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LIBRARY

\*\* THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY IN THE COMMUNITY was given a fresh and powerful impetus by the statement by the Heads of State or Government at the Paris Summit Conference in October 1972 that energetic action in the social field was as important to them as the attainment of economic and monetary union, and by their instruction to the European Commission to draw up a social action programme before 1 January 1974 (see IRT No. 178).

At his press conference in Brussels on 22 March on social trends in the Community in 1972, Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the European Commission, reiterated that the preliminary draft social programme prepared by the Commission would be presented to the Council of Ministers on 12 April 1973. The timetable for the adoption of this programme calls for a meeting of the Council of Ministers for Social Affairs on 21 May 1973, and a Conference between both sides of industry in Luxembourg on 28 June; final decisions should be taken at the end of September, with implementation beginning early in 1974.

A number of points from the statement on social trends in the Community published recently by the Commission are given in ANNEX 1.

*The information and articles published in this Bulletin concern European scientific cooperation and industrial development in Europe. Hence they are not simply confined to reports on the decisions or views of the Commission of the European Communities, but cover the whole field of questions discussed in the different circles concerned.*

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IRT No. 182, 27 March 1973, p. 2

\*\* By 1980 several million European homes will be connected to CABLE TV networks. Although cable TV, which will play an important part in many fields, is still confined to certain areas in Europe, it is bound to grow rapidly in the next few years (see IRT No. 166).

It therefore appears desirable to prevent this new means of communication from developing along similar lines to TV, and with similar consequences, i.e., on insufficiently harmonized national bases.

The European Commission entrusted a study on cable TV and its applications in the Community countries to a Paris-based research bureau, Innovation, Communications, Structures, (ICS); their report, however, reveals that increased disparities may emerge between the Community countries' equipments and services on this rapidly growing market with a turnover of billions of francs.

A summary of the study will be found in ANNEX 2, and a condensed report is to be published shortly in French by the European Commission.

\*\* The verification agreement covering the Euratom nuclear safeguards system under the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (TNP) is to be signed in Brussels on 5 April 1973 by the Commission of the European Communities, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the seven non-nuclear powers among the Member States of the Community. A short note on this subject will be found in ANNEX 3.

IRT No. 182, 27 March 1973, p. 3

\*\* See ANNEX 4 for a selection of RECENT PUBLICATIONS which have been added to the technical and scientific library of the Commission of the European Communities. They can be consulted on the spot (1 avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels; Office: Loi, 1st floor, Room 43), or borrowed.

\*\* During its last session, the European Parliament, after hearing a report presented by Mr Della Briotta on behalf of its Committee on Social Affairs and Public Health, applauded the fact that the European Commission had put forward a proposal for a Directive which will make it possible to approximate and concurrently improve the Member States' laws relating to MASS REDUNDANCIES (see IRT No. 162). It attaches great value to the fact that this proposal provides for consultation with workers' representatives in order to find the solutions which best reconcile the interests of the parties involved, and has expressed the wish that workers' representatives be consulted in all cases of group redundancy, not only when the numbers are 50 or more, as proposed by the Commission.

The European Parliament also thinks that this proposal should not be left in isolation, but should form part of a series of measures (regional policy, vocational training, action financed by the European Social Fund, etc.) taken at Community level and designed to ensure stability of employment, or at least easy re-employment of the redundant worker in another, equivalent activity.

The European Parliament also invited the Commission to put forward proposals for harmonization of laws on individual dismissal, taking as their basis the most advanced Member State legislations in this matter.

IRT No. 182, 27 March 1973, p. 4

\*\* The European Commission recently adopted two regulations laying down the detailed rules for the notification to it, by the Member States and by firms, of IMPORTS OF HYDROCARBONS and INVESTMENT PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST IN THE ENERGY SECTOR, the subject of two Regulations of the Council of Ministers of 18 May 1972 (see IRT No. 131). The Commission's regulations require the use of standard questionnaires, in order to standardize the necessary declarations.

The obligation to notify the Commission of hydrocarbon imports applies to firms or persons importing at least 100,000 metric tons of petroleum or natural gas per year, while for investment projects of Community interest in the petroleum, natural gas and electricity sectors, the requirement applies to decisions in principle to construct or enlarge a plant or part of a plant taken as part of a multiannual financial programme for investment, implementation of which would normally begin within three years, or a decision to close down all or part of a plant within three years.

These regulations will provide the Commission with fuller information on the Community's internal supply structure and its development. Such information is an essential tool for shaping an energy policy directed towards security of energy supply in a Community relying on imports from non-member countries for about two thirds of its needs.

\*\* A EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (ECRD) is to be set up by the Commission of the European Communities, and will hold its first, constituent meeting on 4 April 1973. At the Summit Conference in Paris in October 1972 (see IRT No. 162) the Commission was entrusted by the Heads of State or Government of

IRT No. 182, 27 March 1973, p. 5

the Community countries with the task of ensuring the institution of a common policy in the field of science and technology, and was instructed to draw up a programme for this purpose accompanied by a timetable to be adopted by the Community institutions before 1 January 1974. The Commission has thus decided to provide itself with a suitable tool for shaping the decisions which will constitute the common policy for research and development (see IRT No. 148).

The ECRD will have the task of analysing technical potentialities and socio-economic needs, a necessary preliminary to defining Community R&D objectives and determining priorities in the light of requirements (e.g., new means of transport, water supply, environmental protection, energy supply, health protection, competitiveness of industry, etc.). It will provide the European Commission with the interpretative and evaluative data needed for the formulation of its opinions and proposals relating to R&D.

The Committee consists of 21 members selected for their knowledge of science, technology and industry. A permanent scientific adviser will be appointed by the European Commission.

\*\* A report on RADIOACTIVE WASTES DISCHARGED BY NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY - An analysis of discharges - radiological aspects - was published recently in French by the European Commission. It covers the years 1969-71, and gives statistics, derived from the literature, of discharges of radioactive wastes (gaseous and liquid) from nuclear power stations in the Community. The radiological consequences of these discharges for the population are also discussed.

IRT No. 182, 27 March 1973, p. 6

This report is intended especially for the responsible national authorities and for nuclear power station operators. It can be obtained from the Directorate for Health Protection (EEC, 29 rue Aldringen, Luxembourg). An English version is being prepared. It is planned to publish a similar report annually.

\*\* The European Commission is to forward to the Council of Ministers and the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Committee (ECSC) the amended version of its proposals concerning the new scheme of COMMUNITY AID FOR COKING COAL AND COKE intended for the Community steel industry. The amendments made to the proposals put forward by the Commission in October 1972 (see IRT No. 162) relate, in particular, to a financial contribution from the Community and a certain widening of the scope provided for Community financing: the maximum ceiling has been raised from 18 to 22 million metric tons, part of which will consist of long-distance deliveries to points in the same country, and the remainder of intra-Community trade.

\*\* The European Commission recently published an information booklet on THE USE OF RADIATION AND ISOTOPES IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, (Volume 1: Report on a Conference held by the Eurisotop Office in Brussels on 28, 29 and 30 October 1970). It can be obtained from the Eurisotop Office, Commission of the European Communities.

THE SOCIAL SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY IN 1972

(Points from the statement on social trends in the Community in 1972 published recently by the European Commission)

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The development of social policy in the Community was given a powerful new impetus by the statement by the Heads of State or Government at the Paris Summit Conference in October 1972 that "energetic action in the social field is as important to them as the attainment of economic and monetary union" and their instruction to the European Commission to draw up a social action programme before 1 January 1974 (see IRT No. 178).

Employment

Total unemployment in the Community has tended to rise according to Commission estimates from 1.4 million in 1971 to 1.6 million in 1972. It is also estimated that total employment declined slightly last year but the number of persons in paid employment increased a little particularly in the services sector.

School-leavers' unemployment increased in most of the member countries but for varying reasons. The overall outlook for 1973 suggests that economic activity will expand at a faster rate and that overall employment could well increase again in most Member States and the average rate is expected to be 0.5 per cent.

The main problem in the labour field remains that of structural disequilibrium with unemployment and unfilled vacancies existing at the same time without it being possible to offset one against the other to any great extent. The total value of unfilled vacancies remains large despite a falling trend and was estimated at 750,000 jobs in 1972.



One of the ways to deal more effectively with this problem in 1973 is to extend the European System of Distribution of Vacancies and Job Applications (SEDOC) to cover the enlarged Community. Under a draft regulation now before the Council, information on foreign labour available will be more effective because of the establishment of comparable statistics.

### Social Fund

The reformed Social Fund can now give a more rapid and practical response to urgent employment problems. The money appropriated for 1973 will enable the Fund to assist about 70,000 workers. The Council has also decided, on a proposal from the Commission, to allow the Fund to intervene in two new fields: farm workers wishing to leave the land and workers in the textile industry. Proposals for the intervention of the Fund in the garment industry and for two supplementary forms of aid - maintenance of income for six months after re-training for farm workers and the improvement of information on employment for textile workers in semi-rural areas - have been held over for further documentation.

### Free Movement of Workers

Foreign labour needs in Community countries in 1972 were estimated at 450,000 which was a sharp drop from the number of such hirings in 1971 which was over 750,000.

The actual stay in the host country must as far as possible be used to achieve the social improvement of these workers through further training. The Commission believes that the Member States' migration policies should be coordinated at Community level.

### Vocational Training

Important steps were taken in 1972 towards the gradual implementation of a common policy for vocational training. The General Guidelines for a new joint work programme were adopted by the Council in July 1971. The Commission has recently laid before the Council a work plan of "First measures" for implementing a common vocational training policy.

These "first measures" will concentrate on practical activities such as the exchanges of information by the Member States on training policies, reforms in hand in this field, financing and costs. There will also be cooperation in training methods and research, proposals for harmonizing levels of training and mutual recognition of certificates.

### Industrial Relations

In November 1972, the Commission held discussions with the representatives of employers and workers on the results of the Paris Summit for Community social policy. The aim of the discussion was to see how labour and management could be associated more closely with the social and economic policy decisions taken by the Community, especially in the context of economic and monetary union.

In its proposals for a statute for a European joint stock company and its proposals for the harmonization of company law which provides for worker participation in supervisory boards, the Commission believes that it has created the legal framework which meets to a great extent trade union demands for fuller information, consultation and participation in the supervision of company management. The Commission's directive relating to the harmonization of rules on collective dismissals and its work on the social consequences of mergers should also be mentioned. (See IRT Nos. 62, 161 and 162).

Social Security

Although the scope of social security which originally only covered persons in paid employment has been gradually extended to other social classes, protection is still not complete. The Commission therefore submitted to the Council during 1972 a document listing the categories of persons protected against the various contingencies in each Member State.

The increasing finance needed for extending the scope and improving the benefits of the various social security schemes has resulted in a tendency to have increasing resort to means tests and this is changing the whole approach to social security.

The most appropriate framework within which to carry out a comparative examination of social security problems could be provided by the European Social Budget and the Commission hopes its proposals on this subject, which are now before the Council, will enable the project to be accepted with minimum delay.

Selected Statistics (1971)

Country	Popula- tion (million)	Working popula- tion as % of total	Unemploy- ment as % of active pop.	Female employ- ment as % (1970)*	Foreign workers (1000)	Working days lost per 1000 workers	Dwelling complete per 1000 people
Belgium	9.7	41.2	2.0	29.1	209	406	4.4
Germany	61.3	43.2	0.7	34.0	2,128	203	9.1
France	51.3	41.1	2.2	37.0	1,161	280	9.3
Italy	53.9	36.4	3.2	26.3	40	998	6.7
Luxembourg	0.34	41.7	0.0	26.6	38	-	4.0
Netherlands	13.2	35.2	1.5	-	116	25	10.4
Total: The Six	189.6	39.9	1.8	31.9	3,690	400	8.3
United Kingdom	55.7	45.1	2.9	36.9	-	595	6.5
Ireland	3.0	38.0	6.0	-	-	369	5.2
Denmark	4.9	47.7	1.2	39.4	-	11	10.0
Total: The Six + Three	253.2	41.2	2.1	-	-	434	8.2

\*Figures for old and new members not comparable.

CABLE TV AND ITS APPLICATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY COUNTRIES

By 1980 several million European homes will be connected to CABLE TV networks. Although cable TV, which will play an important part in many fields, is still confined to certain areas in Europe it is bound to grow rapidly in the next few years (see IRT No. 166).

Consequently, it appears desirable to prevent this new means of communication from developing along similar lines to TV, and with similar consequences, i.e., on insufficiently harmonized national bases.

The European Commission has had a study carried out on cable TV and its applications in the Community countries by a Paris-based research bureau, Innovation, Communications, Structures, (ICS), whose report reveals, however, that increased disparities may emerge between the Community countries' equipments and services, on this rapidly growing market running into billions of francs.

The study dealt with three groups of topics:

1. The chief technical features of cable TV in Europe are such that equipment currently in service can be classed as first-generation systems, i.e., it differs from shared-aerial systems only in the number of programmes carried (generally over six) and the number of homes served (from several hundred to several thousand). Second-generation equipment (i.e., which provides facilities for the local production of programmes) is being installed and projects for third-generation systems (with a return channel) are under investigation, pending the advent of the first prototype fourth-generation equipment (fully two-way). Technological development of the equipments will encounter problems chiefly in the field of standardization and compatibility of the equipment offered by the various manufacturers.

2. Industrial policy reflects the attitude of the industrial groups concerned in the development of cable TV, and of the authorities. In Europe the latter perform a dual role - regulatory (standardization) and commercial (public purchasing). Depending on the financial weight, national status and technological sophistication of the industrial groups, the policies adopted differ widely. These differences are generally accentuated by the actions of the national administrations.
  
3. The political and economic prospects for the expansion of cable TV in the common market therefore vary considerably between countries, the differences being due to the institutional framework, the level of development, and the attitude taken towards the importing of broadcasts and the local production of programmes. A certain number of common factors are apparent, however, e.g., as regards the introduction of advertising, the role played by public telecommunications authorities, and problems posed by the appearance of local programmes.

The observations contained in this report point to the lack of communication between Common Market countries on this subject, despite the emergence of common problems (advertising, local programmes, etc.) comparatively remote from those marking the development of cable TV in the USA. In conclusion the report recommends that a special effort be directed to the exchange of information between Community countries and the coordination of industrial policies.

THE AGREEMENT FOR THE VERIFICATION OF THE EURATOM NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS  
SYSTEM UNDER THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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The verification agreement covering the Euratom nuclear safeguards system under the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (TNP) is to be signed in Brussels on 5 April 1973 by the Commission of the European Communities, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the seven non-nuclear powers among the Member States of the Community; this agreement will then be submitted, with the Non-proliferation Treaty itself, for ratification by the Parliaments of the seven countries in question.

The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (TNP), drawn up under the aegis of the United Nations, on the initiative of the USA, United Kingdom and the USSR, has been open for signature by States since 1968; its aim is to prevent further States from coming into possession of nuclear weapons (termed "horizontal non-proliferation").

Under the TNP nuclear powers (understood to mean those having detonated an atomic bomb before 1967) undertake in particular not to transfer nuclear weapons directly or indirectly to another, non-nuclear power. Furthermore, every signatory undertakes not to supply a non-nuclear power with source materials and special fissile materials (which could be used for the manufacture of nuclear weapons) unless these materials are subject to a system of safeguards and control of their use. This control is exercised by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a world nuclear organization, which is a specialized agency of the United Nations.

The TNP further provides that States not in possession of nuclear weapons and wishing to be parties to the Treaty shall undertake not to manufacture, acquire or procure nuclear weapons in the future. These States also undertake to accept that their performance of this obligation shall be verified by international inspection. To this end, each State must negotiate with the International Atomic Energy Agency an agreement defining the inspection measures to be applied on its territory.

However, the Member States of the European Community are already subject to safeguards on the use of nuclear materials, as provided for in the Euratom Treaty. These safeguards have been in operation for many years and their effectiveness is universally acknowledged. There was therefore a risk that the inspection measures to be stipulated in the agreement with the IAEA would duplicate the Euratom safeguards, adversely affect their operation and result in excessive costs for the Community's nuclear industry, thus reducing their competitiveness.

In order to avoid these risks, the Community Member States decided that the agreement with the IAEA provided for in the TNP would be negotiated by the Community itself, which would thus be able to use the undoubted value of its inspection system as a bargaining counter in the negotiations. A Community delegation, under Commission leadership, and including representatives of the non-nuclear powers among the Member States, negotiated over a period of nine months an agreement considered satisfactory by all parties concerned, since it permits both Community and Agency fully to discharge the responsibilities incumbent upon them, while avoiding the needless repetition by the Agency of the Community's inspection activities. This is ensured by appropriate machinery for cooperation between the Community and the Agency, all details of which are laid down in the agreement.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

added to the scientific and technical library of the Commission of the European Communities. They can be consulted on the spot (1 avenue de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Office: Loi, 1st floor, Room 43), or borrowed.

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ECOLOGY

- Libro bianco sulla natura in Italia (EU 8347 (74))  
Contoli, L. & Palladino, S.  
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Roma, 1971

ENVIRONMENT

- Directory of Information Sources (EU 17194)  
Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, 1972

POLLUTION

- Specifications for Pesticides Used in Public Health  
(EU 15371/4 e)  
Insecticides - Rodenticides - Molluscicides - Repellents -  
Method  
WHO, Geneva, 1973

RADIATION PROTECTION - RADIOACTIVE WASTE

- National and International Radiation Dose Intercomparisons  
(EU 1058 (338))  
IAEA, Vienna, 1973
- Disposal of Radioactive Waste - Evacuation des déchets radioactifs  
(EU 17209) Proceedings of the ENEA Meeting, Paris  
April 12-14, 1972  
OCDE - ENEA, Paris, 1972
- Inhalation Risks from Radioactive Contaminants (EU4197 (10/142))  
IAEA, Vienna, 1973



DATA PROCESSING

- Informatique (EU 1191 V)  
Cordonnier, Vincent  
Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 1972

ENERGY

- Comité de l'Énergie Électrique  
La situation de l'énergie électrique en Europe  
et ses perspectives 1969-1971 (EU 1618 (1969-71))  
ONU, Geneva, 1972