

Europe 84

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**Stamps to celebrate
two more landmarks
for Europe**



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Bradford's EEC-aided workshop projects get results

With help from the European Social Fund, some of the least fortunate sections of the population are showing that they can master useful skills – and escape from the ranks of the unemployed. ROY STEMMAN reports

Over half of Bradford's school-leavers are unable to find work. They sign on the dole or join the youth training scheme, and wait for better times.

Many of them have passed exams, and are well qualified to do responsible jobs. So it is not difficult to imagine the plight of the West Yorkshire city's young people who have the additional handicap of being either physically or mentally disabled.

Surprisingly, it is not as bad as most people would expect.

This is thanks in part to the work of the Bowling Open Workshop, which has received nearly £130,000 in grants from the European Social Fund to assist its aim of providing educationally subnormal children with experience of a real working environment when they leave school.

They discover, during a year at the modern building, the meaning of discipline – they have to clock in and out, for example. They also enjoy the experience of getting a pay packet at the end of each week. Then, having had a taste of the real world and the demands it makes, as well as being taught some basic skills, many of them step straight outside into full-time jobs.

Why? 'Because there will always be work for those who want it,' says John Waldron, manager of the workshop. 'The kids who come here have no great aspirations. Whatever the work they are offered, they'll do it. We concentrate on five areas to aid their development – gardening and maintenance, printing, sewing, joinery and catering. They are skills which they can use, for the most part, in leisure time as well as in jobs.'

'They are shown how to behave as well as to work. We help them overcome communication problems, and we prepare them for unemployment as well.'

It's not all work. Groups are taken out on visits to places like the law courts or museums to broaden their education. They go in a blue mini-bus which carries not only the workshop's name but also symbols which give credit to the funding it has received from the EEC and the City of Bradford Metropolitan Council.

Bowling Open Workshop was established in April 1980 on a small industrial estate near Bradford city centre. It set out to provide a radically different training facility for youngsters who, for one reason or another, were slow learners.

When I visited the workshop in April it had ▶



PICTURES BY BEN JOHNSON

just completed the three-year period for which it had received financial support from Europe. It now awaits news of its application for further funds. 'We've had a fantastic three years,' John Waldron told me. 'When we started I had to plead with companies to take on these youngsters when they had finished their time with us – we don't have exams. Now, I'm actually getting phone calls from firms offering work – particularly to the ones who can sew. They've discovered that the standard of their work can be extremely good. My wife runs that department, and it's quite remarkable how some of the girls can learn to read the most complicated knitting patterns.'

The workshop has the capacity for 50 full-time places, but in a typical year more than 80 youngsters will make use of its facilities. Alongside, in the same building, and also under John Waldron's management, is the

Handicapped Support Centre which has also received money from the European Social Fund. It started in December 1982, aiming to provide additional training facilities and sharpen-up existing skills and work speeds, either of youngsters who have already passed through the workshop or of others who come direct to the Support Centre.

The European Social Fund is contributing £175,804 over three years towards the costs of running the centre, which often acts as a 'shop window' – allowing prospective employers to see real evidence of production speeds. It also has the flexibility of tailoring its training programme to suit the needs of certain employers.

So, while better-educated and more able youngsters languish on the dole, waiting for jobs that will be demanding and challenging, many of the Bowling boys and girls are finding work because they have the basic skills re-

quired for more mundane, but essential, jobs. It is not only the young disabled who have benefited from imaginative schemes which have had the financial support of the EEC and the Metropolitan Council in Bradford. Welfare Maintenance and Supply is a co-operative workshop run by 12 disabled people – most of them in their 50s. As well as now having full-time jobs, they have the added satisfaction of knowing that their work is helping other disabled people. They repair wheelchairs, upholster furniture, repair and modify walking frames and make a wide range of toys and special aids for handicapped people – all at very competitive prices.

Bradford Council bought the premises for the workshop and jointly funds the operation, with the European Social Fund, which has given half of the £114,000 running costs. The money from the joint sponsors is being paid over three years on a reducing scale (£56,000, £40,000 and £18,000). When I called at the premises, in Bradford's Peckover Sreet, they had just completed their first and very successful year in business.

When the financial support runs out, in two years' time, the workshop will have to be a profit-making enterprise if it is to survive. On its present performance, that should not be difficult to achieve.

In their first year, the team of disabled workers mended 580 wheelchairs. That's a service that has been of enormous benefit to the hospitals in the district and their patients. 'We have saved the social services in Bradford a great deal of money,' says Eddie Farrell, the manager. 'There was a waiting list for wheelchairs when we set up, but through our work that has disappeared. We have even given a new lease of life to wheelchairs that were considered obsolete.'

'When we have repaired or refurbished a wheelchair we issue it with a sort of MOT certificate, which shows what has been done to it and the new parts that have been fitted.'

Each member of the group is a registered disabled person. And, says Eddie Farrell, they have all had the experience, at some time in their lives, of wanting or needing something which was not available. Their craftsmanship is now used to satisfy such needs. The workshop team is often called in to take a look at a particular case, perhaps where a handicapped person needs special aids in his or her home, and come up with the answer.

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'The European Social Fund is giving over £175,000 towards the Handicapped Support Centre'



Funds from Europe are helping to re-train workers, as on this piston-making line, and also (right) to update apprentice training, with an accent on micro-electronics.



Sometimes the items they make are simple—like the ramps which are in big demand to enable people in wheelchairs to overcome steps or other changes in level. Others are more complex, including one-off teaching aids for children with special needs.

The project attracted money from Europe and the local council because it was creating a dozen new jobs. The assistance it is giving to the community is really a bonus.

The group of disabled men have been remarkably inventive in using items such as washing machine motors and adapting them with cheaply-made accessories to make bench tools. This has enabled them to keep their operating costs down. Now, with an ever-growing demand for its services, Welfare Maintenance and Supply is looking at new market opportunities and hoping to employ some younger disabled people as it plans its

progress through to self-sufficiency in the next two years.

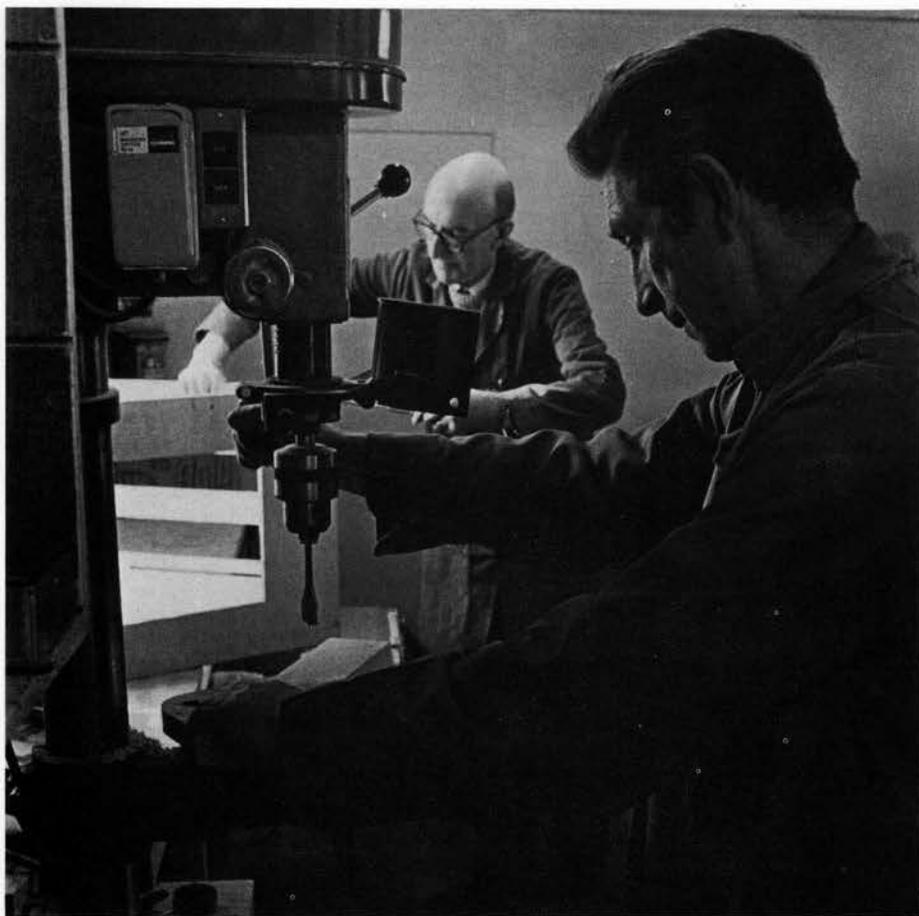
Peter Redfern, Bradford Council's EEC liaison man, has kept a paternal eye on these and the many other training programmes which have attracted money from Europe in recent years. 'In 1980 we were receiving no ESF help in Bradford,' he told me. 'Since then, the amount the Fund has given us for training projects is close on £3 million, out of a total of £5 million which Bradford has received from the various EEC funds.'

A couple of early applications for financial aid from Brussels failed, but Bradford Council studied the matter closely and persevered. The flow of ESF aid is coincided with Ivor Richards' appointment and an apparently more adventurous approach to social problems. This has allowed Bradford to take the initiative and offer assistance to many sections

of its population who are disadvantaged. Ethnic minorities have benefited, as have the unemployed.

Bradford Council itself undertook to recruit, train and provide jobs for 72 unemployed people of different age groups. Because it was creating permanent jobs for people who were out of work, the ESF is giving the Council £228,943 over three years. The scheme started in July 1981.

Following close on its heels, and offering training and jobs to 57 individuals, was the Council's 1982 recruitment scheme, which attracted very favourable comment from the Social Fund when it approved a three-year grant totalling £197,678. The difference between this and the earlier scheme is its emphasis on improving the Council's position as an equal opportunities employer, helping the less qualified and long-term unemployed.



At a make-and-mend co-operative workshop in Bradford, aided by EEC funds, disabled workers are making a valuable contribution to local hospital services.

The European Social Fund has also put up £78,827 towards the cost of the Council's strategy, introduced in June 1982, of paying wage subsidies to companies which take on the long-term unemployed.

Bradford has a large ethnic population. Nearly 53,000 Bradfordians have family origins in the New Commonwealth or Pakistan, out of a total population of 464,000. 1981 statistics show that, in one ward, over two-thirds of the population were from ethnic minorities. Many of these people have communication problems. So the ESF has given sums of £33,750 and £42,000 to a bi-lingual support scheme, established in December 1982. This is designed to equip people with some language abilities to develop linguistic and other skills, in order to act as key liaison workers between local agencies and ethnic groups.

Vietnamese refugees living in Bradford also received £21,000 towards the cost of easing the problems of 'culture shock'. This ESF contribution was half the cost of helping 100 boat people integrate into society, with special emphasis on language training.

Among other projects in which the fund has joined forces with Bradford Metropolitan Council are a driving scheme for mature women, which has been very successful in giving them the skills to re-enter employment as light vehicle drivers. So far, £47,000 of ESF money has been given. A similar scheme, on

vehicle maintenance, designed to help younger women towards qualification as vehicle engineers, has received £50,000 from Europe.

Current unemployment rate in Bradford is above the national average at 14.6 per cent. Once the world's wool capital, it has suffered badly from the decline in the UK textile industry. In the last 20 years it has lost over 60 per cent of jobs in textiles. There has been a similar decline in manufacturing industry which, at one time, provided 60 per cent of Bradford's jobs.

Today, only four out of every ten workers are in manufacturing. Those jobs which remain often require very different skills, so re-training is essential if companies are to survive and workers are to continue in their jobs. With this in mind, the European Social Fund has paid £145,000 to the textile workers retraining scheme and £223,000 to Bradford and Ilkley College retraining scheme.

A project to update current apprentice training in the engineering sector at Keighley has received £28,000 over two years from ESF. This puts great emphasis on the latest development in micro-electronics, since they are being used far more – and machine parts much less – in controlling motors and gears.

It is not only minority groups, the disadvantaged and declining industries which receive support from Europe. A large and profitable employer in Bradford has qualified for an £80,000 European Social Fund grant to

'The EEC contribution has enabled us to be much more adventurous in our training programme'

retrain 240 of its workforce as part of a scheme to broaden its markets. Hepworth & Grandage, founded 77 years ago and now part of the AE Group, employs 1,450 at Bradford making vehicle pistons. 'By 1980 we were falling behind in piston manufacture,' Mike Thickett, personnel manager, told me. 'We weren't able to compete with Europe or the rest of the world. So we decided to develop new piston manufacturing techniques which would require our workers to handle more than one machine, and also be responsible for their own quality control.'

It was only during discussions with someone from its Sunderland factory, who was being transferred to become a member of the new project team, that the company learned that it might be eligible for a training grant. Since then it has worked closely with Peter Redfern in its dealings with Brussels and succeeded in getting financial support.

Hepworth and Grandage has spent £15 million on new equipment, which uses numerically controlled techniques to automate piston production and achieve a very high quality and consistency.

'If we had not gone ahead with the project, we would not be here today,' Mike Thickett says. 'We would have financed the training programme ourselves. But the EEC contribution enabled us to be much more adventurous in our approach. And it is paying off.'

It used to be almost totally dependent on the British car industry for its sales – now it supplies pistons to most European car firms. While I was inspecting its new technology, and talking to some of its recently-trained workforce, talks were going on elsewhere in the building with representatives from one of America's top motor manufacturers. The company is optimistic about clinching a deal that will bring in substantial orders.

It is difficult to measure the effects of the European Social Fund's contribution to Bradford life. But there can be few sections of the community that have not helped in some way.

'We have been very impressed with the response of the Social Fund to our problems,' says David Morton, Bradford Council's policy co-ordinator. 'It has had a real impact. It has also given us a much greater awareness of what's going on around us because we are getting involved in areas we have not dealt with before.'

'With less money coming from government, the Community finance is the only way they can get some things done,' adds Peter Redfern. 'It enables us to take risks. We also try to give credit for the European support on the projects in which we are involved.'

STRASBOURG NOTEBOOK

Maria Antonietta Macciocchi, MEP, wants to see more women in top jobs



MARIA MACCIOCCHI was one of 18 contributors to a report on the role of women in the European Community, which led to a resolution approved by the European Parliament earlier this year. What she has been investigating so far, she says, is only the tip of the iceberg. She has had to struggle against 'a certain type of demagoguery': 'Every time fundamental social problems were about to be tackled, we were told not to concern ourselves with matters of such an elitist nature.'

'My answer was that we would never be able to resolve them, nor would we know which forces we can draw upon, without an in-depth analysis of the highest power-structures of European society.'

'We have taken as our starting-point a series of historical-political assumptions about the participation of women. This has three phases. First, the period immediately after the 1914-18 war when, for the first time, women got the right to vote. However, the highest position that they could aspire to was that of elected representative, or hidden in organisations and big companies having a strong female slant, and in women's newspapers. Women were trapped in a kind of ghetto, an isolated cell in the body politic.'

'The second phase was the ten years of angry feminism during which women developed a kind of 'apartheid' towards politics. They were convinced that they could build a new world in which women would play the leading role. This was, of course, Utopian. Feminism itself became partly institutionalised after a while – an isolated cell once more – which failed to solve the important problems of women in society.'

But, she says, the movement has left its mark. 'It has done a remarkable job in European history. Feminism has shown Europe the creative powers, verbal potential, and values, which women have in them.'

'Then there is the third and last phase in which women once again establish ties with politics. This brings us to the end of the Seventies, by which time women are again participating in politics, but in a different way. Their language is freer, the issues they tackle more varied.'

Statistics have been gathered which chart the place of women in the ten member states. 'They were compiled only with great difficulty. Not all countries have answered as promptly and extensively as those with a ministry of women's affairs. The conclusion which emerges from the data collected is distinctly negative. In the most important institutions, women in key positions are an extremely rare phenomenon. For example, of the 187 ministers in Europe, only seven are women – a ludicrous proportion at a time when Mrs Thatcher has gained the image for herself of the most formidable woman in Europe – not because she shows her teeth, but because she manages to govern a country according to her beliefs.'

Italy comes out of it worst of all: only one minister and one secretary of state. 'With Susanna Agnelli at Foreign Affairs we have taken a great step forward. It is the first time a woman has been given a real political portfolio, not just in social welfare.'

Does she agree with the view that the majority of women don't

want power? 'The issue is not so much that they don't want power. But very often the mountain of problems that has to be overcome is so high that they get discouraged. To make your way to the top, you have to pass through many narrow doorways, each with crowds jostling for admittance. Take, for example, parties, trade unions, political organisations. At the bottom of the pyramid women are plentiful enough, but the higher we climb the narrower it gets. At the very top, where decisions are made, women are non-existent.'

As examples, she cites the diplomatic service: in Italy, women are found only up to the level of consultant in embassies (ten out of the 164). But, even in countries where women are more strongly represented, such as France, they never make it to the 'important' embassies, she says.

'The highest level they reach is in UNESCO. And yet there is no country in Europe where certain professions are constitutionally barred to women – not to mention all those European documents on 'equality of opportunity'! Political will, she thinks, is lacking.'

'But take a country like Greece, which has only recently emerged from the twilight of the Colonels' regime, where women had no rights at all, not even that of parental custody. Papandreou has appointed a secretary of state for women's affairs. The woman who holds this office is first adviser to the minister. This voluntary decision has in turn led to many others, all of which enhance the growth of women's participation.'

'Another example is the French judiciary. Minister Badinter, on the occasion of the most recent examination for entry into the judiciary, issued a special appeal to women lawyers to take part. This yielded immediate results. According to the minister, the proportion of women judges can now be expected to reach 40 to 50 per cent.'

She does not entirely agree that stronger representation by women at the various institutional levels could change the face of politics. But the presentation of political affairs, she says, would

'Women who have made it often refuse to help women who are still on their way up'

undergo certain changes. 'Women talk differently about politics than men do. Consider, for example, the French TV channel, Antenne 2, which is currently headed by a woman, Christine Ockrent. After a long battle, she won the day against her predecessor, the deciding argument being her approach to political problems.'

Does she believe in solidarity among women? 'Unfortunately, solidarity is often hard to find. Often, even mutual support is lacking. Women who have made it often refuse to help women who are still on their way up.'

'Where there is solidarity, things do start to move. In the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the investigatory committee on the place of women has proposed in its resolution that discrimination against women at the highest political, social and cultural levels in the member states should be investigated. It has proposed that a conference should be organised where measures to distribute posts more fairly would be taken.'

'It has also proposed that grants for study and specialisation should be awarded to enable women to enter fields previously inaccessible to them. But all of this will come to nothing if the political will to consider women as equals is lacking.'

Time to cut the customs red tape

The legislation is there. New proposals for reform are there. But where is the will to take action?
JEAN TANGUY reports

Last year a Belgian journalist rented a van and loaded it up with some old furniture that he wanted to take to a holiday house that he had just bought in the South of France. He drove to the frontier and was eventually allowed to cross – an hour and a half, 15 signatures and half-a-dozen forms later.

The import of second-hand furniture into France for a holiday home ('Do you have proof of ownership, sir?') is perfectly legal, and not subject to any tax or duty. But all the old French customs procedures still exist. The red tape involved in transporting an old wardrobe is the same as for a load of computers or fifty barrels of poisonous dioxin waste from Seveso.

Later, when lorry drivers blocked most of Europe's main roads as a protest against customs red tape, the journalist was predictably sympathetic to their cause and wrote a series of articles supporting their action. Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes shared his view, telling the press during the strike: 'Basically the lorry drivers are doing Europe a favour.'

The Commission has been hammering away at the issue of a reduction in the formalities and controls in intra-Community trade for years. But the Council of Ministers has steadfastly resisted the barrage of proposals. The lorry drivers' action provided additional pressure on ministers, and the Commission now feels that it should strike again while the iron is hot. It recently sent a report to the Council and the Parliament, analysing the current situation and suggesting solutions.

Customs formalities currently take an average of 80 minutes per lorry. Each hour of keeping a heavy load waiting costs between £2.50 and £3.25, according to the Commission. The overall cost of maintaining customs controls is therefore in the region of £1.7 billion – which is from 5 to 10 per cent of the value of the goods transported across frontiers, says Commission President Gaston Thorn.



If existing Community legislation was applied properly, it would be enough to bring about a spectacular improvement in crossing frontiers between Community countries. In 1970 a procedure known as 'Community Transit' was introduced, with the approval of the member states. Under the scheme, lorry drivers are supposed to simply give the customs a letter of transit, which should only take a few seconds. The customs formalities themselves are all done by the exporter and the importer.

In practice, as we know, things are very different. A lot of customs officers insist on two records of invoices, photocopies, and a repetition of information already on the transit documents – all of which is illegal under Community law.

But the main reason behind the failure of Community Transit is the fact that most transport firms have stopped using it – because of the abuses listed above, and because customs formalities are not, as we are led to believe, carried out by customs officers, but by local agents, who have virtually exclusive control and have traditionally operated from frontier posts.

'There is a proposal lying on the files for a single European Community customs document'

In addition, when goods are destined for a number of different places, it is often easier to deal with the red tape at the frontier than at central offices, whose opening hours are often irregular. Community Transit also requires loads to be sealed, and transporters have to pay a deposit.

Also, there are some loads, as we will see later, that are subject to controls other than those imposed by the customs. These can only take place at the frontier. A combination of these factors mean that transport firms generally prefer to get everything done in one go.

But the main justification – if it can be called that – for the endless red tape that characterises frontier crossing is VAT. All member states have the tax, but they all apply it differently to different things. To allow Frenchmen to pay French VAT on German refrigerators instead of German VAT, mountains of forms are filled in every month.

It is no exaggeration to say that, for a customs service threatened with extinction by the introduction of the Common Market, VAT has been the kiss of life, if not a case of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. It is also thanks to a variety of other charges and excise levies, and to Monetary Compensatory Amounts (MCAs), which are also paid at frontiers.

Although the customs may appear to be the same old grumbling and immovable institution from the outside, its job has certainly changed, at least as far as the Community's internal frontiers are concerned. It no longer collects customs duties, but it is responsible



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The lorry-drivers' protest strike in February has given the Council of Ministers a nudge in the right direction.

for levies, MCAs and taxes. It collects statistics and ensures that veterinary, health and sanitary laws are observed. Unfortunately it does all this in a way that is described, in neutral Commission language, as 'complex'.

Complex is right! It means that, in the Community, there are at least 70 different customs forms; that sanctions are taken against lorry drivers who commit the crime of losing them; that systematic controls are applied when only random checks are required (for example in the case of 'harmonised' agricultural produce); and that levies and veterinary analysis can hold up a load for several days.

That's the situation. But what is the Commission proposing to do about it? First of all, it plans to make countries apply the liberalising rules that already exist on paper, including Community Transit. The system works adequately for rail transport, so why shouldn't it work for road links?

The Commission has reiterated its determination to use 'every means at its disposal'. It plans to regularly send representatives to frontier posts to check up on abuses, mistaken interpretation of the rules, differences in application and controls that are excessive or discriminatory in their effect.

But that won't be enough. It will be up to the Council of Ministers to take decisive action. People tend to forget that, while the Commission can propose legislation, it is the Council that actually takes the decisions.

There exist as many as 32 proposals on simplifying and speeding up veterinary con-

trols. Most important of all, there is a proposal – also lying on the files – for the introduction of a single customs document. This, as its name suggests, will replace all the administrative documents that are currently needed to accompany goods transported between member countries.

This in its turn will allow the introduction of data processing techniques to administer the system, which will further increase speed and efficiency. Ministers are still thinking this one over. But the lorry drivers' strike has certainly given them a nudge in the right direction.

The ultimate weapon in the struggle against the customs hydra would be the harmonisation of VAT in the ten member states. The Council of Ministers has had a proposal to that

effect in its in-tray since December 1982. It is the 14th of its kind.

As far as the rest is concerned, the Commission says that the dismantling of MCAs will make the transport of agricultural produce much easier. It wants the speedy application of a directive that has already been adopted, aimed at 'facilitating' frontier transit. It also suggests an improvement of 'transport infrastructures' at frontier posts (which means the building of parking lots) and an end to fuel checks – the duty-free allowance of diesel fuel in petrol tanks was recently increased from 50 to 200 litres.

What the Commission is asking for is a Europe better suited to lorry drivers. A prototype already exists in Benelux. What are we waiting for? 

A LEAD FROM PRIME MINISTER LUBBERS

The Dutch Prime Minister, Ruud Lubbers, has said that he is prepared to abolish frontier controls for people and goods travelling between the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The move would involve introducing the same conditions as those operating between the Benelux countries – no controls on private individuals, or only occasional border checks from a small and normally deserted office. Eventually, other member states could follow suit.

Mr Lubbers said he was prepared to act

unilaterally in scrapping controls at the German border.

He has not yet officially put his proposal to the Bonn government, but is expected to do so in the near future. On the German side, the Government seems to be looking into the possibility of doing away with border controls.

It could be that, by 17 June, the day of the European elections, citizens of both countries will be able to cross the frontier without being subjected to the usual customs delays.

Can Europe clean up its poisoned skies?

Forty million tonnes of sulphur dioxide poured into the atmosphere over Europe last year. It was joined by a considerable quantity of nitrogen oxides. Both pollutants are gases which are produced when coal or oil are burned in power stations, factories and vehicles.

Britain's contribution to this atmospheric poisoning in 1983 was larger than that of any other Western European nation: four million tonnes of sulphur dioxide – 10 per cent of the European total.

Unfortunately, what goes up must come down. And with these two gases we suffer two problems. The first is called 'dry deposition' when they fall back to earth close to their source. The other, acid rain, is caused when the gases react chemically in the atmosphere to form weak sulphuric acid and nitric acid. Because they are suspended in the atmosphere they can travel thousands of miles before falling with rain or snow.

Already, a vast catalogue of damage has been attributed to the effects of this dry and wet 'fallout'. In parts of Europe lakes have lost their entire fish populations. Forests are dying. Buildings are crumbling. Crops are being damaged.

It is too late to remedy the situation in some areas, but with these poisonous gases continuing to be released into the atmosphere in huge amounts, action is needed to reduce the quantities to levels which will be far less damaging to the ecology. With that intention, the Council of Ministers met in March to discuss a draft EEC directive which proposes a reduction from 1980 levels of 60 per cent in sulphur dioxide, and 40 per cent in nitrogen oxide emissions from large combustion plant, by 1995.

At the same time, European countries which have committed themselves to a reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions of at least 30 per cent over 10 years, together with Canada, plan to put pressure on their polluting neighbours to do likewise.

The meeting of nations most active in fighting acid rain was held in Toronto, Canada, in March, at the invitation of the Canadian government. Participants from Europe were West Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, The Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Britain was not invited because it has so far refused to commit itself to a 30 per cent reduction. An American observer was invited, however, because of its special relationship with Canada, where plant life in 4,600 lakes is said to have destroyed, partly by pollution from the USA.

In March 1983, the Ministers had agreed that the damage done to forestry environment by acid rain makes effective joint action 'urgently necessary.' At the summit meeting

Pollution by acid rain and other airborne killers of life on earth is the biggest environmental issue facing the European Community today. And Britain, of all EEC countries, is the worst offender

three months later, several countries said they would aim to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by 30 per cent.

In July 1983, the Federation Republic of Germany announced that it was introducing strict controls on road vehicle emissions in 1986, with the aim of reducing pollution damage to forests. Austria made a similar statement four weeks later. The Bonn government brought into force regulations to reduce industrial and power station emissions by 50 per cent.

While some member states were taking positive action, the UK was announcing (September 1983) a £5 million, five-year research project into lake acidification in Scandinavia, and the likely costs of desulphurisation measures.

Not surprisingly, environmental pressure groups such as Friends of the Earth see this as a delaying tactic, particularly as the money is coming from the Central Electricity Generating Board and the National Coal Board, both of which have a vested interest in avoiding measures which might reduce demand for coal, or push up prices. However, Britain's EEC partners are sure to demand action, compliance with the demands of the draft directive being one step in the right direction.

Although British industry emits more sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides than any other country in Western Europe, the UK has been cushioned from the effects by its position. Clean air from the Atlantic blows in from the west, taking much of the UK-generated pollution and dumping it on continental Europe. More than three-quarters of Britain's sulphur dioxide is exported across the North Sea by the prevailing winds.

Britain's neighbours receive some of this; but Norway and Sweden also get large doses. The Norwegian 'fallout' includes 14 per cent

'Britain's EEC partners are sure to demand action to comply with the draft directive'

from Britain. Sweden and West Germany take seven per cent each, according to some studies.

Acid rain, it has to be said, has been around for a long time. The term itself was first used by an Englishman, Robert Angus Smith, in 1872. The industrial revolution introduced greater acidity into the air, and there has been a significant increase since 1940.

What is causing great alarm now, and has led to 1984 being designated Stop Acid Rain Year by pressure groups, is the growing catalogue of damage which is blamed on these two gases. Over the last 25 years, almost all of Norway's major salmon rivers in the south-east of the country have become acid dead. Fish have disappeared from 7,000 Norwegian lakes and are dying in 1,000 others. In Sweden, it is believed that 9,000 lakes are seriously affected by acid rain.

The British Isles have not escaped from such ecological disasters. Dozens of Scottish lochs are said to be affected, and some – like Loch Grannoch, Galloway, have become completely dead. In North Wales, too, there is evidence that lakes are being affected.

An official study co-ordinated by the Warren Springs Laboratory for the Department of the Environment from 1980-1983, *Acid Deposition in the United Kingdom*, shows that Britain's rainfall is, on average, four to five times more acidic than natural rain. In one place (Bush, Scotland) it recorded rainfall which was over 100 times more acidic than it should be.

Britain has only itself to blame, since 80 per cent of the sulphur deposited on British soil, buildings, rivers and lakes is generated in its own domain. Britain 'imports' three per cent from France, one per cent from West Germany and two per cent from East Germany.

So far, no evidence has been produced to show that trees in the British Isles are being damaged, but perhaps it is just a matter of time. Millions of trees have died in West Germany; and something like 34 per cent of its forests are affected. Almost half the Black Forest area has been designated a 'total damage area'. The economic cost to Federal Germany is estimated at £857 million a year. There, to reduce acid rain damage, the government has imposed tough limits on power station emissions of sulphur dioxide which, inevitably, will force up electricity prices, possibly by 10 per cent. The effect on many parts of German industry will be severe, particularly the chemical and aluminium industries.

Absorbing the cost of these anti-pollution measures will make many German businesses far less competitive than their EEC counterparts, including those in Britain. So Britain can expect to come under increasing pressure to follow suit.



Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe, 1984

The tenth report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, published in February, suggests that the Government should increase the use of nuclear power, in order to reduce pollution by coal-fired stations. The Government accepts that 63 per cent of Britain's environmental sulphur and 46 per cent of its nitrogen oxide comes from power stations. The Commission has called on the CEBG to reduce sulphur emissions based on technology which is expected to be available in five to ten years, and meanwhile to filter out sulphur before it is emitted, at least at some of the power stations.

More than half the CEBG's emissions come from 15 large power stations. The capital cost of reducing their emissions would be £1,500 million, says the electricity board, and running costs could be as high as £300 million. Passing those costs on to the consumer could increase electricity prices by as much as 10 per cent.

Environmentalists believe that, with energy conservation techniques allied to flue gas desulphurisation, electricity prices would rise by only three or four per cent in real terms over ten years. Certainly, Britain has to live with

coal-burning power stations into the foreseeable future. Projections by the CEBG to the end of the century suggest that we will be burning even more coal than we do now. At Drax, the CEBG is now nearing completion of what will be the largest coal-fired power station in European, capable of burning around 10 million tonnes of coal a year. That amounts to the current annual output of 20,000 miners.

'All the cases histories and statistics have so far failed to convince those who matter'

Faced with that prospect, British environmentalists are anxious to get the CEBG to start tackling its sulphur emissions before we all suffer an ecological disaster. They claim that £200 million a year is lost through crop damage by acid rain. Britain's heritage is crumbling away, too: much of the detail of Westminster Abbey has disappeared through acid

in the air. St Paul's Cathedral has lost 30mm of its Portland stone in the last 250 years; and Cleopatra's Needle has suffered more erosion from London pollution in 80 years than it did in 3,000 years by the Nile.

Unfortunately, all these case histories and statistics have so far failed to convince those who matter. Speaking to the Coal Industry Society in February, the chairman of the CEBG, Sir Walter Marshall, declared: "If proper scientific examination shows that sulphur emissions are causing significant damage to the environment, whether in the UK or in Scandinavia, then something has got to be done. But we do not know whether a reduction in the emission of sulphur from our power station chimneys would solve the problems in Scandinavia."

The European Commission's draft Directive to cut sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions has already received the backing of the European Parliament. Now that other Community states are taking the initiative, it is inevitable that they will bring pressure to bear on the United Kingdom - the worst polluters in Western Europe.

ROY STEMMAN

A new direction for Community aid

Development aid which passes from the Community to the sixty-four associated African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) is currently undergoing radical reappraisal.

Edgard Pisani, development commissioner, is spearheading a new approach to rural development, by injecting fresh emphasis into agricultural self-sufficiency in developing countries. The idea is that a 'policy dialogue' should emerge between the Community and the ACP states.

This means that, initially, each ACP country would define its own objectives and priorities within the agricultural sector. The Community's role is then envisaged as one of joint analyses with the ACP state in order to determine how these objectives can be implemented with maximum efficiency. Or, in the more succinct words of Edgard Pisani: 'From now on, instead of being content with financing of projects and programmes, we are going to finance policies - hence the term policy dialogue.'

The new approach has emerged in direct response to the growing problem of food shortages within the ACP countries. The sad truth is that past food aid programmes and cooperation projects have had minimal impact on long-term development. The pattern of development in the overwhelming majority of ACP countries shows that indigenous food production is falling or static, whereas the populations in these countries continues to grow.

In 1983, the ACP countries imported 90 million tonnes of cereals from the Community, and this figure is expected to reach 225 million tonnes by the end of the century. Clearly, if the ACP countries are obliged to

After the lack of success of conventional aid programmes, the pressure is on to help developing countries to become self-sufficient in agriculture

import vast quantities of food, then funds available for investment in long-term development projects will be scarce.

In September 1982, four pilot projects based on the new policy were set in motion in Rwanda, Kenya, Mali and Zambia. Each of these countries differs widely in respect of social organisation and economic development, but all share common problems of food shortfalls and an accelerated population growth.

Although it is too early to determine how successful the projects have been, there are positive signs that internal markets are becoming more stable, with regulated price controls giving a more equitable return to the farmer. The real measure of success will be whether the stimulus for increased production can actually filter through to the peasant farmers and workers on the land.

It is worth noting, however, that other ACP governments have requested intervention of this type, and so have even non-ACP countries, such as Tunisia. The reaction to the pilot projects bodes well for their adoption by the ACP countries as a whole in the forthcoming renegotiations of the Lomé Convention.

The present Lomé Convention is due to expire in February 1985, and negotiations for

a new agreement began in October 1983. There seems to be broad consensus on the aims of future cooperation within the different sectors. Traditional areas such as trade, energy, industry and technology appear to be progressing along similar lines to previous Lomé agreements.

This is something of a paradox, considering that both parties are agreed that Lomé I and II have been far from unqualified successes. This is because opinions differ as to how the agreed objectives can be achieved.

The ACP countries are looking for a quantitative rather than a qualitative change in cooperation. They attribute the limited success of Lomé to the limited finance available to it, and are anxious to establish exactly what funds are being offered before entering negotiations. In talks held so far, the Commission has made no commitment on this question, preferring to establish an overall picture of future cooperation first. The Commission is also aware that the member states of the Community are unlikely to consider any significant increase in financial aid.

A clearer picture of the major areas of disagreement should emerge from this month's ministerial meeting in Fiji. But, in so far as the only new element on the negotiation table appears to be the policy dialogue, an official ACP reaction would provide a useful indicator as to the nature of the new Convention.

Although the object of the policy dialogue is to achieve efficient, coordinated agricultural sectors, it is, by definition, a long-term strategy. The path towards it is delicately balanced between impinging on the internal affairs of the developing country and at the same time providing for the immediate needs of the population.

LESLIE JEWELL



Brussels, October 1983; talks towards 'an overall picture of future co-operation'.

EURO FORUM

Commission stubs out a cigarette dispute

The Commission has intervened under the EEC Treaty's competition rules to ensure that competition is not distorted in the Community by arrangements concerning two of the world's largest cigarette companies – Philip Morris Inc of the USA and Rothmans International of the United Kingdom.

In April 1981 Philip Morris concluded a number of agreements with the Rembrandt Group of South Africa. These agreements were notified to the Commission, and complaints were lodged against them by three other cigarette companies.

By virtue of these agreements, Rembrandt sold to Philip Morris a 50 per cent share in Rothmans Tobacco Holdings Ltd, which in turn owned a controlling interest in Rothmans International. Philip Morris and Rembrandt also concluded a partnership agreement providing for cooperation in the conduct of the affairs of Rothmans International. Rembrandt retained ownership of the other half of the holding company.

In May 1982 the Commission commenced formal proceedings and issued a statement of objections, taking the provisional view that the agreements between Philip Morris and Rembrandt gave rise to a distortion of competition by means of their impact on the behaviour of Philip Morris's and Rothman's subsidiaries in the EEC.

An oral hearing was held in October 1982 at which Philip Morris and Rembrandt explained their respective positions and added to the replies they had already made in writing. At this hearing, the three complainant companies and Rothmans International were also given an opportunity to make their views known to the Commission.

Philip Morris and Rembrandt have now

Two major tobacco companies agree to abide by the EEC's competition rules'

agreed to make substantial changes to their arrangements by amending their original agreements and restructuring their shareholdings. Philip Morris now owns shares giving it 24.9 per cent of the votes in Rothmans International. It also owns £16.6 million worth of convertible bonds in Rothmans International. It has severed all connections with Rothmans Tobacco Holdings Ltd, thereby abandoning the instrument for the coordination of its activities as a shareholder with Rembrandt. Rembrandt has become once again the sole owner of the holding company, and no longer needs Philip Morris's votes to act decisively as a shareholder in Rothmans International.

Philip Morris, which is to have no representatives on the board of any Rothmans company active in the EEC, has agreed with Rembrandt that it will not increase its shareholding in Rothmans International if, as a result, its voting rights would be increased to 25 per cent or more. Philip Morris has also undertaken to inform the Commission of any such acquisition in such a way as to enable urgent action to be

taken if necessary. Any other change in the parties' arrangements will also be notified to the Commission.

Since Philip Morris and Rembrandt have abandoned their partnership agreement and the mechanism for its implementation, and bearing in mind the fact that Philip Morris is now a minority shareholder in Rothmans International without any power of control or decisive influence over its affairs, the Commission is satisfied that the distortions of competition in the EEC cigarette market have been removed, and that it is in a position to take urgent preventative action in the event of any future moves to alter the competitive relations between the two companies.

Why the Ten should start behaving like kangaroos

It is time, says Basil de Ferranti MEP, and one of five vice-chairmen of the Kangaroo Club, that, like good kangaroos, Europeans in the Community started leaping over those internal trade barriers which stop the Community from being a true common market.

The Treaty of Rome sets, as a clear goal, the elimination of customs duties between member states, the establishment of a common customs tariff and a common commercial policy towards third countries, and the free movement of persons, services and capital.

But these goals, says Mr de Ferranti, are still on the far horizon. There has been some progress, he admits, but also some backsliding. The Kangaroo Club exists to boost the former and stop the latter.

Established in 1982 by a multi-party, multinational group of Euro-MPs, the club attracts parliamentarians both from national parliaments and from the European Parliament. At their monthly meetings in Strasbourg, members tend to exchange horror stories of frontier delays.

Most Europeans have encountered difficulties at borders, says de Ferranti. Many have experienced frayed tempers on the first day of the summer holiday,

as families fume and frizzle in a queue of sun-baked cars at the frontier.

Coach drivers have a hard time too. One British driver was shocked to discover that, on entering the Federal Republic of Germany, he had to pay a fuel tax and VAT on fuel taken in to the country in excess of 100 litres, as well as a turnover tax on passengers and distance.

Then there was the case of the two Danish lawyers travelling to address a lunchtime session of the Kangaroo Club. They were delayed one hour at the French-German border, because their documents were on white paper and the officers required yellow paper.

Delay means expense, especially for the transport of goods. A recent report showed that 44 per cent of the firms surveyed experienced delays, and four-fifths of these estimated that these resulted in increases in the final price of the product. All in all, Kangaroo researchers say that internal tariff barriers is costing the Community a fortune.

What does the Kangaroo Club do about these affronts to the spirit of the Treaty of Rome? 'Publicise the issue and raise it to a political level,' says Basil de Ferranti, noting that one reaction to this kind of publicity is to say 'Yes, we're

Kangaroo's message: 'Contemplate the futility of what you are doing'

bad, but look, *they* are worse'.

This kind of approach means that when a British coach driver complains to Bonn about levies at the Federal frontier, an official in Bonn points out that delays to German drivers at Dover are just as bad, if not worse. 'Don't try to justify what you do by quoting other countries that do the same thing. Stand back from your multi-part, multi-lingual forms, and contemplate the futility of what you are doing,' was the stern message in a recent issue of Kangaroo News.

Kangaroo News is a bi-monthly publication, published in four languages and distributed free to national and European MPs, civil servants and private companies. The paper reflects the good relations between the club and the Commission when it carried birthday greetings to transport commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes in its latest issue. It

also has good support within the European Parliament and with MPs.

Recent moves which encourage Kangaroo Club members include the announcement by American Express and Credit Lyonnais that they will issue ECU travellers cheques this year. This will be a big step towards harmonising financial services, and will allow holidaymakers to leave home without deciding in advance how much money to take in the currencies of the countries they intend to visit.

Then there is the so-called 'Plumbers' Directive, approved at the November meeting of the internal market ministers. This allows tradesmen and professional people to take their tools or instruments for use in the course of their work, across frontiers free of duty. At the same meeting, provisions were approved to establish a single customs document to replace the numerous bits of paper which lorry drivers currently have to present at frontier posts.

The most important next step, according to de Ferranti, will be agreement on Third Country certification. Agreement would have been reached during the March meeting of the European Council, but for the stalemate over Britain's budget payments, he says.

Europe's young federalists want a truly united Europe

There is an organised body of young people in 17 countries throughout Europe who believe absolutely in European unity. They believe not only that it is possible, but also that it is necessary. And they are doing something about it.

The Young European Federalists (or JEF—standing for Jeunesse Européenne Federaliste) continually discuss, debate, refine and spread their ideas and policies. This year already they have held a seminar, along with two other youth organisations, in Yugoslavia. Other seminars are planned.

JEF, according to their secretary-general, Tore Nedrebø, is a pluralist political youth organisation with about 11,000 members aged between 15 and 35. Their aim is to work for a European Federation, as a first step towards a world federation and for a more free, just and democratic society. The world federalist society would ideally be decentralised and self-managed, ensuring full and direct participation of all citizens.

'JEF is a pluralist political youth organisation with about 11,000 members'

Their origins go back to 1948, when the Union of European Federalists came into being as a movement protesting against nation states. Then, young supporters made their point by burning down frontier posts between France and Germany.

Tore Nedrebø is a 26-year-old Norwegian. His office, the European secretariat of JEF, is a tiny room at the top of a

large, eccentric old house in Brussels. He and a secretary share the room with its high-up leaded windows, telephone, desk and heaps of information leaflets and books—a modest enough office from which their grand proposals are sent out all over Europe.

Nedrebø has a degree in political science, and when his two-year stint as secretary general ends later this year he will go back to Norway to read for a further degree. Until then all his energies are going into JEF. The organisation's priorities are for peace and European cooperation first, then to work for changes in the European economy and fight unemployment—and always to keep in mind the federalist ideal.

Work goes ahead on the JEF programme for European economic recovery, adopted at their European Congress which met in The Hague last September.

Described by Tore as 'a political statement', it says that the present level of some 13 million unemployed in the Community alone, 50 per cent of whom are young people, is unacceptable and is having fatal social consequences.

JEF sees it as the task of the Commission and the Parliament to work in close cooperation for a coherent and bold programme for European unity.

ROSE DOYLE

EUROPEAN REVIEW

Falling demand for coal

The Commission's latest report on the coal market confirms the trends of over-supply despite falling production, accumulating stocks and declining trade flows.

For the first time in several years, coal has suffered a marked drop in demand from almost all industrial and domestic sectors. Coal production fell back in 1983 by 12 million tonnes to 229 million, and a similar fall is expected this year.

With 1985 looming ahead, it is now clear that the Community will not achieve the objective, set by the European Council in December 1974, to bring EEC coal production back up to its 1973 level of 270 million tonnes by 1985.

In the meantime, the Council has approved a new 36 million ECU financial support programme for the solid fuels sector. The member states have now adopted the Commission's proposals for a new three-year system of aid for coking coal and coke to be used in the EEC steel industry.

Help for the disabled

The Commission is soon to present proposals on ways to encourage the employment of disabled people.

The announcement was made by social affairs commissioner Ivor Richard at a conference on the social integration of disabled people, held in Brussels. It brought together participants from government, voluntary organisations, social partners and rehabilitation centres. Commissioner Richard insisted the initiative was not based on charity, but 'out of basic political and economic good sense'.

Employment is an essential means by which individuals in our society can maintain their dignity and self-respect, he said. 'Employment is moreover an essential means by which society can maintain its cohesion and also preserve and develop the capacities of its work force,' he added. 'We cannot allow the free play of market forces and traditional concepts of employment to continue to exclude vast numbers of people from the experience of participation in the economic life of our society,' Ivor Richard said.

Gas demand covered in 1990

Natural gas demand in the Community in the year 1990 is fully covered by internal output and contracted imports from third countries, a recent Commission report points out.

Security of supply within the Community is proceeding as planned, the study on 'Natural Gas - Current Situation and Situation in 1990-2000' emphasises.

The EEC could sustain a major interruption of supply of at least 25 per cent over a consecutive six months period.

About 57 per cent of Community consumption will be accounted for by internal EEC production by the early 1990s. Imports are expected to account for about 43 per cent of consumption, with 19 per cent of this from the USSR, 14 per cent Norway and 10 per cent Algeria.

Additional imports will be needed in the year 2000, the report reveals. But the amount needed could be significantly reduced if an interconnection between the United Kingdom and the rest of the Community were constructed.

Consumers are more confident

The latest European Economy survey shows that consumer confidence in the Community rose again in the four months to January.

A brighter outlook on the general economic situation in the Community is also beginning to emerge.

The confidence index improved strongly between October and January in Denmark (plus 6 points), Ireland (5), Germany and Italy (4). Slightly more modest gains were recorded in the Netherlands (2), Belgium (2) and the United Kingdom (1). The index fell marginally in France (-1) and Greece.

More households in the Community are now considering increasing their savings. The outlook on unemployment, as seen by citizens, also showed a considerable improvement between October and January. Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands - with among the highest jobless rates in the Community - registered particularly large declines in the numbers of households expecting unemployment to rise.

Shanty towns are booming

Shanty towns throughout the developing world face a population explosion by the year 2000, MEP Karel de Gucht warns.

By the year 2000, Third World cities will need to absorb 1000 million new inhabitants, he says. Shanty towns will become nightmares unless action is taken on income redistribution and regional and urban planning.

The EEC policy of aiding non-governmental organisations - bodies like the Red Cross and Terre des Hommes - is strongly supported by Mr de Gucht as one of the most useful means of rendering help.

Welcome St. Christopher and Nevis

St. Christopher and Nevis - the former British island dependency in the Caribbean - has become the 64th member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) pact.

The Community and St. Christopher and Nevis have had cooperation programmes since 1976. Under the Lome II convention the island will receive some 2.2 million ecus under financial and technical cooperation.

While now becoming the 64th ACP member state the island is one of 13 in the Caribbean region in the multi-national pact.

ASEAN opportunities

The Commission has sponsored three business seminars on investing in the ASEAN area for European businessmen.

The seminars were organised in London, Paris and Bonn in March and April under the EEC-ASEAN co-operation agreement.

Their main purpose was to acquaint European small and medium sized firms with the investment opportunities in countries of ASEAN (association of south east asian nations).

Turning on the wine tap

A policy plan for safeguarding and improving links with non-member states in the Mediterranean region after Spain and Portugal join the Community has been adopted by the Commission.

The document sets out the ways of allaying the fears of third countries in the Mediterranean that their trade links with the Community will suffer as a result of the membership of the Iberian states.

Commission members stress the importance of maintaining trade links with the area. The Commission strongly underlines the need to strengthen the trade links in the areas of agriculture, industry and financial co-operation between the EC and the Mediterranean states.

Industrial trade agreements generally allowing free access on the Community market from the region should continue, the communication points out. The Commission also notes the possibility of relaxing certain restrictions on textile imports.

Traditional farm trade should also be maintained. A proposal to place a quota deal – based on the average yearly consignments of certain products over a five year period – is also suggested.

The Commission is prepared to help the wine industry in the region, providing it embarks on a system of bottling rather than selling the produce in bulk. Wine exports into the Community account for around three days of total demand, or 1.2 million hectolitres.

Chinese textile deal with Community

The Community and China reached agreement at the end of March on the export of textiles to the EC over the next five years.

After ten days of negotiations in Beijing, both delegations accepted the new terms – to run until the end of 1988 – which involve certain changes to the original 1979 agreement.

The Community managed to extend the list of Chinese exports subject to quantitative limits by including dresses and working clothes in this category.

At the same time, EC negotiators agreed to increase by 10%, instead of the 40% demanded by Beijing in some cases, the amount of certain textile goods China may sell to the Community.

Inflation is slowing down

The 7.9 per cent inflation rate for the Community from February 1983 to February 1984 was the lowest for over five years.

While this rate remains high compared to the EEC's main trade rivals, the USA and Japan, its downward trend reflects the major effort being made in the member states to control the problem.

The individual inflation rates for the nine over the 12 month period under review shows: Germany 3.1 per cent; the Netherlands 3.5 per cent; the United Kingdom 5.1 per cent; Denmark 6.3 per cent; Belgium 7.1 per cent; Luxembourg 7.8 per cent; France 9.0 per cent; Italy 12 per cent and Greece 18.8 per cent.

New Fisheries plan urged

A common fisheries policy must be developed for the Mediterranean Sea, a European Parliament report strongly urges.

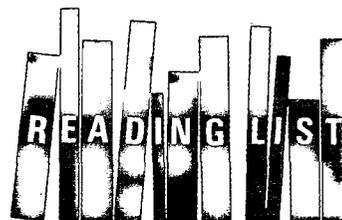
The new plan must be forged between the Community member states on the Mediterranean seaboard and those non-Community states with historic fishing rights, the report, drawn up by Giovanni Papapietro MEP, points out.

'The only way of ensuring that the Mediterranean survives in the long term as an economic area is to achieve joint management of all common aspects of fishing,' the study says.

Community rules – not national ones – on the right of access to the Mediterranean should guarantee and protect both local fishermen and those with traditional rights there. The fact that the 200-mile concept does not apply in the Mediterranean means the situation there is totally different from that in the North Sea or Atlantic fishing grounds.

There is no possibility of applying a quota system in the area, instead different methods of conserving the stocks must be used, the report emphasises. Such methods could include the use of licences, net size rules, fishing periods and other means.

A common management system should also be developed – evolved around community member states and non-EEC countries in the region.



West European Politics Today. By Geoffrey Roberts & Jill Lovecy. Manchester University Press, £4.95 (soft covers)

An introduction to the political systems of the European states, written for use in sixth forms and by students in higher education.

Europe's Industries: public and private strategies for change. Edited by G. Shepherd, F. Duchene and C. Saunders. Francis Pinter, £16.00

Can Western Europe compete? How well are its industries surviving? What features of the industrial system influence performance? These and related questions are explored in ten chapters by specialist authors.

A History of the 20th-century World: Britain and Eastern Europe. By R. D. H. Seaman. Edward Arnold, £3.45 (soft covers).

Aimed at O-levellers, and suitably presented, culminating in the birth of the European Community.

EEC and the Third World: Renegotiating Lomé. Edited by Christopher Stevens. Hodder & Stoughton, £7.95 (soft covers)

A thorough study of the background, progress and effectiveness of Lomé, with emphasis on EEC aid.

A new monthly journal, devoted to current affairs and future trends in Ireland, has been launched in Dublin. It is called 'Irish Interest', and its publishers say it is designed to keep foreign business people, especially potential industrial investors, in touch with opportunities in Ireland, by means of 'a compacted digest of essential information.'

Subscription rates are IR£120, or £100 sterling, a year. The address is 'Irish Interest', Belenos Publications, 50 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2.

Practice makes perfect for an English doctor in Brussels

Under EEC rules, citizens of individual member states are free to work anywhere in the Community. Vivien Piercy is an example of a doctor, trained in Britain, who has made the switch to Belgium, where she now has her own practice.

She chose Belgium mainly for family reasons: her husband is half-Belgian, and his family live in Brussels.

'I know that other foreign doctors have been less lucky,' Dr Piercy says. 'I know of both a British and a French doctor who had to wait for a year before they could start practicing. In my case the Register and the medical association were very cooperative, and always gave me the advice and information that I needed, without ever being obstructive—even though there may have been a certain distrust of a British doctor wanting to set up abroad.'

Was it an expensive business? She admits it was. 'All the official documents needed to be



Dr Vivien Piercy

put together, and my file had to be translated and authenticated by the British embassy.' As for the language problem, at first she took lessons, but found that she learnt most by working – with a lung specialist, with whom she worked for four years. 'In a month I was

managing. Now I speak French fluently. An additional advantage of Belgium is that one doesn't have to pass a language exam to practice – in a number of other countries you do.'

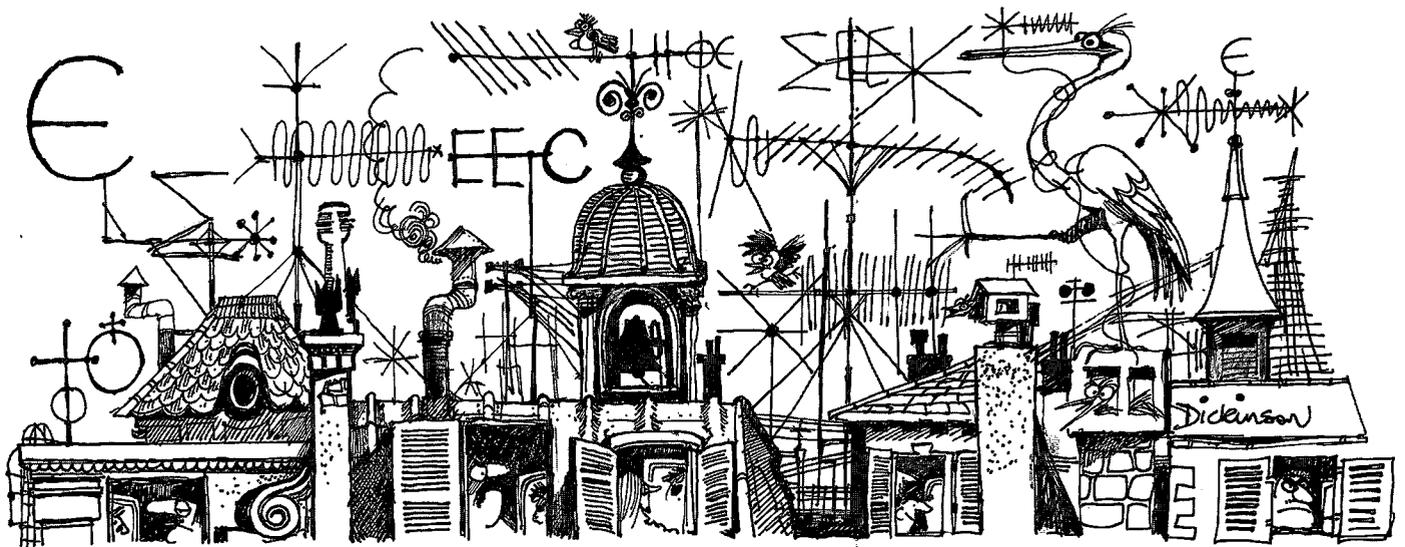
She would not be able to become a specialist in Belgium, she says, because foreign specialists are not recognised there. Consequently, a foreign specialist would have to redo his or her studies in Belgium. Also, even if she wanted to specialise it would be impossible, because the register requires foreign doctors who are studying to have a source of income. 'But paid internships don't exist in Belgium. In England a foreign doctor would have to do a three-year internship in a hospital before being allowed to practice.'

One of the advantages of working in Belgium, she finds, is that she can give patients more time. 'In England consultations are limited to seven minutes, and one doesn't have time to talk. Cooperating with other doctors is more important here. One can also practice part-time, which is important for a woman. Finally, there is the freedom to choose one's doctor, which is a principle of which I approve.'

And the main disadvantages? 'The way that the system is financed. Doctors have to demand their consultation fees like grocers. I can't bring myself to do it. Medicine is supposed to be a profession isn't it?' 



H.M. the Queen formally inaugurates the Joint European Torus project (JET), the Community's thermonuclear fusion experiment, at Culham on 9 April.



The television revolution is right here

For the first time ever in the history of television, the average viewer can now settle down to watch supra-national television programmes in the comfort of his own living room.

Many cable TV subscribers are already able to tune in to programmes broadcast by Sky Channel and TV-5. Alert readers of the daily and periodical press will also have spotted articles peppered with strange-sounding acronyms such as Eurikon, TDF-1, Tv-Sat, Luxsat and Unisat – all the names given to various schemes for direct broadcasting by satellite.

What has brought about this sudden spurt in the advance of radio and television broadcasting? And exactly what is the European Community doing – and what more can it do – to push back the frontiers of audiovisual media? How do the Community institutions see their role? The answers to these questions will help to decide the shape of European culture in the not-too-distant future.

In making their bids for a slice of the action, the aerospace and TV and radio broadcasting industries are optimising a prime business opportunity. The aerospace industry expects the telecommunications sector (of which radio and TV broadcasting are only a small part) to have a turnover in the region of 230 billion French francs (£21 billion) by the year 2000.

The advertising trade and broadcasting industry are attracted by the fact that, in 1984, 12 million households (about 48 million viewers) are already wired up to cable television. It is confidently predicted that, by 1988, this number will have risen to 20 million families – a potential audience of around 80 million.

The first DBS TV satellites are scheduled to come into operation on a commercial basis in 1986. They are likely to be seen by some 300 million people all over Europe. Small wonder

Europe is wired for a new development in television broadcasting. And an audience of 80 million is out there, ready and waiting . . .

if public and private broadcasting organisations are hastening to ensure their places by the end of the decade.

The first commercial satellite TV station is already on the air. Called *Sky Channel*, it was launched by an Anglo-Australian consortium (Satellite Television). Signals are bounced off the satellite to be transmitted to European viewers through cable TV services. At the beginning of this year, another station, TV5, came on-stream. This is also directed at a European audience – but a French-speaking one.

The venture is backed by the French national broadcasting organisation (TF-1, Antenne-2 and FR-3); French-speaking Switzerland (SSR); and the Belgian Franco-phone radio and television company RTBF.

The pioneering feature of this venture is that the various channels take it in turns to schedule a full evening's entertainment. So Antenne-2 organises viewing on Monday and Thursday, SSR on Tuesday; viewers on Wednesday and Sunday see TF-1's selection; while Friday's and Saturday's viewers will see programmes from FR-3 and RTBF respectively. That, however, is where the innovation stops, since each channel tends to run programmes to its own tried and tested formulae.

What represents a real step forward in broadcasting history is a programme which is not only a co-production by different national television channels, but also broadcast simul-

taneously over the whole of Europe and in a variety of languages. The European Broadcasting Union (EBU, better known as Eurovision) had already experimented along these lines back in 1982, with a programme which they called Eurikon. This bold experiment was organised by the IBA for Britain, RAI for Italy, ORF for Austria, NOS for Holland and the ARD for West Germany. Each company took it in turn to schedule a full week's programming, bounced off the orbital test satellite (OTS) to television stations in the fifteen countries linked together in UER from Finland to Algeria. In order to avoid having to pay royalties, however, it was transmitted on CCTV only, rather than over the public network.

In the wake of Eurikon, a number of broadcasting companies are continuing to work on the idea of a pan-European programme.

The state-run Dutch TV station, NOS, and Britain's IBA have floated the idea of a fully commercial, independent, multilingual television channel. It would transmit daily at peak viewing times (between 7 pm and 10 pm) from NOS's broadcasting centre in Hilversum, Holland. The signals would be beamed to cable TV companies and other television stations, which would then relay them to viewers in the normal way. NOS would bounce the signals off the European Communications Satellite (ECS) using the channel attributed to it.

Both NOS and IBA would like to start trial broadcasts between 9 and 25 June, and from September to December this year. If all goes well, they would then go on the air on a regular basis in 1985, with the aim of moving on to DBS TV via the European Space Agency's maxi-satellite Olympus (formerly L-Sat), due to be launched in summer 1986 on the European space rocket Ariane.

All the programmes on a particular evening

'News bulletins would be compiled by a multinational team of journalists'

would be built around a specific theme: Monday, feature films; Tuesday, sport; Wednesday, light entertainment; Thursday, documentaries and current affairs, etc. The only anchor point would be the regular news slot between 7 and 8 pm.

News bulletins would be compiled by a multinational team of experienced journalists. Each evening's entertainment would be a composite blend of programmes from NOS, the IBA, ARD, RTE and others, either new productions or programmes already broadcast on national networks.

Projects of this scope do not come cheap. But the Dutch Government has promised financial backing for the venture during the four or five years until the station begins to produce a return on investment. Well-placed sources indicate that the Dutch authorities are ready to stump up the equivalent of 70 to 80 million French francs. The project's sponsors have also asked for moral (and material) support from the European Community. The European Parliament gave the project an enthusiastic reception, while the Commission greeted it with interest. To date, however, the EEC has not gone quite so far as to translate its welcoming of the principle into hard cash terms.

The EBU project (christened Project B) is the brainchild of the West German Channel 2 (ZDF), backed by the Italian RAI. They are also thinking along the lines of a daily, multi-lingual, pilot programme. The difference is that theirs would be broadcast at off-peak times, perhaps in mid-afternoon. The audience would be smaller, but costs would be lower. Given the tighter cash constraints under which virtually all Europe's TV stations are labouring, the project (which has been dubbed Project Zero) would make only minimal demands on existing programming budgets. Most of the material used would be drawn from EUB's existing, and under-utilised, stocks. Sporting and cultural events and news would be relayed direct. The channel would be financed by the participating broadcasters.

This 'pared-to-the-bone' broadcasting would later be broadened, both by increasing transmission time and by putting out a wider variety of programmes. The aim of the experiment would be to pave the way for a DBS schedule for 1986, relayed via the Olympus direct broadcasting satellite. In the interim, the signals would be bounced off the ECS to cable and normal TV stations for transmission to viewers.

Community authorities have stressed the potential value of a television channel broadcasting nothing but news and information about the Community. Broadcasts of this nature would come as the logical complement to

national and pan-European programmes. This would meet political and cultural needs which have so far been ignored, and fill a gap in the European information network. The channel could also broadcast highlights of national news and views taken from material provided by the member states.

The target group which the Community would be aiming to reach would be the younger viewer, probably a product of the further or higher education systems, interested in international affairs: in short, the upwardly mobile opinion-makers. Those whose main sources of general information on the European scene are the Europe-based American dailies, the International Herald Tribune and the Wall Street Journal.

Visnews, the British TV news agency, has put forward to the Community a proposal to set up an editorial advisory group consisting of journalists of different nationalities, to organise what would essentially be a television news channel - broadcasting news from 14 to 24 hours a day. Visnews has asked the Community to underwrite about one-third of the start-up costs.

In the European Parliament's view, direct cash funding from the Community should be used to set up an independent professional agency, comprising a programming group, a news editorial group, a translation service and an administrative department. Paired with this agency would be a watchdog body made up of representatives from national television services, the governments of participating countries and the Community institutions.

The Community's nominees would chair the body. This would enable the Community to make sure not only that the body remained truly independent, but also that programmes

retained a European flavour. The watchdog would also have powers to settle disputes. Parliament also advocated the setting up of a broadly-based advisory panel uniting representatives from political, economic and cultural circles with those from minority ethnic, linguistic and religious communities. They would produce annual opinions on the value

'The Community could make sure that the programmes retained a European flavour'

and application of programming criteria and programme content.

The Commission is about to issue its discussion paper, *Television Without Frontiers*, which sets out to deal with Community policy in the field of broadcasting. It is essentially a legal analysis, dealing with the problem of the interpretation of the Treaty of Rome, and is intended to be a first step towards harmonising national broadcasting laws within the Common Market. It is also an attempt to clarify the basis of the Commission's powers and duties in this field, notably harmonisation of the national broadcasting laws of Member States.

The real meat of the discussion paper, however, will lie in its section on the regulation of advertising, which will put forward a number of principles governing the content of advertising, and will also regulate the broadcasting of commercials.

DIEDERIK BANGERT

STICKING UP FOR EUROPE — FOUR NEW STAMPS

Four special postage stamps with a European flavour have just been issued by the Post Office. Two of the stamps celebrate the second direct elections to the European Parliament, to be held next month. The others mark the 25th anniversary of the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications (See cover).

The format of the stamps is unusual - two pairs, and with only two different designs.

The CEPT design appears on stamps in all 26 member countries. It is of a simple bridge, symbolic of the organisation's postal and telecommunications links, with the 'EUROPA' inscription resting on it. The letter 'O' is replaced by CEPT's four post horns symbol.

This is the first time a common design has been used by Europe's postal administrations since 1974. An international competition was held, which attracted 37 designs from the post offices of 20 nations.

The winning design for the CEPT stamp was submitted by Monaco. It is by a 37-year-old Frenchman, Jacky Larriviere. Born in Paris, he now lives in Perigueux in the Dordogne, where he works for the stamp printing works of the French Post Office.

Vienna-born Fritz Wegner has drawn on Greek mythology to produce the two stamps commemorating the European Parliament elections. His designs depict the abduction of Europa, daughter of the King of Tyre, by the god Zeus, who took the form of a bull. Zeus carried Europa off to Crete, where he resumed his human form and Europa gave birth to their son, Minos.

Fritz Wegner came to Britain in 1938, when he was 14. He has designed seven previous special stamp sets for the Post Office, including the Christmas stamps of 1969 and 1979 and the highly-acclaimed Folklore stamps of 1981.

Rough ride for wines that travel

Wine, a drink more commonly associated with bonhomie than bitterness, has become the focus of yet another trade dispute between the United States and the European Community.

The central issues in the dispute are whether American grape growers and wine-makers have been hurt on the US market by unfair competition from French and Italian producers of ordinary table wines, and whether the American wine industry is encountering barriers in its efforts to export wines, notably to the European Community.

Specifically, the US Department of Commerce is investigating complaints alleging that French and Italian ordinary table wines are being subsidised and sold in the United States at less than their fair market value. Separately, legislation pending before Congress in the wine trade area – the Wine Equity Act – could lead to restrictions on imports of foreign wines.

The dispute constitutes a potential threat to the Community's largest agricultural export to the United States. In 1982, US imports of all wines from the Community amounted to some \$668 million, helping redress the EEC's agricultural deficit with the United States, which amounted that year to some \$6.5 billion.

The Commission has challenged the validity of these complaints and fears that they reflect a move toward protectionism in the United States. Furthermore, the Commission cannot help but view these complaints against the background of a US-EEC relationship already under strain.

In January 1984 the American Grape Growers Alliance for Fair Trade called on the US Government to impose additional duties on imports of ordinary table wines from France and Italy. The group claims that subsidies provided by the European Community and the governments of France and Italy give French and Italian ordinary table wines a substantial edge in the American marketplace.

The American wine growers allege, for instance, that EEC programs (which apply only to ordinary table wine) – such as the distillation of wines into alcohol; storage aid; EEC and national-government grants and loans to French and Italian wine producers for the

'The French and Italians are accused of selling ordinary table wines on the US market at dumped prices'

The Americans say certain European wine growers are unfairly subsidised. The Commission says they aren't – and accuses the United States of protectionism. What's going on?

purpose of uprooting vineyards; and programs for improving the production, processing, and marketing of ordinary table wines – all contribute to keeping the prices of these wines artificially low. Thus, the wine-growers group believes that these programs stimulate exports to the United States and cause a displacement of US grapes and wines.

The alliance is also accusing French and Italian producers of selling ordinary table wines on the US market at dumped prices, i.e. prices that do not represent the fair value of these products. The group claims that, as a result of these policies, US wineries are not reaping the benefits of increased wine consumption in the United States and are being forced to maintain low prices, leading to financial losses and a downward pressure on grape prices.

The numbers involved help illustrate why the wine trade issue has generated so much heat. In the last 35 years there has been a spectacular expansion of viticulture and wine production throughout the world. In the United States, the origin of the wine industry dates back to the late 1700s, when the Franciscan fathers of the California missions began cultivating grapes to ensure a dependable supply of sacramental wine. Although dealt a temporary set back by Prohibition, California's wine production has since increased exponentially in both quantity and quality.

The United States is now the world's sixth largest wine-producing country, with California accounting for about 90 per cent of US wine production. According to the US Department of Agriculture the number of American wineries in the United States more than doubled in the last 10 years. The US market and US wine consumption per capita also doubled from 3 litres in 1950 to 7.6 litres in 1979.

The success of California wineries attracted substantial investments from such marketing experts as Coca Cola and Seagrams, as well as European investment. In 1982, however, the growth rate began to show signs of slowing down. The domestic market for table wines expanded only by 2.6 per cent compared with annual growth rates of between 7 per cent and 15 per cent in the previous years.

The European Community, for its part,

accounts for over half the world's wine output. Its wine industry is the world's oldest and richest in cultural significance. The industry is thought to employ about 800,000 full-time workers, about 10 per cent of the Community's agricultural work force.

The last decade has seen a new pattern of consumption develop in the Community. On the one hand, consumption declined in the two biggest producing countries, France and Italy. In France, per capita consumption dropped from 107 litres in 1970 to 96 litres in 1980. In Italy, it fell from 111 litres in 1970 to 89 litres in 1980.

On the other hand, stimulated by the creation of a common market for wine in 1970, consumption increased in the countries that were not traditional wine drinkers. In the United Kingdom, for instance, per capita consumption rose from 5 litres in 1970 to 8 litres in 1980. In the Netherlands, it increased from 6 litres in 1970 to 11 litres in 1980. During that period, however, the average level of per capita consumption in the Community as a whole decreased from 51 litres to 48 litres.

Faced with a trend toward a global decrease in consumption, the EEC, in the framework of its wine policy, devised programs to adjust supply and demand for wines in the short as well as the long term. Those tools are the ones under attack by the Grape Growers Alliance for Fair Trade.

In the Commission's view, however, these tools, far from lowering prices, have the opposite effect. Indeed, they are used to reduce the volume of production through the uprooting of vineyards producing low-quality wines, to improve the quality of wine, and to avoid the collapse of prices when crops are too large.

In addition, wine produced in the Community does not benefit from any export subsidies to the United States. Moreover, similar programs exist in the United States.

The Community's wine policy, first put into place in 1976, and expanded in 1980, is already yielding results: vine acreage has decreased by 8 per cent, and production of ordinary table wines is declining. Consequently, the EEC is challenging the subsidy allegations made by the grape growers' group.

It also points out that injury, if any, suffered by the US grape and wine industries is not caused by imports of ordinary table wines from France and Italy. An abundant 1982 grape crop, the concomitant onslaught of economic recession, and a price war among California's largest wineries, led by the Gallo company, are at the root of US wine trading problems.

The Commission notes that Italian and French ordinary table wines have found a special niche in the US market. Sales of white wine in particular – the segment of the market where most of the import growth is taking

place – continue to increase and US wineries are enjoying the benefits of this expanding market.

The Commission also notes that, despite a dramatic depreciation of the French franc and the Italian lira vis-a-vis the dollar between 1980 and 1983 (40 per cent for the franc and 34 per cent for the lira), prices of French and Italian ordinary table wines have remained stable in dollar terms.

And last, but not least, the Commission is challenging the legal standing of the American Grape Growers Alliance and its member associations to file complaints with the US government against imports of ordinary table wines from France and Italy.

American wine producers have also been pressing Congress to adopt the Wine Equity Act. According to its sponsors, this bill is aimed at eliminating trade barriers to US exports of wine. In the Commission's view, this bill more likely threatens the access of foreign wines to the US market in the guise of seeking strict reciprocity on a product-by-product basis.

The European Community has expressed its concern about latest developments in the US wine sector.

The Community fears that such developments reflect a move toward protectionism in

'Wine produced in the Community does not benefit from any export subsidies to the United States

the United States, and that any restrictions on imports of wine from the Community could lead to a dangerous increase in trade restriction, and a rapid erosion of the open multi-lateral trading system.

Ironically, the wine equity bill was introduced last summer, only weeks after the United States and the European Commission agreed to reduce technical barriers to wine trade with an exchange of letters in which each side pledged to adapt its winemaking regulations to accommodate winemaking practices used by the other.

The two sides also agreed in principle to hold technical discussions aimed at harmonising US and European Community wine labelling requirements. As a result, US wine exports to the Community countries are expected to improve steadily.

The talks on harmonisation of wine regulations constitute an encouraging sign of the will to cooperate, and should show the way to a healthy trading relationship – an approach from which both sides have considerably more to gain than from legal battles. Similarly, both the Community and the United States should benefit from a US market in expansion, stimulated by the 1983 recovery, not only to the benefit of grape growers and wine producers, but also of consumers. 

Hop on a bus – and catch up with Europe!



After last year's triumphant tour of Wales and the West Country, the Eurobus is back on the road – this time with a longer itinerary, from the end of April to the middle of October, when it is due to return to London.

As last year, the bus will be a roving information centre for the Commission, well stocked with descriptive literature on how membership of the European Community is working for Britain.

At every stop the bus will be open to members of the public, who are invited to step aboard and view the special exhibition, ask questions, seek facts and figures, talk to the travelling 'crew', and generally make themselves at home. Children and young people are particularly welcome –

last year they made up the majority of the 20,000 visitors on the Eurobus's eleven-week tour.

Already the bus has called at Peterborough, Newark, Lincoln, York and Durham. In the last ten days of May it will be in Carlisle and Berwick before going on to Scotland – Stirling, Glasgow, Dumfries. After stops at Morecambe and Chester it will head for Wales, spending 11 days at the National Eisteddfod. Then it's on to Newport, Wells, Dartmouth, Winchester, Bournemouth, the Isle of Wight and Brighton, its last stop, early in October.

Along the way there will be civic welcomes, visits from celebrities, lots of action and plenty of fun. If the Eurobus is coming your way, hop on. We'd like to meet you.



A typical stopover on last year's tour – with youngsters to the fore.

The EMS is five years old

The European Monetary System (EMS) celebrated its fifth birthday in March. To mark the event, the European Commission published a review of its achievements in terms of bringing together the economic policies of EC member states and creating exchange rate stability.

The central element of the EMS is the European Currency Unit, or ECU, which is composed of a basket of EC currencies (excluding sterling), reflecting the relative strength of the various economies. Each currency participating in the system has an ECU value, which can be adjusted by mutual agreement.

On the basis of these values, a grid of bilateral parities sets the central exchange rate of each currency. Central banks are expected to keep their rates within fixed limits, keeping fluctuation down to less than 2.25 per cent. The Italian lire is allowed to fluctuate by up to 6 per cent.

When the EMS came into being in 1979, monetary stability was badly needed to restore investment confidence throughout Europe. Initial misgivings were overcome and all the participants stuck to the rules, despite the oil crisis and the recession. Over the past five years exchange rate stability in Europe has compared favourably with the fluctuations experienced by the yen and the dollar. EMS rates have been adjusted seven times over the period, providing a stable monetary environment conducive to foreign investment.

In terms of inflation, the results have been less impressive. But since 1983 things have been looking up. In the eight countries participating in the exchange rate mechanism (excluding the United Kingdom and Greece), average inflation rates fell from 8 per cent in 1979 to a little over 6 per cent last year. By the end of 1984 they should reach 5 per cent.

The 11 per cent gap between the best and the worst inflation rates in

1979 (the Netherlands and Italy) is down to 7.5 per cent this year. Cooperation through the EMS has also led to a convergence of economic policies.

The convergence is still insufficient, says the Commission, 'but is real in terms of inflation and balanced external accounts.'



Airbus has taken off

Airbus Industry, the jointly-owned European aerospace company, is alive and well. Its share of the world market for medium-cost planes has increased by 7 per cent since 1981. It now accounts for 21.7 per cent of the world market. Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, its main competitors, account for 49 and 15 per cent respectively.

The figures appear in an annual report on the aerospace industry, covering both the civil and military sectors, jointly compiled by the industry and the European Commission.

The report shows that in 1982 other aircraft built in Europe also increasingly penetrated world markets. Their market share increased by 5 per cent in Europe, 1.8 per cent in the United States and 2 per cent in other countries. In the military sector, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom cooperated to build a number of planes, including the Alpha-Jet, the Tornado and the Jaguar.

Of the 10,813 military planes and helicopters in service in the Community in 1981, 65.8 per cent were European, 33.2 per cent American and 1 per cent were from other countries.

The turnover of the aerospace industry in Europe, including internal trade, reached about £12 billion in 1981, compared to £27.1 billion in the United States and £679 million in Japan. In 1981 the industry provided jobs for about 490,700 people.

What about a common air transport policy?

The European Commission has published a report outlining proposals for a common air transport policy, that would increase competition and bring down fares.

But the report to the Council of Ministers rejects deregulation of the type introduced in the United States, on the grounds that Europe's state-owned, state-financed airlines cannot be compared to American companies.

The Commission proposals only cover flights inside the Community, and would maintain the existing system of agreements between governments and cooperation between airlines.

But they would introduce an increased flexibility and a controlled competition that would increase efficiency and benefit the consumer, the airlines and their estimated 200,000 employees, says the Commission.

'Help the disabled' plea by Ivor Richard

Disabled people are among those most severely affected by the present economic situation, not merely by unemployment but also by the impact of budgetary austerity, which has cut into many of the essential support services on which disabled people depend in their struggle to maintain an independent way of life, says Commissioner Ivor Richard.

'Employment,' he added, 'is an essential means by which individuals can maintain their dignity and self-respect. Employment is an essential means by which society can maintain its cohesion, and also preserve and develop the capacities of its work force. In the not too distant future, in the light of demographic trends and changing economic fortunes, we can expect to be in a situation where we will need to call upon all available human resources to be active in economic life', Mr Richard

added. 'We cannot therefore allow the free play of market forces and traditional concepts of employment to continue, as at present, to exclude vast numbers of people from the experience of work and participation in the economic life of our society,' he said.

'We therefore need to look very seriously, not out of charity but out of basic political and economic good sense, at alternative ways of creating job opportunities and ensuring that these are spread evenly and equitably across the population.'

Mr Richard was speaking at the opening of a conference organised by the commission on the employment of disabled people in Brussels on March 21-23. The conference brought together nearly a hundred participants from government bodies and voluntary organisations, from rehabilitation centres and the social partners as well as the project leaders of the 'district projects' on the social integration of disabled people, set up as part of the action programme adopted by the Council in December 1981.



Jobless total hits new high

Registered unemployment in the nine European Community countries excluding Greece has risen to a record 12.8 million. This is the highest level recorded since the creation of the Community in 1958.

In January another 400,000 people signed on, to bring the average rate of unemployment for the Community as a whole to 11.5 per cent of the workforce.

Young people remain the hardest hit, and measures to help unemployed youngsters have only had a limited effect. Unemployment amongst men under 25 rose by 3 per cent in 1983, compared to 4.3 per cent for men as a whole. But the figure for both younger and older women was the same at 6 per cent.

At the moment, almost one in two

unemployed women, and a third of all unemployed men in the European Community, are under 25, according to the EEC Statistical Office. But, forecasters say, the rates could be stabilising in most member states. In the Federal Republic of Germany seasonally-adjusted figures have shown a fall in recent months. But in France rates have started to rise. Over the past year the biggest percentage increases were recorded in the Netherlands, Ireland and Luxembourg.

Britain figures in the poverty league table

Output and unemployment are five times worse in Calabria than in Hamburg, according to the European Commission, which has just published a 'league table' of poverty in Europe's regions.

The poverty index, which shows 'the relative intensity of problems', takes a Community average of 100 and ranges from 30.3 at the bottom to 154.4 at the top. The top six regions were all located in the Federal Republic of Germany, and were followed by the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and the Ile de France.

The bottom six included Calabria and Campania in the Italian Mezzogiorno, Sardinia, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Merseyside in the United Kingdom.

Other regions with acute problems included the rest of the Mezzogiorno and Lazio in Italy, most of Greece, Corsica, the French overseas departments, the Hainaut and Limburg provinces of Belgium and eight regions in England, Scotland and Wales.

Italian and British regional problems stand out in the survey. Among the bottom twenty regions, all of which registered less than 70 on the index, nine were Italian and seven were British. Only five Italian and five British regions registered over the hundred mark in terms of economic output and unemployment. The United Kingdom's richest region, Greater London, only rated 41st in the Community as a whole—well behind Val d'Aosta, Italy's richest region.

The Federal Republic of Germany, France and the Netherlands dominated the upper end of the index. At 108.1, Niederbayern, the

worst-off German region, was only two points below the figure for Greater London. Figures for France, however, showed vast regional differences. Ile de France registered 135.3, while Corsica showed a depressed 57.2. Fifteen French regions were below the Community average.



Let's get disaster plan together says MEP

Forest fires, earthquakes, avalanches, and nuclear accidents are just some of the natural disasters that Community countries are not equipped to deal with on their own. The solution could be improved through European cooperation, according to a French Socialist MEP.

In a report to the Parliament's environmental committee, Alain Bombard says that reciprocal emergency aid and international coordination of relief work could be organised at Community level.

His report argues for the creation of a central information exchange bureau, that would increase efficiency by avoiding overlapping and waste. Member states would keep the centre informed about the kinds of emergency aid they could provide at any given time, for example in terms of medical teams or tents, and local authorities could then contact the bureau, listing their needs and asking for help.

The bureau would then pass on their demands to the country in the best position to respond. The centre would also maintain close links with other specialist international aid agencies, such as the International Red Cross and the United Nations emergency aid programme.

The MEPs want the European Commission to draw up detailed proposals for increased cooperation

at European level. M. Bombard would also like to see permanent links between civil defence bodies in the member states, joint emergency exercises, an exchange of specialised personnel and uniform technical norms for their equipment.

MEPs back funds for fish farming

Community funding for fish farming in Europe increased from about £3 million in 1978 to £22.8 million last year. But according to Italian Communist MEP Giovanni Papapietro, even more should be done to promote research and improved marketing in the industry.

In a report compiled for the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee, he says that Europe should follow the example of countries like Japan and the United States, where the protein yield from fish farming is steadily increasing.

Japan, which leads the world in fish farming, catches between nine and ten million tonnes of fish a year and relies on fish for 47 per cent of its protein consumption, compared to a world average of 16 per cent.

The growth of world sea fishing is now stable at around 0.5-1 per cent per annum, but fish production from aquaculture and mariculture is growing rapidly at an average 5 per cent, says the report.

According to Mr Papapietro, there are two key reasons for developing the industry in Europe. Firstly the coasts and inland waterways of many of Europe's poorest peripheral regions are ideally suited to fish farming, and secondly; fish imports are rising steadily, he says.

ESPRIT gets its research budget

The European Community's ESPRIT research programme into new information technologies has been approved, with an initial budget of £855 million over five years.

Greeting the decision, European Commission vice-president Etienne Davignon described it as 'the first optimistic decision' that the Community had taken in a long time. The decision to go ahead with the

scheme was taken at the last Council of Research and Industry Ministers in Brussels and will give Europe the means to face American and Japanese competition in the Information Technology sector.

ESPRIT — the European Strategic Programme for Research in Information Technologies — is the first cooperation scheme of its kind. Its aim is to enable Europe to catch up with its competitors over the next ten years by bringing together the research efforts of industry, laboratories and universities and pooling their results to stimulate innovation and reduce waste. It will cover five key areas of research, including microelectronics, advanced data processing, artificial intelligence, office systems and computer-assisted production.

The emergence of the project is largely due to the realisation that, without cooperation, the European countries will not be able to stand up to tough international competition from abroad. By 1982 the Community was already running a \$5 billion deficit in the communications sector, which includes information technology and microelectronics. The implications of the figures provided a stimulus for Europe's twelve largest firms in the sector to try and reverse the trend.



Belt up at the back?

Seat belts for back-seat passengers are fast becoming the norm for new cars sold in the European Community, according to transport commissioner Giorgis Contogeorgis.

Although motorists throughout Europe still have the option of whether or not to wear rear seat belts, their installation in new cars is already mandatory in the Federal Republic of Germany and France.

Similar measures are known to be under consideration in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Belgium, says the Transport Commissioner.

CAP reform deserves a vote of thanks from taxpayers, says Tugendhat

The settlement of the long dispute over farm support prices was greeted by Christopher Tugendhat, vice-president of the Commission, as the 'most important development to have occurred in the Common Agricultural Policy for twenty years.'

At long last, he said, the agriculture ministers 'have faced up to the fact that farmers cannot go on producing unlimited quantities of surplus products at the taxpayer's expense. Britain for many years has been pressing for this simple but vital principle to be accepted.'

Mr Tugendhat, speaking at Bury St Edmunds, continued: 'Of course, the end of unlimited guarantee arrangements causes difficulties for some farmers. It is understandable that some should be worried about their future and attack what has been done.'

But Michel Rocard, the French President of the Agriculture Council, Michael Jopling and their colleagues deserve a hearty vote of thanks from the taxpayer.

'Although Britain has for long been pressing for the CAP to be run on more economic and cost-effective limits, it is now being suggested by some in this country that the settlement is somehow unfair to British farmers. That is not so.'

'The argument is based on the fact that, in some countries, prices in national currencies have been increased, while in Britain, along with Germany and Holland, they have been reduced. However, this line of reasoning overlooks two vital points. One is that infla-

tion rates differ widely within the Community. In those countries in which nominal prices have risen inflation is in general higher than in the UK.

The other is that in Britain, Germany and Holland farmers were getting significantly higher prices in real terms before the settlement than those received by their opposite numbers in other member states.'

Even after the settlement, added Mr Tugendhat, support prices in Britain are still about 1½ per cent above the levels ruling in the majority of member states, including France, Denmark and Ireland.

'It is perhaps understandable that in the immediate aftermath of the settlement, before the details have been fully digested, farmers in each member state should feel that someone else has escaped more lightly than they. Indeed, it is striking to note that all governments are having difficulty in convincing their farmers that justice has been done he said.'

Mr Tugendhat went on: 'I believe, however, that the burden has been equitably divided, bearing in mind the differing circumstances of the farming communities and the national economies within the EEC.'

'British farmers have two great advantages compared with those in many other countries when it comes to operating in a more challenging environment. One is the high level of efficiency that characterises farming in this country. The other is the fact that the rate of inflation in Britain is at the lower end of the Community scale.'

TURNER PACKS THEM IN AT THE GRAND PALAIS

The Turner exhibition at the Grand Palais, in Paris, which closed on 16 January, enjoyed a phenomenally successful run, say the British Council, who organised it.

During the 79 days it was open to the public the exhibition attracted a total of 584,306 visitors, of whom one in ten bought the catalogue (which went through four re-printings), and one in four a copy of the 'Petit Journal'.

Of all the exhibitions ever staged by the Réunion des Musées Nationaux de la France, it has proved one of the most popular – surpassed only by Tutankhamen in 1967 and by Manet in 1983.

The British Council are particularly pleased that France has responded with such enthusiasm to Turner. As the second in the series of 'Great Masters of British Painting', organised jointly by the British Council and the Réunion, it has amply demonstrated

French interest in and appreciation of British art.

It has been interesting to note that, in the reviews of the exhibition, French critics have been at pains to dispel the myth that Turner was the first Impressionist, insisting that his work must be judged by its own lights, rather than simply as a reflection of French developments in art history.

Next year the Tate's new Clore Gallery will open, as the permanent home of the Turner Bequest, which has hitherto been housed between the Tate Gallery, National Gallery and British Museum.

Exhibitions of the size and scale of the Turner exhibition in France will, at least for the foreseeable future, no longer be possible. The British Council say they are 'especially delighted that the last grand Turner exhibition abroad has received such acclaim.'



Riches of the Romanesque

The most famous date in English history finds its way into the title of the current exhibition at London's Hayward Gallery – 'English Romanesque Art, 1066 to 1200'. In bringing together 500 marvellous examples of the impact of Norman culture on Anglo-Saxon England, the organisers have illuminated an epoch when England became part of the twelfth-century Renaissance, which was to penetrate into all expressions of Western Christendom.

A scholarly monk, William of Malmesbury, recorded that the Normans 'breathed new life into religious standards, which everywhere in England had been declining, so that now you may see, in every village, town and city, churches and monasteries rising in a new style of architecture'.

The Normans were certainly prodigious builders, with an inventiveness and sweep of design that can still take one's breath away. Add to these masterpieces in stone the coloured glass, wall paintings, embellishment of detail, and something of the original impact can be imagined even 900 years later.

The great cathedrals and abbeys – designed and built, as far as we can tell, without benefit of drafts or plans – are expressive of a common culture, rather than one imposed on a vanquished nation by a conqueror. As the Hayward catalogue points out, the roots of this achievement are embedded in the Continent: the pride we take in them is not insular, but an acknowledgement of a shared past and a common bond.

Romanesque art – popularly known in Britain as 'Norman' – emerged from the ruins of Charlemagne's Europe, at a time when civilisation itself hung on a thread. As recovery gathered pace, intellectual and social activity also quickened. The art that surfaced carried the ancient Roman style into a new age, in-

Left: a keystone from Keymschal Abbey, Dorset, depicting Samson and the Lion, from about 1170. Below: A coffin lid from just before the Conquest, from St Augustine's, Bristol. Right: a leaf related to the Winchester Bible, 1160 to 1180, originally at the Cathedral Priory.



termingled with pre-Christian and oriental imagery of the kind that gives Romanesque statuary, in particular, its startling vivacity.

At the Hayward you can see examples from English churches, abbeys and cathedrals, akin to those at Moissac or Cluny – animated bestiaries, grimacing mutants, outrageous demons. St Bernard of Clairvaux, in a letter to his abbot, complained that a man could spend all his time in church marvelling at these objects, instead of concentrating on his devotions. Perhaps, though, portents of the dreadful fate that awaited sinners were more riveting than sermons.

The Normans acknowledged the skills of English craftsmen – jewellers, illuminators, gold and silversmiths – whose work glows and gleams in the Hayward's softly-lit interior. No art of its time surpasses that of the Winchester School and such other monastic centres as Glastonbury, Canterbury and Ely.

The work of the Winchester book painters, in particular, was known in Normandy, and strongly influenced monastic artists there. It was probably an Anglo-Saxon tapestry of some epic subject, now lost, that gave Bishop Odo, William the Conqueror's half-brother, the idea of celebrating the Battle of Hastings by the same method. Scholars, detecting an

'The great cathedrals and abbeys are expressions of a common culture'



English provenance, are convinced that the Tapestry was made by English embroidresses, working under Norman supervision to make sure that the story was told from the invaders' point of view – and incidentally exaggerating the role of Odo out of all proportion. At the Hayward they are showing the complete set of hand-coloured engravings by Charles Stothard done between 1816 and 1820 – a version that may be closer to the original than the Tapestry itself, which has undergone much re-sewing and restoration over the past 150 years.

Though the Bayeux Tapestry is the most famous Anglo-Norman treasure, the Gloucester candlestick must not be passed by. It enjoys a special position at the Hayward,

carefully lit to reveal the cascade of little figures, in copper alloy and silver, which swarm and tumble around its foliated stem: dragons, centaurs, naked bodies, winged beasts, fighting warriors – and in the midst of it all the symbols of the four Evangelists.

One inscription says in Latin: 'The gentle devotion of Abbot Peter and his flock gave me to the church of St Peter at Gloucester'. Another says: 'Thomas of Poché gave this object to the church of Le Mans'.

So who did make it, and where? The fact that we can enjoy it as a consummate example of Romanesque art, without sparing a thought for the answers, is a reminder that 1066 is a very long time ago.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

William Newton Dunn, United Kingdom:

'Will the Commission please say for each member state: whether fluoridation of drinking water has started, and if so at what level of government the decision was taken and how universal will it be?'

Answer by Karl-Heinz Narjes on behalf of the Commission:

'Fluoridation of drinking water is not compulsory under Directive 80/778/EEC, relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption, which simply lays down the maximum admissible fluoride content. According to the information at the Commission's disposal, the fluoridation of drinking water is compulsory only in Ireland. Scientific opinion about the health value of fluoridation of drinking water varies and little progress is being made on this matter.'

Mr Thomas Megahy, United Kingdom:

'Can the Commission indicate which, if any, Community countries have made the wearing of rear seat belts mandatory?'

Answer given by Giorgis Contogeorgis on behalf of the Commission:

'According to the information available, the installation of rear seat belts is mandatory in the Federal

Republic of Germany and in France and is under consideration in the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom. The wearing of rear seat belts is optional in all Member States.'

Robert Battersby, United Kingdom:

'What legal action does the Commission intend to take to recover excess amounts paid out to the Netherlands authorities for mackerel in 1981 which were exported in excess of the mackerel available to the Netherlands, i.e. quota plus net imports?'

Answer by Poul Dalsager on behalf of the Commission:

'As the Commission has already had occasion to point out, final settlement of expenditure on refunds is not made until the Commission is satisfied that proper procedures have been followed and Community rules complied with.'

'The Commission has carried out an on-the-spot inspection and has informed the Netherlands authorities of the consequences which it considers should be drawn as re-

gards the export refunds for frozen mackerel in 1981. A decision on this expenditure will be taken by the Commission when the 1981 accounts are cleared. It should also be mentioned that the export refunds were suspended as from 1 November 1983.'

Kenneth Collins, United Kingdom:

I understand that the Commission is at present considering a proposal for an indiscriminate levy on blank video and audio tape. Does the Commission not agree that such a levy would put up the cost of blank tape, penalising legitimate users, without hitting the real offenders?'

Answer by Karl-Heinz Narjes on behalf of the Commission:

'The Commission has raised the issue of introducing a fee on blank video and audio tapes in two communications to the Council of Community action in the cultural sector, as a potential means to compensate copyright owners for the copying of their works by individuals for private purposes.'

Indeed, the problem of private copying seems to be of increasing economic importance to the phonogram and videogram industry as well as to the individual author and performer. A comprehensive study of the copying practice, the economic implications and the legal situation in member states was requested and was then presented to the Commission in July 1983. This study contains evidence to support the allegation that the lost sale of pre-recorded records and tapes and videotapes due to private reproduction is at least of the same importance to the interested industries as the losses incurred due to commercial piracy.

Whereas piracy as a criminal practice has to be suppressed by means appropriate to deal with large scale economic crime, private copying should not be policed. The Commission is only concerned with balancing the conflicting interests of the private consumer and the copyright owner.

However, the Commission has not yet taken a position on the introduction of a fee on recording equipment and blank tapes. On the basis of the above-mentioned study, the Commission is at present examining the economic and legal implications of the copying practice for the Community, and it intends to publish a green paper on current copyright problems in the first half of 1984.

LOVE YOUR DOG — AND THAT'S AN ORDER!

When Odysseus came home to Ithaca after a 20-year absence, an aged hunting dog was the first to greet the ragged traveller as his master.

But in modern Greece, the relationship between Greeks and dogs leaves much to be desired. In an effort to convince people that dogs are truly man's best friend, the Greek Government has come up with new decrees, designed, in the words of the Agricultural Ministry, 'to promote a spirit of love for animals'.

The new rules may prove hard to implement. In the countryside, Greeks traditionally adopt a harshly utilitarian attitude to their animals. In Athens, many suburban districts are presently plagued by packs of stray dogs that snap threateningly at the heels of joggers and terrify mothers with young children.

In future, anyone who abandons a pet dog will be liable to up to six months in jail, plus a fine, under the new decree. Following the French system recommended by the European Community, dogs will be registered by their owners by means of a tattoo to be recorded on a computerised central list. Strays found without an identifying tattoo will be put down.

Plans for a central dog pound for the Attica



region surrounding Athens have existed on paper for over one year. But local mayors approached for a site have raised objections to housing hundreds of lean and hungry strays in their constituencies. In the meantime, estimates for the city's strays, which roam from the slopes of Mount Hymettus as far as central Constitution Square late at night, range from 15,000 to 50,000 animals.

The complaints vary from protests by suburban residents, kept awake at night by

barking dogs, to civil aviation officials' fears that packs of dogs breeding in wasteground surrounding Athens airport runways could become a safety risk. In the past, attempts to control the city's unofficial dog population ranged from laying out poisoned bait to a government bounty offered for putting down strays.

Current legislation, which rules that only sick animals can be destroyed under normal circumstances, is blamed for contributing to Greece's stray dog problem. Animal welfare societies say they put down only 3,000 injured or diseased dogs every year. But dogs with owners also lead a difficult life in Athens, living in apartment blocks and competing with children for the smallest amount of green space available in a European capital. They are banned from most parks, except during siesta hours.

Veterinarians say the Greeks' lack of affection for canines may stem from a still-lively fear of echinococcosis, a parasite in sheep which can be spread by dogs and prove fatal in humans.

Although few cases are reported these days, Greek children are generally encouraged to view dogs with suspicion.

KERIN HOPE

France is by no means solely responsible for Britain's difficulties with the EEC. As we saw in Brussels, her impatience with the British attitude is shared by all the other eight members, and expressed more intemperately by some of them.

Nor is Britain responsible for the difficulties of French farmers. If Britain left the Community there would be less money available to finance the CAP and dairy production would have to be cut back more drastically.

Indeed, the farmers' leaders admit, in private, that Britain is a good stick for them to beat their own government with.

— The Times

An EEC farm reform that has enraged farmers in virtually every member country of the European Community cannot be all bad.

— Economist

A Japanese industry chief yesterday called for greater cooperation between his country and members of the European Economic Community in developing high technology, particularly in the electronics industry.

Dr Koji Kobayashi, chairman of the NEC Corporation which specialises in sophisticated telecommunications systems, said EEC countries had historically been too concerned about the negative effects of new technology. Therefore they were not enjoying the benefits of their pioneering creativity.

— Financial Times

Two basic traditions of British family life were under threat from the Common Market last night.

A plan to slash milk production could mean the end of doorstep deliveries and hit the jobs of 40,000 milkmen.

And new farm subsidies are certain to put up the price of the Sunday roast by as much as 25p a pound, if approved.

— Daily Star

It now looks as though there will be a second European poverty programme next year. The European Commission has been taking soundings over the past year and will shortly submit formal proposals to the Council of Ministers and the European parliament.

They are likely to get a favourable wind within the council under the presidency of, first, the French, and then the Irish.

— New Society

Farmers' sunshine days of unlimited EEC subsidies were well and truly over, Mr Peter Pooley, deputy director-general for agriculture in Brussels, said yesterday.

He told a conference at Northamptonshire College of Agriculture in Wellingborough, that the main message from the deal agreed a fortnight ago was that 'nobody, absolutely nobody, is prepared to accept open-ended guarantees for any product whatsoever.'

Any crop or livestock product that ran away with the acreage or ran away with the money was going to be hammered. 'Just how hard that can be is indicated by the terrible fate of milk producers,' Mr Pooley said.

— Daily Telegraph

We said last week that Britain's farmers get an annual subsidy of £1,688 billion. This should have been £1,688 million.

— Sunday Times

WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS

As they emerged from yet another frustrating meeting, the other ministers gave caustic press briefings. 'The nine governments withdrew their concessions at the end of the meeting,' reported Mr Claude Cheysson, the French foreign minister. 'The British have not withdrawn theirs,' he added, 'because they never made any.'

Sir Geoffrey was phlegmatic to the end. He seems confident that, as the Community runs short of cash, the other nine countries will be obliged to make concessions to the British.

He may be right, but the cost in lost goodwill towards Britain is mounting fast.

— Economist

Labour must go into the European elections as the only party which stands for withdrawal. And not just withdrawal. We must convince people that there is an alternative.

The EEC countries need us as much as we need them. Britain is a major market for their exports. We have materials — such as oil and fish — that are in short supply in the EEC.

Outside the Market, we would be free to buy agricultural produce on the world market, instead of at the ludicrous prices fixed by the Common Agricultural Policy.

But above all British withdrawal from the EEC would restore the sovereignty of Parliament over our own affairs. For the simple fact is that, under the terms of the Treaty of Rome, any serious alternative to monetarism is illegal.

— Tribune

The European Parliament overwhelmingly approved in Strasbourg last night a report calling for closer co-operation between London and Dublin and urging a form of power-sharing between Protestants and Roman Catholics in Ulster.

— Daily Express

Euro-MPs are worried by the Common Market's falling birth rate — and yesterday in Strasbourg they voted for a study on ways to encourage a baby boom.

They had been told that the population of the EEC's ten countries will account for only 2.3 per cent of the world's population by the year 2,025 as opposed to 8.8 per cent in 1950 and that this will affect Europe's role in global affairs.

But one British Labour MP in Europe, Derek Enright, condemned the baby boom suggestion as 'daft.'

'The Parliament is calling on the people of Europe to be latter day Adams and Eves and go forth and populate the world,' he said.

— Star

Have a baby for Europe!

— Headline in the Daily Mirror

It is no good expecting a European 'pillar' simply to rise from the earth of its own accord. It would have to be built laboriously out of many stones such as European defence and foreign policy cooperation, that are still very rough-hewn, to say nothing of some, such as an industrial policy, an energy policy, and a transport policy, that have not yet been cut at all.

Nevertheless, these perspectives are beginning to open up, whether we like it or not, and it is because they are that the financial quarrel will be settled.

— The Times

Mr Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, was accused yesterday of selling farmers down the river by agreeing to a nine per cent cut in British milk production in the recent EEC agriculture price deal.

At Exeter, he was met with a banner declaring 'Jopling Out.'

— Sunday Telegraph

Nine European countries have promised to reduce emissions of sulphur dioxide by one third within the next ten years. But Britain has made no such promise. Instead, the National Coal Board and the Central Electricity Generating Board have commissioned a study of the relationship between Britain's smoke and Scandinavia's acid rain. It could take five years.

The rest of Europe call this procrastination.

— New Scientist

The EEC yesterday authorised Italy to tighten curbs on imports of Japanese colour film and motorcycles.

— Associated Press

If India can feed itself, Africa, which for all its deserts and poor soil areas is quite lightly populated for its size, ought to be well off. But it isn't. And when someone pleads hunger one does not lock the larder and deliver homilies.

The EEC, including Britain, has joined in the effort to help and can reasonably be encouraged to do more. But if we in the rich North succeed in averting several million deaths this year, we ought not to leave it at that. It is high time the Brandt Commission's call for a North-South accord was given a serious and genuine answer.

— Guardian

14TH JUNE

*Don't miss your date
with Europe*

**THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT
ELECTIONS**

*are your chance
to make a mark*

