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NOTE D'INFORMATION
NOTA D'INFORMAZIONE
TER DOCUMENTIE

Brussels, March 1974

European Centre for Vocational Training and progress report
on migrant workers programme

The Commission has approved and sent to the Council a draft regulation to set up a European Centre for Vocational Training (1). The Commission has also set up a special task-force to prepare before the end of the year a comprehensive action programme for migrant workers. It took note of the present state of ongoing work in the services concerned for the betterment of the living and working conditions of migrant workers.

These measures along with seven others approved and sent to the Council in November 1973, are among the priority actions which the Council had drawn up in its Resolution of 21 January 1974 to implement the first stage of the Community's social action programme.

European Vocational Training Centre

The centre will be one of the principal means of aligning vocational training standards within the wider framework of implementing a common policy on vocational training. The centre will collaborate closely with the Commission in the general aim of promoting a European dimension in the development of vocational training. It will thus assemble documentation on new developments and research, ensure the dissemination of useful information and help to develop and coordinate research.

To carry out its tasks the centre may:

- organise courses, conferences, seminars and pilot experiments;
- conclude research contracts and grant financial assistance to individual researchers or institutes for carrying out specific projects;
- edit and distribute a Community bulletin on vocational training.

The centre will also collaborate closely with specialised bodies, whether public or private, national or international, with public administrations and educational bodies and with organisations of workers and employers.

The centre will be administered by a Management Board composed of 15 members appointed by the Commission. Five of the members will be proposed by the employers' organisations and five by workers' organisations at Community

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level. The remaining five will be nominated by the Commission. The management Board will have a three-year term of office and can be reappointed. It will be responsible for the general activity of the centre and will appoint the Director.

There will also be a Committee of Experts composed of 18 members who will be nominated by the member states and appointed by the Management Board. They will be selected for their experience in the field of vocational training and give opinions on questions submitted by the Management Board or the Director of the centre. The site of the centre will be decided by the Council of Ministers and an annual subsidy will be provided from the Community budget. There will be a full-time staff of 20-25 highly qualified officials and annual running costs are estimated at about 1,800,000 units of account.

Action Programme for Migrant Workers - Progress Report

The Council Resolution of last 21 January also included on its list of priorities an action programme for migrant workers for which the Commission is asked to submit proposals by 31 December 1974. The Commission has already started work preparing this programme and has had preliminary consultations with the member governments and the social partners. This preparatory work will be carried on so as to meet the end of year deadline with the help of a special task force representing such departments of the Commission as social affairs, regional policy, development aid and industrial affairs. This broadly based group will ensure that the action programme will tackle the problems of migrant workers in a fundamental and far-reaching way.

The ultimate aim of the migrant action programme is to avoid through effective regional and investment policies the economic need for migration. It is hoped to be able to increase the financial means available to improve the social conditions of migrants. Special concern must be given to the objective of achieving equality of treatment between Community and non-Community migrants in living and working conditions.

Measures to be started in 1974

Even at this stage, however, the Commission believes that a number of specific actions can be undertaken within the existing legal framework. These immediate actions can be summarised under the following headings.

- 1) Improving information on job availability by putting into operation the SEDOC system to speed up the matching of job offer and demand throughout the Community. Better communication between national employment services and improved working of the European Office of Coordination are also planned.
- 2) Assisted free movement of workers especially through the Commission proposal already sent to the Council to use Article 4 of the European Social Fund to finance integrated migrant schemes. In this way migrants could be helped to return home if they wished and thus bring new skills to help develop the region of origin.
- 3) Improvement of living and working conditions. Under this heading the Commission plans to encourage member countries to improve social services for migrants and their families with emphasis on increasing the numbers of properly trained social workers. Cooperation between member states will

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be encouraged to provide broadly-based vocational training courses for workers deciding to move to employment in another member state.

In the context of the Commission's Memorandum on education policy concerned with the education of migrants' children, a series of measures will be prepared to help these children integrate more easily into the language and educational system of the host country.

- 4) On social security the Commission will take steps to secure better treatment of migrant workers and their families in such matters as family benefits, maternity allowances, etc.. Concerning workers from non-member states, the Commission will adopt a harmonised approach on social security in the context of current negotiations with these states.
- 5) Coordination of migration policies vis-à-vis third countries will be promoted by the Commission through closer contact between the manpower services of the member states.

The progress report is not an exhaustive account of all the actions which are or will be taken to improve the migrants' situation nor does it in any way prejudice the scope or content of the action programme on migrant workers to be submitted by the Commission later this year.