. If, on the other hand as some experts argue, the climate is getting colder, then these needs will obviously increase.

Research in this field could help us plan for our energy needs and decide whether we can continue to pollute the atmosphere with carbon dioxide as we do at present.

The European Community research programme will work closely with the World Meteorological Organization and other similar bodies, and its work will be carried out by way of contracts with existing research institutions.

Though the programme is a European one, climate is not specific to any one group of countries alone. It is a global problem, and the results of this research will help the study of climatology all over the world.

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