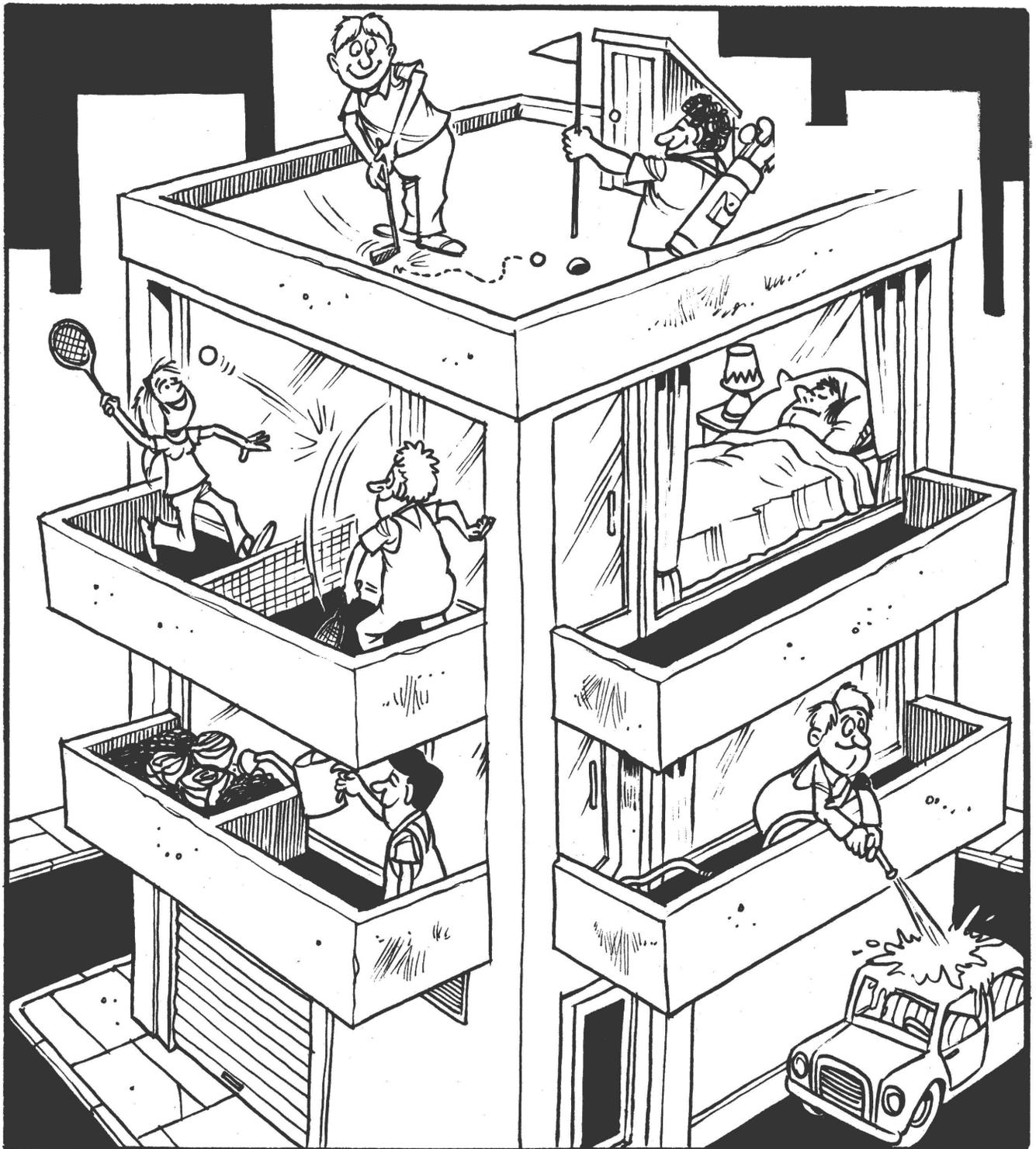


Euroforum



Making the most of the way we live and work. See page 3.

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Euroforum

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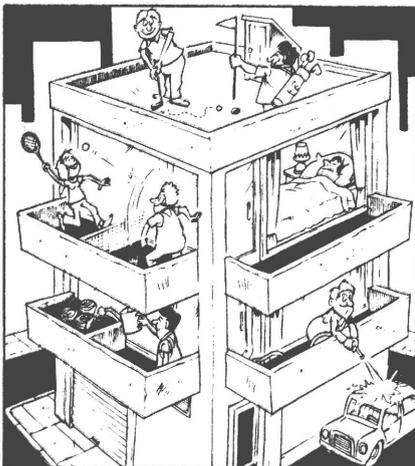
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SOCIAL AFFAIRS



Making the most of the way we live and work

In the present dismal economic climate, when around six million people are out of work in the nine Community Member States, it may seem irrelevant to devote time, money and research to finding ways in which we can improve working conditions and the way we live.

This is, indeed, one of the obstacles which has had to be overcome by the rather clumsily-named European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions which began its own life and work three years ago in Dublin, appropriately housed in a setting that leaves little to be desired in either working or living conditions.

Despite this initial handicap, the Foundation's Dutch director, Wiebe de Jong and his staff have been helping to shape a new philosophy towards work, to encourage new ways of looking at the place of work in our overall pattern of living.

The reason for this increasing appreciation of the value of the Foundation's effort is, Mr. de Jong feels, because we are experiencing a new industrial revolution which is changing the demands of the labour market, which is making jobs scarcer, and which will eventually require us to change fundamentally our attitude to work and the part it plays in our lives.

'The phenomenon of this industrial revolution', says Mr. de Jong, 'which is being brought about by the introduction of new technology, provides the basic theme for what we are trying to achieve here.

'Until now, society has always been able to absorb and to adapt to the

consequences of industrial and technological innovation. That is now becoming more and more difficult because the pace of change has quickened.

'In addition, there are qualitative differences of a sort we have not had to contend with since the first industrial revolution 200 years ago. This means that the solutions we have to look for are quite different from the classical ones that could be applied up to now.'

Like many other experts whose job it is to analyse employment trends, to anticipate change and assess its impact in advance, Mr. de Jong believes that, while by its very nature the new technology will create new jobs, many more will be lost and he is convinced that the final balance will be a negative one.

With more than five per cent of the working population in the Community already standing in the dole queue, this is an alarming prospect and one that will require a drastic reorganisation of work and of lifestyle in general.

Mr. de Jong feels that the key to this Pandora's box lies in the concept of work-sharing. In its most simplistic definition, this means that those who are lucky enough to have jobs must work shorter hours for less money in order to make room for the unemployed.

'If this is to work,' says Mr. de Jong, 'a vital precondition is more solidarity between people than exists at the moment. Everyone will have to make sacrifices and accept that, for a long time to come, we cannot expect the continuous rise in the level of prosperity to which we have become accustomed.

'I think there will be a gradual moving away from the notion of work as a five days a week, seven or eight hours a day occupation. We will also have to cut down on overtime which is ridiculous when so many people are out of work.

'In addition to considering the distribution of work over the working day or the working week, we must also start considering it in the context of the whole year and even in the context of our whole working life. This means that we will have to give more thought to questions like sabbaticals and early retirement.'

The corollary of this line of thinking is, of course, more leisure time, and

Mr. de Jong reckons that not half enough thought is being devoted to organising it better so that we can really derive some benefit and enjoyment from the extra free time.

For example, he points to the fact that people take their holidays at more or less the same time, leading to inevitable overcrowding at resorts and frustrating traffic jams. This, he feels, is plain bad management.

Mr. de Jong would also like to see people devoting more of their increased leisure time to working for the Community: for example, helping to improve the environment or performing social work such as looking after the elderly or the handicapped.

All of these problems, he points out, are common to the nine Member States. Yet, each has a different attitude about how to solve them. This is where the Foundation comes in.

The role of the Foundation is to carry out research, evaluate it and then draw up reports which are distributed to selected employer and trade union representatives, to the nine Member State governments and to the European Commission, as well as to certain international organisations such as the ILO and the OECD. The results of this research and evaluation are designed to contribute to the formulation of employment policies.

Although the Foundation was established to examine aspects of both working and living conditions, the change in our economic circumstances since its charter was first drawn up has inevitably meant that it has had to concentrate virtually exclusively on the organisation of work.

'At the beginning', says Mr. de Jong, 'the perspective was eternal prosperity. The economic recession has made some people look upon us as something of a luxury. This has meant that we have had to be very selective in what we do and not too ambitious. It has also meant that we have had to think more in terms of short-term results.

'However, we are trying to embrace the whole life sphere of the average European citizen. We don't make any sharp distinctions between living and working conditions because they are interrelated.'

Since it began its operations, the Foundation has been examining two priority subjects, shift work and new forms of work organisation. The first involves, among other things, finding ways of making shift work more productive and less disruptive for the worker. The second concerns research into the possibilities for redesigning jobs so as to increase job satisfaction.

Reports on these two areas have already been completed, along with another on safety and health at work. The reports are evaluated by an administrative board of 30 members, made up of one government, one trade union and one employer representative from each Member State, together with three representatives from the European Commission.

'Our reports are not always very popular with members of the board,' says Mr. Jong, 'because they can be critical of government legislation or of certain attitudes of employers or trade unions.'

The Foundation is currently taking a close look at the problem of integrating school and university leavers into working life. Among the problems involved here is the need for our education systems to adapt their curricula to the needs of the labour market.

A second area where there is considerable scope for innovation is the question of worker participation in the running of a firm, an area where practice varies enormously from one Member State to another. As in all aspects of its research, the Foundation tries to draw together the best practices to be found in each Member State.

The overriding objective of this cumulative research is to bring about a qualitative improvement in the way we live our lives. While many of us would wish it were otherwise, Mr. de Jong believes that the nature of our work is of paramount importance in determining our overall well-being. It is our duty to society to do it well, and society's duty to create the conditions to enable us to fulfil ourselves.

'In the final analysis,' he says, 'it is an ethical matter. I believe that people must be enabled to have meaningful work and that they, in turn, must make a contribution to society and to mankind in general.'

Tapping the market

The European Commission is to carry out market research into the need for rapid, low-price coach services between major cities in the Nine.

EMPLOYMENT



Graduates still a privileged class in labour market

Unemployment among university graduates in the European Community is rising as a result of the current economic recession, according to figures compiled by the European Commission.

This is hardly surprising, since there are around six million people out of jobs, a massive rise since the oil crisis began to bite. But how evenly is unemployment spread?

The Commission's decision to delve into the figures was prompted by a question from a worried member of the European Parliament, Belgian Liberal André Damseaux, who was alarmed at the rising levels of unemployment among university graduates, particularly those with degrees in certain exact sciences.

Mr Damseaux pointed out that, only a few years ago, these graduates could have been sure of finding jobs quickly and he said that if the present situation were allowed to continue it could ultimately undermine our entire university system.

The Commission agreed that more graduates were now out of work, but it pointed out that, of the four large Member States whose statistics it surveyed—France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom—the unemployment rate among graduates was, with the exception of Italy, distinctly lower than the overall unemployment rate in those countries.

In France, the overall rate last year was 5.6%, while the rate for graduates was only 3%. In Germany in 1978, 2.1% of graduates were out of jobs, compared with 3.7% of the total work force. In the United Kingdom, the latest figures, for 1977, show a rate of 4.3% for graduates and 6.2% for all workers. Only in Italy—7.4% for graduates in 1978 compared with 7.2% overall—was there different picture.

The Commission also pointed out to Mr Damseaux that, while unemployment among graduates may be rising, in general they enjoy much higher salaries and greater job security than the norm.

The Commission is currently carrying out detailed research into unemployment among graduates in all Member States. These figures are expected to become available shortly.

European student no longer a pipe-dream

Whether they're Danes studying history in France, Belgians studying advanced technology in Germany, Italians studying economics in Britain, or in fact any Community citizens studying anything anywhere in the Community, from now on they'll all be treated more equally as a result of a recent decision by the Community's Education Ministers.

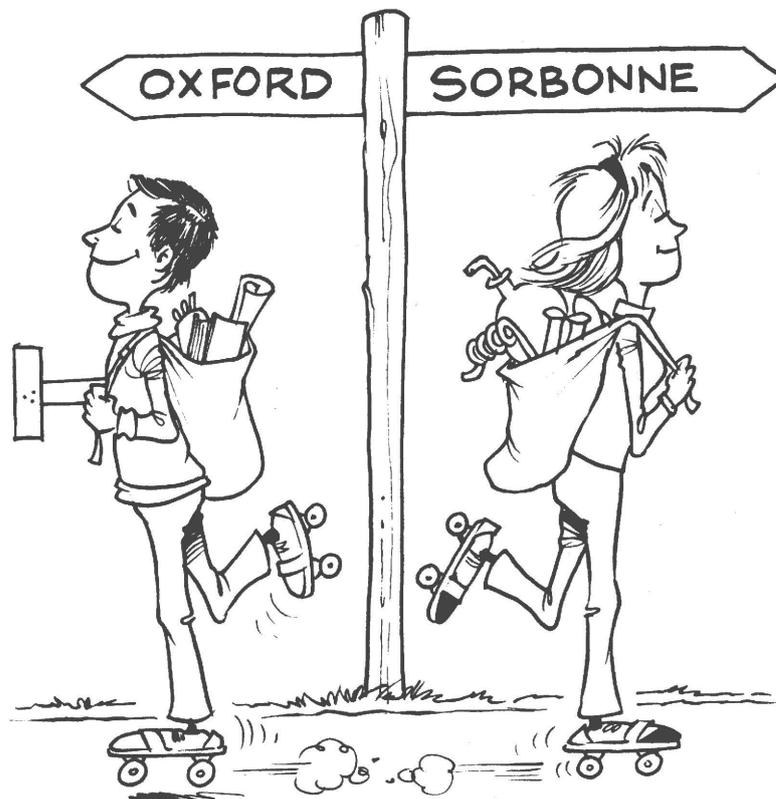
In the past, students wanting to study in foreign countries have often found themselves discriminated against with quota systems or higher fees, or even ineligible for tuition in certain subjects. In a Europe where knowledge of how other Community citizens live and work is going to be increasingly important—both from an economic and a social point of view—education clearly has a vital role to play.

Though many countries have recognized this and tried to encourage international cooperation in the field of higher education, in practice, with each country's individual systems differing and local demands and economic pressures increasing, it has often been difficult to increase the mobility of students and staff.

However, it's a problem the Community has been increasingly concerned with, and in a joint action programme adopted in 1976, the nine Ministers of Education decided to promote joint programmes of study between institutions of higher education in different countries. In the first two years 60 programmes involving 130 institutions were supported: an important role was played by the Institute of Education of the European Cultural Foundation in Paris.

The European Commission also publishes a Handbook for Students every two years which gives details of the opportunities available to foreign students, the requirements students have to fulfil to be accepted and the procedures to follow in applying for admission to higher educational establishments in each Member State.

In 1978 the Commission prepared an analysis of the problems in this area and made some suggestions for solutions to the Education Ministers.



The European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee were also consulted and supported the proposals.

The latest agreement proposes a common approach to the admission of students from other Member States. This is based on three principles removing obstacles to the free movement of people within the Community, recognizing the inter-dependence of Member States, and agreeing to admit students of other Community countries no less favourable conditions than those applied to the host country's own students.

Where there are special problems because of heavy demands on certain subjects, local authorities have to ensure that a 'reasonable' number of places are made available for students from other Community countries. Special efforts are also to be made to make sure that students can get periods of study abroad credited to their courses. About £55 000 out of the total amount of £120 000 set aside for implementing the agreement in 1981 is devoted to improving the transferability of credits for study periods abroad.

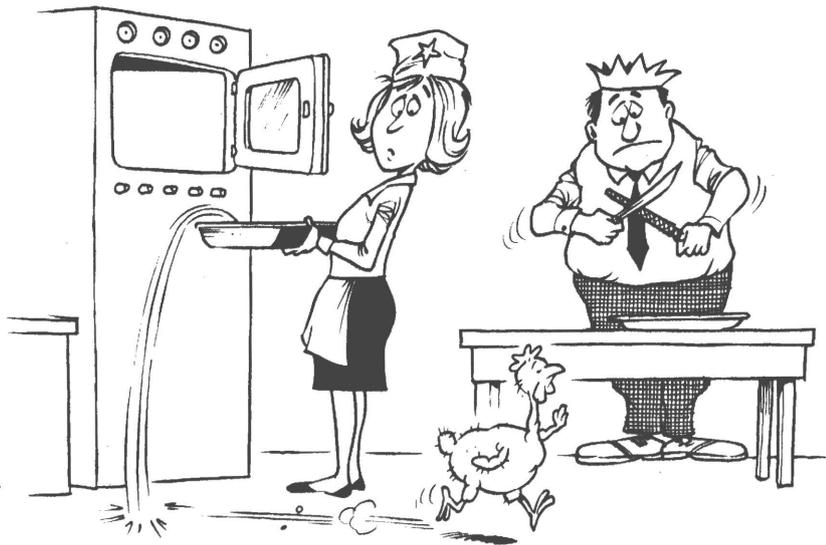
How good a prospective student's knowledge of the country's language has to be depends on the course of study he or she wants to follow, and an analysis is to be made at a Com-

munity level concerning facilities for improving foreign students' language proficiency before they start their chosen course. A further £30 000 will cover this work.

Information on Member States' arrangements for receiving and advising foreign students, and on the scale and evolution of student mobility between Member States is also to be compiled at a Community level.

But, however hard the intra-European student works, however well-advised he or she is and however proficient he or she becomes in a host country's language, these efforts will be of limited use until the different Community countries can agree on mutual recognition of diplomas. So among other things, the Community's Education Committee, which groups experts from the Member States and from the Commission, is to spend the rest of 1980 discussing a survey of existing arrangements for the academic recognition of diplomas. There will be an evaluation of their practical significance for students' mobility and proposals for a Community policy in this field.

The College of Europe in Bruges and a European University Institute in Florence already exist. With this latest agreement, all Community students will now have the opportunity to be more European.



Microwaves: can we limit the price of progress?

The use of microwave ovens in both the home and in restaurants is on the increase. But despite their obvious advantage over conventional ovens for cooking food, microwaves can constitute a health hazard both to those who use them and to anyone in the vicinity.

The danger is electromagnetic radiation. Energy emitted by microwave generators is absorbed into the body and raises its internal temperature. Exposure to microwaves can also cause cataracts.

In an effort to ensure that the public throughout the European Community is adequately protected from these dangers, the European Commission has drawn up a draft directive outlining a series of safety measures to be taken by Member States.

Certain Community Member States already have legislation limiting exposure of workers to microwaves. But these limits vary quite considerably from one country to another and the differences are widening as scientific know how develops. Several Member States have no legislation whatsoever.

The new Commission proposal draws on the experience that the Community has acquired in the comparable field of protection against the dangers of ionising radiation. It requires all Member States to ensure the same level of protection for anyone exposed to microwave radiation.

The following provisions are foreseen:

- exposure to microwave radiation should be kept as low as reasonably possible. An upper limit is prescribed;
- under certain conditions, workers should wear protective clothing, which should be subject to periodic checks;
- areas in which microwave radiation might exceed the prescribed levels under normal operating conditions, should be restricted. The general public should not be allowed to enter and appropriate warnings signs should be put up. Workers should only be allowed access subject to control procedures;
- workers whose job involves exposure to microwave radiation should have regular medical check-ups. A competent medical service should be available to workers exposed to radiation overdoses;
- any worker liable to be exposed to microwave radiation should be given adequate information about the potential hazards and given appropriate training in ways to limit the dangers;

■ manufacturers or distributors of microwave equipment should provide information on installation, maintenance and safe operation, and the authorities should keep a watchful eye on anyone involved in the marketing or import of microwave equipment.

Member States will have one year from the date the directive is adopted by the Council of Ministers to implement the above measures.

The microwave proposal is the Commission's first step against non-ionising radiation. Comparable steps are also being considered for other forms such as lasers and ultraviolet radiation.

Signpost to safer food

The famous holiday guide produced by Michelin indicates the quality of food you are likely to find in the hotels and restaurants on your route by the number of forks and spoons (not to mention stars) it awards them.

Soon you may see a new symbol composed of a glass and a fork which will appear on a vast range of containers and similar products sold in the Community to show that they can safely be used or come into contact with food.

The design has been produced by the Studio Lavarello in Genoa which was asked by the European Commission to come up with a symbol that would be acceptable and instantly recognisable throughout the Community.



The Commission will now urge the nine governments to agree to the use of the symbol, so that it can start to appear next January.

This will not only lead to freer trade and thereby reduce the cost of these products because of greater competition between manufacturers, but will also cut down the risk to the Community's 260 million citizens of falling ill from contaminated food.

ENVIRONMENT

Future holds promise of cleaner water and purer air

Two of nature's gifts that most of us take more or less for granted—the air that we breathe and the water we drink—should reach us somewhat cleaner thanks to two European Commission proposals which were adopted by the Community Environment Ministers at their last meeting in Luxembourg.

The two proposals—one limiting emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) into the air and the other setting certain minimum standards of purity for drinking water—had both been agreed in principle by the Council at previous meetings. But a few technical problems still had to be ironed out before either could become Community law.

The SO₂ directive seeks to limit emissions of SO₂ and particulate matter (harmful chemical dusts) by fixing air quality standards which offending industries must observe.

The Nine have until April 1983 to bring in the necessary national legislation to ensure strict compliance with these quality standards and to set up measuring and monitoring procedures.

The directive establishes reference methods for the analysis of pollutants. The Commission wants industries to meet the air quality standards by reducing pollution, not by trying to disperse pollution over a wider area (by using taller chimneys, for example).

A common procedure for the exchange of information on atmospheric pollution between the Nine will also be set up.

In a separate Resolution on trans-boundary SO₂ pollution, the nine Member States agreed that they would limit and as far as possible reduce air pollution which crosses into neighbouring countries.

SO₂ can be carried for many hundreds of miles on the wind to fall as 'acid rain', destroying vegetation and causing serious pollution to lakes and rivers.

The Commission's drinking water directive is a rather technical text



which lays down the maximum admissible concentrations of various chemical, organic, toxic and generally undesirable substances in drinking water or in water used in food production.

The Member States have five years in which to ensure that the quality of their drinking water meets the standards laid down in the directive.

The Environment Ministers also held a lengthy discussion on the European Commission's draft directive on major industrial risks (known as the 'Seveso' directive).

The proposal aims to prevent major industrial disasters such as occurred at Seveso in 1976 and at Flixborough in 1974, and to allow the authorities to gain speedy control of the situation should an accident occur.

Companies involved in the production processes using potentially dangerous substances (petrochemicals, for example) or which store large quantities of toxic, inflammable, explosive or otherwise hazardous substances would be required to notify the local authorities and in certain cases present a full account of their activity, including an assessment of the nature of the risks involved.

They would also have to submit a report giving details of safety and contingency plans and equipment. The authorities could carry out inspections to see that the safety precautions at the plant were up to scratch.

The draft directive also provides for adequate information about risks and safety procedures to be given both to workers at the plant and to residents in surrounding areas.

A special system for notifying neighbouring Member States is also included in the proposal to cover plants sited close to borders.

It was on the terms of this last provision that Member States could not agree, and the ministers referred the proposal back to the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) for further discussion, in the hope that agreement can be found in the near future.

The Environment Ministers did however, confirm their welcome for the Commission's proposal banning imports of primary whale products into the Community from January 1, 1982.

COREPER has again been asked to iron out the remaining technical problems so that the Commission proposal can be formally adopted.

The Council also held an in-depth debate on the progress made in the Community's second environmental action programme. Discussion was based on the document drawn up by Environment Commissioner Lorenzo Natali and featured in *Euroforum* 10/80.

More knowledge may help protect our natural heritage

A new £30 million five-year Community environmental research was adopted by the European Commission recently.

The main part of the programme £26 million will be concerned with environmental protection concentrating on five major areas. The remainder will be spent on climatological research.

The first research effort is aimed at understanding the behaviour of pollutants in the environment, and the effects of pollutants such as cadmium and lead, and organic micropollutants, on human health and the ecosystem generally.

Secondly, there will be research into the reduction and prevention of pollution and nuisances, with a special emphasis on 'clean' technologies (that is, technologies that pollute less and produce less waste, and that consume less energy) in various industries.

Research will be conducted into the protection, conservation and management of the natural environment (wildlife conservation).

Fourthly, there will be research into environmental information management; this mainly concerns ECDIN the Community's data bank on chemical products which are likely to be hazardous to the environment, but will also be extended to cover ecological mapping.

Finally, research will be carried out into the relationship between man and his environment. This will cover both the effects on health of natural and man-caused environmental changes, and the longer-term consequences on the environment of modern agricultural practices, energy production, industrial activities and transport.

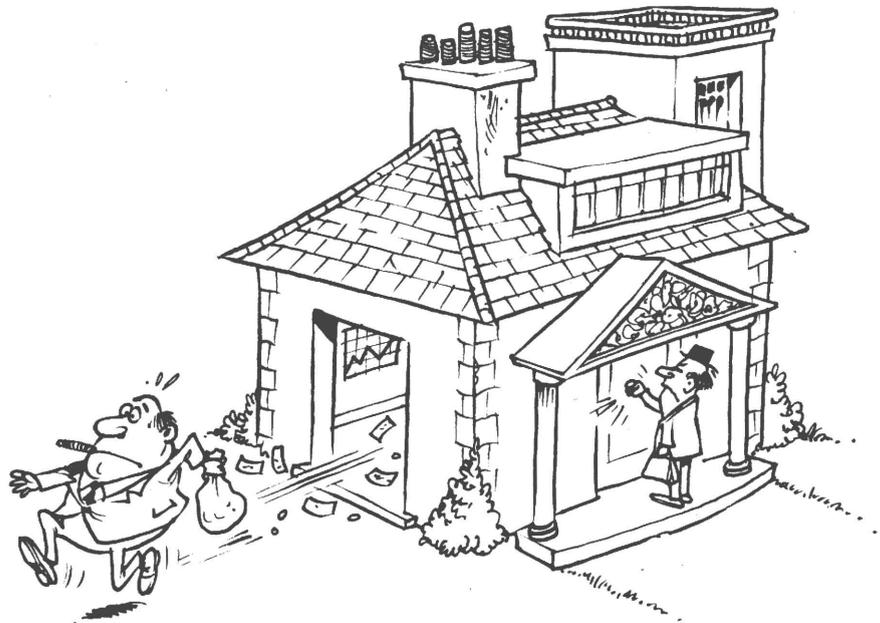
The remaining £4 million is to be spent on climatology research—the art—of accurate weather forecasting. This part of the programme was approved by the Council of Ministers in December.

The new programme follows on from research programmes initiated in 1973 and carried out by research institutes in each of the Nine, or at the Community's own Joint Research Centre establishments.

More prominence is being given to the safety of new and old chemicals in the environment, and to the hazards of accidental contamination either from industrial plants, such as Seveso or Flixborough or from oil tankers like the Amoco Cadiz.

Attention will also be given to a major emerging pollution problem throughout the world—the increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Not only is man producing more CO₂ than ever before, but the area of forest and vegetation which absorbs it is diminishing.

TAXATION



Can cooperation to beat dodgers be stepped up?

Tax avoidance is big business. It even appears to be almost an accepted pursuit in some countries.

Multinational companies are frequently accused of avoiding paying tax by using a technique known as transfer pricing. Such a practice involves transferring profits from one subsidiary to another in such a way that the final tax is paid in the country with the lowest rates.

Individuals also have developed a number of devices to keep them one step ahead of the taxman. One of the most popular is to use tax havens—countries where no tax or only very little, is paid.

But a number of members of the European Parliament have now decided that enough is enough and they are demanding action to stamp out some of the more obvious abuses.

They have put their points to the European Commission, which is also keen to step up the fight against tax evasion.

Its main weapon is legislation adopted two years ago allowing the income tax authorities in each Community country to contact and request help from their counterparts in assessing the level of tax that should be paid.

By receiving information from a number of different sources the authorities can have a clearer picture of an individual or a company's assets even if they are not all in one country.

The Commission is now organizing meetings between national officials to discuss how the legislation has been working and to what extent the facility has been used.

On the basis of this experience, it may decide at a later date to come forward with further proposals for legislation, which would put an even tighter control on transfer pricing tactics.

But the Commission also points out that it has not had much support from the nine governments in tackling the matter of tax havens. It prepared a report on this subject as far back as 1973, but this has still to be discussed by the Council of Ministers.

This is despite the fact that it was the governments themselves that originally requested the report!

LIFESTYLE

It all depends on your nationality

Did you know that the British are the Community citizens keenest on getting married, that the Dutch live the longest, that the Belgians get married youngest and that the Irish have the biggest families?

Statistics about births, marriages and deaths may look like boring lists of figures, but in fact they reveal some fascinating facts about the way we live.

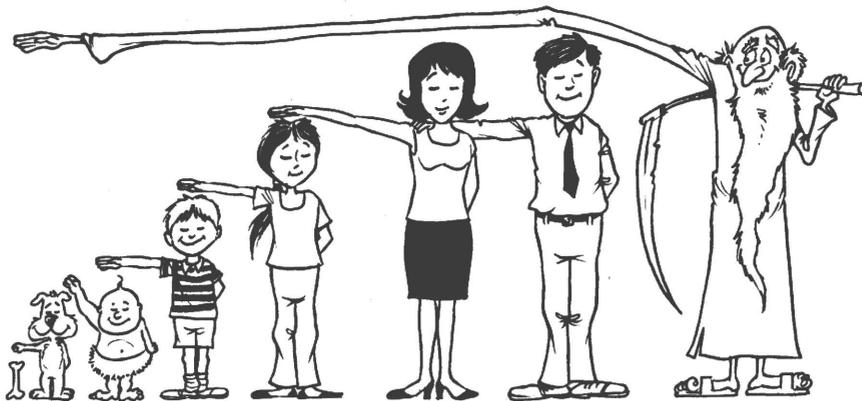
The latest series of demographic statistics published by Eurostat, the Community's statistical office, covers population by sex and age groups, births and deaths, marriage and divorce, life expectancy and fecundity, and a good deal more.

It seems all Member States follow the general trend of having more men than women and more younger people than older people—at least for the time being. Though the Community's overall population has increased since 1970, in eight of the nine Member States the birthrate has been going down over the last few years.

Germany now has the Community's lowest birthrate. However, it's in the Netherlands that having babies is going most rapidly out of fashion. In 1970 the Dutch had the Community's second highest birthrate—18.3 per thousand of the population. Now, with 12.6 they lag behind Ireland (steadily top of the league with 21) and France with 13.8, and are on a par with Italy.

In both Germany and Luxembourg, deaths are outstripping births, though the United Kingdom has the Community's highest death rate, closely followed by the Belgians. It's the Dutch who live the longest—an average of 72 for men and 78 for women—whereas German men and Irish women have the Community's lowest life expectancy.

After going up in popularity in several Community countries during the '60s, marriage seems now to be going out of vogue. In 1960 the Germans were the most ready to walk up the aisle, and in 1970 it was the Dutch. Now it's the British, but everywhere the figures are going steadily down. The Germans are keenest on staying single, closely followed by the Danes.



However, in most Community countries, those young people who do decide to marry tend to do so earlier than they would have in 1960. Italian and Danish men wait longest before taking the plunge—27 is the average age—and so do Danish women, with an average age of 24. The Belgians, on the other hand, prefer to marry young: 24 for men, 22 for women.

The divorce rate is rising in all Community countries except Ireland, where there is no legal provision for divorce. Denmark and Britain are in the lead here.

Except in Ireland and Italy, where parents are getting younger, people in most Community countries are starting their families at an older age than they used to. Most Dutch mothers are over 25 when they have their first child, and 24 ½ is the lowest average age in the Community as a whole.

Like the divorce rate, the illegitimacy rate is also rising all over the Community, led traditionally by the Danes, with 279 in every 1,000 now born out of wedlock. The Dutch and the Belgians continue to have the fewest illegitimate babies—nearly 31 in every thousand.

One figure that everyone will be pleased to see declining throughout the Community is the infant mortality rate and the number of stillborn babies. In both cases Denmark has the best record, and while Italy still has the highest number of babies dying before the age of one, they have managed to bring the 1960 figure of nearly 50 in every thousand down to just under 17. During the years 1970-1977, they also managed to nearly halve the number of stillbirths. Though Ireland continues to have the Community's highest rate of population growth, it also has the largest number of stillborn babies

and the second largest infant mortality rate.

For the first time this year, the Eurostat figures also include comparable information about the three applicant Member States, Greece, Portugal and Spain. In these three countries the picture is rather different.

All have higher birthrates than any Community country except Ireland (though their figures are also falling), and their populations are also rising, though again, not as fast as Ireland's.

In Greece and Portugal marriage is far more popular than in the Community—in Greece marriage is actually increasing in popularity—and Spain comes second only to the United Kingdom. All these countries have a very low or non-existent divorce rate.

Greece and Spain also have far lower illegitimacy rates than Community countries, and though Portugal is more in line with the Nine in this respect, its' figures fell steadily from 1960-1977.

Portugal and Spain have higher still-birth rates than the Community, and both Portugal and Greece have much higher rates of infant mortality than the Community average. However, both have halved their 1960 figures and Greece with one third of its 1960 rate now has fewer infant mortalities than Italy.

Life expectancy in Portugal is lower for both men and women than the Community average, but the death rate in Greece, Spain and Portugal is lower than average in the Nine, and in Spain it's lower than in any other Community country.

Community statistics will get a new look when 'the Nine' become 'the Twelve'.

THE BUDGET

Commission proposes 25 per cent increase for next year

The European Commission has presented the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament with a preliminary draft budget for next year of around £ 12 billion.

This is an increase of 25 per cent on the 1980 budget which was finally accepted by the Parliament at its July meeting, having delayed approval for six months because of a dispute with the Council over certain items of expenditure.

As a result, Community expenditure was pegged at last year's level, which meant that no new Community policies could be implemented and existing ones could not be expanded.

Budget Commissioner Christopher Tugendhat explained the proposed increase in next year's budget by the fact that it was the first 'Budget for Ten' as a result of Greek accession to the Community next January, and the fact that it incorporated expenditure designed to implement the agreement reached by the Community partners to solve the problem of the United Kingdom's budget contributions.

Nevertheless, Mr. Tugendhat pointed out that, in drawing up this preliminary draft, the Commission has taken account of the present difficult economic situation and it is doing its utmost to ensure that 'where money is to be spent it is well spent.'

The level of expenditure on supporting agricultural prices proposed by the Commission—one of the crucial areas of conflict between the Parliament and the Council—is proportionately less than recent years, representing just under 65 per cent of the proposed total for 1981, compared with more than 70 per cent this year.

In addition, it is proposed that spending on agricultural price support should increase by only 12.7 per cent, compared with an average of around 23 per cent in recent years and compared with an increase of 25 per cent on the total 1980 budget.

Mr. Tugendhat also pointed out that the Commission is proposing certain structural changes which would bring about a better balance in the budget, notably between agricultural and non-agricultural spending.

In this way, the Commission has proposed a 25.6 per cent increase for the three structural funds—the Social and Regional Funds, and the Guidance section of the Farm Fund.

It is proposed that aid to non-associated developing countries should be raised by 40 per cent and aid in cereals by almost 29 per cent.

The Commission's proposals must now be considered by the Council of Ministers and the Parliament and, in principle, the final budget should be approved in December.

CONSUMERS

Far off hills not always greener

While we all feel the impact of rising prices, a survey on trends in consumer prices in the 24 OECD countries shows that the European Community is not doing too badly in coping with inflation.

While the average rise in the consumer price index in the Community in 1978 was 6.9%, the figure for the rest of the European OECD countries (Turkey, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Austria and Switzerland) hit 9.1%, with the average for the rest of the OECD countries (New Zealand, Canada, Australia, the United States and Japan) falling in between at 7.7%.

Last year saw the same pattern, with the Community's average inflation rising to 8.9%, the rest of Europe's rising to 10.6% and, again, the rest of the world's figure falling in between at 9.7%.

A glance at the individual figures for the European countries outside the Community shows Turkey experiencing huge rises (63.5% last year), followed by Iceland (44%). Of the three countries which are due to join the Community, Spain fared best (15.7%), followed by Greece (19%) and Portugal (23.6%).

Within the Community, Italy had the highest inflation in 1979 (14.8%), followed by the United Kingdom (13.4%), Ireland (13.3%), France (10.8%), Denmark (9.6%), Belgium and Luxembourg (4.5%), the Netherlands (4.2%) and Germany with the lowest inflation rate (4.1%).

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Community agrees aid package for Turkey

One of the European Community's oldest external relationships, begun with Turkey in 1963, is back in full operation with a view towards possible Turkish membership of the Community. This relaunching of the association with Turkey is the result of a process begun earlier this year and completed shortly before the summer recess at a meeting of Community and Turkish Foreign Ministers in Brussels.

The two sides concluded a new accord aimed not only at renewing the close ties between Europe and Turkey but also at improving Turkey's economic situation. It follows a period during which the association agreement was frozen as a result of a decision by the previous Ecevit government.

The major elements of the new relationship include a Community financial package amounting to some £ 372 million, a gradual abolition of duties on Turkish agricultural products imported into the Community and an improved status for Turkish workers in the Community. The meeting resulted in agreement also on a new programme of economic and technical cooperation and immediate Community aid of £ 45 million to fill the gap until the major portion of the package of financial transfers begins flowing to Ankara.

These transfers will be a significant contribution to the efforts of the Western industrialised nations aimed at supporting the troubled Turkish economy. At a summit meeting in Guadeloupe in 1979, the major powers agreed to launch an international emergency aid drive for Turkey that would involve loans and financial transfers from individual governments, international institutions and private banks.

This announcement was followed by measures taken by the Government of Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to strengthen the domestic economy and to draw Turkey closer to the Community and other Western States. One of the most significant aspects of this Turkish policy was the announcement

in Brussels by Foreign Minister Hayrettin Erkmen last February that Turkey would make a formal application for membership of the Community before the end of this year.

At the July meeting in Brussels, both Mr Erkmen and Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo, who presided at the meeting, said that the latest agreement was an important step in reviving and strengthening the relations between the two.

TRADE

EFTA celebrates its twentieth anniversary

For years they were known in the jargon of diplomats and economists as 'the inner six' and the 'outer seven': terms which seemed to have more to do with astronomy or schoolgirls' mystery stories than with European politics.

Two decades later, those terms have been abandoned, but the reality remains of a prosperous market of some 300 million Europeans united in a single free trade zone.



While the development of the larger European Community captures most of the public attention, the fact is sometimes overlooked in the Community that there exists another well-established grouping and that the destiny of the two are closely interwoven.

This fact was reaffirmed recently when the seven-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) celebrated its 20th anniversary in Stockholm with the participation of representatives of the Community.

Speaking on behalf of the Community, Commissioner for External Relations Wilhelm Haferkamp remarked that economic relations between the two entities 'have grown ever closer in the past decade.'

He noted that 10 years ago there were not only the two different groups, but dictatorships in the Iberian Peninsula and in Greece, that further divided Europe. 'A single economic space in Western Europe was unthinkable', he stated.

Nowadays, while the Community and EFTA maintain their separate existence, the two have created a single free-trade area for industrial



products and ever closer cooperation in several fields binds the 300 million citizens of their combined 16 Member States together.

Statistics show that these 16 countries trade more among themselves than with the rest of the world put together. They conduct two-thirds of their external trade among themselves, as well as four-fifths of their total trade in industrial products.

To put it in another perspective, Mr Haferkamp noted that these EFTA countries buy more goods from the Community than the two superpowers, the United States and Soviet Union, combined.

The figures for direct investment by the Community in EFTA and vice

versa, he added, 'also indicate that we are well down the road towards a single economic area in Western Europe.'

The current member states of EFTA are Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland.

At the start of their relationship, this closeness and cooperation was not always evident. EFTA's origins stem partly from a reaction to the formation of the Community. The grouping was formed by the United Kingdom, which had first elected to remain outside the Community, the neutral countries of Austria, Sweden and Switzerland, which also wanted to avoid joining blocs, and Denmark, Norway and Portugal, with Finland as an associate. Instead of the closer integration of the Community, these countries sought a looser association limited to achieving a free trade zone. Iceland also became a member in 1970.



Many predicted the demise of the EFTA when the United Kingdom, Denmark and Norway negotiated to join the Community in the early 1970s. However, the first two actually joined, along with unattached Ireland, and Norway elected to stay out, the enlarged Community of Nine

The Community's Trade with EFTA
(in millions of European Units of Account*)

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Imports from EFTA	15 891	20 460	20 245	24 880	28 038	32 817	40 882
Exports to EFTA	20 861	27 948	27 135	33 486	38 302	39 219	47 488
Balance	4 970	7 488	6 890	8 606	10 265	6 402	6 606

* 1 EUA = approx. 60 p.

and the remaining EFTA members negotiated agreements leading to a free trade area in industrial products.

Since then their links have grown stronger through frequent consultation and cooperation in fields such as transportation, science and environmental protection.

Last June's EFTA ministerial meeting noted the increasing benefits that have been derived from this close association between the two groups and reaffirmed EFTA's resolve to seek closer cooperation.

Speakers at the ceremonies in Stockholm underlined the fact that these relations will be bound to undergo further changes in the coming years with the accession to the

Percentage Shares
of Community-EFTA Trade, 1979

	Exports	Imports
Belgium	5.9%	5.6%
Denmark	5.6%	7.9%
France	11.5%	11.5%
Germany	41.6%	33.1%
Italy	9.9%	9.5%
Ireland	0.3%	0.7%
Netherlands	6.4%	6.7%
United Kingdom	18.6%	24.8%

Source: Eurostat

Community of Greece next January; and later Portugal, which is an EFTA member, and Spain, creating a unit of some 360 million people spanning a broad geographical area of Europe.

Mr Haferkamp emphasized this in his address, saying 'Common European action is indispensable if we want our continent to maintain its role and its influence and accept its responsibilities in today's changing world.'

Banking offer

A symposium on the role of the banker in industrial innovation is to be held in Luxembourg on September 30 and October 1. It is being organised by the European Commission and the European Financial Marketing Association. Further details from the Commission, DGXIII/A3, Jean Monnet Building-B4/072, PO Box 1907, Luxembourg.

THIRD WORLD

Aid to refugees now focuses on Africa

European Community aid to refugees in various parts of the world is this year running at twice the level reached in 1979, according to figures released recently by Claude Cheysson, the Commissioner responsible for relations with the Third World.

The 1979 figures of \$140 million was reached by the end of June last. Further aid will be made available according to the volume of requests.

The statistics released by Mr. Cheysson illustrate the development of the Community's refugee aid programme. In 1975, it distributed aid of \$40 million in 16 different relief actions. The 1979 figure of \$140 million covered 68 separate interventions.

Since 1975, the total aid to refugees has amounted to \$570 million. Of this, 32 per cent went to Asia, 28 per cent to Africa and 27 per cent to the Middle East.

Last year, the bulk of the money went to South-East Asia to help Vietnamese and Kampuchean refugees. This year, the emphasis is on the Horn of Africa and East Africa because of the deteriorating situation in these regions.

Since the middle of last year, the Community has donated a total of \$73 million, the bulk of it this year, to six countries in these two parts of Africa—Ethiopia, Jibuti, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and, in particular, Somalia, which alone has received \$28 million. A further \$14 million is on the way to these regions.

The problem of Zimbabwean refugees, for whom \$36 million in Community aid was earmarked in the 1978-80 period, has now receded as refugees return to their newly-independent country. However, there are still two and a half million refugees in Africa as a whole.

The Community can come to the aid of refugees in three ways—through food aid, through a special budget for helping populations who are victims of catastrophes such as floods or drought, and through the emergency aid programme of the Lomé Convention, the trade and aid pact it has signed with 59 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Zimbabwe is currently negotiating to become the 60th member, and Mr. Cheysson announced that the Commission is planning to open an office in its capital, Salisbury, which will have the status of a Commission delegation once Zimbabwe becomes a member of the Convention.

Talks on closer cooperation in Southern Africa

Ways in which the European Community can help plans for economic cooperation among the independent states of Southern Africa were discussed in Brussels recently by Commission representatives and a delegation from the London-based Southern African Development Co-ordination Committee (SADCC).

The delegation was composed of Amon Nsekela, Tanzanian High Commissioner in London, who is SADCC Chairman; A.W. Kgarebe, Botswana High Commissioner in London, and David Anderson, Chairman of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

In the Commission they met Development Commissioner Claude Cheysson and senior officials of the Development Directorate General.

The SADCC was behind a meeting of Ministers of 'Front Line States' in Arusha, Tanzania in July 1979 which drafted a declaration of their strategy for a closer integration of their economies, with a view to accelerating development and reducing dependence on South Africa.

This declaration was adopted in April by a summit in Lusaka of leaders of nine countries: Zambia, Tanzania, Angola, Mozambique, Botswana (the five Front Line States), the newly-independent Zimbabwe, plus Swaziland, Lesotho and Malawi.

In the discussions in the Commission it was agreed that around £60 000 from the regional fund of Lomé I would be allocated as a contribution to a programme of studies prior to an international donors meeting in November.

The studies would relate to such varied projects as the creation of a Southern African transport and communications Commission, the control of foot-and-mouth disease, the preparation of a

food security plan for the region, the establishment of a regional agricultural research centre specializing in drought-prone areas, the harmonization of industrialization and energy policies, the sharing of national training facilities and proposals for the establishment of a Southern African Development Fund.

A number of regional projects in these fields in Southern Africa have already been financed under Lomé I including:

- £ 6 million for a Botswana-Zambia road;
- £ 4.8 million for the first phase of rebuilding the Benguela railway (Angola, Zaire, Zambia);
- £ 2.9 million for the improvement of Kigoma port on Lake Tanganyika;
- £ 21 million for the University of Botswana.

PUBLICATIONS

Europe and the third world: a study on interdependence, Collection Dossiers: Development series—1979—2. 122 pages, edition: Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian. Price: UKL 2 or USD 4. Catalogue No.: CB-NX-78-002-EN-C.

'Michael Noelke has rendered an excellent service in providing us with an instrument for measuring accurately the state of interdependence which links us irrevocably to the Third World', writes Claude Cheysson, the Member of the Commission of the European Communities responsible for development policy, in the preface to this work.

Mr Noelke shows quite clearly that Europe and the Third World are equally dependent on each other. For Europe, cooperation with the developing countries is not only a moral duty but also an economic necessity. Moreover, only cooperation which culminates in genuine development, that is to say in a higher standard of living for the most needy people of the world, is in Europe's interest.

To the reader already familiar with the problems of development, this work offers a mine of up-to-date information on Europe's dependence in terms of energy and raw materials on trade with the Third World, the impact of industrialization, financial flows and so on. Everyone will find food for thought on a crucial political problem which will remain a burning issue for the rest of the twentieth century.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Duty-free goods

I should like to take up a statement in the article in issue 11/80 of *Euroforum* about duty-free allowances and, in particular, 'the right' to receive small parcels from abroad duty-free.

It has been the bitter experience of my family and indeed of many other 'foreigners' in Belgium that this 'right' has been completely negated by the regular practice of the Belgian Post Office of intercepting parcels from abroad and refusing to hand them over to the addressee unless iniquitous and exorbitant 'handling' charges are paid.

This tax is imposed regardless of the fact that the parcels have been correctly packed and addressed and the full postage required in the sender's country paid and, of course, without the intended recipient having any possibility of knowing what the contents of the parcel are and whether it could conceivably be worth paying it, notably in the case of unexpected and unsolicited gifts.

After having to pay extravagant fees of this kind which even on occasion exceeded the total value of the item, e.g. a small woolen scarf hand-knitted for one of my children by his grandmother, I have been forced to advise all my friends and relations outside Belgium never to send us parcels through the post.

Nevertheless, it is not, of course, always possible to anticipate a parcel. Thus last year, in order to support an application for entry to an art-college in London, my eldest son sent off a small portfolio of drawings and slides of his paintings. When this was eventually returned by the college authorities, I again had to pay several hundred Belgian francs on top of the normal postage to reclaim his property, which had been sent in a parcel with a customs declaration clearly reading No Commercial Value.

If the Commission is, in fact, so impotent that in spite of (as I understand) many complaints about this scandalous abuse, it is unable to dissuade or prevent Member States from substituting for Customs Duties far heavier and more arbitrary internal taxes, it would simply be wiser not to trumpet as an historic achievement a situation which is nothing more than a sham and a delusion for the innocent and the unwary.

Michael Cendrovicz,
Avenue Albert-Elisabeth 36,
1200 Brussels, Belgium.

Tidy farmers of Europe

Sir,

In *Euroforum* No 9/80 you write, under the heading of 'Uses and abuses of waste' that agriculture produces the most waste in the Community.

I have long been used to hearing unqualified and sensationalist journalists maligning agriculture in the daily papers, in spite of the fact that it should be quite the opposite if only they went by the facts, but this is neither the time nor the place to go into that in detail.

I suppose that you include in this waste all the animal waste and maybe harvest waste as well, but all this (dung, straw, beet tops and so on) is all good for manuring and compost.

When I look round our village I see that a farmer's family of five people uses, at the most, every week one 60 litre dustbin for actual rubbish, such as bottles and tins, and these are not produced by agriculture!

If all the productive sectors were to take as much care of our environment as we farmers do, then we would still have a natural landscape, clean rivers and lakes and no noxious and poisonous gases hanging over our towns and motorways.

Of course, everything the farmer does is bad and it is easier to bash a small percentage of the voters than tackle the industrial and trade union organizations.

Helmut Böck,
8035 Unterbrunnen,
Germany.



THE NEWS AT A GLANCE

Nuclear pact

The Community has become a party to the International Convention for the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials which was signed recently in Vienna at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This is the first time that the Community as such has become a signatory to an international convention in this field.

Still producing

Although surveys suggest that the business climate in the Community has been deteriorating for some time, there is as yet no clear sign of a decline in industrial production, according to the latest European Commission survey on economic trends. However, the expansion of activity has slowed down markedly in recent months and unemployment is on the upturn again. Inflation also looks likely to accelerate.

Productive talks

Negotiations between the Community and Romania for the conclusion of a trade agreement to cover industrial products have been completed. There will also be a joint committee to deal with trade relations as a whole.

Simplifying procedures

The European Commission has proposed to the Council of Ministers that the Community as such should become a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The reason is that ILO conventions often apply to areas where the nine Member States have vested competence in the Community.

Research grants

The European Commission has awarded 17 research grants of a maximum of 180 000 Belgian francs (about £ 3 000) to young university teachers and research workers who are engaged in studies relating to European integration. A total of 172 projects from 31 countries were submitted.

A world role

Lord Soames, who as Sir Christopher Soames had responsibility for External Relations in the European Commission from 1973 until the end of 1976, has called for a Community foreign policy which goes beyond purely national approaches. Lord Soames, who was launching a British Government campaign to convince British people of the benefits of Community membership, said: 'The movement of events in the world outside Europe is increasingly imposing upon us the obligation to give form and substance to Europe's international personality.'

Rising output

Steel production in the Community in May passed the 12 million tonne mark for the first time this year, according to Eurostat figures. This rise is largely explained by the resumption of production in the United Kingdom following strike action. New orders for the first quarter were, however, down 10% on the same period last year. Orders from third countries showed a particular falling-off of 17.9%.

Help for schooling

The Paul Finet Foundation is making grants totalling around £ 17,500 to help further the education of 136 children of workers killed in the coal, iron and steel industries.

Aid for Uganda

The Community is sending emergency aid of £ 300 000 to Uganda. It will be channeled through the World Food Programme to the north of the country which has been hit by famine. Earlier this year the Community sent aid of £ 180 000 to the same region.

Farm funding

Around £ 35 million is being allocated from the Community's Farm Fund for a variety of agricultural development projects. One third of the money is for Mediterranean areas in France and Italy to prepare them to meet increased competition when the Community is enlarged to include Greece, Spain and Portugal.

Shortage spectre

The Community may start running short of natural gas supplies in the mid-Eighties, according to Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner. Natural gas accounts for around 18% of the Community's total energy consumption, about the same as coal, and a large amount is imported. The Commission has suggested guidelines to the Member States to boost domestic production and to diversify foreign sources of supply. The main suppliers at the moment are Algeria (42%), Norway (24%) and the Soviet Union (17.5%).

Emergency needs

The Community is to provide 35,000 tonnes of rice to the people of Kampuchea through the World Food Programme. It will also grant aid organisations £ 12 million in cash under the same programme to meet the most immediate needs. The Community is also sending 8,600 tonnes of cereals to Nicaragua as an initial allocation under an emergency food aid programme which it agreed to undertake last May.

Using the sun

The European Commission is currently selecting the first dozen solar electricity generating projects which will benefit from Community funds. The final choice is expected to be made later this year of more than 30 projects submitted in response to a call for tenders last February. Each Member State will host at least one of the projects, which are aimed at converting sunlight directly into electricity by means of photovoltaic cells.

Link-up with Chinese

A European Community/China business week is to be held in Brussels next Spring. Several hundred European businessmen who are interested in trading with the Chinese or investing in China will be invited to meet about 100 top-ranking Chinese trade officials during the week. European Commission and Chinese Government officials are currently finalizing the arrangements.

Majority believes in possibility of another world war

More than half of the citizens of the European Community believe there is some danger of another world war within the next 10 years; indeed, more than a third of them believe there is a grave risk of such a war.

This pessimistic outlook emerges from the latest Eurobarometer, the twice-yearly survey of opinion in the nine Member States which is carried out by the European Commission.

Far more people are worried about the possibility of a world war than previously. In an earlier Eurobarometer in 1977, people were also asked if they believed there was more than a 50-50 chance of a world war or less.

Then, only 14 per cent answered yes to this question, whereas in April of this year the figure had shot up to 34 per cent. The most pessimistic are the French — 42 per cent positive response — followed by the British, the Belgians, the Italians, the Irish, the Germans, the Dutch, the Danes and the Luxembourgers (15 per cent).

The survey found that, in general, women fear a new war more than men.

In order to establish the 'public mood', those questioned in each country were asked whether they were satisfied or dissatisfied with the life they lead. The answers reveal wide differences from one country to the next.

As in earlier polls, people in the smaller Member States, particularly Denmark and the Netherlands, are more satisfied with life than those in the bigger countries, with the exception of the United Kingdom.



Among the Danes, 55 per cent said they were 'very satisfied' with the life they lead, compared with only 10 per cent in France and Italy. In between come the Dutch (47%), the Luxembourgers and the Belgians (35%), the British and the Irish (34%) and the Germans (17%). Discontent in three of the larger Member States brings the Community average down to a rather miserable 21%.

One of the most alarming facts to emerge from this table is that, although the current mood in Ireland is relatively buoyant, it has deteriorated by 19 percentage points since 1973, when the first Eurobarometer survey was conducted there.

This may well be explained by the fact that 14 per cent of Irish people, when questioned about their standard of living, said that they couldn't make ends meet. Surprisingly, the Germans, who are generally regarded as being high up on the economic ladder, were only one percentage point behind the Irish. At the other end of the scale, only 2 per cent of the Dutch complained that they couldn't keep the wolf from the door. The Community average was 9 per cent.

The comparatively poor turnout in some Member States for last year's first European elections has reopened arguments about the lack of popular interest in

Community affairs. A set of questions were asked to throw some light on this and they highlighted a disconcerting gap between principle and practice.

While almost 80 per cent believed that Community issues were 'very important' (32%) or 'important' (47%), only 22 per cent professed to take a real interest in Community developments. The Luxembourgers take the most interest (34 per cent) and the Belgians least (9 per cent). Paradoxically, these are the two countries where most of the Community institutions are based.

Access to information about the Community may have something to do with this lukewarm attitude. Only 26 per cent of those questioned felt they were sufficiently well-informed. This response ranged from a high of 46 per cent in the Netherlands to a low of 20 per cent in Italy.

Despite this evidence of a lack of active interest, 73 per cent declared themselves to be in favour of European unification. This is an increase of 10 per cent since 1973 when the Community was enlarged.

The most enthusiastic are the Luxembourgers (86%), followed by the Italians (83%), the Germans (80%), the Dutch (76%), the French (75%), the Belgians (67%), the Irish (60%), the British (59%) and the Danes (39%).

The British bring up the rear when it comes to establishing whether people think the Community is a good or a bad thing. Only 23 per cent of Britons thought it was a good thing, compared with 49 per cent who had the opposite view.

In all other Member States, there is a majority which feels the Community is a good thing. The Community average is 55 per cent for and 15 per cent against. The Luxembourgers are once against the most positive.

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