

Europe 81

No. 3

March 1981

**What the Community
is doing to prevent
another Flixborough**

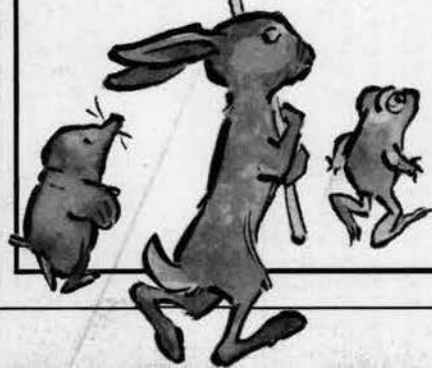


**Jack Waterman looks
at the import-export
soccer market**

Europe's threatened wildlife—are we in time?

**PEOPLE
AREN'T
HUMAN!**

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**Lord Thorneycroft:
four roles for Europe on
the world stage**

**Brussels Notebook
by Dick Leonard**

**A helping hand for
steel: Roy Stemman
reports from Corby**

**EURO
FORUM**

The aim of Europe 81 —to show the Community at work



We have been much encouraged by initial response to our restyled magazine. Readers' opinions will help us in the shaping of future issues. We also welcome letters for publication, from which we hope to publish a selection each month.

As I said in my introductory note in the last issue, the aim of Europe 81 is to show the Community at work: to illustrate how its policies and decisions affect the lives of those who live in the ten member-countries and, often, of those who live outside the Community.

In the current issue, Roy Stemman continues his report on the day-to-day realities of the steel crisis. Perhaps no form of help can wholly compensate for the loss of a job, especially where the job has been the expression of a lifetime's skill and loyalty, but the Community can and does demonstrate its concern in practical and concrete ways.

The experienced political journalist, Dick Leonard, offers an independent view of personalities and policies in his Brussels Notebook, while Lord Thorneycroft, chairman of the Conservative Party, contributes his own view on the importance of Britain's membership of the Ten.

Looking beyond jobs and politics, Europe 81 describes efforts being made to conserve wildlife in Europe and to promote husbandry of livestock in Africa. Jack Waterman's article, which includes observations by Ted Croker, secretary of the English Football Association, casts light upon unexpected aspects of the Common Market.

As before, the eight-page Euroforum insert brings news and authoritative comment from and about the Community institutions.



George Scott

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NEW LIFE FOR CORBY?



**ROY STEMMAN, in a second report
from Britain's stricken steel areas,
visits a town that has lost its living
— but not its future**

The effect of a steelworks closure on a town like Corby in Northamptonshire can be as serious as a coronary in a human being. British Steel was Corby's heart, its one and only industry, providing jobs and security for the majority of the town's population until the late 1970s. When iron and steel making ceased, 5,878 workers were made redundant,

leaving 20 per cent of the population unemployed.

The town's heart continues to beat, because British Steel continues to run its largest tube-making plant from the Corby works. But transplants, in the form of new industry, are desperately needed. This time, with government and European aid, it looks as if the patient has a real chance of pulling through.

Corby was just a village of 1500 inhabitants in the centre of a vast ironstone field until the arrival of Stewart & Lloyds in 1934 transformed it beyond recognition. And that is the root of the town's present predicament: Corby's fortunes have always been inextricably tied to those of the works

Stewarts & Lloyds decided not only to extract the iron, but also to convert it into steel strip from which to make tubes in one continuous process. Within two years it had a workforce which was double that of Corby's original population. It fell to the employer to build houses for its workers and executives, and with continued expansion it had to look outside the Northamptonshire area for manpower. Close on 1,000 employees were brought in from other areas, mostly from Scotland. While others drifted away during the next three or four decades, the Scots remained. The result is that some 57 per cent of Corby's present population are of Scottish origin, and retain strong Scots accents.

Corby, designated a New Town in 1950, launched a plan to build a township for 40,000. That strategy had to be revised ten years later, when Stewarts & Lloyds announced its intention to extend the steelworks and employ a further 2,500. Corby Development Corporation produced a second master plan for a town of 55,000 inhabitants, allowing for natural growth as new generations came along. Then, just as the plan was about to be implemented, the company de-

cided not to increase the workforce after all. The town nevertheless decided to go ahead with its expansion plans, with the aim of attracting other large companies to the area. One of these, Golden Wonder Crisps, is now Corby's second largest employer.

The steelworks — which became part of British Steel Corporation following nationalisation in 1967 — continued to prosper. By the mid-1970s it was employing 12,000 men and 1,000 women in an operation producing over 100,000 miles of steel tubes a year.

But already the writing was on the wall. The effects of recession and inflation were being felt in other steel-producing areas. How could Corby, unique in its almost total dependence on steel, cope with a closure?

To help them find the answer, the town commissioned a study in conjunction with Northamptonshire County Council — *Employment and Industrial Development in Corby* — partly financed by funds from the European Coal and Steel Community. It was published in January 1979, nine months before BSC ►

**In its drive to bring
employment to the
area, Corby looks
forward to sufficient
help from Europe to
attract new industries
and create 10,000 jobs**

dealt the blow that the whole town feared. In November came the announcement that iron and steel making at Corby was to cease.

The Report, no longer hypothetical, was rapidly acted upon. A joint industrial committee was formed to deal with the situation. Its aim: to come up with a formula to minimise long-term unemployment.

In its subsequent report, *The Strategy for Corby: a Community Plan*, the committee estimated that Corby needed £54 million to become viable again. As soon as the closure was announced, the town was given development area status, as an inducement to businesses prepared to set up in the area and create new jobs.

But first the town needed money to finance the industrial estates and services that would make such development possible – and European aid, they knew, would almost certainly be forthcoming.

Armed with an early draft copy of the strategy plan, a team from Corby went to Brussels at the beginning of 1980 to set the scene and seek European Community help. They met Wolfgang Stabenow, director of the European Social Fund, along with Rosario Solima, director of development and conver-

'No-one in Corby is sitting back. But there is an air of quiet confidence – and with good reason'

sion operations, and other senior officials. Later, Dr Stabenow paid a personal visit to Corby, together with other Commission staff, to assess the situation. Corby needs close on £33 million to make sufficient land available on which factories can be built, so as to create 10,000 new jobs. Corby District Council, Northamptonshire County Council and the Commission for the New Towns have already applied for £2,409,600 from the European Regional Development Fund, to help them build the Oakley Hay industrial estate.

While it waits to hear if the grant will be made, Corby has pushed ahead with the plan,

The works are deserted. But Corby has paved the way for new industry.

using land originally intended for housing. The first business to decide to move in was Oxford University Press, the world's largest book publishers, attracted by the availability of cheap freehold land. It is building a warehouse in which it will centralise its distribution operation, and will eventually employ 200 people.

Corby Development Corporation (which functioned until the New Towns Commission took over its responsibilities) has also provided 1¼ million square feet of factory space on an extension to the Earlstrees Estate, paid for from public sector finance at a cost of about £10 million.

In addition to its application for non-repayable grant aid from Europe, including an application for a grant from the ERDF's non-quota section, Corby has also been looking at the Community's re-conversion loan facilities.

Corby District Council's chief executive, Duncan Hall, has been to Luxembourg, together with the finance directors of BSC industry and the New Towns Commission, to discuss a £27 million four-year development package with Credit and Investments and the European Investment Bank.

This money would be used to finance developers and industrialists at more advantageous rates than they can be offered elsewhere.

There is still much to be done, and no-one in Corby is sitting back. But Duncan Hall speaks of the town's 'quiet confidence', and with good reason. There has not been a mass exodus, perhaps because of the cushioning effect of the redundancy payments paid to BSC employees. A £6¼ million re-adaptation grant has been made to Corby by the European Coal and Steel Community, to help with redundancy payments and vocational training for those who have to change their jobs.

Other efforts to overcome the crisis include a promotional campaign and the appointment of a Director of Industry, Fred McClenaghan, whose job is to encourage industrial investment and create new job opportunities.

In these ways, Corby has paved the way for new industry, with the prospect of getting a far better response than in the past. There is skilled labour waiting for employment. There is space for new factories and warehouses, at extremely attractive rates, thanks to the special aid the town has received. And there are a variety of geographical advantages which will be further enhanced when the A1/M1 road link is completed in the mid-1980s.

Corby District Council's chief executive makes special mention of the help received from European MP, Anthony Simpson, whose practical experience of the Community's operations has been of great benefit. As to the future, no one believes it is going to be easy.

But if the optimists are right and the industrial transplants succeed, Corby can look forward to a new lease of life. What's more, it will never again be dependent on a single industry for its lifeblood.





'Businesses coming in can borrow half the money from Europe at 10 per cent'

In addition to its redundancy payments and re-training scheme, which are financed in part by the European Community, British Steel is committed to improving the long-term job prospects of ex-employees. It has formed and funded a subsidiary company, BSC (Industry) Ltd, with the sole aim of helping to create jobs in major closure areas.

Working in close co-operation with government and regional authorities, and with Euro-

BSC Industry's regional director Terry McGrane (at right) shows interested visitors a Corby site. His office (left) is in the town centre.

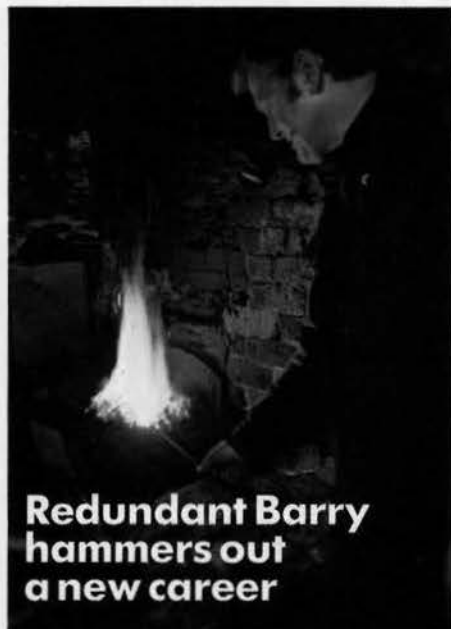
pean Community agencies, it makes itself known to developers and industrialists and helps them to make a choice of former steel-works sites where on-the-spot teams are ready with all the help they need in setting up a business.

Terry McGrane, regional director at Corby, is currently dealing with between 50 and 60 inquiries a month. Some are from individuals who want to start their own companies; others are in medium-size companies, or sometimes large ones, looking to expand their operations or move from their present base. Some need to be dissuaded. Terry McGrane knows that some small businesses would be wasting their time moving to Corby – perhaps because not enough thought has gone into their proposition, or because, even with the financial benefits on offer, they might not make it work.

For most others, though, Corby offers considerable advantages. Terry McGrane makes sure that the businessmen who consult him get the best possible advice from Corby's team of experts. He says: 'For medium-sized companies who may never have moved before, this sort of exercise can be a real headache. We have people here who can help them to put their business plan together in a way that will attract funds. If they are biggish, we might well sit beside them if they decide to approach the European Community for a loan.'

By the end of 1980, BSC (Industry) had given help to 20 companies which had either moved, or were committed to moving, to Corby. Another 150 businesses were in the discussion stage, of which Terry McGrane expected about half would eventually come to Corby. He explains:

'We think we've got a package that will be irresistible to big companies – particularly if



Redundant Barry hammers out a new career

When Barry Keightley, a Corby man, was made redundant for the last time, he decided to become a blacksmith.

He found an empty, centuries-old forge in the hamlet of Fotheringhay, 12 miles out of the town – the place where Mary, Queen of Scots, was confined and beheaded. Because of these associations it is popular with tourists, who are delighted to come across Barry working away there at his historic craft.

He took it up after applying to the Council for Small Industries – CoSIRA for short – whose prime objective is to regenerate England's rural areas, with special attention to those that qualify for extra help.

CoSIRA, originally started to help industries that cannot provide training facilities of their own, is particularly geared to helping the self-employed. It also qualifies for European Community grants: £86,000 in 1979, £122,000 in 1980. This year it has applied for £192,000.

Barry Keightley turns out fire baskets, fences, iron gates, lamps, garden furniture and sheep-head pokers, using techniques and designs that he picked up on his CoSIRA course. He does not pretend to be better off than in his pre-redundancy days. But – he admits – he's a happier man.

we become an Enterprise Zone. For any business with a strong marketing orientation, but without an asset base, this is just the place to set up. They can borrow half the money from Europe at ten per cent. They have no repayments to meet for four years. They don't have to pay rates. And there are no building restrictions.'

By the end of 1981, he wants to see between 1,500 and 2,000 new jobs created in Corby. 'It's a big undertaking,' he told me, 'but I don't have any doubts about Corby. There's still a lot to look forward to round here.'

What hope for Europe's wildlife?

Conventions and directives are all very well, but agreement to act on them is painfully slow



Oscar Wilde's caustic definition of fox-hunting – 'The unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable' – might apply in England, where hunting and shooting are increasingly regarded as anachronistic privileges of the so-called ruling classes. But in France attitudes are somewhat different. There, blood sports have become almost a political issue, even figuring in the presidential election. 'The right to hunt is a conquest of the French Revolution!' thunders Georges Marchais, the Communist candidate.

Class attitudes on either side of the Channel may be at odds, but the hunting traditions in Europe as a whole, whatever they may be, are succumbing to the realities of modern life. The sad fact is, Europe's wildlife is disappearing, as the last remaining wildernesses are drained or built over.

Hunters, by virtue of their animal-breeding and re-stocking activities, are the last guardians of the balance of nature, declared Henriette Poirier and Danielle de March, two French Communist members of the European Parliament, recently. In a written question they went on to express misgivings that the European Commission was hatching plots to establish a common hunting policy rivaling the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Commission has admitted no such thing. However, the Treaty of Rome is certainly exerting its influence over the activities of European sportsmen. The Glorious Twelfth will probably not become a victim of harmonisation. But the Commission has already secured the adoption of one directive governing the shooting and trapping of wild birds. The Council of Ministers is deliberating on two other proposals: one on the Bonn Convention, regarding the conservation of migratory species of wild animals, and the other on the Berne Convention, dealing with

the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats.

Wild birds, animals and plants are a possession common to all, and they acknowledge no frontiers. The European Commission recognised this when it framed the 1979 directive on the conservation of wild birds. However, that directive – now in the process of being implemented in member states – is provoking considerable discussion in hunting and ecological circles.

It contains a set of rules for the hunting and capture of threatened species of birds, and bans certain non-selective and large-scale

The line between what is ethical and what is inadmissible is sometimes finely drawn

forms of hunting. Furthermore, it obliges member states to make provisions for natural habitats without which the birds – hunting or no hunting – are doomed.

Interpretations of the ethics of hunting are posing dilemmas which the Federation of European Hunters' Associations (FACE) is now grappling with. The line between what is ethical and what is inadmissible is sometimes finely drawn. For instance, should decoys, traditionally used in Italy and elsewhere for duck-shooting, continue to be used if the practice leads to commercial shooting?

Without Europe's marshlands the migratory ducks and other species will vanish. The directive on birds, which comes into force in April, requires member states to protect important areas of this kind. This means taking

decisions balancing economic and ecological considerations. The plans to drain the Wattenmeer flats by a dyke on the Dutch border, for instance, have provoked demands that the directive be applied at once, because if important breeding and staging grounds for the birds are destroyed, alternatives must be provided. The Commission is close to finalising a list of all important marshlands in the Community which need to be protected.

The main aims of the Bonn and Berne Conventions are also to stimulate measures to maintain the populations of all wild species at an appropriate level. The Bonn Convention was drawn up at a meeting in June 1980, attended by over 60 countries. The Commission took part, and managed to negotiate a clause – despite Soviet Union opposition – allowing the EEC to become a signatory. Unfortunately, the Council of Ministers has been slow in agreeing to the Convention, so that the deadline for signature – July 22nd last year – has been missed.

The Berne Convention is the product of initiatives by the Council of Europe; but the Commission made a major contribution to the negotiations which were completed last September. Although the Commission has initiated the Convention on behalf of member states, the Convention is still awaiting ratification. The Commission is going ahead with plans for implementing measures which will involve legislation to protect wild plants. Agreements for co-operation on species common to other European countries such as Norway and Sweden are also being negotiated.

Even when all this work is done, it will take years of teamwork by hunters, wildlife lovers, governments and the Commission before the wild duck, the boar – and the unloved wolf – can hope to share their homelands on equal terms with us, their fellow creatures. E

PERSONAL COLUMN

Lord Thorneycroft

Disproportionate attention always seems to be focused on the rough and tumble of negotiations within the Community, so that an impression is often created in the public mind of a body which can rarely rise above internecine warfare over the noise levels of lawn-mowers or the content of ice-cream. This is not to suggest, of course, that these matters are of no importance; but they have tended to overshadow both the achievements and challenges of European co-operation.

The need for European nations to work together closely has rarely been so urgent, considering the problems which face us both externally and internally: the threat to our peace and stability posed by the Soviet Union; the scarcity of energy resources and the economic instability which has ensued from the constant price increases imposed by OPEC; the lack of innovation in European high technology industries compared with counterparts in Japan and the United States; and the plight of eight million unemployed throughout the Community. In these and other cases, the common interests of the Ten far outweigh slight divergencies of national interest.

In international affairs, it is always surprising to find that other countries have a higher regard for the Community's influence and political strength than many inside have. Yet the Community plays four major roles on the world stage which go far beyond the potential of any individual member state.

Firstly, as a bastion of freedom and democracy, the Community is the beacon of hope for the peoples of Eastern Europe who look with envy upon the successes of our voluntary co-operation compared to the bands of steel which unite the Eastern bloc. Recently the Community has been able to give practical help to the people of Poland in their struggle for greater freedom.

Secondly, the Ten together are an effective bargaining partner for the OPEC countries. It can be in no-one's interest for the OPEC surpluses to continue to grow, and fail to find a productive haven for investment. The current situation is deepening the economic recession and causing currency instability, while the OPEC countries themselves have no protection against inflation. Through a realistic dialogue with the Arab world, it may be possible for the Community to develop a stable and attractive range of investment options which will both restore greater stability in the world economic system and provide a useful weapon in the fight against unemployment.

Thirdly, the Community is well placed to assist the dialogue between the developed and developing countries of the world. While the two superpowers are regarded with apprehension by many, Europe can act as a bridge for a new relationship to relieve the poverty and suffering which exists in so many parts of the globe.

'It is always surprising to find that other countries have a higher regard for the Community's influence than many inside have'



Fourthly, the Community is the most powerful trading bloc in the world. It has sufficient influence not merely to protect the short-term interests of each member state, by protecting our industries from unfair trading practices, but also to maintain and strengthen as open a world trading system as possible. Protectionism can only lead to the perpetuation of inefficiency, a general decline in trade and, therefore, in wealth and employment which at the end of the day serves to increase friction and dissension in the world.

It is unthinkable that any responsible politician from any quarter, and from any member state, could seriously intend to undermine this unique co-operation between nations, which has so much potential for the future. The Community has had its growing pains. But we cannot expect our electorates to have an eye to the greater goals which we are pursuing, when they see so much emphasis placed upon fractious disputes over detail. Even when times are difficult – and as we embark upon important budgetary negotiations in the next few months, the times may be difficult indeed – it is up to all responsible people to make sure that those greater goals do not become hidden from the public sight.

Lord Thorneycroft's Cabinet posts have included Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1957-58, and Defence Secretary, 1964. He is now Chairman of the Conservative Party.

The 300 million inhabitants of tropical Africa own just about the same number of livestock. Yet at least two-thirds of those people are periodically undernourished. The reason for this paradox is that although one-eighth of the world's cattle are raised in the region, they amount to only one-twentieth of the world's meat. With improved management and

technical means, African herds could produce over 80 per cent more meat and milk. Money from the European Development Fund is being used in numerous projects covered by the Lomé Convention, aimed at solving some of the problems encountered in Africa and other developing areas by encouraging better production methods and yields.

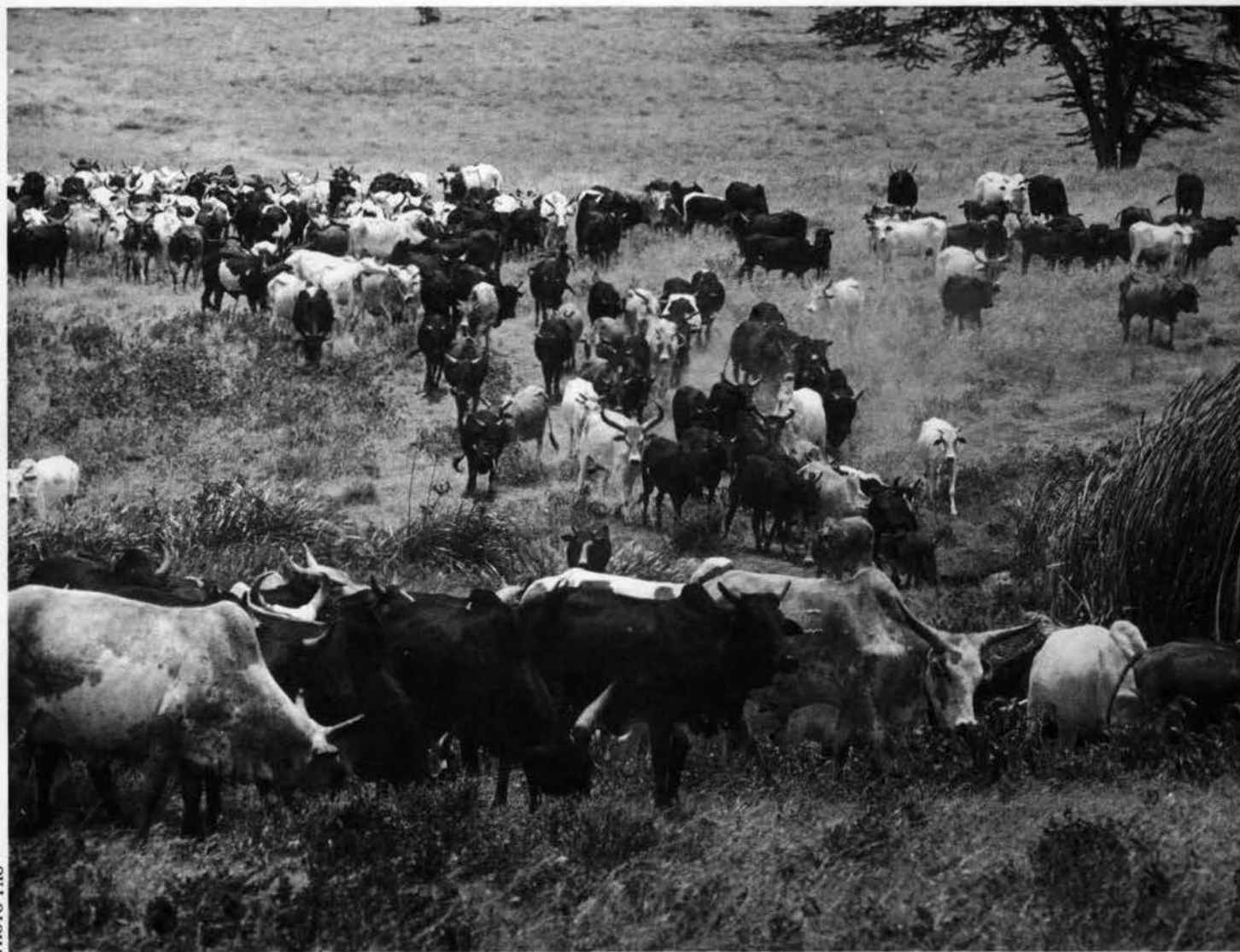


PHOTO: FAO

One of the greatest obstacles to efficient production experienced in tropical Africa is the tsetse fly, carrier of trypanosome, the cause of sleeping sickness in humans and animals. The disease is said to lead to an annual deficit of one-and-a-half million tonnes of meat. EDF finance is helping research into the fight against the disease. Campaigns against the parasite itself are in progress and others set out to develop preventive and curative chemo-therapy and disease-resistant cattle.

Research has led to a fascinating method of controlling the carriers of the disease. Male tsetse flies are bred in the laboratory, then subjected to radiation to make them sterile before being released. The result is that the fly population will slowly diminish without hav-

MEAT FOR AFRICA'S MILLIONS

**With help from Europe,
animal husbandry offers
new answers to the
crisis of malnutrition**

ing the adverse impact on the environment caused by insecticides and other means of eradication.

In numerical terms, African herds compare well with Europe. Tanzania, for example, has 14,400,000 head of cattle, which is more than the UK (13,523,000). The Sudan has even more – 15,400,000 – and its sheep population of 24 million is also 3,500,000 more than that of the UK, Europe's biggest sheep producer. But comparisons have to end there; because whereas stock-raising in Europe has been well organised for many years, with emphasis on health, feeding and breeding, in Africa traditional methods still predominate. Animals are left to fend for themselves as herdsmen move them from area to area in search of food and water.

So, although there are plenty of cattle in Africa, they do not as yet provide nutrition of the same order as in Europe or in other parts of the developed world. Americans, for example, get an average of 72g of animal protein a day, whereas people in Africa get only 11g.

Cross-breeding and selection offer an obvious means of improving cattle yield. By crossing local disease-resistant animals with imported ones, African herdsmen can push up their meat and milk yields at faster rates than normal. Pure-bred bulls or heifers, imported from Europe, improve the genetic potential of dairy production in particular. Jersey cows, for example, have been successfully used in cross-breeding, adding their milk yield qualities to the attributes of local cattle. But livestock imports can be expensive. It is now more common for deep-frozen semen from high-class European dairy bulls to be used to inseminate local cows, and a number of EDF-financed schemes have used this technique.

The most numerous domestic animals in tropical countries are sheep and goats. But, until now, little attention has been paid to them: surprisingly, since sheep and goats are mainly owned by the poorest people, and are also more efficient converters of roughage into meat than cattle. For these reasons, the EDF, under the Lomé Convention, has been financing several sheep and goat development projects. In the Lomé countries, incidentally, such livestock is rarely kept for milk production but is almost exclusively used for the production of meat, wool and hair.

But the solution to Africa's protein deficiency may not lie with ordinary domestic cattle. When the necessary capital and experience are lacking for more conventional animal

production, or when ecological conditions are not favourable, wild game could be the answer. Indeed, some wild animals have tremendous potential.

Some types of antelope, such as the Cape eland, the oryx, Waller's gazelle and Thomson's gazelle, can go without water for long periods. A number of species graze at night, when the water content of certain desert grasses can be as much as 42 per cent higher. Wild ungulates in the tropics are usually resistant to diseases such as trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), and are also more resistant to other parasites than domestic ungulates.

There are also many breeding advantages with wild animals. The Thomson's gazelle and springbok, for example, multiply rapidly, reaching sexual maturity at 12 months, their period of gestation is 16 weeks and they wean their offspring 12 weeks after birth.

The figures for meat production are also impressive. The average daily gain of Grant's gazelle and Thomson's gazelle is higher than that of sheep. Similarly, the average daily weight gain of antelopes on ranches in central West Africa is higher than that of cattle. The yield (carcase weight) for wild ungulates is higher than for cattle, with an average fat content of only 3.23 per cent compared to 21.5 per cent for domestic cattle.

Wild ungulates also make use of plant life available at different levels, as well as eating material that cattle do not touch. Four types of ruminants – zebra, sassaby, gnu and Thomson's gazelle – eat the same kind of grass without fighting over it, because each takes a different part of the plant. If proper methods of slaughtering are used, it is difficult to detect any difference in taste between the meat of wild animals and their domestic counterparts. All of which suggests that farms of antelope and gazelle may one day be common in Africa.

Experimental work in which various types of ungulates are being raised on private ranches already looks promising. Animal production methods similar to those used with cattle are employed, with the eland proving to be the likeliest animal, because of its live weight, low fat content and excellent milk yield. The eland is also well equipped to breed

and survive in marginal areas during periods of drought.

One example of a successful project to raise game in East Africa is Kenya's Galana ranch. As well as its 14,000 Boran cattle and goats it raises African buffaloes, elands and domestic oryxes, cared for by herdsmen from six different African tribes. The oryx, in particular, has proved to be particularly productive.

But animal husbandry involves more than rearing livestock for meat and milk: it also makes a considerable contribution to the economies of African countries in other ways. The wildlife of Kenya attracts considerable numbers of tourists, providing the country's second largest source of income. Tanzania and Botswana also receive considerable income from tourists, and South Africa's Kruger National Park generates 12 per cent more than the potential income from agriculture. Income from big game hunting in the areas near Serengeti National Park is 61 per cent higher than the income from tourists.

It is sometimes argued that the production of animal protein should be restricted in developing countries, because it is in direct competition with the production of cereals which are necessary for human consumption. This is not necessarily so. Large parts of Africa are unsuited to cereal production, and animals can also utilise agricultural by-products which cannot be consumed by humans, turning them into valuable protein.

'EDF policy will continue to be as responsive as possible to the needs of the ACP countries,' says Jan Mulder, of the EEC Commission. 'This might mean putting the emphasis on those projects which make a better use of resources not needed for human consumption.'

Among projects that have received EDF finance are some which involve the use of animal traction. Several trial sugar cane projects are also being funded to provide cattle feed.

The EEC aid, in the end, will not only help the Lomé countries to become more self-sufficient. It will also mean that many Africans will be spared the suffering of malnutrition in the years ahead. E

'If properly slaughtered, wild animals can taste no different from other meat'

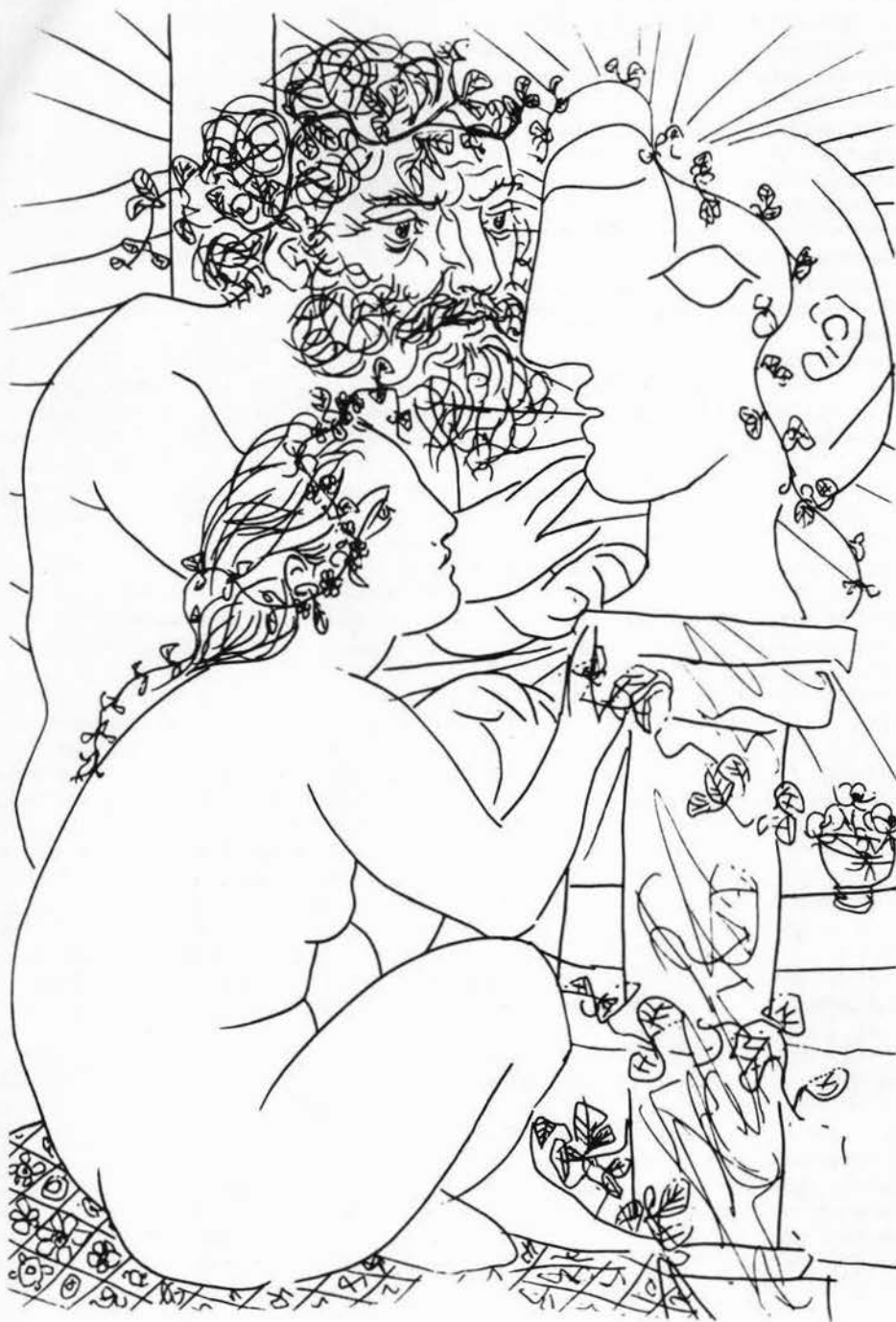


Lowdown on Lomé

The second Lomé Convention, signed in the Togolese capital in October 1979, links the European Community to 60 African, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP) through trade and aid. Some 40 per cent of allotted funds goes on rural development in these areas, followed by transport and communications, social projects, industry, energy and mining, housing and urban works.

The island states of St Vincent and Kiribati have acceded to the Convention in the past 12 months. When Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides) has completed the formalities, the ACP states will number 61.

The new style of development co-operation introduced by Lomé provides a more secure basis to relations between industrialised nations and developing countries. It helps to meet differing needs, as defined by the ACP countries themselves. And it makes possible a permanent dialogue between equal partners, in the context of non-alignment and respect for national and cultural individuality.



Picasso's busy line

One of the most enjoyable exhibitions currently to be seen in London is at the French Institute, Queensberry Place – away from the West End gallery circuit, but barely five minutes' walk from South Kensington underground station. It consists of 120 prints by the ever-amazing Picasso, brought together by the Arts Council, and destined to visit Jarrow, Milton Keynes, Rochdale, Wolverhampton and Bristol later this year.

The fact that the exhibition makes its début under official French auspices is confirmation – if any were needed – that France has

A new Arts Council retrospective confirms his mastery of the etcher's craft

accepted Picasso as her own, despite his remaining a staunchly patriotic Spaniard to the end. A home is now being made ready for the French national collection of his works, the nation's share of Picasso's enormously valu-

able estate. The Hotel Salé, a 17th-century mansion in the Marais district of Paris, is to open this summer – the centenary of the artist's birth – as the Musée Picasso.

Like all his work, Picasso's graphic art is an expression of the intense inner life that prompted him to remark that anyone possessing one of his pictures 'owns a phial of my blood'. The earliest etching in the present exhibition, *The Frugal Meal* (below), dates from 1904, when Picasso left Barcelona to settle in Paris. Too hard-up to afford a new copper plate, he made do with a used zinc one which had been used by its previous owner for a landscape subject. Picasso scraped it off, and proceeded to etch one of his undoubted masterpieces, steeped in the melancholy languor of his Blue Period. He took a few impressions from the plate, but only one or two have survived. Later, the dealer Vollard had the plate re-faced and issued a new edition. It has been collectors' quarry ever since.

The apparent ease with which he mastered etching is typical of a man who delighted in turning his hand to crafts. All the variations of etching are to be found in his work – aquatint, drypoint, linocut, lithography – as well as most of the themes that occupied him, on and off, throughout his career. One of these, the artist and his model, is a prominent motif of the Vollard suite (left), produced in the spring of 1933, exploring the relationship of a man and woman engaged in the mysterious process of producing art, one as the instrument of the act, the other as the maker.



Into this ménage comes Picasso's trusty hero, the Minotaur. He takes his place as an equal, carousing with the artist and enjoying his share of the girl. Picasso's classical line embraces him as readily as it does the jovial sculptor and the woman's flesh.

The last years of his life produced a positive torrent of prints – 347 etchings in the seven months from March to October 1968 alone. They are Picasso's own private retrospective, a hectic summing-up of a life dedicated to the appetites of body and mind.

DENIS THOMAS

JOHN FISHER explains how membership of the Community enables people to take their pensions – and their assets – where they like

Letting Europe look after your money

One of the most far-reaching benefits of belonging to the European Community, as far as the ordinary citizen is concerned, is that state pension rights are now transferable from one member state to another. This is a direct result of the Treaty of Rome under which the Community was set up in 1957. It aimed at creating a single like-minded Europe, with no barriers of any kind between member states, whether financial, commercial, industrial or economic.

From this it follows that there must be no obstacles in the way of a British citizen who wants to set up, say, as a builder in Bruges or of a Frenchman who fancies working at the Savoy. Before the Community was established, the benefit of whatever old-age pension or other state insurance a citizen was entitled to was lost if he went to work abroad. Today, if an EEC national has worked and paid pension contributions in more than one member state, each of those states is obliged to pay its own proportion of the pension that is due, after taking into account the total period during which the claimant has worked and paid contributions.

On top of this, the cost of medical care which passport-holders from Community countries can already claim when on holiday in other member states also extends to EEC nationals who have worked in one Community country but have retired to another.

In the words of the official Community guidance statement, if you receive a pension from one or more member states you are entitled to medical treatment from a general practitioner or specialist, drugs and medicines, dental treatment, hospital treatment etc for yourself and members of your family who are dependent on you, from the institution responsible for sickness and maternity

insurance where you reside, even if you do not fulfil the conditions laid down by the laws of that member state.

To receive such treatment you must have been entitled to it from whichever member state pays your pension, as if you had been residing in that state.

In the days when the United Kingdom was wavering on the brink of joining, some anti-marketeers claimed that the British social welfare system was greatly superior to those in force in Common Market countries, and that, if Britain joined, its standards would be dragged down to theirs. This has not proved to be the case. On the contrary, British social security payments to widows, the relationship of pensions to past earnings, and the conditions needed to qualify for a pension, are all less liberal than in some other member states.

Exact comparisons between the social security systems of member states are not easy to arrive at, and the job of reconciling them can be still more difficult. The French, for example, maintain that their liberal family allowances are an aspect of their national policy of increasing the birthrate, and so cannot be paid to non-French nationals working in France. Nevertheless, when the European Commission gets round to ironing out the anomalies they will not – judging from past experience – be levelled down, but up.

'British social security payments are less liberal than in some other member states'

Membership has also brought benefits to people about to retire, by enabling capital to be more freely transferred. Government restrictions have been lifted, in the cause of enabling money, like other commodities, to move freely within the Community. The Brit-

'I don't mind where we retire to, darling, so long as you don't have to try out your French.'



ish Government now allows its citizens to take £200,000-worth of assets out of the country, and, while still in the UK, you can buy a house abroad costing up to £100,000 without paying the former government-imposed premium.

One piece of legislation which could exert a profound influence on pensions and investment for the future is the Community's move towards establishing a single European currency unit, the ECU, the value of which is sustained not by individual states but by the Community as a whole. So far, eight of the ten member states have joined the system, which strives to keep particular currencies from varying from a standard value by more than a few percentage points.

Britain does not yet subscribe to the common European currency. When – as expected – she does, retirement pensions already linked to the cost of living in the United Kingdom will be paid in a currency that has a high chance of holding its international value as well. €

More EEC cash for Britain

The European Commission has authorised payment of £210.5m to the United Kingdom under the terms of the revised financial mechanism, which limits the level of gross contributions of member states to the EEC budget. The financial mechanism was revised following the Council of Ministers' agreement on the UK budget contribution on May 30, 1980.

A further payment of £60m has been agreed as a Community contribution to public expenditure programmes in the United Kingdom, under the scheme for supplementary measures. This goes towards programmes of road and rail construction, water and sewerage schemes, improved telecommunications and advance factory building in the North West of England and in Wales. The EEC contribution to these two regional programmes will amount to £177.3m, of which £97.6m was agreed last December.

How can Norway come closer to the Ten?



The Norwegian people rejected EEC membership in 1972. But the impression is growing that they would like closer links, reports H. PETER DREYER

There has recently been a marked shift in Norway's attitude towards the Community. Conversations in Oslo with politicians, businessmen, officials, journalists and others confirm that the approach has become much more positive.

Norway – together with the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark – negotiated its accession to the EEC in 1970-71, signed the accession treaty in January 1972, and in September of that year, following a fierce internal debate, rejected Community membership in a referendum by 54 per cent against and 46 per cent for.

Since then, in an all-round effort to heal the deep wounds, the issue has been put on ice. It is there still, and very likely to remain for a long time to come. Even those advocating the closest possible ties with the EEC, or those like bankers, industrialists and shipowners, who would always have liked to see Norway in the Community and have certainly not changed their minds, would not dream of suggesting that the country knock once more at the door asking to be let in.

'No sane politician,' says a senior Foreign Office official, 'would today try to raise the question of full EEC membership.' His view is echoed by many others. A survey made two years ago indicated that more than 80 per cent of the population would at that time have voted against full membership. It is not unreasonable to suppose that, right now, the majority would be as great. One reason why this is so is presumably the dread of reopening the divisive and near-fratricidal controversy of eight years ago.

Why, then, the shift in sentiment among Norway's leaders? Assuredly, it is hardly caused by economic considerations. Like the other members of the European Free Trade Association to which it belongs, Norway signed an industrial free trade accord with the EEC which, by now, gives nearly all its industrial products duty-free access to the Community. Over and above this, Norway, like its EFTA partners, has since intensified its economic relations with the Community in various other areas, and will most likely continue along that path in future. Lastly, Nor-

way has its huge oil and natural gas resources. Although these may not be without their problems, they give the country an economic assurance and solidity which make it the envy of other industrial nations, including most members of the European Community.

The explanation of Norway's gradually changing attitude lies plainly in the political field. Here, Norway's position differs markedly from that of other EFTA countries. For whereas Sweden and Finland, Austria and Switzerland are all neutral countries (which is probably the chief reason why they could not and did not aspire to EEC membership) Norway is a member of NATO and, on account of its exposed geographical location and its common frontier with the Soviet Union, a very important one. Hence questions of security are not at all seen in the same light in Oslo as they are in Stockholm and Helsinki, Vienna and Bern.

'Norwegians have the unpleasant feeling that they are being left out'

This state of affairs makes itself felt in many ways. Whereas, for instance, Norway's Swedish neighbours might ultimately be attracted to the EEC if they were convinced that the Community's political co-operation had been watered down to the point of virtual non-existence, the most frequent argument heard among Norwegians now is that such political co-operation currently is progressing faster than economic integration. This gives them the unpleasant feeling that they are being left out. Along the same lines, the Community is seen, increasingly, as speaking for all of Europe. This will be even more the case once Spain and Portugal have joined, bringing total membership up to 12.

These are not just academic considerations: they have some very specific implications. Norway's security policy has steadily become more dependent on the United States in the course of the 1970s. This tends to create some

weighty problems, not least *vis-à-vis* the big neighbour to the East. But, on the whole, the situation would still be acceptable and manageable, as long as the foreign policy stance of the United States and the EEC remain roughly the same. Yet of late, as became evident over Iran and Afghanistan, this has no longer been so, forcing Norway to choose between the one and the other.

Going beyond this – and as Norway's basic NATO commitment was reinforced rather than lessened by the results of the 1972 referendum – the chief fear of Norwegian politicians must now be that, at some future point, the Community might turn its back on the United States in major foreign policy matters. To side more or less with the EEC, as they did on Iran and Afghanistan, still did not lead to excessive strains on existing relationships. Things would be quite different, however, if, in the event of a deeper rift some time in the future between the EEC and the United States, they had to make a choice.

What the country's leaders would like is plain enough to see. It is, as someone here put it, 'a way of getting our signals through to Brussels' before political decisions affecting Norway are reached in Brussels, instead of merely being confronted with the results afterwards. Some even go so far as to talk of an observer status for Norway in the Community's political deliberations.

Whatever Oslo would like to have, it will not find easy to get. It is not simply that neither the Community's front nor its back door can be opened at will. Invariably, the Community has let it be understood that outsiders – that is to say the non-member states, which after all do not contribute to the substantial cost of operating the EEC and its activities – cannot be associated with the main decision-making process.

This appears no less inflexible because there the Community is proceeding much more gingerly even than in the areas unambiguously covered by the Rome Treaty. A first Norwegian attempt (in 1973) at participating in political co-operation, as the country had been during a few months prior to the referendum, met with a categorical 'No'. It is hard to imagine this very firm stance being abandoned now.

True, Norway has its oil, and might conceivably use this as a means of smoothing the path towards some understanding. But this option, never openly referred to in Oslo, would in turn mark a major departure from traditional Norwegian policy.

The line adopted all along has been, consistently, that sales of oil and natural gas will be determined by strictly commercial considerations only. They have never been treated as tools of policy. To re-fashion them as such may not be totally impossible. But it would surely be a lengthy and anything but simple affair.

EUROFORUM

OPINION

Commission is driving force behind European integration

The prospects for the Eighties are not too bright. The recession is deepening, and acquiring the proportions of a catastrophe which threatens not only our prosperity but also the foundations of our society. Our very civilization may well be transformed.

I am still deeply convinced that the venture enshrined in the Treaties, the venture which made it possible to reconcile and reconstruct a Europe devastated by war and lay the foundations for its later prosperity, will likewise be our salvation in the economic and social crisis which is threatening the very values on which our society is based. For, as we all know, it is not merely prosperity and economic health which are in danger.

Nearly 30 years ago, six governments took a decision to act in concert, realising that they would never solve their common problems single-handed. Today, as these same countries, with their four new allies, prepare to withstand the demands and avarice of the superpowers of the Eighties, the motto of 'united we stand' has, to my mind, lost none of its attraction and none of its pertinence.

Our goals are solemnly entrenched in the preambles to our Treaties. May I remind you all that we are endeavouring:

to lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe;

to promote economic and social progress in our countries by common action to eliminate the barriers which divide Europe;

to secure the constant improvement of living and working conditions for our peoples;

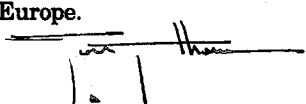
to remove existing obstacles and promote concerted action to guarantee steady expansion, balanced trade and fair competition;

to strengthen the unity of our economies, and to ensure their harmonious development by reducing the differences existing between the various regions and the backwardness of the less favoured regions;

to contribute, by means of a common commercial policy, to the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade;

to confirm the solidarity which binds Europe and the overseas countries and to ensure the development of their prosperity.

These are the circumstances in which the new Commission takes up office. There may be doubt as to whether the Commission is a political institution. But it is so by its very nature, by the express wish of the contracting parties to the Treaties, and finally by necessity. It is the driving force behind European integration and the guardian of the Treaties. It is the central pivot in the dialogue between the Community's institutions. It has a vital part to play in grasping the nettle of the crisis and in trying to meet the aspirations of the people of Europe.


GASTON THORN
President of the
European Commission
speaking to the European Parliament
in Strasbourg, January 12.

TALKING POINT

It is a sad duty to record the death of Finn Gundelach, Vice-President of the Commission, who had handled the agriculture portfolio for the past four years.

His sudden death is all the more untimely because he devoted the final years of his distinguished career to resolving the debate about the future of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Mr Gundelach inherited a policy which was designed in the Fifties to provide a decent income for farmers and to ensure as far as possible a guaranteed and varied menu for the customer.

Mr Gundelach recognised the contribution that the CAP has made to the Community's lifestyle. But, at the same time, he was aware of the shortcomings of the policy which was conceived in a decade where priorities differed from those of today.

In particular, Mr Gundelach wrestled with the problem of surpluses, and the broader dilemma of reconciling the legitimate but frequently conflicting interests of farmers and consumers. ►

THE MONTH IN EUROPE

The economy

Out of balance

Although the Community boosted its exports by 19 per cent in the first half of last year, imports increased by 35.6 per cent over the same period, leaving a deficit of around 26 billion ECU, compared with a deficit of 8 billion ECU for the same six months of 1979 (1 ECU = 54p).

The deficit, which exceeds that for the whole of 1979, was due largely to the higher price of imported oil but also to a fall-off in exports in May and June.

continued from previous page

This year was to have been one of major challenge for the considerable talents of Mr Gundelach. Last June, the member states' heads of government gave the Commission a mandate to propose reforms to the Community's budget. Because it takes up two-thirds of the budget, this includes reforming the CAP.

Mr Gundelach, whose own country, Denmark, has a large farming base, was the first to defend the fundamental principles of the CAP, while at the same time appreciating the need for a more prudent approach to price increases which have, in the past, encouraged the surpluses of which consumers complain.

Such an approach cannot, however, exist in a vacuum. It must have the support of each member of the Council of Ministers, whether representing a country with a strong agricultural interest or not.

For the problem of the CAP is not simply a sectoral one. Because of its undesirable eminence in the Community's accounts ledger, it is of supreme importance to unravelling the overall budget tangle which we discussed in last month's Talking Point.

This is now a task for Mr Gundelach's successor. It is hoped that he will be able to count on the full co-operation of all member governments.

The new Commission

The new European Commission took office on January 6. It has 14 members, one more than the Roy Jenkins Commission, including, for the first time, a Greek. The following are the members of the new Commission, together with their portfolios:

Gaston Thorn, President, who is responsible for the Commission's General Secretariat, the Legal Service, the Spokesman's Group, the Security Office and Cultural Affairs. Aged 52. Luxembourg. Lawyer. Member of the Democratic Party (Liberal). President of the Party 1961-80. Former Prime Minister of Luxembourg 1974-79.

Franciscus Andriessen, Competition Policy, relations with the European Parliament. Aged 51. Dutch. Lawyer. KVP (Catholic People's Party). Member of the Lower House of the States-General 1967-77. Minister of Finance 1977-79.

Claude Cheysson, Development and Co-operation (relations with developing countries). Aged 60. French. Ecole Polytechnique and Ecole Nationale d'Administration. Former Ambassador. Member of the Commission since 1973 with responsibility for Third World affairs.

Poul Dalsager, Agriculture. Aged 51. Danish. Banking. Social Democrat, member of Folketing (Danish parliament) since 1964. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries 1975-81.

Etienne Davignon, Industrial Affairs, Energy, Science and Research, Euratom Supply Agency, Joint Research Centre. Aged 48. Belgian. Diplomat. Member of the Commission since 1977 with responsibility for Industrial Affairs and the Internal Market.

Antonio Giolitti, Regional Policy, Co-ordination of Community Funds. Aged 65. Italian. Lawyer. Socialist Member of Parliament 1948-76 and former Minister. Member of the Commission since 1977 (Regional Policy).



Wilhelm Haferkamp, External Relations, including the nuclear sector.
Aged 57. German. Trade Unionist. Member of the Commission since 1967. Portfolios have included Energy, Internal Market, Economic and Financial Affairs and External Relations.

George Kontogeorgis, Transport, Fisheries, Co-ordination of policies relating to Tourism.
Aged 68. Greek. Former civil servant. New Democracy Party. Minister for Relations with the European Community 1977-80.

Karl-Heinz Narjes, Internal Market and Industrial Innovation, Customs Union, Environment and Consumer Protection, Nuclear Safety.
Aged 56. German. Lawyer. Christian Democrat member of Parliament since 1972. Former Director-General of the Commission's information department.

Lorenzo Natali, Global Mediterranean Policy, Enlargement of the Community, Information Policy.
Aged 58. Italian. Lawyer. Christian Democrat. Former Minister. Member of the Commission since 1977 (Enlargement, Environment, Nuclear Safety, Relations with the European Parliament).

Michael O'Kennedy, Special Delegate of the President, Personnel and Administration, Statistical Office, Publications Office.
Aged 44. Irish. Lawyer. Fianna Fáil Minister for Transport and Power 1973, for Foreign Affairs 1977-79 and for Finance 1979-80.

François-Xavier Ortoli, Economic and Financial Affairs, Credit and Investment.
Aged 55. French. Ecole Nationale d'Administration. Former Minister. President of the Commission 1973-76 and Vice-President (Economic and Financial Affairs) 1977-80.

Ivor Richard, Employment and Social Affairs, Tripartite Conference, Education and Professional Training.
Aged 48. British. Lawyer. Labour Party. Former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Defence (Army) and former UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations 1974-79.

Christopher Tugendhat, Budget and Financial Control, Financial Institutions, Taxation.
Aged 43. British. Journalist. Conservative Member of Parliament 1970-76. Member of the Commission since 1977 (Budget, Financial Control, Financial Institutions, Administration).

Little but gloom to report

The latest economic survey carried out in the Community shows a slowdown in economic activity in September, the most recent month surveyed, and a likely fall in the Community's gross domestic product in the third quarter of 1980.

The rate of unemployment was rising fast — at the end of November it stood at 7.6 million or 6.9 per cent of the civilian working population — and consumer prices showed signs of accelerating.

The Community's trade balance was heavily in deficit and interest rates moved upwards under the impact of trends abroad.

The index of industrial production in the Community in September declined by 1.2 per cent, confirming the downward pattern in output which began last April.

Enlargement

The impact of Greek accession

Greece's entry into the Community took place as planned on January 1. But people in the Nine appeared hardly concerned about its impact, according to a survey carried out by the European Commission last October.

More than 50 per cent of those questioned said that they either were unsure if it would be a good or bad thing or thought its impact would be neutral. The majority who did have an opinion were positive, particularly in Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Ireland. The least favourable towards the prospect of the Nine becoming Ten were the British, the French and the Danes.

As for the Greeks themselves, nearly four out of every 10 asked, said they felt it a good thing that their country was to join the Community. However, one in five thought it a bad thing and 41 per cent were either unsure or did not know.

The main benefits that Greeks saw the Community bringing to their country were a boost to their tourist trade and a help to their agriculture and trade with other countries.



left to right:
Thorn
Andriessen
Cheysson
Dalsager
Davignon
Gialiti
Haferkamp



left to right:
Kontogeorgis
Narjes
Natali
O'Kennedy
Ortoli
Richard
Tugendhat

THE MONTH IN EUROPE

Competition

IBM: does it abuse its position?

The European Commission has charged the American computer giant, IBM, with using its powerful position on the European market to impose unfair conditions on its competitors.

After a six-and-a-half-year investigation, the Commission's competition department considers that IBM has abused its dominant position in a number of ways. These include building storage capacity into computers that tie the buyer to IBM and ensuring that its competitors cannot easily interface with its own equipment.

The Commission has written to IBM, which currently has over 60 per cent of the European market, stating its complaints. The company, theoretically, has two months within which to reply, although this period may be extended.

If its answer fails to satisfy the Commission, the company could be forced to pay a fine, although it would still have the right to challenge the Commission's decision before the European Court.

The institutions

Court unhappy about slack accounting

The European Community's accounting practices during 1979 have been criticised by the Court of Auditors. It notes: *'The Court has not been able to satisfy itself that the balance sheet of the Communities as at December 31, 1979 adequately reflects the Communities' assets and liabilities at that date, as required by the relevant financial regulations.'*

In particular, it recommends that explanations should be attached to the financial statements to explain their

underlying accounting principles and that a summary consolidated account should also be presented. The Court is the Community's financial watchdog with the task of ensuring that money is correctly spent.

The report confirms that the number of agricultural frauds, which reached as many as 226 in 1976, is diminishing. In 1979, only 116 were uncovered at a cost to the Community of 2 million ECU — over half of which was later recovered.

The Court does, however, criticise several aspects of the Community's food aid to developing countries, claiming that one firm which had made deliveries of 'dubious quality' continued to be awarded contracts. On the other hand, it complimented the Commission with the speed with which many of the contracts and emergency programmes were implemented.

Help for Poland

In response to an appeal from the Warsaw government, the Community has agreed to give Poland the opportunity of buying just under 400,000 tonnes of food at favourable prices. Half of the food on offer is made up of barley and rye and the balance of sugar, butter, whole milk powder, beef, pigmeat, rape seed, olive oil and rice.

Agriculture

Helping farmers to help themselves

Grants totalling around 115 million ECU have been made by the European Commission from the European farm fund to help modernise farming and the agricultural industry.

Of the total, 74 million ECU is from the general section of the 1980 Fund and is shared between all member states with the exception of Greece, which will begin benefiting this year.

In addition, 34 million ECU is set aside for Mediterranean regions in France and Italy which will have to face up to new competition for their farm produce with the accession of Greece and, eventually, Spain and Portugal.

A special amount of 7 million ECU is being granted to help particularly depressed areas in the West of Ireland.

The Regions

Helping Greece to bridge the gap

Greece, the newest member of the Community, is to receive 13 per cent of the European Regional Fund, which is designed to help the less prosperous areas of the Community.

Last year, the Fund totalled just over 1 billion ECU and this year should be of the order of 1.5 billion.

In addition to the Greek quota, the following are the percentage shares for each country, with the previous quotas in brackets: Belgium 1.11 (1.39), Denmark 1.06 (1.2), Germany 4.65 (6.0), France 13.64 (16.86), Ireland 5.94 (6.46), Italy 35.49 (39.39), Luxembourg 0.07 (0.09), Netherlands 1.24 (1.58) and the United Kingdom 23.8 (27.03).

Giolitti seeks more money for the Fund

The objectives of the Community's regional policy are primarily economic and not social. Nor should it be regarded as merely a vehicle to hand out financial aid, according to the Commissioner in charge Antonio Giolitti, who has just been confirmed in his post for a further four years.

In a wide-ranging review of regional policy, Mr Giolitti stressed that development models should be found to meet the needs of the Community's less prosperous regions. He also outlined a number of improvements the Commission wishes to see in existing policy.

First and foremost, it is demanding an increase in its financial resources, which have expanded from 500 million ECU in 1977 to 1,165 million ECU last year, and that these be concentrated on the areas in greatest need.

Mr Giolitti is pressing for a more co-ordinated use of funds, rather than allocating them to isolated projects

while at the same time encouraging business initiative.

One of the Commission's main tasks will be to rectify the perverse effects of the common agricultural policy spelt out in a recent report, details of which appear in this issue on page (vi). Because of the CAP's intervention and price-mechanisms, certain rich regions have tended to grow richer and the poor poorer.

Industry

Steelmen show confidence

Despite being in a state of crisis, investment in the Community's iron and steel industry ceased to fall for the first time in five years in 1979, a survey just published has revealed.

Investment levelled off at 2 billion ECU virtually the same as the 1978 figure. The stabilisation is due to improvements in firms' revenues and the carrying out of major restructuring programmes.

Although a great deal of progress has been made, not a single member state has yet fully implemented a Community directive which all agreed to in 1976, designed to guarantee equal opportunity for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion and working conditions. The Commission is threatening to take erring governments before the European Court of Justice.

Third World

Second Lomé Convention in force

The second Lomé Convention, which links the Community with 61 developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (the ACP group), came into operation

on January 1. The first Convention, which was signed in 1975, expired last March, but its terms continued to be applied while the second agreement was being negotiated.

The new Convention gives access to the Community market for 99.5 per cent of the ACP countries' exports and the remainder, essentially agricultural produce, receive preferential treatment. This was largely the arrangement under the first Convention.

The Community will set aside 550 million ECU over the five years' duration of the present Convention, in a special fund called Stabex, which is designed to compensate ACP countries for loss of exports due to unforeseen circumstances such as harvest failure or a collapse in the international market. Stabex funds totalled 382 million ECU under the first Convention.

The European Development Fund, under which the Community helps the ACP states to develop their economies and infrastructure, has been stepped up from 3 billion ECU to 4.5 billion ECU. This includes the Stabex funds. In addition, the European Investment Bank will make up to 685 million ECU in subsidised loans.

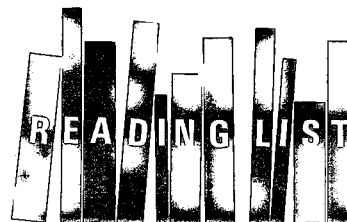
Aid aims to boost food production

The Community has given aid worth 103 million ECU to 17 developing countries and to 8 international development organisations out of its 1980 budget set aside to aid so-called 'non-associated' countries.

These countries, some of which are among the poorest in the world, are not linked to the Community through formal contractual arrangements such as the Lomé Convention. The countries are in Asia (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Nepal) and in Central and South America (Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Andean Group).

The aid is concentrated on rural projects to enable these countries to grow more of their own food and covers such projects as the development of solar energy, crop research, irrigation and rural planning.

The total 1980 budget is 138 million ECU and the rest of the money will be allocated in the coming months.



Agriculture

The Commission has recommended a complete ban on the use of hormones in cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry and in the Community's trade in fresh meat.

Ref: COM(80)920 - COM(80)922

Development

The second Lomé Convention came into force on January 1, 1981 and will run until February 28, 1985.

Ref: Official Journal of the European Communities L347 of 22.12.80.

Harmonisation

Landmark in liberalising trade.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities has given, in the 'Cassis de Dijon' case, a judgement likely to have far-reaching effects on free trade within the Community.

Ref: Background Report ISEC/B64/80

Proposal of the Commission on harmonisation of insurance law. The principle aim of the proposal is to bring within the system of insurance supervision a large percentage of travel assistance operations which are akin to insurance transactions.

Ref: COM(80)891

Social

Commission report on the application of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in the national law of the member states.

Ref: COM(80)832

Statistics

Basic statistics of the Community 1980.

A selection of the Community's basic statistics and a comparison with a number of other European countries, plus the USA, Japan and the USSR.

Ref: ISBN 92-825-1948-1

Further information available from the Information Unit, Commission of the European Communities London Office, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ. Tel. 01-727 8090.

EUROPE AND YOU

The way to the dinner table

The recent furore over hormones contained in veal has concentrated on protecting humans from the dangerous effects of such substances. But what about the animals' side of the story? The ban on the injection of hormones into calves raised for slaughter, which was decided by the Council of Ministers last November, is only one of the regulations in effect in the Community involving the treatment of animals reared for slaughter. These are part of the attempt to oversee the practices of large intensive rearing units, which account for more and more of the meat production in the Community.

Concern for the treatment of animals kept in such units has grown recently in response to stories of poor conditions – such as overcrowding, improper feeding and injections of various sorts – and because of a general reaction against the industrialization of the rearing process.

Community action so far has been on three fronts – the rearing, transport and stunning of the animals. In addition, further measures are currently being studied. Since the Treaty of Rome does not provide a basis for action involving the protection of animals, Community authorities have had to found their measures on the argument that varying standards in the raising and transport of animals can mean different costs, and this can lead to a distortion in trade.

The Community has since 1978 been a member of the Council of Europe Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes. This Convention sets out in general terms how such animals should be treated, specifying, for example, that 'no animal shall be provided with food or liquid in a manner, nor shall such food or liquid contain any substance, which may cause unnecessary suffering or injury.'

Other areas covered by the Convention are the conditions in which the animals are kept and the state of the technical equipment which is used in modern intensive stockfarming systems (requiring, for example, that it be inspected at least once a day).

Under the authority of the Convention there is also a standing committee

which is responsible for enforcing the Convention provisions and can hear complaints. However, the Convention is limited in its strength, since members can withdraw from it at will.

Thus, in addition to joining the Convention, the Community has adopted measures that deal specifically with certain aspects of the rearing process. The more recent of these involves the transport of animals and is meant to prevent abuses that take place on the long journeys on which the animals are taken.

Transporters are required to stop often enough for feeding and must make sure that the condition of the means of transport is satisfactory. This is controlled through an international animal transport certificate, which must accompany each load of animals.

The Commission is now investigating further controls of the transport process. Problems such as overloading of trucks – which can cause some of the animals to be crushed – or underloading, which can allow them to fall over, have yet to be solved. Another regulation in effect since 1974 concerns the stunning of animals. This requires that the proper equipment be used for stunning and that, if restraint of the animal is necessary, it should take place immediately before stunning. Special slaughtering procedures for religious reasons are exempted from this regulation.

The hormone ban, which was meant, of course, to protect humans, also represents a means of controlling abuses in the intensive rearing units. Some of the

hormones given to calves were found to be carcinogenic in humans. The ban covers both synthetic and natural hormones, although the latter can be permitted in special instances.

The Commission is also currently studying the protection of egg-laying hens in large chicken farms. There is particular concern over the number of chickens in each cage, the type of food they are given and their freedom to move about. Also, in order to be more effective at a European level, a number of animal protection groups have joined together to form the Eurogroup for Animal Welfare (38 rue Georges Moreau, 1070 Brussels), which includes representatives from each Community country.

Prosperity gap is widening

The inhabitants of the Community's 10 poorest regions now earn, on average, four times less than their counterparts in the 10 richest. At the beginning of the 1970s, the ratio was less than three-to-one.

In southern Italy, for example, average incomes, which were at 39 per cent of the Community norm in 1960, increased to 50 per cent in 1970, but then fell to 46 per cent in 1973 and continued their downward trend to 41 per cent four years later.

In Wales, another of the Community's less advantaged regions, the percentage fell from 79 per cent in 1970 to 61 per cent by 1977.

These disturbing findings are contained in the first periodic report on the social and economic situation in the Community adopted by the European Commission in December.

The economic crisis is undoubtedly to blame for the widening economic gap between different areas of the Community, but the report also points to other factors.

Among these are the numerous in-built structural elements in the Communities peripheral regions. These include population drift, the ratio between employed persons and income in production sectors, specialisation in

slow-growth or declining industries and the skills of the labour force.

But the report, which is to be followed by further analyses, also highlights the impact of some of the Community's policies, in particular agricultural policy on this process.

It states quite clearly that the Common Agricultural Policy mechanisms of intervention and price controls have magnified the disparities in agricultural incomes between one region and another.

This is because the guarantees which farmers receive for their crops are most extensive for the products grown in the Community's more fertile areas, while many Mediterranean items are less favourably supported.

At the same time, the virtually open-ended commitment to provide farmers with guaranteed prices for certain crops has meant that the larger farmers, able to benefit from economies of scale, have reaped bigger rewards than their smaller brethren.

In addition, the report claims that the Community's weaker regions have been handicapped, not only by the low level of support given to their products but also by a trade agreements policy which has encouraged agricultural imports from other Mediterranean countries.

The Commission's regional policy experts also argue that the free movement of the factors of production – one of the aims and benefits of the Community – have contributed to the growing disparity between regions.

Labour has been the most mobile factor of production, especially in the past, but the movement of capital to the less-favoured regions from the rest of the Community has remained limited.

In line with the analysis contained in the report, the Commission intends to bring forward a number of proposals to improve existing arrangements, and it considers there are three ideal opportunities to introduce these changes.

The first is by accepting and implementing the various suggestions contained in the lengthy report.

Secondly, the basic legislation governing the use of the European Regional Development Fund has to be revised this year, and the Commissioner in charge of this area, Mr Giolitti, has already indicated the improvements he would like to see introduced.

Finally, the Commission is this year to undertake a complete review of all Community policies and the structure of the Community's spending to ensure that the benefits of membership are equally shared by all the countries concerned.

This review has already got under way and the first indications of the shape of the Commission's thinking have to be presented to the ten governments by the end of June.

The comprehensive report also examines in detail the demographic, unemployment and industrial situations and analyses the main influences on the development of regional GDP per head, productivity, employment and investment rates and the various structural factors affecting output.

Working women: how they view their role

'It's a waste of money training women: they won't stay at the job, they'll go off and have babies. Married women are unreliable – they're always taking time off to look after sick children. Women bosses cause problems and discriminate against the women who work for them.'

Some popular stereotypes like these get a hammering in the first-ever Community-wide survey of women in paid employment, carried out recently at the request of the European Parliament's *ad hoc* Commission for Women's Rights.

Of the 30 million women wage-earners in the then Community of Nine, the study shows that well over half have never voluntarily stopped work since the beginning of their working lives. Two-thirds of them are married and nearly half have children under 15. Nevertheless, one quarter of all women in paid employment have been with their employer for at least six years.

As for women bosses, there still are not many of them – fewer than one third – but the survey shows that those women who work for them are often less discriminated against than other women at work.

Some stereotypes fare better. Thirty per cent of the women interviewed were office workers. Shops are only half as popular, closely followed by factories, schools and health and beauty jobs. A significant minority of women work alone, and one woman in four works part-time.

The vast majority of women have what they describe as 'ordinary jobs', though, perhaps surprisingly, 57 per cent say it is a responsible one. Fewer than one in six, though, describes her work as 'administration' or 'management'.

Most working women left school early – 16 is the average age – though well over half got a certificate of general education, and younger women are tending to study longer. The longer their education lasted, the more positive they feel about it. Two-thirds of those who have no qualifications have been working since they were sixteen, and factory workers are the most likely to feel badly-trained, or not trained for the job.

One of the main aims of the survey was to explore how women perceive discrimination at work. The short answer is that most women don't. Nor do they know about national laws or Community efforts to achieve equality – which must be depressing for those working in the field.

One partial explanation put forward is the fact that large numbers of women work in all-female environments; when women work in competition with men – and more than half do – awareness of discrimination is much more common.

The survey also shows some interesting national differences. Feelings of discrimination are highest in Germany and above average in Ireland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. They are lowest in the United Kingdom, and below average in Denmark and Belgium.

A hard core of 13 per cent of Europe's working women feel they have been discriminated against personally, and think that women are at a disadvantage on most counts – salary, getting employment, promotion, training, and so on. That amounts to 4 million people. Another 4 million agree, though they have not experienced discrimination themselves.

Widows and divorcees feel particularly discriminated against. So do women working in factories. Most women are fairly satisfied that their abilities are being adequately used at work, though younger women are more likely to feel frustrated. Those who are most bitter are those whose efforts to get qualifications raised expectations which have not been realised.

Promotion is a particularly sensitive point for many women, points out the survey, especially those with further education.

It is the gap between the desired level and the daily reality, say the authors, that causes the bitterness.

EUROPEAN REVIEW

An easier homecoming

Travellers will soon be able to bring home more duty-free goods – and receive more duty-free presents from abroad – if a proposal of the European Commission is adopted by the Council of Ministers.

The Commission has proposed that Community citizens arriving home from a non-Community country should be allowed to bring with them duty-free goods to the value of 45 ECU (about £24.50), compared with the present limit of 40 ECU (about £21.80).

Harmonising Summer Time

All European countries now use Summer Time each year to give us an extra hour's daylight in the evening, for our own enjoyment and also to save energy. But travel has been complicated by variations in the starting and ending dates.

This year, for the first time, the Ten will all be putting their clocks forward one hour at the same moment – 1 a.m. on Sunday 29 March. Britain and Ireland will then be on GMT + 1 hour, the mainland, GMT + 2 hours and Greece GMT + 3 hours. Several neighbouring countries will be doing the same.

The Ten have not yet agreed on a uniform date for return to Winter Time, which will happen at the end of September on the mainland but one month later in Britain and Ireland.

Less veritas in some vino than others

A special committee of inquiry set up by the European Parliament to investigate fraud in the wine industry uncovered 20 different forms of cheating, some of them involving transactions in as many as five different Community member states.

British Conservative MEP, Bob Battersby, who presented the committee's report to the Parliament, declared: "One is struck by the ingenuity and

resourcefulness of the defrauders."

Among the irregularities uncovered by the committee were rosé wines produced by the simple and illegal device of mixing white and red wine, alcoholic products imitating wine which contain not a drop of grape juice, and the enrichment of wine by adding sugar, which is appreciably cheaper than adding concentrated must.

The report also pointed out that, because of shortage of personnel to do the job, checks on the industry are often superficial and are frequently carried out on pre-determined dates, thereby giving the culprits an opportunity to prepare themselves for inspection.

During a debate on the report, Georges Sutra de Germa, a French Socialist, said that the findings were two years out of date and that the Community's wine policy was now much more geared towards the production of high quality wine.

Human touch

In order to emphasise that the Community is concerned with the individual and not, as has sometimes been claimed, solely with economic matters, the European Commission has suggested to the other Community institutions that the Community as such should become a signatory of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Bon voyage – in total safety

Holiday insurance is a booming business. Increasingly, the service is being offered to tourists by insurance companies, automobile clubs and specialist firms.

But is there enough control over this new type of service to guarantee that the holidaymaker gets what he or she pays for? The European Commission doesn't think so.

It has now sent a proposal to the Council of Ministers which is designed to give uniform cover to people who take out such insurance from insurance companies. The proposal also

aims at creating greater competition between firms offering this service, which should help to keep down premiums and give the customer a wider choice.

In addition, there would be need for firms to show a certain solvency margin and to have a minimum guarantee fund. This clause is particularly important in view of the failure last year of a French company which had issued 350,000 premiums.

International equality

A committee has been formed at Community level to represent national organisations responsible for overseeing the implementation of Community legislation in favour of the rights of working women.

The task of the committee will be to act as a central link between the national organisations and the European Commission, to ensure a Community-level co-ordination between national initiatives in favour of women, and to suggest possible independent action by the Commission.

Harnessing the sun's rays

The first solar power station to feed electricity into a national grid has been constructed in Sicily with the help of Community funds and will come on stream over the next few months.

The Eurelios station at Adrano has a capacity of 1 megawatt and employs 182 giant mirrors to reflect the sun's rays and feed them into the Italian national electricity grid.

Half the project was paid for out of Community funds. A similar installation is now being built in France, as well as others in Spain and the United States.

Common identity

Arrangements for the issuing of a Community passport are expected to be finalised in the coming months and the Council of Ministers hopes to give it its formal blessing at a meeting scheduled for March.

The green light for the uniform passport was given by the Community's heads of government when they met in Paris in 1974 but technical problems have delayed a final decision.

Few consumers can find a silver lining

Consumers in the Community are growing less confident and are now registering the same degree of pessimism as they did in 1974, a year of marked recession due to the oil crisis.

A Community survey of eight member states carried out last October and which has just been published shows that a downward trend in confidence which appeared to have been arrested early in 1980 has once again surfaced.

The weakening in confidence was most apparent in Belgium – which has the highest unemployment rate in the Community – and the Netherlands, followed by Italy and the United Kingdom.

Only in Denmark did consumers see a bright side, while in Germany and France their outlook remained much as it was earlier in the year.

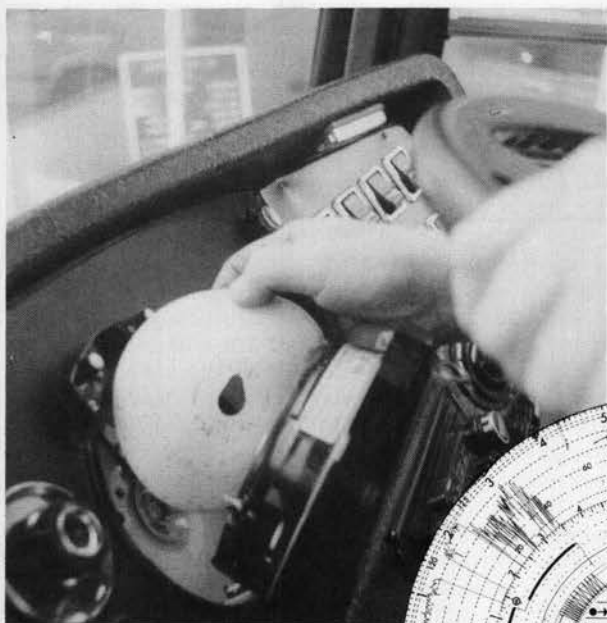
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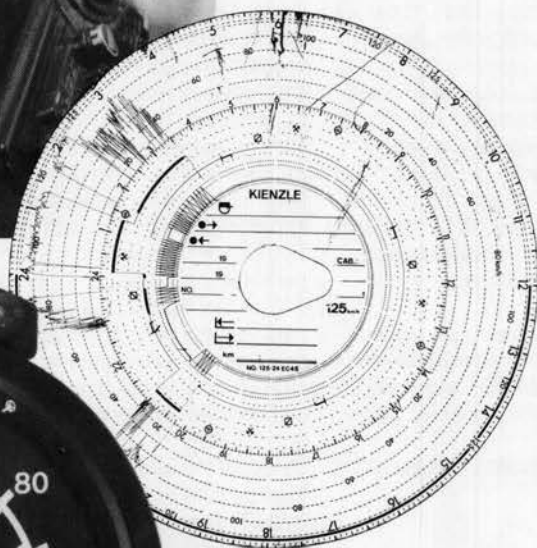
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A tachograph disc is inserted by the driver at the start of each journey – and it can't be 'fiddled'.



EYES ON THE ROAD

Is enough being done to protect passengers on long-distance coach journeys in Europe? Early last year there were two fatal crashes in Yugoslavia, both involving vehicles on charter to foreign subsidiaries of a British tour operator. A few months later, three British holidaymakers died when a Spanish-operated coach careered off a motorway near Avallon. Accidents like these call into question safety regulations for heavy vehicles in Europe – and whether those regulations are being observed.

Safety standards on the roads of Britain's Community partners, as far as heavy goods vehicles are concerned, are high. All such vehicles are fitted with tachographs, which monitor speeds and the hours that drivers spend behind the wheel. Speed limits on the Continent are generally lower than in Britain, and the hours a driver is allowed to work are also, at present,

rather less. However, there are always individuals who seek to benefit by 'bending', and sometimes ignoring, regulations that put a constraint on profit. Some recent heavy-vehicle accidents, including coach crashes, have almost certainly been the result of driver error caused by fatigue after driving for too long at one stretch.

EEC regulations on this point are strict:

they stipulate that no driver shall work more than eight hours in any 24-hour period, and that a two-man crew shall take a compulsory 10-hour break after 17 hours of shared driving. A British driver is allowed to work, on British roads, for about 9½ hours in one day, depending on how his workload is spread.

But such limits cannot be enforced on European operators outside the Community. After the tragedy at Avallon, the British authorities were so concerned that the Department of Transport asked for a meeting with their Spanish counterparts late last year. Spot checks are reported to have shown that drivers working for one company based in Barcelona were unable to produce worksheets showing the numbers of hours they had spent behind the wheel.

British coach operators who are replacing their vehicles with new ones are taking the opportunity to fit them with the tachograph, which is as much a part of today's long-distance vehicle as the American-style seating, tinted and double-glazed windows, and fail-safe braking system.


All this is with safety very much in mind...

The tachograph cannot be 'fiddled'. A flat paper disc is fitted into the machine at the start of the journey. In the centre is an area on which the driver's name, the starting point and the destination are filled in by hand. The tachograph takes over from there, tracing in circular chart form the progress of the journey. It records the duration of the journey, the distance covered, and the speeds at which the vehicle was driven.

By the end of this year, all British heavy goods vehicles will be using tachographs, which are gradually being phased in. Though there was stiff resistance at first about the so-called Spy in the Cab, most reputable operators, and their drivers, now accept it.

Organising coach trips to Europe involves more paperwork for a British operator than on his domestic routes. Article Three of EEC Regulation 117/66 requires the coach to carry a book of passenger waybills, a list of passengers, the driver's name, and the vehicle number.

The driver must also carry written permission from the operator to drive the coach concerned. Then he requires his Green Card for insurance purposes, the vehicle's identity papers, and his log-book, showing the hours he has worked in the previous 14 days.

All this is with safety very much in mind. Increasingly, tighter supervision, frequent spot checks – and the tachograph – can be expected to discourage the sharp operators. Which is just as well. For this year, with the coach holiday business booming, Europe's roads will be taking a greater share of passenger traffic than ever. 

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK

by **DICK LEONARD**
 Chief Brussels correspondent of *The Economist*

The row about the way in which the European Parliament approved the 1981 budget, together with the supplementary one for 1980, is unlikely to have a disruptive effect on the running of the Community even if, as seemed likely when we went to press, it smoulders on unresolved for several months. But it has already had one important result in the parliament itself: the stock of Mrs Simone Veil, the parliament's president (or Speaker) has risen sky-high.

It is breaking no secret to say that Mrs Veil made a disastrous start when she was first chosen in July 1979. She had led the list of Giscardian candidates in the Euro-elections a month earlier, and many Euro-MPs resented the pressure which President Giscard d'Estaing exerted to ensure her choice as president. Much worse than this, she revealed a lamentable ignorance of parliamentary procedure, which reflected the fact that, despite her five years as health minister in France, she had never previously served in a parliamentary assembly.

In the early months she was to prove a weak and hesitant chairman, who was consistently compared unfavourably with her predecessor in the former nominated parliament, Mr Emilio Colombo, now Italy's foreign minister. But Mrs Veil buckled down to the job, aided by her

natural dignity which makes her an impressive figure on ceremonial and representative occasions. Her chairmanship gradually improved and she worked hard to make herself available to members of all political groups, taking account of their foibles as well as their views.

Then, in December, she directly defied the wishes of President Giscard and of her former ministerial colleagues in France in certifying the two budgets when the EEC's council of ministers omitted to reject the parliament's amendments, though a majority of the ministers were opposed to them. Whether Mrs Veil was legally entitled to do this may eventually have to be settled by the Court of Justice; but what she unquestionably did was to establish her own independence and her determination to put the wishes of parliament before those of her national government. Her action has been applauded on all sides in the parliament, even by many French Gaullists who disagreed with the budget decisions which the parliament had taken.

Mrs Veil was elected president for only the first half of the parliament's five-year term. At the time it was universally expected that someone else would be chosen for the second half – at the end of 1981. It now seems certain that Mrs Veil will be re-elected with acclamation, unless she herself insists on standing down.

Simone Veil puts the Parliament first



Mme Veil presiding at Strasbourg, July 1979.

One doesn't need to be anti-Danish to regret the fact that Mr Poul Dalsager has been given responsibility for the key agricultural sector by his fellow EEC commissioners. Mr Dalsager, the former Danish farm minister, was chosen by his government within 36 hours of the death of Mr Finn Olav Gundelach to take his place as Denmark's EEC commissioner. This was interpreted as a desperate (and, as it proved, successful) attempt to maintain Danish control of the portfolio responsible for 70 per cent of all EEC spending.

Mr Gaston Thorn has already set one bad precedent at the initial share-out of jobs under his presidency on January 7th, when he let seven out of the eight commissioners whom he had inherited from Mr Roy Jenkins hold on to the jobs they were already doing. The only exception, Belgium's Viscount Davignon, effectively took two of the relatively few plum jobs available when he added energy to the bulk of his previous industrial portfolio.

But letting individuals keep choice jobs is one thing – permitting countries to hold on to them even when commissioners change is quite another, and is certain to detract from the 'European-ness' of the EEC. Two other commissioners, Holland's Mr Frans Andriessen and Italy's Mr Lorenzo Natali, made a bid for Mr Gundelach's post. In doing so they effectively blocked each other, and Mr Dalsager crept in through the middle. Whatever his merits may prove to be, in principle it would have been better to choose one of his rivals.

Mr Ivor Richard, the new British Labour commissioner, may think he has chosen a multi-national private office. His senior staff includes a fellow Welshman, a Lancastrian, a Cornishman, and two English women. But his team contains nobody from the other nine Community countries, and nor does that of Mr Christopher Tugendhat, his Tory opposite number.

Mr Tugendhat did have a couple of foreign nationals in his previous cabinet, both of them extremely able. Now he has replaced them both by Britishers, though another Frenchman is expected to be appointed shortly.

Just as well – if only because he will find it easier to deal with other governments if he includes their nationals among his own intimates. One former German commissioner always insisted on having a Frenchman in his cabinet for this very reason.

Nearly 35,000 dead birds are now reported to have been recovered on the shores of Norway, Sweden and Denmark – more than twice the combined totals from the Torrey Canyon and Amoco Cadiz tanker disasters. The final toll is likely to be about 60,000.

Kevin Standing, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' pollution expert, says there is a long way to go before an international convention could be signed, under which every shipping nation would impose severe penalties on vessels and their owners as the result of incidents.

He suggests, however, that EEC countries could make a start by allowing their laws to cross national borders. Thus, Denmark could prosecute a ship for polluting its waters even after she had sailed.

– Sunday Times

In no realistic way can Britain be described as an over-taxed country. The proportion of our national income which we pay in taxes and social security contributions is lower than in any other EEC country except Italy, and has been lower than the Community's average for 15 of the last 23 years, according to EEC statistics. Our own Central Statistical Office confirmed these findings this week. Its study, published in 'Economic Trends', finds that our government took a smaller slice of the national cake than any other EEC country save Italy and Ireland.

– Guardian

Most British girls still want to walk up the aisle in white and do not like the idea of living in sin – or the prospect of casual lovers.

One in 10 teenage girls would still like to say 'I do' at just 18 or 19, according to new Common Market research. A report out today says the most popular age for women to marry is 20 – whatever career they plan.

Teenage boys feel much the same way. They believe in marriage, intend to propose before 25 and have children.

Research sponsored by the EEC over three years among teenagers in London, Newcastle upon Tyne and Northumberland – and carried out by the national lobby body Youthaid – reveals marriage in the Eighties is the 'in thing'.

'If the young people follow their expected paths, most will marry and have children,' says the report.

– New Standard

No wonder that Irish fishermen are fighting now to keep at least a 25-mile exclusive fishery limit out of the 200-mile National Economic Zone that came in with EEC membership. They know that survival means carefully husbanding available fish stocks, and that this can only be done by erecting fences against the rustler fleets. The aim of opening our waters right to the beaches to Dutch, French and Spaniards must spell ruin.

– Irish Times

The problem about the Common Market, from a socialist point of view, is that while its disadvantages are mainly economic, its advantages are chiefly political... The relative emancipation of Spain, Greece and Portugal should count as much with the British Left as the Common Agricultural Policy.

– New Statesman

In the Continental nations, elections have brought governments that must hobble along with narrow majorities and fragile coalitions, tilting hesitantly away from the free-spending old social policies of the past.

Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, director of the London School of Economics and former European Commissioner, finds a deepening public frustration about equality. 'Now that the principle has been advanced from the legal to the political and further to the social sphere', he writes, 'two discoveries are made at once: one, that inequalities, notably economic ones, have not disappeared, and the other, that more equality has not by itself brought more liberty.'

– Daily Mail



Liam McMahon, who was caught smuggling cattle into the Irish Republic from Ulster to avoid an EEC levy, was fined £26,000 yesterday at Belfast Crown Court.

Mr McMahon, of Coranny, near Roslea, Fermanagh, pleaded guilty and his driver, John Williamson, of Nelson Park, Fivemiletown, Fermanagh, admitted the same charge and was fined £1,000.

– The Times

The dispute about the budget of the Common Market for 1981 is all to the good if it concentrates minds on the need to restructure the pattern of Community spending, reducing the overwhelming share of agricultural support programmes. Over and above that, it could encourage thought about the role of the European Community.

– Financial Times

Leyland's new heavy lorry, the T45 Roadtrain has won this year's prestigious Truck of the Year award and will spearhead a new attack by Leyland Vehicles on the European truck market this spring.

The Roadtrain has made Leyland Vehicles the leading manufacturer in the heavy end of the British truck market, in which it has gained a market share of almost 15 per cent since its launch last March. The award, made by a panel of commercial vehicle journalists from 10 European countries, could now provide the springboard for Leyland to make a dent in other European markets.

– Guardian

There is no case for a further increase in EEC food prices – which are already two to three times higher than world prices – especially when there are chronic surpluses of EEC food. There is a strong case for trying to cut the value of the pound. But why should farmers be given special protection against the consequences of the pound's strength which are denied to Britain's manufacturing industry? Britain's farmers are already receiving total state subsidies of, on one recent estimate, close to £10,000 per man employed – far more than the comparable subsidies to even the lamest nationalised industry.

– The Economist

Welfare and the artist—who pays?

Men and women working in the 'culture' sector are not receiving benefits available to other workers. France and Germany are doing something about it

In these harsh times, spare a thought for the artists among us – the self-employed musicians, painters, writers, dancers, entertainers and their kind. Other honest toilers enjoy at least some protection from loss of earnings through sickness, premature retirement or redundancy.

But artists – however useful, even essential, their contribution to the common culture – are usually not eligible for the same range of benefits as most of their fellow citizens. Many of them make some effort to cover themselves through voluntary schemes, into which they pay when they can; but the nature of their work – wildly fluctuating income, travels at short notice – makes it difficult for them to plan adequate provision.

There is a growing feeling within the Community that these workers should be more widely entitled to benefit from obligatory state schemes to which employers also contribute – if these can be made flexible enough to cope with the special problems of the artistic professions. France has such a scheme, and Germany has also been considering changing the law.

With its long-term objective of harmonising social security systems in the member states as a way of ensuring the free movement of workers, the European Community has a particular interest in the problem. A comparative study has recently been published at the Commission's request, on the social security problems of cultural workers in the Community, and some possible solutions.

It is a complicated subject, and the author, Dr Bernd Schulte, finds there are plenty of misconceptions to clear up. Some people believe that art and law just do not mix, others that bureaucracy stifles creative talent. Many members of the public feel that artistic activities are not work in the proper sense of the word, and that artists are born rather than trained. Others believe that members of the

cultural professions are highly paid and not in need of social protection like other workers.

In answer, Dr Schulte points out that performing artists have to train constantly (and at their own expense) in order to perform. They have to travel frequently, work long and unsocial hours, and may have very short professional lives.

Other cultural workers like writers, painters and sculptors, are not paid for the time they spend working, but for the results of their labours. This can cause legal problems, like: When is a writer unemployed?

More cultural workers are unemployed or under-employed than any other active group – as many as 80 per cent of actors are unemployed in some countries. The majority of cultural workers earn less, not more, than the average wage, especially if they are under 30, over 50, or women.

Though many are effectively self-employed, most cultural workers in fact depend to a large extent on intermediaries between themselves and potential clients. Actors, dancers and broadcasters need producers; authors, playwrights, poets and composers need publishers; painters and sculptors need galleries, and so on. According to opinion polls, the majority agree that being affiliated to a state insurance and pension scheme would not limit their creative liberty.

Various studies have shown that the poor economic situation of cultural workers goes hand-in-hand with inadequate social protection against sickness and old age. We cannot expect our artists to give of their best, says Dr Schulte, if they have to worry about sickness or spending old age in poverty; and he concludes that cultural workers need the same range of social security benefits as other workers.

In France, the variety of schemes covering workers such as authors and playwrights, composers and choreographers, engravers and artists, has been replaced for the past three years by a single scheme under the

general social security system.

Under the scheme, benefits are financed on the one hand from contributions by the artists themselves, according to their earnings, and on the other by employer-type contributions from the intermediaries who benefit financially from their work. (Performing artists are already integrated into the general system.)

Though it is too soon yet to pass judgement on the practical consequences of the legislation, Dr Schulte feels it does show that the essential legal problems can be resolved. Given that the French social security system and the situation of French cultural workers have sufficient in common with other member states, he feels it could serve as a model in other countries.

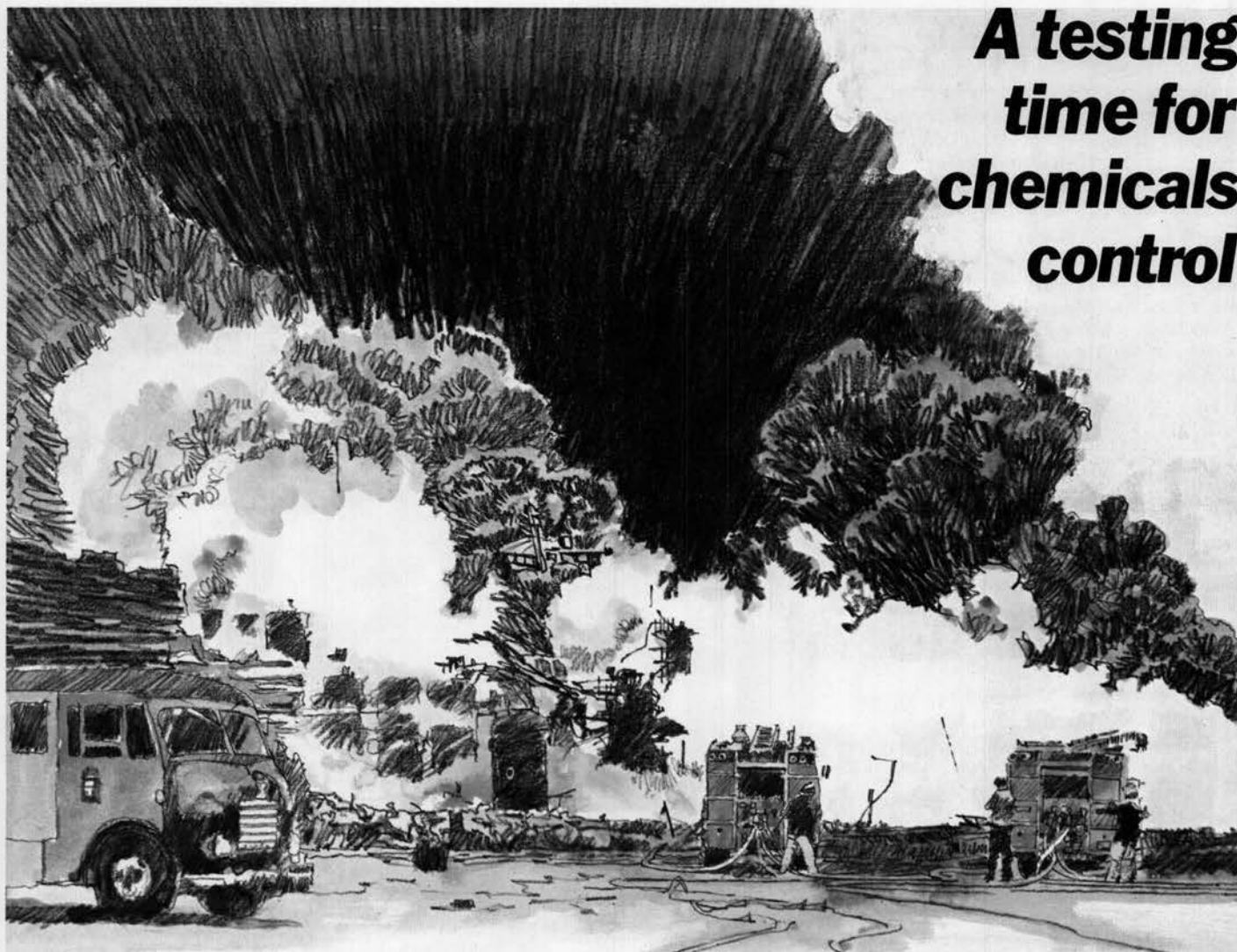
The German project, which – if it proceeds – should be ratified this year, is similar. It is based on research showing that artists and writers are much worse off than most workers in their old age pension and sickness insurance benefits. The projected law would oblige artists and writers (with certain exceptions) to join the schemes which at present cover musicians, art teachers and artists.

Benefits would be financed by contributions from the artists (based on earnings), the various intermediaries they work through, and – unlike France – the state. The law would cover a wider variety of artists than in France. And there would be no requirement to prove that half their income came from their art.

Meanwhile, a recent Community move to help the self-employed in general will surely be welcomed by all self-employed professionals working in the arts. As reported in EUROFORUM (January/February 1981), self-employed Community citizens who move to another member state to work are to enjoy the same social security benefits as nationals of the country where they settle. This covers sickness and maternity, and benefits in old age. In this respect, at least, those whose job it is to inspire, entertain, dazzle and shock other people will be treated just like all the rest. **E**



A testing time for chemicals control



The Community is making progress towards protecting the environment from the contamination of Man. But there is little time – and still a lot to do.
JASPER BECKER reports

After the Flixborough and Seveso disasters there is no lack of public concern about the hazards posed by the 60,000 chemicals currently in use in Europe. Safety legislation has not been slow to appear in the statute books; but it is falling behind preventive research which continues to point to new and

unforeseen dangers. By September 18 next year, all the European Community's member states must have implemented the Community's most ambitious and comprehensive piece of chemical control legislation – the 6th Amendment. Environmentalists are already saying that it is too little and too late.

There is hardly a single area in our daily lives that has not been changed, and often improved, by the use of chemicals. From washing powder to the silicon chip, chemistry has brought benefits that are unique – but at a price, say environmentalists, that we shall be counting for a long time to come. The environment itself is a system of chemical reactions of unimaginable complexity, kept in a barely containable balance. Man, by adding to it thousands of alien substances, is turning the world into a giant test laboratory.

Evidence is mounting that there is a strong link between chemical exposure and cancer; that the vital ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere is being destroyed; and that some of the most toxic chemicals are building up in man to ever more dangerous levels.

In its seven-year history, the European Community's Pharmaceutical Section has drawn up one piece of legislation after another. The first generation of directives concentrated on particular groups of chemicals: the 'solvents directive' of 1973, the 'paints directive' of 1977, the 'pesticides directive' of

1978, the 1976 directive on polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCBs) and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs). The second generation have sought to be more preventive and comprehensive: the 1978 directive on plant protection products (insecticides and herbicides), the 1978 directive on toxic and dangerous wastes, and the so-called Seveso directive (still to be adopted) on the prevention of major accidents and the 1979 6th Amendment, chiefly relating to new chemicals. The 6th Amendment is the latest version of the 1967 directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and

administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.

Most of the directives of the last two years have still to be enacted as national laws, so it is too early to quantify the results. But for the protection of our health and the environment a high price has to be paid. The UK chemical industry alone, during 1979-80, spent an estimated £100 million ensuring that its plants and products are safe. In the US, usually assumed to be 10 years ahead of Europe in these matters, the Chemical Manufacturers' Association reckons that new pollution measures cost the chemical companies £600 million during 1975-76.

After the Seveso accident, near Milan, the area was sealed off. But the poison gas cloud left its mark on the victims.



PICTURES: KEYSTONE



DIVIETO DI ACCESSO
ALLE PERSONE NON AUTORIZZATE

I TRASGRESSORI saranno deferiti
all'Autorità Giudiziaria ai sensi
dell'Art. 650 C.P.

That much more is still to be done is the attitude of environmental organisations – a point made during two major international conferences which were held in 1980. The first, held in Bonn last June, organized by the European Environmental Bureau, led to a declaration on toxic chemicals. The second, held in Zurich last October and organized by the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute, was the forum for a heated discussion between environmentalists and the chemical industry. Part of the Bonn declaration stated: 'We do not accept that there is an absolute right to produce any chemical substance that can be synthesised. The main criteria in permitting production should be usefulness to society and the absence of unacceptable risks to health and environment.'

This strikes at the heart of the matter. Whether the laws are properly applied or not, the decisions taken to accept the risks posed either by a new chemical or the circulation of an old one, cannot be directly influenced by the general public. Referendums are taken on the nuclear power question. But decisions on chemicals, which present dangers of a similar degree, are taken behind closed doors. It can only be assumed that government and industry are acting in the long-term interests of the

public and the environment. Environmentalists argue, however, that since the decisions affect everyone, in a democratic society there should be a statutory degree of public participation.

There is no short cut to assessing the risks posed by a particular chemical, and interpretation of research data is a highly specialised field. As it is, the average time spent by a chemical company in developing a new chemical is seven years. Costs can be as high as £10m. Understandably, when a company has developed a new product it is anxious that, when it notifies a public authority for permission to put it on the market—as required by the 6th Amendment—the formula is kept secret. The authorities then assess the risks posed by the chemical, by means of a series of toxicological tests.

'International co-operation is essential if the barely-touched problems of "old" chemicals are to be tackled'

Unfortunately, the data cannot always provide the answer to what is an acceptable risk.

But even if the risk is considered acceptable for a chemical used in a certain way, nobody can ensure that a potentially hazardous chemical is not misused. In one well-publicised case in America, bags of toxic substances were mistaken for animal feeds. Even after the animals that had been fed with it were destroyed the chemicals still remained to do damage in the environment.

Given that no one can be fully qualified to decide on what is an acceptable risk, the environmentalists argue that there should at least be equal access to information for the public as well as the government and industry.

It is not at present envisaged that the European Community could reach agreement on the harmonisation of a freedom of information policy. But the wind is changing. The Seveso directive incorporates a clause (opposed by some governments) that the public in the area surrounding the source of a potential major accident should be fully informed of the dangers, so that swift measures can be taken when such a catastrophe occurs again. The draft directive on environmental impact assessment is also a move in this direction. When a major new development project is planned, such as a large chemical plant, the developer must prepare a dossier with an analysis of the potential impact on the whole environment. It should not be overlooked that the 6th Amendment is also about classification and labelling. The chemical producer has to make information on the chemical properties of the substance and its toxicity openly available.


The Seveso directive was not adopted at the Environmental Council in July last year, because France rejected the clause requiring information on a plant situated near a frontier to be passed on to the neighbouring state. The OECD is currently working on the problems of international confidentiality, and trying to gain a consensus on how and to what degree, confidential information can be circulated among states. International co-operation is needed in this and other fields, not only because chemicals are traded among countries but also because the environment is a common resource.

Dr Peter Crawford, Head of the OECD Chemicals Division, has said of its chemical programme: 'The aim is to develop harmonised chemical protection policies, to ensure consistent international protection of health and the environment while maintaining a viable international chemical industry. It focuses on three key areas for international harmonisation: testing, evaluation and information exchange.'

In May last year, at the OECD high level meeting, agreement was reached on the principle of the mutual acceptance of data from the testing of chemicals. Preliminary agreement was also reached on the OECD Test Guidelines and the Principles of Good Laboratory Practice. In other words, tests carried out in one country will be considered valid in another.

International co-operation is essential if the barely-touched problems of 'old' chemicals are to be tackled. The 6th Amendment and the American equivalent have their biggest impact on new chemicals. Somehow, the 50,000-odd 'old' chemicals also have to be assessed. Gunter Hartkopf, the German Secretary of State responsible for Germany's recent Chemical Law (based on the 6th Amendment) has said that, with present research capacities, it would take 500 years to put all old chemicals through a national testing programme.

Pooling international resources can help, but criteria are needed to single out the old chemicals which take priority. The OECD programme is working on this question, as is the European Commission; but there is still no international agreement on the determination of criteria for decision-making on chemicals. Hazard assessment is one part, but—to quote Peter Crawford again—many other factors come into account in this decision-making process, and many of these are non-technical, dealing with political, social and economic considerations. Thus, as he says, the process is not only scientifically difficult, but also politically difficult.

In regulating a chemical, society is faced with certain key questions. Which properties of a chemical should be tested—how, when, why and by whom? Where do the chemicals get to, and what is the effect when they are there? What are the costs or benefits to society of releasing or regulating a chemical, and in what degree? And how can these costs and benefits be balanced one against another? 

BOOK SHELF

The Irish Wildlife Book. Edited by Fergus O'Gorman. Irish Wildlife Federation, 8 Westland Row, Dublin. IR£7.45 inc postage.

Books on Irish wildlife have not been readily available to the general reader. The Irish Wildlife Federation have responded by publishing an illustrated survey by some of Ireland's best-known naturalists. Their special interests range from mammals, salmon, butterflies and seabirds to bees, wasps and ants. The colour illustrations draw on the resources of the Irish Tourist Board; the black-and-white photographs are by leading Irish photographers. The book includes a Who's Who in Irish conservation, with details of all such organisations active in the Republic.

Ethnic and Political Nations in Europe. By Jaroslav Krejci and Vitezslav Velimsky. Croom Helm, £14.95.

An analysis of the tensions, ethnic and separatist in nature, which are the cause of internal political conflict in Europe. Ethnic divisions are seen as being rooted in history rather than in political ideology, flourishing in the wake of 19th-century ideas of nationhood. 'In promoting the Sacred Fatherland in the place of the Holy Church, the nationalism of the romantic period was able to satisfy a deep socio-psychological need which neither the men of the Enlightenment nor rationalists of any other period were capable of understanding.' The lesson, conclude the authors, is that no mass society can escape its unsolved ethnic problems by trying to transfer the issue to another plane.

The Logic of Unity: a Geography of the European Economic Community (3rd edition). By Geoffrey Parker. Longman £4.95 (paperback).

New and revised edition of an established text, written for students and covering the Community as a unit while examining the geographic activity of particular member states. The maps are new, the figures have been up-dated, and chapters added on population and changing aims and policies.

JACK WATERMAN finds that footballers have the same freedom of movement within the Community as any other workers – to the benefit of the top clubs

EUROPE ON THE BALL

The fortunes of football clubs are nothing if not changeable. But, as I write, Ipswich Town are sitting on top of the English Football League, Division One, and their chances of becoming champions look very good indeed.

The rise of Ipswich is quite remarkable in a game where a brief century of history has provided its own rich men in the castle, such as Arsenal and Aston Villa (13 League championships and a dozen FA Cups between them), and its own traditional poor men at the gate such as Halifax Town and Hartlepool United (never above the Third and Fourth Divisions). Ipswich themselves were not even members of the Football League until 1938. Since then they have risen through the ranks, won the FA Cup, been League champions, and, in the past decade, taken part frequently in European competitions.

It is, of course, a help to any club to have the backing of a rich local brewery firm, and Ipswich have this. But there are other ingredients in their success. Among these the EEC may claim at least some credit. Two of Ipswich's outstanding players are Arnold Muhren and Frans Thijssen. They were signed two years ago from the Dutch club, Twente Enschede, for what – by hindsight and seen against inflated transfer fees – now seems a modest £350,000. Each must now be worth £1 million. More important, from the point of view of Ipswich Town, the Dutchmen's skills have somehow rubbed off on other players. Ipswich have been transformed into a side of an inventiveness and flexibility above the level of most English First Division clubs, and with an attractive and effective style of play which entitles them to be very much in the running for their second league title.

They thus provide an excellent example of how the EEC has helped the game by ensuring the freedom of movement of footballers within the Community. This came about in 1978. The Commission had found that the rules and regulations of the governing bodies of the sport in certain countries contained provi-



Kevin Keegan (left) is the quintessential European footballer. Now with Southampton after a dazzling spell with Hamburg, he is joined in the English First Division by the Dutch pair, Arnold Muhren (right) and Frans Thijssen (above), who now play for Ipswich. The brilliant Laurie Cunningham (right, above) is one of several England players now with Continental clubs.

sions restricting, on grounds of nationality, the number of nationals of other Community countries who might be signed by a club. In February, 1978, the Commission therefore arranged a meeting with representatives from the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and the football federations of the then nine Community countries.

As a result, the representatives of the federations undertook to submit to the governing bodies in each country, before the beginning of the 1978/79 season, the necessary amendments to their regulations for eliminating discrimination against players from other Com-

munity countries. At the base of this decision was a ruling made by the European Court of Justice in 1976, which laid down that football is an economic activity, and that footballers are workers and therefore entitled, under the Treaty of Rome, to move freely within the Community and play for clubs in whichever country they want – although they could not take part in competitions reserved for national players.

The ruling thus meant that footballers should have the same freedom of movement within the Community as that enjoyed by, say, car assembly workers – although it is

doubtful whether many car assembly workers would see much of a parallel between themselves and professional footballers particularly in regard to wages.

Despite the ruling, however, the Italian Football Federation, in particular, continued to ban the signing of players from other EEC countries.

Their attitude originated with the poor showing of Italy in the 1966 World Cup, after which the Italian Football Federation banned its clubs from fielding foreign players. Leading clubs such as Juventus and International Milan had become dominated by foreign play-



'The European Court of Justice has laid down that football is an economic activity...'

ers, and local talent had been squeezed out.

In other EEC countries, too, there were anomalies in the treatment of footballers from outside the native shores and frontiers. The football federations in the UK, with the exception of Scotland, disapproved of foreign players, although, in practical terms, this presented no problems because football wages in Britain were much lower than on the Continent. French and Dutch clubs were allowed two foreign players, Belgian clubs three, and so on.


As a result of the 1978 meeting, the position has been changed, to the benefit of football. It was agreed between the Commission and the bodies governing football in the member states that any rule restricting the signing of Community players would be rescinded, and that for the highest division of the national league and for the qualifying competition for promotion to that division (in England, Divisions One and Two), clubs would be entitled to field up to two nationals of other Community countries in any match. At all other levels there would be no limits on the number of Community players.

Of course, the import, no less than the export, of players has caused misgivings in footballing circles in Britain. In contrast to the statement two years ago of Mr Ron Green-

wood, the England manager – 'The advent of overseas stars is the most exciting development in our football' – the attitude of, for example, the Professional Footballers Association, has been notably more cautious. None the less, rather than EEC exchanges they were probably more concerned with the import of the Argentinians, Ardiles and Villa, to Tottenham Hotspur and its possible implications. There was also the drain (now a mere trickle) to the United States and Canada, and the arrival of players from Eastern Europe, particularly Yugoslavia, not necessarily of star quality. The latter, in particular, seemed a threat to the fostering of native talent.

With each trend in the football import/export market there were dire forecasts of floods – of players from South America, to America, from Yugoslavia, and to Europe. None of the forecasts has proved justified. As far as the EEC is concerned, Tony Woodcock now plays in Germany, but the recent moves aimed at bringing the Dutch star Johann Cruyff to England seem to have broken down. Meanwhile, the England captain, Kevin Keegan, with freedom of movement guaranteed, is back from Hamburg and playing in the English First Division for Southampton. As Keegan returned, Liam Brady from Arsenal was signed by Juventus, and now decorates the Turin side – something which certainly would not have been possible but for that meeting in 1978 between the Commission and the bodies governing football in EEC countries.

Top-class football in Europe has been enriched by such exchanges as have taken place with the help of the Commission. One who thinks that the present arrangements work well is Mr Ted Croker, secretary of the Football Association. This is appropriate for one whose office in Lancaster Gate, London, has in its vestibule a handsome collection of presentation trophies from Europe: a plate with French cockerel on it inscribed *Espoirs Anglais, Espoirs Français le 17-10-56 à Bristol*; an urn commemorating *Italia B v Inghilterra B Milano 1950*; a trophy inscribed *Der Football Association zur freundliche Erinnerung, Berlin 10 mai 1930* from the Deutscher Fussball Bund.

Mr Croker, when he first learnt that the EEC were concerning themselves with football, regarded it as an unwarranted intrusion. Today he is satisfied with the arrangements, although he would not like to see any extension of them. As proof of his satisfaction he cites the fact that a special panel, of which he is a member, set up by UEFA to arbitrate in cases of dispute over transfer of players between clubs of different national Associations within the EEC, has not been called upon once since it came into being more than two years ago. 'The regulations as such,' says Mr Croker, 'are not causing difficulties, and in this light can be said to be proving beneficial.' Which says something for an organisation that is involved not only with green pounds but also with green pitches. 

Support for small and medium-sized enterprises – SME in Community jargon – has been recommended to the EEC Council of Ministers by the European Commission in Brussels. The Commission suggests that the Community could do a useful job in the exchange of information and ideas – taking on, or sharing in, research on matters of interest to small businesses.

In taking this initiative, the Commission is acting in accordance with the wishes of the European Parliament – not to mention its own conviction that, with the development of new technologies, SME will prove to be forerunners of the eventual structure of industry as a whole. The Commission notes their 'flexibility and opportunity for innovation,' and also that they enjoy good employer-employee relations. What they may lack is access to credit and market information, and competent business administration.

BOOST FOR SMALL BUSINESS

In all member states, transactions are normally governed by general legislation affecting contracts and company law. However, the Commission is aware that, despite the similarity of aims being pursued by particular governments, there is a wide diversity of national schemes for helping small business, and the methods used to implement them.

Few managers are aware that Community funds may be available to help with investment and training, through such agencies as the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Investment Bank. Grants may also be available from the European Social Fund.

This year the Commission intends to give particular attention to the problems of financing small businesses, so as to stimulate investment – at present thinly spread, restricted in scale and of high risk. It will encourage banks to accept a common evaluation in their approach to small and medium-sized enterprises. And it looks forward to the establishment of a representative group at Community level, through which these contacts and opportunities could be put into effect.



FA's Ted Croker: 'The rules are proving beneficial.'



Gaston Thorn, on his first visit to London since taking over from Roy Jenkins as President of the European Commission, is greeted by Mrs Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street.

Regional Fund grants reach £566 million

A sum of £12.5 million – the fourth allocation under the European Regional Fund's budget for 1980 – was paid in January to the UK Government. It brings the Regional Fund grants for the year to £157 million, and the total since 1975 to £566 million.

About two-thirds of the Regional Fund grants are towards infrastructure projects. The cash is passed in full to local and other public authorities, thus reducing the amount they have to borrow to finance particular investment. One major example of this kind, announced in the January grant, is for improvements at Manchester Airport.

Community grants now announced for industrial projects represent a contribution from the Regional Fund of up to half the cost of the aid given to individual projects by the UK Government. European Regional Development Fund grants are not paid, it is explained, in addition to help received from the Government.

The CAP fits the Scots

Mr John Cameron, president of the Scottish National Farmers Union, defended the Common Agricultural Policy at a recent meeting in Edinburgh. The CAP, he said, had been a success for both producers and consumers. Farmers seeking a return to

the pre-EEC system of deficiency payments were 'living in cloud-cuckoo land.' So were consumers looking for cheap food on the world market.

'The rest of the world has no reason to supply Europe – or the UK – with food at prices cheaper than they can obtain elsewhere,' Mr Cameron said. 'World prices are determined by the price at which exporting countries are prepared to dispose of residual quantities of food.' With world food production still far from sufficient to feed existing populations, added Mr Cameron, it was in the interests of EEC consumers to have the security of supply which the CAP offered.

Good news for Sir Freddie

New air links for passengers and cargo within the EEC are encouraged by proposals made by the European Commission. Aware that regional routes have been largely ignored by operators, the Commission has recommended new rules that could pave the way to better European air transport facilities.

If the Community transport ministers accept the proposals, the plan will be put to the Council.

The proposals will be welcomed by Sir Freddie Laker, whose application to fly new European air routes was turned down late last year by the British Government. Under the new plan, his request would be assessed in accordance with the EEC rules. In the event of any disagreement, the Commission would be the final arbiter.

Both my staff and myself were most impressed by Europe 81, and find it easy to read – in fact almost compulsive reading. Congratulations on the format. And may we wish you every success and increasing readership.
Asbestos Information Centre
40 Piccadilly, London W1V 9PA

W. Penny,
Director General.

Congratulations all round on the appearance of the new magazine. The format and contents make an instant impact. I confirm my request for six copies at this school for distribution among senior colleagues, for subsequent use in the classroom.
Hilldene Junior School
Romford, Essex

Alan Thake,
Headmaster

May I say how delighted I am with the first issue of Europe 81. A solid and pleasing presentation of facts about the EEC on the British scene has long been overdue.
Rue Ravenstein 2,
1000 Brussels

T. Barry-Braunthal,
Head of Press &
Information Division

I am writing to say how thrilled I was to receive Europe 81. I found the new format and presentation enjoyable to read, and thus more conducive to a better understanding of the information it contains.

It has concerned me for some time that some of the publications issued by the EEC are unlikely to win converts. I think Europe 81 will do much to improve that situation.

45 Kingsway,
Manchester M19 2LL

K. I. T. Standring,
National Secretary,
Association of Professional,
Executive, Clerical & Computer
Staff (APEX)

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed Europe 81. It has some important information that will come in useful for my school work. I am really looking forward to your next issue.
Strahans, Co. Tyrone,
Northern Ireland

Caroline Murray

For once, a Commission publication which is not only readable but understandable, human, attractive, interesting, punchy and honest.

SA Marketing & Communications NV
Brussels

Pamela M. Phethean

Congratulations on your re-styled publication. Its cheery, optimistic style is very welcome.
1 Midholm and The Studio,
London NW11 6LL

C. S. Gabriel

Congratulations on the make-up and content of Europe 81 – the best of the EEC publications I have seen for a long time. It presents the great issues clearly and in a way which I'm sure, as you say, will reach out to a wider readership.

Walter Farr

Domaine Les Charles,
Le Muy, France

Whilst I have always read the old-style Euroforum as part of my business reading, I think Europe 81 is a tremendous improvement and a worthy successor to it.
York Road, Leeds LS15 4NB

Roger Moore,
Editor, Countrywide

PATS We thank
ON readers
THE who have
BACK written to us
welcoming the
first issue of
Europe 81.
Here is a
selection from
the many
letters
received

I do like your new magazine.
4 Little Essex Street
London WC2R 3LF

John Maddox,
Editor, Nature

I have just seen the first issue of Europe 81, and felt I must write to congratulate you. It really is very well laid out and attractive to read – I could hardly put it down!

Janet Drever
Avenue Baden-Powell
1300 Brussels

AN ALL-IN MAP OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

