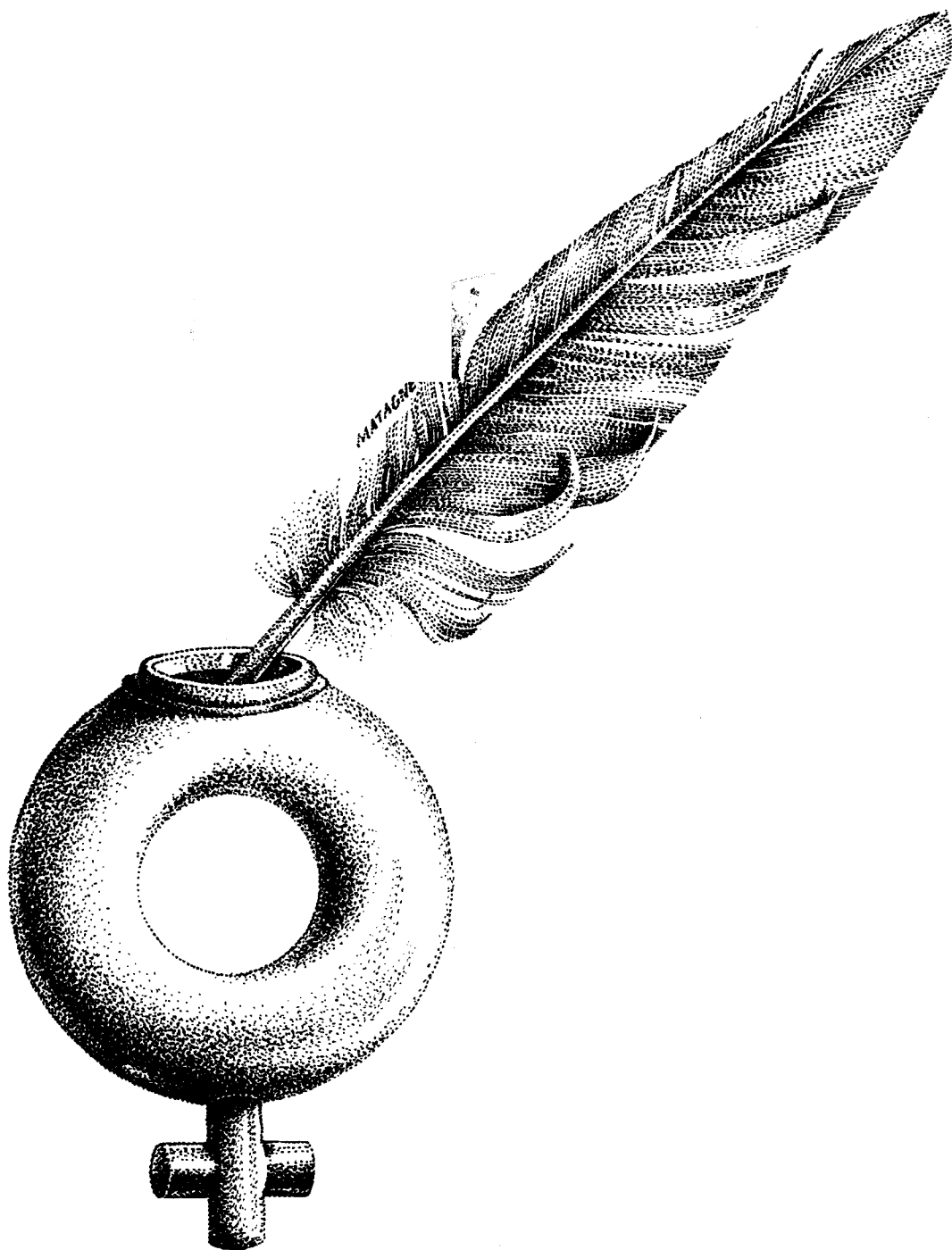


Women of Europe

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was completed on 16 April 1982.

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

TRIBUTE TO WALTER HALLSTEIN

President Walter Hallstein, President of the Commission of the European Economic Community from 1958 to 1967, died at the age of 80 in Stuttgart on the night of 29th March, after a long illness.

Announcing his death, the present President, Gaston Thorn, said:

"Walter Hallstein, the first President of the Commission, departed this life yesterday. He was one of the first European generation of politicians to leave an imprint on the history of the Community.

"Jean Monnet described the appointment as 'a victory for common sense', and history has proved him right. For ten years Walter Hallstein presided over the Commission's destiny and guided European policy with great courage and breadth of vision.

"During those early years, Walter Hallstein staked out the land and laid solid foundations for the Community.

"At a time when the Community is faced with one of the most serious crises in existence, his achievement serves as both an example and as encouragement for us all."

This is the 25th issue of "Women of Europe". A thousand or so pages have come into existence since that day back in July 1977 when we embarked on this adventure. As we hoped at the time, "Women of Europe" has been borrowed, copied, cut out, reproduced, pillaged, quoted, criticized, put to good use, stressed, annotated, supplemented and enriched.

As the months have gone by, we have observed and thought about the growing solidarity of women in every field, their integration and more active involvement in society, work, the arts and politics in all our countries and in the Community as such.

All the Community institutions - the Court of Justice, the Council of Ministers, European Parliament, the Commission and the Economic and Social Committee - have worked to bring about equality. Now that the Community is going through a period of serious crisis and has to stand up to the threat from individual interest and egoism, it would be surprising and illogical if women were to sit back and do nothing.

Fausta Deshormes

Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities

In mid-March, the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men held its inaugural meeting in Brussels. The European Commission brought the Committee into being to help implement its policy, under its new 1982-85 action programme to improve opportunities for women.

Mr Ivor Richard, the European Commissioner with special responsibility for social affairs, told the meeting that "the national committees on women's employment and equal opportunities have already played a key role in improving women's status within the Member States. I hope to strengthen the links between these committees at Community level, thus making good use of their advice during the implementation of the Community's action programme for equal opportunities."

Most of the Committee members are in fact top-level officials on national women's employment committees, as the list below shows. There will also be ten observers representing management and the unions. The Committee members' experience should be particularly useful in evaluating the progress made by Member States in translating Community directives on equal opportunities into practice.

The Committee members are:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| BELGIUM | Miet SMET
Chairman, Women's Employment Committee |
| DENMARK | Helle DEGN
Chairman, Advisory Committee on Equality

Else WOLSGARD
Member of Secretariat, Advisory Committee on Equality |
| GREECE | Helen KAKOSAIU
Ministry of Coordination

Cilia ALEXOPOULOS
Ministry of Employment |
| FRANCE | Marcelle DEVAUD
Chairman, Women's Employment Committee

Louise BROCAS
Vice-chairman, Women's Employment Committee |
| GERMANY | Ms WOLFF
Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family and Health

Ms ESTOR
Federal Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs |

IRELAND	Sylvia MEEHAN Chairperson, Employment Equality Agency
	Norah O'NEILL Vice-Chairperson, Employment Equality Agency
ITALY	Lucia BRUNI-SILVAGGI Directorate General for Labour Relations
	Senator Alessandra CODAZZI Working Group on Women's Status
LUXEMBOURG	Astrid LULLING Chairman, Women's Employment Committee
	Jacques-Yves HENCKES Vice-Chairman of the Women's Employment Committee
NETHERLANDS	Eegje SCHOO Chairman, Emancipation Council
	Jophien VAN VAALEN Member, Emancipation Council
UNITED KINGDOM	The Baroness Betty LOCKWOOD Chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission
	Jane FINLAY Deputy Chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission

The first item of business for the Advisory Committee was to elect its chairman - Baroness Betty Lockwood from the United Kingdom - and its vice chairmen - Marcelle Devaud of France and Helle Degn of Denmark.

During the meeting, the Commission representative outlined the priorities for action in 1982 under the Community action programme to improve opportunities for women. Mr Ivor Richard declared that he was "optimistic about the forthcoming adoption of a resolution on equal opportunities by the Council of Ministers under Belgian chairmanship.

The main themes for the action to be taken in 1982 include:

- monitoring the application of EEC directives on equal opportunities for women;
- a comparative analysis of the means of legal redress against discrimination in each Member State;
- a review of protective legislation;
- equal treatment in matters of social security;
- extension of equal treatment to self-employed women and women in agriculture;
- taxation and the employment of women, on which a comparative analysis is to be conducted;

- parental leave (a survey and analysis of experience acquired in this field within Member States);
- positive action (a critical analysis of measures already adopted and national programmes now being formulated);
- help for women in returning to the labour market (a review of pilot experiments conducted with the help of the European Social Fund);
- the abolition of segregation in employment (a survey is to be carried out on women in public sector organizations).

For information, here are the names and addresses of the bodies specifically concerned with women's employment and equal opportunities in individual countries. Only the advisory committees are listed, not ministerial departments - the reason why Greece, Germany and Italy are not included.

Belgium

Commissie Vrouwenarbeid
51-53 Belliardstraat
1040 Brussel

Commission du Travail des Femmes
51-53 rue Belliard
1040 Bruxelles

Denmark

Ligestillingsrådet
Frederiksgade 21
1265 Copenhagen

France

Comité du Travail féminin
1 place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris

Ireland

Employment Equality Agency
Mespil Road
Dublin 4

Luxembourg

Comité du Travail féminin
10 rue C.M. Spoo
Luxembourg

Netherlands

Emancipatieraad
Sir Winston Churchill-laan 366-368
Rijswijk

United Kingdom

Equal Opportunities Commission
Quay Street - Overseas House
Manchester M3 3HN

Equal treatment: case before the Court of Justice

On the recommendation of Mr Ivor Richard, Commissioner for Social Affairs, early in March the European Commission decided to refer three cases to the Court of Justice of the European Communities, on the grounds that Belgium, Italy and the United Kingdom had infringed the principle of equal opportunities for men and women in access to employment.

According to the European Commission, the law in these three countries is not in line with its directive of 9 February and no remedial action has been taken in spite of formal notice to do so and the forwarding of reasoned opinions to the Governments by the European Commission.

This is the first time that the European Commission has referred matters covered by the directive to the Court of Justice.

Insofar as Belgium is concerned, the European Commission noted that the Belgian law implementing the directive has not been followed up by measures implementing equality of access to vocational guidance and training.

The Commission observed that in Italy the law embodying the provisions of the directive does not provide for the application of the principle of equal treatment in all working conditions. In addition, the terms on which adoption leave is granted are not the same for the adoptive father and mother.

In the United Kingdom, the law implementing the directive fails to nullify collective agreements in conflict with the principle of equal treatment, as required by articles 3, 4 and 5 of the directive; exceptions are also allowed that are not in the spirit of article 2.2.

The efforts deployed by the European Commission to ensure that the 1976 directive is enforced are not limited to these three cases before the Court of Justice. The Commission has already sent reasoned opinions to France and Ireland but has decided not to continue with the infringement proceedings, at least for the time being. Although it criticizes the statute for civil servants in France, it recognizes that a new bill is now being debated on the subject. The Irish Government has told the European Commission that it is prepared to bring its law into line with the directive. The two cases are to be reviewed by the Commission after 30 June.

The Commission has "served notice" on Denmark, where the law embodying the directive restricts the scope of the principle of equality to workers employed in the same workplace, and West Germany, where a law enacted in 1980 does not guarantee the non-discriminatory advertising of job vacancies.

Infringement proceedings initiated against Luxembourg have been shelved with the passing of a new law in January 1982. The Commission will shortly be checking that the law complies with the directive. The case of the Netherlands is still under review. Greece has been allowed a period of respite as its government is drafting new legislation which will reflect the EEC directive.

As a reminder, there are three stages in the infringement proceedings which the Commission may take against a country it feels has infringed EEC regulations: the serving of formal notice, issue of a reasoned opinion and referral to the Court of Justice. At each stage, the country is given time to take note of the Commission opinion and amend its policy or to explain its reasons for not doing so, although it then runs the risk of the Commission going on to the next stage.

World hunger

By a happy coincidence, it was a woman - Ms Mayence, the Belgian Minister for Development Cooperation - who chaired the informal meeting of "the Ten" that paved the way for the Council of Ministers of the Community scheduled to discuss development on 15 June.

Urging recognition of women's role in the evolution of the Third World, she said that the involvement and functions of women in all the projects to which the Community contributes in developing nations must be highlighted and appreciated.

It was on the subject of food strategies and the campaign against world hunger that the exchange of views proved most helpful. Ms Mayence pointed out that the Member States had been able to look beyond any traditional links with individual Third World nations and express their resolve to help the countries in greatest need, those where their efforts would have the most effective impact.

Reminding the meeting of the "fairly imperative resolution" of European Parliament on world hunger and the plan of action proposed by the Commission, the Minister expressed her pleasure at this link between European institutions which conveyed "the feeling that Europe exists".

Education

The Education Ministers are meeting on 24 May and the Education Committee has drawn up a report on educational policies and vocational training in the context of employment within the European Community.

The Committee notes that, compared with five years ago, the problem of young people has taken on a completely new dimension. It is no longer just a question of helping school-leavers with low qualifications or poor motivation to make the transition to working life but of meeting the needs of those who may have a whole range of skills but still find it difficult to obtain a job or who have had a job but have been made redundant.

In the light of experience acquired through pilot projects over the past few years, the Education Committee proposes new pilot schemes, this time designed to promote interaction between schools and the outside world.

In practical terms, the Committee has suggested a network of thirty or so projects in geographical regions with a high level of youth unemployment. These should start up towards the end of 1983 and focus on the 1983-84 school year to ensure continuity with previous pilot projects. Their maximum duration will be three years, with the fourth year being devoted to reviewing the experiments and disseminating the benefits of experience.

An advisory committee will be associated with each project. Its members will come from education, industry, trade, employment agencies, management and unions, voluntary bodies and organizations concerned with young people.

Women, training and promotion

Under a research project initiated by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), Dr Barbara Hegelheimer has conducted an investigation into continuing training and occupational advancement among women in selected undertakings in a number of sectors of the economy in Germany, tracing the relationship between women's continuing education, careers and promotion at work.

The survey clearly shows that, in the four German concerns taken into account, promotion to managerial rank is normally dependent on participation in certain training courses. Other determining factors are professional competence, leadership qualities, the duration and scope of working experience, length of service with the concern, job commitment and, last but not least, occupational and geographical mobility. Most of the women interviewed felt that their opportunities for participation in training courses were equal to those of men.

Dr Hegelheimer's survey also revealed that any assessment of women's prospects of advancement must differentiate. For instance, there seems to be no problem with promotion to junior executive posts in any economic sector, but it is harder to rise to middle management in banking or computers than in trade or the public services sector. Access to senior management positions was seen as particularly difficult in the banking and computer sectors, whereas more doors are open to women in commerce and the public sector. Over the past decade, the main growth sector for women in junior- and middle-ranking management has been in commerce.

The reasons advanced for the fact that women's promotion prospects are less favourable than those of their male counterparts did not normally relate to professional competence, performance or managerial ability, and there was no suggestion that women lack these qualities. Nevertheless, in each of the concerns reviewed it was said - not least by the women interviewees themselves - that women are less keen to be involved in further training because their vocational qualifications are at a lower level.

The reasons quoted were mainly associated with the woman's role within her family, the conflict that might arise when a career has to be combined with a family, the effects of this conflict on her working life and career and, finally, the residual traditional prejudices to the assignment of women to managerial positions.

In general, it seems that women are not a uniform group in terms of career aspirations and attitudes: job commitment among many women extends only to the point at which they can reconcile the demands of the home and a career without incurring major friction.

Useful address CEDEFOP
 Bundesallee 22
 1000 Berlin 15

Tourism

In June, the European Commission is to forward a "communication" to the Council of Ministers regarding a European policy on tourism.

Mr Contogeorgis, the Commissioner with special responsibility for tourism, has pointed out that tourism is an important sector of the economy, providing work for several million people. It is affected by European policies on various subjects - on regional affairs, transport, energy, the environment, consumer protection, etc - and a policy on tourism should be formulated that is in line with European policy in other fields. In this spirit, the Commission "communication" will contain clear-cut proposals.

Some of the most interesting ideas being considered by the Commission are the various ways of protecting the tourist as a consumer. Under this heading would come the international agreement on travel contracts, the responsibilities of travel agents and the safety of hotels.

Measures might also be adopted to upgrade vocational skills in the tourist sector and to provide information on tourism for those working in agriculture. The directive on hill farming, for example, points to ways of expanding tourism to supplement income from the land.

Nevertheless, tourism must not be allowed to develop in an anarchical fashion. One of the first steps envisaged is an evaluation of the effects of growth in tourism on the environment.

E U R O P E A N P A R L I A M E N T

February 1982 Session

During the February session, European Parliament tackled a range of problems of intimate concern to the life of local communities: the position of the elderly, nuclear safety and the effects on the environment of certain public and private projects.

Vera Squarcialupi (Italy, Com) presented a report on her own initiative considering the situation of the aged in the Community. Pointing out that the number of old people will double in Europe and that 46% of the total population will be retired and receiving pensions, she noted the growing alienation and isolation of the old and the poor in the Community, although some countries are better than others in this respect. There should be improvements in the welfare sector and there is a vital need to review the subject of work and the elderly. We should not arbitrarily split life into separate stages: adult life and work, old age and idleness.

According to Vera Squarcialupi, the decision to retire should be a legitimate right, not a duty imposed by the conditions on the labour market. She discussed at length the problems of older women: among the over-65s, there are 154 women to every 100 men.

When women grow old, their lives are far more influenced than men's by the years spent in the home and their human and cultural solitude, as well as the material problems that arise when their partner dies.

During the debate, Ann Clwyd (British Socialist) emphasised the need for different generations to live together and the desirability of truly flexible retirement. Many old people are able and willing to go on working to the end of their days. **Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago** (It, CD) also argued for the idea of voluntary retirement for the elderly and called for respect for their intellect; people should understand that they still have a contribution to make to society.

Another Italian, **Tullia Caretoni-Romagnoli** (Communist), reminded Parliament that more traditional societies do not look on age as a handicap but regard it with respect and even veneration. Our own society is based on models of effectiveness which are applicable only to the young.

The report was passed unanimously.

Nuclear safety was also discussed on the floor of European Parliament in the light of the report by the Belgian Socialist, **Anne-Marie Lizin**, but voting was deferred until the next session in the absence of a quorum. Anne-Marie Lizin thought that, although the Community should not take over responsibility from Member States in this field, it should produce uniform safety regulations and check on their application. More specifically, it should formulate harmonized criteria on the choice of sites, emergency plans, the disposal of irradiated fuel and the storage of radioactive waste. She did not question the nuclear option in this context but believed that safety is the priority for the community when reactors are installed in European territory.

In a joint debate, **Hanna Walz** (Germany, CD) tabled proposals on Euratom loans when they are for the construction of nuclear power stations in frontier regions. She argued that these loans should be subject to the prior consultation procedure proposed by the European Commission.

Beate Weber (Germany, Soc) presented a report on the effects on the environment of certain projects in the public and private sectors. She approved of the proposed European Commission directive on the harmonization of project evaluation and stressed the need for prevention rather than cure. The Italian Communist, **Vera Squarcialupi**, was in general agreement, saying that "in the final analysis anything ecological is economic". **Ursula Schleicher** (Germany, CD) and **Christiane Scrivener** (France, Lib), on the other hand, were not prepared to go so far as the author of the report with regard to providing information to the public.

Several women voiced their views in a debate on regional policy. **Carla Barbarella** (Italy, Com), for instance, called for an integrated structural policy to achieve a proper balance and to revitalize the rural areas that lag furthest behind. Arguing along the same lines, **Yvette Fullet** (France, Soc) stressed the need for support for country areas and the establishment of a "rural department" within the European Investment Bank. The Scottish member of the EPD Group, **Winnie Ewing**, called for a territorial breakdown which would allow for population differences. A Socialist, **Yvonne Théobald-Paoli**, who called herself a "European and a Corsican", pleaded the cause of island-dwellers whose aspiration is work, not charity. Dame **Shelagh Roberts** (UK, Dem) described the traumatic problems in certain cities and urged the introduction of an urban policy.

In the February session, Parliament also discussed relations between the Community and the USSR, especially in the context of Poland. Speaking on the Soviet gas pipeline, **Lady Elles** (UK, Dem) wondered whether we should be financing this project while the USSR is unable to support the economy of its own satellites. In a debate on the exporting of farm products to the USSR, **Marie-Jacqueline Desouches** (France, Soc) deplored the fact that legitimate budget control should be influenced by recriminations of a political nature.

In the course of a debate on the risks associated with genetic research, especially recombinant ADN, **Beate Weber** (Germany, Soc) expressed her support for the Italian Communist, **Domenico Ceravolo**, whose report called for a strengthening of controls, including controls over private research institutes. **Marcelle Lentz-Cornette** (Lux, CD) countered with the argument that research should not be encumbered by over-restrictive controls and that more trust should be placed in the research workers who, in 1975, had drawn up stringent regulations on genetic research and engineering.

Jeanne Pauwelyn-Decaestecker in European Parliament

Taking over from Willy De Clercq who has joined the Belgian Government, **Jeanne Pauwelyn-Decaestecker** has entered European Parliament. A Liberal and a councillor for the city of Ostend since 1952, she has also been on the provincial council for West Flanders. She is to be a member of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, the Legal Affairs Committee and the Committee on Agriculture.

The Socialist Group

Maria Antonietta Macciocchi, formerly a member of the "Group for the Technical Coordination of Independent Groups", has now decided to join the Socialist Group.

In the ballot for the chairmanship of the Socialist Group, the Belgian MEP Ernest Glinne obtained 73 votes against 26 for Eva Gredal from Denmark. Barbara Castle (UK) was elected vice-chairman. Members of the Socialist Group Bureau include Gisèle Charzat (France), Eva Gredal and Ien van den Heuvel (Netherlands).

Promotion of European film-making

The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport under the chairmanship of Bouke Beumer (Neth, PPE) has heard a report from **Marie-Jane Pruvot** (France, Lib) on the cinema in Europe.

She described the tough competition facing the European film industry from television on the one hand and, on the other, the American industry which takes the lion's share of European markets: 92% in the United Kingdom, 80% in the Netherlands, 70% in Greece, 60% in Denmark, 50% in Germany, 45% in France and Belgium and 30% in Italy.

This predominance, she said, is due mainly to a more astute marketing policy. European countries can withstand this competition only by promoting their cinema, for example by organizing a "European film festival". She also dealt with the question of national subsidies to film-making. One problem is that the European Commission feels such subsidies to be incompatible with the competition rules set out in the Treaty of Rome.

March 1982 Session

European Parliament adopted a resolution on Salvador (by 84 votes to 59, with 4 abstentions) put down by **Ien van den Heuvel** (Neth) and other members of the Socialist Group. Rejecting amendments designed to water down the original text, if not to alter its meaning radically, the resolution was finally accepted by Parliament.

The resolution stated that "the forthcoming ballot in El Salvador, to be held on 28 March, cannot be regarded as free elections", and that the Reagan administration is not contributing towards a peaceful solution in Salvador. Ien van den Heuvel placed special emphasis on these two points in her speech, deploring the apathy in public opinion towards the day-to-day horror of life in that country.

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul (Germany, Soc) took the same general view as her Dutch colleague but pointed out that the resolution is not directed against the American people. "As a member of the post-war generation of Germans, I know what the Americans did to save my country from nazism," she said. For her part, **Luciana Castellina** (Italy, PDUP) criticized the political leader in Salvador, Napoleon Duarte, for "failing to living up to the democratic tradition of Christian Democracy".

In adopting by a very large majority the resolution contained in Christian Democrat **Johanna Maij-Weggen's** report on baby seals, Parliament called for an end to a hunt which involves inhuman slaughter and threatens the survival of eight species. The main country to which the resolution was addressed was Canada.

As a practical measure, European Parliament called upon all the EEC Member States to ban imports of seal products (along the lines of the decision already taken in Italy).

In the period leading up to the debate large advertisements had been placed in the daily press by groups campaigning for the conservation of these animals. The public galleries were packed with people who had come to defend the seals or to uphold the interests of certain fishing concerns. Parliament, indeed, recognized the right of certain indigenous people to continue with their traditional forms of hunting.

During the debate, **Christiane Scrivener** (France, Lib) pointed out the need to allow a controlled cull by people who depend on this trade for their survival. **Vera Squarcialupi** (Italy, Com) said that Maij-Weggen's resolution goes beyond the mere defence of baby seals and embarks upon the path of environmental protection in general.

Simone Veil (France, Lib) voiced the criticism of the resolution made by several MEPs: millions of people have been mobilized for the defence of baby seals; let us hope that they can also be mobilized when Parliament turns to the question of world hunger. The sentiment was shared by **Marie-Jane Pruvot** from the same political group.

Paola Gaiotti de Biase (It, Christian Democrat) introduced a report to European Parliament on Education which urged cooperation in that field. Cooperation would in no way detract from the prerogatives of national authorities in educational matters but is especially vital at this time when new technology is being used to standardize economies. Paola Gaiotti could only regret that so little progress has been made so far, not just because of lack of funds but also due to the absence of resolve.

Marie-Jane Pruvot called on Parliament to place pressure on the Council of Ministers to act. The Danish Liberal, **Tove Nielsen**, also stressed the need for Community efforts in this field, whereas her Communist compatriot **Bodil Boserup** considered that any attempt was bound to fail right from the start. **Phili Viehoff** (Neth, Soc) disagreed: she was convinced that the Community should look beyond the purely economic factors and bring about a true understanding among peoples; to achieve this understanding, she said, implied knowledge and therefore education.

Vera Squarzialupi, a member of the Italian Communist group, tabled a report on the damaging effects of alcoholism, making a distinction between the consumption of alcohol, a practice that has social and cultural significance, and over-consumption. In the resolution which she submitted to her colleagues for a vote, she asked for numerous measures to prevent abuse, especially among young people, and deal with its consequences. It would not be enough, she said, to increase tax on alcohol to reduce consumption; a measure of this kind would further penalize people with low incomes. **Marcelle Lentz-Cornette** (Lux, CD) also urged the introduction of EEC rules on the maximum content of alcohol in the blood as well as research on the genetic effects of alcoholism among men.

During the same session, European Parliament tackled other issues in the field of health. Discussing the smoking issue, **Annie Krouwel-Vlam** (Neth, Soc) deplored the absence of a European health policy and called for an EEC campaign against excessive smoking. The problem of harmful substances in mothers' breast milk was raised in a question addressed to the European Commission, when **Lieselotte Seibel-Emmerling** (Ger, Soc) asked it to introduce directives on the maximum content of pesticide traces in cereals and commodities for human consumption. Speaking on behalf of the Commission, Mr Narjes recognized the need for further improvements in analytical techniques, but research on chlorine in the milk of nursing mothers has indicated that the content was very low.

A French Gaullist, **Louise Moreau**, proposed a strategy for European supplies of raw materials, both mineral and vegetable. Among her recommendations were a clear-cut, comprehensive review of the situation, the creation of a flexible Community structure to cope with temporary shortfalls and a great effort to diversify by launching out on further mining research, recycling rare or polluting metals, etc.

Louise Moreau's proposals were not approved by all the Parliamentary groups. Among the Socialists, for instance, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul felt that her report was too one-sided and did not take the interests of supplier countries into proper account. She called for careful thought before becoming tougher in trade relations with the USSR, a very large producer of some of the vital raw materials such as nickel and vanadium. Jeanne Pauwelijm (Bel, Lib) argued that any European strategy should include the building up of stocks of crucial products.

The crisis in the footwear industry in Europe was debated in the light of a report drawn up by **Tullia Caretoni-Romagnoli** of the Italian Communist group, who stressed the scale of the problem: the proportion of foreign footwear sold in Europe has risen from 18% in 1972 to 30% in 1980. Overall measures are needed to promote the pooling of views by the leading exporter countries.

Up to this time, Parliament has not gone so far as to call for practical steps to restrict growth in imports of foreign shoes into Europe. The Greek Socialist, **Konstantinos Nicolau**, regretted that the report failed to make due allowance for the role of smaller firms in this sector and suggested amendments. These were accepted and the gap filled. Ms Péry (France, Soc) discussed the French plan for the revitalization of the footwear industry and pleaded for the Basque espadrille, now under threat from Chinese espadrilles.

The Italian Christian Democrat, **Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago-Cerretti**, tabled a resolution condemning the ban on all political parties in Uruguay: a plan by the Uruguay authorities which, through a "statute for parties", would in fact prevent their continuance as free parties. She vigorously condemned the statute, especially the provision forbidding links with other countries, and asked the European Ministers meeting to discuss political cooperation to take specific, immediate action, not just to make verbal threats. Her compatriot, **Luciana Castellina** (PDUP), agreed to the basic points made in the resolution but wondered whether the countries of the Community would really be firm with Uruguay since they had accepted the presence of that country in the Sinai peace force.

Speaking in the debate on data processing and the protection of privacy, **Marie-Jacqueline Desouches** (France, Soc) warned of the danger of centralization and the interlinking of different files containing information on individuals. To restrict the danger of such practices, the people concerned should be informed of the existence of such files, which should be erased after a five year period.

Discussing European Community transport policy, **Mechtild von Alemann** (Ger, Lib) criticized the Council of Ministers for its shortcomings, alleging that the reluctance to invest in this field is because it does not win votes. She even advocated an appeal to the Court of Justice of the Communities to put an end to this unsatisfactory situation.

A uniform voting procedure for elections to European Parliament in 1984 as the subject of a lengthy debate which left many MEPs dissatisfied. Among those who were not happy was **Simone Veil**, on the grounds that what should be a standard procedure is not in fact so. Too much room has been left for divergences. She also regretted that European Parliament had not reached a decision on the minimum age of eligibility. In the same debate, Dame **Shelagh Roberts** (UK, Con) argued in favour of the majority voting system applied in her country.

The resolution finally passed by European Parliament contains a flaw, or at least an inconsistency: a European citizen who has lived in another member state for at least five years is not entitled to vote but is allowed to stand as a candidate there.

Towards a European television channel

European Parliament has decided in favour of a "European television" plan drawn up by the national networks and the European Broadcasting Union. Parliament asked the Community institutions to encourage Member States to earmark the fifth channel of their national satellites for the broadcasting of a European programme.

According to **Wilhelm Hahn** (Ger, CD), who tabled the resolution, the Community should develop a regular joint European television channel. This would not be an official channel but one planned under the auspices of the European Broadcasting Union and national networks, to be beamed to every EEC country in addition to existing channels via one or more satellites. The languages would differ but the pictures would be the same. Mr Hahn also reminded Parliament that the EBU would embark on experimental programming of a European television network in May 1982, with broadcasts over five weeks spread out over the year by different national authorities.

Commission of Enquiry on the Position of Women in Europe

The European Parliament committee of enquiry on the position of women in Europe has continued its work under the chairmanship of **Maria Luisa Cinciari Rodano** (Italy, Communist). The first committee of enquiry ever to have been set up by European Parliament, its terms of reference are to monitor the application of the various recommendations issued by Parliament in the light of the Maij-Weggen report and to conduct an investigation into a set of specific problems linked with the status of women.

At a meeting at the end of February, the Committee heard a preliminary report by its vice chairman, **Marie-Claude Vayssade** (France, Socialist), on the Action Programme for equal opportunities for women and men proposed by the European Commission.

Although she found the programme a little "vague" with little or poor coverage of certain fields such as education, Marie-Claude Vayssade was pleased that it sets out proposals for positive action designed to narrow the gap between women and men on their path to equality. As it stands, however, the programme is no more than a minimum; the Committee will ensure that the Council of Ministers takes nothing away from this programme and that the requisite budget commitments are entered into from 1983 onwards.

Cinciari Rodano pointed out that the rapporteurs appointed to investigate a dozen or so themes are to send out questionnaires to EEC and national institutions, associations, unions and representative organizations. Direct contact will be made to the extent feasible.

During the meeting in February, preliminary talks were given to the Committee: by **Antoinette Spaak** on women and the influence of new technology; **Johanna Maij-Weggen** on the European Social Fund; **Vera Squarcialupi** on immigrant women; **Anne-Marie Lizin** on women in developing nations; and **Shelagh Roberts** on tax discrimination.

According to Cinciari Rodano, once the Committee has completed its work it will "extract the fundamental points" from its investigations and "put national governments and the Community institutions with their backs to the wall", publicizing any failure to comply with measures introduced to enforce equality and proposing new measures.

In the meanwhile, the rapporteurs will submit reports for discussion in Parliament during broader debates on the general theme. The report on the Social Fund prepared for the Committee, for instance, will be discussed in the debate on the revision of the European Social Fund. Similarly, the report on information is to be discussed in the plenary session before next year's budget procedures begin.

At its next meeting on 18-19 March, the Committee pressed on with its work in view of the forthcoming Parliamentary debates in April.

It was agreed that, at the April plenary session, within the context of the De Pasquale report on the revision of regulations for the European Regional Development Fund (known by its initials of ERDF), **Sile de Valera** would act for the Committee in tabling amendments to the Commission proposals modifying the regulations.

She hoped that the revised regulations would require a breakdown of employment objectives and achievements by sex and age group, an approach that will help to clarify the statistics as they relate to women in the more disadvantaged parts of the Community.

The Parliamentary Committee learned with surprise that only one woman is on the Regional Policy Committee, and even then she is only a substitute member. On the Regional Development Fund Committee, three out of the ten national delegations are led by a woman.

The procedure applied by Sile de Valera will also be adopted by **Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul**: in other words, reasoned amendments will be presented in the plenary session when Parliament considers the report on the proposed directive on part-time employment by Corentin Calvez on behalf of the Social Affairs Committee.

One of Wieczorek-Zeul's proposals is that part-time workers, both women and men, should not be hamstrung by stringent quotas but the overall proportion of part-time workers on the labour market should not exceed 20%. The general opinion on the Committee of Enquiry is that part-time work should be regulated before it is encouraged; it must create jobs, not replace full-time jobs.

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

BELGIUM

Changing attitudes

"How to encourage a change in attitudes" was the theme of a day's seminar arranged by the Advisory Committee on Women's Status under the chairmanship of Emilienne Brunfaut.

The idea arose from the observation that despite all the United Nations declarations and conventions to which all its member states on the whole subscribe, and despite changing habits and living conditions, most women are still isolated and segregated in certain sectors of national life. Women are prevented from integrating in society not just by internal legislation but by a general resistance to change. What form does this resistance take? Can it be analyzed in the specific field of the mass media, for example?

The men and women guest speakers questioned many accepted views. Monique Remy, for instance, a lecturer in the "Journalism and Communications" department of the Brussels Free University, said that women should be less complacent about the progress they had made. In 1889, Marie Popelin was refused access to the Bar on the grounds that "the lawyer's profession is a manly office which women may not fill for reasons of morality" - but in 1982, 93% of Members of Parliament were men.

In the same vein, Monique Remy pointed out that equality of opportunity is not yet universal, that not all education is mixed and that we are still being told that differences in abilities are biological and due to our sex.

Els De Bens, a professor at the Brussels Free University and Ghent University, also displayed a fair measure of scepticism about the media. "They are part of the establishment: they help to maintain the status quo. Even if the number of women working in the media were to increase, it would be Utopian to believe that change will come about through the media". She argued that "a change in mentality must be combined with a reform of physical structures and changes to society" and concluded that "for the time being, women's movements must look to alternative information media to reverse the existing balance of men and women in the conventional media".

Advertising, so often the target of criticism, was defended by Lucienne Hellebosch, the head of a market research firm. "The accusation that advertisers project a false image of women is not untainted by hypocrisy", she remarked. Furthermore, advertisements will never convey a really objective image either of men or of women.

It should also be pointed out that the influence of advertising is all the greater because its aim - to persuade consumers to buy - is the only thing which people in our society are constantly being exhorted to do.

During the seminar, Fausta Deshormes, the head of the section providing information for women's associations and press in the European Commission, highlighted the importance of a flow of information among women in EEC countries. From the vantage point of "Women of Europe", she said, it had been possible to chart the headway of new ideas in individual countries and the creation of networks in every sector for the pooling of ideas and experience in every kind of sector.

Claude Javeau, a sociologist and tutor at the Brussels Free University, pointed to the reasons for the reluctance to alter attitudes. In every society, there are beliefs that it is difficult to modify by the use of reason. Familiar ideas to an extent help to preserve normal life. To question an idea may be seen as tantamount to questioning the whole system.

Useful address Commission Consultative de la Condition de la Femme
 Ministère des Relations Extérieures
 14 Rue des Petits Carmes, 1000 Brussels

Abortion and the Law

In Belgium, abortion is to continue to be an offence punishable by 2 to 5 years' imprisonment. Current prosecutions are to continue and the five articles of the Criminal Code enacted in 1867 are not being withdrawn. The bill was rejected by the Lower House by 95 votes to 92 with 5 abstentions. About 20 MPs were absent, most because they were unwilling to take a stand. In such a close vote, their absence had a decisive effect.

The bill tabled in Parliament would have suspended anti-abortion legislation for two years. During the debate it was proposed that the period be shortened to one year in an attempt to rally support for the bill, but even this was too much for the traditionalists.

The negative vote sparked off immediate reaction from the Federation of Family Planning Centres and the extra-hospital centres practising abortion, angered by what they called the "profoundly hypocritical and irresponsible attitude" which "forces women to resort to the back-street abortionist".

Useful address Coordination pour la dépenalisation de l'avortement
 c/o Monique Geudin, Rue A. Giron 23
 1050 Brussels

Widows and their dependants

It has been decided that widows with dependant children at the time of their husbands' death whose gross annual earnings are below Fr.270,264 will no longer forfeit their rights to the survivor's pension. If they earn more than the threshold and up to an annual gross salary of Fr.540,528, they will lose one third of the survivor's pension. Above that salary level, they will forfeit the whole of the pension.

FRANCE

Information on Contraception

The contraception information campaign launched by Yvette Roudy, the Minister for Women's Rights, has reached 75% of French citizens, 67% of whom have seen the advertisements on television. The campaign was well received on the whole: 75% of the people who remembered it approved and 74% felt that it was a good thing to use television for the purpose.

The ideas of contraception in everyday life and reducing the number of abortions have been put over: 89% of the people who recalled the campaign felt that its primary objective was to cut down on abortion, 81% to provide information on methods of contraception and 77% to overcome feelings of reticence.

The second phase of the campaign is due to start on 20 April. It will be aimed in particular at the under-20s and at those living in rural areas.

Useful address Ministère des Droits de la Femme
 53 Avenue d'Iéna
 75016 Paris

Women's rights in the armed forces

Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, has set up a committee of enquiry on women in the armed forces. The commission is to be chaired by the medical inspector general in the army, Valérie André, the only woman in France to have reached the rank of three-star general.

With a membership of 16 women and 10 men, the committee is responsible for drawing up a report on the recruitment, employment and promotion of female personnel (officers, non-commissioned offers and volunteer recruits) in the armed forces.

According to "Tam", the monthly magazine published by the Armed Forces Information and Public Relations Department, as quoted by "Le Monde", in 1981 there were 238 women officers (1.1% of the total officer corps) in the army, 150 (2%) in the air force and 26 (0.57%) in the navy.

On the medical side of the armed forces, there are 78 women medical officers and pharmacists of officer rank, plus 2,269 female non-commissioned officers, other ranks and hospital technicians.

According to the Ministry for Women's Rights, which is represented on the committee, the current number is 15,000 women officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks in the three armed forces and the military police, and the figure should double over the next few years.

Ministerial Committee on Women's Rights

At the first meeting of the joint ministerial committee on women's rights, a list of 22 measures was drawn up with a view to eliminating various forms of discrimination over the years to come.

The catalogue ranges from ways of improving the reception of women in national employment agencies to a statute for farmers' wives, from the battle against the exploitation of prostitutes to the introduction of a system of advancing alimony to wives whose former husbands have defaulted and then recovering the amount on their behalf.

The position of women in France

Under the title of "Women in France in an unequal society", the committee set up to review the position of women in the country has submitted its report to Yvette Roudy, the Minister for Women's Rights.

Under the chairmanship of Madeleine Reberieux, assisted by Andrée Michel, the author of the report, the committee has stressed the "multi-dimensionality" of discrimination against women.

The report highlights the difficulties encountered by working women in reconciling their responsibilities at work and in the home. Taking a closer look at the women at greatest disadvantage - temporary manual and office workers, immigrants, unmarried mothers, etc. - the report expresses the fear that the "segregation and isolation of women" will be aggravated.

Drawn up by specialists in various fields, the report deplors the "insidious means" by which employers try to circumvent the 1972 law on equal pay for men and women.

Discussing the civil service, the committee feels that overall the position of women civil servants is still unequal; it accuses the service of retaining the "traditionalist concept under which only men are seen as having the qualities of authority and leadership".

On the subject of a woman's right to control over her own body, the report is highly critical of the way in which legislation on contraception and termination of pregnancies is being applied, especially the lack of facilities. It criticizes "the tortuous paths of officialdom" and the "impossible position" in which very young girls and immigrant women are sometimes placed.

Unmarried girls, divorcees and widows all come up against specific forms of discrimination. For example, they find it hard to press for their "right to a home" because of lack of funds. When women are widowed they receive only half of the pension their husbands would have received had they died first; if they remarry, they forfeit the pension altogether.

Women are battered (with 10,000 to 20,000 cases a year), raped (over 20,000 cases reported) and degraded (treated as objects in posters); they need to campaign even harder for recognition as citizens in their own right.

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The report on women's position cites a few little known figures. Domestic duties, for instance, take up an average of 4 hours in a working woman's day, as opposed to 1 hr 40 minutes in a working man's day. Women who work outside the home and have a child have 1 hour 10 minutes less leisure time than their husbands; 93 times out of a hundred, what is called rest is in fact housework or looking after children.

Blue collar workers have a better record for sharing household tasks (32% of husbands help with the housework) than do executives (28% of husbands help).

Under the heading of professional advancement, it should be noted that only 7% of university professors are women although they account for 61.4% of the teaching body.

The complete report is available from La Documentation Française at the price of Fr.48.

Useful address La Documentation Française
 29 Quai Voltaire
 75007 Paris

Nationalization

The French Government has nationalized industrial groups and banks. The changes made it necessary to appoint several representatives of the Government to head the companies. Among the appointees, of special note are Lisette Mayret, a graduate of the Institute of Political Studies, Hélène Ploix, a graduate of the Californian Berkely University Institute of Political Studies as well as INSEAD in Fontainebleau, and Christiane Dore, graduate of the Institute of Political Studies and former editor of the consumer magazine, "50 millions de Consommateurs".

Women and politics

The newspaper "Le Monde" reports that 28 of the 491 members of the National Assembly - the French Lower House - are women; 9 of the 304 senators in the Upper House; 17 out of the 81 French Members of European Parliament; 1,018 of the 36,441 mayors (2.3%); 38,304 of the 459,747 local councillors (8.3%); and 95 of the 3,529 departmental councillors (2.7%).

Surveillance of Roissy Airport

At the age of 24, Monique Cavalier-Delgado is at the head of the 250 uniformed men and civilians who supervise Paris Roissy Airport for the customs service; it is the first time that a woman, and somebody so young, has been appointed to this position.

A graduate in law, Monique Cavalier-Delgado took the competitive examination to be an inspector of customs and opted for active service. At the tender age of 22, she was in charge of surveillance of Paris railway stations, at the head of a force of 50 men.

Dial-a-message on Equality - fifty times

Yvette Roudy, Minister for Women's Rights, has launched an information campaign: she is to record 50 weekly messages which can be dialled by her fellow-citizens on the telephone. Lasting for at most 3 minutes, the messages are short and straight to the point.

In the first week, more than 20,000 callers dialled to hear the message. It is true that 8th March, Women's Day, was chosen as the date for inaugurating the dial-a-message service.

"Women of Europe" has tried it out for itself. Call from France or any other country: the number is Paris 634.11.11.

The "Guide to Women's Rights"

Yvette Roudy sees the provision of information to women as vital for, in her words, "distress, failure and inequality are often linked with ignorance of the machinery - sometimes very complex - that governs social life. Knowing about one's rights, one can order and organize one's own existence".

In this spirit, the Minister for Women's Rights has arranged for a "Guide to Women's Rights" to be drawn up. The booklet is just under a hundred pages long and is in question-and-answer form. It contains 222 questions and as many answers, avoiding legalistic and bureaucratic jargon.

A run of 700,000 copies has been printed. The booklet is free and may be obtained on request from any of the places where women go when they have a problem: employment offices, women's information centres, the prefecture, etc.

As is customary with an official document intended for the general public, the booklet has been published by La Documentation Française.

Useful address La Documentation Française
 29 Quai Voltaire
 75007 Paris

8th March in France

In France, Women's Day was celebrated with even more gusto than usual. A report on the events will be found in the section of "Women of Europe" devoted to the day, on page 41.

G E R M A N Y

News of Berlin

Senator Ulf Fink, who has special responsibility for Health, Social Affairs and the Family, has reported to the Berlin Senate on policy in favour of women.

According to the report, more than half of the population of Berlin is female. The figures for June 1981 show that out of a total population of 1,890,300, 1,035,200 are women - 54.8%.

In Berlin there are about 204,200 families with at least one child under 18, 38,000 with a child under 3. Of the mothers with a child under 18, 60% have a job, and 73% of these working women are employed full-time. Among the women of working age between 15 and 65), 62% in fact have a job.

These statistics clearly show the difficult position of women who have to achieve a balance between family life and work and are not free to make a choice between the two.

The Berlin Senate wondered whether the rise in divorce and marital instability might not be the consequence of this two-fold burden on women, especially when the fathers do not take a fair share of the household tasks.

The Senate wound up the debate by stating its guidelines:

- policy in favour of women is an integral part of social policy;
- the spirit of solidarity between men and women within the family, at work and in social life must be strengthened;
- services for the family must be upgraded;
- men should be encouraged to show greater commitment to the family;
- workplaces and working hours must be more compatible with the needs of family life.

An inter-departmental working group will be set up to plan practical measures in pursuance of these guidelines.

Useful address Landespressdienst
 Rathaus Schöneberg
 1000 Berlin 62

Women in the Police

Following Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen, the regional authority in North Rhine-land-Westphalia is now allowing women to join its police force. From local experience, it is evident that there is now very little prejudice against women policing in the community.

Useful address Innenminister des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen
 Abteilung Pressearbeit
 4000 Düsseldorf

Sex on the scaffolding

The Gewerbeaufsichtsamt - Labour Inspectorate - in Nuremberg has invoked a 1938 law to forbid a 22-year-old woman carpenter from working on a building site. According to the law, if a woman were to be allowed to climb scaffolding for the purpose of building a house it would endanger not only her health but her morals.

An appeal has been made to the administrative tribunal, which disagrees with the Inspectorate. The young woman is now allowed to do her work as a carpenter; if a beam is too heavy for her to lift, no doubt her mates will give her a hand - just as they would for a male carpenter.

Useful address Verwaltungsgerichtshof Nürnberg
 Pressestelle
 8500 Nürnberg

Advancement at work

Ellen Wolf, the representative of the Federal Government with special responsibility for women's status, is conducting a campaign to help girls and women establish themselves more firmly in the working world. She feels that it is not just a question of subsidizing research and surveys: women must take the initiative themselves in changing attitudes.

For instance, she urges women to keep on asking works councils and employers awkward questions. In vocational training courses, are as many places being assigned to girls as to boys? Does the wording of job advertisements make it clear that they offer the same opportunities to both men and women? How many women are in managerial positions within the company? And so on, and so on.

Ellen Wolf quotes various employers that have introduced a policy to encourage women in their work. Zeche Sopia Jacobs, for example, allots an equal number of training opportunities to girls and boys. Veba Kraftwerke AG offers half of the places on vocational training courses to girls, although the kind of jobs to which the courses lead have traditionally been done by men. The wine-making firm, Pieroth-Weingut-Kellerei, has drawn up a plan to train women for key positions. The city of Rüsselsheim has even come out in favour of positive discrimination: if two candidates are equally well qualified, the woman will be taken on in preference to the man.

Useful address Ellen Wolf
 Bundesministerium für Familie, Jugend, Gesundheit
 Kennedyallee
 53 Bonn 2

Learning by mail

On the average, 37% of students are female. The proportion is no more than 24%, however, in the case of correspondence courses conducted by the University of Hagen.

Eckart Kuhlwein, the Secretary of State to the Minister of Education and Science, feels there are many reasons for this lack of enthusiasm. The education traditionally imparted to girls, he thinks, does not teach them to study on their own. Domestic chores also weigh heavily on women and leave them little time for studying. Half of the women studying by correspondence are married and almost a third have children. The subjects offered are often highly technical and too few women feel confident of embarking on the type of courses traditionally taken by men. For example, only 0.5% of electrical engineering students are female.

One of the Ministry's aims now is to increase and diversify the choice open to girls who wish to take correspondence courses.

Useful address Bundesministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft
Postfach 20 -188
Pressereferat
53 Bonn 2

Convalescence for Mothers

In May every year there is a flag day for Müttergenesungswerk - a charity founded after the second world war by the wife of the first President of Germany, which offers rest periods for mothers who need to recuperate and to enjoy a holiday from their domestic problems and family responsibilities.

Useful address Müttergenesungswerk
Reutenbacher Str. 1
9504 Stein

An anti-discrimination bill?

Should there be a law against discrimination or not? The debate rages on. The latest contribution is from the members of the Deutscher Landfrauenverband - the German countrywomen's association - meeting for their traditional "green week" in Berlin.

Ms A. Lindemann-Meyer, speaking to the 1,500 representatives of her organization, declared that "to achieve our objectives we need not regulations but a change in mentality".

Useful address Deutscher Landfrauenverband
Godesberger Allee 142-148
53 Bonn 2

Congratulations to ..

Luc Jochimsen, journalist, whose work in favour of oppressed minorities has been recognized by the award of the Alexander-Zinn Prize in Hamburg.

Christiane Ritter, the first woman to pass the aircraft mechanic's qualifying examination.

Ursula Kerstein, appointed to the head of the Bremen regional agency responsible for seeing that the principle of equal rights for women is translated into reality.

Mothers and the retirement pension

Uproar among housewives: because of budget difficulties, the Federal Government is thinking of not allowing mothers a year's credit for the time spent on bringing up children in calculating their pension rights.

Anneliese Schimke, the president of the Deutscher Hausfrauenbund - the German Housewives' Federation - reminded the Government that her organization is claiming three to six years' "credit" for care of children during the whole of the pre-school period for the purpose of pension rights.

"Mothers can't go on strike. They belong to one of the most vulnerable groups in our society and it is always easy to economize by cutting down on what is due to them," declared Anneliese Schimke.

Useful address Deutscher Hausfrauenbund
 Adenauerallee 1-3
 53 Bonn 1

Towns and families

A report being drawn up by the Bavarian Regional Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs shows that local authorities provide fairly comprehensive facilities for families. A survey was conducted and 92% of the local authorities replied, so that a detailed picture could be assembled of how the services work. The title of the report is "Familienfreundliche Stadt" (the family-friendly town).

Useful address Bay. Staatsministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung
 Postfach 132
 8000 Munich 43

G R E E C E

Greece signs the United Nations Convention

Early in March, Greece's permanent representative to the United Nations, on behalf of his Government, signed the U.N. Convention on the abolition of all forms of discrimination against women. Approved by the U.N. General Assembly in 1979, the Convention has already been signed by over 80 countries.

Women's organizations in Greece had pressurized their Government to sign the Convention on various occasions, in particular at the time of the Copenhagen conference. They met with resistance when certain members of the Government expressed reservations. Now that it has been signed, the organizations hope that Parliament will not delay its ratification.

The Convention was signed in New York in the presence of Mrs Papandreou, wife of the present head of the Greek Government, then on a private visit to the U.S. Over the past few years, she has been an active member of Enosis Gynekon Elladas (the Greek women's union), a branch of PASOK - the party led by her husband - and has just been elected president of that union.

Civil Code to be overhauled

Greek Parliament has empowered the Minister of Justice to set up a committee to revise the Civil Code and bring the law in line with the constitutional requirement that men and women shall be equal in all respects.

The 15-member committee is to submit proposals within four months of starting work. Those proposals will then go to Parliament for approval under the special procedure applicable to amendments of a legal code.

In consultation, women's organizations have submitted a list of nominees for membership of the committee and are now waiting for the official appointments to be announced. In a TV interview, the Justice Minister confirmed his intention to designate a majority of women representing women's groups.

Being a woman in the European Community

By its very existence the European Community has altered the status of the men and women who live in it. Now that Greece has become the tenth member, it too will be affected. This is why "equality between men and women in the European Community" was taken as the theme of a debate by Elliniki Eteria Dikeou Ergasias ke Kinokis (Greek Society for Labour and Social Security Law).

For several years now the EEC Member States have gradually been modifying their actions and legislation and have brought about a greater measure of equality. There is still much to be done, but the achievements are tangible. Greek society now has to move fast to catch up without the benefit of lengthy preparation of attitudes and facilities.

To shed light on a subject involving both law and social policy, Professor Karakatsanis, the dean of the Athens University Faculty of Law, called on leading specialists to speak in the debate. They included Mr Kalogeropoulos, today a member of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, Mr John Koukiadis, Professor of Law in the University of Thessalonica, Mrs Spiliotopoulos, Doctor of Law, and Mrs Kravaritou-Manitaki.

The speakers covered Community legislation, the role of different institutions and the way in which the national legislation of individual countries had to be adapted to bring it in line with EEC directives, and the methods of recourse open to women who are discriminated against.

The audience consisted not only of jurists, magistrates and academics but also several MPs and representatives of women's groups. The debate is of great importance at a time when the Greek Government is embarking on a revision of current laws to abolish all traces of discrimination between the sexes.

Useful address Elliniki Eteria Dikeou Ergasias ke Kinokis
 84 A Mavromichali Street
 Athens T.706

I R E L A N D

Elections bring mixed fortunes

Four of the 11 outgoing women members of Irish Parliament lost their seats in the recent general election. Only one woman, Senator Gemma Hussey, gained a first-time seat, making a new total of only 8 women out of 166.

Ironically, 3 out of the 4 women who lost their seats actually polled more first preference votes than last time but, under the proportional representation system of voting in Ireland, they needed more transfer votes from other candidates than they obtained.

There were fewer women candidates in the field, with both Labour and Fine Gael dropping some who stood last time; Fianna Fail increased the number of its women candidates but still had least in percentage terms of the three major parties. Women's issues featured very little in this snap election. To add to women's woes, their longest-serving and doughtiest champion, Dr Noel Browne, retired from politics after 34 years. Over that time he has supported health care for mothers and children, contraception, divorce and, on the day before the Government fell, he stood alone to defend abortion.

Women's leader ploughs a straight furrow

Camilla Hannon, the outspoken former president of the Irish Countrywomen's Association - the biggest of Ireland's women's organizations - is now on the board of ACOT, a recently established agricultural council with branches throughout the country. She is the first woman to be appointed to a major State agency in the agricultural sector.

Age limits are discriminatory

In a case brought by Catherine Martyn of Sligo, the Labour Court has found for the second time that the placing of age limits on recruitment for employment are discriminatory and contrary to the Employment Equality Act 1977.

In 1967, when the "marriage bar" still existed in the public service, Catherine Martyn was obliged to resign from a permanent position with the Health Board on her marriage. She was out of the labour force owing to family responsibilities during the years when she would have satisfied the age requirement for applicants for permanent posts, who had to be 27 or under. She said she was the victim of two-fold discrimination: no account was taken of her previous service with the Board which she was forced to end on marriage. The Labour Court found in her favour and awarded her £3,000 compensation.

Night shifts

The Irish Government has denounced International Labour Office Convention 89 which prohibits the employment of women at night. The Employment Equality Agency, which had recommended this step, feels that women are being denied jobs, losing out on opportunities for promotion and taking home less money because they cannot be employed on night-shift rosters.

The denunciation takes effect in March 1983. After that date, the Minister will be able to allow departures from the Conditions of Employment Act, 1936, if requested to do so by an employer who has the agreement of the workers' representative organization. This will mean that women who wish may work under licence after 10 p.m. and before 8 a.m.

A boost for pre-schooling

Weeks before the Irish 1982 election the Education Minister, Mr John Boland, promised to hand over £50,000 to the Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association and pledged a further £1.6 million to be spent on pre-school education. But the association hedged its bets by extracting a similar commitment from the Fianna Fail Opposition should it win the election.

The Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association coordinates the work of about 1,000 units and it was particularly interested when Eileen Desmond, the Health and Social Welfare Minister, revealed that a Children's Bill is being prepared which would require playgroups and nurseries to register and meet specific health and safety requirements - something that the Association has been advocating for years. In the absence of official minimum standards, it sets its own.

Useful address The Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association
11 St. Peter's Road
Plibsborough - Dublin 14

Getting the women fit

COSPOIR, the Irish Sports Council, has in recent years run a "Sport For All" campaign culminating in a once-a-year, all-out effort to get the nation of its collective bottom and onto its feet, running, jogging, cycling, walking - anything so long as it is exercise.

This year attention is focussed on women, with the theme of the campaign being the "greater involvement of women in sport". The Minister for Sport himself appeared in newspaper advertisements with the solemn message: "I earnestly urge all women - housewives, mothers, young girls - to take an interest in a sporting activity for their health and wellbeing".

Brightening up the message

The Employment Equality Agency has been trying to brighten up its series of rather utilitarian posters exhorting women to exercise their equal rights at work. In conjunction with the Society of Designers in Ireland, it has organized a poster competition.

Useful address The Employment Equality Agency
 Davitt House, Mespil Road
 Dublin 4

Early retirement for women ends

A Dublin woman journalist has set an important precedent for Irish women workers. She wanted to keep on working until the age of 65, and the Labour Court has decided to uphold her claim.

In Ireland the age of retirement for men is 65, but women workers have been obliged to retire at 60. The claimant's case was taken up by the National Union of Journalists, which convinced the equality officer at the Court of its justice.

Useful address National Union of Journalists
 Liberty Hall
 Dublin, 1

Secretarial work: a dead-end job?

Henry Murdoch, who heads the personnel department of Ireland's Industrial Training Authority, AnCO, has launched training courses devised to help office secretaries to cross over into jobs with management potential. Most of the jobs are in the field of training but up to the present they have been closed to women.

Useful address AnCO - the Industrial Training Authority
 Upper Baggot Street
 Dublin 4

I T A L Y

Towards an Equal Opportunities Commission

A discussion meeting organized by the Italian Socialist Party group for women's issues was the venue for many personalities from different points in the political spectrum.

The discussion on the creation of an equal opportunities commission was introduced by Maria Vittoria Ballestrero, Professor of Employment Law at the University of Florence, Margherita Barnabei, chairman of the International Women's Committee of the European Movement, Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, national secretary of ANDE (the Italian association of women voters), Maria Sofia Lanza Spagnoletti, secretary general to CNDI (the national women's council), Tiziano Treu, who teaches Employment Law at the University of Pavia, and Daniela Colombo of the magazine "Effe", the coordinator of the meeting. The conclusions were summarized by Elena Marinucci, a member of the Italian Socialist Party.

As far back as in November 1980, a seminar arranged by the European Movement Women's Committee highlighted the need for a body that could represent different movements in the world of Italian women. Its proposal that Italy should set up an agency along the lines of the Equal Opportunities Commission that operates so successfully in Great Britain is now being considered by the prime minister.

At the meeting set up by the Socialist Party, the jurists, MPs and specialists in the field of employment advanced another suggestion: a "national committee for equality of opportunity at work", to come under the Ministry of Employment. According to the men and women advocating this body, the commission would not be just another research group but the flexible and sensitive instrument of an active equality policy, one that could be used to intervene, monitor the law on equality and make it more effective.

Useful address Sezione Nazionale Questioni Femminili del P.S.I.
Via del Corso 476
R o m e

A woman Director General of Education

After being the first woman to be appointed "provveditore agli studi" (the highest level of inspector of education), Italia Lecaldano is now the first woman to become the director general of national education in the Ministry of Education.

Speaking of her career which began 12 years ago in Benevento, Mrs Lecaldano says that "those were difficult but enriching years. Without being a militant feminist, the fact that I have paved the way to top-level office for women is a matter of special satisfaction to me".

Useful address Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione
Viale Trastevere
10100 R o m e

Women in Education

Women make up a great majority of teaching staff, particularly in primary and secondary schools where the education makes the greatest demands socially, psychologically and - in the broadest sense - politically.

FNISM, the Italian professional federation of teachers, has devoted a seminar to the subject of women in education, the sub-title of which was "the profession, educational relationships and social changes".

Some recent statistics illustrate the problem. There are about 600,000 women teachers, two thirds of the total in Italy. This proportion has been declining, falling from 83% to 77% of elementary school teachers over the space of a few years. In secondary education, the proportion of women has remained constant at about 63%.

In higher education, there is a continuing majority of men: 52.5%. More women are joining the teaching staff of science lycees (60.2%), grammar schools leading to a diploma in teaching (61%) and classical lycees (58.7%).

Useful address FNISM
 Via del Tritone 46
 R o m e

Older women

The lives of older women are particularly difficult: 70% of women in retirement have to exist on the absolute minimum national pension. The group that coordinates women members of the CGIL, CISL and UIL trade unions has held a protest meeting to publicize their plight.

Low incomes are not the only problem facing women in retirement. The figures on basic amenities, hygiene and health are distressing. For instance, in Milan it was found that one third of retired women live in housing that provides space of less than 40 square metres; 17% of their homes have no inside lavatory, 45% have no kitchen and 38% do not have hot water. Even in places where the local housing authority gives priority to the elderly, unauthorized families move into the homes allocated to them.

Part-time Employment

The Council of Ministers has agreed to the text of a bill on part-time employment. If it is accepted, practical measures to bring about good relations at work would be defined in collective agreements. Very wide latitude would be allowed for contracts reached between workers and management. This is in fact what the unions criticize in the bill, fearing that it might lend itself to abuse in many ways.

According to the latest figures, there are 1,455,000 people working part-time in Italy, 935,000 of whom are women.

L U X E M B O U R G

The tricky question of employment at night

The rules forbidding women to work at night were formerly seen as a great achievement in the defence of women in society; today it is viewed with a more critical eye.

International Labour Office Convention 89, which banned night work for women in industry, was signed by Luxembourg and embodied in its own law in February 1958. This means that waitresses, air hostesses, nurses and midwives may work without infringing the law, whereas the ban is strictly enforced in industry.

The Ministry of Labour asked the women's committee on employment for its views on the abolition of the ban. In its reply, the committee came out in favour of ending the ban, saying:

"The social consequences of working at night are felt by both men and women and are of equal weight, given that it restricts family and social contact and hampers or prevents involvement in cultural life and further education. Since, according to research by specialists in industrial medicine, there is no general physiological or medical contra-indication to night work for women, any protection afforded to women alone introduces discrimination into working life and should be abolished.

"The Committee feels there should be stricter controls over night work for all workers, in particular the formulation of rules on its length and timing as well as the adoption of appropriate measures designed to minimize the drawbacks of night work to the workers' health and family and social life."

Useful address Comité du Travail Féminin
 10 Rue C.M. Spoo
 Luxembourg

1982 Joseph Bech Prize

This prize, founded by the F.V.S. Foundation of Hamburg, has been awarded to Colette Flesch, Vice President and Foreign Minister in the Luxembourg Government, at a ceremony attended by the Grand Duke of Luxembourg.

Previous prizewinners have been Shirley Williams, Professor Rieben, Claude Cheysson and Joseph Luns. Colette Flesch was an official in the European Commission, a member of European Parliament and a minister. She has declared that, in these early years of the 1980s, European unification is just as badly needed as in the 1950s.

N E T H E R L A N D S

A women's party

Out of the 150 seats in the Lower House, 27 are occupied by women. For some time now the idea of a specific women's party has been making headway in the Netherlands. Regular but informal contact is maintained among the women members of Parliament whenever the subject being debated warrants it, but there has never been a real "women's movement" inside the House. The idea has now been taken up outside political circles.

In an introductory leaflet, the group launching the venture writes: "Anti-men? Obviously not. Right-minded men will agree with us: equality is the only norm. There must be equal and joint representation for women. In Parliament, on the provincial and local authorities, everywhere. We shall ensure that everyone, both men and women, appreciate this need."

The leaflet adds: "Together, we are capable of going very far very quickly. It is high time women catch up. There is an urgent need for us to be properly represented at every level."

Useful address Landelijk Initiatief De Vrouwenpartij
 Postbus 61035
 Amsterdam

Violence directed against women

The struggle to prevent violence against women is one of the chapters in the Dutch Government's programme of emancipation, says the Secretary of State, Hedy d'Ancona, in a letter to the Chamber of Deputies.

Sharing work fairly is an important issue, of course, but it is only one of the aspects of emancipation policy, she declared. What are needed are proposals that will help women to participate fully in all of society's activities.

"What also must be done is to end the relationships based on physical force in private life. Violence against women will be the subject of serious thought in any emancipation policy. This violence is also why women are still being kept in a state of social inferiority."

A meeting is to be held in the near future to discuss the theme and formulate practical proposals regarding not only the legal sanctions against violence but also the help which women victims of violence should be given.

Useful address Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid
 Zeestraat 73
 The Hague

Immigrant women

The wives of immigrant workers are a particularly vulnerable group. If, for example, they separate from their husbands they have to leave the country; in the Netherlands, only the man can obtain a residence permit.

Parliament hopes to improve the lot of these women and the Dutch Government is to embark on a detailed study of their legal status and ways of alleviating the problem.

One proposal tabled by the Socialist group in Parliament failed to obtain a majority: the granting of residence permits in their own right to first generation wives who come to the Netherlands to join their husbands.

Useful address Ministerie van Justitie
 Schedeldoekshaven 100
 The Hague

Women in need

In the Netherlands, anyone unable to provide for his own needs may apply for public aid. It will not be enough to keep him in luxury, but he will be able to keep his head above water. In the city of Amsterdam alone, about 14,000 women have applied for this minimum aid from the community. Most of them are divorced and have one or more dependant children. Their chance of finding a job is slim, especially as they tend to have no vocational training of any kind.

"Stichting Ombudsvrouw Amsterdam" - the "Amsterdam Ombudswoman Foundation" - is concerned about the fate of these women and is trying to provide more opportunities for them to study and train. By being given this "second chance", it is hoped that women will gain access to the world of work and will be better able to take control over their lives.

There are many "Ombudsvrouw" foundations in the Netherlands. Although most are established in local communities, they also have a national branch.

Useful address Stichting Ombudsvrouw Amsterdam
 Postbus 51 330
 Amsterdam

Surnames

Only one or two percent of all married women in the Netherlands call themselves by their maiden names, but the proportion may rise in the near future. Those who retain their own names rather than taking their husband's tend to be under 30, be educated to an average or higher level of education, have been married for less than three years and live in large towns, according to a survey commissioned by the Ministry of Justice. In addition, one woman out of four in the under-35 age group would keep her own name if she could start again.

V i e w s

The Dutch Emancipation Council is launching a quarterly magazine with the simple title of "Bericht" - "view". The first issue, the "zero edition", introduces the people who make up the Council and the team who carry out its everyday functions.

In an introductory article, the chairman of the Council, Eegje Schoo, points out that its task is to advise no fewer than 14 ministerial departments; work on this scale requires proper consultation and the smooth flow of information.

Useful address Emancipatieraad
 Sir Winston Churchillaan 366-368
 2285 SJ Rijswijk

UNITED KINGDOM

Equality for Women in the SDP

Britain's new political party, the Social Democratic party, broke new ground when, at its constitutional convention in February, its leaders urged positive discrimination for women on its governing councils and in the short-listing of Parliamentary and local government candidates.

Dr David Owen, a leading SDP MP, said from the platform that although 40% of the SDP's members were women they represented only 18% of the national steering committee, 16% of those present at the convention and 11% of applicants to be Parliamentary candidates. He particularly wanted to see equal representation on the party's chief representational body, the Council for Social Democracy.

The convention voted to ensure that women be included on every Parliamentary short list and also reserved a minimum number of places for women on its executive national committee, but on the question of the Council the convention split evenly, with 150 votes for and against.

Even among the women present there were those who thought that enforced positive discrimination represented patronage rather than equality for women. The issue is to be referred to a ballot of the total membership of the SDP for final decision.

Useful address The Social Democratic Party
 4 Cowley Street
 London SW1

Working wives and mothers

The Government's General Household Survey for 1980 shows that more than three out of five married women aged 16 - 59 are "economically active" in Britain, in that they are either working or looking for work.

In each of the three years 1978-80, 33% of married women of working age were employed part-time, 26% full-time and 3% were unemployed.

The statistics showed that almost 70% of married women in the 35-54 age range worked, compared with 56% of the younger married women aged 18-34. Over half (54%) of all women aged 16-59 with dependant children are working outside the home, two thirds of them part-time.

Useful address Information Branch, OPCS
 St. Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway
 London WC2B 6JP

A new head of the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission

Mrs Muriel Wilson has taken up her new post as chairman and chief executive of the Northern Ireland EOC, succeeding Margot Neil, chairman since 1976, who presided over the early battling years of the Commission. Muriel Wilson has had a long career in administration of the Northern Ireland Health Service and, she says, at one point she was the only woman in the top grade of the Service.

The Commission's Fifth Report is an implicit tribute to the solid achievements obtained, not without difficulty, in the period under Margot Neil's chairmanship.

The Commission is worried, however, that economic recession will put these achievements in jeopardy. "Many women who have made a major contribution to the economy and have played a substantial role in contributing to the well-being of their families now find that they are being pushed into the role of dependants", the report says. Against this background, the Commission feels it "must maintain a high profile to counteract the real possibility of irreparable damage to the progress of equality of opportunity between men and women".

Useful address Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland
 Lindsay House, Callender Street
 Belfast BT1 SDT

Professional aspirations

Norma Reid and Rosamond Goldie, the authors of a report on Northern Irish women in higher education, suggest that one reason why women still turn to welfare work, education, social and health studies may be that whereas women are interested in the subject of their studies men are motivated to aim at a better job through higher education.

The report is published by the Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland.

8 th MARCH - WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day was celebrated with special gusto on 8th March this year. The decision taken by the French Government to make this festivity more official no doubt was a direct encouragement to women in other countries.

The leaders of some of the women's organizations looked sceptically on this French measure, which they see as "patronising". Others were delighted at seeing their ideas, so long considered Utopian, taken up and amplified.

We would merely note that any new and constructive idea is inevitably copied and taken over by others. We can predict here and now that the advertisers will very soon be taking over the theme of feminism as if they had invented it themselves. In the long term, however, women cannot be "patronised" any more than the arts, men, the world of work or democracy.

Paris. For the first time, 8th March, the date traditionally celebrated by feminist movements, became the official "Women's Day". To mark the occasion President François Mitterand welcomed 450 women, ordinary as well as famous, to the presidential residence, the Elysée. "The first page has been written," said Mr Mitterand, "and now we must go on to the second: women's rights must become reality. Women today have three requirements: autonomy, equality and dignity."

The Ministry for Women's Rights arranged replaced the advertisements in the main concourse of Saint-Lazare Station by posters of famous feminists such as Louise Michel, Flora Tristan, Simone de Beauvoir, Rosa Luxembourg, and Kate Millet.

Inaugurating a photographic exhibition on women at work in the newly opened premises for the Ministry for Women's Rights, Prime Minister Mauroy outlined his Government's policy towards women and their employment. The same day in March was also chosen for the "Journal Officiel" to publish the list of women who had been promoted to a higher grade of the Legion of Honour.

The Day was of course also celebrated by women's organizations and branches of the trade unions. The Union des Femmes Française - the Frenchwomen's union - held its fourteenth congress over the previous weekend and those attending came to Paris on Sunday for a demonstration. On Saturday, the body coordinating women's groups unfurled its banners in Paris. The French Communist trade union, C.G.T., called out women militants to march for retirement at the age of 55 and equal pay for men and women. For its part, the CFDT union preferred to encourage local efforts on the theme of "right to work, right to every job". The French Women's Liberation Movement organized a concert at the Salle de La Mutualité and a film festival "to pay tribute to the creativity of women in front of and behind the camera".

Luxembourg To celebrate 8th March, Luxembourg Socialist Women took a whole page in a daily newspaper to give detailed background information on Women's Day and set out claims in the fields of employment, social security, community infrastructure, etc.

The Women's Liberation Movement arranged a congress at which the guest of honour was Waultraud Bierwirth, the German journalist and union leader, who explained the claims of working women in Germany. The event was attended by a visiting delegation of women from Lorraine, who spoke about their experiences and aspirations.

Dublin In Dublin, the day was celebrated in the best possible way, by the inauguration of a new Women's Centre. The chief campaigner had been Ita Gannon, who now becomes its administrator. Occupying four floors in the heart of Dublin, the centre is to serve as a base for the many strands of the women's movement in Ireland. It will offer space for formal and informal meetings, guidance, counselling and advice, office facilities and a coffee bar. It goes without saying that women from overseas will be welcomed.

Useful address The Women's Centre
 53 Dame Street
 Dublin 2

European Parliament Marijke Van Hemeldonck took the initiative in arranging for the Parliamentary Socialist Group to publish a statement pointing out that emancipation is one of the aims of Socialism and that deflationary policy affects the world of work before any other, especially women at work. It called for solidarity between men and women in sharing work and the fruits of their work equally.

The Socialist women MEPs also published their own statement to mark 8th March, expressing their concern at the armaments race and comparing the cost with what is being spent on fighting world hunger. The signatories pointed to the need for a balance between developing and industrialized nations and stressed the specific responsibility of the European Community in this respect. They stated their pleasure at the progress achieved towards equality between men and women in Europe and their hope that working hours would be shortened so that men and women could share family and working responsibilities more fairly.

Essen In Germany, Essen was the town chosen for the largest demonstration to celebrate the 8th March, although Women's Day was marked by demonstrations, conferences and meetings throughout the country. Almost 3,000 women flocked to Essen, where the theme was "Gewalt gegen Frauen hat viele Gesichter" (violence against women has many faces). Violence at work, violence in the family, various forms of violence in everyday life: the subjects discussed were surprisingly similar to those raised in Rome last year by the "8th March Tribunal".

Brussels The leading women's organizations in the country invited members to demonstrate in the name of "women against the crisis". They marched under the banners chosen by the organizers: "for the right to work; for the right to unemployment pay; for maintenance of purchasing power; and for women's economic independence".

Rome Following the precedent he himself had set when he presided Parliament, Sandro Pertini - now the President of the Republic - welcomed a delegation of parliamentary women to celebrate 8th March. Marchers in the streets of Rome handed out mimosa, as has become the custom, and changed the slogan "I accuse male-dominated society".

Milan Fifty thousand people marched to a song of "let's disarm the world". The current workings of the abortion law were sharply criticized: on the one hand, doctors all too often shirk their responsibilities by claiming that their conscience prevents them from carrying out abortions; on the other, the procedure for under-age girls is so complex that many give up and resort to the back-street abortionist.

To mark Women's Day, ANDE - the National Association of Women's Voters - distributed 20,000 questionnaires throughout the country. Once the replies come in, it will be able to chart the progress that has been made in the 36 years since women won the right to vote in Italy.

Athens This year women's organizations made a special effort to expand outwards from the capital in continuing the series of events that have marked International Women's Day over the past few years. The Greek Women's Union, for instance, held a major meeting in Thessalonica. The League for Women's Rights arranged debates on women at work, not just in Athens but also in its northern branch. In this decentralizing spirit, the Women's Democratic Movement held many meetings of local branches in addition to its great festival in one of the largest parks in Athens.

The Government has also helped to make the Day very special. Radio and television were pressed into service, with a three hour programme on the ERT TV channel. The YENED channel scheduled a programme on the recent history of women's emancipation as well as a profile of women's organizations and interviews with the ministers concerned.

In a message to the women of Greece, the Prime Minister confirmed the promises he had made in an election campaign, in particular on the revision of the Civil Code, the setting up of an advisory committee on women's issues and the appointment of more women to the top echelons of public service.

Geneva A new women's centre is now open in Geneva, permanently manned by people who will lend a sympathetic ear to anyone who feels that she - or he - has been discriminated against and put her or him in touch with the specialists to seek a solution. The centre of course is intended mainly as a meeting place and forum for women; the aim, say the organizers, is not to replace the special agencies performing a specific service but to act as an interface.

Useful address Centre F-Information
1 Rue des Barrières
Geneva

postal address:
case 757
1211 Geneva 3

PORTUGAL: TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

"The European Community and equality of opportunity at work" was the theme of a seminar in Lisbon arranged by the Portuguese Committee for Women's Status in association with the Commission of the European Communities on 22-23 March.

Now that Portugal is about to join the European Community, Joana de Barros Baptista, the chairman of the Committee, saw in the conference an opportunity to review the progress achieved by the Community, the problems it still faces and the path lying before the Ten as well as her own country. The idea arose in 1980 during a preliminary working visit, when Fausta Deshormes, the head of the section within the Commission providing information to the women's press and organizations, described the solidarity of women's organizations in the EEC countries in the face of the problems of equality and their desire to find out more about the everyday lives of women in Portugal.

Since that time there has been more and more contact, and it was to a well informed audience that Mr Ivor Richard, the Commissioner for Social Affairs, spoke on Community policy on equal opportunities, in the presence of the Minister of Employment, Queiroz Martins.

The Committee for Women's Status, which comes under the Prime Minister's own department, had invited top-level officials to this seminar. Among the most fruitful discussions were those in the round table meeting on "the influence of the European Community on equal opportunities policy in Member States".

Experience in their own nations was described by Ms Feld (Ligestillingsrådet), Marcelle Devaud (Committee on Women's Employment), Baroness Lockwood (Equal Opportunities Commission) and Ms Pichault (a Belgian expert). This was followed by a report on women and employment in Portugal by José Manuel Rochas Pimentel, chairman of the Equality Committee for Labour and Employment.

Summarizing the discussions, Joana de Barros Baptista concluded that the gap between Portugal and rest of Europe insofar as equality legislation and case law are concerned is not so very wide. Nevertheless, in an economic crisis that affects the whole world but hits women hardest of all, we must display exceptional vigilance to ensure that behaviour and attitudes continue to evolve.

Mr Cruz Vilaça, Secretary of State for European integration, closed the seminar by expressing his pleasure at the ways in which European Community institutions are contributing towards greater wellbeing, justice and progress in every country that is a member.

Useful address Comissão da Condição Feminina
 Av. Elias Garcia 12-1
 1093 Lisbon Codex

M I L I T A N T A C T I V I T I E S

**INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

Aid to Refugees

Evelyne Sullerot, a sociologist who specializes in women's status and is on the French Economic and Social Council, has founded a refugee aid body. After visiting Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand, she joined Michel Rousseau and Guy Hörllin to set up the "Comité européen d'aide aux réfugiés" - CEAR for short.

Launched with the help of an emergency aid grant from the European Community, the first project tackled by CEAR was in five camps with 150,000 Khmer refugees. Evelyne Sullerot's basic idea is to help refugees to help themselves. "Learning and working are character-building; in a way they create the skeleton of human dignity."

In view of the results achieved, the Community is to give CEAR a further grant, this time towards a programme in Somalia. The organization still needs funds, however, and any donation is welcome (Post Office account 1582.9 1L, Paris).

Useful address CEAR
 38 Rue des Bourdonnais
 75001 Paris

Women pilots in Europe

The members of the European Women Pilots' Federation are the French "Association des Pilotes Européennes", the Italian "Associazione Pilote Italiane", the "Belgian Women Pilots' Association", the "British Women Pilots' Association" and the German "Vereinigung Deutscher Pilotinnen".

The individual women members of these bodies are professional or private pilots. Within the Federation, for instance, there are 25 airline pilots, 5 heads of aircraft companies, instructors and holders of international records.

According to Marie-Josèphe de Beauregard, who founded the French women pilots' association and is the chairman of the Federation, its aims are to promote regular contact between women pilots in different countries of Europe and, by means of exchanges and meetings, to give them more opportunities to share each others' experience, problems and prospects.

Useful address Fédération des Pilotes Européennes
 35 Rue des Francs Bourgeois
 75004 Paris

Finland

The International Alliance of Women is holding its 26th three-yearly congress in Helsinki from 25 July to 1 August 1982. The theme this time is "employment models for the 1980s".

There will be fringe activities at the same time. "Unioni Naisasialiitto Suomesa", the Finnish Women's Union, is arranging an alternative conference for organizations that are not members of IAW, as well as work group meetings of women from developing nations and European countries. There will also be a three-day seminar for the European feminist press on 23-25 July, discussing "the creation of a new image of women in feminist magazines" and the exchange of copy (articles and photographs) among magazines.

The Finnish Women's Union has taken care to keep costs as low as possible and has made arrangements for delegates to stay with private families.

Did you know, incidentally, that there are feminist groups even in Lapland?.

Useful address Unioni Naisasialiitto Suomesa
 Bulevardi 11 A
 00120 Helsinki 12

Disarmament

Those attending the conference on "women for disarmament and peace" in Hamburg, arranged by Socialist International Women, have called for regional disarmament, cuts in defence budgets and more development aid. They suggested that the name of Alva Myrdal, former Swedish Minister for Disarmament, be put forward for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Useful address Socialist International Women
 88a St. John's Wood High Street
 London NW8 75J

Spain

A women's association for Europe - the "Asociacion de Mujeres por Europa" - has been set up by the Spanish Council of the European Movement. Its aims will be to spread European ideals among women's groups and promote efforts by women toward European unification.

Kika Munoz, who is responsible for international relations within the association, would welcome friendly contact with any organization pursuing the same objectives.

Useful address Asociacion de Mujeres por Europa
 c/o Movimiento Europeo
 Gran Via 43, 3º F
 Madrid 13

From Poland to Austria

All refugees from the Eastern Bloc coming to Austria have to pass through the camp at Traiskirchen about 25 miles from Vienna, where they are re-directed to one of the 200 reception centres in Austria.

The Traiskirchen camp, which can accommodate 1,500, suddenly filled to overflowing as 30,000 Polish refugees fled their country. The YWCA and YMCA which work there, together with seven other voluntary organizations, plan to encourage the "sponsorship" of refugee groups. Direct aid to groups of five refugees could speed up the process of helping them to start new lives.

Useful address World YWCA
 37 Quai Wilson
 G e n e v a

Migrants and their families

IMERFA (the world institute of psycho-social and legal studies, research, training and action) has published the summary proceedings of its colloquium on "psycho-social and legal aspects of migrant workers and their families". The problems were considered in the light of legislation and migrants' position in a number of countries. A conscious decision was taken to restrict the scope of the colloquium in the hope that, by encouraging the pluridisciplinary pooling of experience, communication between immigrant groups and host communities might be improved.

Yvonne Turpin, the chairman of IMERFA, wound up the meeting by describing how the scales of values in immigrants' countries of origin and their host countries can complement each other. In the near future, there will be special one-day meetings to tackle specific subjects.

Useful address IMERFA
 52 Rue Madame
 75006 Paris

B E L G I U M

Local elections

As part of their preparations for the local elections in the autumn, the women members of the Social Christian Party arranged an open day on 15 May for all women interested in local affairs. At the meeting not only did the women in this party put their views over but they also came to know women already elected and the candidates from voluntary bodies not directly linked with political life.

"There must be a two-way flow of information between women who are elected and women voters," declared Elisabeth Dispaux, one of the organizers.

Useful address Femmes P.S.C.
 Rue des Deux Eglises 41
 1040 Brussels

Namur

A Women's Centre has opened in Namur. Besides offering the usual services such as legal advice and information on social problems, the Centre has set up a shop at which clothes are sold at very reasonable prices by instalments.

Useful address Maison des Femmes
 Rue Notre-Dame 47
 5000 Namur

Mothers of foreign children

The Belgian Foreign Minister holds the case files of more than 150 children of Belgian mothers and foreign fathers who have been taken to live outside the country without their mothers' consent.

With no feeling of sexism or racialism, an association for the defence of mothers of foreign children has been set up to help women who have to contend with a former partner, slow-moving bureaucracy and all the complexity of law.

The association was founded by two mothers who are living through this trauma and hope to draw the attention of the authorities to all the gaps in the law on the subject. They would welcome contact with and information from other associations of the same type in the European Community.

Useful address Nicole Ral
 22 Avenue J.S. Bach, Boîte 1
 1081 Brussels

The 35-55 age group

Angèle Verdin and Marie-Françoise De Munck embarked on their research on the lives of women aged 35 to 55 in an urban environment as a result of two observations: attractive and accessible opportunities for education and training appear to abound for women, but it still seems that the "average woman" is untouched by them; and, in our society with its wealth of consumer goods, new ailments seem to be emerging such as solitude, emotional deprivation and failure to adjust. The question that sprang to mind was why do so many women fail to take up the educational opportunities that they are offered?

Concluding their detailed and altogether remarkable research report, the authors write: "too few women . . . nurture their own special project and, even if they do, it is rarely of an altruistic kind". There are, however, quite a few women who would like to meet others, enjoy human contact, train, do voluntary work or commit themselves politically.

Many of their comments are thought-provoking. For example, "it is the women on low incomes who are most willing to help out their neighbours, and they do it in an entirely disinterested way". Or "more than 40% of women feel 'fairly lonely'. It is no coincidence, then that women as a whole place 'loneliness' at the top of the list of unsatisfied needs in their neighbourhood".

Now they have finished this survey, Angèle Verdin and Marie-Françoise De Munck are planning work directed more towards local community life, with more stress on the needs expressed by these "women of the shadows", since they feel that there is far more to them than seems at first sight.

The report sells at BFr.100, payable to Post Office account 000.0330199-11.

Useful address Angèle Verdin
 Rue Américaine 193
 1050 Brussels

D E N M A R K

The house of Grevinde Danner

The house of Grevinde Danner in the centre of Copenhagen has now been in use for several months as a battered women's refuge. It was originally used as a hostel for elderly working class women as the owner and founder intended, but it fell into disuse. In 1979 a group of feminists squatted there, claiming that it should serve another equally useful purpose.

In less than three months, the sum of 3 million kroner needed to buy the house was collected. The house was still in deplorable condition, however, and an extra 2 million kroner had to be found to repair the building. Most of this amount came from private donations.

Women were responsible for the whole of the restoration work, with 35 women taking part in the work. There were only 7 or 8 women trained in the skills of carpentry, masonry, plumbing and painting, but the unskilled women quickly learned to handle a trowel, paintbrush or spanner. With the financial support of the authorities, a few jobless women were put to work.

A model achievement

The first all-woman project to be completed with public financial support, the rehabilitation of the house attracted lively interest in the press. Above all, however, it served as an example and proved that women can shed convention and succeed in trades that are traditionally a male preserve.

The first floor was brought into service to house the victims of violence in the family while the work was still going on in the rest of the house. By August 1981, six housing units were ready as well as play rooms for the children, sitting rooms and communal rooms.

The aim is to create 18 homes for women, together with games rooms for their children and shared facilities.

During the preliminary period, 60 women and 37 children were accommodated for relatively short periods. The demand was still greater than what had been provided: the centre received 212 appeals for help from battered women.

A survey on the battered women showed that many had been the victims of ill-treatment and humiliation at the hands of their husbands or partners for many years.

It is not unusual for a man to arrange matters systematically so that his wife is isolated. Some of the women said that they had been forbidden to have the slightest contact with their families and friends, take a job or have any social life outside the home. Many of them were told they were stupid, ugly, lazy, incompetent and so on.

At the time of contacting the Danner centre, they had lost confidence in themselves. A fair number of them complained of being subjected to sexual violence by their husbands.

Self-help

Helping women to help themselves: this is the primary aim of the organizers. The top priority is to enable women to recover the ability to solve their own problems. Every woman who comes into the house is asked to take a share in the communal work: cleaning, shopping for food, looking after the children, etc.

Life is organized according to the "base group" system, so that women can freely discuss their problems and the possible solutions. Whenever necessary, they are directed to the specialist agencies for help with social, legal and other matters.

Frequently a woman goes back to live with the man by whom she was mistreated, but even then she takes the decision with greater awareness of her own needs and rights and with greater self-confidence.

At the time of leaving the crisis centre, women are asked to express their views of their experience at the house. Usually - but not always - the assessment is positive. Some women say they are disappointed, for reasons which may seem trivial: the fact that they have not got away from housework, the noise the children make or, quite simply, the inability to live in a community.

In a great majority of cases, however, the women feel that the experience has been a good one. "My self-confidence has been restored" and "I have met a lot of marvellous women" are the kind of comments that frequently occur.

Useful address Danske Kvinders Nationalråd
 Niels Hemmingsensgade 10
 Copenhagen

FRANCE

Agence Femmes Information

Early in April, Agence Femmes Information launched a weekly information bulletin. Claire Poinsignon, the editor, says it is "designed to provide (its women readers with) a specialist source on the condition of women and their changing place in the society of today".

The pre-launch issue that came out in March is packed to overflowing and is full of facts and figures. There are four sections - calendar of events, statistics, education/training and dossiers - to which readers can subscribe separately.

A subscription to the bulletin as a whole is Fr.3,200 for 50 issues.

Useful address Agence Femmes Information
 104 Boulevard Saint-Germain
 75006 Paris

Local authorities

The "Union Féminine Civique et Sociale" brings out a series of publications on civic education. Issue 57 of "Cahiers d'éducation civique" features the way in which the local authorities are run in France, bearing in mind that the next round of local elections is due in 1983. Its coverage is comprehensive and not restricted to how the authorities work; the budget machinery is explained with unusual clarity.

Women are still poorly represented in local government. Out of a total of 459,745 local councillors only 39,915 were women in October 1980, i.e. 8.7%. There are 1,101 women mayors of a total of 36,377 (3%). On the administrative side, however, they account for 21% of the senior positions as general secretaries, 20% of the directors and 45% of section heads.

Useful address U.F.C.S.
 6 Rue Béranger
 75003 Paris

A linking line

An association known as "Lien de femmes" is bringing out a women's yearbook in the spring: "Annuaire des Femmes", whose sub-title is "Resources and Services for Women".

The yearbook will be in four parts: women's action and projects; places, groups and collectives; information in English for foreign girls arriving in Paris; and useful addresses for everyday living.

Useful address Lien de Femmes
 Boîte postale 2405
 75221 Paris Cedex 05

Welcoming the future

A major colloquium has been held in Paris on the theme of "towards the civilization of the microprocessor and microelectronics" - with the secondary theme of "European women's responsibility for the society of tomorrow". Arranged by the women's committee of the European Movement in cooperation with the European Commission, the event is the second in the series "welcoming the future". It was chaired by André Danzin, honorary chairman of the European Research and Development Committee, a member of the Club of Rom

Janine Lansier, chairman of the women's committee of the European Movement and the person organizing the colloquium, opened the session by saying that "women, aware of being a factor in the evolution of our society, will no longer submit passively to evolution or revolution without trying to understand it, prepare for it and take a part in channelling the process of change".

More than 500 people attended the day's discussions at which women's organizations and leading lights in the worlds of politics and science were present.

Setting the high tone of the discussions right from the start, André Danzin pointed out that "in the series of great advances in communication - articulate speech, writing and printing - we are now witnessing a prodigious growth in the complexity of communications linking individuals, human groups, regions, nations and international systems. With this growing complexity come the instruments for coping with - and we hope mastering - that complexity".

Three discussion groups were formed to tackle the subjects of "education and training", "work and employment" and "communication and culture". Each discussion was introduced by leading specialists in their field, including Antoinette Spaak, a Member of European Parliament, and Françoise Gallouedec-Genuys, Professor of Computer Law and the Secretary General of the French Institute of Administrative Science.

The information and ideas thrown out in the course of a colloquium of this kind need time to mature. Monique Perdrillat gave her hearers food for thought when she described the software programming system whereby teachers can produce a computerized learning course without any knowledge of data processing. André Riotte, an official with the European Commission, made no attempt to minimize the problems: "any technique that extends our capacities implies potential dangers. The resources that can be tapped in microelectronics are immense ... Shall we be able to meet the challenge? Yes, if we are convinced that the future of our civilization is at stake".

"The factor that may give us cause for hope," concluded André Danzin, "is that all these events are in tune with what we understand about Evolution which, up to this time, can be seen as representing progress and the emergence of mind."

Useful address Commission féminine du Mouvement Européen
191 Boulevard Saint-Germain
75007 Paris

G R E E C E

A research and information centre

The League for Women's Rights recently announced the creation of a research group on women's issues. At the same time, a specialist library is gradually being built up with the help of qualified women librarians. The aim is two-fold: to make the work of research teams easier and to make the material available to a wider public.

Twenty or so volunteers, all at university level, have come forward to help the research group, which is to be led by Iris Avdi-Kalkani, a member of the League's executive committee.

Any books, magazines, reports and other documents will be gratefully received and will add to the wealth of information it is hoped the library will provide.

Useful address Syndemos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas
 26 Asklipiou Street
 Athens T.144

A fresh look

"Taking a fresh look at Greece" is the offer being made by the Greek Women's Union which is arranging a rather unusual trip from 22 August to 5 September. It is a feminist tour, starting and ending in Athens, shedding light on women in Greece today and in the past. Visitors will find out, for instance, about Bouboulina, a heroine of the war of independence (1821), visit a convent in Vitouma and hold discussions with women who make their living out of local crafts. And of course they will pay homage to legendary figures like Circe and Penelope.

The stay in Greece, not including travel there and back, will cost US \$600.

Useful address Enosis Gynekon Elladas
 8 Ainianos Street
 Athens

Family planning

The Family Planning Association has held a debate on the best way of informing the public on birth control methods. Representatives of political parties, parliamentarians, doctors and nurses as well as members of women's organizations were invited to the event.

Chaired by Virginia Tsouderou, a former member of Parliament and the chairman of the Association, a good deal was said about the obstacles to spreading the word to the most disadvantaged sectors of society. Women's groups, it seems, are hesitant to come out fairly and squarely in favour of family planning.

Useful address Eteria Ikogeniakou Programmatismou
 121 Solonos
 Athens T.136

Poland on the eve of the crisis

Cettina Caposale La Valle has written an account of a stay in Poland just before the military takeover, published in the magazine "Bozze", in which she gives a keenly felt description of everything she saw and heard when she was invited to Warsaw by the Polishwomen's national council at the time.

"Polishwomen are terribly weary," she was told by someone she talked to. For good reason: it is the women who bear the brunt of the acute tension between the state and the people. Actively involved in the war, the resistance, post-war reconstruction, Socialism and industrialization, they have never given up their traditional roles as mothers, wives and teachers of the young. The lot of women in Poland, as in the rest of Eastern Europe, is to fit not just two but three jobs into the day.

"I left Warsaw at five in the morning. Women were already queuing up with their hats and their baskets, worn out but with pathetic courage."

Useful address Bozze
 Via Acciaioli 7
 00186 Rome

Mothers to all of us

The women's centre in Mestre has arranged a series of readings, in conjunction with a group of women academics from Venice University, on the subject of "mothers to all of us" - a title taken from a book by Gertrude Stein and applied to the women writers whose works have helped women today to face up to the present with clearer understanding. The first few meetings were devoted to Louisa May Alcott, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Virginia Woolf, Colette, Marguerite Yourcenar and Jean Rhys.

Useful address Centro Donna
 Piazza Ferretto 124
 30174 Mestre-Venice

An information centre

The women's advisory committee for Piedmont - Ce.D.I.F. - has set up a women's documentation and information centre which is to collate, update and disseminate documentary material on the topics with which it is concerned.

Ce.D.I.F. is based in the premises for the Piedmont regional library. Its organizer is Mara Mosca, the regional librarian. The kind of material it is looking for is on women's status in general and research conducted by the various women's advisory committees in Italy, other women's groups, universities and cultural institutes both inside and outside Italy.

The committee publishes a bibliographical bulletin and brings out monographs on special subjects as well as holding meetings on topics of general interest.

Useful address Ce.D.I.F.
 Palazzo Lascaris, Via Alfieri 15
 10121 Turin

The history of women

"Storia Donna" is a documentation centre that gathers material produced by women's associations, groups and movements in Italy and abroad. It also hopes to promote research on various aspects of the women's lives, past and present. A quarterly publication, also called "Storia Donna", contains various research reports, for example on "women and power" and "the image of Sicilian women in popular song"; each issue also contains the history of one women's organization.

The centre is located in the Castiglioni Brugnatelli university college, which also houses the Italian federation of women graduates, "Federazione Italiana Laureate Diplamate Istituti Superiori.

Useful address Centro Studi "Storia Donna"
 Collegio Universitario Castiglioni Brugnatelli
 Via S. Martino 18
 Pavia

Feminism and the press in Europe

This was the theme of an international conference arranged by Quotidiano Donna in Milan, backed by the city's cultural department.

The meeting was attended by editors of women's magazines in France, Spain, Germany, Great Britain and the Soviet Union, who discussed the specific problems facing the women's press and the difficulties in individual countries.

Margherita Mezan from the Milan editorial staff of Quotidiano Donna said of the conference: "It is an event for which we have prepared carefully and at length, because we felt it would really be a unique occasion for us, the women who work in the information world. We wanted to get to know each other, to tackle ambitious projects together and above all to think about our work, shedding light on what democratic information means to us and clarifying the ways in which we differ from the press in general and the extent to which we can change ourselves."

Useful address Quotidiano Donna - Redazione milanese
 Via Lanzone 32
 Milan

A new look for a magazine

EFFE has been revamped. Despite its new cover design, page layout and remarkable illustrations, however, it is still - to borrow its own words - the same "aggressive, provocative, non-conformist, serious and ironic magazine, entirely independent in stating the viewpoint of women on not only events of closest concern to them but those that affect the whole of society".

The first issue for the year asks the question "is feminism dead?". Like EFFE, it is alive and kicking, but it has changed format.

Useful address EFFE
 Piazza Campo Marzio 7
 R o m e

L U X E M B O U R G

An appeal to grannies

"Femmes en détresse", an organization that helps battered women, has sent out a cry of help to grandmothers. For many weeks now its hostel for women in distress has been overcrowded. Many women who have brought their children with them are forced to work hard to provide for their physical needs. During the week the children can go to day care centres, but things are more complicated over the weekends when many of the mothers still have to work. Active, affectionate help from grannies would be welcome, especially as these women and their children suffer so much from the absence of family ties.

Useful address Femmes en détresse
telephone 44.81.81

Ten Years of Women's Lib

Just ten years ago a group of women from intellectual circles in Luxembourg announced their list of economic, social and legal claims. Since then, the Women's Liberation Movement has waged a ceaseless battle to win rights for women and bring them in line with changing times.

An exhibition has now been put on telling the history of the Movement and the work it has done since February 1972.

Among its recent achievements are the creation of a non-profit-making association known as "Chance, Egalité" (1979) and the foundation of the "Femmes en détresse" group for women in distress (1979), as well as the opening of a refuge. And of course there have been the establishment of a pilot creche (1981) and a women's information telephone service to give help with family planning and the termination of pregnancy.

Useful address Exposition MLF
Galerie Terre-Rouge, Route de Luxembourg
Esch-sur-Alzette

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WHEN YOU WRITE TO US, ASK TO SUBSCRIBE OR SEND US INFORMATION, PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS IN BLOCK LETTERS.

N E T H E R L A N D S

Technical careers

Women who take up a career in a technical field do not have an easy life. They have to face many obstacles before they can establish a foothold in their chosen profession.

For this reason, the group set up to support women working in technical jobs, "Steungroep vrouwen in technische beroepen", has published a booklet for girls hoping to launch out onto a technical job. It describes the experience of those who have succeeded in their ambition and points out all the difficulties, major and minor, that may arise at school, in employment agencies and in factories or workshops.

The cheap, popular edition is clearly set out and is available in any bookshop. The cost? 7.50 guilders.

Local authority policy

The South Holland provincial branch of "Vrouwen in de VVD" - Liberal Party women - has held a seminar to study the obstacles to the political involvement of women in local government. The list of its conclusions interested the organization's national directorate so much that it decided to ask all its members for their views. Here it is:

1. Are women on a town council more concerned about their families than their male colleagues?
2. Women benefit less than men from support from their political party.
3. Might it be more important to a woman than to a man to be encouraged to enter the political arena by relations or a partner?
4. A woman's political career takes a different direction from a man's.
5. Do women have less political ambition than men?
6. In the political world, women react differently from men.

---ooo0ooo---

To turn to someone in a different country altogether who seems to have triumphantly breached all these barriers: in **Malta**, Agatha Barbara is the first woman to have been elected President of the Republic and is on the brink of a five-year term of office.

UNITED KINGDOM

Women in Banking

Women in Banking, created to help women develop their skills and potential in the banking world, celebrated its first anniversary earlier this year. It has run a successful series of seminars and workshops during the year, some of which were attended by senior executives from the clearing and other banks and by a large number of male banking staff.

A questionnaire sent to all members revealed an overwhelming interest in professional careers and training.

Under its new chairman, Anne Watts, WIB welcomes new members, including men if they agree with the organization's aims .

Useful address Anne Watts, National Westminster Bank
 Planning & Projects Dept., International Banking Division
 25 Old Broad Street
 London EC2

Virago

The Virago Press, which has made a name for itself for publishing not only feminist literature but good writing by women, has announced that it is joining one of Britain's larger publishing houses, the Chatto, Bodley Head, Cape group. It will retain its editorial independence but benefit from the financial and distribution expertise of the larger group.

Founded by Carmen Callil in 1976 with Ursula Owen and Harriet Spicer, Virago has specialized in reprinting forgotten classics by women writers and issuing practical guides like its "Handbook for Widows".

With an original overdraft and total capital of £1,500, Virago's 1981 turnover is expected to be £600,000, too large for the tiny staff of about seven to handle effectively. Joining with the larger organization will enable them to concentrate on editorial policy. Carmen Callil has joined the board of Chatto as joint managing director and publishing director. She is chairman of Virago and will continue to edit its Modern Classics series.

The new catalogue for 1982-83 contains a feast of women's literature, including a new series entitled "Virago Pioneers" covering the lives of women of whom it may be said that "if they had not lived, the world would be a very different place".

Useful address Virago Press
 Ely House, 37 Dover Street
 London W1X 4HS

Rape crisis centre

Rape appears to be a growing offence in Britain, and Northern Ireland is no exception. To help women who have suffered this indignity, Ros Goldie - a member of the Northern Ireland Rape Crisis Association - has helped to found Belfast's Rape Crisis Centre which opened in March.

The Centre is primarily concerned to deal with the women's psychological and emotional needs as well as to liaise on their behalf with legal and statutory bodies who may be able to offer help.

Useful address Belfast Rape Crisis Centre
 P.O. Box 46
 Belfast BT2 7AR

More jobs for the girls

Two young women with top jobs in the business world, Gina Connolly and Dorothy Venables, are working with the long established Fawcett Society of the women's movement to compile a list of 100 women "of proven experience in a challenging field" who might be considered as eligible for posts of non-executive directors of companies.

"The number of non-executive directors being appointed is increasing quite considerably, but because they are appointed from the ranks of executive directors or from the old-boy network the net is not catching women," Gina Connolly told the Times newspaper.

With about 30 names on their list, both women were looking for new contacts.

Useful address Ms Gina Connolly, c/o the Fawcett Society
 Parnell House (5th floor), 23 Wilton Road
 London SW1 1LW

New hope for older women

"I'm a new woman now" is how a woman described herself after returning to education in her thirties.

A report by Liz Cousins on education for women in Liverpool, funded by the Equal Opportunities Commission, is based on interviews with women who had recently returned to education after bringing up their families.

The book describes both the problems and the pleasures encountered by women when they decide, comparatively late in life, to take the plunge.

Useful address Priority
 c/o Educational Technology Centre
 Walton Lane
 Liverpool 4s

RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

Sweet Freedom is a book by Anna Coote and Beatrice Campbell sub-titled "the struggle for women's liberation". The authors go back to the origins of the movement and the successes achieved, as well as giving an interesting description of the strategies deployed by men to defend their privileges. Paperback edition from Picador.

Complesso di famiglia - "the family complex" is a novel by Sofia Scandurra, well known as a painter and film and theatre director. With a wealth of autobiographical references, this is the story of a woman who wants to be free and who tries to break down hidebound prejudice, conflict and taboo. It is more than a story of the generation gap: it describes the burgeoning of feminism. Published by Bompiani at L.8,000.

L'agricultrice by Anne-Marie Crolais leaves nothing to the imagination. The 30-year-old author is a farmer in Brittany, the chairman of the regional centre for young farmers in Western France. A unionist and a woman, she tells a straightforward story of her childhood and the decisions she made. Published by Ramsay at Fr.55.

Des femmes de nulle part - "women from nowhere". This brilliant political analysis of feminist movements, their history and their strategies has been reprinted. On sale at Fr.72.50 (postage included) from Editions Tierce 1, Rue des Fossés St Jacques, 75005 Paris.

Family Care of the Handicapped Elderly: Who Pays? A report by Muriel Nissen and Lucy Bonnerjea on behalf of the Policy Studies Institute. It looks at the effects on married couples of the responsibility of caring for an elderly handicapped relative. For many reasons, women are the first to suffer from the situation. It is a question not so much of money as physical and moral fatigue and may even disrupt the harmony of a couple's married life. Published by PSI, 1-2 Castle Lane, London SW1E 5DR, from which it may be obtained at the price of £3.75.

Vous avez vu le Pilote? C'est une Femme! The title translates as "Did you see the pilot? He's a woman!". This is a sparkingly funny account by Danielle Decure of her career from the moment she lifted her eyes up to the sky to see an aircraft. There were endless difficulties, from the day when she applied to an airline pilot training school and was told that only males were taken. Published by Robert Laffont in the collection of real-life histories, "Vécu", this book shows that a pilot's licence is not enough to win a place in the cockpit. Time after time, Danielle Decure had to prove herself, reassure and calm others and stand up for herself as none of her male colleagues ever had to do.

Tempo del Telefono - the age of the telephone - by Letizia Fabi de Laura is a comprehensive description of our day-to-day dealings with this odd instrument. The analysis is both detailed and far-reaching, covering the history of the telephone, technical developments, language oddities and its economic and social effects. Published by Bulzoni, 206 pages.

Non à la guerre, disent-elles by Odette Thibault is a sort of handbook for the perfect pacifist, the work of a woman who has never accepted that any war can be "won". A graduate in biology, she has a proper respect for life. She is logical and refutes every argument advanced to justify the unjustifiable. 228 pp. Chronique Sociale, 7 Rue du Plat, 69288 Lyons.

Directory of Women's Media - Index 1982. Compiled by the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press with the aim of promoting direct contact and exchange between all the thousands of vehicles of communication. It is hoped that, whatever the medium - publishing, writing, directing, producing, illustrating, publicizing - and whatever the form of imaginative work involved, this directory will contribute towards cross-fertilization. U.S.\$8.00. WIFP, 3306 Ross Place, N.W., Washington DC.

L'Orsaminore - Ursa Minor - is a quirky magazine of political and cultural thought, edited by seven women (seven for the stars in the constellation) who are not afraid of indulging in intellectual pursuits. Foreign politics, sex, the relations with science or the arts: everything is grist to their mill. The subscription is L.20,000. Write to Giuseppina Ciuffreda, Via Labicana 72, 00184 Rome.

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34, Phya Thai Road
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