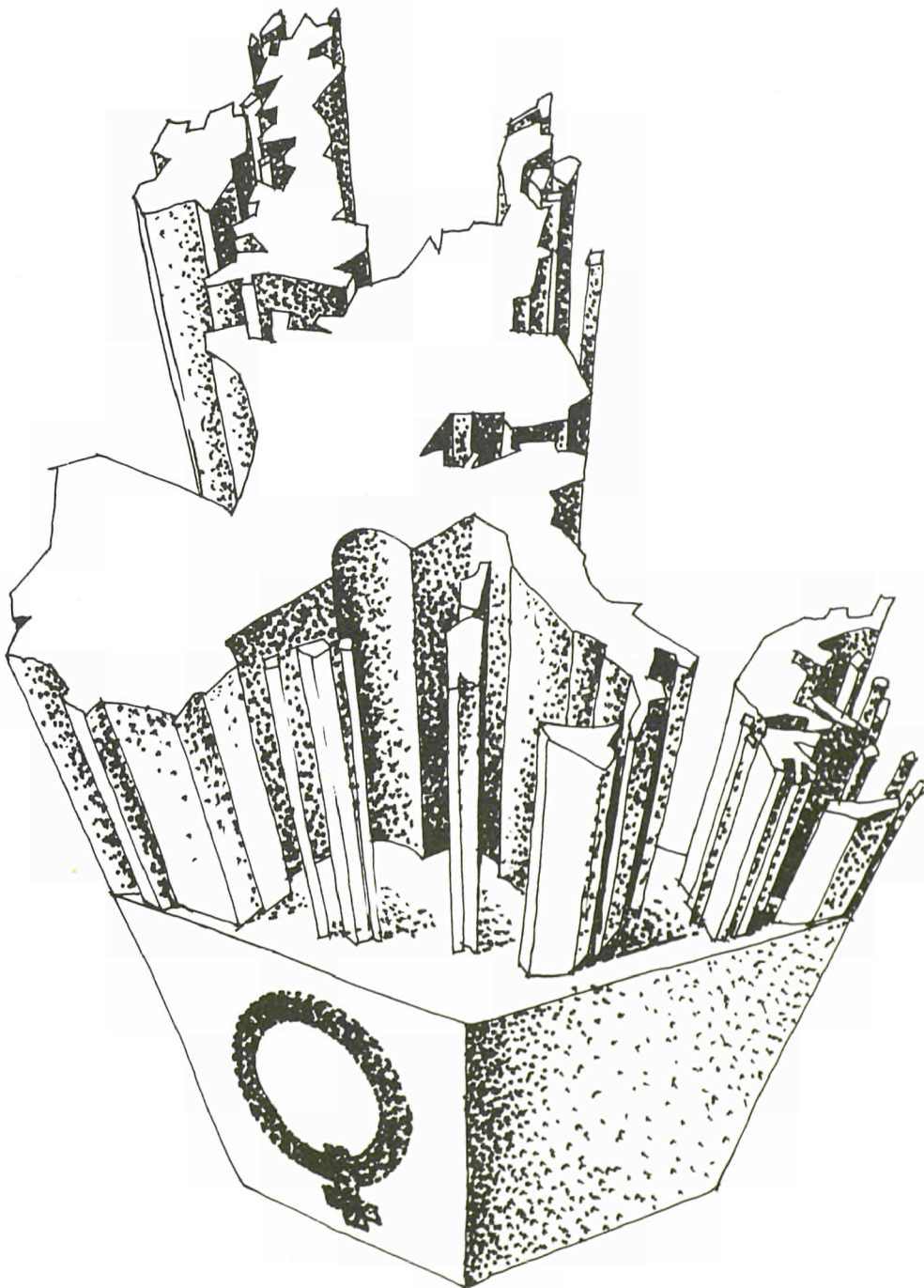


WOMEN OF EUROPE



N° 60 - 1989

JUNE/JULY



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Editorial work on this issue of Women of Europe was completed on 13 July 1989.

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Under the Spanish Presidency of the European Community, the *Instituto de la Mujer* (Women's Institute) and Commission of the European Communities held a seminar on Assessment of the Community's equal opportunities policy (keeping the prospects of 1992 in mind) at the end of April. This seminar, which was held in Toledo, was attended by more than 300 men and women. The conclusions adopted at the end of the seminar gave the Community good marks on the progress made in implementing the first two Action Programmes on Equal Treatment for Men and Women (1982-85 and 1986-90), which give priority to promoting a comprehensive female employment policy with special attention paid to underprivileged groups of women (the unemployed, immigrants, single mothers). However, a no less important goal was to agree on the goals of the third Action Programme, bearing in mind the new deal of the Single Market and the demographic and technological changes that it will spawn. The priorities agreed upon by the participants concern company creation, the sharing of family and work responsibilities, affirmative action, training and information. (Useful address: Equal Opportunities Unit, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1040 Brussels. Tel.: (+32 2) 235-5717).

AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR WOMEN: The 1988 annual activity report of the Joint Committee for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (COPEC) has come out to complete the report on the first year of implementation of the Positive Action Programme ("PAP 1988-1990") for the European Commission's female staff. The COPEC report lists the measures taken by the Commission's departments to achieve equal opportunity between men and women within the Community's institutions. Both documents assess the action taken and results achieved with regard to staff recruiting, career policies, training, information and awareness, and the legislation effective within the European Commission. Both reports conclude that 1988 was primarily a year of adaptation and preparation. This explains the modest gains made. However, it should allow real progress in 1989. (These reports may be obtained from Françoise Martinetto-Ghiani of the European Commission, 24 avenue de la Joyeuse-Entrée, 1040 Brussels.)

: EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY: The technical group designated by a :
: group of European women's organizations to set up a "European :
: Women's Lobby" completed its mission in June, after 6 months of :
: labour. Accordingly, a new women's lobby, created with the help :
: of the European Commission, will see the light of day in early :
: 1990. The lobby's aim is twofold, namely, to interest and :
: integrate women in European politics and to advance their :
: interests by means of steady dialogue with the European :
: Community's institutions. Just as a reminder, the seeds of this :
: initiative were sown by a resolution adopted by some 80 European :
: and national women's associations at a European colloquium held :
: in 1987 calling for a lobby open to all women's organizations to :
: exert pressure on the European institutions in order to ensure a :
: better defence and representation of women's interests. (For :
: more information while waiting for the final articles of :
: association to be adopted, contact the Women's Information :
: Service of the European Commission, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1040 :
: Brussels, Tel. (+32 2) 235-2860.)
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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

- * With the double date of the European parliamentary elections and the annual conference of the International Labour Office (both held in June) in mind, the EC's Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunities released two opinions on child care and night work this spring. In the first case, the Committee suggested that the European Commission require the Member States to set up a truly effective *childcare* system (both daycare facilities and financial aid) to boost equal opportunity with regard to employment. In the second one, it expressed the hope that a Code of Good Conduct for night work would be drafted by the ILO.

- * Under the Action Programme for equality between girls and boys in education that was adopted by the European Community in 1985 the European Commission has drafted a first report taking stock of the specific measures taken in this area by the Member States and the Community. The State measures are reviewed by State and by each area of intervention as defined by the Action Programme, i.e., raising awareness in education circles, academic and career choices, opening the school to the working world, equal access to training, teachers' training, co-ed curricula, the balanced division of teaching positions, etc. In addition, the report assesses the measures taken by the European Commission to support the Member States' efforts and to incorporate the principle of equal opportunity in the Community's education, training, and employment policies.

: WOMEN OF EUROPE PRIZE: Created in 1987 to honour a European :
: woman or group of women who have contributed to the construction :
: of Europe and placed under the aegis of the European Commission :
: and Parliament, the 1989 Women of Europe Prize will be awarded in :
: Paris to coincide with the 8-9 December European Council. To :
: this end, the press in each Member State is invited to submit its :
: nominees to its respective National Organising Committee in :
: September and October to allow the National Organising Committees :
: to select the twelve national winners. The European winner will :
: be selected in Brussels in early December. The national winners :
: in the last two years include the current Belgian Secretary of :
: State for Europe 1992 Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium, 1987) and the :
: founder of the medical section of Amnesty International, Inge :
: Genefke (Denmark, 1988). The President of the group "Women :
: against the Mafia", Maria Rombola, was last year's European :
: winner. (For more information, contact Béatrice van Schendel, :
: 190 rue Américaine, B-1050 Brussels.)

COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES: Calling on the European Community's determination to promote equal opportunity in the Community's judicial institutions, a group of MEPs, including Marietta Giannakou-Koustikou, put forward a declaration earlier this summer requesting that women judges be appointed to the "court of first instance" recently added to the Court of Justice of the European Communities. This appeal apparently went unheeded, for the Member States appointed on 17 July an all-male cast for the new court, which will open for business in September.

SOCIAL EUROPE 1992: There are considerable differences amongst the social security systems of the EC's Member States, according to a report by Eliane Vogel-Polsky (Sociology Institute of the Free University of Brussels) commissioned by Anne-Marie Lizin, Belgian Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for Europe 1992. This study shows, for one thing, that the difference between Belgium (the most advanced country) and the United Kingdom is "like that between night and day!" While presenting the possible scenarios for instituting Community social security legislation, ranging from binding legislation to simple recommendations, the author expresses her preference for ratification by the European Community of international conventions concerning social protection. (This report is available from the Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Europe 1992, 61 rue de la Régence, 1000 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 516-8448.)

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: The European Commission disbursed close to 1 million ECUs under its programme of aid for the creation of local employment initiatives by women between 1986 and 1988 to help launch businesses created by women. It should be stressed that half of this sum was allocated in 1988 alone, the first year in which the programme benefited from a special additional endowment of 400,000 ECUs/year. The trend in the number of projects subsidized each year - 4 in 1983, 9 in 1984, 12 in 1985, 36 in 1986, and 56 in 1987 - reflects the steady rise in the number of women who are taking the initiative.

JUDICIAL EUROPE: At their last Council, held at San Sébastian, Spain, at the end of April, the EC's Justice Ministers were forced to admit that the Member States were not yet ready to create a "Judicial Europe" allowing the institution of Community family court legislation, for example, concerning the protection of minors and the non-payment of alimony, although they did admit that current international conventions dealing with such problems are far from satisfactory. The idea put forward by the Belgian Justice Minister to create an ombudsman to deal with the problem of the kidnapping of children of divorced or separated parents was no more successfully greeted by his European counterparts.

WOMEN AND POVERTY: The October meeting of the European Centre of the International Women's Council (CECIF), which will be held on the island of Malta, will deal with the material, cultural and social aspects of female poverty. The participants in this meeting on "Poverty in Europe and the Feminisation of Poverty" will attempt to add to the conclusions of the Luxembourg seminar (held in April), where the forty-odd delegates of women's organisations attending insisted on the need for specific measures to help women, especially within the framework of the Commission's proposed Third Action Programme for the Socio-economic Integration of the Least Favoured Groups. The Centre also announces that its new officers were instated in April for a two-year term. They are Astrid Lulling (Luxembourg), President; and Marguerite Blanke (Belgium) and Nicole Béraud (France), Vice-Presidents. (All letters for CECIF should be addressed to Astrid Lulling, 28 Chemin Vert, L-3878 Schiffflange.)

INFORMATION:

- * Promoted by the European Commission and the Centre of Research on European Women (CREW), the European information network on women's training schemes, IRIS, has completed the first half of its first year of existence, as marked by the publication of the second issue of its quarterly *IRIS Information Bulletin*. The aim of the network, which was launched at the end of 1988, is to provide an information service on vocational training for women. (CREW, 38 rue Stévin, B-1040 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 230-5158.)
- * Getting information about specific and technical aspects of developing local employment initiatives (LEIs) in the Community's Member States is the goal of ELISE, the European information exchange network for everyone interested in encouraging employment in Europe. Created in 1984, ELISE has its own computerised documentation centre, carries out specialised studies, puts out publications, and publishes a monthly called ELISE News and a weekly on-line bulletin. (ELISE: 34 rue Breydel, B-1040 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 230-5234)
- * Thanks to INFO 92, a new computerised data bank developed by the European Commission, it is now possible to "know everything" - in French, English, German and Dutch - about the progress being made to complete the Single Market of 1992. The cost is 10 ECUs per hour. (EUROBASES: 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 235-0001)

NGO PRIZE: The "NGO 2001 Prize" to honour a person working for advancement and solidarity in a better world was conferred on a woman, Doctor Doung Guynh Hoa, of Vietnam, at the 15th General Assembly of European Development NGOs (Non-governmental Organisations) in April. The central theme of the assembly was woman's role in development. The NGOs' Liaison Committee with the European Community has also elected a woman, Anne-Marie Beulink, of the NGO NOVIB (NL), as its Chairperson for the next three years. (Address: 62 avenue de Cortenbergh, B-1040 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 736-4087)

PUBLICATION: The bulk of the second issue of the *Women of Europe Newsletter* (N° 2/89, May/June), the new publication of the European Commission's Women's Information Service (see issue No. 59 of *Women of Europe*), is devoted to the European seminar to assess Community equal opportunity policy that was held in Toledo. (Women's Information Service, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 235-2860)

E U R O P E A N E L E C T I O N S

In a Europe in which women outnumber men, a large number of women campaigned in the 18 June elections for seats in the European Parliament. This third round of elections by universal suffrage was marked by 1992. The MEPs elected for the next five years will contribute actively to the construction of the Single Market. They will give it some of its basic features.

While national concerns were still taken into account in the election campaigns, the platforms had clearly been broadened to encompass European goals. This is where women bring more and more weight to bear on the parties, even though the number of women candidates did not rise significantly. Indeed, few parties of whatever political leaning encouraged women to stand for office. Women nevertheless managed to get the votes of both sexes.

On the whole, the women candidates stood on concrete platforms with precise references, thereby serving as a link between "the politician's politics" and daily politics. Whether they committed themselves to "the European experience", with emphasis on a "quality Europe", or encouraged votes for a party rather than an individual, they never limited their campaigns to "women's issues" alone. As a rule, they chose the path of a Europe in which the social dimension is prominent but paralleled by an active, dynamic, industrially strong Europe "that's a nice place to live".

The 95 women elected to the new European Parliament (18.3% of the new legislature) will be exercising the increasingly important responsibilities shouldered by the European Parliament to prepare the Single Market. In this context, the position of women must be well defended so that they can draw maximum benefits from the dismantling of Europe's internal borders. The European Parliament will also help to add a European dimension to the demands and advancement of women alike.

Fausta Deshormes La Valle

The results of the latest European elections show a rise in the number of women elected to the European Parliament. They now make up 18.3% of the assembly, versus 16% in 1984. Women made great gains in Germany (up from 16 in 1984 to 25 in 1989). Spain, France and Portugal also increased their female representation, from 6 in 1986 to 9 in 1989; 16 in 1984 to 18 in 1989; and 2 in 1986 to 3 in 1989 versus 2 in 1986, respectively (Spain and Portugal joined the Community on 1 January 1986). It is the status quo in Belgium (4), Italy (8), and the Netherlands (7). In contrast, slight losses were suffered in Denmark (6 rather than 7 women MEPs), the United Kingdom (down 1 to 11), and Greece and Ireland (1 MEP each, down from 2). The exact number of Luxembourg's women MEPs will depend on the composition of the new government.

While the electoral systems in 11 of the 12 Member States are based on proportional representation, conditions vary widely from one country to the next. Thus, in Belgium a set number of seats is allotted to each of the three regions (Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels). In Denmark, the entire country votes as one district. In Germany, the proportionality applies either at the federal or state (Länder) level. In Greece, Spain, France, the Netherlands, and Portugal the votes are tallied for the country as a whole. In Ireland the system is quasi-proportional (system of one transferable vote): the territory is divided into four voting districts. In Italy the proportionality is determined for each of five voting districts. Luxembourg votes as a single bloc. In the UK, in contrast, the majority vote applies for each of the 88 English, 8 Scottish, and 4 Welsh voting districts, while Northern Ireland's three seats are allocated according to the rule of proportional representation.

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

MAY PLENARY SESSION:

The European Parliament had an especially busy agenda (some 100 reports and voting on more than 1,000 amendments) during its May plenary session, which was the last one before the June elections. Indeed, it had to take a stand on a large number of texts within a very short time span. Women of Europe has picked out the following highlights:

HEALTH AND RESEARCH:

- * The Parliament adopted a series of measures designed to strength AIDS control efforts (free distribution of syringes to drug addicts, information on using condoms, and the creation of a voluntary health record).
- * It failed to fall in with all of the points in German Socialist Schmid's report on genetic research. The issue raised a fairly heated debate, during which German Green Härlin stated that it was dangerous to believe that we could master the unmasterable.

ENVIRONMENT: A number of reports on environmental issues (protection of forests and waters, limiting the sound emissions of low-flying planes, the behaviour to adopt in case of a threat of radioactive contamination, etc.) were put forward. During one of these debates, the outgoing President, Lord Plumb, commended Vera Squarcialupi for her environmental commitment. Squarcialupi, an independent elected on the Italian Communist Party's list, has waged a constant battle during her two terms in office for public information and protection in the area of environmental affairs. Squarcialupi was not on the PCI's election lists in June.

KIDNAPPING: The report by French Socialist Marie-Claude Vayssade on the kidnapping of children was adopted unanimously by the Parliament's Legal Committee, chaired by Lady Elles. The text was adopted under Article 37 of the rules and thus will be ratified by the Parliament without a debate in full session. The report urges the Community to ratify and implement existing conventions without delay, to create Community legislation in this area as quickly as possible, and to conclude bilateral treaties with non-EC countries, with the inclusion in all such treaties of clauses providing for bodies with arbitration powers. The president of the collective *Mères d'Alger*, Annie Sugier, thanked the Parliament for its action in this area.

PRISON CONDITIONS: The Parliament adopted the resolution by Christine Crawley (British Socialist) aimed at improving conditions of detention for women and children. Nevertheless, it clearly remains in favour of having the Member States work out measures to replace prison sentences. To ease the return of female inmates to the outside world, the Parliament asks that they be given training and suggests that the European Commission allocate sums for this through the European Social Fund. Speaking on behalf of the Commission, EC Commissioner MacMillan stated his belief that this report primarily concerned the Member States.

PUBLICATIONS: The European Parliament has just published a document on the impact of the European Parliament on Community policy that includes a chapter on the Parliament's efforts to help women.

Useful address (for the entire section): European Parliament, *Centre Européen du Kirchberg*, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY...
FACTS, INSTITUTIONS, LAWS
AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES

B E L G I U M

40 YEARS OF UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE: For decades, the term "universal suffrage" meant "men only". The laws of 1920 and 1921 allowed women to be elected to Parliament but restricted their right to vote to local elections. Women had to wait until 26 June 1949 to be recognised as citizens in their own right and participate for the first time in general elections. The *Conseil National des Femmes Belges* contributed greatly to this victory. To celebrate it, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Ferdinand Nothomb, received on 5 June representatives of the CNFB, *Nationale Vrouwenraad* and *Nationale Frauenrat des Deutschsprachigen* (its Flemish and German-speaking counterparts). Miet Smet, Secretary of State for Social Emancipation,

seized this opportunity to call attention to the small number of women in the country's political institutions. There are only 33 women in Parliament (8% of the MPs for the two houses), 20 women mayors (4% of the total), and no woman minister (only four Secretaries of State or Junior Ministers). (CNFB, rue de la Prévoyance 60, 1000 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 514-4949)

SOLIDARITY: The Jewish lay community centre, *Centre Communautaire laïc juif*, held a two-day colloquium in Brussels at the end of May called "Give Peace a Chance: Women Speak Out", at which some fifty Palestinian and Israeli women had a chance to meet and exchange their points of view. The Israeli delegation consisted of women politicians, peace movement activists, lawyers, and doctors. Palestinian women were represented by women university students and graduates from the Occupied Territories. Two Arab Israeli women also attended. (Useful address: *Centre communautaire laïc juif*, rue de l'Hôtel des Monnaies, 1060 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 537-8216 and 537-4744.)

LABOUR COMMISSION: The Ministry of Employment and Labour's Labour Commission has produced five Opinions over the past few months. (As a reminder, this body consists of representatives of the trade unions, management and the civil service. It produces opinions aimed at gradually narrowing the gap of inequality between men and women.)

- * One of these Opinions concerns equal treatment for self-employed men and women (Opinion N° 50, 16 January 1989). In line with European Directive 86/613, the Labour Commission calls for including helping spouses in the social security system. At first, benefits could be limited to disability. Still referring to this same Directive, the Labour Commission urges the institution of maternal protection for self-employed women and helping spouses. This would consist of a statutory "rest period" of 28 consecutive days to be taken between 15 days before the due date and 30 days postpartum, coupled with a fixed benefit of 40,000 Belgian francs.
- * With regard to child care (Opinion N° 52, 3 April 1989), the Labour Commission notes the lack of facilities, of which there are not enough to meet the rise in demand that is expected to follow the new tax law making the costs of child-minding tax deductible. The Opinion also stresses the need for flexible, sporadic, or part-time child-minding services. To correct the situation, it proposes a series of concrete measures, e.g., the creation of a central clearing house on child-minding possibilities; the revision of existing standards for the care of children under three, including the adoption of a solution half-way between "crèches" or nurseries and kindergarten; and requiring schools to provide daycare services before and after classes. The Commission also suggests that the government, which employs close to 800,000 people, set the example.
- * Support for affirmative action (Opinion N° 51, 16 January 1989): Following through on a request from the Ministry of Employment and Labour, the Commission gives some practical suggestions on ways to advance female employment. The 1989-90 "interprofessional agreement" includes a chapter recommending that affirmative action (equal opportunity plans) for women be encouraged. This document provides for the creation of a support cell within the Ministry of Employment and Labour's Collective Labour Relations Division. The Labour Commission suggests that this "Equal Opportunity Unit" develop, for one thing, its efforts to advance equal opportunity through information; help the joint committees with drafting affirmative action clauses; suggest training schemes, etc.

- * The question of sexual harassment in the workplace (Opinion N° 49, 16 January 1989) led to some dissension. The labour unions want protection against such abuses to be mentioned in legislation as a labour condition like all other equal opportunity clauses. According to their arguments, unemployment regulations should not penalise a person who refuses or quits a job because of such dubious practices. The employers feel that this phenomenon is related to individual behaviour and does not have to be covered by a broad regulation.
- * Finally, in an Opinion on the gender of names of professions and functions (Opinion N° 48, 18 November 1988), the Commission recommends that the civil service set the example by changing the terminology used in defining its grades.

EMPLOYMENT: Young people are the major victims of unemployment in Belgium, especially young women, who make up 62% of the registered unemployed under 25 years of age. At first glance, the economy's shift toward the service sector would seem to open up more jobs for women. However, far too often women remain stuck in a small number of limited branches of activity. Moreover, the wide gap between the jobs offered and qualifications of jobseekers persists. The campaigns launched over the past few years by Miet Smet (Secretary of State for Social Emancipation) to boost training for girls have definitely paid off, but an additional effort must be made by labour and industry. The creation of an "Affirmative Action Support Unit" within the Ministry of Employment and Trade's Collective Labour Relations Division should help achieve this goal in the various trade sectors. With regard to industrial training, the Women's Labour Committee has asked the competent authorities to urge labour and management to provide all interested women with training that could lead to a job. To avoid the concentration of women in two areas of self-employment and small business, namely, beauty care and retailing, the Labour Commission suggests that the three regional executive governments urge employers to accept female apprentices in traditionally male sectors.

ALIMONY: Many separated or divorced women in Belgium cannot count on the regular payment of the sums that are their due (18% of the total in Belgium, 24% in Wallonia). The situation is particularly difficult for women with children. Bills put forward over the past 15 years calling for the settlement and recovery of such debts by a National Office appended to the Family Allowances Administration have met with no success. The latest such law - submitted on 12 April in the Senate - would change the law of 8 July 1976 governing the country's welfare offices, known as CPASs (*Centres publiques d'aide sociale*), so as to give them the task of settling and collecting outstanding alimony. The CNFB (see above) opposes this idea, which would tend to equate separated, abandoned and divorced women with welfare recipients. The CNFB calls on the Parliament to turn its attention to the bills drafted by Huberte Hanquet (CNFB President) and Roger Lallemand providing for the creation of a national collection office as mentioned above.

EMANCIPATION: Miet Smet, Secretary of State for Social Emancipation, presented her programme for the political emancipation of the commune, which she said was "the political body closest to the citizen", to the 500 women attending the Special Assembly of Women Local Officials of Belgium, held on 22 April. Her ten-point programme is explained in a brochure and video presentation. The first three objectives concern the representation of women in advisory bodies at all levels of local administration and the police force. The fourth one concerns the fight against the physical and sexual violence inflicted on women and children (to be carried out within the framework of a national campaign). The remaining points concern

preventive health care, the situation of elderly women, helping to demarginalise underprivileged women, and childcare. The results of the "working together, winning/earning together" (a play on words in French) competition for school children, which consisted of putting together a newspaper on equal opportunity in careers, were announced. The competition was sponsored by the Social Emancipation Minister's office (*Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Emancipation sociale*, Cité administrative de l'Etat, Quartier Esplanade, 4e étage, 1010 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 210-4531, 210-4518, 210-4517, 210-4492).

POVERTY:

- * The European Network of Women (ENOW) held a day on poverty and women on 6 June, during which the topics touched upon were the feminisation of poverty, the situation of women welfare recipients, the economic consequences of marriage and divorce, and the means of fighting the status quo. Miet Smet used this occasion to review the broad lines of the policy that she intends to conduct in this area. A publication on women and poverty, *Femmes et Pauvreté/Vrouwen en Armoede*, is available from the Women's Liaison Committee for 400 Belgian francs (*Comité de Liaison des Femmes*, Place Quetelet 1a, 1030 Brussels).
- * The office of the Secretary of State for Europe 1992 (Anne-Marie Lizin) has set up a "Committee of the Excluded" composed of French-speaking and Flemish representatives of such movements as ATD Quart Monde, *La Ligue des Familles*, *Kind en Gezin*, *le Comité des Marolles*, etc. (social service organisations, neighbourhood self-help groups, etc.). With the Secretary of State's support, the Committee has written an appeal to the Belgian Government and European institutions urging them to act so as to prevent the exclusion of groups in future. (*Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Europe 1992*, rue de la Règence 61, 100 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 516-8448)

ABORTION:

- * The general discussion of the Lallemand-Michielsen bill in the Senate's Justice and Health Committees was formally ended on 12 April. The article-by-article vote by the two committees, sitting together, began on 26 April. While the first article (prison for any person performing an abortion on a woman against her will) raised no ethical problems, the discussions on the remaining articles came up against the problem of the notion of "distress". Nevertheless, despite strong opposition (mainly from the Catholic and Liberal Senators), the proposal to legalise abortions, under certain conditions, was adopted on 20 June by 26 for, 15 against, and 2 abstaining. The text allows termination of pregnancy within 12 weeks of conception if continuing the pregnancy would cause serious, lasting harm to the woman's health or if the foetus has a serious, incurable disease. The bill is now scheduled to be debated by the full Senate this autumn, after which it will have to be passed by the Chamber of Deputies.
- * The French-speaking Belgian National Women's Council (CNFB) wishes to give its opinion on the thorny question of legalising abortion as the subject is being discussed in Parliament. The CNFB feels that it is important that abortion laws require abortions to be performed in multidisciplinary medical centres, so that women receive an appropriate welcome, information, and support. The decision to abort must be made freely by the woman, preferably with her partner. The CNFB proposes a one-week waiting period to give the woman time to think. Moreover, it feels that a "state of distress" is the sole justification for such an operation.

HEALTH:

- * As a result of decisions made by the Social Affairs Minister, Philippe Busquin (see Women of Europe N° 59), a 25% reimbursement of the cost of the pill goes into effect on 1 August 1989.
- * The family planning team at Saint Peter's Hospital, in Brussels, has long been struggling with the language barrier in dealing with its patients of foreign origin (Moroccans, Turks, etc.). How does one explain contraceptive methods to such women? After a first unproductive attempt (a brochure in French), the hospital turned to audiovisual technology. Six five-minute films, each one on a specific means of contraception (the pill, coil, implants, etc.), have been made by CLAF (*Conférence laïque de l'audiovisuel*). To make them accessible to everyone, they are available in Dutch, Turkish, and Arabic versions, and the actors are of varied ethnic origin to make it easier for the viewers to identify with them.
- * The Women's Liaison Committee (*Comité de Liaison des Femmes*, Place Quetelet 1a, 1030 Brussels) has just published the results of the colloquium on women and health that it held last year. The book contains the texts of talks on various aspects of teenage health, the "ages" in a woman's life, women as the nucleus of the health care system, etc. It is available for BF400 from the Liaison Committee.

RAPE:

- * On 22 June the Senate adopted a bill on rape that had already been passed in the lower house. This text, which thus becomes law, finally gives legal definitions for sexual crimes, whether the victim is male or female. This point was the subject of numerous discussions in both houses. The final wording is "any act of sexual penetration, of whatever nature and by whatever means, committed on an unconsenting person". The legislation makes a point of safeguarding the victim's anonymity. A number of aggravating circumstances (victims under 14, threatening the victim with a weapon, etc.) are envisaged. However, contrary to what had been proposed, violence between spouses is not recognised.

TAXATION: The homemakers' association *Association des Femmes au Foyer* has taken its case to the Council of State in order to have an *arrêté royal* (royal order) concerning taxes ruled null and void. The association claims that the *arrêté* sets the prepayment of income levied on one-income families at a prohibitively high rate and seems to have been adopted by the government in order to counteract the effects of the recent tax reform. Under this measure, one-income families are at a disadvantage compared with couples who are taxed separately. (AFF, Avenue Georges Henri 509, 1200 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 734 28 41)

EDUCATION: The General Directorate for School Curricula of the National Education Ministry, working with the education and training association *Groupe d'Education et de Formation à l'Autonomie* (GEFA), will be holding a colloquium in October on ways to get students of both sexes to choose careers with a future. In announcing this event, Yvan Ylieff, Minister of Education and Scientific Research of the French-speaking Community, underscored the need to create an information network on studies and employment possibilities and to promote equal opportunity between boys and girls. 7,000 questionnaires have been sent out to representatives of all trades and professions to grasp the current situation, after which a brochure presenting a series of people willing to provide students with information about the realities of their jobs will be distributed in the schools. (Useful address: GEFA, rue de Chambéry 16, 1040 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 647-6296)

APPOINTMENT: Rêjane Gyssens is the first woman to be given the rank of officer by the Maritime Transport Administration (*Régie des Transports Maritimes*). She is second mate on the Prins Albert, a ferry that plies the Ostende-Dover route.

EUROPE 1992: At the instigation of the Secretary of State for Europe 1992, Anne-Marie Lizin, the Government has published a series of brochures called "Europe in your Pocket" (*L'Europe en poche*) to inform the public of tomorrow's Europe. One of the brochures, *1992: quelles perspectives pour les femmes?*, considers the impact of 1992 on women. (*Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Europe 1992*, rue de la Règence 61, 100 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 516-8448)

TRAINING:

* Focus is a non-profit association designed to meet the needs of working women of all nationalities. It can provide women wishing to upgrade their skills with information on the training programmes and services offered by organisations in Greater Brussels. It also organises seminars. (Focus Career Services, The Metairie, 19 Kattenberg, 1170 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 672-3408).

* *Connaissance et Vie d'aujourd'hui* is a non-denominational, apolitical women's association for continuing education. It holds courses for women of all ages and backgrounds. Its aims are to help women to become part of the community and facilitate their participation in and understanding of the problems raised by children's new knowledge. The courses are given by university professors of various philosophical tendencies. The association also organises language classes, excursions, etc. (Antoinette De Vos, Rue Tumelaire 69, 6000 Charleroi, Tel.: (071) 31 08 58)

DEMONSTRATION: On 14 October the widows' association *Fraternité des Veuves* is organising a national day to highlight the problems specific to young widows. The meeting will take place at Saint Joseph's Institute, rue Félix Hap 14, 1040 Brussels. (Useful address: *Fraternité des Veuves*, Agnès Goossens-Dufranès, rue de la Prévoyance 58, 1000 Brussels, Tel.: (02) 513-2067.)

D E N M A R K

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: 170 candidates campaigned for election to the European Parliament on 15 June. Despite the large number of women (58 or 52%) candidates, only 6 (instead of 7 in 1984) of the 16 Danes who will be sent to Strasbourg are women.

DIVORCE: The new law adopted by Parliament allows divorce to be pronounced after six months' separation if both spouses agree, instead of the previous wait of 1 year. If there is disagreement between the two parties, one of them may sue for divorce after 1 year's separation. Under the old law, alimony could be paid to the beneficiary (male or female) indefinitely. The new law sets a maximum of 10 years, although in unusual cases this period may be extended by a court decision, for, while the majority of Danish women work outside the home (and have the documents to prove it), such allowances may be deemed necessary for a longer period of time. This is the case, for example, if there was a tacit agreement between the spouses under which the woman gave up her job upon marrying to devote herself to her household, children, and her husband's career.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL: The Equal Opportunity Council recently published its report for 1988 (*Ligestillingsradets årsberetning 1988*) containing, among other things, statistics on the situation of women on the employment market, within their families, in decision-making, etc. (*Ligestillingsradet*, Frederiksgade 19-21, 1 1265 København)

FESTIVAL: Close to 15,000 people attended the women's festival, "Forum Festival", held in Fælledparken, Copenhagen, on 10-11 June. Thirteen tents, 35 stands and an open-air theatre were set up for the occasion and a variety of women's organisations and equal rights associations were represented. The subjects tackled during the debates were many and varied: immigrants and refugees children, equal pay, violence against women, typically female diseases, women and the European Community, etc. The Forum was conceived as a local extension of the Nordic Women's Conference (Nordisk Forum) held in Oslo last summer. The Danish National Women's Council (DKN) coordinated the event with the help of a 30-woman planning group. The festival received major funding from the trade unions and the support of the Ministry for Culture, the city of Copenhagen, and various savings banks (Bixuben and SDS).

PUBLICATION: "The Future Belongs to Women" - the Nordisk Forum's slogan - has been taken over as the title of a publication about the forum compiled by the DKN. This document gives the impressions of 40 Danish participants and sheds new light on Danish women's specific contributions to women's emancipation. (*Kvinder skal eje morgendagen - en mosaik om Nordisk Forum*, Grethe-Birgitte Jackobsen, *Danske Kvinders Nationalråd*, Niels Hemmingsonsgade 10, 1153 København)

F R A N C E

POLITICS: What are the aspirations of elected women Socialists and the barriers that they encounter in their climb up the political ladder? Answering these questions is the first goal of a poll of 1,611 elected women Socialists conducted under the supervision of Règine Saint-Crip, "elected women" national delegate of the National Federation of Elected Socialists and Republicans (*Fédération Nationale des Elus Socialistes et Républicains*, 12 rue Maiesherbes, 75009 Paris, Tel. (1) 46 26 50 50). Its second task was to try to find ways to remove the obstacles to the participation of women in politics so that they would be on an equal footing with men and have such solutions implemented. Règine Saint-Crip concludes that only then will it be possible to go on to the next stages, in which women can assert themselves politically, when they no longer need international conventions or special reports to exist.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND EXECUTIVES: A first in the history of female entrepreneurship: the *Guarantee Fund* for women entrepreneurs set up at the instigation of Michèle André, Secretary of State (Junior Minister) for Women's Rights, opened for business on 25 March. The association INITIELLES (17 rue des Arts, 31000 Toulouse, Tel. 62 23 66 82) is in charge of informing and helping women entrepreneurs to put together their financial folders and applications for aid from the fund.

NIGHT WORK: Night work for women, which has been at the core of many disputes in companies and management diktats recently, is, more than ever, a subject of interest for the French Workers' Labour Confederation (*CFDT*). The ban on night work in industry (whereas it is allowed in tourism, the health services and trade) instituted in France on the basis of the International Labour Organisation's "Convention 89" will be reviewed and corrected at the ILO's forthcoming annual conference to adapt it to the current economic context. However, the *CFDT* is not in favour of a pure and simple reversal of the ban on night work, which is currently accompanied by sectoral exemptions. The labour union simply tolerates night work, with the proviso that women must be able to make such a choice voluntarily and be assured of guarantees.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: The aim of the international colloquium on sexual harassment - "Violence, sexual harassment and abuses of power" - held in Paris on 18-19 March by the AVFFT (Association against violence committed against women at work) was to compare legislation and union and women's associations' efforts in different countries to combat the phenomenon of sexual harassment. The some 200 participants included MEPs Yvette Feuillet and Maria-Lisa Cinciari Rodano, while a representative of the European Commission outlined the Community's legislation and action programmes in the area of equal opportunity and treatment. At the end of the colloquium the AVFFT unveiled a "European Charter" calling on the European Community to adopt *legislation against sexual harassment in the workplace*. (Association contre les violences faites aux femmes au travail, 71 rue Saint-Jacques, 75005 Paris, Tel.: 43 29 86 52)

HOSPITAL WORKING CONDITIONS: While in agreement that the working conditions of hospital staff - especially female staff - are difficult, Michèle André, Secretary of State for Women's Rights, and Sylvaine Courcelle, Chairwoman of the National Nurses' Committee, nonetheless take opposite views concerning staffing ratios. In a report commissioned by Prime Minister Michel Rocard following the nurses' strikes last autumn and released in May, André states that the number of nurses is "sufficient overall, even excessive", whereas Sylvaine Courcelle contends that the lack of staff is prompting the use of unqualified personnel, to the patient's detriment.

CAREERS:

- * The profession of notary public is opening up to women, albeit by just a crack. According to the latest statistics, there are only 300 women amongst the 7,300 notary publics counted in France.
- * More women are also going into journalism, whether for the press or broadcasting, according to the testimony of various "mediawomen" in the bulletin Femmes Informations. (Issue N° 50 of this bulletin is devoted exclusively to the place of women in the Mediterranean regional press.) The special section shows that the percentage of women journalists has doubled in 20 years (from 14% in 1960 to 29% in 1982) and currently stands at 32% (1988). While women predominate (56%) in the periodicals branch, given the boom in women's magazines (and children's or "how-to" magazines), they are about neck and neck with men in the national and Parisian press. The regional press remains the last bastion of male journalists (85%). Other sexual divides persist when one looks at qualifications (there are few women editors-in-chief and editorial room directors) and pay.

WOMEN WRITERS: The women journalists' association Association des femmes journalistes devotes the second issue of its magazine, edited by Florence Montreynaud, to women's books, presenting a selection of novels, essays, biographies and factual accounts by or about women that are published in France and abroad. (AFJ, 12 rue Elzévir, 75003 Paris, Tel.: 42 78 07 65. An issue costs FF60 and a year's subscription (4 issues) FF200.)

WOMEN AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION: This was the title of one of the symposia held to mark the bicentennial of the French Revolution (1789). More than 400 participants (both men and women) discussed the political, social and other roles played by women during the Revolution. The symposium was held at the University of Toulouse (Le Mirail).

SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT: Following in the footsteps of their American and German elders, the Gray Panthers and the Graven Panther, French grandmothers have just founded their own association, the Panthères grises (3 rue Georges-Citerne, 75015 Paris, Tel.: 45 75 08 60). However, the French association's goals are less ambitious than those of the first group, which is a highly-organized lobby that the US Congress much reckon with, and the second group, which is represented in the Bundestag. According to its President, Rénate Gossard, the association intends primarily to help women to keep in shape and encourage the development of networks of solidarity for the elderly.

G E R M A N Y

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: German women can take pride in the results of June's European elections, for they are among the best represented women in the European Parliament. Twenty-four of Germany's 81 MEPs are women: 12 of the 31 MEPs elected on the SPD list; 5 of the 25 CDU MEPs, 4 of the 5 Green MEPs, and 1 each of the 7 CSU MEPs, 4 Liberal MEPs, and 6 Republican MEPs. They now account for 33.7% of the German delegation, a considerable improvement over the score of 18.5% in 1984. Moreover, according to voting analyses, women were much more conscientious about voting than men.

WOMEN IN HIGH PLACES:

- * The new federal government sworn in on 21 April includes three women ministers. They are Dorothee Wilms, Minister for Inter-German Relations; Ursula Lehr, Minister for Youth, the Family, Women's Status and Health; and Gerda Hasselfeldt, Minister of Town Planning and Building.
- * Adrienne Göhler is the first woman to be elected president of a German university, in this case the *Hochschule für bildende Künste* (University of the Arts) of Hamburg.

WOMEN AND POLITICS: Speaking at a recent press conference, Gisela Böhrk, Schleswig-Holstein's Minister for Women's Status, expressed regret that the federal government's policy continues to handicap women, despite the efforts of her colleague in the federal government, Ursula Lehr. Indeed, the latter has no power to exercise a true right of veto on bills or initiatives likely to have an effect on women.

WOMEN'S STATUS AND ENVIRONMENT: The German housewives' federation *Deutscher Hausfrauenbund* (Adenauerallee 193, D-5300 Bonn 1) intends to develop women's awareness of environmental issues by means of a pilot project that is also aimed at training women environmental advisers and helping women who interrupted their careers to raise a family to return to work. Such is the rundown of the project's aims that has been given by Siglinde Porsch, the federation's president. The advisers' training will consist of seminars and correspondence courses covering various aspects of the environment (waste treatment, water saving, air pollution, etc.)

WORK FOR YOUNG WOMEN: The state government of Schleswig-Holstein is going to work for the advancement of the employment of young women, according to a recent announcement by Eva Rümke and Gisela Böhrk, Minister of Vocational Training of the provincial government of Kiel and State Minister for Women's Status, respectively. To overcome the handicap borne by young women, work will focus on supporting projects to further equal opportunity in the working world and providing protection and aid for the victims of sexual abuse.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: The Socialist Group in Rhineland-Palatinate's State Parliament has just submitted a bill that would introduce the notion of "positive discrimination" in favour of women in the civil service. The bill states that such a policy will remain in effect until a balance between the number of men and women civil servants is achieved.

G R E E C E

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: A wave of disappointment swept through the ranks of the Greek Feminist Movements' Coordinating Committee on the eve of the 18 June elections. Despite the Committee's efforts to push for a minimum female quota of 35% on the tickets and the political parties' promises, the results, on the whole, fell far short of the mark. Thus, the two main parties, PASOK (Panhellenic Social Movement) and NEA Demokratia (ND), put up 24 and 21 women candidates, respectively, or 7% of the total. In comparison, women made up 50% of the candidates on the Leftist Coalition's ticket. The very new environmentalist party (no seats in the last elections) also came through with a good female showing (7 out of 24). Disappointed by these results, the Committee shifted gears and campaigned under the slogan "Vote for all the women standing for election". That was uphill work, for most of the major parties put their women candidates low down on the list. Only *Nea Demokratia* deliberately gave a woman - Marietta Giannakou Koutsikou - second place on a ticket. As it turns out, she will be the sole Greek representative of her sex in the European Parliament.

TRADE UNIONS: The civil court has appointed the six members of the administrative board of the Greek Women's Union (EGE - *Enosi Gynaikon Elladas*), with Konstantina Gianopoulou elected chairwoman. The Board will be in place for a very short term (4 months), as a special congress will be convened shortly to elect the new board members. (*Enossi Gynaikon Elladas*, Aenianos 8, 10679 Athens).

ENVIRONMENT: Convinced of women's impact on society (child-rearing, budget management, influence on changes in mentalities and attitudes, etc.), the Greek YWCA has set up a small travelling exhibition on "Consumption, recycling and the environment". The caravan, which includes numerous educational panels and materials, audiovisual shows, etc., is travelling across the country to try to raise the entire population's awareness of such issues. A local community workers training programme is also provided to train people to watch over the implementation of the recommended measures once the mobile unit has left.

MUSIC: The Greek Music Circle held a series of six concerts in Parnassus Hall in May that gave a prominent place to the works of Greek composers. Four of these concerts featured pieces written for the piano by Eleanora Mavrommati, Alexandra Sakkali, Maria Kalogridou, Rika Deligiannaki, Lena Platonos and Kalliopi Tsoupaki (the youngest, 26 years old).

DANCE: The dance section of the Greek Women's Lyceum Club gave an exhibition of Macedonian dances at the Third International Folk Dance Festival in Palma de Mayorca, in which 56 companies from 30 countries participated. The Lyceum Club won the first prize of 3,000 dollars. This sum will be given to research.

I R E L A N D

NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: The record turnout (approximately 75%) for the general elections for the Irish Parliament (the Dáil) and European elections, due to the fact that the two elections were held concurrently, on 15 June, failed to give women a boost. Women did very poorly, whether at the national or European level. The percentage of women elected fell, especially in the European election.

* National elections: Only 13 of the 46 women (including 10 on the Fianna Fáil ticket and 5 on the Green Party's ticket) standing for seats in the Dáil were elected. This was one less than in the 1987 general elections. One of the happy congresswomen-elect is Nuala Fennell, former Minister for Women's Status. However, the major surprise was the election of one of the Green Party's candidates, to whom goes the double honour of being the first Green Party representative in the Dáil and a woman. This was poor consolation for Women's Political Association president Frances Garner, who attributed the small number of women candidates (the same as in 1987) to the parties' selection process.

* European elections: Mary Banotti, member of Fine Gael, is the only woman amongst the 15 Irish representatives in the European Parliament. Thus, Irishwomen lost a seat in the European Parliament, too (that of Eileen Lemass of the governing Fianna Fáil Party). Put another way, women now make up only 6.6% of the Irish MEPs, down from 13.3% in 1987. (For more information about these elections, consult the "European Elections" heading.)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS: The main goals of the 10-point Bill of Women's Rights proposed by the Council for the Status of Women during the campaign for the national legislature are the creation of a second Commission on Women's Status; giving priority to the rights of women and children in family law; legal protection for part-time workers; and an efficacious plan for checking compliance with childcare service regulations. According to Council Chairwoman Frances Fitzgerald, the Bill urges the Government to step up its action in the main areas affecting women's lives so as to achieve positive results. (Council for the Status of Women, 64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, Tel. (01) 61 52 68)

RELIGION: The Church of Ireland General Synod is greatly in favour of ordaining women priests, according to the latest figures (78% of the clergy and 87% of the lay members voted "aye"). However, the Synod will not give its official go-ahead until next year or 1991. The issue was raised at the 198 Synod, at which time the lay members were for but the clergy against ordaining women.

CHILD CARE: led the list of priorities voiced by a dozen organizations, including the Council for the Status of Women, Employment Equality Agency, CHERISH (an association of single parents), the Women's Political Association, and the Irish Students' Union during the campaign for the Dáil. The movement's main objective was to see the 1988 Childcare Bill (amending a 1908 law) passed at the start of the new Dáil's first session. A similar attempt to update the now 100-year-old law failed in 1985, when the Government fell. The EEA is also working for regulation of daycare services, an increase in existing daycare facilities and funding, the creation of a special tax to help the most underprivileged workers, and the adoption of Community legislation on parental or family leave (EEA, 36 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2, Tel. (01) 60 59 66).

HEALTH: Women in the House (12 Springfield Road, Templeogue, Dublin 6 W, Tel. 90 67 78) is in open conflict with the Irish Dental Association. The latter refuses to apply the system of extending the reimbursement of dental care to the wives of workers not covered by social security. This system was instituted by Social Security Minister Michael Wood. Women in the House, which has been fighting for seven years to eliminate the discrimination against housewives contained in the Social Security Code, has applauded the Minister's initiative.

WOMEN'S STUDIES: The National Institute of Higher Education (Plessey Technological Park, Limerick, Tel. (061) 333 644) of Limerick now offers (starting in September 1989) the first accredited higher-education degree in Women's Studies in England. The two-year, part-time degree programme is open to secondary-school graduates. According to a survey of the Institute's male and female students, the motivations of potential applicants are to resume study after a break for family reasons and to obtain additional training or a higher degree before embarking on a career. The curriculum includes courses on education, the family, the history of feminist movements, sex-based discrimination, the place of women in the workforce, and technological and social change.

PUBLICATIONS:

- * Just off the press, Irish Employment Equality Law, by barrister Deirdre Curtin, reviews Irish equal employment legislation, backed up by a number of court cases concerning discrimination on the basis of sex. It may be obtained from the publisher, The Round Hall Press (Unit 13, Kill Lane, Blackrock, Dublin, Tel.: (01) 89 29 22) for 47.50 Irish pounds.
- * "You Can Do It - A life and work skills book for the woman" is the title of the latest Employment Equality Agency study aimed at helping Irish women choose and advance in their careers based on their skills and abilities. The study may be obtained from the BEA (36 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2) for 4.99 Irish pounds.

I T A L Y

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: The National Committee for Male/Female Equality's calls to vote for women in the June European elections appear to have gone unheeded, judging by the women candidates' scores. Yet, according to the *Consulta Femminile Regionale del Piemonte* (Palazzo Lascari, 15 via Alfieri, 10121 Torino, Tel. (011) 57571), the elections were an opportunity to accomplish an "act of real democracy". The Regional Women's Advisory Council added that sending a large number of women to the European Parliament would have sped the achievement of equal opportunity for men and women. Finally, according to the National Committee for Equality, "without women, Europe is working at 50% capacity". (*Commissione nazionale per la Parità fra uomo e donna, Presidenza del Consiglio dei ministri, Palazzo Chigi, Roma*)

SEXUAL VIOLENCE: The Senate (Senato) and Chamber of Deputies (Camera) do not see eye to eye on the reform of the law against sexual violence. As things now stand, the Senate has adopted the Christian-Democrat's amendment annulling the principle of sexual freedom between minors and reinstating the "double system" (automatic initiation of judicial proceedings coupled by the requirement that one of the parties involved lodge a complaint) in cases of sexual violence between spouses. Many left-wing political

activists, as well as Socialist Senator Elena Marinucci (Under Secretary of State for Health), have denounced the Senate's "bigoted, reactionary attacks on the law", which, they say, are "the most serious incident in the last ten year's of legislative history".

ABORTION: "We want to choose!" is the slogan adopted by the approximately 100,000 women and women activists of lay parties from all over Italy who marched through the streets of Rome for close to three hours to demonstrate against the danger of back-street abortions and defend the abortion law (law 194, that authorises medical acts and their reimbursement).

TRADE UNIONS: Women have just made a historic breakthrough in the metallurgy industry's trade unionism with the election of Laura Spezia (Communist, 37 years old) as head of the Mirafiori alliance, which is affiliated with the FIOM. This is the first time that a high-level position has been given to a woman within the metallurgists' union. However, there is no question of Laura Spezia's resting on her laurels. "Macho culture," she says, "is still strong and prevents mentalities changing. Consequently, we still have a long way to go."

WOMEN AND PROFESSIONS:

- * Thirty-six-year-old Paola Cerruti from the Piedmont has become the *first woman commercial airline pilot* in Italy. Her employer is Alinord. This is an exceptional rise in the world of civil aviation and crowns the efforts of a woman who chose her flight pattern when she was twelve.
- * Another just as notable event is the appointment of a prima donna at the head of a theatre. She is the already famous opera singer Angela Spocci, who returns to the stage as one of the directors of the Regio di Parma.

HOUSEWIVES:

- * The housewives of Abruzzi have won an important victory. They have wrangled from the Regional Council - despite Communist and Socialist opposition - the same legal status as women who work outside their homes. The law grants housework legal and social recognition and sets aside 200 million lire (for 1989) to provide wages (971 lire a month - a mere pittance) for the some 200,000 women concerned and promote health education courses. Despite its modest scale, this initiative can nevertheless be applauded as the first one of its type in this field. The next priority of housewives' associations is statutory coverage for domestic accidents.
- * The 600 participants in the 7th Annual General Assembly of the Italian housewives' movement, MOICA (3 via de Cesarini, 00186 Roma), were assured by the Vice-President of the Senatorial Committee of Inquiry into Industrial Accidents that government reparations for *domestic accidents* are one of the priorities of the Christian-Democratic Senators' social reforms. National MOICA President Tina Leonzi (who is also a member of the European Housewives' Federation) used this opportunity to introduce the magazine Futura Donna, published by MOICA. Its aims are to achieve legal recognition for 10 million Italian housewives and promote their cultural and spiritual development.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

- * The vocational training, research and documentation centre Donnalavorodonna (12 via Bagutta, 20121 Milano, Tel.: 706988) has just unveiled a computerised data bank on vocational training for women that was seven years in the making. This project is intended in particular for women active in the fields of women's employment and equal opportunity, but students, researchers and other women interested in women's undertakings, the environment, new technology, crafts, and computer training will also find it helpful. In addition, a consultation, information and document search service to help women use this source of information was launched in May. It is available to all interested parties.
- * CFPOP, a vocational training and basic training centre, has announced that the proceedings of the last symposium that it organised (in February 1988) on "orientation, work and equal opportunity" has just been published. (CFPOP, c/o *Centro Azione Milano Donne*, 41 viale Tibaldi, 20136 Milano, Tel.: (02) 832-3775).

EDUCATION: Raising the awareness of teachers and educators, women's movements, and institutional and political decision-makers to the problem of girls' schooling is the goal of CISEM, Centre for Innovation and Experimentation in Education. This centre will be holding a symposium on "Women and School" in Milan on 21-23 September. (CISEM, 7 Corso Concordia, 20129 Milano, Tel.: (02) 7740-2946)

COLLOQUIA/SEMINARS:

- * "Equal opportunity for men and women in the world of labour: Directives for ACLI" is the theme chosen by the centre EnAlP for its seminar attended recently in Rome by some forty participants. (*Associazioni Cristiane Lavoratori Italiani*, 18-20 via G. Marcora, 00153 Roma, Tel.: 58401)
- * From Bari to Trieste, with a stopover in Assisi, the second half of the year was rich in activities for the professional women's association FIDAPA (*Federazione Italiana Donne Arti Professioni Affari*, 66 Corso Moncalieri, 10133 Torino), which sponsored three seminars on the following topics:
 - "women advisers", during which the participants were given a chance to discuss the roles and politics of women consultants for local government in institutions and politics;
 - "1992: Europe without internal borders or poisons", where the aim was deciding how to combine a European Union and environmental protection; and
 - "International musical meeting for peace and friendship amongst peoples" which gave Italian and foreign (Russian, German, English, Albanian, American and Japanese) women musicians a chance to meet each other.

L U X E M B O U R G

RIGHT TO VOTE: On 9 May the Chamber of Deputies celebrated the 70th anniversary of women's right to vote and run for office, which had been granted despite the Liberals' (i.e., Conservatives') strong opposition to the bill (11 abstentions versus 39 Socialist and Right-wing "ayes"). While the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg pioneered in establishing equal political rights for men and women in Europe, the first steps were timid. Four women ran for seats in the legislature on 26 October 1919 and only one was elected. (Useful address: Chamber of Deputies, rue du Marché-aux-Herbes 19, 1728 Luxembourg)

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: The June elections left the distribution of seats among the country's traditional parties unchanged (Social Christian Party, 3; Socialist Party, 2; and Democratic Party, 1). Two of the 28 women running for election, Colette Flesch (Democratic Party) and Mady Delvaux-Stehres (Socialist Party), will, in theory, join their four male compatriots in the European Parliament. However, given that elections for the national legislature were held on the same day and holding both offices is impossible, changes can be expected.

RETURNING TO WORK: The vocational training centre CFPC (*Centre de Formation professionnelle continue*) started offering courses a few months ago designed to ease the return to work for women who stopped working to raise their families. To help its students adapt to new technology, the centre is equipped with sophisticated computer and word-processing equipment. The courses (4 hours a day) run an average of 3 months and include two weeks' practical training. At the same time, the women are taught job-hunting skills. The results of this training are conclusive: 70% of the participants find work quickly. (Useful address: CFPC, route de Diekirch, 7220 Walferdange)

TRAINING: Luxembourg's Government has just put an end to the inequities in admissions criteria for teacher's training created by a 1983 law setting up different classifications for girls and boys applying to the *Institut supérieur d'Etudes et de Recherches pédagogiques* (ISERP) in order to guarantee a mixed teaching staff in the schools. However, female applicants tend to have higher grades (up to 10% higher) than their male rivals. The new legislation puts an end to this situation and creates a single list. The feminisation of teaching, due, it is claimed, by the low wages, was pointed out as an object of concern during the debate on this issue. (Useful address: ISERP, route de Diekirch, 7220 Walferdange, Tel.: 33 14 14)

CHILD CARE: The lack of daycare facilities for the children of working parents is of concern to various political organizations and social interest groups. Thus, the daycare centres and child-minding services in Luxembourg city itself can take a total of 1,280 children, of which 450 in company daycare facilities and only 270 in government-subsidised establishments. The city itself has facilities for 165 children. Thirty-five percent of Luxembourg's female population work and 6,000 children attend primary school. Consequently, 200-child waiting lists and prenatal registration are par for the course. To correct this situation, the association *Action Familiale et Populaire* (AFP) has tried to work out alternative solutions. The Socialist Party has also just handed a report on child-minding facilities to the city's mayor. (Useful address: AFP, 3 rue du Curé, 1368 Luxembourg)

HUMAN RIGHTS: Social Christian women are worried about the death sentence "handed down" to Hebe de Bonafini, president of the group Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, by the organisation *Commandement Héros de la Tablada*. As a result, they have sent a vehement letter to the President of Argentina begging him to protect this woman, who is working for a society without violence, steeped in peace and social justice. (Useful address: *Femmes chrétiennes-sociales*, 38 rue du Curé, 1368 Luxembourg)

ANNIVERSARY: The association of Liberal (Conservative) women recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Its aims were and remain the analysis of political and social problems, the organisation of cultural events, the conduct of social-assistance-related activities, and the spread of the party's ideas amongst women. (Useful address: *Femmes libérales*, 46 Grand' Rue, 1660 Luxembourg)

ARMED FORCES: The Minister of the Police and Armed Forces has sworn in the Luxembourg army's first woman officer, Josephine Conrad.

MEN: The association of Socialist women held an exhibition called "*L'homme dans tous ses états*" ("the many faces of Adam") with the aim of showing man in daily life, especially in the areas where he is "king", rather than a few famous male figures. The public was treated to a humorous depiction of man in all lines of duty, e.g., captain, policeman or parish priest, athlete and flirt. Various themes were also tackled, e.g., the father, adventurer, colonialist, railway worker, soldier and miner. Finally, visitors were urged to participate in a contest to name the most handsome Socialist candidate. The results of the contest have not yet been released. (Useful address: *Femmes socialistes*, 1 bd de la Foire, 1528 Luxembourg)

T H E N E T H E R L A N D S

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE: "*Een slimme meid is op haar toekomst voorbereid*" (a smart girl builds her future) is the slogan of a campaign orchestrated jointly by the Ministries of Social Affairs and Employment, Education and Scientific Research, and Welfare, Public Health and Culture and aimed at girls between the ages of 14 and 17. This group will be the first one to feel the effects of the so-called "1990 measure", i.e., Article 3 of the Allowances Law, which stipulates that from 1990 on, each person reaching the age of 18 must be able to provide for him- or herself, preferably through paid employment. To this end, young people will be encouraged to choose training in areas that offer employment. The new law, which goes into effect on 1 January 1990, will change the situations of households (married and unmarried couples alike) greatly. Thus, if one member of a couple becomes unemployed, he or she will be eligible for financial assistance. However, if both members are unemployed, the second one will no longer receive unemployment benefits, the aim being to prod the people involved to find work. There is one exception to this rule: the benefits will not be cut off for families with children under 12.

The campaign is being waged via all forms of mass media. There are three different televised public service announcements, free brochures, posters, and a short film. A manual has also been prepared for bodies and institutions that intend to help young women build their futures. Finally, the city of The Hague showed public service announcements in 18 of the city's cinemas for one month. (Useful address: *Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, afdeling voorlichting, Zeestraat 73, 23188 AA Den Haag, Tel.: (070) 71 58 12*)

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:

- * The University of Amsterdam has set up an affirmative action unit (Tel.: (020) 525-2028, ask for Barbara van Balen) to support the action taken by the various faculties as part of the university's emancipation policy. This unit will also help women with the ins and outs of looking for skilled jobs.
- * The book *Naar en vrouwvriendelijker personeelsbeleid - bouwstenen voor een beter beleid* (For more woman-friendly personnel management - building blocks for a better policy) by H. van Emmerick & J. Verleisdonk (Kluwer, Deventer, ISBN 9026713681) examines four practical models of affirmative action plans instituted by some large companies in the Netherlands (IBM, AMRO, post and telegraph company, and Albert Heijn). The authors describe how a "woman-friendly" working environment can be created by industrial and staff pressure. Worker's committees, unions, and management can play decisive roles in such a process.

EQUAL TREATMENT: As a result of the new law on equal treatment, an Equal Treatment Committee was set up on 1 July (Postbus 30125, 2500 GC Den Haag, Tel.: (070) 624611) under the chairmanship of Carien Evenhuis. This new body replaces two previous committees in the interest of increased efficiency.

MEN'S JOBS: As part of its "woman sought for a man's job" programme, the Social Affairs and Employment Ministry sent out a questionnaire on hiring practices and outlooks to some 23,000 companies. The questionnaire revolved around two main questions, namely, "How do employers react to the idea of hiring of women with technical skills?" and "Is there room for women on the employment market?" 5,437 (22.5%) of the companies responded. 82% of the respondents reacted favourably to the idea of hiring women. The bulk of the employers who had already hired female staff responded favourably (74%), 3% were neutral, and 25% opposed. The reactions of employers without this experience were 42% for, 12% neutral, and 46% against. According to this survey, there are many job opportunities for qualified women, for 61% of the responding companies have problems filling vacant positions. This is particularly true in the areas of electrotechnical engineering, metallurgy and metal processing, and graphics. (Useful address: *Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, Centrale Directie Voorlichting, Bibliotheek en Documentatie, Zeestraat 73, 2510 AA Den Haag*)

PREGNANCY AND POSTNATAL LEAVES: The outgoing Minister and the Secretary of State for Social Affairs and Employment have put forward a bill to extend pregnancy and postnatal leaves and, above all, make them more flexible. Under this bill, women would be allowed to stop working up to 6 weeks before the due date and apply the days that they didn't take to their postnatal leaves, which will be extended from 6 to 8 weeks. Gynaecologists and midwives' organisations have warned, however, that making pregnancy leaves too flexible could present dangers for the mother and child.

PARENTAL LEAVE: Since 1 July 1989 civil servants may apply for up to six months' paid parental leave, paid at the rate of 75% of their salaries. A prospective recipient must meet several conditions: the children involved must be 4 or under; the worker must work at least 16 hours a week; and, finally, the leave cannot exceed half of the person's normally scheduled work week.

DAYCARE: The Government has decided to earmark 130 million guilders in 1990 and the following years for the building of daycare facilities. The sum will allow the creation of facilities for 60,000 additional children and generate 6,000 jobs.

SELF-DEFENCE: The first training cycle for self-defence instructors has ended at the Kenau Foundation (Overtoom 270, 1054 JB Amsterdam, Tel.: (020) 162913). The programme combines learning and teaching martial arts and adopting psychological defences, for a stinging remark, backed up by a clear determination to resist, can have as much effect as a blow. (It has been shown that most assaults and rape attempts include an approach phase during which the attacker tries to evaluate his potential victim's reactions.) The new instructors are certified to give courses in community centres and schools. The Foundation is also examining the possibility of organising self-defence classes for school children.

WOMEN'S STUDIES: The *Europees Netwerk voor Vrouwenstudies* (European Network for Women's Studies) was created on 7 June. It will be coordinated by the Dutch Ministry of Education and Scientific Research for the first four years. The network's many tasks will include organising working groups and conferences at which representatives of universities and labour will be able to exchange opinions and make suggestions to improve the situations of women in post-1992 Europe. (Useful address: *Ministerie van Onderwijs en Wetenschappen*, Europaweg 4, Postbus 25000, 2700 LZ Zoetermeer, Attn: Ms. H.F.G. Lemaire or Ms. W.S. van Hoeve)

HISTORY: The women's history centre *Kontaktadres Landelijk Overleg Vrouwengeschiedenis* (KLOV) has collected a large amount of documentation on women's roles in history since ancient times. The centre also provides researchers and doctoral students with information on studies offered in this area. (KLOV, Keizersgracht 10, 1015 CN Amsterdam, Tel.: (020) 244268, Mondays only, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

EXCHANGES: Women's Exchange Programme International (WEP International) would like to improve the currently poor circulation of information amongst women's groups and associations the world over. Its goals are to organise cultural exchange programmes in order to allow everyone to share in a wide variety of experiences and, at longer range, to change the political powers' perceptions of women's demands. (Useful address: WEP International, P.O. Box 25096, 3001 Rotterdam)

DEMONSTRATIONS: Based on the proposals of various European organisations, Immigration Issues intends to sponsor a European congress on refugees at Woodbrookers Convention Centre, Bentveld (near Schiphol), on 6-12 December. The main themes will be employment and training opportunities, health care, etc. (Useful address: Immigration Issues, Postbus 227, 2000 AE Haarlem)

PUBLICATIONS:

- * In his doctoral thesis Vooruitgang in de positie van de meewerkende vrouw in het midden- en kleinbedrijf? (A change in the situation of working women in SMEs?), M.H. Snellen-Krebbbers examines the legal aspects of SMEs (company creation, tax obligations, etc.) and their impact on women. The thesis contains a chapter on the European Community's efforts to improve women's status. (M.H. Snellen-Krebbbers, Groen van Prinstererlaan 27, 3818 JN Amersfoort)

- * As part of its efforts to achieve equal representation for women in politics, the association *Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vrouwenbelangen* has published a brochure with the mathematical title M/V 50/50. The brochure gives all available statistics on women in political office in the Netherlands and a forecast of their situation in the year 2000. (NVV, Noordeinde 2a, 2311 CD Leiden, Tel. (071) 12 06 03)

- * In response to a flood of requests from interested companies and institutions, the Handen Thuis Foundation has published a brochure called Een gewenste aanpak (the right attitude) describing various aspects of an effective policy to fight *sexual harassment* and such a strategy's reason for being. As the situation varies from one sector to another, four versions of the booklet are planned (one for the private sector, a second for local government, a third for civil service, and a fourth for the health care/social work sector). (*Stichting Handen Thuis*, Postbus 2122, 3500 GC Utrecht, Tel.: (030) 32 27 34)

- * An NOS working group has just published a handbook containing the names and addresses of more than 1,100 women (scientists, experts, etc.) to give the media new references and sources of information.

- * The Dutch Women's Council, *Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad*, has just published a brochure on affirmative action for women. The articles home in on various aspects of the issue, e.g., government policy, advantages for employers, the need for special measures for Moroccan and Turkish women, etc. (NVR, Laan van Meerdervoort 30, 2517 AL Den Haag, Tel.: (070) 46 93 04)

P O R T U G A L

MATERNITY: Based on a proposal by a group of Christian-Democratic MPs, the Parliament has taken a stand in favour of an amendment to the national constitution recognising the pregnant woman's right to "special protection...for an appropriate period".

SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE: The participants in a recent seminar on sexual harassment in the workplace held in Lisbon by 17 feminist NGOs that are members of the Executive Council of the Committee on Women's Status have called for a reform of the Penal Code to include the crime of sexual harassment in the workplace and effective legal sanctions. Some participants testified that lodging a complaint currently "gets you nowhere". With regard to Community action, the women urged the European Community to adopt a *directive on sexual harassment* requiring the Member States to take legislative action. The last, shorter-term suggestion adopted at the seminar was to organise an information campaign to prevent this social phenomenon. (*Comissão da Condição Feminina*, 32 avenida da República, 1093 Lisboa Cedex)

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND EXECUTIVES: The Ferreira company, already famous for its port wine, is adding another string to its bow in announcing the creation of the Maria-Adelaide Ferreira Prize to be conferred on a Portuguese woman who distinguishes herself in running or managing a private company. This prize, which will be awarded annually, was created in memory of the entrepreneurial spirit and managerial talent of the company's former directress. (A.A. Ferreira S.A., 19/105 rue Carval hosa, 4400 Vila Nova de Gaia, Tel.: (02) 30 08 66)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MEN AND WOMEN:

- * The newly-appointed members of the Commission for Equality at Work and in Employment (*Comissão para a Igualdade no Trabalho e no Emprego - CITE*) have already started working with the Government, Commission on Women's Status, and unions and management associations to eliminate sex-based discrimination in hiring practices and working conditions. (CITE, 62 avenida da República, 8° Esq, 1000 Lisboa, Tel.: (02) 77 89 63)
- * Although they make up more than 50% of the working population, the women of Algarve Province are the first to lose their jobs, the last to benefit from vocational training opportunities, and without representatives to defend their rights in the relevant decision-making bodies. Having reached these conclusions at the Third Meeting of the Women's Associations of Algarve (*Encontro Unitário de Mulheres do Algarve*), the participants expressed their dissatisfaction with their socio-economic situation and called on the Government to take measures in order to improve their living conditions.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

- * Vocational training programmes are going to be made available to the rural women of the town of Castelo Branco under the European Community's Anti-Poverty Action Programme. This announcement was made by programme coordinator Staneley Kennedy at the end of a transnational seminar called "Integrated Rural Action: Present and Future".
- * Encouraged by the positive experiences of France and Belgium in the area of vocational training for immigrant women, the *Instituto de Apoio à Emigração e Comunidades Portuguesas* has decided to implement a similar social advancement programme in Portugal. The project, which is being cofinanced by the European Commission and European Social Fund (ESF), is for some 250 women between the ages of 18 and 50 with primary or secondary school educations. The training courses will focus on various handiwork in the areas of sewing, cooking, and traditional Portuguese crafts. The aim is to enable various categories of women (unemployed, young school drop-outs, working women hoping to improve their situation) to work or reintegrate the workforce by giving them the means to work on their own or set up small businesses. (*Comissão da Condição Feminina*, 32 avenida da República, 1093 Lisboa Cedex)

WOMEN'S ROLE IN SOCIETY: The assertion and transmission of the Portuguese cultural identity by women was at the heart of the seminar called "Women, cultural identity, and national defence" held under the auspices of the Commission on Women's Status and Portugal's National Defence Institute in Lisbon in April. The speakers covered the various roles played by women in civilian society and culture and their participation in global conflicts, civic service, military service and national defence, literature, and economic development. An additional aim of the seminar was to promote studies on women.

S P A I N

PENAL CODE REFORM: At the end of April, after months of work, the Senate finally finished its bill to reform the Penal Code. This bill makes an undeniable contribution to updating the country's Penal Code, especially with regard to such notions as rape and sexual assault, stiffening sentences for rape, acts of violence against a spouse or children, and the non-payment of alimony in the event of separation or divorce. With regard to rape, the senators introduced the notions of crimes against "sexual freedom" and crimes of "sexual desire", in the place of the former "injury of a person's honour" or "indecent assault". The terms of imprisonment and fines rise sharply in the event of the aggravating circumstances that may attend cases of rape or sexual assault and based on the seriousness of the violence, humiliation or harassment inflicted on the victim. The Senate's amendments have been favourably received by various women's groups.

ABORTION: The *Audiencia de Barcelona* has sentenced an 82-year-old doctor to 50 months in prison and the payment of a 350,000-peseta fine for an abortion performed in 1973. The doctor was acquitted for a similar act performed around the same time on the grounds that the woman's life was in danger. If the defendant benefits from the granted pardons granted for the period covering 1975 through 1977, the prison sentence will not go into effect. The fine, however, must still be paid.

APPOINTMENTS: Begoña San José and Carmen Saez Buenaventura are, respectively, Director of the Employment and Cooperation Departments and Director of the Planning and Assessment Offices of the Directorate-General for Women of the Madrid Regional Government since April 1989.

CERVANTES PRIZE: The writer, philosopher and poetess María Zambrano, 84, received from King Juan Carlos the Cervantes prize for literature that was awarded to her in November by a jury that included the Culture Minister Jorge Semprún and Carlos Fuentes. The awarding of the *Premio Cervantes 1988* to Zambrano caused quite a stir, as it was the first time in history that the prize went to a woman. The King saluted the "essentially feminine writing" of María Zambrano as making a fundamental contribution of "richness and wisdom" to Spanish literature and philosophy.

WOMEN'S STATUS: The situation of women in Africa, women and the history of independent West Africa, women's movements in Latin America, women in Central America (in Nicaragua and Guatemala), and women and Islam are the major topics concerning the place and political and socio-economic roles of women the world over that were covered by a cycle of conferences held in Madrid from April through June under the auspices of the Madrid-based Cooperation and International Studies Association (*Asociación de Cooperación y Estudios Internacionales* (ACEI), Alenza n° 1, 28003 Madrid).

PUBLICATIONS: Of note amongst the latest publications in the Studies series (*Estudios*) of the Women's Institute (*Instituto de la Mujer*, 36 Almagro, 28010 Madrid, Tel. 410-5112), which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Affairs:

**Las mujeres españolas y la política* (Spanish Women and Politics) examines the noticeable changes in women's place in society (as the image of "housekeeper and mother" has been changed by the new image of working women) as well as the implications of the increased burden on women who work and look after their families. The study cites the desire to be

useful as the main motivation for getting involved in politics. It is followed by ideological conviction, personal fulfillment, and career ambitions.

- * La discriminación salarial de la mujer española studies the factors involved in the wage differences between men and women based on a survey of working women. The main cause of discrimination turns out to be level of schooling, which depends on the family's situation, and work experience, with all the implications of interruptions due to maternity leaves and child care. The study ends with a review of working conditions, the structure of female employment (percentages of female employees in each sector), and statistics on mean wage levels for men and women in each type of job.
- * Situación y casos mortales de mujeres maltratadas en nuestro país (the situation and mortality of mistreated women in Spain) calls for an urgent social change with regard to violence inflicted on women, given the eloquent statistics, despite a slight drop in the total number of cases of mistreatment since 1985 (15,308 in 1985 versus 15,209 in 1987). While the number of cases of physical violence appears to be rising (3,156 in 1985 versus 3,667 in 1987), the number of cases of psychological violence has dropped (5,911 in 1985 versus 3,642 in 1987). The number of cases combining the two types of violence appears to have risen (4,638 in 1985 versus 5,887 in 1987).

T H E U N I T E D K I N G D O M

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION: Maggie Monteith was rewarded in April, after four years of hard work, by the official launching (in the House of Commons) of the Women's Legal Defence Fund (WLDF), of which she has been made president. This new association will aim to give women legal aid in dealing with sexual discrimination and harassment. More than 200 legal consultants and practitioners will provide information and counsel free of charge for the victims of such practices, as well as their services in preparing for legal action. Moral support will also be provided. The Fund has a national office in London and regional offices in a dozen major cities in the country. (WLDF, 29 Great James Street, 3rd Floor, London WC1N 3ES, Tel.: (01) 832-6890)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: According to a report by the Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland (Chamber of Commerce House, 22 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 2BA) called Gender and Careers Education, vocational training instructors will have to work harder to combat the ever-present stereotypes of male and female employment in order to help young people choose their careers more freely. The Commission also called on all teachers to work for such change.

WOMEN AND PROFESSIONS:

- * The lack of qualifications may be overcome in part by job sharing, a practice that is gaining popularity amongst employers, especially as a way to help women to resume working after maternity leaves. This is the contention of two new documents, Job Sharing and Companies and Job Sharing in the Health Service, published by the organisation New Ways To Work (309 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 2YT. Cost: 2 pounds each.) The documents also focus on the National Health Service's guidelines for physicians and midwives.

* For many women, running a home and working continue to be conflicting roles and a dual load, according to a survey of Finchley women carried out in 1986 and 1987 by Patricia Shipley and Maria Coats of the Stress Research & Control Centre of Birkbeck College, University of London. Most of the respondents - especially single mothers and those managing on low incomes - continue to bear the major burden of combining household duties and work outside the home, sometimes to the limits of what is tolerable. The investigators nevertheless express the hope that the completion of the Single Market in 1992 and the EC's Social Action Programme will lead to the institution of statutory leaves for either parent and more formal childcare provisions in order to lighten the load on working women.

WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS: The National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO), a new offshoot of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations/Women's Organisations Interest Group (NCVO/WOIG), has finally been created without the Government's help and placed under the presidency of Jane Grant, ex-coordinator of NCVO/WOIG. NAWO's main goals are to put women's issues on the agendas of political debates, liaise, lobby, and raise funds. (NAWO, 122 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7PT, Tel.: (01) 247-7052)

TRADE UNIONS:

* Women activists are gaining ground in GMB, the country's second largest trade union. Women, who currently make up 300,000 of the total 880,000 membership, may overtake men in the next six years. The union intends to prepare for this change as of today by emphasising its efforts with regard to maternity leaves, career plans, child care and flexible schedules.

* A similar tendency can be seen in the Trades Union Congress (TUC), which plans to double the number of seats set aside for women on its General Council. According to the TUC's forecasts, women will constitute more than 50% of the workforce in the United Kingdom in 10 years or so.

HOUSEWIVES: Recently created by Frances Savin, Women at Home (3 Wakelin Chase, Ingatestone, Essex, CM4 9HH - Tel. (0277) 353977) is a new association open to all women who spend most of their time in the home. Affiliated with the European Federation of Housewives, FEFAF, its goal is to work for a recognised status for homemakers and self-fulfilment of homemakers in their activities.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: The Home Office report urges stronger law enforcement, more effective civil remedies, and improved intervention of other agencies to protect women from *violence at home*. The report, Domestic Violence: An Overview of the Literature (available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office for 7.20 pounds) suggests that half a million women annually in England and Wales may suffer violence at home. The majority of the victims are subjected to two attacks a week, escalating in severity and frequency over time.

HEALTH: Government plans to reorganise the National Health Service would mean that many women patients would no longer have access to a woman general practitioner, says the British Medical Association. The new rules proposed by the Government for GPs to work at least 20 hours a week in the surgery would mean that many women doctors who work part time would be unable to continue working. Women GPs often carry the burden of care for women patients in practices.

WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE: The Centre for Research on Women (CROW) has announced a research programme to examine training for women, the barriers to equal opportunity for women in an environment where religious discrimination makes more headlines than sex discrimination, and the diversity of women's lives in Northern Ireland. Celia Davies, Professor of Women's Opportunities at the University of Ulster and CROW Director, wants to see the Centre develop into a forum for debate as well as a source of information on women and work. (CROW, University of Ulster at Coleraine, Cromore Road, Co. Londonderry BT52 1SA, Tel.: (0265) 44141)

DAYCARE FOR CHILDREN AND THE HANDICAPPED: The Scottish women's Convention (SWC) recently organised a conference called "Day Care Provision: From Cradle to Grave", as a "call to action to the many paid and voluntary carers who provide a daily service for society's young and old", i.e., children and adult and teenage disabled and the handicapped. The speakers reviewed for their audience of about 100 the results of comparative studies on childcare services conducted in nurseries, daycare centres, and elementary schools in the United Kingdom and Europe. They also stressed the need to set up a regional action programme in Scotland that meets parents' expectations. (SWC, c/o Lesley Sutherland, 5A Crown Circus, Glasgow 412 9HB, Scotland)

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: What prompts women to set up their own businesses? Two recent studies - Female Entrepreneurs by Sarah Carter (of the Scottish Enterprise Foundation of the University of Stirling) and Edinburgh Entrepreneuses by Elke Heiss (Department of Business Organisation, Heriot-Watt University) - give some interesting answers to this question. Close to 25% of self-employed workers are women running their own companies. Of the 100 undertakings listed in the Edinburgh study, 27 are in the garment business, 20 in decorative arts, 13 are management consultancies, 11 restaurants or travel agencies, and 9 in knitted goods. Who are these women of London, Glasgow, and Nottingham? "Young achievers" who want to express themselves fully, "go-getters" who want to fuel their motivations and ambitions, "great creators" crowning their already successful careers, women who are returning to work after raising their children, and "traditionalists" who follow the family's course, according to the first survey.

UNPAID WORK BY WOMEN: Labour MP Mildred Gordon has drawn the House of Commons' attention to women's unpaid contributions to the economy by presenting a 10-minute rule bill calling on the UK Government to include figures on women's unremunerated contribution to society in its official statistics. In putting forward the bill (which has almost no chance of being passed, but is a parliamentary device to allow a member to draw attention to an issue and alert the public to a need for change), Ms Gordon pointed out that women do two-thirds of the world's work but get only 5% of its income and own only 1% of its assets. What is more, the "Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000" adopted at the 1985 Nairobi Conference includes a commitment to quantify women's unremunerated work and include it in the GNP.

NEWS FROM
EUROPE AND THE WORLD

ABORTION: The Supreme Court of the United States handed down a historic ruling in July that will have serious consequences for American women. Without challenging the principle of the right to abortion, which was recognised in its 1973 ruling, the Supreme Court nevertheless undermined its effects by allowing each State to set the legal conditions for carrying out abortions on its own territory. This freedom of action may prove particularly detrimental to low-income women if the Federal Government decides to stop contributing funds to hospitals to finance abortions.

MALE/FEMALE EQUALITY: Elected Secretary-General of the Council of Europe in May, former French Secretary of State for European Affairs Catherine Lalumière opened the second European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Men and Women in Vienna on 4 July. Other speakers at the two-day conference included Johanna Dohnall, Secretary of State for Equality Matters at the Austrian Chancellery, and Vasso Papandreou, European Commissioner responsible for employment and social affairs. The reports presented by national delegations concerned the integration of equality issues in government policies; the implementation of national and international regulations; and reconciling the duties of one's work, personal life, and parenting.

FEMINIST MOVEMENTS IN TURKEY:

- * Whether liberal or fundamentalist, more and more popular demonstrations are cropping up in Turkey, and increasing numbers of women are taking part. Thus, there are close to forty women's associations in Turkey, ranging from dyed-in-the-wool feminists to diehard fundamentalists clamouring for the right to wear the chador. Between these two extremes, the Serma Ozal Foundation (named after the wife of the current Prime Minister), is walking the path of conciliation and moderation. The foundation's main objectives are to inform women of their rights, organise mobile hospital units, and fight against illegitimate marriages, marriages between close relatives, and polygamy.
- * Without leading a specific women's movement, Imren Aykut is nevertheless a famous figure in Turkey, and for good reason. She is the only woman minister in the Turkish Government. Moreover, she faces the difficult task of conducting wage negotiations with the trade unions.
- * The first National Convention of Working Women, which was sponsored recently by the country's leading labour union, *Türk-İs*, and the Asian-American Free Labor Institute, ended by adopting an action programme to improve working conditions for women. The proposals contained in this plan include increased maternity benefits, a five-day work week, and the freedom of association for civil servants. The debates, which were attended by some 300 union representatives, revealed that 78% of Turkey's working women were in agriculture (women account for 35% of the country's total workforce) and that these women are not unionised and do not meet the criteria making them eligible for social security.

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT: Women are left out, right from the cradle, despite the fact that they play a decisive role in Third World development. Such is the major conclusion of the 1989 Annual Report of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), in which the global infant mortality statistics underscore the gap between boys and girls. The case on the Indian subcontinent is particularly scandalous - the infant mortality rate for males is half that of females! Consequently, the UNFPA has designated the '90s the decade of women, during which priority will be given to promoting education. (State of the Global Population 1989 can be obtained from the UNFPA, 42nd Street, New York, NY, 10017, USA)

EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITY: Positive Action for Women in Western Europe is the title of the latest European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) study. ETUI was asked by ETUC's (European Trade Union Confederation) Women's Committee to assess the implementation of the programme to achieve equal rights and opportunity for women that was adopted by ETUC in December 1985. Based on a questionnaire sent out to ETUC's member organisations, the report analyses the current position of women in the working world and presents a series of concrete measures taken by international bodies (International Labour Organisation, Council of Europe, European Communities, and ETUC). It also gives a country-by-country breakdown of *affirmative action* taken under the ETUC programme. The conclusion is that the struggle must continue, for the major problem remains that of changing mentalities. (ISE/ETUI, 66 Boulevard de l'Impératrice, Bte 4, 1000 Brussels, Tel.: (02) (512-3070)

WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS: What place do teachers' unions set aside for women's issues? A large place, in theory, but no place, in practice. Such is the contradiction shown up by the Women's Committee of the International Professional Secretariat for Education (SPIE), based on a survey of SPIE's affiliates worldwide. This very first initiative of the Women's Committee, which was set up in September 1988, reveals that more than one-third of the organisations questioned had not action programme to promote the representation of women within their structures. Likewise one-third of the organisations feel that they are not concerned by the issues of equality and the participation of women. Finally, the Netherlands is the only country to have an affirmative action programme at the union level.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: The President of the Belgian association of women entrepreneurs, *Femmes chefs d'entreprises Belge* (FCEB), Tinou Dury, who was Honourary President of the World Association of Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM) from 1979 to 1988, recounts the history and anecdotes of the FCEB's forty years of existence in an unusual reference book that successfully combines information, life, anecdotes, humour, and pictures. For the record, Maria Grazia Randi Gatti, of Italy, is the current FCEM president (she was elected in June). (FCEM, 25 avenue de l'Orée, Box 1, 1050 Brussels, Tel.: (+32 2) 648-1842)

CONGRESSES/CONFERENCES:

* The First Congress for Chinese Feminine Culture was recently held in Beijing at the instigation of the Institute of Research on Chinese Culture and the China Women's Newspaper. This first was attended by some 200 women to discuss such subjects as the effects of the economic reform on women's living conditions, women seen by women (role in society and life-styles), women's images in the media and literature, and the specificity of Chinese feminine culture. However, the debates also ventured onto the rockier territory of equal treatment for men and women, with the participants raising such issues as equality at work, equal pay, women's employment, access to education and training, and sex education.

* More than 300 Jewish women from 17 European countries met at the 7th European Triennial Conference of the International Jewish Women's Council, held recently in Strasbourg in the presence of the city's mayor, Catherine Trautman. The discussion subjects included the role of Jewish women in building Europe, especially "Cultural Europe". The next European rendez-vous for Jewish women is set for 1992, in London. (*Conseil des Femmes juives de Belgique*, 13 Voskenslaan, 9000 Ghent, Belgium)

* The International Federation of Women Barristers (FIDA) is holding a world Congress on 14-16 September in Madrid, during which four working groups will debate the administration of justice, international courts, international contracts, and the outlook for new family law (Contact: *Federación internacional de Abogadas*, 18 Salustiano Olozaga 2°, 28001 Madrid, Spain)

EXHIBITION: Some members of the International Federation of Women Artists (UFACSI) have been selected to participate in an official exhibition in the city of Kobe, Japan, on 27 May to 2 June to celebrate the city's centennial. The aims of this association are to help women artists participate in international exhibitions, help artists in financial straits, provide a framework for exchanges and meeting, and raise the national authorities and public's awareness of women's artistic output. (UFACSI, 80/2 Boulevard Louis Schmidt, 1040 Brussels, Belgium)

L A T I N A M E R I C A

Erratum: We failed to announce in issue N° 59 of *Women of Europe* the results of a photography contest on "women seen by women" that was held by the EC's Information Service for Latin America. Some 240 entries from all the countries of South and Central America reached the organisers. First prize went to "*Sepelio*" by Frida Hartz (Mexico), second to "*Marcha contra la Violencia a las Mujeres*" by Elsa Medina Castro (Mexico), and third prize to an entry by Susana Torres Azpiazu (Ecuador). The photographs that received the first three prizes will join some thirty other works in a travelling exhibition in Latin America and Europe. (Address: Comunidad Europea, Servicio de Información para America latina, Avenida Ovinoco, Las Mercedes, Caracas 1060, Venezuela)

BRAZIL:

The new constitution contains an important series of clauses in favour of women's rights, including a constitutional guarantee of the free choice to have children. Unfortunately, as no one is unaware, a certain amount of time is required for life-styles and conceptions of life to change. The difference between law and daily reality is often striking. That is why the National Council for Women's Rights is waging a national campaign this year under the slogan "Women's Health - A Right to be Won". Several critical issues are tackled, e.g., contraception, abortion, sterilisation, maternal mortality rates in childbirth, etc. (Useful address: *El Edificio Sede do Ministério da Justicia*, 5° andar, sala 509, Esplanada dos Ministérios, Brasilia, Tel.: 226-7710)

CHILI:

This country keeps no official statistics on violence in the home. In most cases, the victims remain silent due to fear, shame, or lack of confidence that the police will act. Many women still do not know where to go for help and support. To cope with this problem, ALADIM (*Asociación Latinoamericana para el Desarrollo e Integración de la Mujer*) has drawn up a training and research project on education strategies. The association intends to open a shelter for battered women and rape victims shortly. (Useful address: ALADIM, casilla 9540, Santiago)

COLOMBIA:

Colombian women, like women throughout Central America, are a pillar of the rural economy. They provide 50% of the rural families' incomes. Yet their situation remains precarious. That is why the government approved in 1984 a policy to give women the land, credit, and technical assistance that they want. By raising their living standards, the government is aware that it is working for the society's overall development. To this end, it has also supported the creation of the *Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas e Indigenas de Colombia* (ANMUCIC), a national association of rural and Indian women. UNICEF, for its part, is developing a training strategy to enable women to participate in decision making and take responsibility for their own futures. (Useful address: UNICEF, *Oficina Regional para America Latina y e Caribe y Oficina de Colombia*, Apartado Aereo 7555, Bogotá)

 B O O K S , S T U D I E S , C O N T A C T S

 : The European Commission's Women's Information Service has
 : produced an audiovisual presentation on women who shed the cloak
 : of anonymity during the French Revolution. This video, which is
 : based on the documents collected for the exhibition *Les femmes au*
 : *temps de la Révolution française* held in Brussels as part of the
 : festivities marking the bicentennial of the French Revolution,
 : is available in French and Dutch versions (VHS, PAL or SECAM)
 : from the Women's Information Service (Commission of the European
 : Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

- * *Donne e Diritto - 1796-1986*, recently published by the National Commission for Achieving Equality between Men and Women (*Presidenza del Consiglio dei ministri*, Palazzo Chigi, Rome), traces the changes in the place given to Italian women in society by legislation over two centuries, from the first constitutional laws to the last ones, with the multiple, successive reforms of the Civil Code in between. The two-volume compilation is a scientific reference that can be used to evaluate, step by step, the progress made in eliminating discrimination between men and women with regard to political, civic, matrimonial, industrial, family, and other rights.
- * The aim of the latest research being conducted by the University Institute of European Studies in Torino, "*normativa internazionale e comunitaria sulla parità uomo-donna*" (international and Community standards for male/female equality) is to draw up an inventory of the legislation, regulations, and jurisprudence concerning industrial equality resulting from the activities of the European Community, Council of Europe, United Nations, and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

WOMEN AND VIOLENCE: A large part of issue N° 30 of *Chronique Féministe* (February/March 1989) is devoted to violence committed against women. Titled "*Violences faites aux femmes ou la force de frappe du patriarcat*", this special section contains articles ranging from reflexion to historical analyses of such subjects as society's use of violence against women and children, women's alienation from their sexuality, human rights, and sexual mutilation of women. It also contains the testimony of battered women and *Le Collectif d'accueil belge pour femmes battues*, an association providing shelter for battered women. (Address: *Université des femmes*, 1A Place Quetelet, 1030 Brussels, Belgium)

WOMEN'S STUDIES: Where can one get information and how does one go about registering for university courses in Canada about women, feminist movements, or the relationships between men and women in society? To help the thousands of students who register for more than the 100 courses on these subjects each year, the *Groupe interdisciplinaire d'enseignement et de recherche féministes* (GIERF) of the University of Quebec, in Montreal, has drawn up its first list of the 200 courses that are or will be offered (by 1991) in French in 13 Eastern Canadian universities. (GIERF, Pavillon Hubert-Aquin, CP 8888, Succ. A., Montreal, Quebec H3C 3P8, Tel.: (514) 282-3669)

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN: The first catalogue to be published by ACADEMIA book distributors in its new series of thematic catalogues is on *women and feminism*. It contains a selection of references, many of which are written by women, dealing with women or feminism in a wide variety of fields, e.g., culture, society, training, development, employment, health, politics, etc. Two other catalogues will be published shortly, one on the family and children, the second on maternity. (ACADEMIA, 42 passage de l'Ergot, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, Tel.: (+32 10) 45 23 95)

WOMEN AND SOCIETY: The latest publication of the European Centre for the Coordination of Research and Documentation in Social Sciences, *Le changement du rôle des femmes dans la société* (The Change in Woman's Role in Society, inventories 702 research projects undertaken in 22 European countries. In addition, the book gives an overview of the subjects, aims, and methods of contemporary research on women that has been undertaken in 16 Western and 6 East European countries, covering the period 1984-87. The first edition, published in 1985, covered 1981-83. (Address: Grünangergasse 2, P.O. Box 974, A-1011 Wien, Austria, Tel.: 52 43 33)

WOMEN AND EDUCATION: The proceedings of the international colloquium on women and education held by the AUXILIUM Pontifical Faculty of Education Sciences in Rome in August 1988 have been published under the title "*Vers l'éducation des femmes aujourd'hui*". A first series of speakers' contributions covers the socio-cultural situation of women in today's world with regard to the following topics: male/female ratios, male/female relationships, women and theology, women's rights, and women in the European Community. A second section contains talks concerning the problems of education for women and girls and the search for methodologies to enable women to acquire their own, creative personalities. (Edizioni Ateneo Salesiano, Piazza dell'Ateneo Salesiano 1, 00139 Roma - April 1989).

WOMEN AND THE FAMILY: Fionnola Kennedy, an economist at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) in Dublin, is the author of a study of the development of the Irish family over the last 50 years (1937-1988). This study, called *Family, Economy and Government in Ireland*, examines the impact of the failure of an economic system on the string of socio-cultural changes that have occurred in Ireland over the last fifty years. However, Kennedy contends that these repercussions were also reversible and that changes in values within the family have led in turn to changes in political, religious, economic, and social values. (ESRI General Research Series, Paper N° 143, January, 1989. Address: 4 Burlington Road, Dublin 4, Tel.: 760115)

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ISSN 0258-6169

Catalogue number : CC-AE-89-003-EN-C