

European Community



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INFORMATION NOTE

EC PROGRAMME TO HELP JOBLESS YOUTH

To help the two million men and women under 25 years of age currently out of work in the European Community, the EC Commission has launched a vocational training programme.

The programme urges the nine member governments to:

- make more job training available to school-leavers, especially those without proper qualifications
- ensure that young people threatened by unemployment be given reasonable leave of absence from their work to attend training courses
- pay maintenance allowances and fees for approved courses
- check that no laws prevent school-leavers from attending job-training courses or obtaining employment.

Youth unemployment in the Community has grown continuously since 1970, and has doubled since the beginning of 1973. The outlook for young people remains uncertain: between 1977 and 1980 the labour supply is expected to increase by about two million, while fewer people will be retiring.

From about 1985 onwards, the situation should ease as young people born in the years of low birth rates since 1969 enter the labour market.

But youth unemployment is not caused solely by population trends and the economic situation. It is also the outcome of a growing divergence between the training young people get and the jobs available to them. Many young people enter the labour market every year without adequate preparation. They leave school at the minimum age (from 14 to 16), often unskilled and with too few chances of training. Those who find unskilled work are often threatened by redundancy at short notice. The Commission programme aims especially at improving this group's chances of keeping their jobs or of finding new ones.