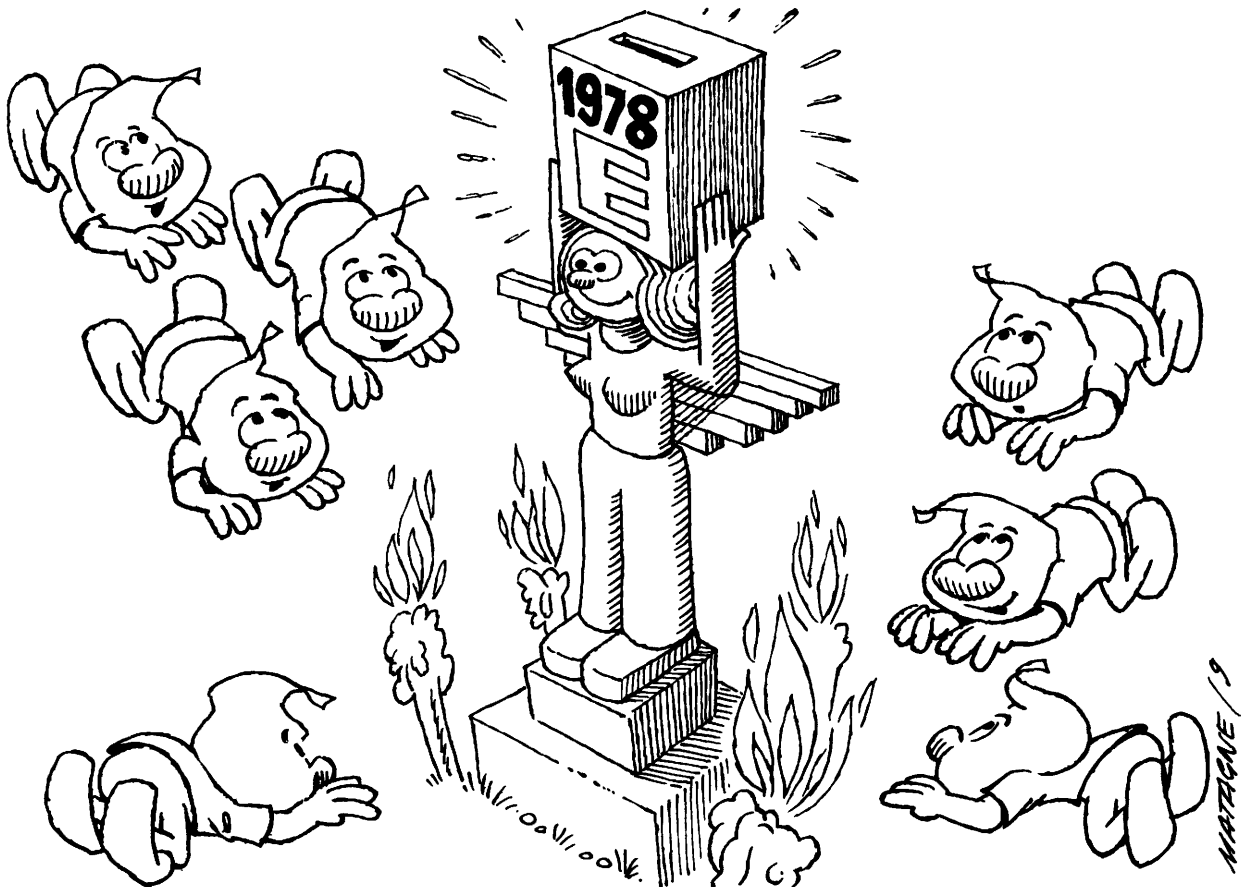


reproduction authorized

europa day by day

Brussels, 16 March 1976

No 11/76



EURO-WHITE AND THE NINE DWARFS

Episode Eight: This week Euro-White is a goddess and the Nine Dwarfs are down on their knees. They are praying that her Sacred European Ballot Box will bring them joy and - who knows? - work a few miracles.

X/149/76-E

This bulletin is published by the

Commission of the European Communities
Directorate General of Information
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 - Brussels - Tel. 735 00 40

Further information is available from the Commission's press and information offices in the countries listed on the back page.

The information published in this bulletin covers, very freely, different aspects of the European Communities' activity. It is, therefore, not limited to recording official Commission decisions or opinions.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * The "new look" European Parliament (p. 3)
- * New jobs for old (p. 3)
- * A European Sea? (p. 3)
- * Europe's lorry drivers (p. 3)
- * An overdose of medicine? (p. 3)
- * A Community youth orchestra (p. 4)
- * Football - work or play? (p. 4)
- * Migratory birds and television (p. 5)
- * Alcohol added tax (p. 5)
- * Beef carcasses (p. 5)
- * Consumers in the Netherlands (p. 6)
- * Discussions on employment (p. 6)
- * Recycling waste paper (p. 6)
- * Crude steel - 1952 to 1975 (p. 7)
- * Environment directory (p. 7)

** THE "NEW LOOK" EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Mr Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the European Commission, was a member of the European Parliament from 1961 to 1972 and is now responsible for relations between the Commission and Parliament. He is therefore particularly well qualified to talk about the "new look" European Parliament.

A Euroforum interview with Mr Scarascia Mugnozza is given in ANNEX 1.

** NEW JOBS FOR OLD

What do the mentally handicapped in the Ardèche, France, migrant workers in Anderlecht, Belgium, and small shopkeepers in Italy have in common? The answer is simple: they are being retrained with the help of the European Social Fund.

In ANNEX 2, Euroforum explains why and how a number of pilot schemes backed by the European Social Fund are opening up new horizons in vocational retraining.

** A EUROPEAN SEA?

The European Community, with its enormously long coastline, will be taking a particularly keen interest in any decisions taken by the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

In ANNEX 3, Euroforum explains what the European Commission intends to do if the Community expands by 200 nautical miles overnight.

** EUROPE'S LORRY DRIVERS

28 days' holiday a year and 40 consecutive hours' rest a week! These are two of the more striking innovations recommended by the European Commission for Europe's coach and lorry drivers. Following close consultation with hauliers' and drivers' representatives it has proposed further measures to harmonize social legislation relating to road transport. Its proposals are designed to maintain social progress and at the same time ensure greater operating flexibility. They introduce the notion of "spreadover" (i.e., the period which elapses between the start and the end of work) which must not exceed 12 hours a day or 60 hours a week for each crew member. They stipulate that time spent behind the wheel must not exceed eight hours (though this can be extended to nine hours twice a week), and that the minimum break must be 30 minutes. A safeguard clause, which could be invoked for a limited period only, would allow a Member State to suspend certain provisions of the regulation on a temporary basis if these were causing serious difficulties for its transport industry.

** AN OVERDOSE OF MEDICINE?

The European Commission has set itself two aims with regard to pharmaceutical products: to establish adequate and necessary guarantees to protect public health and to abolish obstacles to the free play of competition within the common market. It intends to see to it that recent Community legislation in the matter is strictly applied so that these

aims can be achieved.

This is the substance of the Commission's reply to questions recently tabled by a member of the European Parliament. The member had read a report produced by Dr Sanjaya Lall of the Oxford University Institute of Economics and Statistics for the Secretariat-General of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) and was worried that most pharmaceutical products were duplicated and that many were indeed unnecessary.

He quoted a number of points from Dr Lall's report. Despite the fact that "the number of essential drugs does not exceed 200 or 250 at the most", 25 000 specialties are sold in Spain, 15 000 in India and 14 000 in Brazil. Moreover, highly developed nations such as Sweden and Norway, which have nationalized distribution systems, supply the most advanced forms of therapy to their citizens with about 2 000 drugs. Dr Lall maintains that the existing manufacturing and marketing system "is an extremely inadequate way of meeting real medical needs: it satisfies needs as reflected by market forces and embodies powerful mechanisms to channel or create needs in directions which are commercially profitable."

The Commission considers that distribution is only one of the factors to be considered in relation to drug wastage: manufacturers, doctors, chemists, consumers and sickness insurance organizations are also involved. The Commission is currently conducting three investigations and examining 15 notifications involving pharmaceutical products under the Treaty's rules on competition.

**** A COMMUNITY YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

The European Parliament has given its whole-hearted support to the formation of a Community Youth Orchestra. The idea was first launched early in 1973 by the International Festival of Youth Orchestras Foundation (IFYOF). In her report to the European Parliament, Lady Fisher of Rednal emphasized that a European Community Youth Orchestra would be one way of showing the young people of the nine member countries that a common bond exists between them - that of a shared cultural heritage. An orchestra of young European musicians would also provide an excellent outlet for the works of young contemporary composers who have not yet won general acceptance. Lady Fisher of Rednal recommended that the IFYOF should organize this project in close cooperation with the Fédération Internationale des Jeunesses Musicales (FIJM) which has considerable experience in this field.

**** FOOTBALL - WORK OR PLAY?**

Can football players be regarded as migrant workers? The Court of Justice of the European Communities will soon have to decide this question in a case referred to it by a judge in Rovigo, Italy. The story is a curious one. A certain Mr Donà advertised in a Belgian newspaper for Belgian football players willing to play in Italy. Mr Donà, who was acting as agent for Mr Mantero, former Chairman of the Rovigo Football Club, spent Lit 31 000 on the advertisement. Mr Mantero is now refusing to refund this sum

on the grounds that Mr Donà acted prematurely. Under the rules of the Italian Football Federation only Italian players can join the Federation and hence play for an Italian club.

The Rovigo judge has asked the Court to decide whether footballers are entitled to play anywhere in the Community; he points out that they are "workers" in gainful employment. If they are so entitled, the Court must then decide whether this applies irrespective of rules to the contrary laid down by a national football association.

**** MIGRATORY BIRDS AND TELEVISION**

The European Commission's information service is organizing a co-production by the different Community television networks on migratory birds. The programme would be screened in all nine countries to draw attention to the harmful effects that the extermination (some would say wilful destruction) of migratory birds has on the ecological balance.

**** ALCOHOL ADDED TAX**

The rates of value added tax, or VAT, charged on wines differs alarmingly from one Community country to another. In Germany the rate is 11%. In Italy it is 30% for sparkling wines and 6% for other wines. The Belgian rate is 14%, the Dutch one 16%. Luxembourg charges 5% on still wines of 13° or less and 10% on other wines. The rate is 8% in the United Kingdom, 6.75% in Ireland, 9.25% in Denmark (this is to jump to 15% on 1 March 1976) and 17.6% in France. There is therefore an obvious need for the harmonization which the European Commission has been advocating inside the common market formed by the nine Member States.

**** BEEF CARCASSES**

A number of Community countries have begun work on a classification system for beef carcasses. A system used by all Member States would have obvious advantages. It would mean that

- common terminology could be used to describe the different types of carcass which could then be placed in categories to guide importers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers and even farmers in planning production and marketing;
- improved market intelligence would allow price/quality comparisons to be made for similar products and thus help to eliminate uncertainty and enhance competition;
- intervention prices could be fixed for a specific category of carcasses, and the same price paid for the same product in each Member State.

The European Commission has no illusions about the difficulties involved. Traditional trading systems, the variety of breeds, the range of products and the structure of the livestock industry will present serious problems when it comes to formulating a classification for use throughout the Community.

**** CONSUMERS IN THE NETHERLANDS**

The Consumentenbond has supplied Euroforum with the following report on recent developments on the consumer front in the Netherlands.

Almost 50% of the Dutch population suffers regularly from excessive noise and 10-15% suffer seriously. Last year, therefore, the Dutch Government introduced a bill to deal with the noise problem. The main proposals are as follows:

- rules on the production and sale of noisy equipment (including cars and motor cycles) would be introduced;
- firms which create noise would be required to seek a permit;
- "noise zones" would be designated around industrial estates and alongside main roads; a maximum noise level of 50 decibels would be specified for new factories sited in these zones; there would be special regulations on the use of public funds to make particularly noisy areas more habitable;
- the housing law would be amended to enforce stricter sound-proofing requirements for new dwellings both as regards internal and external insulation;
- a complaints department would be created to assess "noise damage and measure "acoustic pollution";
- the "polluter pays" principle would be strictly applied to acoustic pollution.

**** DISCUSSIONS ON EMPLOYMENT**

Mr Ortoli, President of the European Commission, is to attend a congress organized by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) in London from 22 to 24 April 1976. Employment will be the main topic of debate for the two hundred delegates and numerous observers attending the congress. The ETUC has prepared an action programme for the occasion entitled "Objectives 1976-1979". Its proposals will get another airing at the tripartite conference of government, employers' and workers' representatives to be held in Brussels at the beginning of June.

**** RECYCLING WASTE PAPER**

The European Commission has produced a study on the feasibility of promoting the recycling of waste paper in the Community. The study, which includes a detailed description of the economic machinery required for the various recycling operations, has been widely distributed to national administrations and private firms and recommends regularization of the waste paper market at national level. The Commission is also working on a research programme in this field which will be implemented within the framework of its more general programme on raw materials.

**** CRUDE STEEL - 1952 TO 1975**

The world recession which began in the autumn of 1974 has not spared the iron and steel industry. There was a sharp drop in crude steel production in 1975. Provisional estimates show that world production at the end of 1975 was 9% down on the previous year; total production (excluding the Peoples' Republic of China) stood at 620 million tonnes as against 682.3 million tonnes in 1974. All the main steel producers in the West had been hit to some extent or other. Only the Soviet Union (the world's leading producer) and the countries of Eastern Europe had improved on their 1974 figures.

Iron and steel production in the United States was 19% down on 1974 and at its lowest level since 1961. Nevertheless the United States is still the world's number two producer with 17.6% of total production.

The Community's iron and steel industry fell far short of its 1974 record. Crude steel production reached 125.3 million tonnes, in other words 30 million tonnes or 19.4% less than in 1974. The biggest cuts were in Belgium (28.6%), closely followed by Luxembourg (28.3%), Ireland (25.5%), and Germany (24.1%). In France and the Netherlands production was down by 20.3% and 17.4% respectively. The United Kingdom (11.4%) and Italy (8.1%) came bottom of the list. Denmark was the only Community country to increase production (by 4%) and this was largely due to the starting up of a new plant.

The pattern of crude steel production in the Community since 1952 is shown below:

	1952	1974	1975
Belgium	8.8	10.4	9.2
France	18.5	17.4	17.2
Germany	31.6	34.2	32.3
Italy	6.2	15.3	17.4
Luxembourg	5.1	4.1	3.7
Netherlands	1.2	3.8	3.9
EUR-6	71.4	85.2	83.7
Denmark and Ireland	0.3	0.4	0.5
United Kingdom	28.3	14.4	15.8
EUR-9	100	100	100

Source: Statistical Office of the European Communities

**** ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORY**

The first edition of "Eurotechnics", an environment protection directory, has just been published. It lists the addresses of some 15 000 firms, consultants, information centres and services specializing in this area. The publishers are "Ecopresse", 64 rue Florissant, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland.

THE "NEW LOOK" EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Mr Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the European Commission, was a member of the European Parliament from 1961 to 1972, and is now responsible for relations between the Commission and Parliament. He is therefore particularly well qualified to answer Euroforum's questions about the "new look" European Parliament.

Euroforum:

Do you think that direct elections to the European Parliament will help to popularize the European idea?

Mr Scarascia Mugnozza:

As you know the European Parliament is one of the institutions of the European Community, a direct descendant of the European Coal and Steel Community Assembly created in 1952. Since 1952 it has been gaining in importance, political and otherwise. But, because it has remained a consultative assembly, its impact on public opinion has been limited. Attention tends to focus on the institutions which make the decisions, which have executive powers; I mean, of course, the Council and the Commission. I am certain that direct elections will help to popularize the European idea, because it will involve the citizens of Europe, as voters, in the future shape and direction of European policy.

I also feel that the fact that national parties are grouping at European level on the basis of political ideologies is a far from negligible guarantee for the future.

Euroforum:

There has been a lot of talk lately about the mechanics of electing the European Parliament but very little about its powers. Would you care to comment?

Mr Scarascia Mugnozza:

The European Parliament has some budgetary powers already and control of the public purse is of course the basis of parliamentary democracy. But this is not enough. It should, for instance, be empowered to amend Commission proposals. It should be given the right of initiative in certain well-defined fields. The first elected Parliament must devote a lot of thought to the question of new powers so that the second elected Parliament can actually use them! I feel however that it could be dangerous, at least initially, to give the European Parliament constituent powers.

Euroforum:

The idea of direct elections has not been greeted with the same enthusiasm in all Member States. Do you feel that present difficulties can be overcome before 1978?

Mr Scarascia Mugnozza:

I feel that the basic idea has been accepted. It is the details that are presenting difficulties. Member States have very different approaches here - national electoral laws, the number of representatives per country, the pros and cons of the double mandate, and so on. Another factor of course is that not all political parties have the same interest in Europe.

Euroforum:

How important are direct elections in the context of European union?

Mr Scarascia Mugnozza:

I see the move toward direct elections as the most important development of the last ten years, both for us as Europeans and for non-member countries. You have only to look at the interest being shown by the United States and other countries.

I am convinced that if we deal intelligently, reasonably and firmly with those who try, either before or after the elections, to obstruct the logical process, the European Parliament, with a direct mandate from the people, will become the crucible in which political union will be formed.

NEW JOBS FOR OLD

What is the link between an experiment in community living for the mentally handicapped in a tiny village in the Ardèche, a scheme to promote the social and cultural integration of migrant workers in a commune of Brussels and a programme to train advisers in the food distribution industry in Reggio Emilia? It is not immediately obvious! In fact they are three very different pilot schemes being backed by the European Social Fund to devise new ways of promoting the integration of specific sections of Europe's population into the social and work environment.

The European Social Fund is drawn on by the European Community to improve job opportunities for workers and to increase their geographical and occupational mobility. Studies and pilot schemes are financed from its budget to pave the way for possible full-scale operations.

These studies and pilot schemes were launched in 1973 with a dual aim: to open up new horizons for the operation of the European Social Fund and to devise improved training and retraining methods for use by regional authorities, institutes, vocational training centres, trade unions, private organizations and so on.

Retraining - whether of farmers leaving the land, women returning to work after a long absence, small shopkeepers forced by competition to group together, textile workers out of work because factories have closed down, migrant workers or the mentally handicapped - is beset with difficulties. In the first place, the traditional approach to information, training, guidance and reintegration is patently inadequate today. Secondly, the problems, though enormous, must be tackled at local level and it is here that the people responsible for retraining need help and information.

Sixty-odd schemes and studies have been part-financed by the European Social Fund and are already bearing fruit. A brief look at a number of them will give readers some idea of the scope - and limitations - of the programme.

Farmers

A Europe-wide study has shown that mobility is as essential for farmers as for other workers and that it should be taken into account in the formulation of regional planning, housing and vocational training policies. But this is not enough. The possibility of having to leave the land must be introduced early, perhaps in the schools, so that change is welcomed rather than resented. This said, the situation varies considerably from one rural area to another.

A study carried out in the Bas-Rhône-Languedoc region in the south of France has shown, for instance, that the exodus from the land follows a very different pattern in the Cévennes and the Rhône. Farmers in the Cévennes invariably end up as unskilled workers in industries in decline and continue to live on the land. Farmers from the Rhône are younger when they leave the land and are attracted south to work in the industrial complex at Fos-sur-Mer, in offices or in tourism, all of which offer good employment prospects.

It is obvious therefore that information, training and guidance must be adapted to age, level of education and local job opportunities. This is why the European Social Fund is helping to develop new training methods: if results are encouraging, these can be taken over and put into general use by the authorities.

Small shopkeepers

Small shopkeepers need a helping hand too - indeed they have been sorely neglected. Their efforts to unite and tackle their difficulties together have shown that they lack technical knowledge and management experience.

The European Social Fund part-financed a scheme to train 25 young advisers in purchasing methods. New "active" teaching methods were used as an experiment: workshops, new trainee-instructor relationships, and so on. At the end of the 32-week course the trainees went to work as managers in traditional cooperatives and from this base help groups of shopkeepers with stock control, purchasing and perhaps try to persuade them that if they were less independent they might adapt better to changed circumstances! This particular experiment has already prompted Italy to organize a national training programme along the same lines. Indeed the same approach would work in any country where the survival of the small shopkeeper is threatened.

Training of instructors

Normally a worker forced to undergo retraining is pressed for time. He must acquire new skills and adapt to a new way of life as quickly as possible. For this reason his instructors must be able to adapt to individual situations. The Retraining Institute in Heidelberg, with the backing of the European Social Fund, has got to grips with the problem and developed a method known as "micro-teaching", which enables instructors to acquire this aptitude. Nine twelve-minute lessons are given to small groups of five. Film strips are used to illustrate basic techniques, (what questions to ask, how to ask them ..) which the student-instructor tries to imitate. He is then shown his own performance on video-tape and can practise, either alone or with the help of an adviser, until he has perfected the techniques. The audiovisual equipment for this "micro-teaching" method is available to anyone interested in experimenting further.

Mentally handicapped

Helping the mentally handicapped to integrate into the social and work environment also comes under the heading of improving job opportunities. The European Social Fund is

encouraging exploration of this new field and the questioning of the attitudes of society which prefers to shunt the handicapped into special homes or place them in protected workshops.

The therapeutic community of Gratte, run by Belgian, Dutch and French associations with help from the European Social Fund, takes precisely the opposite view.

Gratte is a deserted village in the Ardèche. The first experiment there ran from March until June 1974. Fifteen mentally-handicapped adults, their therapists and other non-handicapped adults lived together in a small community, worked side by side to restore the village, participated in daily activities, took decisions. The experiment was designed to help the handicapped to look after themselves and to forge links with the outside world, essential preliminaries to any attempt to find them a useful place in society. The experiment over, Gratte has become a permanent "reception" community.

Most people who work with the handicapped find these revolutionary experiments invaluable. A preliminary study by the Adult Vocational Training Association and the Rehabilitation Centre in Mulhouse has revealed some interesting points. Firstly it has shown that those teaching the handicapped have very different educational backgrounds. Some have no special training of any kind; some are highly trained, but as engineers! These teachers are often faced with situations they cannot handle. Technical knowledge is not enough: they must be able to get on well with people, to adapt to changing situations.

It is obviously very difficult to work out a "model" for training all instructors. Some authorities favour training on how to deal with the handicapped (understanding, teaching methods, the instructor's role ...); others believe in on-the-job training. The fact of the matter is that it is impossible to teach an instructor a technique until he has made contact with the handicapped. But any questioning of the traditional approach tends to be viewed with suspicion by the authorities and people with new ideas can run into difficulties in their day-to-day work. The European Social Fund wants to redress this balance and actively encourage those who have new ideas to carry out research, to help them explore new ways of solving the social problems of the handicapped.

Migrant workers

About twelve of the sixty studies and experiments backed by the European Social Fund deal with migrant workers. The problem is examined from two angles: the development of teaching methods and the definition of migrants' social and cultural needs with a view to devising training programmes. One of these studies was carried out among Italian immigrants in Anderlecht, a commune of Brussels. It shows that 20% of Italian adults in the commune are illiterate. Most of them used to be able to read but have forgotten how. It is difficult for them to re-acquire the skill fatigue, long working hours and a sense of shame all stand in the way.

Traditional teaching methods are useless in this situation. Literacy must be presented as the key to survival, as a right in fact. A "workers' university" is working on this principle, providing the sort of "extra tuition" that children with learning problems are given at school. In a second stage leaders in the immigrant community itself will be trained so that they can provide instruction and help the others adapt to living and working conditions in the host country. This could be an effective way of helping immigrants rid themselves of the feeling that they are being discriminated against. Much of it stems after all from the fact that they feel out of their depth and find it difficult to learn a new job because their initial education was inadequate.

"It's OK as long as it's new"

The essence of an experiment is that the result cannot be predicted; and there is no success formula. The European Social Fund confines its support to studies and schemes which will break new ground and help to develop vocational training methods. If they want its support organizations and groups must come up with imaginative ideas.

Only a small part (0.2% in 1975) of the budget of the European Social Fund is spent on the programme and there are two important rules: promoters must pay 50% of the cost and the experiments must not involve more than thirty people. They are not seen as social projects in the true sense but rather as "field experiments". The results may open up new horizons for the Fund's operations or they may be taken up by other organizations. "There is no copyright; in fact, we encourage plagiarism!" one of the Fund's officials told Euroforum.

These schemes and studies can cover almost any field provided vocational retraining is involved. Of the sixty projects in progress, or completed, one dealt with the training of deep-sea divers, a relatively new but dangerous occupation where accidents are frequent and are often due to inadequate training. Others looked at the situation of textile workers, the problem of women returning to full-time employment, and training schemes for migrant workers returning to their own country to help in its development.

Not all the objectives of the European Social Fund have been covered. A worthwhile study or scheme does not always find a promoter or funds may not be available. Contrariwise many projects submitted to the Fund do not qualify for support. But in between these two extremes a lot remains to be done.

A EUROPEAN SEA

It is more than likely that the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, which is about to begin in New York, will adopt the principle, new to international law, of "exclusive economic zones" which would extend the waters under the jurisdiction of a coastal state 200 nautical miles out to sea. The European Community, with its enormously long coastline, will be taking a particularly keen interest in developments.

The European Commission has proposed a Community solution to the problem that adoption of this principle will pose for eight of the nine Member States. It feels that the Community's 200-mile zone should be a joint one and that the Community should be made responsible for the conservation of fish stocks.

Stocks of certain species are running low and need to be reconstituted as a matter of urgency. The Commission therefore proposes that an annual catch rate (ACR) be fixed for each species or group of species and that a number of technical measures be taken (fishing seasons, mesh of nets....) to prevent over-fishing.

A Community quota system would guarantee fishermen's income and protect the natural balance. Intricate calculations will be involved here: first the total catch which could be taken by the Community would have to be fixed each year for each species or group of species. This would then be allocated to the Member States, following further tricky calculations.

This sensible, flexible arrangement should ensure that Community fishermen will never run short of either fish or money. The European Commission will produce reports at regular intervals on the fishing situation in Community waters.

For coastal waters the European Commission proposes that countries should be free to restrict fishing within a limit of twelve nautical miles calculated from the baseline of the coast to vessels which have traditionally fished in these waters. There is also the question of "historic fishing rights": for instance Belgian fishermen have been casting their nets in British waters for centuries without being harassed by suspicious gunboats. The European Commission feels that these "historic rights" can be retained until 1982 but is already planning to phase them out and replace them with structural aid.

If the international law is changed specific action will have to be taken to restructure fishing fleets to cope with the new situation. The European Commission is also thinking of using aid from the Regional and Social Funds to help fishermen.