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TRADE UNION INFORMATION BULLETIN

In this issue:

Social Dimension

Social Dialogue

New Commission

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TRADE UNION INFORMATION BULLETIN

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The views expressed
in the Bulletin are those
of the Editor
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RELAUNCH OF THE SOCIAL DIALOGUE

During the term of office of the last Commission (1985-88) a new initiative was undertaken to involve the major social partners - trade unions, employers and the public enterprises - in a wide ranging discussion with the Commission on a number of issues of significant importance to the future of the Community. This "Social Dialogue", as it became known, attempted to reach a measure of agreement in the area of new technology, training and other employment-related issues. Although some success was achieved the results of the Val Duchesse meetings were limited and it was widely agreed between the partners that the initiative needed relaunching. The opening of discussions on the social dimension to the internal market - stimulated by Commission President Jacques Delors' speech to last years ETUC Congress - and the start of a new Commission term of office added extra weight to the call for a review and relaunch of the initiative and this took place at a meeting held in Brussels in January 1989.

In a statement issued before the meeting the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) said that it was time, following three years of experimentation, to make the social dialogue a real tool for the construction of the social dimension of the internal market. The Commission indicated the importance it attaches to the relaunch of the social dialogue by sending a high-powered delegation to the 12 January meeting, led by Jacques Delors and including Commissioners Papandreu, Brittan, Bangemann and Cardoso e Cunha. Trade unions were represented by a delegation led by ETUC President Breit.

The main decisions to emerge from the relaunch meeting were as follows:-

METHODS: A new steering group is to be created, made up of representatives of the three organisations and the Commission, in order to give a permanent impetus to the social dialogue, organise work and assess the opinions generated on the chosen themes.

THEMES: The key themes to be discussed will include the Commission proposals which form the social dimension to the internal market, the role of education and training and the perspectives for a European work market.

EMPLOYMENT: Commissioner Vasso Papandreu announced that in future the Commission will publish an annual report on employment within the Community. The reports will, in the first instance, be discussed as part of the social dialogue.

REGIONS: The President of the Commission also promised to consult the social partners on Commission structural aid programmes in individual Member States.

Perhaps the greatest impact of the relaunch will be the broadening of the dialogue to include two of the three issues related to the social dimension of the internal market - the creation of a European Charter of basic social rights, the introduction of a European Company Statute incorporating the requirement for worker participation. The third issue, training, was within the previous remit of the social dialogue and will, of course, continue to be an important theme in the future.

At the final press conference President Delors welcomed the agreement on what he said was needed to make the dialogue live, fruitful and beneficial to the economic and social cohesion of Europe, a precondition for making a real success of the Single Act. ETUC President Breit said that the meeting had achieved its objective which had been to revitalise the social dialogue.

The New Commission

A new European Commission took office on the 6 January 1989. Its 17 members will serve until the 5 January 1993. The new Commission includes eight Commissioners who served in the last Commission, including Commission President Jacques Delors. The 17 Commissioners, and their list of responsibilities, are as follows:-

FRANS H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN	External Relations and trade policy, co-operation with other European countries.
DR. MARTIN BANGEMANN	Internal Market and industrial affairs, relations with the European Parliament.
SIR LEON BRITTAN	Competition policy, financial institutions.
ANTONIO CARDOSA E CUNHA	Personnel, administration and translation, energy and EURATOM supply agency, SMEs, crafts, trade, tourism, social economy.
HENNING CHRISTOPHERSEN	Economic and financial affairs, co-ordination of structural funds and statistical office.
JACQUES DELORS	President of the Commission. General secretariat and legal affairs service, monetary affairs, spokesman service, forecasting unit, interpretation-conference services, security bureau.
JEAN DONDELINGER	Audiovisual and cultural affairs, information and communications, people's Europe, publications office.
RAY MacSHARRY	Agriculture, rural development.
MANUEL MARIN GONZALEZ	Co-operation and development, fisheries policy.
ABEL MATUTES JUAN	Mediterranean policy, relations with Latin America and Asia, North-South relations.
BRUCE MILLAN	Regional policy.
FILIPPO M. PANDOLFI	Science, research and development, telecommunications, information and innovation industries, Joint Research Centre.
VASSO PAPANDREOU	Employment, industrial and social affairs, human resources, education and training.
CARLO RIPA DI MEANA	Environment, nuclear safety, civil defence.
PETER M. SCMIDHUBER	Budget, financial control.
CHRISTIANE SCRIVENER	Taxes and customs union, obligatory levy questions (fiscal and social levies).
KAREL VAN MIERT	Transport, credit and investment, protection and promotion of consumers' interests.

The Broad Lines of Commission Policy

European Commission President, Jacques Delors, outlined the broad lines of the new Commission's policy in a speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the 17 January 1989. He spoke of three challenges facing Europe. The first was the challenge of approach; the need to demonstrate that the Community can act as Twelve and not simply mark time, or muddle through from one day to the next. The second challenge was that of influence; the need for the Community to speak with one voice and be an actor rather than a spectator on the contemporary stage. The third challenge was that of civilisation; the need to create more than just a frontier-free market. It is for us, said Mr Delors, in advance of 1993 to put some flesh on the Community's bones and give it a little more soul.

Mr Delors referred to the fact that Europe was undergoing profound and far-reaching change. The fact that it is proceeding so smoothly should not hide the revolutionary nature of the course which has been embarked on. We have overcome our past weaknesses, he declared, and are now fashioning a different kind of Europe, moving steadily towards European Union, the ultimate objective of the Single European Act.

Referring to the success so far achieved in creating the single market, Mr Delors stressed the importance of keeping the support of working people. And referring to the relaunch of the social dialogue he said that Europe would never be built if working men and women were not among the first to be involved. In his speech he stressed his own personal commitment to the achievement of economic and social cohesion and solidarity. He told the European Parliament that the Commission had already started work on the charter of fundamental social rights which would give concrete form and life to the European model of society. Mr Delors pledged that the new Commission would do everything it could to foster the new social dialogue talks and make sure that the practical conclusions permeate industrial relations at national and regional level, in specific industries and in individual firms.

Mr Delors also placed particular emphasis in his speech on research, education and the environment, at a time of profound change, research and education are the sinews of economic war, he said. The various exchange programmes sponsored by the Community, such as Erasmus and Comett, had been a genuine success and they have helped to propagate a fifth freedom - in addition to the free movement of people, goods, services and capital - the free exchange of ideas and experience. He suggested the idea of instituting systematic exchanges between school classes in Member States, so that every secondary pupil spends at least a month at school in another Member State. Mr Delors did, however, comment on the rather slower progress that had been made in the field of the environment, and he highlighted this area as one of the priorities of the new Commission. He stressed three principles which were identified in the Single European Act - prevention must take priority over cure; the cost of clearing up must be borne by the people responsible for creating the nuisance; the environment must be a vital component of the Community's other policies - and he stated that these principles had to be brought to life.

The need for a co-ordinated Community macroeconomic and monetary policy was also underlined by Mr Delors who reminded his audience of the findings of the Cecchini Report in terms of the job creation potential of the single market - two million jobs without common policies, five million jobs with common policies. He emphasised that there was still a great deal to gain from the co-operative growth strategy suggested by the Commission in 1985. Economic and monetary union will open up new possibilities for economic prosperity and job creation.

At the end of his speech Mr Delors returned to a theme he has mentioned on many previous occasions, the need to preserve and encourage cultural diversity within the context of a United Europe. The feeling of being involved in the shared adventure of European integration can only strengthen our sense of belonging to one of our ancient nations, he said, Europe must choose between pluralism and extinction.

NEWS FROM EUROPE

Nightwork

At its December Executive Committee meeting the ETUC registered its opposition to the abolition of the ban on nightwork by women. The resolution points out that the ETUC has always defended the principle of restricting night work to an absolute minimum. It further states the harmful consequences of night work, both physical and mental, and the effects on social life. The ETUC registered its opposition to the principle of nightwork for both men and women and saw it as essential that the protective legislation that exists at the moment must be maintained.

Spain were only 27.6% of those in the highest Community country whilst the figure had improved to 49.3% by 1987. Figures on labour costs are made up from the hourly wage costs plus non-wage labour costs incurred per paid hour of work. The spread of labour costs differs considerably between Member States, ranging from 2.38 ECU in Portugal to 14.24 ECU in the Federal Republic of Germany. However the report finds that differences in overall wage costs corresponds with those of productivity levels.

Against Racism

At its February plenary session the European Parliament voted in favour of a number of measures designed to combat the dangers of racism and xenophobia within Europe. A resolution adopted by Parliament calls upon the Council to adopt an action programme against the renewed outbreak of racism and xenophobia; recognises that Community action must be accompanied by local, regional and national measures; invites the Member States to abrogate discriminatory and injurious legal and administrative provisions still in force based on national origin, race or sex and considers that the treaty on free movement should be extended to all persons residing in a Member State. During the debate an amendment introduced by Communist MEP Wurtz was approved. This calls upon the Member States which have not yet done so to grant the right to vote to migrants in local elections. Commissioner Papandreou assured Parliament that the Commission would review the possibility of establishing an ad hoc committee to deal with the problems identified in the debate.

Handicapped Study

The European Centre For Work and Society recently started up a special research project concerning the educational opportunities for people with an occupational disability. The programme was launched in October 1988 and will be carried out in the Dutch region of South Limburg. The project will be in six phases. The first two phases will consist of a regional labour market survey and an inventory of vocational training possibilities. These preparatory phases should help the researchers to compose a picture of employment opportunities for the handicapped and the kind of education and training available so that such opportunities can be fully exploited.

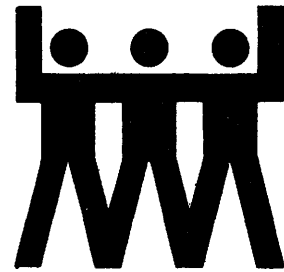
The third phase will consist of an enquiry amongst the handicapped themselves to try to establish what their requirements are. All data collected in the first three phases will then be used to build up an integrated educational approach. The emphasis will therefore be on the integration of the handicapped into existing educational provision rather than the establishment of special training institutes. A network will be set up between the various training institutes and the governmental institutes responsible for the integration of the handicapped into the labour market and society. Phase five of the project will be concerned with a number of individual case studies and the final evaluation phase should result in a policy plan for the continuing implementation of the integrated educational approach. Further information about the project can be obtained from Yvonne Bemelmans, European Centre For Work and Society, PO Box 3073, NL-6202 NB Maastricht, Netherlands.

Economic Trends

A Commission report, "Recent Economic Trends 1970-87" examines the main changes in earnings and labour costs within the Community over the past 17 years. The level of gross hourly earnings for manual workers continues to vary from Member State to Member State, however there are signs that some reduction in the divergence between States are taking place. In 1970 gross hourly earnings in

ETUC

Community Charter of Social Rights



Last year the Commission announced their intention of drawing up a Community Charter of Social Rights which would form a key foundation of the social dimension to the internal market. The Economic and Social Committee has been requested to prepare a draft for such a Charter and will be reporting back to the Commission in the first quarter of 1989. Meanwhile the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) has produced its own suggestions of what should be included in such a charter and these were approved by the ETUC Executive Committee in December 1988.

The document approved by the Executive Committee reiterates the need for such a Charter - the internal market must not be just a way of ensuring the free movement of goods and capital for the benefit of the few. As advocated in Article 130A of the Single European Act, the European Community must guarantee social and economic cohesion by implementing an associated social policy along with the programme of technical harmonisation which is currently being adopted. The ETUC considers that the social dimension to the internal market must have a solid foundation of basic social guarantees through which social dumping can be avoided and the upward convergence of social conditions in Europe can be achieved.

The ETUC proposes two pillars for the Community Social Charter. The first is existing international social law as represented by the conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Charter of Human Rights and Charter of Social and Economic Rights and the Social Charter of the Council of Europe. The ETUC calls for the fundamental rights contained in these treaties to be the subject of formal commitment by the Member States. The ETUC believes that, in view of the issues at stake in the internal market and of its risks and potential, international social standards are themselves inadequate. They believe that it is the basic responsibility of the Community to adopt EC legislation to promote progressive convergence of all European countries towards the highest national social standards. Thus the second pillar of the Social Charter would be a series of Community rights connected with the completion of the internal market. The following rights are proposed in the ETUC document:-

- * The right to industrial democracy in European undertakings irrespective of their legal status
 - Information, consultation, negotiation, participation
 - Establishment of cross-frontier representation structures for European multinational companies
 - The right to collective action
- * The right of all European workers irrespective of the size of the firm or the type of employment:
 - to social protection (covering unemployment, sickness, maternity leave, accidents, disablement and retirement)
 - to employment conditions guaranteed by legislation and/or collective agreements (working environment, organisation of work, hours of work, pay,)
 - to a guarantee against the social consequences of structural change (employment, redeployment, training) connected with the creation of the internal market.
- * A Community framework for European industrial relations and for any resulting agreements.
- * The right to health protection and safety at the workplace in connection with the free movement of goods and machines.
- * The right to further training (mutual recognition of qualifications, creation of European educational leave)
- * The right to appeal to the European Court of Justice.

Interdepartmental Working Group Report

THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

The project launched in 1985 by the Commission to complete the internal market by the end of 1992 has gathered momentum over the last two years. It now looks as if the necessary barriers to the free movement of goods, services and people will be removed on time and a single Community market will come into being at the beginning of 1993. Part of the success of the project has undoubtedly been due to the fact that it drew on support from both employers and trade unions. In order to maintain that balanced support and in order to ensure progress in the balanced construction of the single market, the Commission last year launched its initiative to provide a necessary social dimension to the large market. As part of that initiative it established a working party of Commission officials in order to examine the extent of the social implications of the internal market process. The working party reported in 1988 and their report has now been published as a special edition of Social Europe (*)

The working party concentrated on attempting to identify the opportunities, as well as the potential difficulties, in the social field arising out of the completion of the internal market. This led to a three-stage approach where the working party attempted on each occasion to consider economic and social aspects jointly.

In the first place the social aspect of the internal market is concerned with the full exercise of one of the fundamental basic freedoms - the freedom of movement of people, with all the implications and opportunities that this entails. Secondly the social implications of the other basic freedoms associated with the internal market - the free movement of goods, services and capital - were examined and an attempt was made to identify the necessary social measures which would be needed to accompany these freedoms. And thirdly the working party attempted to look to the longer term and assess the need for the establishment of a European industrial relations area, and consider the role negotiation and consensus between the social partners can play within the framework of the completion of the internal market.

The full report of the working party provides a virtual blueprint for the continued development of the social dimension of the internal market, together with a mass of statistical information. It is therefore an essential document for all trade unions active within the Community. The following is merely a brief summary of some of the proposals made by the working party:-

1. GUARANTEEING CONDITIONS FOR GENUINE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF PERSONS AND A EUROPEAN AREA OF OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY.

- * Extending Community rules governing social security to all insured persons moving within the Community.
- * Increasing the awareness of bodies such as trade unions of opportunities for making use of national legal procedures to ensure the free movement of people within the internal market.
- * Speeding up the work on comparability of qualifications and planning their extension to level 3 (corresponding to basic vocational training supplemented by an additional qualification)
- * Strengthening links between labour markets by developing relations and co-operation between national labour offices and employment policies, in particular on the basis of the MISEP network.

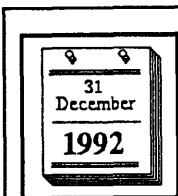
2. ANTICIPATING AND COPING WITH THE CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT OR SPEEDED UP BY THE COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET.

- * Reactivating discussions on a legal framework for European companies.
- * Making a greater effort in the field of vocational training.
- * In view of what is at stake, thought should be given to the advisability and feasibility of a Decision on adult training.
- * Specifying that operations at regional level provide an outstanding framework for any policies aimed at coping with restructuring made necessary by the completion of the internal market.
- * Monitoring the adaptations carried out by the regions as the work of completing the internal market progresses in the form of an annual assessment of variations in employment and including this assessment in the periodical report on regional developments.
- * Implementing a work programme in the field of health, hygiene and safety at work.

3. A EUROPEAN SYSTEM OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS.

- * Give deep thought to identifying the obstacles to be done away with so that a European collective agreement relationship, the potential outcome of the social dialogue, may come about.
- * Clarify how a European level of collective agreement would fit in with other levels.
- * Identify the forum in which the social problems connected with the internal market could be defined and discussed.
- * Widening and decentralising the existing social dialogue.
- * Continuing consultation with national authorities and the two sides of industry about the establishment of a body of minimum social provisions supplementing those already existing and including:-
 - (i) The right of every worker, whatever his status, to be covered by a collective agreement or analogous instrument;
 - (ii) An opportunity for each worker to be a member of a social security scheme and to be covered by insurance (without being excluded on the grounds of being a "bad risk");
 - (iii) Prior information and consultation of workers in the event of technological innovations and major changes in undertakings;
 - (iv) The definition of flexible forms of contracts of employment and of atypical employment (part-time, temporary employment, fixed-duration contracts, subcontracting);
 - (v) A standard contract of employment.

(*) THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET: INTERIM REPORT OF THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING PARTY. Social Europe - Special Edition (1988) Cat No. CB-PP-88-005. Available in all official Community languages. Price: 4.2 ECU.



The Single European Market:
THE SOCIAL DIMENSION

1992 Work Programme

In September last year the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions adopted its fourth four-year programme which will cover the years 1989-92. The work programme is, of course, strongly influenced by the major change which will be affecting the Community during these critical four years; that is the completion of the internal market. The internal market will have a profound effect on the quality of living and working conditions for European citizens, and the work programme reflects some of the major changes which are likely to influence the quality of life available in Europe in the nineteen nineties. Six areas for action are identified within the work programme and the determination of priorities within these areas have been based by the Foundation on a number of principles:-

- * it gives priority to examining changes within European society, particularly those which impact on work and the quality of life;
- * it gives importance to the role of those affected by these changes, as well as to the development of the social dialogue;
- * it holds that it is necessary, in the process of European integration, to balance economic and social factors;
- * it pays particular attention to groups potentially at risk;
- * it believes that, where hazards are concerned, sound preventive action and the use of margins of manoeuvre before the event are better than correcting mistakes later on.

The new four-year programme was drawn up following extensive discussion with representatives of trade unions, employers, governments, the European Commission, the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament. It forms the strategic framework of the Foundation's work, within which successive annual programmes will set out precise activities such as conferences, workshops, publications, surveys, pilot projects and research.

The six areas for action are as follows:-

1. DEVELOPING THE SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS:

The significance of the social dialogue was highlighted by the Single European Act and by the discussion which have already taken place following the Val Duchesse meeting and the recent relaunching of the dialogue in January 1989. The objectives of the Foundation in this area are to assist the process of social dialogue and promote the involvement of those concerned in the process of change by:-

- the creation of methodological guides and other instruments for the social partners at different levels,
- the monitoring of innovations and developments in industrial relations,
- the transfer of positive experience.

Project themes include the compilation of a 12 volume European labour and industrial relations dictionary and an analysis of the changing role of regulatory instruments within European industrial relations.

2. RESTRUCTURING THE WORLD OF WORK:

The completion of the internal market will no doubt lead to an increase in competition between Community firms which in turn could well lead to a restructuring

of working conditions and methods. Other changes such as the continued influence of new technology and the growing importance of the service sector will also affect traditional work patterns. Project themes identified within this area include exploiting existing research on atypical forms of work, social security systems and labour law and updating and disseminating data from a Community-wide inventory of legislation and agreements on working time.

3. PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The Single European Act directs the Commission to take as a base the high level of protection concerning health and safety in general, and specifies that Member States must encourage improvements in occupational health and safety. The Foundation intends to support Community policy in this area through activities developed around the following objectives:

- to provide European policy makers with a set of common references,
- to develop practical tools and methods to help establish health and safety standards from the outset of new projects, notably at enterprise level,
- to promote the health and safety of all workers, giving priority to groups particularly at risk.

4. PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, THE WORKER AND THE PUBLIC:

The Commission have already made clear that concern for the environment must be an integral part of the Community's economic, social, industrial, agricultural and other policies. During the four-year work programme of the Foundation two themes related to the environment will be examined. The first looks at the relation between economic activity and the environment and will look at the relationship between the individual firm and its local environment as well as completing work on the safety aspects of hazardous wastes. The second theme will examine the environment in disadvantaged areas and regions of the community and will involve initiating new work on problems related to urban decline and population growth.

5. RAISING THE STANDARD AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL:

Within this area the Foundation will be examining the dangers of social and economic imbalances developing within the unified internal market and ways of reducing inequalities, increasing the involvement of the social partners in the process of change and increasing co-ordination between Community, national and local level responses to change. Among other things the Foundation will be extending the programme on coping with social and economic change at neighbourhood level and commencing exploratory work on living conditions in rural areas.

6. ASSESSING TECHNOLOGIES OF THE FUTURE:

Project themes within this area of study will include the impact of biotechnology on work, society and the environment; the impact of telehomeworking and an examination of the impact of increasingly significant technologies on living and working conditions. A principle objective of this part of the work programme will be to identify the "margin for manoeuvre" within technological innovation.

All six themes will be of great interest to European trade unionists and the workshops, conferences and research reports generated by the Foundations' ambitious work programme will be awaited with keen interest by the trade union movement. Further information on the programme can be obtained from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Loughlinstown House, Shankill, Co. Dublin, Ireland.



NEW

Recent Publications from the Commission of the European Communities

JEAN MONNET

Jean Monnet, the founding father of the European Community, was born in Cognac, France on the 9 November 1888. To mark the 100th anniversary of his birth the Heads of the twelve Member States declared 1988 "Jean Monnet Year". And as part of the Jean Monnet Year celebrations the Commission have published two new pamphlets which examine the man, his political methods and his ideas for a united Europe.

"Jean Monnet, A Grand Design For Europe" is published as Periodical 5/1988 in the European Documentation series. The pamphlet was written by Pascal Fontaine who is currently a Professor at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris, and who was - between 1973 and 1977 - Monnet's assistant. Rather than just a biography of Monnet, the pamphlet attempts to put his ideas and aspirations within the context of the nineteen nineties, and in particular the completion of the internal market. Thus the important point is made that Jean Monnet's message is just as relevant now, at a time when Europe is on the threshold of a quantum economic and political leap, as it was in the thirties and forties. As Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission, said recently: "we are still drawing on Jean Monnet's legacy as a source of inspiration and ideas for our work in the service of Europe".

Throughout the publication there is frequent reference to Monnet's message. That message is to be found partly in the writings of Jean Monnet but more particularly in the most enduring memorial to the former Cognac salesman who became what President Kennedy was to describe as a "Statesman of the world" - the Community itself. The message was partly economic, by combining together the European countries would become economically competitive, indeed he predicted that the Community would produce a new ferment of change in the West. The message was partly institutional, for Monnet had a great faith in the power of institutions; "nothing is possible without men, nothing will last without institutions", he said. As architect of both the European Coal and Steel Community and the Economic Community he put his beliefs into practice, insisting on a strong, democratic institutional base. But more than anything else his message was about uniting people and by such, guaranteeing peace. During his lifetime Monnet had witnessed two world wars and it was his driving determination that Europe must never again be plunged into war that made him such a power to contend with. He talked of his "single preoccupation: to unite people, to solve the problems which divide them, to lead them to recognise their common interests". Thus, above all else for Monnet, the Community was a political venture with a definite political end.

For anyone to understand the European Community and to understand the reasons for its undoubted success over the last thirty years it is necessary to understand those few European statesmen who gave birth to it in the years following the second world war. And in particular it is necessary to understand Jean Monnet. Pascal Fontaine's pamphlet will help people to understand the man and his message and appreciate why in 1976, three years before his death, the European Council conferred on Monnet the title of "Honorary citizen of Europe"

The pamphlet "Jean Monnet, A Grand Design for Europe" is published in all of the official Community languages and is available from European Community Information Offices. A second pamphlet, Jean Monnet: A Message For Europe" has also been published by the Commission. It contains a brief outline of Monnet's long career and a selection of quotations which illustrate the main themes of Monnet's European philosophy.

EUROPEAN FILE PUBLICATIONS

The European File series of publications attempts to provide brief descriptions of some of the more important areas of Community policy. Each pamphlet in the series summarises Commission proposals and activities within a specific field. The pamphlets, which are frequently updated, are available free of charge from the various Community national information offices. There follows a brief survey of some of the pamphlets published in this series during the latter half of 1988.

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

A summary of Commission proposals for the relaunch of Community action in the cultural sector. The pamphlet looks at ways of creating a European cultural area and examines the cultural repercussions of the internal market. The pamphlet also examines the promotion of the European audio-visual industry and ways of improving access to cultural resources. (European File 10/88)

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND COOPERATION AMONG SMEs

The challenge of the 1992 completion of the internal market will affect all businesses, but it will be particularly crucial to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Such businesses represent more than 95% of companies within the Community and provide more than two-thirds of European employment. The pamphlet looks at European Community efforts to encourage cooperation between SMEs and so help them to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by 1992. (European File 11/88)

A EUROPEAN FINANCIAL AREA - THE LIBERALISATION OF CAPITAL MOVEMENTS

An examination of the reasons for creating a European capital market and a list of achievements to date and current Commission proposals. (European File 12/88)

THE SOCIAL POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - LOOKING AHEAD TO 1992

A short summary of the range of social policies undertaken by the European Community and an examination of Commission plans for the creation of a social dimension to the internal market. A useful introduction to this vital field of Community policy which will be of great interest to European trade unionists. (European File 13/88)

THE BIG EUROPEAN MARKET - A TRUMP CARD FOR THE ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

The Cecchini Report attempted to examine the economic benefits to be derived by the completion of the internal market. This short pamphlet provides a summary of the main conclusions of the research. (European File 14/88)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: THE NEW HIGHWAYS FOR THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET

A description of the European Community Telecommunications Action Programme and the plans to promote the European telecommunications industry within the context of the 1992 single market. (European File 15/88)

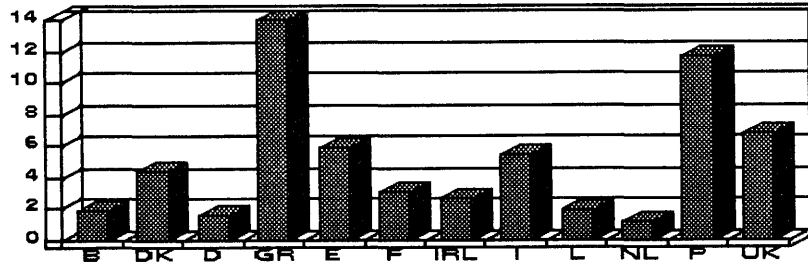
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

It is important that the completion of the internal market does not lead to a policy of European isolationism, the Community must continue to be outward-looking and conscious of its responsibilities to the rest of the world. This pamphlet examines this important policy area, which includes relations with other advanced industrial economies and relations with developing countries. (European File 16/88)

GORDON RUDD

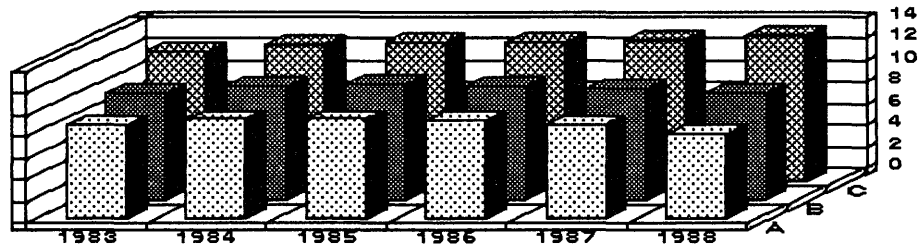
Gordon Rudd died suddenly on 24 February 1989. A tireless campaigner for Europe, Gordon had over the years provided help and support to trade unions throughout the Community and given them the benefit of his considerable knowledge and expertise on European issues. His enthusiasm and energies will be sadly missed by many Europeans.

**PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES:
DECEMBER 1987 / DECEMBER 1988 .**



SOURCE : EUROSTAT

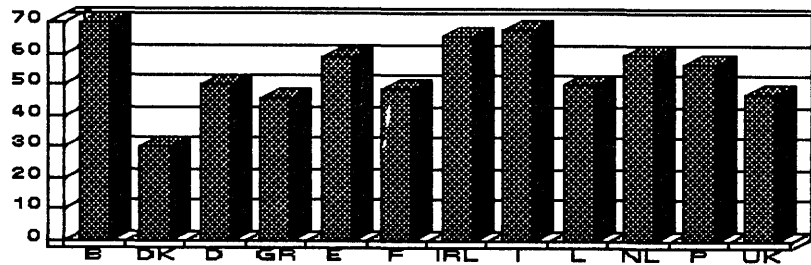
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
1983 - 1988 : PERCENTAGE OF WORKFORCE UNEMPLOYED**



MALES TOTAL FEMALES

SOURCE: EUROSTAT

**UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN UNEMPLOYED
FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
UNEMPLOYED - 1986**



SOURCE : EUROSTAT

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE CALL FOR SOCIAL DIMENSION

A large majority of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Community voted in favour of a programme of social measures to accompany the completion of the internal market. The Committee, which represents employers, trade unions and other interest groups, voted by 120 votes to 23, with 9 abstentions, in favour of proposals for an action programme for the years 1989 to 1992. The action programme calls for an adjustment and a reduction in working hours, accompanied by a rise in productivity. It also calls for the introduction of a European company statute which would include procedures for informing, consulting and involving workers. During their November meeting the Committee also called for a "Europeanisation" of study programmes and diplomas in EC countries.

SMALL CAR EXHAUST EMISSION STANDARDS

A further step towards the creation of a single market within the automobile industry was taken when the Council of Environmental Ministers voted in favour of common European standards on the maximum exhaust emission of small cars (less than 1.4 litres). The new standards should lead to a sharp reduction in pollution. They complete a programme of harmonisation which saw the adoption of common standards for cars of more than 1.4 litres in 1987 and rules applicable to cars with diesel engines in 1988. The new standards for exhaust emission from small cars will come into effect in 1992 for new models and 1993 for existing models.

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION TECHNICAL BUREAU FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

As the 1992 deadline gets nearer the Community is becoming more and more involved in establishing harmonised standards governing health and safety at work. The creation of common standards in the field of health and safety was identified as a fundamental precondition to a single European market and the importance of such standards to protect workers was further highlighted in the Single European Act. As the representative body of European trade unionists, the ETUC is involved in the various consultation committees which help to determine the new harmonised standards. Their work in this field has now been considerably strengthened by the establishment of a new European Trade Union Technical Bureau For Health and Safety. The Bureau will also set up an information system aimed at making more transparent the technical work in progress concerning harmonised standards. The Executive Committee of the ETUC has appointed Dr Marc Sapir as director of the Bureau which has the general objective of strengthening trade union influence in the Community process of standardisation and harmonisation of health and safety standards at the workplace.

INTERNAL MARKET INFORMATION COUNTERS

A series of special information counters have been established within European Commission national information offices to help people understand the meaning of 1992 and help them take advantage of the possibilities and potential of the single market at a personal level. So far information counters have been established in Brussels, Bonn, Copenhagen and the Hague and plans exist to open further information counters in other Member States later this year. The information counters will be able to deal with practical questions related to the elimination of barriers and frontiers; such as how to take advantage of the free movement of labour and how to import goods from other Member States.

UPDATE

1992

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