

ECN0024

European Community

No. 4

April 1979

LIBRARY Youth in harmony



European Community



European Community is published on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities.

London Office: 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ
Tel. 01-727 8090

Cardiff Office: 4 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF1 9SG
Tel. (0222) 371631

Edinburgh Office: 7 Alva Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PH
Tel. (031) 225 2058

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Printed by Edwin Snell printers, Yeovil, England
European Community also appears in the following editions:
30 Jours d'Europe, 61 rue des Belles Feuilles, 75782 Paris Cedex 16.
Tel. 501 58 85

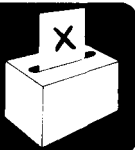
Comunità Europea, Via Poli 29, 00187 Rome. Tel. 68 97 22
Europa Gammel Torv 4, Post Box 144, 1004 København K.
Tel. 14 41 40/14 55 12.

EG Magazin, Zitelmannstrasse 22, 53 Bonn
Tel. 23 80 41
Europese Gemeenschap, Lange Voorhout 29, The Hague.
Tel. 070-46 93 26

Comunidad Europea, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels. Tel. 35 00 40
Europaki Koinotis, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels. Tel. 35 00 40
Avrupa Topulugu, Bogaz Sokak No. 13, Kavaklidere-Ankara.
Tel. 27 61 45-27 61 46
Europe, 2100 M Street, NW, Washington DC 20037
Tel. 872 8350

Contents

Politics



Jenkins comments on Summit
European Council meeting in Paris on 12-13 March. pp3-4

Economic Affairs



Industrial democracy
From a speech by Etienne Davignon in London on February 22, 1979. pp 10-13

News



The month in Europe
p5

Consumer Affairs



Fresh or stale?
Date labelling for eggs queried.
pp 14-15

Social Affairs



An Espoir for Europe
Action at the grass roots.
pp 6-7

Dossier



News p16

Culture



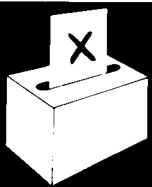
Youth in harmony
European Youth Orchestra in Brussels. pp 8-9

The Community in April

European Parliament April 23-27 (Strasbourg)

Correction:

The March 1979 issue of *European Community* was inadvertently numbered "No. 2". It should of course have been "No. 3", the January-February 1979 joint issue being numbered "Nos. 1-2". We apologize for any confusion caused.



Jenkins comments on Summit

European Council meeting in Paris
on 12-13 March 1979.

The main symbolic significance of this Council was in my view that it was able to announce the delayed but immensely welcome start of the European Monetary System. The house will certainly understand, and for the most part share, my intense satisfaction that the remaining difficulties were resolved and that the scheme — a Community scheme — should go ahead with the full participation at the beginning at any rate, of eight of the nine member States. Even with the delay, it is a considerable achievement that, eleven months after the opening of serious discussions between the Heads of State and Governments in Copenhagen last April the scheme should be in place. I join M. Francois Poncet in hoping that the United Kingdom will soon be able to join in the central intervention mechanism.

I believe that the EMS can make a bigger contribution to the economic health of the Community than perhaps any other instrument in our power. But as this European Council recognised, the EMS must be supported by the increased convergence of the economic policies and performances of the member States.

On this we had a most encouraging discussion on the basis of a communication from the Commission. As a result the European Council

agreed that we should strengthen the means of coordinating our economic policies, that we should make better use of the existing Community instruments, and that we should examine in depth how the Community could achieve greater convergence, and reduce disparities between the economies of member States, by using all its policies taken together, working together closely in a coordinated way with each other.

The Council devoted particular attention to the problems of unemployment, and here I think the decision of the Council can prove of particular value. I recall the particular emphasis laid on unemployment in the debate in this house following my programme speech last month. As a result of our deliberations in Paris, before the next European Council in June, the Commission will:

- Make specific proposals to improve the work of the tripartite conference in response to pleas from all concerned. We attach great importance to the successful continuance of this body in a good atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation.
- Make proposals on the implications of concerted action in the field of work sharing.
- Make proposals for improvement in the working of the social fund so as to exercise greater selectivity in its

use, to concentrate on unemployment among young people and women, and on training: in doing so we shall take particular note of the acute problems of the steel industry.

□ Put forward ideas about a co-ordinated effort in selected areas of the Community, using all Community financial instruments for the purpose.

I was also content about the discussions in the European Council on energy. The Council agreed on two specific new commitments as proposed by the Commission: a limitation on oil imports in 1985 to last year's level and a limitation on oil consumption this year to 5% less than we estimated last year. Let me here draw attention to the need for greater energy saving and corresponding price policies by member States, and to the firm statement in the Council conclusions that the Energy Council — and I quote — will adopt the necessary provisions at Community level to pursue the development of oil technologies, promote the use of coal and nuclear energy, and make use of new sources of energy through an increased research and development effort and through demonstration projects. I hope that this will encourage the Energy Council at its next meeting to unblock at least some of the important Commission proposals before it, which have been before it for too long. That is, the clear message from the European Council to the Energy Council.

Last I refer to the important, thorough, and for me most encouraging discussion of the paper on the Common Agricultural Policy which the Commission submitted to the European Council in December but for which there was then no time for proper examination. Let me draw

attention to the Council's confirmation of the fundamental objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy. These are not in question, but as the Commission has made clear, there are major problems now facing the Common Agricultural Policy, and the European Council recognized them by inviting the Agricultural Council to examine those improvements which are necessary for its proper functioning. I believe that we are all uneasily aware that the future of the CAP, with all its advantages is endangered by the existing imbalance of the market. We are not only spending too large a proportion of the budget on agriculture, but we are spending too much of it on the financing of the accumulation of surpluses. This is a waste of resources at a time when our resources are all too scarce.

The Commission has therefore put forward policies which this house debated in detail yesterday. Vice-President Gundelach was able to explain their main lines and the reasons for them. Our difficulties cannot quickly be overcome, and we have to fashion policies which are designed to cope with long-term imbalances of supply and demand. These include a rigorous price policy, and in the case of milk, a remodelled variable co-responsibility levy. I am convinced that our policy is even more necessary now than when we set it out in our paper in December.

All in all we had a useful European Council. Apart from the announcement of the start of the EMS, we perhaps dealt more with bread and butter issues than with the grand lines of endeavour and advance. But these bread and butter issues are of as much importance to the lives of our citizens today as to the development of our Community for tomorrow. □



The month in Europe

EEC helps UK trade

British exports have probably won a bigger share of the Community market than they might have if Britain had not joined, according to a recent report by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Bank helps Commonwealth

The European Investment Bank recently announced loans totalling 6.2 million units of account — one of 3.2 million to help finance forestry resources in Guyana, the other of 3 million to the Caribbean Development Bank to help finance capital investment projects.

Help for coal

A grant of £5,660,000 from ECSC funds is being made to help 5,960 coalminers and other workers affected by pit closures, mergers, and reorganization in Scotland, Wales, and Northern England.

Meanwhile, the Commission has announced a loan of £10m to the National Coal Board to help finance investments in Yorkshire, North-East England, and the West Midlands.

£20 million for Tyneside

The European Investment Bank has loaned £20m to the National Water Council to help finance a sewerage and sewage disposal project on Tyneside.

Loan for Hull

The European Investment Bank has loaned the equivalent of £1m to help improve telecommunications in the Hull area: it is for 12 years at 9.5 per cent.

Slush fund?

The European Court of Auditors is investigating the use by Britain of emergency funds allocated by the Commission for flood relief in the East and South-East of England in January 1978. It has been alleged that the UK Government diverted some of the money for the relief of other areas and that the proper beneficiaries had not received any cash by mid-February 1979.

Thermal research

The Commission has joined in a multinational study of large-scale thermal storage systems organized by the Paris-based International Energy Agency. The programme will involve some 25m EUA over the next four years.

Monnet prize

The English version of Jean Monnet's *Memoirs*, by Richard Mayne, has been awarded the Scott Moncrieff translation prize for 1978, jointly with John and Doreen Weightman for their version of a book by Claude Lévi-Strauss. Monnet's *Memoirs* are published by Collins at £13.



An Esprit for Europe

Action at the grass roots

What is there in common between a play-centre for children of single parent families in Croydon, a community action project in Connemara, a project to improve services for tramps in Stuttgart and a social centre for children and old people in Naples?

Answer: they are all funded 50 per cent by the European Community as part of the European Programme of Pilot Schemes to Combat Poverty. There are now over 40 different projects which report to the European Commission on their activities in this programme which involves all the states of the Community in an effort 'to test out new methods to help the poor and those threatened by poverty'. The programme has been running since 1975 and the Community share of the cost this year will amount to 5 million units of account.

Britain

Britain is represented in the programme by:

1. *The Family Day Centres Project.* This is a set of seven schemes to run experimental non-residential services to help families, especially families with children. The Croydon play centre, set up by the local Gingerbread Club, is one of these.

Six of the schemes are in the London area and the seventh in Liverpool.

2. *The Tribunal Representation Unit, Wolverhampton.* This is an experiment covering a large area of the West Midlands to train lay representatives to help claimants at Supplementary Benefits Tribunals. It is run by the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

3. *The Area Resource Centres Project, London, S. Wales and Glasgow.* The Community supports 3 of a set of 6 'resource centres' to provide professional support to small local voluntary groups, especially in poor areas.

4. *The Craigmillar Festival Society, Edinburgh.* The UK's largest scheme is this community development enterprise in a large council estate in Edinburgh.

5. *The Social and Community Development Project, Edinburgh.* This is run jointly by the Lothian Regional Council and Edinburgh District Council, experimenting in integrating community development techniques in the normal structure of local government.

6. *Welfare Rights, Belfast.* An attempt to increase the take up of

means tested benefits in four poor districts of Belfast.

Studies

Besides these action research projects the programme also includes several studies funded 100 per cent by the Community to 'explore the nature, extent and dynamics of poverty'. As one of these studies, the Institute for Community Studies in London has completed a comparative survey of three poor neighbourhoods in London, Paris and Cologne and is now researching into the problems of unemployment in Bristol, Lille and Saarbrücken. Meanwhile, at the New University of Ulster a study of voluntary organisations in the European Community is in progress.

Report

The programme is due to finish in November 1980. What happens next will to a large extent be determined by the evaluation report which the Commission has to present to the

Council of Ministers by June 1981. To assist in preparing this evaluation, a new research unit named ESPOIR (European Special Programme — Observation, Information and Research) was born on January 1 this year on a hill overlooking Canterbury Cathedral.

Kent

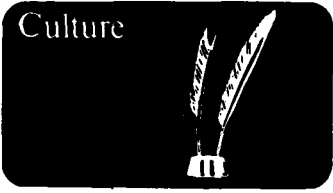
ESPOIR is an independent non-profit company which rents accommodation at Beverley Farm on the campus of the University of Kent. It consists of the Director, Mr E James, two research fellows, Drs G Room and P Watson and their secretary, Miss B Hanly. Their brief covers all the schemes throughout the European Community and their first task is to develop a methodology for evaluating this diverse range of activity. ESPOIR will not be writing the Commission's report but they will certainly be an important addition to the Commission's eyes and ears in developing policy for the future in the fight against poverty.

Statistic of the month

EPQs on the increase

The number of European Parliamentary Questions is growing, Commissioner Richard Burke declared on January 15, 1979, in answer to a . . . European Parliamentary Question. The figures are as follows:

1975	750
1976	810
1977	1,010
1978	1,300



Youth in harmony

European Youth Orchestra in Brussels

An unusual sound was heard on February 12, 1979 from the 13th floor at the 'Berlaymont' building, the home of the European Commission in Brussels.

The delicate strains of Bach played by members of the European Community Youth Orchestra highlighted a reception given in their honour by Dr Guido Brunner, European Commissioner responsible for Energy, Research, Science and Education. Dr Brunner has long been an enthusiastic supporter of the European Community Youth Orchestra and promised 'complete support' from the Community and Commission when the idea was first put forward in 1976.

Heath

The Rt. Hon. Edward Heath, MBE, MP, President and Guest Conductor of the Orchestra, spoke of the Orchestra's inaugural tour with their Musical Director, Claudio Abbado. They received rave notices and acclaim from all who heard them as they travelled from Amsterdam to Bonn, Paris, Luxembourg, Brussels, Milan, Rome, London, Dublin and Aberdeen.

The reception in Brussels was to announce the second year in the life of the Orchestra and Edward Heath emphasized his dedication to the European ideal, youth, music and his belief that the Community can-

not exist solely as an economic and political force, but should be linked and strengthened by cultural bonds. The Orchestra, made up of talented young musicians from each of the nine, demonstrates the co-operation and creativity of European Youth.

Mr. Heath was especially pleased to announce that in its second year the Orchestra's budget had been made up from the grant of scholarships from the European Commission (25,000 European Units of Account) available to young musicians in all member countries, financial support from each of the nine member Governments and a generous donation from the private sector — IBM Europe. He had always felt that the Orchestra's future would and should depend on joint sponsorship from the Commission, National Governments and the private sector. IBM Europe's generous backing assures the Orchestra a very exciting and full programme for 1979.

Eurovision

The Orchestra will be televised for Eurovision by ZDF live from its Berlin concert bringing its message of European unity and co-operation into millions of homes throughout Europe.

Mr Heath then announced details of the 1979 European Community Youth Orchestra.

European Youth Orchestra Summer Tour 1979

<i>PLACE</i>	<i>DATE</i> <i>August</i>	<i>VENUE</i>	<i>PROGRAMME</i>
S. OF FRANCE	9	to be decided	Beethoven: Overture Prometheus* Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4 (soloist: Perahia) Bruckner: Symphony No. 7
VENICE	11	Fenice	Beethoven: Overture Prometheus Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4 (soloist: Perahia) Schoenberg: A Survivor from Warsaw (Narrator: Maximilian Schell) + Wiener Jeunesse Chor Stravinsky: Firebird Suite (1919)
SALZBURG	13	Felsenreit- schule a.m. Free youth concert p.m. Concert	Beethoven: Overture Prometheus Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4 (soloist: Pollini) Schoenberg: A Survivor from Warsaw (Narrator: Maximilian Schell) + Wiener Jeunesse Chor Stravinsky: Firebird Suite (1919)
BERLIN	15	Philharmonie	Same programme as Salzburg — but on this occasion the narrator will be: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Edward Heath will guest conduct the first piece*
COPENHAGEN	16	Falkoner Centre	Beethoven: Overture Prometheus* Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4 (soloist: Perahia) Bruckner: Symphony No. 7
GHENT	17	Cathedral	Beethoven: Overture Prometheus* Schubert: Symphony No. 2 Bruckner: Symphony No. 7
LONDON	19	Royal Albert Hall	Beethoven: Overture Prometheus* Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4 (soloist: Perahia) Bruckner: Symphony No. 7

**Guest Conductor: Edward Heath*
All concerts conducted by Claudio Abbado

For further information please contact:

Mrs Joy Bryer
Miss Nicola Wallis
Miss Nickie Spiller
at:

European Community Youth Orchestra
24 Cadogan Square
London SW1X 0JP
England
Telephone: 01-589 1138
01-235 6641



Industrial democracy

From a speech by Etienne Davignon in
London on February 22, 1979

Whether it be the 1973 reform of the enterprise committee in Belgium, the introduction of employee representatives to the board in Denmark and Luxembourg, or the conclusion of collective agreements on the investment policies of large companies in Italy, the theme recurs.

Employees, in one way or another, are seeking to influence the economic decision making of enterprises, and their legitimate interest in doing so is achieving steadily wider recognition.

All these developments, which taken together make an impressive list, constitute clear evidence of the increasing recognition of the inadequacy of industrial relations systems which fail to take account of the legitimate interests of employees, in particular as regards the economic decision making of large industrial and commercial enterprises.

Two major considerations have motivated the Commission to support the development of appropriate structures permitting employees to participate in the decision making of enterprises. The first is essentially political, the latter more economic.

The political consideration is what the Commission's green paper of 1975 referred to as the 'democratic imperative'. The reforms of the past,

such as the extension of the franchise, freedom to organize trade unions, the provision of general education, and the management of the economy to maximize employment were not simply solutions to the problems and conflicts which produced them. Taken together, they are a foundation on which new reforms and institutions are being and will be built.

The decisions of large enterprises often have a direct and substantial effect on the lives of employees and their families. Such decisions can have a direct effect, both in the long and short term, on their economic environment. They can alter the satisfaction which employees derive from their work. They can affect their health, physical condition and even their sense of dignity and autonomy as human beings. It is thus natural that employees should seek to use the democratic machinery already achieved to create structures which will permit them to increase their influence on the decision making of those enterprises.

We must find the methods and techniques which will permit the aspirations of employees to be channelled in a way which is both responsible and practical.

This leads us to the second, essentially economic, consideration.

The member States are not rich in raw materials.

In this situation, our industrial and commercial activities must be adapted. The human dimension of the problem of industrial adaptation thus emerges as being of major importance.

If we must adapt and innovate in order to remain competitive on world markets, it is clear that only the development of adequate structures and procedures for involving employees in the decision making process will enable us to manage the necessary changes in a manner which is both realist and humane.

The probable alternative is clear. An intolerable level of social confrontation which will arise in one of two ways: either as an immediate response to changes which those concerned do not understand, or as a consequence of the collapse of enterprises which could not be changed to meet the challenges of the time, since no adequate machinery existed for implementing changes which those concerned could understand and accept. In some ways, the second possibility is the more serious, because the process may be insidious.

Moreover, the member States have a clear common interest in trying to tackle these problems together rather than alone. Too great a degree of divergence between member States, having as it will a direct effect on their respective abilities to attract investment, may well perpetuate, even aggravate, existing economic and social imbalances in the community.

European Companies statute.

In 1970, the Commission presented to the Council its proposal for a European Companies statute. This is

a proposal for a complete community company law of an optional kind. As regards employee participation in its broadest sense, the proposal contained three important elements. First, the proposed statute gave European companies the legal capacity to enter into collective agreements on a community-wide basis. Second, the employees of European companies were to be represented at company level by a so-called European works council with defined rights as to information, consultation and on social matters, co-determination. Third, the employees of European companies were to elect at least one-third of the members of European companies' supervisory boards.

Fifth directive

In 1972 the Commission presented its proposal for a Fifth Directive on the structure of Public Companies. This proposed a dualist board structure for all public companies, with a supervisory board appointing, supervising and, if necessary, replacing a management board.

The proposed Directive did not seek to regulate the details of either system, leaving much to be settled according to national law. It prescribed only minimum standards, the member States being free to go further if they wished.

Green Paper

In 1975 the Commission decided to re-examine the whole question. This re-examination did not lead, as some were urging, to the withdrawal of the original proposal for a Fifth Directive. Instead the decision was taken to publish the so-called 'Green paper' on employee participation and company structure in November 1975. This document sought first to record in an as accurate and con-

cise a manner as possible the existing situations in each member State as regards company structure and employee participation.

The second purpose of the Green Paper was to analyse the situation so revealed and to make suggestions as to what the Community objectives should be and how best to achieve them in a realistic fashion.

Its conclusions

The main conclusions and suggestions of the Green Paper were as follows. First, the Commission concluded that the two principal ideas contained in the original proposal for a Fifth Directive should be retained as community objectives. The first of these ideas is that for public limited companies. That is, companies which have the power to raise capital from a large number of sources. A clear institutional distinction should be drawn between those with the legal responsibility for appointing, supervising and, if necessary, replacing the managers. In the Fifth Directive and in the European Companies Statute, this idea is expressed in terms of a dualist board structure. The second idea is that the employees of the company should be able to participate to at least a substantial degree in the appointment of those who exercise the supervisory function. The Green Paper also concluded, however, that desirable as these objectives might be, there would have to be as much flexibility as possible as to how they were in practice achieved in each member State. In addition, they clearly could not be achieved everywhere in the community in the immediate future. A transitional period was accordingly suggested, during which these member States might take intermediate steps towards the ultimate

objectives. The first such step would be the introduction of a dualist system as an option for companies where such an option was not available at the moment. The second would be the creation at company level, but outside the board itself, of an institution representative of the employees of the company. Such a body would have extensive rights to information concerning a company's affairs, and in particular as to the strategic economic planning of the company. It would have the right to express its opinion in advance on proposed measures and to discuss with management the implications of those measures for the company and the employees. It would not, however, have a right of veto over the economic decisions of the company. The Green Paper also suggested that employee representatives should be appointed according to procedures which complied with certain democratic principles. All employees should participate in the system, according to a method guaranteeing a free expression of opinion and a reasonable degree of protection for minorities. In addition, all supervisory board members should have the same basic duty to act in the best interests of the company, having regard to the interests of the shareholders and the employees. Finally, it was suggested that it would be sensible to provide for the possibility of a referendum being held among employees of a company to ensure that no participation scheme was implemented against the wishes of a majority.

Finally, the Green Paper sought to make clear that the Commission does not regard employee participation in decision-making at company level as a panacea for the problems of our industrial societies. It is simply

one element, albeit an important one, in the complex system which extends from the shop-floor to the national level at which strategic decisions are taken as regards the economy as a whole. Appropriate structures are required at each important level. Participation in the board or at company level must therefore be developed, not in isolation, but as part of a coherent system involving appropriate representative institutions and collective bargaining structures from the individual plant to the macroeconomic level, where frequently the machinery will have a tri-partite character, involving the relevant public authority as well.

Consultations

During 1976 and 1977 the Green Paper was used, as intended, as the basis for an extensive programme of discussion and consultation.

At present, the Fifth Directive and the Green Paper are before the legal committee of the European Parliament. The stage of general discussion is over. Parliament must now proceed to an examination article by article of the proposal to see what changes it will propose in the light of the Green Paper's suggestions and the views of its members. It is unlikely that this process will be completed before the European elections.

Assuming that the European Parliament takes twelve months or so to draft its opinion, not too long an estimate if one takes account of the inclusion in the Directive of somewhat technical chapters on the general meeting and the adoption and audit of annual accounts, then the Commission will issue an amended proposal shortly thereafter. Negotiations in the Council will probably concentrate first on the

more technical matters, and so the politically sensitive questions will be reached in 1981 or later.

The legislative process is clearly lengthy.

The Directive which finally emerges from the Council will then probably express in large measure the positions which the member States have already reached or will reach in the foreseeable future. If the Commission has done its job well, however, the national system will have converged and will be close to the target defined in the original proposal, but probably not identical with it. Given the fact that we are dealing with sensitive issues which are closely linked to the social structures of the member States, and which are also issues of major political concern at the national level, this mode of proceeding has much to commend it.

Remaining problems

The principal issues which have yet to be resolved appear to be the following ones.

First, as to the transitional period itself, will it prove possible to agree on a finite period at the end of which all national laws will have to choose between a limited number of options defined in the Directive by which employees will participate in the appointment of the members of the supervisory boards of public companies?

Second, as to the specific issue of dual board structures, the value of an institutional distinction between the management and supervisory functions has yet to be universally accepted.

Finally, how should community legislation deal with the question of the methods by which employees participate in the appointment of Board members?



Date labelling for eggs queried

Despite new Community rules, customers would have to go round with a calendar to know when the eggs they buy were packed, according to Hans Edgar Jahn, Christian-Democrat Member of the European Parliament.

In a recent European Parliamentary Question, he queried why the date-labelling of eggs was done only in week numbers throughout the year, why the number referred to the week of packing rather than the date of laying, and how it was that week number 1 for 1978 had been used for eggs packed on December 22, 1977, and week number 2 for those packed on December 29.

The Commission's answer was as follows:

Week numbers

Article 17 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1619/68 of October 15, 1968 on marketing standards of eggs provides that the week numbers 'shall correspond to the weeks of the calendar year' and that the first week of each year 'shall be the week starting on the first Monday in the year'.

The Commission found that this text proved difficult to apply owing to the interpretation of the words 'calendar year' in the member States and in non-member countries. Confusion also arose through the use of different week numbering systems

in other economic sectors.

In 1972 the Council was obliged to adopt a precise, unequivocal text: 'The week which includes January 1 shall bear the number 1'.

Also in the interests of clarity, since there had been doubt regarding the position of Sunday, the Council decided that the week number 'shall indicate the complete week beginning on Monday'.

These two amendments are in Article 2 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1348/72 of June 27, 1972 and were retained when the Regulations concerned were consolidated (Council Regulation (EEC) No 2772/75 of October 29, 1975).

When the present text was adopted there was accordingly full awareness of the problem and this presupposes that it is accepted that week No 1 will be out of step when January 1 falls on a Sunday.

Thus, while the examples cited by the Honourable Member are correct, they can arise only in the special case of January 1 falling on a Sunday.

The marketing standards for eggs represent a positive element in the Community policy for consumer protection.

The application of measures relating to the collection, packing, marking and selling of eggs in shell have effected clear improvements on the market.

Since marketing conditions differ in the various regions of the Community, it is probable that stricter control of the standards in the member States and, in particular, more information for operators and consumers could bring about some progress.

The Commission, for its part, has sent some proposals, which are being examined, to the Council concerning:

- Stricter rules on use of the week number in packing, transport and retail sale;
- More information for the purchaser of unpacked eggs sold retail;
- Display of week numbers in shops where eggs are sold;
- Publication of week numbers in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

Although egg quality depends on a number of factors, it is true that freshness, which depends directly on the date of laying, is the basic information required by the consumer.

Provided that the standards for collection and the functioning of packing stations are respected, it can be supposed that the information provided to the purchaser has a direct relationship to the age of the egg.

Whenever standards have been drawn up or amended, suggestions to guarantee the date of laying have always been greeted with reserve, since it is felt that this is unrealistic and impossible to apply outside a purely local market.

However, to take into account the development of modern production units where collection is made daily in order to satisfy the demand for very fresh eggs, the Council has provided for the marketing of packs of fresh eggs bearing the word 'extra' and conforming to special requirements (Article 19 of Regulation (EEC) No 2772/75). This Community solution is practicable for all concerned, bearing in mind that transport within the member States is rapid.

Using Your Euro-vote

Poll prospects for European Elections

The latest Euro-Barometer opinion poll published by the Commission shows that support for the Community in Britain has increased since the previous year — 39 per cent against 31 per cent now believe membership to be good for the UK.

In the autumn of 1978, when the poll was taken, only 44 per cent of the British sample claimed to have heard or read anything recently about the European Parliament, but 63 per cent were in favour of its being directly elected, compared with 21 per cent against. Fifty per cent thought the election important, compared with 30 per cent who thought it unimportant. Seventy-nine per cent thought European elections necessary to make the Community work more democratically, 77 per cent to decide what kind of Europe we want. Only 46 per cent thought the election threatened to give the European Parliament too much power as compared with Westminster.

Finally, 46 per cent of the sample announced their firm intention of voting on June 7, with 27 per cent saying they would 'probably' vote. The former figure is just below the Community average, the latter just above it.



Greece

Negotiations for Greek accession to the Community were virtually concluded in Luxembourg in the early hours of Wednesday 4 April. The signing of the treaty of accession is planned for May 28 in Athens and, once the treaty has been ratified, Greece will join the EEC on January 1, 1981.

One major point which was settled was the transitional arrangements for Greek budget contributions; only 30 per cent of the VAT element will be payable in the first year (1981), rising to 100 per cent after five years, with special concessions on some farm products. Greece should be a net beneficiary to the tune of 80m EUA in the first year and 220m, 330m, 400m and 500m respectively in the next four years. The other major point concerns Greek workers in other member states (currently about 180 000 of them), who will qualify for full social security benefits of the host country after a three-year transitional period.

GATT

The final package is now emerging in Geneva in the "Tokyo Round" of the multilateral trade negotiations. Commission President Roy Jenkins recently described the Tokyo Round as the biggest and most ambitious of all post-war trade negotiations. "It comprises a major reduction in industrial tariffs, a substantial agricultural settlement and a major

strengthening of the GATT by a whole series of new non-tariff barrier codes". Main points of the package are as follows:

- reduction in American industrial tariffs by about one third, Japanese by about a quarter and the Community's external tariff from an average 9.8 per cent to 7.5 per cent;
- end of the two-tier system under which the United States had not been obliged to apply all the rules of GATT;
- development of international agreements on beef and milk products (but not on cereals, where the negotiations have failed);
- better access in important markets like the USA, Canada and New Zealand for such products as cheese, whisky, cognac and biscuits;
- acceptance of the principle of export refunds in the agriculture sector, subject to strict constraints on how they shall be used;
- adoption of codes to deal with non-tariff barriers such as standards, customs valuation, government purchasing and countervailing duties.

The legal texts of the new agreement should be submitted in time for a Council decision in October. More negotiation is still needed on the selective application of safeguard clauses, where the Community argues the need to act against a single supplier who is damaging the internal market. Under present arrangements, if action is taken it must be against all supplying countries. Legislation must also be passed by the American Congress.