

# TRADE UNION INFORMATION BULLETIN

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# 3/91

## **Community Social Policy: Commission Proposes the Extension of Qualified Majority Voting.**

The European Commission has published its recommendations on social policy to the Intergovernmental Conference on Political Union. The recommendations, which are in line with many of the proposals put forward by the European trade union movement, call for an extension of qualified majority voting to most areas of social policy and an increased role for the social partners and the social dialogue. The Intergovernmental Conference, which was established last December, is currently examining a number of proposals relating to institutional reform, the extension of competencies and democratic legitimacy. It will publish its recommendations for Treaty reforms later this year.

The approach of the Commission is based on its analysis of tendencies common to all Member States. These include the continuing internationalisation of economic activity, an acceptance of the role of competition and flexibility, the consequential need for change and diversification, and the corresponding diversification and modification of the aspirations of workers. The Commission notes that, more often than not, these changes have been undertaken in a balanced manner by the social partners, for this is a fundamental characteristic of

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*The views expressed in this Bulletin are those of the Editor and are not necessarily those of the European Commission*

## Commission Proposals to the Intergovernmental Conference on Political Union

the European social model (see the report of Jacques Delors' speech to the ETUC on page 7). The field covered by social agreements has decentralised (to, for example, company level) and been enlarged to include themes such as flexibility, company values, equal opportunities and the struggle against social exclusion.

The Commission believes that Community policy must be adapted to such changes and that there is a fundamental need for a modification and extension of competencies. Amongst the supporting arguments put forward by the Commission for an extension of competencies is the problems encountered with the social charter action programme which, they believe, demonstrate the anachronistic and incomplete nature of the Treaty. The establishment of the single market has highlighted the need to intervene at Community level in certain fields (such as trans-border mergers, the provision of information and participation).

The principles governing social policy outlined by the Commission include the following:-

- (1) Respect of the principle of subsidiarity. The Commission believes that it is important to examine each social policy theme to determine the most appropriate approach - harmonisation, co-ordination, convergence or co-operation. The Commission also believe that it is necessary to offer, at Community level, the widest possible margins for manoeuvre to the social partners to provide for regulation through contractual means.
- (2) Respect of diversity. The use of the positive diversity of systems, cultures and national practices must be optimised.

With regards to methods, the Commission emphasises two points:-

- (1) The involvement of the social partners must be on two levels. Member States should be left with the ability to initially entrust the social partners with the task of achieving the social objectives defined by a restrictive text adopted by the Council. Community social regulation should also ensure that certain objectives of the Treaty can be achieved by means of framework agreements established by the social partners directly at European level.
- (2) The transition to qualified majority voting on social policy issues is motivated by a concern for efficiency and a will to establish coherence and balance within the treaty, by ensuring that a fundamental domain, such as the social domain, is not treated differently from others.

The Commission propose amendments to Article 118B of the Treaty to enhance the autonomy of the social partners. The Commission would consult a "concertation body" (the nature of which is as yet undefined) on the perspectives for framework agreements between the social partners. Legislation, based on qualified majority decisions, would only be used if framework agreements were found impracticable.

According to the Commission proposals, qualified majority voting would extend to at least those areas covered by the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights, but with the exception of certain particularly sensitive areas characterised by too great a diversity in national organisation and practices. This latter category might include the harmonisation of social security systems and the access to employment for people from non-Community countries.

# Wage Bargaining in Europe:

Over recent years a number of people have been predicting the development of a European collective bargaining system. Increasing integration within the Community, the breakdown of barriers by the single market programme, the gradual development of a social dimension and the increased activity of Community-scale undertakings, have all been cited as evidence of the emergence of a Community bargaining model which is replacing the various national systems within the Member States. Such a model is necessary if industrial relations is to be organised on a Community scale, indeed some would argue that it is a prerequisite to the development of a European model of society.

What are the major differences which still remain between the ways in which wage bargaining is organised within the Community? Do recent trends support the view that such differences are becoming less important as a process of convergence towards a European bargaining model takes place? These are just two of the questions addressed by a recent pamphlet by D Vaughan-Whitehead which has been published by the European Commission in the Social Europe series (Social Europe Supplement 2/90: Wage Bargaining in Europe - Continuity and Change. ECU 6.75 Office for Official Publications of the European Community, L-2985 Luxembourg. Available in English, French and German)

The following table, taken from the Vaughan-Whitehead pamphlet, looks at the institutional framework of wage bargaining in the Member States in terms of the level of bargaining and the content of negotiations.

Country	Level	Content of Negotiations
Germany	No multisectoral bargaining Sectoral bargaining at regional (Land) level every 3 years. Agreements concluded for 2 years in certain sectors. Wage increases (annual) on the basis of company agreements.	Sectoral bargaining covering job classifications (grading scale), wages, working conditions, duration and content of employment contracts.
Italy	Tripartite national agreements until 1984; sectoral bargaining thereafter. Wages fixed nationally, index-linked to cost of living (contingenza) pursuant to 1983 protocol. Minimum rates fixed at sectoral level (every 3 years) Wage increases agreed at company level: "super-minimi".	Sectoral agreements (3 years) on all employment conditions : length of contract and working conditions for:- - manual workers (operai) - non-manual workers (impiegati) - executives (quadri) (new category) Senior managers (dirigenti) are covered by separate grading agreements negotiated nationally outside the sectoral framework.

## BACKGROUND BRIEFING - Wage Bargaining in Europe

Country	Level	Content of Negotiations
UK	No multisectoral wage bargaining. Minimum rates (or basic wages) negotiated between unions and employers at sectoral level (annually, sometimes biennially) Real wage increases decided at company or plant level.	Employment contracts, organisation of work, shortcomings of job classification system.
Belgium	Collective agreements concluded at multisectoral level in the National Labour Council. Minimum rates of increase decided at sectoral or regional level. Wage increases agreed at company level.	National employment agreements. Sectoral bargaining covering wages, working conditions and shorter working hours
France	Minimum rates of increase fixed by (annual) sectoral agreements. Annual rates of increase (general and/or individual) decided at company level.	At sectoral level: wages, job-classification and salary structures, employment contracts, working hours.
Denmark	Direct State intervention or confederal negotiations to fix incremental margins. Minimum rates of increase fixed every 4 years at sectoral level (provision for review after 2 years)	At multisectoral level: general agreements (e.g. on cooperation) or specific topics (e.g. shift work). Mainly at sectoral level: working conditions, wages, working hours. Frequent company agreements to supplement sectoral agreements.
Ireland	From 1972 to 1982 wages negotiated at multisectoral level by the employers-workers Conference (permanent body set up by formal agreement between the two sides). Sectoral bargaining on minimum rates of increase. Company wage increases.	General bargaining at multisectoral level in the Economic and Social Committee. Usually at sectoral level in the older industries: working conditions, working hours, wages. Company bargaining, particularly in the case of small businesses, to supplement sectoral agreements.
Lux.	Sectoral or company	Collective bargaining at sectoral or company level on working conditions, job classifications and wages.

## BACKGROUND BRIEFING - Wage Bargaining in Europe

Country	Level	Content of Negotiations
NL	Confederal negotiations to fix incremental margins (Economic and Social Committee) Sectoral agreements on wage increases.	Central agreements (e.g. on wages in 1973 and work-sharing in 1982). Mainly sectoral agreements: working conditions, wages.
Spain	Tripartite agreements. (economic and social accords) Minimum incremental rates fixed by sectoral agreements. Actual rates fixed at company level.	Sectoral bargaining on working conditions and wages.
Portugal	Formal consultation between two sides of industry. Collective sectoral bargaining (annually) on minimum rates of increase. Actual rates fixed at company level.	Sectoral bargaining almost exclusively confined to wages.
Greece	Sliding wage scale Sectoral since January 1988. Company level for various forms of disguised increase.	Sectoral wage bargaining.

Despite significant differences between Member States, a number of features common to all Community wage bargaining systems can be identified. One of the main ones is the continued importance of bargaining at sectoral level. Here the European "model" differs markedly from that in the United States and Japan where practically all bargaining is located at company level. One of the current trends identified in the pamphlet is a decentralisation of wage bargaining to company level. This does not imply, however, an eclipse of sectoral bargaining: there are strong indications of an extension of sectoral bargaining to topics other than wages. Perhaps the most obvious example is working hours, but others include the French agreement on transfers, the 1988 Italian agreement on training and the Belgian flexibility agreements of 1986.

Such developments help to identify more clearly the type of Community model of collective bargaining which is undoubtedly emerging. The Vaughan-Whitehead pamphlet provides a useful analysis of this important process.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Health and Safety at Work in the European Community

The inclusion of Article 118a in the Treaty has given a fresh impetus to the preparation of Community legislation on health and safety at work. The 1989 Framework Directive provided the important context within which a considerable amount of recent legislation has been introduced. In less than two years eight individual Directives on health and safety have been introduced and more are still the subject of discussions within the Community institutions. One problem associated with this pace of legislation, is the task of keeping up-to-date with the latest developments and, at the same time, recognising the place of each individual initiative within the overall health and safety policy of the Community. A recent edition of *Social Europe* addresses this problem more than adequately by providing a valuable collection of articles and commentaries on the Community approach to health and safety along with the basic texts of all the main documents, directives and decisions approved by the Community during the last few years.

The first chapter of the *Social Europe* report provides a variety of views on the subject of preparing health and safety legislation within the Community, including the important role of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work. Rheinhold Konstanty, a member of the German DGB Federal Executive and a member of the "Workers' Group" of the Advisory Committee, examines the role of the Committee from a trade union perspective. Short articles also cover the important roles of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee in the preparation of new legislation.

The second chapter looks at both national and European health and safety legislation and provides useful summaries of both the 1989 Framework Directive and the first five Individual Directives (workplaces, work equipment, personal protective equipment, manual handling of loads, and visual display equipment).

Chapter three concentrates on just one sector - health and safety at work in the extractive industries. It covers both current initiatives (for example the proposed directive on the extractive industries) and the on-going work of the European Coal and Steel Community.

The fourth chapter examines the important subjects of training and information in relation to health and safety. It provides some useful examples of safety training in different industrial sectors (deep-sea fishing and construction).

The final 150 pages of the Report provide the texts of various Commission communications, Council Resolutions and Decisions, and Directives. Thus the Report is a very valuable source book for trade unionists on what has become one of the most important areas of Community activity.

*Social Europe: 2/90 - Health and Safety at Work in the European Community. Published by the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs. Price: ECU 13.50. Available from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985, Luxembourg.*



# 7th Statutory Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation

## Jacques Delors Speech to the ETUC

### Defining the European Social Model

The President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, in his keynote speech to the ETUC Congress reflected on the progress towards creating a European social area and the emergence of a new political personality for the Community.

#### Progress since Stockholm

President Delors, in his address to the 6th ETUC Congress in Stockholm in 1989, had outlined various new developments within the Community with the Single European Act facilitating the completion of the internal market and the high priority to be given to economic and social cohesion. What advances had been made during the subsequent three years?

The 1992 objective is well under way, Jacques Delors told delegates, and is beginning to take shape in a concrete form. The social dimension however, which had moved towards becoming a reality, had impacted - in the shape of the Social Charter - against serious difficulties. Looking to the future, Jacques Delors said that it seemed to him that the Community must be "socially armed" to accommodate the post-1992 situation.

#### The Community Taking Shape

Progressively there has been an abolition of obstacles to the free movement of people, goods, services and capital. The economic results arising from these changes are now there for all to see - the renewal of the Commu-

nity is real. Indeed the developments of the last six years have precipitated positive changes in our economic structures and behaviour. Economic growth in the Community between 1982 and 1984 averaged 1.6% per year. During recent years economic growth has been running at a rate of 3.5% per year. Since 1985 8 million new jobs have been created and the unemployment rate in the Community as a whole has dropped from 10.8% to 8.5%. The unemployment rate is however still not acceptable and we must pursue our efforts to realise and achieve strong growth and job creation.

#### An Organised European Space

Europe can only be constructed, President Delors said, on the basis of an organised economic and social "space", such is the underlying philosophy of the Single European Act. Of prime importance is economic and social cohesion and the growth and operation of the Community structural funds. The Commission is assessing the effectiveness of its policies in this context with a view to determining its funding needs for the period 1993-97.

## Solidarity and Co-operation

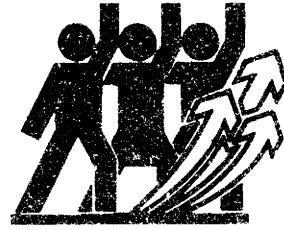
Jacques Delors stressed that the Community is an area of solidarity and co-operation and he referred to work in the field of research and technological development. The Commission is currently examining the creation of telecommunications, energy, transport and vocational training networks. Such networks will have the effect of strengthening the peripheral regions of the Community.

At sectoral level, whilst much effort has been expended on pre-competitive research, the time has arrived when we must go further into the field of developing a European industrial policy such as that recently exemplified by Commissioner Bangemann in the motor industry; informatics and high definition television. These are the areas where the Community must stimulate innovation and promote co-operation between enterprises and assist in the adaptation of manpower to meet the new challenges.

### The Social Dimension - Advances and Blockages

President Delors listed three convictions relating to the social dimension:-

- (1) Since 1985, the Single Act and the dynamism of the Community itself had allowed some significant advances in the social field and these results are frequently overlooked. In the field of health and safety, eight directives had been approved since 1988. There is also a tendency for people to overlook the Community's work and achievements in the field of equality of opportunity for men and women.
- (2) The promises made to the 6th ETUC Congress have been realised. President Delors stated that he regarded these as a contract of confidence between the Commission and the trade union movement, and more generally the social partners. He recalled three priority objectives in the social field he had outlined three years ago.



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- The formulation and development of the European Company Statute. This had been done by the Commission during 1989.
  - The recognition of the right of every worker to receive on-going training throughout his/her active working life. The Commission will shortly be presenting a draft directive on this subject. This directive is the outcome of discussions between and with the social partners under the aegis of the social dialogue and is therefore a concrete and very useful development.
  - The adoption of the Social Charter, this was adopted by 11 Member States in 1989.
- (3) The euphoria surrounding the approval of the Social Charter has not resulted in a corresponding follow-through. There have been obstacles to the implementation of the Social Action Programme and these are not limited to legal questions concerning the Treaty. A number of Member States have been taking negative positions on five principle proposals presented by the Commission during 1990 - atypical work, working time, protection of pregnant women, contracts of employment, and the European Works Council proposals. In this context, President Delors said that he had stressed in his discussions with the Intergovernmental Conference on Political Union the intolerable imbalance between the economic and social sectors of Community developments.



## **The Enlargement of Competencies**

Jacques Delors asked how economic and social cohesion and political union could be envisaged without a social dimension and the development of human resources? This was a fundamental question that the Intergovernmental Conference had to address. He said that the Treaty was doubly outmoded in the social field because:-

- (1) The recognised field of competencies is too limited and does not allow for new problems to be handled adequately. These problems include the protection of workers in cross border operations and the adaptation of working time.
- (2) Current decision-making procedures frequently lead to paralysing situations.

President Delors noted that the reforms proposed by the ETUC are in line with the Commission's proposals to the Intergovernmental Conference. National governments must address and reply to three basic questions:-

- (1) Will there be wider recourse to qualified majority voting?
- (2) If yes, in which precise areas of competencies?
- (3) What will be the role of collective bargaining and the social dialogue?

## **The Social Partners and the Social Dialogue**

The work of the Commission is well known - the launching of the Val Duchesse dialogue in 1985, the incorporation of Article 118B via the Single European Act and the re-launching of the dialogue in January 1989. After six years the objectives and the ambition of the social dialogue still remains - opening the way for discussions to facilitate the conclusion of framework agreements between the social partners.

Jacques Delors raised the question of the place of the social partners within the new Europe. He stressed that, in his view, the Community is not able, nor must not be, a substitute for either national governments or the social partners involved in issues such as collective bargaining. This is where the principle of subsidiarity prevails. However respecting the role and autonomy of the social partners only makes sense if these partners mutually recognise each other and declare themselves ready to deal with, on the basis of negotiations, the issues raised during the development of the European construction. And this, stated Jacques Delors, demands reflection on the structure of organisations.

The Commission is more than ready to assist in this context. The Commission proposals for Treaty reform in relation to the social partners provides for certain objectives to be achieved by way of framework agreements established directly at European level. The Community would only trigger legislative interventions where the social partners were unable to agree.

## **The European Social Model**

In conclusion, President Delors returned to the question of the Social Charter and its political force and impact. The Charter is a manifestation of shared European values, he said, and a message to both Community and non-Community workers. It illustrates the European social model.

This model aims at reconciling economic efficiency and social justice: the role of the market, the responsibilities of the State and the initiatives of the social partners. Social cohesion is an essential factor in competitiveness. Although criticised in some quarters in recent years, the model has stood up well. It has confounded its critics because it has been supported by political and social forces. The Community however needs the active support of the trade union movement.



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## **CONGRESS NOTES**

### **New ETUC Officials Elected**

Norman Willis, the General Secretary of the British TUC, is to be the new President of the European Trade Union Confederation. Mr Willis, who will replace Ernst Breit, was elected unopposed during the final day of the 7th Statutory Congress. In addition to his long service to the British trade union movement, Norman Willis has for many years been closely associated with the ETUC and he is a member of the Steering Group of the European Social Dialogue.

The Congress also saw the retirement of the current ETUC General Secretary, Mathias Hinterscheid. He will be succeeded by the Italian trade unionist Emilio Gabaglio.

### **Vasso Papandreou Pledges Support**

In her speech to the 7th Statutory Congress, European Commissioner Vasso Papandreou pledged that the European Commission would continue to support trade unionist activities because "trade union culture is required for reinforcement of the European dimension" Vasso Papandreou stressed the importance of the Congress, both in terms of the future of the trade union movement and for the development of industrial relations in Europe. She said that it was absolutely essential for the social partners to take part in a stronger Euro-

pean Community, play a role in the social policy process and be consulted more often. She pledged that the Commission would encourage collective agreements at European level and follow the principle of subsidiarity.

Vasso Papandreou said that the Commission wanted the European trade union movement to become even stronger, but trade unions themselves must be largely responsible for this. The future of Europe must be one in which the goal is the well-being of European citizens, she said.

### **Defending the European Social Model**

Mathias Hinterscheid, in his final address to the ETUC as General Secretary, traced the development and consolidation of the European social model and its reliance on the principles of social democracy. In order to further develop this model the process of harmonisation and maintenance of progress must be followed, for without harmonisation at European level, the gaps are likely to widen rather than narrow. Mathias Hinterscheid stressed the importance of the intergovernmental conference on political union. He said that the Treaty of Rome had a pronounced bias towards economic liberalism, its social aims went no further than a mere declaration of intent. Whilst the Single Act to a certain extent endeavoured to re-balance objectives and the instruments used to achieve them, it showed up the lack of democracy standing in the way of the parallel accomplishment of economic, social and political union. This emphasises the need for root and branch reform of the Community by the intergovernmental conferences.

Austrian Chancellor and President-in-office of EFTA, Dr Franz Vranisky, emphasised in his speech to Congress the need for a social dimension within the European unification process. A strategy hinged on competitiveness at the cost of the social aspect would question the validity of European integration, he said.

# Part-Time Workers and The Law

Almost 13% of all workers in the European Community are employed on a part-time basis. Part-time work offers advantages of flexibility to both employers and employees and over recent years the number of part-time workers has increased in the majority of Member States. Trade union attitudes to part-time work are changing; away from a position of outright opposition and towards a desire to ensure that part-time workers enjoy the same employment rights as their full-time colleagues.

The European Commission recently focused attention on the issue of employment rights for "atypical workers" with the publication of their proposed directive which formed part of the social charter action programme. Since 1985 the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions has been undertaking a variety of research projects linked to new forms of work in general and part-time work in particular. It has now published a very useful information booklet (\*) which examined part-time work from a number of perspectives: its position in labour law; its coverage in social security system; and the position of part-time workers in relation to issues such as illness and pregnancy, accidents at work and pensions.

The first part of the booklet examines how part-time work is covered by labour law in each of the Member States. A varied picture emerges. Some Member States such as France, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain and Belgium have enacted laws regulating atypical forms of work such as part-time working. In Italy and in Belgium the major trade unions have been actively concerned with the need to protect the rights of atypical workers and there has been a general acceptance of this form of work which has given rise to statutory regulation.

Amongst a second group of Member States, new forms of work have yet to be taken into consideration in either labour law or national negotiations. This is the situation in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Greece, Luxembourg and Portugal. In these countries the questions thrown up by atypical work forms such as part-time working are decided on by either judgements in the labour courts or by local negotiations.

Part-Time Employees as a Percentage of Total Employees					
Country	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Belgium	8.3%	8.5%	9.3%	10.3%	11.0%
Denmark	25.8%	22.1%	25.4%	24.9%	25.4%
France	9.0%	9.7%	10.5%	11.6%	11.6%
Germany	12.0%	11.8%	12.3%	12.3%	12.2%
Greece	4.9%	4.2%	4.4%	4.2%	4.0%
Ireland	5.8%	5.5%	5.8%	6.3%	7.3%
Italy	3.5%	4.2%	4.5%	4.1%	4.7%
Netherlands	21.0%		22.6%	21.0%	28.3%
Portugal				3.9%	4.3%
Spain					4.8%
UK	19.5%	21.3%	21.8%	22.3%	22.7%

(\*) "Part-Time Work in the European Community : Laws and Regulations. Published by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, 1991. Price ECU 7.5

# NEWSBRIEF

## **European Works Councils - EMF**

The European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) has welcomed the European Commission proposal for a Directive on the establishment of a European works council in Community-scale undertakings (see Issue 2/91 of the Bulletin). The EMF believes that the proposals are a "good step in the right direction", and they call for a positive and rapid decision from the Council of Ministers.

The EMF declaration does, however, comment on a number of shortcomings within the proposals and calls for improvements. In particular, these relate to the legal basis of the proposal, the need to limit professional secrecy and confidentiality, necessary improvements in the consultation machinery and the right of suspension for an agreed period of time to help achieve compromise in the event of changes affecting workers in several countries.

## **And the Economic and Social Committee**

The European Works Councils proposal has also been supported by a majority of the Economic and Social Committee. The March Plenary Session adopted an Opinion (93 votes in favour, 62 against, 2 abstentions) welcoming the Commission proposal. The Opinion states that adoption of the Directive has become particularly urgent, given the sharp increase in concentrations between Community undertakings.

The Committee expressed some doubts as to whether the term "Community-scale undertaking" was appropriately defined. The Committee also called for an express reference to be made to collective agreements and collective bargaining arrangements between trade unions and employers, as provided by the laws or practices of Member States so as to

ensure maximum flexibility. The Committee also called for a uniform ban on discrimination against members of European Works Councils to supplement national legislation. Finally, the Committee calls for improvements in the right of Works Council members to information and consultation.

## **New Look News**

1991 has seen a new look for the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions' regular newsletter. The newsletter, which was previously known as EF News, is now called News from the Foundation and will be published six times per year. It will deal in detail with specific topics related to the work programme of the Foundation as well as keep readers informed of the general activities of the Foundation. The first issue of News from the Foundation looks at health and safety systems and the monitoring working conditions related to health and safety at work.

News from the Foundation is available free of charge from:-

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Loughlinstown House, Shankill, Co Dublin, Ireland. Telephone: Dublin 282 6888, Fax: 282 6456.

## **European Steel for the Channel Tunnel.**

The European Commission has decided to grant additional funds for the construction of the Channel Tunnel. The European Coal and Steel Community will lend the Franco-British group, Eurotunnel, ECU 285 million for the purchase of the European steel necessary to complete the tunnel, which is now entering its final phase of construction. The loan should enable the tunnel, which is expected to open during 1993, to be completed in time.

# NEWSBRIEF

## Industrial Production

Eurostat have recently released (Eurostat Industrial Trends, 4/1991) statistics on industrial production in the Member States. The statistics provide indices of production (based on 1985=100) and percentage changes over the previous quarter. For all industrial sectors other than construction, the figures are as follows-

	Latest Figures		Quarterly Change (%)	
	Per Day	Seasonally Adj	Per Day	Seasonally Adj
B	125.4	115.8	2.8	-0.3
DK	99.9	101.5	-1.2	-0.5
D	118.0	122.7	5.3	1.0
GR	108.3	102.7	-5.2	-3.7
E	121.8	118.9	-0.5	0.7
F	119.6	113.7	-0.1	-1.3
IRL	148.4	149.2	3.1	1.4
I	116.5	117.2	-3.0	-1.4
L	120.1	115.8	-0.9	-3.3
NL	130.0	116.4	2.8	2.0
P	134.9	133.2	10.0	1.2
UK	104.8	105.3	-2.3	-0.5
EUR12	115.8	115.8	0.5	-0.2

## Objective 2 Regions

Following an Opinion of the Committee for the Development and Reconversion of Regions, the European Commission has adopted a final decision confirming that the current list of Objective 2 Regions will remain in place for a further two years until the end of 1993. The

existing list of 60 Objective 2 regions - described as regions in industrial decline - was due to be reviewed this year but Member States have unanimously agreed that they current list should stand until the review of the structural funds in 1993.

## Eurobarometer

The preliminary results of the latest Eurobarometer public opinion survey have just been published. The survey was undertaken in March amongst citizens in all Member States of the Community. Many of the questions related to issues which are currently being discussed by the two intergovernmental conferences (political union and economic and monetary union). A summary of some of the main findings of the survey includes:-

- 60% of those questioned thought that the idea of a European citizenship was a good thing.
- 56% were enthusiastic about the creation of a Central European Bank.
- 60% approved of the replacement of national currencies by a single European currency within the next five or six years.
- 57% wanted to see a common foreign policy for the Community, whilst 62% were in favour of Community competence in the field of security and defence policy.
- 55% of those questioned envisaged an expansion in Community membership to include many Central and Eastern European countries whilst 63% envisaged future membership by EFTA countries.
- 65% saw the unification of Germany as a hopeful sign.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### **“The Social Charter and The Single European Market”**

John Hughes. Spokesman Books, 1991. Available from Spokesman Books, Bertrand Russell House, Gamble Street, Nottingham NG7 4ET, price £6.95.

Over recent years the Social Charter and its associated Commission Action Programme have achieved an unparalleled position of importance within the campaign for a European Community dedicated to social advancement as well as economic integration. Support for the Charter and the proposals contained within the Action Programme has come from both European and national trade union movements.

In this new book John Hughes, a consultant to the Trade Union Research Unit at Ruskin College, Oxford, examines the background to the Charter, the implications of some of the key proposals (in particular those concerning part-time and temporary workers) and the underlying principles involved in the current approach of the European Commission. He argues that the Community's emphasis on social dialogue and the equitable extension of social rights needs to go hand in hand with large scale programmes of expenditure to help disadvantaged regions, to combat discrimination against part-time workers, to tackle long-term unemployment and to meet the needs of young people entering the labour market.

British MEP Ken Coats provides a useful foreword whilst Hugh McMahon MEP contributes a checklist based on the original social charter proposals and their progress so far. Whilst the book is written from a British perspective, it still provides an analysis of the social charter which will be of value to all European trade unionists.

### **European File**

Two new pamphlets in the European File series of the European Commission examine the latest developments within the fisheries sector and the creation of trans-European networks.

#### **The Common Fisheries Policy : March 1991 European File 3/91**

Fishing is an important industry within the Community, directly employing some 300,000 workers. The pamphlet briefly examines the mechanics of the Common Fisheries Policy and the organisation of markets for fish within the Community. The depletion of catch potential and the development of new fishing techniques have caused the Community to embark on a policy of restructuring the existing fishing fleet. This policy involves both structural programmes and research activities, both of which are described within the pamphlet.

#### **Trans-European Networks for a Community Without Frontiers : April 1991 European File 4/91**

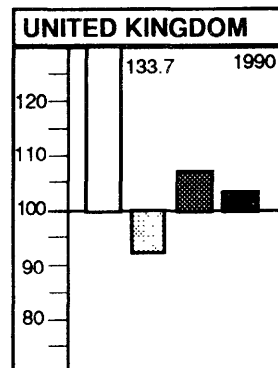
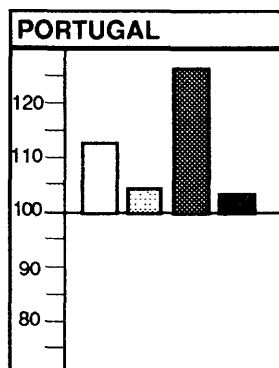
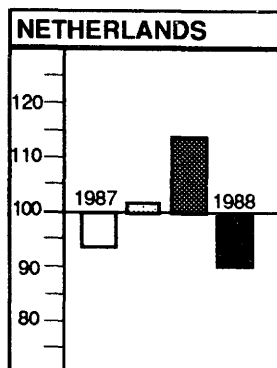
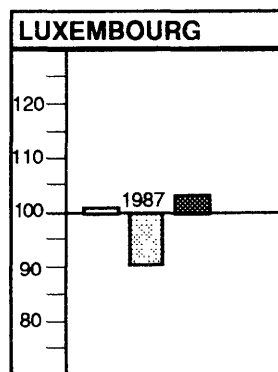
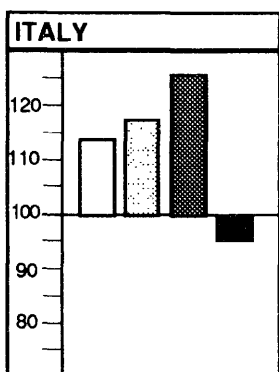
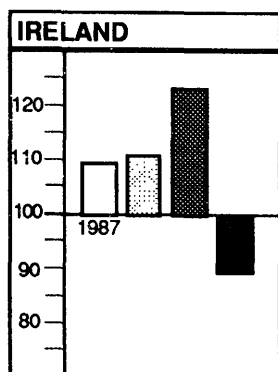
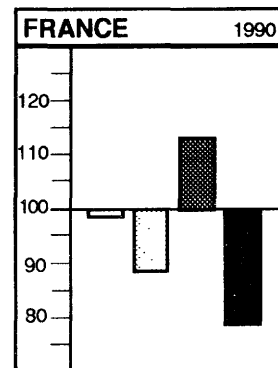
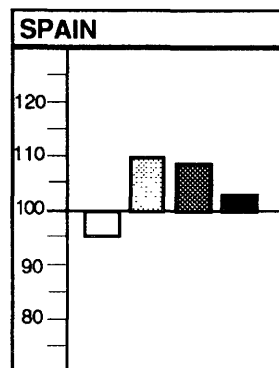
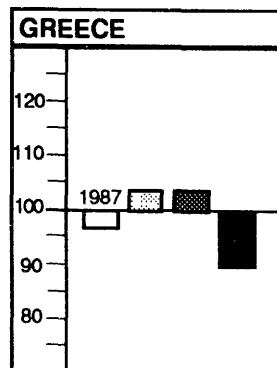
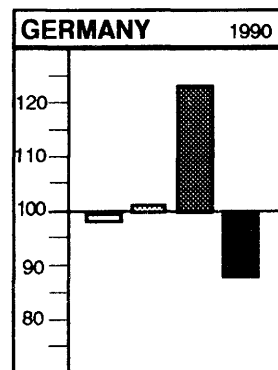
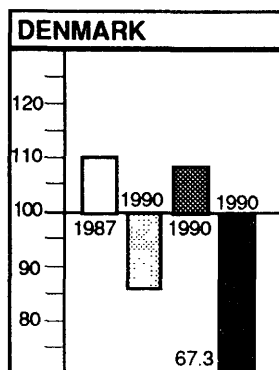
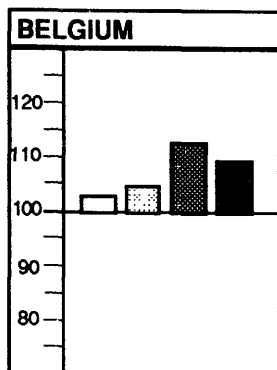
The pamphlet contains a summary of the proposals contained within the Commission Communication published at the end of 1990. These proposals relate to the establishment of trans-European networks in the field of transport, energy, telecommunications and vocational training. The benefits of trans-European networks is perhaps most clearly seen in the field of transport, but similar benefits exist in relation to energy, telecommunications and vocational training. These networks are destined to become the main arteries in a Europe without frontiers, supplying all Member States and all regions and providing a stimulus to more harmonious and more equitably shared development for the benefit of all.

Both pamphlets are available free of charge from Commission national information offices.

# Industrial Production - Selected Industries

Index of Industrial Production  
1985=100 : 1989 figures unless  
otherwise stated.

Iron & Steel
  Textiles
  Food & Drink
  Clothing



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Commission of the European Communities

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