



*European Communities
Commission
Background Report*

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FREE MOVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Local Employment Offices will shortly be able to supply up-to-date information on living and working conditions in Member States throughout the Community.

In this way the Commission plans to help the 105 million workers who are Community nationals to take up their rights, under the Treaty of Rome, to move freely within the Community and work at jobs of their choice in the country of their choice. To date, information about working conditions can only be found through embassies and consulates or by word of mouth, and the latter can often be misleading.

Once the system is in operation, the potential migrant worker will be able to obtain detailed information in his own language on the Community country where he wants to work by simply calling in at the local employment office. The information, given in a standardised format in every country, will be reviewed with representatives of specialised employment services every six months in Brussels, to ensure that it remains up-to-date.

The information is to be presented in a series of four illustrated brochures for each of the nine countries and will be available in all Community languages.

The first deals with free movement and social security, outlining the worker's rights regarding equal treatment and trade union membership, how to obtain social security and other allowances, and how to obtain a residence permit once he has found a job. The second gives particulars about the country itself, its political and economic system, educational opportunities, family allowance, etc. The third describes working conditions - hours, holidays, bonuses and allowances, tax deductions and insurance contributions and also gives details of housing and transport facilities. The fourth seeks to provide information on prices of consumer goods including not only food, drink and general household durables, but also on services such as hairdressing, transport and postal services.

The Commission hopes that, by studying these brochures, workers will have a much better idea of the opportunities offered to them if they decide to seek work anywhere in the Nine states.