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COMMUNITY LAW : Obstacles to the free movement of foreigners

European Community law gives all citizens of the 10 member countries the right to travel in any other member country as long as they exercise a professional activity either on a salaried or self-employed basis. However, this right does not yet extend to members of their families which do not possess a Community nationality.

For example, a German citizen wanting to travel to France with his spouse of Turkish nationality must make a request for a visa between two or three months ahead of time, even if their stay is for less than a week. The human and family inconveniences of this situation are evident.

Answering a question from a German European Parliament Member, Mr Ulrich Irmer, the European Commission recently indicated that it would nevertheless be preferable to wait until the Community countries agreed to a single Community passport before taking new initiatives to harmonise the right of travel for foreigners. The ideal would be that the right granted to a foreigner by one Member State be automatically legal throughout the Community. But this probably will not happen overnight.

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A report from the European Parliament provides an occasion to give a first evaluation of the early activities of the European University Institute, founded five years ago.

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CONSUMERS : Changes on the way for wrappers and containers

Some major changes may be on the way for the wrappers and containers of products consumed all over Europe.

The foodstuffs and liquids themselves, ranging from soups or fish to beer and wine, will not be affected, but the packages or bottles they are sold in could be if two recent proposals made in Brussels are adopted by the Member States of the European Community.

These two measures would specifically affect the information contained on the box, tin or wrapper of foodstuffs destined for human consumption on the one hand and the containers which hold beverages on the other. The first is designed to avoid misleading or exaggerated claims about a food product and the second is to improve the process of recycling or disposing of bottles, tins and other containers which are representing an increasing amount of costly waste in virtually all modern societies. The latter proposal would therefore be in both the consumer and environmental interest. It could also save large sums of money now spent by the public and municipalities to process drink containers.

What the European Commission in Brussels has proposed for foodstuffs is a series of guidelines for the information carried not only on the packaging but also in advertisements about these products. The proposal is the latest in a series of regulations sought at the Community level about prices, weights and contents which are sometimes classified under the name of "truth in packaging". All are aimed at allowing the consumer to get an accurate impression about a product and enable him to make an informed comparison and choice about his purchases.

Under the new system, a number of claims about food products would be banned or limited. For instance, claims that cannot be verified about the nutritional value, recommendations of medical authorities, statements designed to arouse fear or anxiety or to discredit other similar products would be prohibited or limited. The same would be true concerning allegations of superiority, the "newness" or the "naturalness" of a product. A food product, for example, could only claim to be "new" for 18 months after its actual introduction on the market.

If adopted by the Council of Ministers of the EEC Member States, this measure would be applicable by 1984, but it is likely that, as in almost all proposed consumer regulations, manufacturers and advertisers will have a number of views and objections they will make known about the proposals while it is being considered by the European Parliament and other institutions in the coming months.

The second measure affecting drink containers hopes to facilitate the growing and costly system of collection, processing, disposal or recycling required

for such bottles, tins or other receptacles.

In data accompanying the proposals, the EEC Commission noted that European Community countries discharged some 90 million tonnes of waste in 1979, and that drink containers accounted for a sizeable share of this mounting problem. This, in the eyes of many, represents an increased waste of natural resources and energy which is a danger to the environment.

The evidence of this problem is easily visible all over Europe, with the beer cans and bottles which litter the landscape not only cluttering up but also poisoning the environment.

A number of Community countries have already adopted various national measures to discourage such waste. But the Community authorities would like to see similar procedures in force throughout the Community without imposing rigid laws. What is proposed, therefore, is a flexible system of guidelines that would encourage authorities to adopt such laws or reach agreements with producers and also improve the information available about these systems. This measure will also have to be debated and considered by the various Community institutions before it is adopted or rejected.

SOCIAL : The change in industrial hourly wages

Three different types of countries emerge distinctly in any analysis of the average growth of hourly wages in Europe from 1975 to 1980. In Germany and the Benelux countries, this growth remained below 10 per cent; in Denmark, the United Kingdom, France and Ireland this increase has been put at between 12 and 17 per cent; it reaches 21 per cent in Italy and 24 per cent in Greece. In all member countries of the European Community, an acceleration in the rate of growth of hourly wages was registered in 1979/80.

To fully understand this information, which has just been published by the EEC Statistical Office, a comparison must be made with inflation rates and also with the increases in other sectors such as services and agriculture. The result, after comparing this recent change in salaries in industry with consumer prices, is that the increases in hourly working wages in real terms have actually declined in Luxembourg (-0.7 per cent), Denmark (-1.8 per cent), Italy (-2 per cent) and the United Kingdom (-2.5 per cent). On the other hand, an increase of about 6.7 per cent was experienced in Ireland. These figures cover changes between April 1979 and April 1980. In April 1980, the gross hourly wage increases for female workers everywhere remained below those of male workers. The gap between the average increases for men and women varied between 14 per cent in Italy and Denmark to 42 per cent in Luxembourg.

DEVELOPMENT : Science to the aid of the world's poorest

A major new effort has just been proposed to bring some of the benefits of the world's best brains and scientific know-how to try to ease the food and health problems of the world's poor countries.

Some of the targets of this new scientific effort can be seen through shocking statistics. For instance, it has been estimated that enough food is lost, is stolen or is allowed to spoil or be eaten by animals or insects to feed 10 percent of the world's population. Insects and other natural parasites also ruin an estimated 40 percent of the potential grain production of Africa and Asia. Add to this the awesome statistics for child mortality, malnutrition and physical and other disorders in the Third World, and a clear picture emerges of a pressing and urgent need.

In recent years, many major international conferences have shown the awareness of developing countries of the need for a transfer of scientific and technological expertise to deal with these and other persistent problems. In the past the developed, industrial world has had a virtual monopoly on this scientific and technological power to the point of having the best laboratories and research centres on tropical medicine and products, and of being the beneficiary of the scientific talent of the Third World. Many developing countries, and now the European Community, are trying to reorient this know-how to provide greater help to the underdeveloped. The EEC Commission in Brussels has just proposed a new programme of scientific research and development aimed at sectors of special interest to the Third World. Some 40 million European units of account (£ 21.2 million) would be devoted over the next four years to research and just as importantly the training of experts in important and relevant disciplines.

The aim would be to complement and coordinate national efforts already existing in some of the member countries in vital areas such as food and health research for tropical regions. The new proposal focused on these areas because other areas such as energy and other natural resources are already the subject of national or existing Community programmes.

Specific research will be designed to assist research in improved food production, storage and transportation, and to help eliminate rampant diseases such as malaria, sleeping sickness and others. Some will also try to increase the cleanliness of water and the arability of lands, both major problems in the Third World. Protection of forests and livestock will also figure in this new programme. And a better development of fishing resources and techniques will also have a priority.

SPORTS : The return of the Games to Mount Olympus

In 1936, 1972 and 1980, in Berlin, Munich and Moscow, the Olympic Games in the recent past have been marred by politics. In the face of the threat of the corruption of the Games for partisan propaganda objectives or commercial publicity, ways are being explored to preserve the integrity of the Olympic ideal of friendship between peoples and the brotherhood of man. A committee of the European Parliament has just proposed that the Mount Olympus area be set aside as a permanent site for the Games, thus supporting a recommendation by the Greek Government. The latter has even indicated it would be in favour of granting the Olympic enclave the status of international extraterritoriality.

Since their creation in the year 776 B.C., the Games were supposed to represent a sort of truce, an interruption in the conflicts between the participants. But in 1936, Nazi Germany, which already harboured racist laws and concentration camps, seemed like a far cry from being the ideal site for the Games which were staged in Berlin.

More recently, the assassination of Israeli athletes by a Palestinian group in 1972 in Munich and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan followed by the boycott of the Moscow Games in 1980 by 41 countries dealt tough blows to the Olympic ideal of peace and brotherhood.

Should greater care be taken in the future as well to try to assure that the Games are held in countries more sensitive to human rights? But that would unfairly penalise the athletes of certain countries who could not be held responsible for the acts of their governments. In addition, are there any countries that are completely free of reproach in their handling of human rights? Nevertheless, the Games should be held somewhere.

On July 31, 1976, Constantine Caramanlis, then Prime Minister of Greece, proposed that his country be designated as a permanent site for the Olympic Games. This suggestion aroused the lively interest of international public opinion. But the international Olympic Committee has still not reacted officially.

The European Parliament was requested by one of its working groups to become the advocate of the Greek proposal throughout the world. The full House will probably decide on the committee's proposal during its June session. If the idea finally reaches its objective, a number of thorny problems would still remain. For instance, who would participate in the financing of the Olympic facilities since the Greek Government probably could not assume the full responsibility, and how would the Olympic installations be used in between Games?

THE BEGINNINGS OF A EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY IN FLORENCE
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The fifth birthday of the European University Institute was celebrated recently. The Institute, perched on the Fiesole hills near Florence is housed in an old Renaissance monastery. The convention setting up the European Centre was published in the European Community's Official Journal dated 9 February 1976.

The Institute is not, strictly speaking, a "Community" institution. It is an international centre for research and education devoted to a study of the different facets of European integration. Some even think it would bear the seeds of a future "European University".

The European Community has expressed its interest and attachment to the Institute on several occasions. Just recently, the Institute was asked to house the EEC's historical archives, which will be made public as of 1982. Moreover, the Commission offers a number of research assistants at the Institute the possibility of following training courses at the Commission headquarters.

According to the terms of the convention, the Florence Institute must contribute, by its action in the field of higher teaching and research, to the development of European cultural and scientific heritage. A Superior Council, a President and an academic council are responsible for all decisions. The Institute also includes four departments : history and civilisation, economic sciences, legal sciences, political and social sciences. There is also an enormous library employing 25 people and housing a large number of computer files.

Since it began operations in October 1976, the European University Institute has had to face a number of problems - some of which are not yet solved.

Some of these are dealt with in a long resolution adopted recently by the European Parliament's committee for youth, culture, education, information and sports.

The Parliament stresses that the installation of the Institute at Florence is far from being ideal as regards communications with the rest of Europe. There are no international airports, postal services are inefficient and links with the city are also difficult.

The Committee also points to the difficulties in lodging research assistants in the buildings of the Institute, and believes that the creation

of a European school in the same town could attract a large number of professors and specialists. For the moment their number is about 30. Students at the Institute number 120.

The Parliament notes that the number of students should be increased to 200. It also feels that a more formal institutional link should be established between the Institute and the European Community. Within this context, the Parliament suggests that the money given to the Institute by Member States should really come from the Community budget.

In its assessment of the operations of the Institute, the Parliament notes that the research programmes undertaken by the Institute do not form a coherent research programme. The Parliament calls for the establishment of a well-defined programme, covering the subjects to be studied in the coming years, reinforcing the multidisciplinary character of research and stressing its European character.

The Parliament also suggests that the Institute should undertake a year-long programme leading to a university diploma similar to the one given by the bigger American Universities which attract quite a few European students.

The lack of continuity among the teaching staff is also criticized by the Parliament. This is because professors cannot take very long leaves of absence from their original universities in order to teach in Florence. The Parliament suggests the installation of a more flexible system where 5-year, 7-year and contracts without time limits could be offered to professors.

Finally, the Parliamentary resolution underlines the role played by the Institute in serving as a link between and ensuring the continuity of different groups working in research centres, laboratories and universities all over the European Community.

It is still too early to assess the operations of the Centre. A number of current problems are definitely due to the newness of the Institute. What is important is that the Institute continues in its initial tasks.

EMPLOYMENT : The list of SEDOC employment opportunities

Every two weeks, EUROFOCUS publishes the following extract of the list of positions available communicated to the rest of Europe by means of the SEDOC system (see EUROFOCUS 16/81). All additional information concerning these positions may be obtained at the following addresses : in the United Kingdom, the Manpower Services Commission, SEDOC Section, employment services division, overseas placing unit, Pennine Centre 20-22 Hawley Street, Sheffield S1 3 GA; in Ireland, the National Manpower Service, Department of Labour, SEDOC Section, 50 Mespil Road, Dublin, 4.

Vacancies available on May 10 :

	<u>Code</u>
Germany	
20 Casters (pottery)	8.92.35
27 Lithographic/offset machine operators	9.22.40
5 Lithographic artists	9.24.15
5 Etchers (excluding graphic reproductions)	9.24.60
11 Mason bricklayers (erection)	9.51.20
10 Reinforcement concreter (site work)	9.52.10
40 Carpenters (construction)	9.54.15
30 Insulators (structures) (hand)	9.56.10
75 Specialised labourers	9.90.10
60 Miners (preparation, extraction, maintenance, removal)	7.10.
40 Painters, paperhangers, floor covering layers and related workers, ship painters	9.30/ 9.30.40
Ireland	
2 Toolmakers	8.32.20
1 System analyst	0.83.10
2 Senior computer programmers	0.83.40
4 Electrical engineers	0.23.05
1 Mechanical engineer	0.24.10
1 Manager (wholesale distribution)	4.00.10
1 Chef de cuisine	5.31.20
1 Motor mechanic	8.45.30
France	
1 Electrical engineering technician	0.34.05
1 Secretary shorthand typist	3.21.20
1 Carpenter/joiner	9.54.20
1 Sales representative (wholesale goods)	4.32
Italy	
3 Marker-off (structural metal)	8.74.11
2 steel benders and fixers	9.52.30
4 Joiners (bench)	9.54.25
2 Carpenters (construction)	9.54.15
2 Masons	9.51.20