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### COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA – A NEW LOOK

In the hope of providing a more satisfactory response to the growing interest in demography, Eurostat presents its yearbook "*Demographic Statistics*" in a new revised and enlarged form.

The new presentation sets out the data in various demographic themes, which makes it easier to compare countries using the same indicator. In view of the impending Single Market in 1992, Eurostat has aimed at providing in this yearbook firm figures or estimates for the whole of the European Community.

Two new chapters have been added, "The Community and its regions" – which contains basic demographic indicators for the NUTS II regional level – and "The European Community in the world", which gives an idea of the size and position of the Community on the world scale.

The chapter headed "Mortality" is supplemented with data on the number of deaths by five-year age groups and statistics on deaths broken down by causes.

Lastly, "*Demographic Statistics 1990*" is illustrated by some fifty graphs illustrating the main features of the Community population.

In the following pages you will find some of the statistics presented in "*Demographic Statistics 1990*".

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### Third In the world

In 1988 the European Community (324 million inhabitants) was the third largest entity in the world in terms of population, well behind such giants as China (1 089 million) and India (797 million). However, its population exceeds that of the USSR (283 million) by 14% and that of the US (246 million) by 32% (Graph 1).

By 2020 these positions could be partially reversed to the detriment of the Community (323 million) which would have fallen behind the USSR (343 million), while the US (295 million) would be hard on its heels.

In 1988 the European Community accounted for 59% of the total population of Europe excluding the USSR (1). It has 3 times the population of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania) which together total 113 million inhabitants.

In the Mediterranean Basin there is a major demographic divide without historical precedent. In 1988 the total number of births was estimated at 6.7 million (4.9 million in 1960) in all the eastern and southern Mediterranean countries, compared with only 3.9 million in the Community (5.2 million in 1960) (Graph 2).

(1) EUR 12, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania, Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Albania, Cyprus, Malta, Turkey, Yugoslavia.

### Natural increase continuing, but at a reduced rate

Between 1960 and 1988 the fall in the number of births in the Community was 25.3%. Over the same period deaths increased by 12.2% because of the ageing of the population (Graph 3).

Thus the natural increase (births minus deaths) fell. In 1988 it was only 29% of the 1960 figure, falling from 2.2 million in 1960 to 0.6 million in 1988.

### Falling and convergent fertility rates

The downward trend in total fertility rates which began in the middle of the 1960s in the northern and western countries of the Community – except for Ireland – has spread to the southern countries over the last ten years. Since then their fertility rates have fallen rapidly. With a total fertility rate of 1.34 children per woman, Italy in 1988 had the lowest fertility rate of the Community.

The total fertility rate in Ireland, although still very high, is rapidly converging with that of the other countries (2.17 children per woman in 1988 compared with 3.2 in 1980).

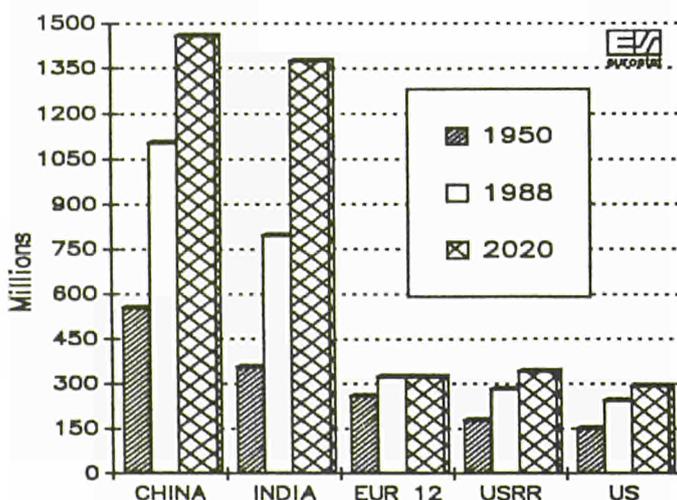
The total fertility rate at present underestimates the final total number of children born to all women born in the same year. This is explained by a delay in the timing of births, i.e. by the increase in the average age of women at the birth of their first child. The increased age at maternity may have the effect of reducing the level of the short-term fertility rate indicator for a given year, by deferring for a few years the birth of the first child and thus of subsequent children. Accordingly, in the Community the average age at the birth of the first child has increased from 24.4 in 1970 to 25.9 in 1987 – a shift of 1.5 years over a period of 17 years (Graph 4).

### Increasing number of remarriages

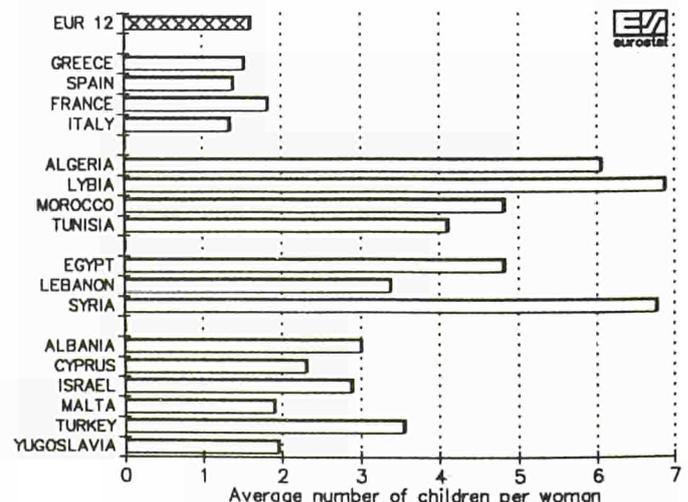
In 1988 there was a slight increase in the number of marriages, viz. 17 400 more marriages than in 1987.

Between 1960 and 1987 the increase in remarriages was considerable. 303 000 men married again in 1987 compared with 183 000 in 1960. This phenomenon is still more marked for women, with 278 000 remarriages in 1987 compared with 146 000 in 1960. (Graph 5)

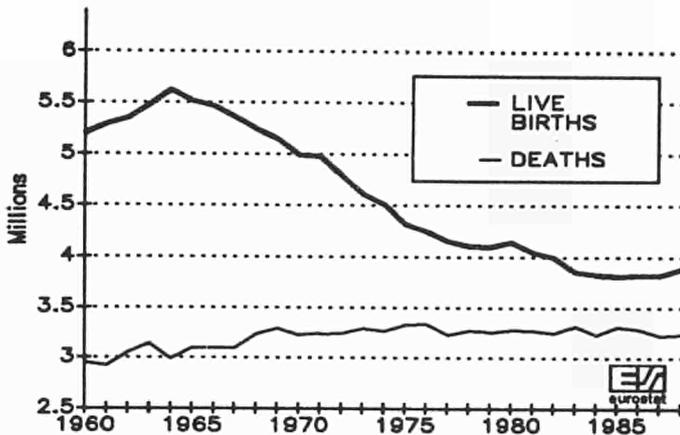
Graph 1: EUR 12 and the 4 most populous countries of the world – 1950–2020



Graph 2: Total fertility rate indicator in the Mediterranean Basin – 1985–90.



**Graph 3: Components of natural increase – EUR 12**



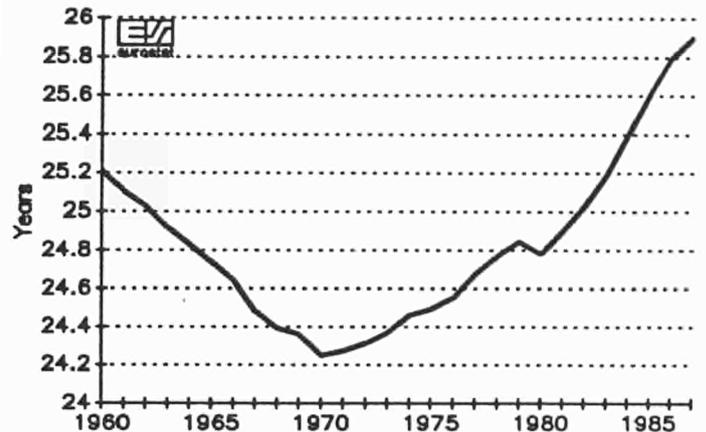
**Increased life-expectancy**

Since 1950 life-expectancy at birth has increase by 8 years for men and 10.4 years for women. This increase was very rapid in the 10-year period 1950-1960 (3.3 years for men and 4.5 years for women), but less dramatic in the three subsequent decades, although growth remained steady, since between 1960 and 1988 men gained 4.7 years and women 5.7 years (Graph 6).

This remarkable progress is largely due to the reduction in infant mortality. In 1988 the infant mortality rate was 8.5 per 1 000 compared with 34.8 per 1 000 in 1960 – a reduction of 75% in 28 years.

In view of the low infant mortality rate, any further increase in life expectancy will be due mainly to the increased longevity of old people.

**Graph 4: Average age of woman at birth of first child – EUR 12**



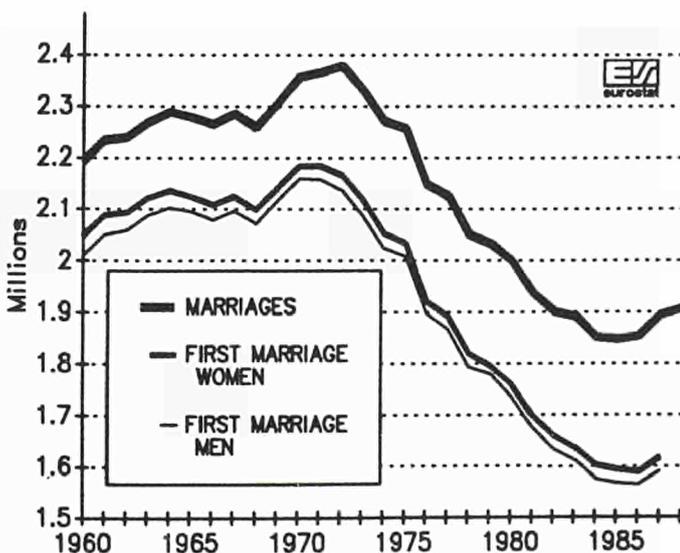
**The Community age pyramid: Reflection of an eventful history**

The Community age pyramid reflects the most important events in the history of the twentieth century. It bears traces of the two world wars, the economic crisis in the 1930s, the baby boom in the years 1950-1965, and the revolution in attitudes at the end of the 1970s which has led to a steep drop in the fertility rate (Graph 7).

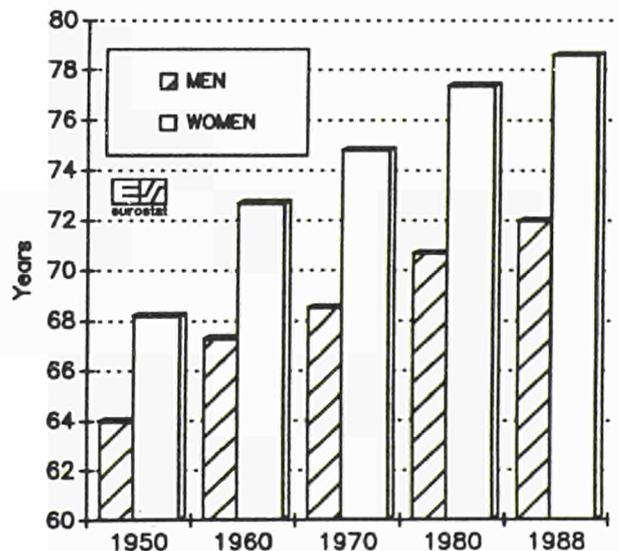
The main feature of the age pyramid as at 1 January 1989 is its narrow base, because of the deficit in the fertility rate, while the apex is broader, because people are living longer. Under the influence of these two factors it has lost the typical shape which gave the age pyramid its name.

The ageing of the Community population is an inevitable consequence of the ageing of the large generations born during the baby boom and in the decrease in births since 1975, in conjunction with increased longevity.

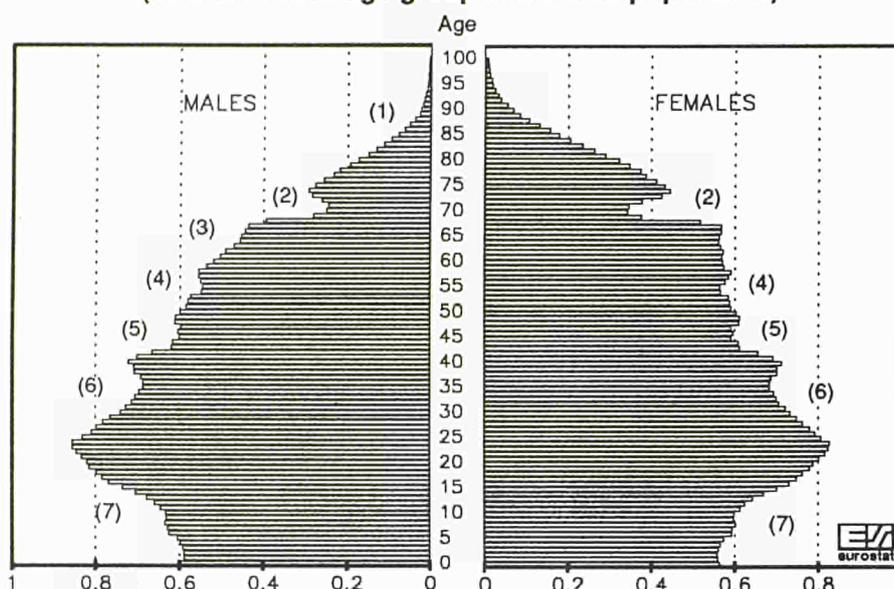
**Graph 5: Trends in number of marriages – EUR 12**



**Graph 6: Life expectancy at birth – EUR 12**



**Graph 7: European Community Age Pyramid - 1 January 1989**  
(as a % of each age group in the total population)



- (1) Effect of excess male mortality.  
 (2) Births deficit due to the 1914–1918 war (low-fertility generations).  
 (3) Military losses due to the 1939–1945 war.  
 (4) Births deficit due to the attainment of child-bearing age by the low-fertility generations and the effects of the economic crisis in the 1930s.  
 (5) Births deficit due to the 1939–1945 war, partially mitigated by inward movements of population.  
 (6) High fertility rate in the period 1945–1964 (baby boom).  
 (7) Rapid decline in births leading to non-replacement of generations since 1975.

**Table 1: Main demographic indicators - International comparisons 1985-90<sup>(1)</sup>**

GEOGRAPHICAL UNIT	Population 1988		Population 2020		Natural increase 1988 Million	%<15 years	%>65 years	Total fertility <sup>(2)</sup>	Infant mortality <sup>(3)</sup>	Life expectancy at birth	
	Million	%	Million	%						Men	Women
EUROPE*	549	10,7	595	7,3	2,4	21	12	2,10	24	69,2	75,2
– EUR 12	324	6,3	323	4,0	0,6	18	14	1,60	9	72,0	78,6
– EFTA <sup>(4)</sup>	32	0,6	32	0,4	0,1	18	16	1,70	8	72,7	79,5
– Central and E. Europe <sup>(5)</sup>	113	2,2	123	1,5	0,4	23	11	2,04	17	67,9	74,7
– Other Europ. countries <sup>(6)</sup>	80	1,6	118	1,5	1,3	31	6	3,23	65	64,1	67,9
USRR	283	5,5	343	4,3	2,2	26	10	2,38	24	65,0	74,2
US	246	4,8	295	3,7	1,9	22	13	1,83	10	71,9	79,0
AFRICA	610	11,9	1 441	17,9	18,0	45	3	6,20	106	50,3	53,6
– Maghreb <sup>(7)</sup>	60	1,2	114	4,4	1,7	42	3	5,40	76	60,5	63,6
ASIA	2 996	58,6	4 680	58,1	54,9	33	5	3,45	73	60,9	62,6
– Japan	122	2,4	130	1,6	0,5	19	12	1,70	5	75,4	81,1
– China	1 089	21,3	1 460	18,1	15,2	26	6	2,40	32	68,0	70,9
– India	797	15,6	1 375	17,1	16,8	37	4	4,30	99	57,8	57,9
WORLD	5 112	–	8 062	–	87,7	33	6	3,40	71	60,0	63,0

\* Eurostat estimate

(1) The data other than that on the European Community are taken from the UN publications (World Population prospects 1988).

(2) Average number of children per woman

(3) Per 1 000 live births

(4) European Free Trade Area (EFTA): Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

(5) Central and Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, German Democratic Republic, Romania and Czechoslovakia.

(6) Other European countries: Albania, Cyprus, Malta, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

(7) Maghreb: Algeria, Lybia, Morocco and Tunisia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION :**

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