

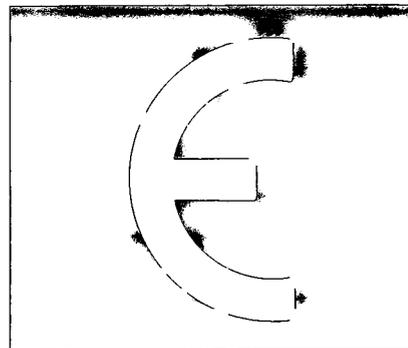
# Europe 85

No. 6

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*In a class of its own  
— see page 20*



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## Jobless need not mean hopeless

**F**our years ago, the parents of a 15-year-old Dundee girl with cerebral palsy came face-to-face with a dilemma that confronts every family with a disabled child. What was to happen to her when she left her special school?

They took their problem to the Rev Keith Campbell, minister of St Aidan's Church at Broughty Ferry, on the outskirts of Dundee. As chairman of Dundee's health council, he was well aware of the difficulties which young, disabled people experience when leaving school. This personal approach by members of his congregation, however, sowed the seeds of an idea which rapidly germinated into a unique project that has now won financial backing from the European Social Fund.

Tayside Regional Council's social work department had been looking for suitable premises in the area, to use as a day-care centre for handicapped school-leavers. But Keith Campbell soon discovered, in his discussion with other families, that the disabled youngsters

**Funds from the European Community are helping those least able to help themselves towards a less depressing future. ROY STEMMAN finds this EEC help is being put to good use in Scotland**

needed something more positive. Many of them – because of their condition, or due to surgical operations – had been able to keep pace educationally with others of the same age-group.

Given more time and assistance, a large number of them could acquire knowledge and skills that would enable them to take jobs and play a

Above: Work-Start has helped Maureen Pole to set up her own business.

useful role within the community. It is this aspect of the St Aidan's Project that has earned it grant aid from the ESF of £40,000 in the current year. This matches the government and regional funding it has already won.

Alongside his church stands a hall, which was built as a washroom for troops during the last war. Keith Campbell realised it was ideal for the experimental community project. Soon a small army of volunteers and supporters were raising money with marathons and garden parties; and by the middle of 1983 the St Aidan's Project was ready to welcome its first seven students. It takes youngsters between 16 and 25.

Some of them needed to be taught simple life skills. One 20-year-old, for example, could not tell the time. Others could not make a cup of coffee, and many had never been shopping. Keith Campbell and his colleagues knew that, unless they were encouraged to do all these things and more, the prospects could be grim. Without the companionship of school or the motivation of work, the chances were that they



The St Aidan's project is attracting youngsters from a wide area around Dundee. Funds from Europe have also helped it to take over a school building (below) where disabled trainees are taught useful skills.

would remain at home, would vegetate, and, ultimately, need full-time nursing.

Sadly, that could still be the fate of some of the young people who pass through St Aidan's Project. But for others the scheme has already injected a new quality of life, as I discovered when I was taken by Keith Campbell to talk to some of the students and teachers.

Our first call was to the Kippen Halls, where the project originated. Within a short space of time, the demand for placements resulted in the 20-place day centre being filled to capacity. But the EEC money has enabled the team to take over the annexe of Gillburn School, leaving the church hall free to be used as an assessment centre.

A clinical psychologist, Dr Hana Al-Ahmar, supervises the assessment programme with great enthusiasm. For 13 weeks, each person's attributes are monitored, while Dr Hana spends considerable time counselling them. 'At the end of the assessment period we not only have a profile of the trainees, but we also know what they can do or are capable of doing,' she told me.

Depending on these findings, the trainees might have to be referred back to the social services for day centre care, or be selected for further education at Gillburn or elsewhere. Gillburn, I discovered, has space to spare. Its large classrooms, designed for primary school use, are more than adequate for the 30 students now receiving training. Lou Hurrell, the project director, told me the school could take 60 youngsters comfortably. But that, of course, would require more money.

'I've been to Holland and Denmark to see how they help the young disabled, and they are far ahead of us,' he told me. 'If they reject someone at one centre they can usually recommend

another that is more suitable. Here, we know that if we have to turn people away they have little choice but to stay at home.'

So it is not surprising to find that the St Aidan's Project is attracting youngsters from a far wider area than was originally planned: it now covers Tayside and North Fife. Its fleet of only three vehicles is the limiting factor, which has so far prevented it from taking trainees from further afield.

Success stories so far include that of Lyn Derby, whose erratic movements at school meant that she was not allowed to open a paintbox. At St Aidan's, where no such limitations are im-

## 'If we have to turn people away they have little choice but to stay at home'

posed, it was found she has a brilliant sense of colour. Her abstract paintings were such a revelation that they were mounted as an exhibition. Nine of the works were sold. Lyn is now studying the history of art at college.

One young man, Kenny Coutts, has already found himself work on a voluntary basis: he is manning the 'nerve centre' for senior citizens who need help. He has spina bifida and is paralysed down one side, making it impossible to hold a phone and write at the same time. Until going to St Aidan's, he was a registered disabled person, classified as unable to work. Despite his problems, he has succeeded in doing the job to everyone's satisfaction. But the resettlement office has yet to agree to a re-classification for him.

This is an added frustration for those who run Gillburn. But they refuse to give in, and continue to push for Kenny. The job that awaits him would last 52 weeks under a Manpower Services Commission scheme, after which he would have to join the unemployed until a new opportunity presented itself.

A number of the trainees go outside Gillburn School to receive further education, and two youngsters have been accepted for Youth Training Scheme courses. 'Our hope,' says Keith Campbell, 'is that Gillburn will be a small further education college for the disabled. Our philosophy is to take each youngster as an individual. They are all taught computing, on a BBC micro. That's a very exciting area for disabled people.'

He admits that it may not be possible to find work for all the trainees who pass through their hands, but the experience will teach most of them to be independent. And what, I won-



dered, had happened to the young girl whose parents' initial plea had led to this successful and rapidly growing centre for the disabled? Had she found a place on the St Aidan's Project? 'Oh yes. She's Lyn Derby, the girl whose paintings I was telling you about...'

Helping to shorten the length of the dole queues in Scotland's second industrial city after Glasgow, is the Dundee Training for Employment and Enterprise Project, known as Work-Start.

Before telling me its history, the project leader, David Kirk, put the venture into perspective with an up-to-date summary of the city. Its manufacturing base collapsed in 1970, with the closure of the shipyard. Despite the emergence of new industries, particularly in high technology, the level of unemployment in Dundee remains high, and the population is decreasing as people look for jobs elsewhere.

The Work-Start headquarters are at Pitkerro Road, Mid Mill, in the middle of Dundee's out-of-town housing estates, where unemployment varies between 25 and 40 per cent. In some parts of the city, notably mid-Craigie, it runs at 40-60 per cent.

The £1 million scheme is aimed at creating new jobs, and giving training and work experience to the out-of-work, particularly in the estates to the north of the city. The European Social Fund is providing half the money. The rest comes from Dundee District Council, the Scottish Development Agency and the Community Projects Foundation.

Work-Start is mounting a three-pronged attack on unemployment, David Kirk told me. After initial discussions, it was realised that self-employment could be one solution for some people on the dole. For others, skills training was necessary to help them qualify for jobs. Others, again, would benefit most from a community venture which would give them work experience.

The ESF's £445,500 grant over three years was of crucial importance to the project and its



Lyn Derby, seen here with the Rev. Keith Campbell, chairman of Dundee's health council, is found to be a talented artist. Susan McKay (below, left) has taken up ceramic jewellery. Maureen Pole (below, right) is also busy - running her babywear shop.

aim of creating 600 new jobs. If the initial success of the self-employment courses continues, as many as 250 small companies may be created, and close on 1,000 people taken off the unemployment register.

David Kirk explains: 'We are addressing ourselves to people who have not had the advantages of training in particular skills, or who have had unhappy employment experiences - if any at all. We are also helping people who, without support, would not start up in business on their own - the unemployed with little capital, and probably no management skills. Here, we bring advice and training together.'

The Work-Start experts begin by helping an individual carry out a market study to see if his idea is viable. They then help him to produce a business plan and raise the finance. Once the

business begins to operate, they stay in touch to give back-up advice.

In the first three months since the project officially started, towards the end of 1984, it helped in the setting-up of eight new businesses, which were soon employing 24 people. Among its successes are a canteen worker who now runs her own catering business; a motor engineer; a TV repairman; and a retail electrical salesman. One young woman, Maureen Pole, has been helped to set up a babywear retail shop in Dundee's Keiller Centre. Work-Start helped her with a feasibility study.

Not everyone is encouraged to become self-employed. Billy McGraw, 19, had had only one job after leaving school - at a mini-market in Manchester. Back home in Dundee he sought other work, but did not do well at interviews. He sought Work-Start's help to be trained to run a business of his own, but was advised that there was no substitute for experience. So he started to learn about form-filling for job applications, and how to go about an interview





Thirty trainees are currently undergoing courses at the Gillburn school annexe – and there is room for more.

with an employer. 'The training was great. It gave me the confidence to present myself better and not be afraid of the interview situation,' he says. Through Dundee's Job Centre he was sent for an interview with a store selling wines, spirits and party accessories – and landed a job as trainee manager.

Quite apart from its importance to Dundee, Work-Start is likely to be of value to many other people. As part of the ESF agreement, the project has a continuous built-in process of evaluation, as part of a major comparative exercise being conducted by the EEC, one of 11 schemes currently being monitored throughout Europe. The lessons learned will significantly influence European, as well as national, strategies for tackling unemployment in the future.

Twenty miles south of Dundee, in the new town of Glenrothes, an extension to the Centre of Industrial Studies was opened early last year by the then Commissioner for social services,

Ivor Richard. The Centre was established in 1972, to help local business and individuals in the aftermath of losing the town's coalmine. The Centre has prospered, to the point where it has had difficulty in accommodating those wanting to attend seminars and courses.

The new building at the Centre enables it to handle the 2,500 people who pass through every year. It costs some £600,000, of which one-quarter was contributed from the European Development Fund.

As I saw for myself, it is impressively equipped for training in communications skills, with a scaled-down TV studio complete with colour cameras, editing and mixing facilities, and control room. The studio is for training purposes, and also enables people on courses to analyse their performance on camera and improve their communications techniques. There is a conference suite, fully equipped to handle special presentations and workshops, and a 'micro centre',

equipped with an array of the latest small computers. Here, the Centre tries to replicate the hardware and software that local industry uses, or is likely to use. The Centre also runs courses in the evenings, which enable managers attending one night a week for a year to be trained in the use of software at work.

The courses range from one-day events to 10-week studies. But the major work is running tailor-made training courses for companies. Since it opened, the purpose-built, non-profit-making centre has won a £100,000 contract for the provision of four-week training courses for 300 supervisory staff employed by the main contractor at the Shell/Esso development at Mossmorran.

Jobs in Scotland are hard to come by. But, with help from the EEC, these projects in Dundee and Glenrothes look to a future in which, even for those who are disabled, or have few skills, unemployment need not be inevitable. 

# How many tongues make twelve?

**A**t the first press conference given by Jacques Delors early in January 1985 as the new President of the Commission, his eyes – or rather his ears – were confronted by a problem which will give the Community quite a few headaches.

Pinning his faith on the simultaneous interpretation, a Greek journalist put a question in his native language. But the President did not understand it, because his earphones remained silent. 'Better luck in Danish, perhaps?' joked Delors. The journalist tried again – in French.

The present Community of Ten has seven official languages (Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek and Italian). There will be nine when the Community is enlarged to a membership with the accession of Spain and Portugal. Obliging, the Irish are content to have only the present and future Treaty texts in Gaelic (for constitutional reasons), and they do not insist on the publication of every Community regulation or directive in Gaelic. No other international organisation, except perhaps the Soviet Union with its many constituent nationalities, carries such a linguistic burden.

Again and again, the question is asked: would not English and French be enough? In fact, a giant international authority cannot conduct its business effectively using only one or two 'working languages'. Alongside French and English, German – which is used by Luxembourgers, Alsations and South Tyroleans, not just for conversations among themselves but also for communication with Dutchmen, Flemish-speaking Belgians and Danes – has staked out third place for itself in the Community bureaucracy. Many top officials of German nationality speak German to their subordinates at working meetings; the latter may answer in French or English.

All Community officials speak at least one, if not two or more, 'official' Community languages, in addition to their mother tongue, quite fluently. Any internal ruling on the use of working languages has been avoided up to now. In the old Community of Six, the main working language was French. The British, Irish and Danes, when they joined in 1973, deliberately avoided any official attempt to dislodge French from its dominant position. They stood back and let reality take its course. Thus, German gradually became the third working language.

Community officials from countries of Germanic speech who have to draft documents for a French-speaking superior – even if their spoken command of French is faultless – are usually glad to have a French-speaking secretary give the final polish to their texts. For language is not just a means of communication: anyone who constantly has to cope with the idiomatic usage of foreign languages is usually restricted in the range of nuances he can express, and this is noticeable in practical situations.

It is quite common, therefore, for linguistically competent persons with a certain psycho-

**There are seven 'official' EEC languages already. Soon, with Spanish and Portuguese to cope with, there will be two more. That presents the translation systems in the Commission with yet another problem**

logical sensitivity to come to the aid of their colleagues: for example, a German official in conversation with a Dutchman, or a French official talking to an Italian, may use the language of the other straight away.

Outside the inner world of its administrative departments, however, the Community cannot escape from the diversity of its official languages. This is because, unlike all the other international organisations, it enacts legislation which is binding on its member states. Legal texts must therefore be accessible to all concerned as early as the consultation stage. This means that even preliminary drafts have to be produced in all the official languages.

The same applies to all Community publications aimed at readers in the member states. Every Community citizen, and every organisation in a member state, must be able to refer to the Commission, the European Parliament, and the other institutions of the Community in his, her or its own language. Some 900 translators in the administrative departments of the Community each year 'produce' about half a million pages of text in the seven official languages.

The Commission is a political body. Its 14 present members – 17 after the accession of Spain and Portugal – were appointed by the governments of the member states according to criteria which did not include knowledge of languages. This applies in the present Commission, for example, to the German Alois Pfeiffer, but also to other members. In the Thorn Commission, the weighty agriculture Commissioner, Poul Dalsager, was renowned for the fact that, apart from his mother tongue, Danish, he only spoke 'a bit' of English.

Even in the direct elections to the European Parliament in 1979 and 1984, none of the parties standing for election selected candidates on the grounds that they could at least speak fluent English and French. Who would dare to argue that a popular assembly whose members are chosen on the basis of linguistic ability could be truly representative?

**'The question is asked: would not English and French be enough?'**

In the cosy Community of Six, with four official languages, eight simultaneous interpreters sufficed. Each had to be able to translate from two foreign languages into his mother tongue. When the Community was enlarged to include Britain, Denmark and Ireland in 1973, two new official languages – Danish and English – were added. For Danish, and then in 1981 for Greek, it was at first impossible to find conference interpreters, even in Copenhagen and Athens.

The Commission therefore undertook, on its own initiative, to train conference interpreters for both languages, and encouraged some of its staff interpreters to learn Danish or Greek for 'passive' translation.

For translation from and into the nine official languages of a Community of twelve, the Commission's interpreting service, headed by a Belgian, Renée van Hoof, sees considerable difficulties ahead. For each meeting, at least 30 interpreters would be needed to cover a total of 72 language combinations. The cost, which with the present seven languages runs at over £3,000 per meeting per day, would be doubled.

When you think that, in 1983, about 8,200 meetings were held in the Commission, the Council of Ministers, the Economic and Social Committee and the European Investment Bank, for which interpreting services were required, you can imagine the levels to which linguistic costs will escalate when the Community is enlarged.

At the end of 1984, the interpreting service of the Commission asked that full simultaneous interpretation from and into the nine official languages only be guaranteed in the future Community of twelve for the 'political' decision-making and deliberative bodies (Commission, Council of Ministers, Economic and Social Committee). For all other bodies and committees, a service trimmed to suit actual requirements would suffice.

For example, in the two Committees of Permanent Representatives of the ten member states to the European Community, interpreting is provided from all seven official languages, so that each delegate can speak his own language, but only into the official languages – French, English, German, Italian and Dutch (in other words, not into Danish and Greek). For the innumerable meetings of national experts – some of whom have no knowledge of foreign languages, while others speak them fluently – interpreters would be made available only to meet needs which actually arise.

Politically, a pragmatic solution of this kind could be explosive. Danish 'anti-European' members of one Parliament have, in the past, inquired whether the representatives of their country at meetings of the Commission and the Committee of Permanent Representatives really insist on simultaneous interpretation. Equality between the official languages of the Community is, indeed, a political issue.

# Protecting the arts from the taxman

**P**eople who work in what may be called the 'culture sector' of the labour market stand to benefit from a Resolution which the Commission has just approved, concerning their tax position.

They may find that their income, for tax purposes, can be spread over a number of years: a concession aimed at artists, writers and others who, as things stand in most member states, are liable to be assessed heavily on one 'good' year's earnings, regardless of the several years' work which that year's profit may represent.

The Commission believes there is a need for a comprehensive analysis of taxation in the cultural field, and that this should be based on the four objectives of Community action in the cultural sector. These are free movement of cultural goods; improving the living and working conditions of cultural workers; widening the audience; and preserving the architectural heritage.

Taxation has an impact on the production, trading, conservation and/or consumption of cultural goods, and on the living and working conditions of cultural workers, in the Commission's view.

Culture and 'cultural industries' are probably one of the rare fields of economic life where there is likely to be steady and continual growth, it says. Experience shows that, in some creative areas, supply from Community sources is having increasing difficulties in meeting an ever-

## The Commission is looking at ways of easing taxes on citizens working in the 'culture sector'

expanding demand. A flexible and balanced taxation system, geared to these special circumstances, will therefore have an important role to play in the years ahead.

The Commission has already transmitted to the Council three proposals which concern VAT arrangements in the cultural sphere, and provide either for exemption in exceptional circumstances (supplies and permanent imports of works of art by the artist himself, temporary imports and supplies of certain cultural services); or for the fixing of a flat-rate taxable amount (for resales of works of art).

The new proposals also cover tax exemption for cultural foundations approved by member states; tax deductions for gifts and bequests; and the acceptance of works of art 'approved by the competent authorities' in lieu of estate duties.

The Resolution recommends 'an abatement from the value of buildings forming part of the architectural heritage' - help for families owning 'listed' properties - and tax concessions for conserving and maintaining them. It would also

like to see a system which 'does not impose tax disadvantages on cultural investments, and in particular eliminating possible tax obstacles to the development of cinema and TV co-productions'.

There are wide differences in taxation in these areas between member states. In Germany, it is possible to spread income over three years 'provided the activity from which it was derived did indeed last several years'. In France, tax may be calculated on the average income of the five (instead of three) previous years. In Ireland, the government accords total tax relief on all income derived from works of art.

In Belgium, the tax laws provide an abatement of up to 10 per cent on taxable income, where donations and legacies are made to such cultural funds as are authorised to receive them. In Denmark, donations to 'bodies recognised as being in the public interest' are exempt from income tax in respect of sums of more than 1000 kroner. Goods obtained by such bodies are exempt from death duties and the tax on gifts.

In Germany, expenditure on aims recognised as being in the public interest, and considered as being particularly worthy of support, are tax-deductible within a ceiling of 5 per cent of the full income of 2 per cent (two per thousand) of the overall turnover, plus wages paid during the calendar year. Special conditions (in some cases total exemption) are foreseen by the authorities.

In France, foundations are totally exempt from any transfer tax on donations or legacies made to them. Individuals may deduct the sums they have made over to foundations from

## 'In France foundations are exempt from transfer tax on donations or legacies'

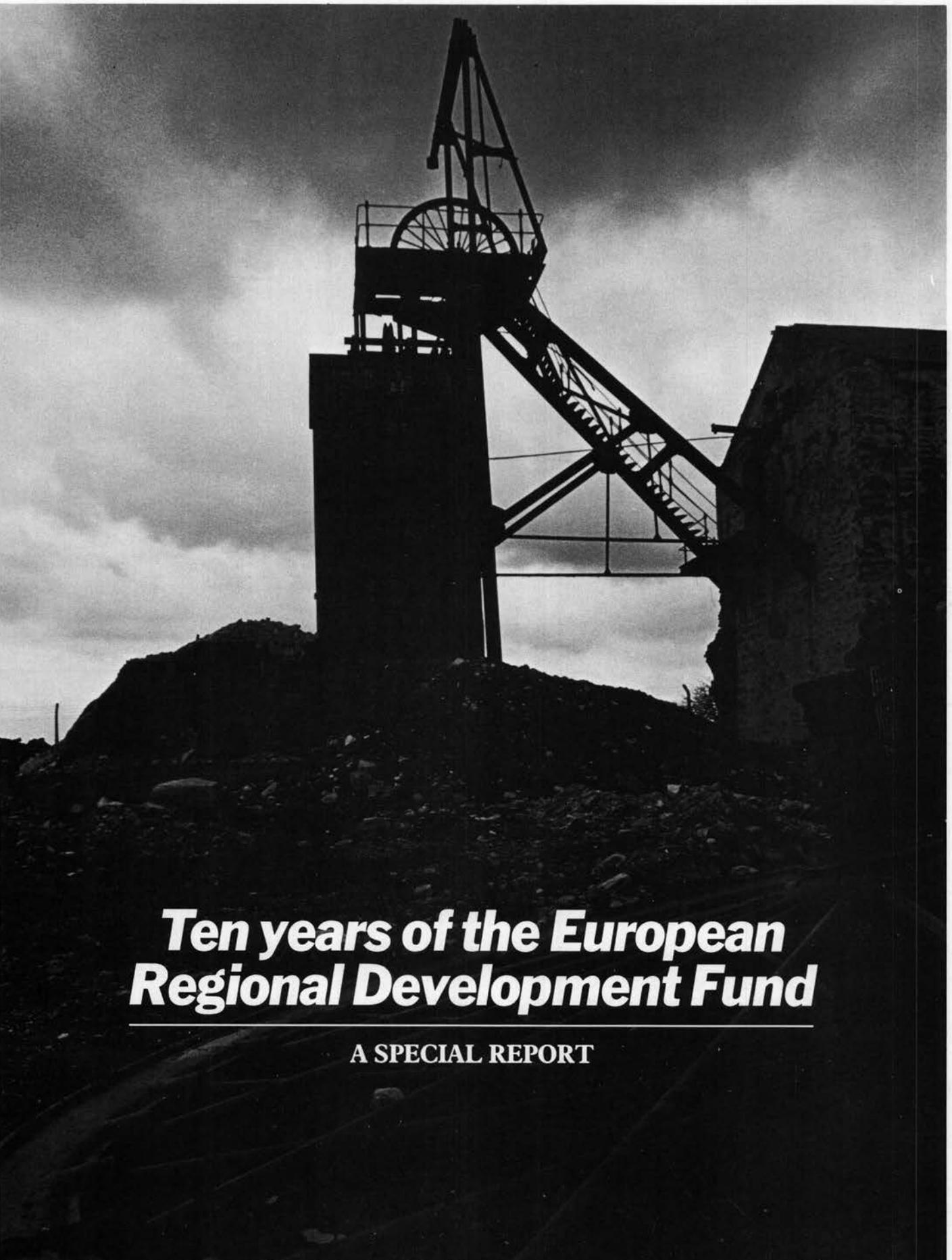
their annual taxable income, to within a ceiling of 1 per cent. Furthermore, a law of 1968 authorises inheritors to pay their taxes by making works of art over to the state.

In Ireland, they have a law providing for tax exemptions for gifts to the arts; and in Italy, a new law provides for several exemptions, as well as the possibility of paying death duties in the form of works of art.

In the Netherlands, there are various tax advantages to help people building up private and public collections. For example, works of art and scientific objects are exempt from wealth tax, unless they are part of company capital.

In the United Kingdom, donations in the cultural field are exempt from taxes by virtue of the Capital Transfer Tax. Charities and trusts are subject to special rules, depending on their origin.





***Ten years of the European  
Regional Development Fund***

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A SPECIAL REPORT

# 'Morally essential, economically justified'

**It started in a small way, and has grown very big, and with a simple idea, which has grown more comprehensive. It has an honourable record of helping to get the right resources to the right places. Now, with the Ten soon to become Twelve, it faces new challenges and, as part of an overall policy, new**

**opportunities to bring Europe's less-favoured regions closer to the standards of living enjoyed by the more fortunate majority. After examination, the Fund has been set on a new course. By the end of its next ten years it may well have even more to be proud of, in a truly unified Europe**

In 1975 a new set of initials appeared among the Community's legal instruments: ERDF, standing for the European Regional Development Fund.

Created to finance economic projects in backward or declining regions, its resources were at first little more than symbolic: only 257 million ECUs (£154 million), to be divided between the member states according to pre-determined quotas.

Ten years have passed. The Regional Fund has now come of age. Its resources have been steadily increased, to reach 2 billion ECUs in 1983. Its potential for action has been made more flexible, and has increased at the same time. In its ten years of existence, the Regional Fund has distributed 11.7 billion ECUs for improving infrastructures, launching new economic activities, or aiding reconversion from declining economic activities.

Now, a new decade is beginning – and with quite a promising outlook. The Regional Fund has new, improved rules aimed at improving its effectiveness. Its resources will increase year by year, following the Community's heads of government committing themselves, at a meeting of the European Council, to grant 'new increases which would be significant in real terms'.

However, this view of the Regional Fund's activities must be qualified by several considerations. Firstly, it has to be recognised that, since the Regional Fund was set up, differences in revenues and in economic activity between the Community's regions have not lessened – in fact, they are tending to increase. Also, it is apparent that organisation of the Fund's activities is lacking in certain respects – for example, in informing public opinion, and in co-ordinating national actions by member states having similar objectives. An accurate analysis of the first ten years of the Regional Fund's activities, and of its future prospects, must therefore take account of its disappointments and failures, as well as of its successes.

Why have a Community regional policy? There are several answers. First, the Community's prosperity is not divided up equally, owing to differences in living standards and economic performance. So a regional policy like the ERDF exerts a certain solidarity overall. Evening-out the

## 'Organisation of the Fund is lacking in certain respects – for example, in informing public opinion, and in co-ordinating actions by member states'

differences benefits not only the backward regions but the whole Community – since more balanced development creates wealth, increases the overall gross product, reduces or eliminates the cost of aid, leads to new job-creation, and stimulates a consumers' market.

The working of the Common Market as a whole is hampered by excessive imbalances. Free circulation of goods is endangered, progress towards a real monetary and economic union is impossible. Flagrant inequality between states and regions also brings political dangers. Participation in the building of Europe by people living in economically backward regions de-

pends on believing that European Union is for *their* benefit as well as the majority's – that they can obtain advantages from the Community, that they are not the forgotten people of Europe, and that the Common Market is not simply an area in which goods circulate without hindrance to the advantage of the most-favoured community.

People from the economically declining regions who see the industries which originally gave them strength and prosperity closing down – as in steel, coal, shipyards, textiles – are inclined to attribute at least part of this situation to the creation of the Common Market. They were to be reassured, through the possibility of new initiatives towards job-creation, backed by concrete European aid.

For all these reasons, a Community regional policy is morally essential, politically advisable, and economically justified.

But how effective is it? Can part-funding from Brussels really alter the situation in the poorer regions? The reply, obviously, is No. The Regional Fund in itself will not bring about major transformation. But it is only one element in Community regional policy, which must be looked at as a whole.

It involves ensuring that the regional effects of other Community policies, and of decisions taken in other areas, are not allowed to create adverse effects in these regions, and that new wealth-creating initiatives in scientific research, energy, advanced technology etc enable disadvantaged regions to share in the benefits and advantages they bring about.

Pierre Mathijisen, Director-General for regional policy, believes that some of the results coming from these new industries are even more important than the billions of ECUs distributed by the Regional Fund. Regional analyses have shown that the common agricultural policy (CAP) gives more financing to those who produce 'continental' products (mainly grown in the most prosperous regions) than to those producing so-called 'Mediterranean' products, grown in the poorest regions. The fact that this anomaly was analysed and identified has made it possible to redress the balance: the percentage of CAP finance going to Mediterranean regions increased from 8.5 per cent of the total in 1978 to 26 per cent in 1984.

A second element in regional policy is the coordination of national policies with similar aims. These are sometimes contradictory. Efforts by member states to attract investment to their own most needy regions have brought about a damaging contest in subsidies given to investors. The least prosperous countries have paid dearly for this, often to the benefit of the big multi-national corporations. The Community has been obliged to establish rules imposing a ceiling on how much state aid can be granted to investors in disadvantaged areas.

Regional Fund financing does not pretend to resolve the problems of underdevelopment by itself. The Commission and the Fund's managers know very well that economic resurgence of a region, or a people, never comes about as a result of external aid alone. It is only when movement begins within the local community that change is possible: a road, a dam, a school, cannot in themselves obtain long-term results, if the road is not full of traffic, if there are no machines to use the electricity produced by the dam, or people to work the machines, and if no youngsters come to the school to learn about tomorrow's world.

The objective, therefore, is not to carry out from Brussels what can really only be carried out on the spot, but to contribute to the creation of the conditions necessary if all the Community's regions are to have a



BEN JOHNSON

'Every region must have the possibility of developing according to its own spirit.' Noble desolation at Liverpool.

chance to flourish. Below a certain standard of living and level of resources, even the possibility of taking initiatives and creating new activities is denied to people.

The Regional Fund can contribute to setting up the necessary basic infrastructure, to supplying objective evaluation and information. It can also part-fund productive investment. No-one is aiming to standardise the living standards or ways of life throughout the Community, which would be both impossible and absurd. Mentalities, traditions, aspirations and possibilities are not the same in all societies. Every region must have the possibility to develop according to its own spirit; and people living in deprived or declining regions must no longer be forced to migrate in search of work. If possible, jobs must be created where they are needed, on the spot.

New perspectives are opening up, especially for the South of Europe. The industrial base on which the North's prosperity was based no longer represents an ideal for the future. Climatic advantages (the sun, the sea) and distance from congested population centres, nowadays provide a more favourable opportunity for industrialisation of the new kind, based more on technology than on huge installations, as well as for the development of services and tourism, to which the future, in many respects, belongs.

Exactly these conditions are to be found in Greece, Southern Italy, and Corsica. 'The South', President Delors has said, 'could be the new European frontier, and the heart of a new dynamism which would eventually benefit even the old industrial regions of the North.'

The experience of the first ten years, and the results obtained – have encouraged the policy-makers to introduce four innovations into the Fund's

## **'It is only when movement begins within the local community that change is possible'**

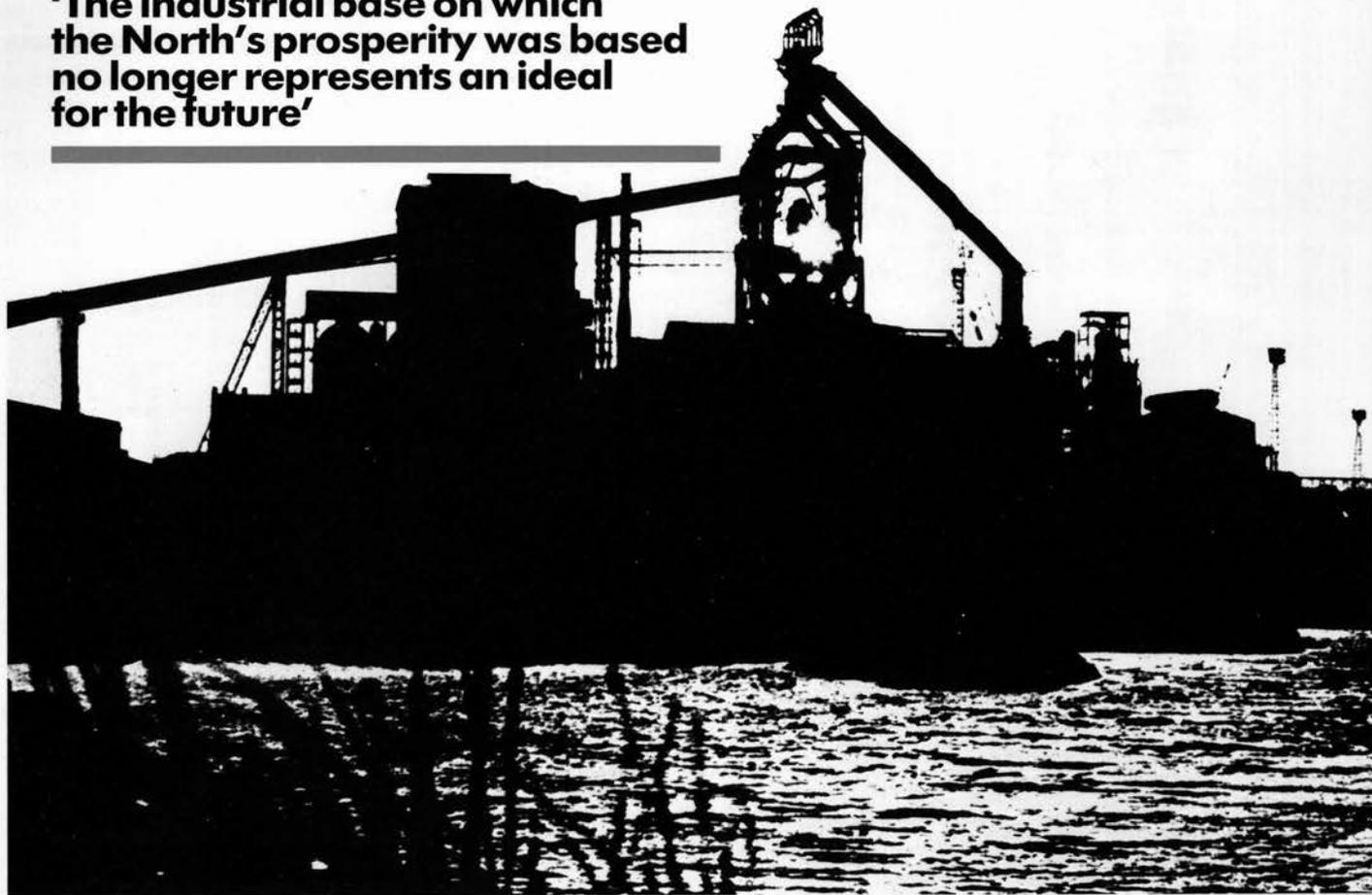
organisation, aimed at increasing its effectiveness.

The first of these concerns the programmes. In future, the emphasis of the Regional Development Fund will be away from single individual projects, towards member states' own programmes which have been examined thoroughly at Community level. This will make it possible to take account of Community priorities – as opposed simply to national ones – in making funding decisions.

The second innovation involves a greater concentration of effort. The areas which theoretically and legally qualify for Regional Fund money cover almost 60 per cent of the present Community's territory and 40 per cent of its population. Next year, with Spain and Portugal joining, these percentages could become 75 per cent and 50 per cent. This is obviously too high. A Fund with limited resources (even if they are growing) which scatters its aid over half the population, cannot be effective.

So a certain concentration of efforts is planned, in order to reserve the main intervention to 25 to 30 per cent of the Community's population. This could make a real impact on development and reconversion. Funding will first and foremost go to the most backward regions: Ireland; Northern Ireland; Corsica; Italy's Mezzogiorno; most of Greece and Portugal; large areas of Spain (Andalucia, Estremadura, Castilla-Manche, ►

## 'The industrial base on which the North's prosperity was based no longer represents an ideal for the future'



Galicia); and the French overseas departments. These regions together represent about 50 million inhabitants – that is, 15 per cent of the enlarged Community's population. Some British regions will be added to the list, since they can also be considered to qualify, as well as declining industrial regions, mainly in France, Belgium and the United Kingdom. This amounts to 20 to 30 per cent of the Community's population.

And what of the nature of the intervention? More and more, the accent will be put on 'indigenous development' of the regions involved, a term which stresses the full local economic and social potential. This seems such a logical principle, it is astonishing that it needs to be stated and laid down. In reality, it has not always been so obvious. In the past, efforts were made to set up steel industries, for example, in Mediterranean regions where there is no coal, no iron ore, no usable forms of energy. Everything would have had to be imported, and the steel produced would have had to be sent away to processing industries. Today, such regions seem more suitable for tourist investment, food-processing (the raw materials are on the spot) and advanced technologies.

Particular attention will be paid to small and medium-sized enterprises (which are better able to use local resources and traditions, and to stimulate the birth of new activities), to services, to tourism, and to the symbiosis between essential agriculture and other activities. The sectors mentioned also have the merit of creating much more employment, in comparison with the capital invested, than large-scale industry, which often eats up large financial resources but creates only a minimal number of jobs.

The new orientation of Regional Fund grants implies a move away from financing infrastructure, towards directly productive investment. Certainly, the Regional Fund will continue to fund infrastructure – in certain regions, this will be its main activity – for it is not possible to create new activities, and to attract investment, in the absence of such essential services as water, electricity, roads. But financing productive investment will be gradually increased.

Bringing together the Regional Fund interventions, those of the Social Fund (allowing for aid to workers in periods of reconversion, and to give them training adapted to new initiatives) and those of the EAGGF structures (for improving and modernising agriculture) as well as the European Investment Bank loans and the New Community Instrument, it is possible to give a shot in the arm to any area which is the object of this type of operation.

For example, the Naples integrated operation covered, at the same time, transport, drainage of the Gulf, water supply, commercial and training infrastructure, and certain investment for industry and craft-work. The Commission is studying similar operations in Italy (again), the UK, Ireland, and eventually Greece. Indeed, the integrated Mediterranean Programmes approved by the heads of government during the European Council in Brussels last March, are based on these criteria. They sanction, at the highest level, an approach which those responsible for the Regional Fund had prepared and foreseen for a long time.

These innovations in the working of the Regional Fund do not relegate to second place the basic orientation already mentioned, according to which the regional perspective as a whole must be made increasingly part of all the Community's activities and policies. If these policies are being renewed (as in agriculture policy) or responding to new objectives (as in research policy), regional policy is modified along with them. Their objectives become *its* objectives.

It would be untrue to imagine the Regional Fund as a conservative force, even conservationist, as if its aim was simply to maintain old traditions, or to encourage people, through subsidies, to produce the same goods with the same methods as 25 years ago. This is the inverse of what the regional policy wants – which is to warn against stagnation or decline, to accelerate changes which are necessary, to integrate needy and declining regions into the market by encouraging competitiveness in businesses and farms – all this while respecting the orientation of each region, and the aspirations of its people. ►

# EURO FORUM

## A report that gives us 'a real but fleeting political chance'

Three aspects of the Dooge Report presented by the Committee for Institutional Questions cannot be overlooked: the recommended objectives for European union, the improvement of the decision-making mechanism, and the procedure to be followed to arrive at the union.

Rather than going into details about Community action in various sectors, such as technology and social policy, reaffirming at the same time the principle of the Community making full use of its own natural resources, the reports comes out in favour of a strengthening of the European Monetary System. It also indicates new areas of activity, for example in the cultural policy area. The report also foresees the development of political co-operation towards a common foreign policy, and proposes specific measures in the areas of security and defence.

The report foresees the participation of the European Parliament in legislative power – with a field of action which has to be defined more specifically – in the form of shared decision-making authority with the Council. In the case of the Council, it foresees the general introduction of majority voting, with unanimous voting limited to exceptional cases, considerably less than at present. Last but not least, it asks for a strengthening of the powers of the Commission, which should be given broader executive powers in the area of Community policy, and for a change in its nomination procedures.

In this area, the report formally proposed a meeting to negotiate a draft treat-

### Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana reviews the implications of new proposals for full European union

ty for a European Union, based on an 'acquis communautaire'; on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee for Institutional Questions; on the Solemn Declaration of Stuttgart on the European Union; and inspired by the spirit and methods which mark the draft treaty voted by the European Parliament.

If we compare these results objectively with the cautious terms used at the end of the meeting of the Heads of Government at Fontainebleau, we can conclude that substantial progress has been made, even though this is still limited and less than what we would like to see. Moreover, the results point in the same direction as those of the Draft Treaty of the European Parliament. The text relating to the sharing of decision-making authority between the Council and the Parliament appears particularly significant.

It is true that the report is not unanimous. The large majority of committee members was able to sign all the proposed reforms; nonetheless, certain mem-

bers expressed reservations, showing that they are still hesitant and even reticent. I would add that there are, in fact, increased reservations towards the provisional report, in so far as the text has become more precise. I believe that we all agree in regretting this situation. But it is better to arrive at something less than unanimity on a courageous text than to agree on a text that is devoid of real content.

The experience of the so-called 'solemn Declaration' of Stuttgart should give us something to think about.

On the summoning of the Inter-Governmental Conference, which, we hope, will come from the meeting of the Heads of Government at Milan, I would like to be extremely explicit. For the Commission, the summoning of the Conference only makes sense if certain fundamental conditions are respected, and are stated precisely in the form of a clear and unequivocal mandate.

First and foremost, the task of the Conference is to go beyond the boundaries of existing treaties. Secondly, the mandate should, at the same time, outline the responsibilities of the Union and the institutional instruments necessary for it to carry out its task. Among other things, it should provide for an extension of the Community method, with its more coherent and binding rules, to certain areas not covered in the present treaties. I am thinking, for example, of political and cultural co-operation, but also in terms of common activity on the security front, which member states have recently appeared more disposed towards.

Finally, the Conference should not degenerate into interminable diplomatic discussions, as has happened too often in the past. Therefore, discussion time should be kept short.

The report is not a legal but a political text. The European Parliament text, on the other hand, is a draft treaty in legal format. It is clear that, if the Heads of Government agree to define the mandate in the terms I have just described, the draft prepared by the Parliament will be at the centre of negotiations, without thereby limiting the right of various participants to put forward other proposals. For this reason I would like to insist on a correct definition of the mandate.

The report foresees, in its chapter on methods, that 'the Parliament will be closely associated with the work of the Conference', and that 'the results of this work will be presented to the European Parliament'. The report does not have any reservations on this idea. For the Commission, it is an important point. But we insist that this must be translated, at Milan, into appropriate procedures. But, beyond the legal formulas,

\*Report to the European Council, 29/30 March 1985, SN/1187/85

the important thing is that the Parliament should be able to influence the conference in all its work.

As to the final result, I find it hard to conceive that one can ask national governments to ratify a treaty on European union on which we and the European Parliament do not agree among ourselves.

A further comment: the report was not unanimous.

In the present state of affairs, we cannot say definitely that all the member states of the Community are ready to pledge themselves to drawing up a treaty for European union. Nobody – neither the member states, nor Parliament, and certainly not the Commission – wants to split the Community.

On the other hand, one of the aspects which most encouraged me whilst participating in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, was the sincere desire, expressed by everybody, including those who did not agree with the majority positions, to see the Community develop further. It is therefore essential that, in the coming weeks, we make a collective effort to

## **'It is better to arrive at something less than unanimity than to agree on a text that is devoid of real content'**

define the objectives, overcome reticence, and do away with hesitation.

I would like to believe that, given a real determination to advance, nobody will want to take upon himself the responsibility of dividing the Community. I must underline that the Commission wants to work side by side with the Parliament.

Many people had hoped for a more positive signal from the meeting of the Heads of Government at the end of March. But perhaps the method used was, in fact, the right one, because it leaves open a large field of action to the Italian Presidency, and to other ways of increasing general awareness, begin-

ning with the debate which developed in the European Parliament in the middle of April.

As the President of the Institutional Committee of the European Parliament, Altiero Spinelli, said, we are faced with an opportunity which we will not see again in history, and which we must therefore be prompt to grasp. As President Mitterand said recently: 'For the second time since the end of the last war, it is time... for Europe to forge its own destiny.'

The Community has sewn up – even if the wounds have not totally healed – the disputes which have marked the present phase of integration, and has decided to welcome two new members. Everybody now agrees in stating – and the Commission has been saying it for years – that the Community of twelve member states will only be able to work out its own role if it is prepared to change.

Otherwise, decision-making will be paralysed, wrangling will start all over again, and further development of the Community will be impossible for a long time to come.

## **A new era for the Social Fund**

The guidelines for the Management of the European Social Fund over the next four years represent a new departure for this, the principal instrument of the Community in the fight against unemployment.

It is a fight which the Community has been losing. Average unemployment now stands at 12 per cent, a doubling since 1980. More than 25 per cent of the 14 million unemployed have been without work for more than one year. Young persons are particularly hit. They represent only 16 per cent of the Community's working population, but over 37 per cent of the total unemployed.

The new Commission has resolved to turn around the situation within two years. The new guidelines form an essential part of this operation.

The Social Fund finances up to 55 per cent of the cost of vocational training and job-creation activities in the member states. With the increase in unemployment, there has occurred a great development in vocational training and job-creation activities in the Ten, and consequently an explosion in the level of applications for assistance from the European Social Fund.

In fact, the number of applications has increased by over 600 per cent, since 1983 and their financial value by 57 per cent. By contrast, the budget of the European Social Fund has only grown by 5 per cent over the same period, and now stands at 2010 million ECUs. I am

## **Peter Sutherland, Commissioner for Social Services, outlines the changes ahead for the ESF following approval of new guidelines**

now fighting for a substantial increase in the size of the Fund in the 1986 budget.

The Commission in 1986-88 will be much more selective than in the past as to the types of action which it is prepared to finance. The minimum length of training required has been doubled, from 100 hours to 200 hours, and each training programme must devote at least 40 hours to training broadly related to new technology (e.g. keyboard skills, programming, general practical information about the implications of developments in micro-electronics and communications). This, it is hoped, will ensure that trainees are not handicapped in their subsequent working life by failure to understand, and exploit, these

new technologies and techniques.

There is now a promise of preferential treatment for training and job-creation actions, linked to what the Commission considers will be the key element in the fight against unemployment – the creation of new jobs in small and medium-sized firms which are applying new technology linked to the Community's research and development programmes, such as Esprit. I hope the Commission will follow up this emphasis on technology and innovation by adopting specific proposals, which I will put to it later this year, to promote cooperation between universities and industry.

A major objective of the Commission has been to concentrate aid from the fund to those regions which are most in need, as measured by their level of unemployment and their GNP per head. The new guidelines introduce an objective, statistical basis for identifying such regions, and will effect a greater regional concentration than in previous years. They pay particular attention to the issues of modernisation and of industrial readaptation. It is on the successful resolution of such issues that the achievement of the great internal market will depend. The fund has therefore been adapted to take account of industrial 'black-spots' in Europe's industrial heartlands.

These will now be an incentive for the member states to modernise and adapt their vocational training and job-creation programme to the imperatives of the 1980s, as described in the Commission Work Programme.

# This year's Europalia celebrates the arts of Spain

All being well, the European Community will open its doors to Spain on 1 January 1986. Meanwhile – on 24 September – Belgium plans to get in first, with a three-month festival devoted entirely to Spanish culture.

The festival, called Europalia, is the latest in a series of two-yearly events which started in 1969. Since then, Belgium has played host to Italy, the Netherlands, Britain, France, Germany and Greece, as well as a month of Belgium's own culture in 1980.

The happy coincidence of Spanish accession and Europalia Espagne may be accidental, but the significance is not lost on those taking part. At a reception to launch the programme, the Spanish minister for culture, Don Javier Madariaga said: 'This agreement places our cultural exchange in the perspective of a much more ambitious objective – the identification of the peoples of Europe in the cultural field must be the starting point for the achievement of a political Europe.'

The occasion of an exchange with Spain has other important historical connections. Belgium and Spain share two centuries of common history. The date of Europalia happens to fall on the 400th anniversary of the fall of Antwerp to Spanish troops in 1585. This historical connection will be the subject of several of the activities planned.

The Spanish Europalia will be the longest yet, lasting from September to December. It will be based at the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, although events are also planned for other towns and centres throughout Belgium.

Gonzales Seara, Spanish Commissioner-General, explained that 'it is impossible to offer in a festival a fully satisfying representation of such a rich and varied culture as that of Spain.' For all that, the programme for the festivities is impressive in its scope. The highlight in the field of the visual arts, if not of the whole festival, will be two exhibitions of the work of Goya, to be held in Brussels and in Mons.

Aside from Picasso, and perhaps Dali, Goya is probably the best-known and the most popular Spanish artist. The Brussels exhibition, running for the full festival, will include some rarely-seen paintings, drawings and engravings on loan from private and public collections.

In addition, a large exhibition of 222 engravings will be seen in Mons through

## The date happens to fall on the 400th anniversary of the fall of Antwerp to Spanish troops in 1585

October and November. It will include the four great series of engravings: *Caprices* (80 works), *The Disasters of War* (80 works), *Bullfighting* (40 works) and the *Proverbs* (22 works).

An exhibition entitled 'Picasso, Miro, Dali' will run throughout the festival in Charleroi, with important works by all three of Spain's major 20th century artists.

The brightest lights of Spanish music, past and present, will be brought together in a wide selection of concerts and recitals. World-famous singers such as Teresa Berganza, Montserrat Caballe, Jose Carreras and Victoria de Los Angeles will appear in Ghent, La Hulpe and Antwerp. A visit by the Spanish National Orchestra in October will bring works by Rodrigo and de Falla.

The Spanish National Youth Orchestra will play works by Turina and de Falla. Other ensembles, chamber groups, soloists and singers will present Spanish music up to the present day, including jazz from pianist Tete Montoliu and saxophonist Pedro Iturralde. Over 1,000 young choristers from each of the two countries will visit each other, and perform a series of concerts in each other's country.

The Belgian National Orchestra will also be participating, with music by Lalo, Turina and Ravel.

A specially-mounted festival of dance, runs from late September into October in Brussels, Antwerp and Liège, directed jointly by Maurice Béjert, Maria de Avila of the Spanish National Ballet, and Susana Robledo. In addition, a tour of the provinces will be staged by Tablao Flamenco, a group of singers, guitarists and dancers who are among the finest exponents of this most exciting of Spanish folk arts.

As well as these, there will be round-table discussions on Spanish thought, history and politics; a full month devoted to modern Spanish cinema at the Musée du Cinéma in Brussels; an evening of Catalan poetry; and a bookshop of Spanish literature in the Palais des Beaux-Arts.

As a contribution to the literary celebrations, the Europalia Prize is awarded at each festival. This year's winner is Juan Goytisolo, who will be presented with the award at a ceremony in October. Goytisolo was born in Barcelona in 1931. According to the citation, he is considered an example of 'intellectual, moral and cultural independence, and a representative of Hispanic modernity'.



## Computers will speed up customs

**The Council of Ministers has approved a plan leading to the computerisation of the Community's customs procedures and the streamlining of trade through the use of new information technology.**

The plan is called CADDIA: Cooperation in Automation of Data and Documentation for Imports/Exports and the Financial Control and Management of the Agricultural Markets.

Successful management of the EEC agricultural markets needs close cooperation between the Commission and member states.

A vast amount of information is exchanged every day – over 200,000 telexes each year – to detail prices, quotas, exchange rates and levels of payments; check on fraud; warn about outbreaks of disease; and cover all the other factors that directly or indirectly affect the price of food in the shops.

In manufactured goods, customs formalities add significant costs (averaging 6 per cent) to trade. Cross-frontier trade requires a mountain of paperwork for the clearance of goods on the move, while national authorities are constantly exchanging further information to keep track of it.

CADDIA aims to automate all these slow and costly administrative processes.

The plan will speed up trade by automating customs procedures; speed up the preparation of statistics by electronically linking customs and statistical centres across the Community, thereby lowering the administrative costs that are finally passed on to the consumers and taxpayers.

The plan has been prepared in cooperation with national authorities by the Commission, which put forward proposals in March 1984 for a long-term development programme to meet CADDIA objectives.

Establishing the appropriate infrastructure could take up to 10 years, and will depend on high-level engineering in the use of international standards to link computer systems in the European Commission and the individual member states.

CADDIA is part of the Community's overall information technology strategy.

The costs of implementation will be borne by the member states themselves, while coordination of the programme and standardisation activities will be carried out by the Commission.

## Tsukuba: Europe's showcase in Japan

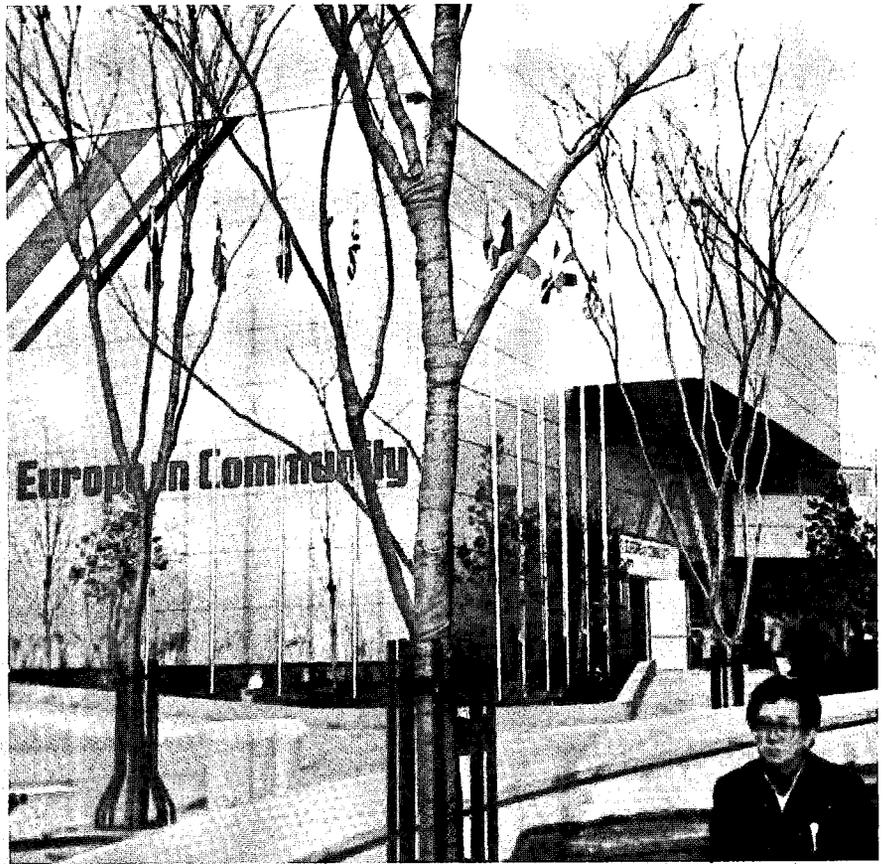
An array of high-tech electronic gadgets, and a satellite view of Europe, are among the exhibits that Japanese visitors to the EEC stand at the Tsukuba Expo '85 are able to see at the Tsukuba International Trade Fair.

The fair, which runs to 16 September at the Tsukuba science park, has as its theme 'The house and environment – science and technology to serve you at home'. European exhibits include an EEC pavilion, funded by the European Commission, and national stands from Belgium, the Federal Republic of Ger-

many, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Tsukuba Expo '85 is expected to attract 20 million visitors. The Japanese Government, and sponsors from industry, want it to show off the country's technological achievements and also promote the Tsukuba science park, located just outside Tokyo.

As far as the European nations taking part are concerned, it is a chance to show off areas in which they are world leaders, among them Airbus and Ariane, and some consumer products.



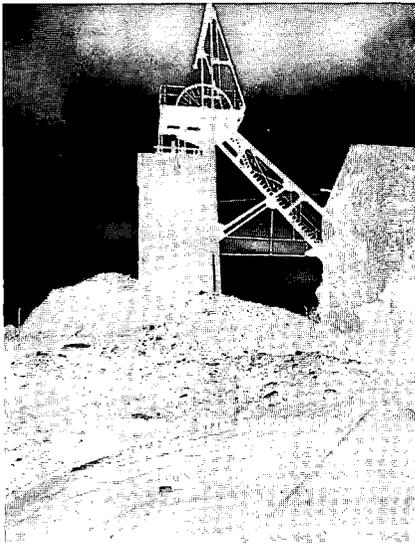
## Rising energy imports until 1990?

**Between now and the year 2000 the European Community will reduce its oil consumption, but its dependence on imported energy will continue to rise until 1990, when it will level off, according to 'Energy 2000', a report prepared by the European Commission.**

According to the report, energy consumption will reach the equivalent of

1107 million tonnes of oil by the year 2000, up from 885 million in 1983. Consumption of all energies with the exception of oil will increase.

Industry's share of total consumption will increase to 31 per cent from 29 per cent in 1983. Transport consumption will remain unchanged at about 24 per cent, and domestic users in offices, businesses and homes will reduce their share to 36 per cent from 38 per cent. EEC officials expect major savings in the domestic sector, with lower coal and fuel oil consumption matched by a shift towards electricity and gas.



## Let's spell it out...

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), though not provided for in the Rome Treaty, has become one of the Community's main means of helping member governments, and particular regions, to deal with industrial innovation and change. At first, it worked partly on a quota system, under which each member state qualified for a specific amount each year. From the beginning of 1985, however, the quota system has been replaced by a percentage allocation of the Fund's annual resources, with lower and upper limits for each of the Ten.

For the UK, for instance, the limit ranges from 21.42 to 28.56 per cent (second largest after Italy) for three years, with the lower limit indicating the minimum amount of funding guaranteed to Britain, provided the schemes submitted by the government are approved within the new Regulation.

In addition, ERDF aid will, in future, be increasingly directed towards multiannual programming rather than separate projects, on the grounds that a longer-term plan offers better hopes for development of the Community's underprivileged regions.

Meanwhile, funds are also available to help small and medium-sized businesses, for infrastructure projects, industry, crafts and tourist services, with a small amount set aside for specialist studies. ERDF help is mainly limited to government-designated Assisted Areas.

Member governments must inform the Commission at regular intervals of their regional development plans, which must indicate investment plans with particular reference to infrastructures, craft

## Only governments can now submit applications – the Commission decides which of them will receive aid

industries and services, and means of exploiting the potential for internally generated development. Within these plans, aid can be directed to several specific categories.

Craft industries and tourism are eligible for help from the Fund in order to expand their activities, obtain access to new technology, or ease their access to the capital market. The ERDF may also make a contribution to public expenditure on the planning, technical preparation and implementation of such operations required by a member government in submitting its application for ERDF aid.

Infrastructure projects may receive financial assistance from the Fund provided that the project is financed wholly or in part by a local authority or a similar agency; and that the project is within an Assisted Area, and fits within the framework and objectives of the UK regional development programme.

Projects eligible for assistance include roads, telecommunications, gas, electricity and water supply, and the construction of advance factories. Assistance can also be given for tourist infrastructure projects, if these attract visitors to a region. Assistance is not given for social projects such as schools and hospitals; most projects which serve a single enterprise; shops and commercial development; and 'cosmetic' schemes such as the reclamation and clearance of land for environmental purposes.

Only governments can now submit

applications to the Commission, which then decides, with representatives of all the member states, which of the eligible projects will receive aid. When the Commission has approved a project, grant aid is transferred from the Fund to the member government concerned.

□ For small and medium-sized enterprises the Fund's contribution may not exceed 50 to 55 per cent of the public financing of each project or set of projects. The contribution for each study or enquiry may not exceed 100,000 ECUs (about £60,000). Furthermore, the ERDF's contribution to aiding SMEs may not exceed 10 per cent of the minimum percentage allocation for each three year period.

□ For infrastructure projects costing more than 50,000 ECUs (about £30,000) the ERDF contribution will be 50 per cent of the total expenditure being met by the public authority or equivalent body, where the investment is less than 15m ECUs (about £9m), and between 30 per cent and a maximum of 50 per cent in the case of investment prospects costing 15 million ECUs or more. However, these rates may rise to 55 per cent in the case of projects of particular importance to the development of the region or area in which they are located.

□ For industry, craft and services the ERDF contribution amounts to 50 per cent of the public aid granted to each project under a regional aid scheme.

ERDF regulations allow the grants to be passed on to the project concerned, or to be held back by the government as partial reimbursement of state aid. In practice, the UK government takes the second option, and uses the resources it saves to assist additional projects. In this way, Fund assistance is used not to increase the value of the aid given to individual projects, but to increase the actual number of projects which receive such aid.

## HOW THE REGIONAL FUND IS HELPING BRITAIN

ERDF money has gone into major development projects in the United Kingdom over the past twelve years. Here are just a few of the biggest:

- The Kielder Reservoir, Northumbria: £10.6 million, followed by a recent additional grant of £5,214,000.
- Glasgow: £11,500,000 for the National Exhibition Centre, Queen's Dock.
- The Swansea Theatre and Arts Complex: £2,800,000.
- Northern Ireland: £3,480,000 to the

Hyster Company for an industrial manufacturing plant in County Armagh.

- Humberside: £802,000 for production of power transmission equipment at J.H.Fenner (Holdings) PLC.
- Manchester: £1,403,700 for the main runway at the International Airport.
- Liverpool: over £2 million to the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company for reconstruction on Merseyside.
- Suffolk: £6 million towards the construction of the Orwell Bridge, near Ipswich.

# Petrol from cereals: who says it's against the grain?

**F**or the first time, a major discussion on the future of the common agricultural policy has got off to a serious start.

The negotiation on agricultural prices this year went beyond the usual boundaries of an agriculture tied solely and uniquely to the land, and began to face agriculture's necessary and vital links with industry, production and new technologies.

Whilst the Agriculture Commissioner, Frans Andriessen, under the Italian Presidency, has already put six groups of experts to work whose initial conclusions were discussed at the end of May at Siena, on another front these dreams have already begun to become reality.

At the beginning of the year, the Ferruzzi Group invested in the construction of a factory to produce ethanol from cereal in Louisiana. It may look like a small local event; but it could be an option for the future. Let us see why.

Everything starts with lead-free petrol, the 'ecological' fuel which the Ministers of the Environment of the Ten decided on 21 March to make compulsory in all Community countries as from October 1989. The elimination of lead in petrol will make possible the use on cars of the so-called 'catalytic pot', the only device currently available on the market for reducing substantially the hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide content of exhaust emissions. This last component, in particular, has been one of the main causes of the so-called acid rain which is destroying forests and lakes in Central Europe.

The quota for lead-free petrol still confronts us with a problem: petrol has to be mixed with something in place of lead, in order to maintain the octane level. One of the possible solutions for replacing the octane level lost by banning lead, is to add anhydrous (i.e. water-free) alcohol in a proportion of 5 to 10 per cent.

Which alcohol? There are two possibilities: methanol and ethanol. The first, which is petroleum-based, could be made available in large quantities at a relatively low price. However, there are technical problems in mixing it with petrol. Ethanol, on the other hand, is produced directly from cereals and from beet. It is already used in the United States in a proportion of 10 per cent without causing any harm to motor vehicles. Ethanol can be used either on its own or with methanol.

But the European Community is now producing too much cereal. The old dream of food self-sufficiency has got to the point of becoming a nightmare. Whatever forces are responsible, the tendency towards an explosion of production seems unstoppable.

Two years ago, the Community produced 106.8 per cent of its own requirements of hard wheat, 136.8 per cent of its requirements of soft wheat and 120.6 per cent of its barley require-

**Lead in petrol is a health hazard, and inflicts damage on the environment. There are signs that it could be replaced by ethanol, a kind of alcohol converted from surplus cereal stocks. Two problems solved at a stroke?**  
**PAULO VALENTINO**  
**thinks so...**

ments. Forecasts for 1990 talk about an average for all cereals combined of 127 per cent. At the end of the agricultural plan which has just finished, European silos contained almost 24 million tons of soft wheat and barley, net of exports.

This is the result of a slight stagnation in consumption, at the same time as technology has brought about a notable increase in land productivity. The financial power of the EAGGF (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund) is enormous: in 1983, the cost of the entire cereals sector was 2,500 million ECUs, of which more than 600 million ECUs represent the cost of storing surplus production.

To turn now to ethanol: the raw material is also available in abundance, so is the technology. The example of Ferruzzi in America proves it. What is more, the Ferrara group is not alone: the Association of Community Cereal and Sugar Producers has put together a plan for converting production surpluses into ethanol. According to estimates in this plan - based on an average annual petrol consumption in the Community of around 90 million tons, and assuming an ethanol content of 7 per cent - annual ethanol production would have to be around 6.3 million tons.

In terms of cereals, this corresponds to around 21.8 million tons of cereal products. Looked at from another angle, the amount of surplus to be distilled would represent the production of 4 million hectares.

This is not all, because there would also be two side-effects which cannot be overlooked. The Community's energy bill would be reduced

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by the same percentage as the percentage of ethanol mixed into the petrol: 30 per cent of the distilled cereals would become high-protein animal feed, which could be used as a substitute for a large portion of the protein by-products (corn gluten feed, citrus peels, bran) which are currently imported for this purpose by the Community, with serious effects on its balance of trade.

In short, a virtue has been made out of necessity. The need to take steps to defend the environment is now offering, thanks to the new technologies, an opening to the 'green revolution', whilst on the economic side helping the balance of payments of the Ten.

All this has to be seen in its overall context. The ethanol operation, if put into operation, would also produce certain costs to the Community's budget. The conversion industry would require subsidies, to allow it to acquire the raw materials (cereals) at world market prices, which are lower than European prices. In practice, the Community would have to cover the difference between the two prices. It would also require a mechanism at Community level to manage the agricultural surpluses of all the member states, which would allow for the switching of surpluses from one country to another.

Even allowing for this, the conversion of the surpluses into ethanol would still be profitable, Commission experts say. They have published a small-scale service study, based on the assumption of a mixture of 5 per cent of ethanol in the petrol of one tenth of cars currently in use in the Community. 1.5 million tons of wheat would have to be distilled in order to obtain 5.5 million hectolitres of ethanol. The necessary assistance from the EAGGF would be offset by a reduction in payments by the Agricultural Fund for export subsidies and storage costs.

To this should be added savings in the petroleum bill and in the cost of importing by-products as animal feed. This is based on an ethanol/petrol mix of 5 per cent, which theoretically could be increased to 10 per cent, as is currently the case in the United States. Also, the study assumes that only 10 per cent of cars in the EEC will use unleaded petrol.

But, besides these possible outcomes, production of ethanol from agricultural surpluses would have other social and strategic implications. The fight against surpluses would be transferred to a different plane, blocking the move away from the land and farming, and maintaining intact the future potential of European agriculture. In ten years' time, when new farming policies will have been worked out, and new markets opened, it could become profitable to export grain once again, instead of converting into alcohol. Meanwhile ethanol provides us with an exciting challenge. ☐

## Will RACE prove a winner?

The European Commission has launched proposals for a major telecommunications research and development programme, code-named RACE – Research into Advanced Communications for Europe. It is expected to play a key role in boosting Europe's performance in the competition for telecommunications markets.

The plan comprises an initial phase, beginning in July, that would last 18 months and cost about 43 million ECUs, half of which would be paid by the Community and half by industry and national post and telecommunications authorities.

RACE, which was jointly conceived by the European Commission, national post and telecommunications authorities and government officials, follows agreement between ministers reached at the end of last year on a framework for a European telecommunications strategy, mainly for underdeveloped areas.

These areas already receive about 700 million ECUs a year in grants from the European Regional Development Fund, in addition to EEC loans for telecommunications projects.

The scheme's main aims are to create an ultra-modern telecommunications network, that will strengthen Europe's competitive position in world markets. The EEC is already the world's largest exporter of telecommunications equipment. But its domestic market is divided into national segments, the bulk of exports are concentrated in traditional rather than new products, and customers tend to include more developing countries than industrialised ones. The Americans and Japanese are both doing better in high-tech markets.

RACE hopes to create by 1992 'an integrated wide-band communications network', replacing traditional copper filaments with glass fibre, and optic fibre links that transmit voice, sound and images at the speed of light.



## 'No' to EEC emergency number

The idea of introducing a single '999' emergency phone number for use throughout the ten member states has been turned down on the grounds of expense.

Replying to a parliamentary question from Socialist MEP Horst Seefeld, who has repeatedly advocated a single emergency number that could be used anywhere in Europe, EEC Vice-President Karl-Heinz Narjes said that the move would involve modifying equipment at all local telephone exchanges and setting up new emergency lines.

According to Mr Narjes, telecommunications administrations first considered the idea as long ago as 1972, but dropped it in view of the difficulties involved and the fact that the outlay would not be justified by the advantages gained.

## Cash aid for cancer institute

**Egypt is to get 5.82 million ECUs (£3.6 million) in EEC aid to fund health, nutrition and trade promotion projects.**

Nearly half the money will go towards the upgrading and development of radiological services at the National Cancer Institute in Cairo. Cancer is a major health problem in Egypt, with over 60,000 new cases recorded every year.

Another 2.4 million ECUs will be used to increase the amount of animal feed that Egypt produces. The project is aimed at making use of the by-products of cash crop production as input for animal fodder production. About 14 million tonnes of straw, maize cobs and stalks and sorghum stalks are available and could be pro-

cessed into animal feed, development experts claim.

The remaining 920,000 ECUs will go towards improving Egyptian trade promotion, in a bid to reverse the country's trade deficit, which in 1982 had deteriorated to \$6 billion from \$3.1 billion in 1977. Egypt's main export is currently oil, which accounts for about two-thirds of its export earnings, but reserves are not expected to last much beyond the end of the century.

## New links with South America

**Over the past five years, military dictatorships in South America have gradually been handing back power to democratic regimes which, almost without exception, face acute economic problems, notably record foreign debt, unemployment and inflation.**

The Community's response has been a move towards renewed political and economic links, spearheaded by Claude Cheysson, the Commissioner responsible for north-south relations.

His visits to South America in March included attendance at the swearing-in of Uruguay's new civilian President, Julio Maria Sanguinetti. While in Montevideo, he also met President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua and Belisario Betancour of Colombia, and expressed EEC support for peace proposals for Central America, put forward by the 'Contadora' group of nations, Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela.

Other meetings in March developed new links with Argentina's civilian President, Raoul Alfonsín, and with Brazil's newly-elected President Tancredo Neves, both of whose countries are becoming increasingly important EEC trading partners.

The Community has also been keen to establish links with the countries of the Andean Pact, or South American Common Market – Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. In March, it approved aid worth 7 million ECUs (£4.3 million) to help improve self-sufficiency in food production, introduce a new industrial strategy, and boost internal trade.

The European Commission also approved 300,000 ECUs in emergency aid to help homeless victims of the recent Chilean earthquake disaster. The money, which is being channelled through the Caritas relief agency, will pay for tents, mattresses, blankets and medicine.

## Moves to protect the ozone

**The United Nations is preparing a World Convention on protection of the ozone layer. And the EEC is supporting the move.**

The ozone layer – the layer of the atmosphere just above the air we breathe – protects us from much of the sun's ultra-violet radiation, and is being broken down by a number of chemicals we use, notably in aerosols.

Since 1980 the Community has introduced legislation to control the use of some of these chemicals, such as chlorofluorocarbons. But the extent to which the ozone is being damaged is difficult to assess, and the problem is one that must be confronted globally.

The Convention will set down international rules and provide for an exchange of information. One of the problems blocking its ratification, however, is the refusal of the eastern bloc countries to recognise the European Community as a single negotiating body.



## French told: You can't fine guides

**A French ban stopping German and British tourist guides from working in France has been criticised by the European Commission.**

Under a law passed in 1975, tourist guides and interpreter/guides have to hold a professional card in order to work in France. To get the card they have to pass a French exam. Since October 1983, the French authorities have imposed fines of between 300 and 1200 French francs (£25-100) on foreign guides, mainly from the

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After a decade of slow growth and rising unemployment, European governments are now desperate to keep in the forefront of technological advance. In addition, Britain and Germany are particularly anxious that Europe should respond positively to Reagan's invitation to join the US space station programme, as a sign of Atlantic solidarity. France, which traditionally argues that Europe should keep its space effort as independent of America's as possible, nevertheless wanted other ESA members to help fund the Ariane 5 project, which will be built mainly by French industry. And the smaller ESA members, which cannot afford any access to space technology on their own, have been pressing their bigger partners to support the most ambitious cooperative programme possible.

For Europe, as for the United States, exploring the new frontiers of space technology is an expensive gamble. Satellites already have a clear commercial future in communications, weather forecasting and locating oil and minerals under the earth's surface. Launching them is becoming big business for Europe as well as for the United States.

Of all the possible uses of space, manufacturing is the one that excites European scientists and their governments most. The hope is that a wide range of products, difficult or impossible to make on earth, including biomedical substances, special alloys, crystals and ultrapowerful microchips, can be manufactured more efficiently in the weightless, bacteria-free environment of a 'space factory'.

Last year, a report by the Office of Technology Assessment, a research arm of the US Congress, warned that American and European plans for a permanent manned space station 'cannot now be justified on scientific, economic or military grounds or combinations thereof.' On the other hand, virtually all the great technological advances in history either were dismissed as impossible before they happened, or

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useless when they did, say the scheme's supporters. Professor Luigi Napolitano, a distinguished Italian space scientist, loves to list the impressive number of scientists who went on record earlier this century with the view that trans-Atlantic air travel, television, and space flight were all impossible dreams.

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Also at issue in these negotiations is the sensitive question of European access to new technologies developed in the course of the programme.

The question is sensitive because the US Administration appears increasingly protective of American technological discoveries, trying to restrict foreign access to many new areas of research for fear that strategically valuable information will leak into Soviet hands.

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□ Paul Lewis reports from Paris for The New York Times

Federal Republic of Germany and Britain, for working without a professional card.

In principle, foreigners are allowed to take the exam. But foreign guides say that it is ridiculous to expect them to get an additional qualification for France, if, for example, they are taking a tour from London to Cologne.

The European Commission has already successfully intervened on behalf of couriers, who only give practical help to tour groups and are not affected by the French legislation. The French authorities had considered banning them from operating in France, if they came from another member state.

As far as tourist guides are concerned, after studying their case the Commission concluded that they should be guaranteed the right to work anywhere in the ten EEC countries, since the Treaty of Rome guarantees the freedom to provide services inside the Community.

But real solutions to the problem are more complex. This year the Commission plans to put forward proposals on the mutual recognition of qualifications and freedom of establishment for the liberal professions. It also wants ministers to approve the first steps towards a common tourist policy.



Above: Heads down at the Bonn economic summit: President Reagan is on the right. Below: Commission President Jacques Delors listens quizzically to Chancellor Kohl during a break in the discussions.

## No harmony on the jobless

**What is the definition of 'unemployed?' This apparently simple question has a different answer in each of the ten member states, according to a survey published by Eurostat, the EEC statistical office.**

The only shared definition of a registered unemployed person in all ten countries is that he or she is someone registered at a labour exchange or job centre, who does not have a job, who wants one, and who is ready to start immediately.

They have to be at least 15 or 16 years old, according to which country they live in. In the Benelux countries, the Federal Republic of Germany and Ireland, they also have to be under 64. Belgian women must be under 59, British women under 65 and British men under 70. In Denmark they have to be 67. In France, Italy and Greece there is no upper age limit.

Most countries regard school-leavers looking for their first job as unemployed. But in Ireland and the United Kingdom, youngsters getting special benefits or on training schemes are not included. In Italy



and Belgium, on the other hand, even students looking for holiday jobs are defined as jobless.

France is the only country where someone already retired can claim to be unemployed. In all other member states with the exception of Luxembourg, anyone receiving a pension cannot claim to be also unemployed.

People wanting part-time work are not defined as unemployed in France or Ireland. In the UK, they are not employed if they are planning to work less than 30 hours a week; in the FRG, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, less than 20 hours; and in Denmark less than 15 hours.

The unemployed have to sign on every day in Belgium, once a week in Luxembourg, twice a month in the UK, and only once a month in other countries – with the exception of the FRG, where they are called to the unemployment office at least once every three months.



## What has happened to the eels?

**Europe is still eating more jellied eels, eel pie and 'anguilles au vert' than its polluted seas can produce, according to an EEC report.**

The report, which contains proposals for a continuation of limited duty-free imports of the fish to meet demand, says that increases in EEC eel production expected by 1982 did not materialise. Duty-free import quotas were first introduced in 1971 for certain types of fresh, chilled or

frozen eels processed in Europe.

According to the European Commission, quotas for 1985/86 should be set at the same level as last year – about 5,200 tonnes – but should be subject to review throughout the year and, if necessary, increased to meet demand.

The overall quota will be divided in terms of country demand, which varies widely between member states. The biggest share, 1,865 tonnes, will go to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Benelux countries will get 1,600 tonnes, Denmark 900 tonnes, the United Kingdom 220 tonnes, France 100 tonnes and Italy just five tonnes. The remaining 500 tonnes will be kept in reserve.

## More women find jobs in Europe

**Unemployment in the European Community countries excluding Greece fell by 0.7 per cent in February to 13.6 million, or 12 per cent of the workforce, according to Eurostat, the EEC statistical office.**

The 96,500 decline was most marked in Belgium, where the number of jobless fell by nearly 4 per cent from January. France and Luxembourg also experienced declines of about 2 per cent. Italy was the only country to record a slight increase.

The improvement in the job market was more marked for women than men, continuing a five-month trend during which the number of female jobless in Europe has dropped to 40.8 per cent of the total from 43 per cent.

At the beginning of March, unemployment was running at about 18.1 per cent of the workforce in Ireland, 14.5 per cent in Belgium and 14.1 per cent in Italy and the Netherlands. In the United Kingdom it was 12.6 per cent, in France 10.9 per cent, in Denmark 10.8 per cent, in the Federal Republic of Germany 9.7 per cent, and in Luxembourg 1.8 per cent.

## Denmark is tops for costs

**Denmark is the most expensive country in the EEC, according to a study of purchasing power published by the EC statistical office in Brussels.**

The same basket of goods and services costing 100 units in Belgium



# EXPO '85

The International Exposition, Tsukuba, Japan, 1985

Tokyo calls: see EUROFORUM, page iv.

would cost 127.2 units or 27.2 per cent more in Denmark, the survey shows.

In the Federal Republic of Germany it would cost 117.3 units, in France 108.7, in the Netherlands 105.3, in Ireland 103.8, and in the United Kingdom 101.

But in Luxembourg it would be only 92, in Italy 90.4 and in Greece 81.1. In Spain and Portugal, the two countries hoping to join in 1986, it would be 78.1 and 64.4 units respectively.

## A messy business for the courts

**A refusal by the authorities in Belgian Flanders to allow imports of liquid manure from neighbouring Holland has embroiled the European Commission in legal action against Belgium.**

The Commission plans to sue the Belgian authorities over a Flemish decree published in January 1984 that bans 'the import or use of animal faecal matter in liquid form that originates from outside Belgian territory'.

According to Belgian MEP Marijke Van Hemeldonck, the ban blocks the import of some 200,000 tonnes of Dutch manure every year, in direct violation of the Treaty of Rome. The Treaty prohibits all restrictions to the free movement of 'goods' between EEC countries, unless they pose a direct threat to health or safety.



## Russia stops dumping pianos

**In the spirit of European Music Year, the EEC has decided to lift its high anti-dumping duty on imported Soviet pianos, and let them in at normal tariff rates.**

The anti-dumping tariff was first imposed in 1982, when the Commission decided to slap a 284 ECUs (£174) tax on every imported Soviet piano, because they were selling at below cost price. Soviet imports were undercutting the lowest prices EEC producers could charge and make a profit, by as much as 48 per cent.

At the end of 1984, Razno, the Soviet export agency, agreed an acceptable minimum price for the pianos with the European Commission. Subsequently, the Council of Foreign Ministers agreed to lift the tariff.

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# 'YOUR EUROPE' – A PACK IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN

## Announcing a new classroom aid for primary schools, backed by the EEC

**T**oday's young people will shape the Europe of tomorrow. If they are to be effective Europeans, they need to know about the Community *now*.

This was the basic thinking behind the production of 'Your Europe'. It was supported by two further considerations: an increasing demand for information, and the sheer relevance of the subject-matter.

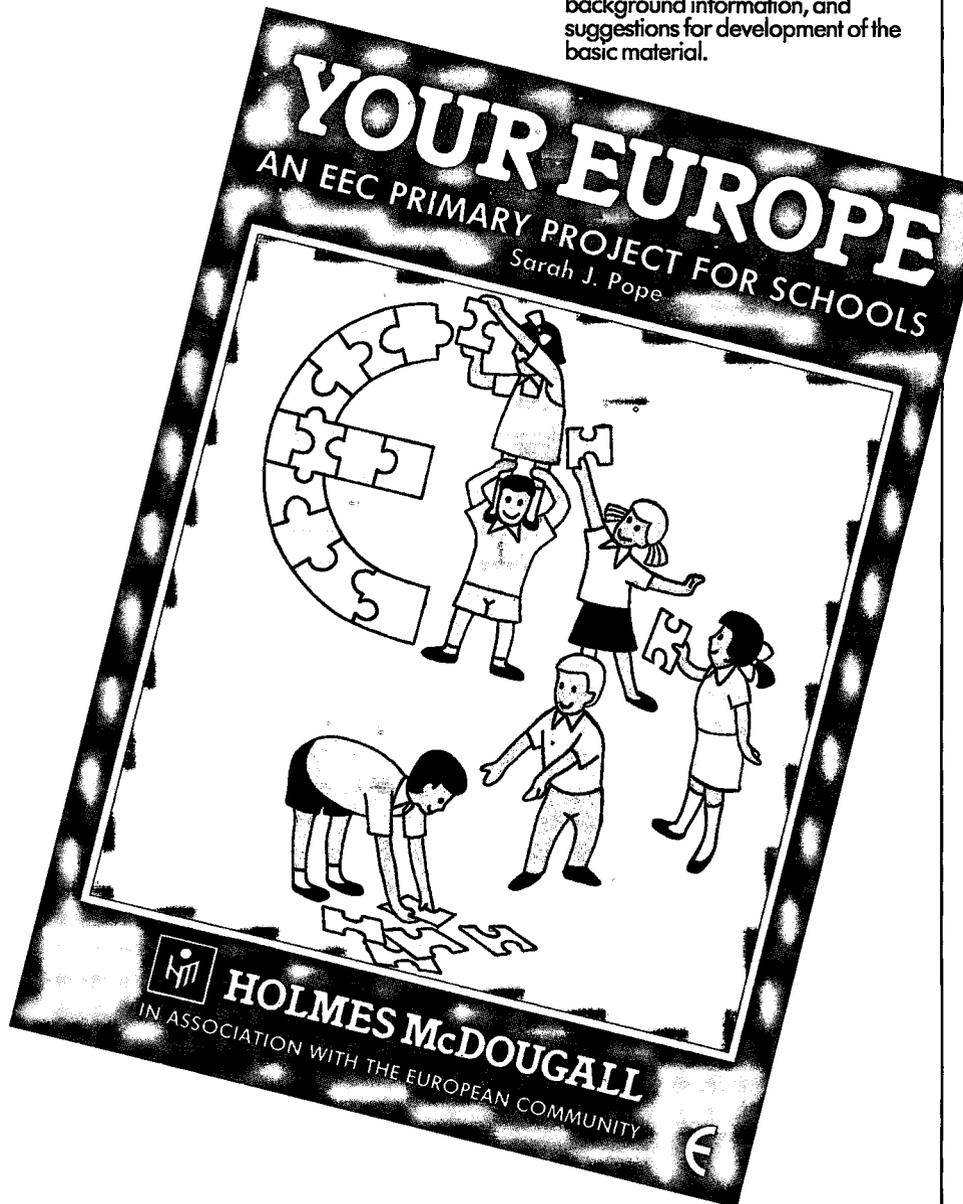
In the first instance, requests from Primary pupils and their teachers were steadily on the increase. It was clear that schools were teaching about the European Community. It was equally clear that, although there was material in plenty, none was specifically geared to the Primary classroom. Concern, in this respect, was echoed by regional curriculum advisors.

At the same time, educational thought was changing. The old timetable divisions of History, Geography, Science, were being replaced by the umbrella heading of Environmental Studies. The emphasis was on discovery techniques: finding out about the local environment – what it is, how it came into being, the people within it, the problems they face, and will face in the future. From an understanding of their local community, pupils would then identify with other cultures in the world – similarities and differences, interdependence between peoples and countries.

A Primary teacher's workload covers all academic subjects, aesthetics and games, as well as wiping bloody noses and patching cut knees. In these days of staff shortages, in-school preparation time is almost non-existent. The range of ability within any given Primary class can be, and usually is, considerable.

The format of 'Your Europe' was intended to take account of these factors. It consists of 24 *Pressurefax* worksheets for pupils (master copies from which a teacher can duplicate the requisite numbers). Teachers are provided with answers, full background information, and suggestions for development of the basic material. The package is a selection of Commission publications for reference purposes: in short, a programme of work for teachers and pupils, back-up material for further research, and ample scope to develop the project along lines most suitable for linkage with local community studies.

The topics covered are in two units. The first deals with the Who? Why? How? and What? of the Community. The second deals



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with some Community involvements which can relate directly to pupils' home areas, such as fishing, agriculture, energy, transport and travel, pollution and the environment.

The picture on the cover of this issue of EUROPE 85 shows pupils of Danderhall Primary School, near Edinburgh. They live in a mining community, so interest in energy was their starting point.

From local coal and regional oil industries, they went on to learn about Community energy interests, safety aspects in related industries, and how Community research and policies might help their area.

Learning about other Community interests, its *raison d'être* and institutions,

naturally evolved as their next class study topic – with stimulating and perceptive results.

Written with the practical and financial backing of the European Commission, 'Your Europe' – an EEC Primary Project for Schools, by Sarah J Pope – is published by Holmes McDougall, and costs £9.95. Inspection copies may be obtained from Homes McDougall Ltd., Allander House, 137-141 Leith Walk, Edinburgh EH6 0JL.

SARAH J POPE

□ The author, a former Moray House Demonstration School teacher, has taught at all levels of Primary school, both in the UK and abroad.

# Degas: lord of the press

In old age Degas declared: 'If I could live my life again I should do nothing but black and white.'

Such a remark, from one of the finest painters of the Impressionist age, might mean little to gallery-goers who know him mainly as a master of oils, pastel and gouache. But he himself sensed that the best way of 'figuring things out', as he put it, was to experiment with the possibilities of printmaking—etching, softground, drypoint, lithography, monotypes.

He started with the advantage of being a brilliant draughtsman, the inheritor of the tradition of Ingres, who early in Degas' career urged him to 'draw lots of lines, either from memory or from nature'. His first subjects were studies of people closest to him, including his own family and the young Edouard Manet. His interest in urban subjects, shared by all the Impressionists, led him to make realistic studies of actresses, chorus girls, laundresses, café tarts. In such studies, Degas, himself an intensely private man, observed the private moments of workaday women with a kind of passionate candour.

He began to see such subjects in terms of mass and texture, rather than of line and colour; and printmaking was the ideal medium for leading his art in that direction. Well grounded in the classic techniques, he was for ever experimenting with new ones, often of his own invention. By taking proof after proof from a plate that he was never finished with—changing, deleting, going back, then re-working the plate for the umpteenth time—he produced whole series of variations on a single subject—a 'figuring out' process impossible in a painting, with which there is only one result.

An exhibition of Degas prints now at the Hayward Gallery, which it is sharing with the Arts Council's 'Hayward Annual', shows the full range of Degas' achievement in this graphic medium. A special section is devoted to the monotypes, in which Degas devised a means of creating fluid movement by drawing on an etching plate in an oil-based ink, taking an impression on paper, then smudging the freshly-printed image with his fingers, scratching lines with the end of his brush, smearing or dabbing with a piece of rag. As an alternative, he would cover the surface of a plate with ink, then describe an image on it with a graving tool or a finger before taking an impression.

Only four prints by Degas—he called them *essais*—were published in his lifetime. However, in his studio after he died in November 1918 four hundred proofs came to light. Most of them have found their way into cabinets in major collections—which makes the Hayward exhibition a rare and important event.

DENIS THOMAS

□ Edgar Degas: the Painter as Printmaker, continues at the Hayward Gallery, until 7 July 1985.



Above: a lithograph of three subjects transferred from monotypes. Mead Art Museum, Amherst College. Below: Woman with a fan. Lithograph, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



# QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

**Heinrich Aigner, Germany:**

Can the Commission inform Parliament what it cost for the Community to participate in the international exhibitions at Knoxville and New Orleans, what form the Commission's participation took, who recommended such an investment, and what the European Community gained from it?

**Answer by Ripa di Meana on behalf of the Commission:**

The funds allocated to the Knoxville exhibition (1 May to 31 October 1982) and the New Orleans exhibition (12 May to 11 November 1984) amounted to 823,000 ECUs and 1,500,000 ECUs respectively.

The Knoxville international exhibition marks the beginning of very fruitful cooperation in events of this kind between the Commission and the member states, with the four member states that took part (France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom) participating together with the Commission in a single 'European Community Pavilion'.

This joint effort had a considerable political impact, in that it projected the image of a tangible, coherent European Community to millions of visitors in a world-wide setting.

The same was done in New Orleans, and is also being done this year at the Tsukuba international exhibition, 17 March to 16 September 1985, in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Parliamentary Resolution of 16 March 1984.

As a result of these experiences, the Council decided, upon a proposal from the Commission, to continue along these lines so that member states who decide to participate in international exhibitions would do so in a Community framework. Participation was agreed upon after long discussions, not only in the Community institutions, but also with representatives of the member states and the organiser states' authorities.

It is estimated that the number of visitors reached around 2,600,000 in Knoxville, out of a total of over 11,000,000, and 1,500,000 in New Orleans, out of a total of some 7,000,000. Indirect results, connected with media reaction to participation in such exhibitions, should also be taken into account, notably during the various information events, such as the European Community Days, guest celebrity appearances, lectures and cultural activities.

**Mrs Marijke Van Hemeldonck, Belgium:**

Will the Commission provide details of the mileage allowances paid to civil servants of the various member states and of the Community who use their private cars for official purposes? Are the mileage allowances paid in the

private sector in the member states public sector?

**Answer by Henning Christophersen on behalf of the Commission:**

Under Article 12(4) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Communities, an official who uses his own car for official purposes is given a standard reimbursement based on the cost of rail transport by the shortest route in the class to which his category entitles him. An official travelling regularly on mission in special circumstances may also be granted an allowance per kilometre covered. This allowance is fixed at Bfrs 7 per kilometre with a ceiling of Bfrs 3,000 a month.

The Commission is unable to provide information on the practice in other administrations or in the private sector.

**Mrs Raymonde Dury, Belgium:**

In a Royal Decree of 12 July 1984, the State of Belgium confirmed its refusal to award grants to certain categories of Community students who are nonetheless covered by the rules governing freedom of movement. This applies to the children of migrant workers whose parents have died, or who have returned to their country of origin or another member state, who have a right to remain in the country, and who should be covered by the provisions of Article 12 of EEC Regulation No. 1612/68.

Does the Commission intend to make use of the procedures laid down in the Treaty of Rome (and, in particular, Article 169) as it stated in the first paragraph of its answer of 11 September 1984 to Question No. 415/84?

**Answer by Peter Sutherland on behalf of the Commission:**

The Commission shares the concern expressed by the Honourable Member. The Commission will therefore contact the Belgian authorities as soon as possible with a view to bringing the situation into line with the Community's rules on freedom of movement. Should the Belgian authorities not respond in a satisfactory manner, the Commission will set in motion the procedure laid down in Article 169 of the EEC Treaty.

**Jaak Vandemeulebroucke, Belgium:**

The Norwegian Government purchases some 1,000 copies of each original literary work in Norwegian, and this provides substantial support for publishers and others. Can the Commission say what the situation is in the member states of the Community

and does it feel that this is a measure to be advocated here?

**Answer by Ripa di Meana on behalf of the Commission:**

The Commission is collecting the information it needs to answer the Honourable Member's questions. It will inform him of its findings as soon as possible.

**Lord O'Hagan, United Kingdom:**

The Commission sometimes takes a long time to answer written questions. 1: What is the average period of delay between the submission of a parliamentary question and the receipt of the answer? And 2: Is the Commission satisfied with this record?

**Answer by Grigoris Varfis on behalf of the Commission:**

1: 60 days.

2: No. However, particularly by computerising more of its procedures, the Commission is making every effort to improve the situation considerably, even though the increased range and complexity of the questions lead to the involvement of more departments and the proliferation of coordination procedures, which in turn slow down the process.

Moreover, the Commission often has to carry out detailed investigations and establish contacts with the member states; it is difficult to speed these up.

**Pierre Bernard-Reymond, France:**

Has the Commission devoted any attention in recent years to the disastrous effects of forest fires in the Community? And does the Community have a strategy for the provision of the infrastructure needed to combat forest fires in the Community more effectively?

**Answer by Stanley Clinton Davis on behalf of the Commission:**

For some years the Commission has been studying the problem of forest fires. On 27 June 1983, it laid before the Council a proposal for a Regulation establishing a Community scheme to provide forests in the Community with increased protection against fire and acid rain. In the proposal, the Commission recommends general action to prevent or control forest fires, as a particularly harmful phenomenon. In this effect, the Commission proposed an appropriation of 75 million ECUs for a period of five years.

It is now making every effort to facilitate a Council decision on the proposal. Looking forward to a decision in the near future, it has just started a round of preparatory mea-

asures using the amount of 5 million ECUs included under heading 3880 in the Budget for 1984.

**Jaak Vandemeulebroucke, Belgium:**

Artists in Belgium often complain that the high rate of VAT applicable to their work is a major obstacle. Can the Commission say what the situation is in other member states as regards VAT on works of art, and whether it intends to draw up proposals on this subject?

**Answer by Lord Cockfield on behalf of the Commission:**

Artists are exempt from VAT in France and Denmark. In the other member states they are taxed on the sale of their works, at the following rates:

Belgium 6 per cent; Federal Republic of Germany 7 per cent; Ireland 23 per cent; Italy 18 per cent; Luxembourg 12 per cent; Netherlands 5 per cent; United Kingdom 15 per cent.

The Commission has just presented the Council with a proposal for a Nineteenth Directive which, inter alia, provides for the exemption of sales of works of art effected by the artist himself.

**Mrs Christine Crawley, United Kingdom:**

Is the Commission aware that the eligibility rule changes in the UK community programme special employment scheme will greatly reduce the opportunities for unemployed married women to find work within the scheme, and that the Equal Opportunities Commission in Britain has suggested that the rule changes amount to unlawful sexual discrimination against married women?

What action does the Commission intend to take on this grave matter concerning a member state, in the light of the EEC's recorded defence and pronouncements and directives on the situation of women's rights in Europe?

**Answer by Adolf Pfeiffer on behalf of the Commission:**

The Commission is aware of changes in the UK's Manpower Services Commission's Community Programme, in that the Secretary of State for Employment has issued a new ruling altering the conditions for eligibility for this Programme, which, the Honourable Member suggests, will adversely affect unemployed married women, who might previously have been eligible.

In order to properly assess the implications of this new ruling with respect to the terms of Directive 76/207/EEC on equal treatment for men and women, the Commission has requested information from the United Kingdom Government on the Programme itself and its associated training courses.

## THIS IS THE YEAR FOR YOUTH

In early June, Edinburgh is holding a gathering for nearly 1,000 young people from the 158 members of the United Nations. Sponsored by the City of Edinburgh and the United Nations Educational Trust for Scotland, the event is a high point in Scottish participation in the UN's 1985 International Youth Year.

The UN General Assembly adopted the idea of an IYY in December 1979. Since then a generation of young people has almost matured; but, backed by UNESCO, the Council of Europe, governments, local authorities and private firms throughout the world, the Year, according to UN sources, is bringing the needs and responsibilities of youth before the public, and in this way making the powers-that-be more aware of youthful interests.

The European Community is not itself directly involved in IYY, but Community countries have responded well. England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are each running their own country-wide activities, with their own IYY Committees backed by local youth organisations. The English committee, helped by £115,000 from the Government, launched a 'Fair Deal for Youth' campaign last month, to remind Parliament of their need for housing, education and jobs. UNA Youth are planning a model General Assembly in Westminster Central Hall in 1986.

France has launched 434 projects, backed by a state contribution of around £3 million, and including not only international youth assemblies but, in July, a train trip of 450 young people to Peking to meet young people there. Ireland is taking part in European Youth Week, a gathering of 500 young people from the countries of the Council of Europe, and has organised an impressive list of national events.

In Africa and other developing countries, the aim has been to involve young people in practical development projects, such as reafforestation and social programmes. In Ghana, the slogan has been 'Make Ghana Green and Clean', emphasising tree planting, good sanitation and employment. In Kenya, resources have gone in to starting centres for technical education and research.

The General Assembly launched IYY because it considered that the potential of young people had remained untapped for too long, and that their value to society merited very special recognition. Whether IYY will achieve its purpose remains to be seen. But, as Mr Kevin Kennedy, of the UN London Office, points out, the Year has already given an 'international cachet' to local groups and made at least some governments admit that such issues exist.



Euro-MP Dieter Rogalla (centre) has been cycling through seven EEC countries to publicise his campaign for greater freedom of movement. He started in Sheffield on 25 April and arrived in Strasbourg on 6 May, to be welcomed by Pierre Pflimlin, President of the European Parliament.

## MINDING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

**Banking in the EEC.** Financial Times Publications, £76.00

**The Businessman's Guide to EEC Legal Developments.** S. J. Berwin & Co, £1.50

A new perspective is still lacking in the approach of Europe's professional and business communities to the tough market conditions of today. The need is for a shift from a nation-centred to a Europe-centred viewpoint. Banking and financial practice is certainly one of the key areas in which this shift of perspective is essential. British and other European banks have their vital part to play in integrating and modernising capital markets. A mainspring of Europe's 're-launch' is the freedom of movement of capital envisaged by the Treaty, but so far not fully implemented. While this is brought gradually into place, British financial and commercial experts used to become familiar with banking systems and policies already existing in the member countries. The whole subject is treated in considerable detail in the 322-page Financial Times publication mentioned above. I hope this excellent – and very readable – study will be widely read in the City.

Developments in EEC law are no less significant, and not only for lawyers. S. J. Berwin & Co are to be congratulated for their new booklet for businessmen on this subject. The booklet is certainly needed. Many, even now, fail to realise that EEC law has precedence over purely national law. The topicality of the subject has recently been underlined by several interesting decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Communities in Luxembourg, including the 'origin markings' case, in which Britain was held to have no right to require 'country of origin' markings on goods imported from other countries.

As George Scott mentions in his foreword to the booklet, it does not pretend to be a comprehensive guide to latest developments. 'What it does do is to offer valuable signposts'.

Particularly interesting to the practitioner, as well as to businessmen, are the sections dealing with the banning of restrictive practices (competition law), dumping, company law, the judgments convention and the possibility of claiming damages for breaches of EEC law.

ROBERT SHEAF

The Arts Minister, Lord Gowrie, yesterday criticised EEC plans to set up a £45 million fund for European co-productions of television programmes to rival 'Dallas' or 'Dynasty'.

At a meeting of fellow ministers in Brussels he outlined an alternative British proposal which would encourage television companies to invest their own cash in joint documentary projects with their European counterparts.

The original plan for a Community fund to finance films and TV drama programmes and serials was supported by a majority. Lord Gowrie was supported by Denmark and West Germany and the proposals were sent back for further discussion.

-Daily Telegraph

Job creations schemes in Yorkshire and Humberside are to receive EEC grants worth over £1.5million.

The money from the European Regional Development Fund, will go to 43 local authority and private sector projects - and further grants for the region are expected next month.

Projects in West Yorkshire to benefit include the modernisation of empty buildings to provide workshops at Moorlands Small Business Centre, Cleckheaton; access improvement to industrial estates at Beck Road, Keighley, and Dockfield road, Shipley, and improvements to the Emphasis County Workshops in Dewsbury.

Grants are also being given to schemes to clean up the industrial environment. West Yorkshire is to receive £812,000 of the £1.5million.

-Yorkshire Evening Post

The European Community this week threw its weight behind plans for a second crossing of the River Severn when it announced a £1 million grant for the feasibility study into the alternative proposals.

The European Commission approved the grant - exactly half the £2.1 million cost of the study - at a meeting in Brussels on Tuesday.

And the Commission also said it would be prepared to make a 'substantial' contribution towards the cost of any project chosen by the Government.

'It is a complete victory after a three-year campaign to win EEC support for the principle of a second Severn crossing,' said Northavon and Kingswood Euro MP, Mr Richard Cottrell.

-Gloucestershire County Gazette

Approval was given yesterday to a £250,000 job-creation centre for the Dearne Valley after news that the project will receive an EEC grant.

The Barnsley Council scheme will include advice and benefits centres for the unemployed and workshops to assist new businesses.

Councillors hope the new centre will help create work in South Yorkshire's worst unemployment blackspot, where up to 30 per cent of adults are out of work.

Contractors are expected to soon start converting a former chapel in Barnburgh Road, Goldthorpe, now the project has been awarded an £80,000 EEC grant.

-Sheffield Morning Telegraph

A group of Norfolk farmers has been visiting Strasbourg to protest against EEC plans to cut grain prices.

Their pleas of poverty were treated with suspicion when two of the group turned up in Rolls-Royces, and the rest arrived in expensive BMWs.

-Daily Express

Grants totalling £280,000 are to be made to steel and environmental projects in the Scunthorpe area from the European Regional Development Fund.

As part of a £1.5 million grant to Yorkshire and Humberside steel and textile areas announced by the Department of the Environment four building and refurbishment schemes in Scunthorpe will share £189,000.

A further £91,000 will be given to environmental projects under the fund which was set up in 1975. The main aim of the fund is to help correct regional economic imbalance because of industrial change or structural unemployment.

-Scunthorpe Star

The EEC's fighting fund against unemployment is to be reorganised to boost training in new technologies. Britain, which last year was paid a third of the total available, will have to prepare its claims with special care in future to maintain this level of reimbursement.

-The Times

The Dutch parliament agreed last week to give voting rights in municipal elections to 350,000 foreign residents. But millions of foreigners elsewhere in Western Europe still have no right to vote in countries where they work and pay taxes.

Some politicians and immigrant lobby groups want things to change. So do members of the European Parliament. Foreigners, they think, should be given a stake in their communities by having the vote, at least in local elections. Opponents insist that voting should be kept for citizens.

-Economist

Fourteen years after the first EEC directives were issued to require Community-wide advertising of public works contracts, and seven years after the same sort of rules were supposed to apply to buying equipment, only an infinitesimal proportion of government spending crosses Community frontiers.

In 1982 - the last year for which a full set of figures is available - every single penny of central government supply spending in Italy went to Italian suppliers, according to figures published by the European Commission.

The figure for France was 99.91 per cent, for West Germany 99.7 per cent, and for the UK, 98.3 per cent.

Even the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium managed to spend more than 96 per cent of their government cash for equipment within their own borders.

-Financial Times

Grants totalling nearly £600,000 have been awarded to Bolton from the special section of the Common Market Regional Development Fund devoted to aiding run-down textile areas.

Most of the cash, £317,000, goes towards helping the council buy and clear old textile mill sites for new development.

Bolton's 'Operation Clean-Up' benefits by £150,000, for cleaning buildings and landscape work.

-Bolton Evening News

There was jubilation in the council chamber when councillors were told that the EEC had made a grant of a third of a million pounds towards the Embassy Centre project.

The £327,900 grant was made from the European Regional Development Fund.

Euro MP Mr Bill Newton Dunn described the grant as 'good news'.

'It's more money than I had expected and will be a big boost for the town,' he said.

-Skegness Standard

# WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS

As British dairy farmers learn their EEC milk quota allocations for 1985-86, the Milk Marketing Board has disclosed that in England and Wales producers are continuing to fall well short of national targets.

Last year tribunals heard thousands of appeals from farmers against their allocations, but total production slumped by nearly 9 per cent compared with the 6.3 per cent cut stipulated by the European Commission.

As a result, farmers who ignored quotas and continued to produce at or above 1983-84 levels enjoyed an unexpectedly prosperous year, relieved of any obligation to pay the threatened penal levy.

-The Times

Cardiff's new Central Bus Station has won civic awards for its design, and was one of the first developments of its type to get a grant from the EEC.

The original bus station was built in 1950 on the site of Temperance Town. By the 1970s it was dilapidated, out of date and a constant source of complaint. Perhaps the worst of all the bus station and the Central Rail station were a poor introduction for visitors to modern Cardiff.

The city and county councils joined forces with British Rail. The bus station had a £370,000 grant for a major facelift and the station £468,000.

-South Wales Echo