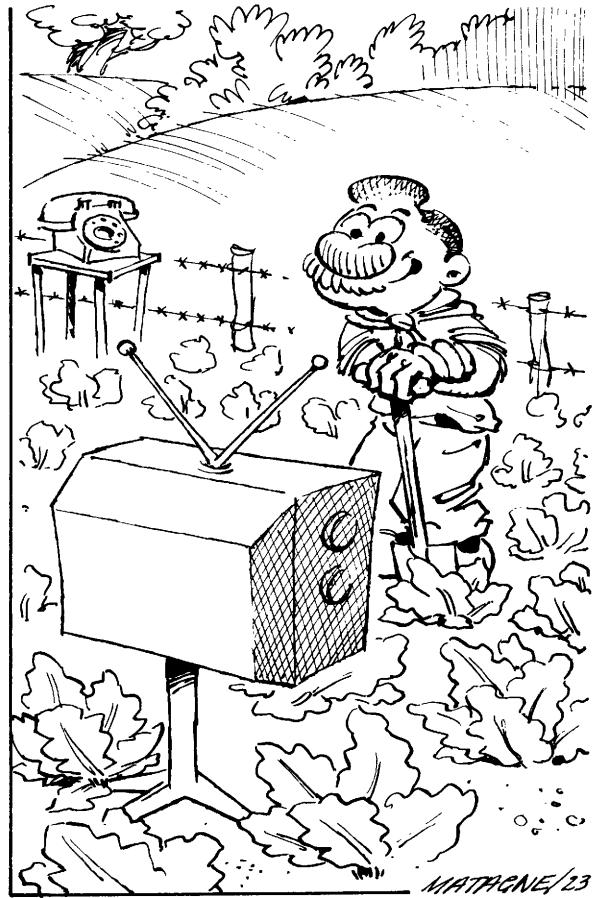


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A nature lover who likes his creature comforts: statistics reveal some peculiar facts about the European of the seventies.

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** 257 MILLION EUROPEANS

In 1974 the population of Europe (including sailors at sea and diplomatic personnel serving abroad) came to a staggering 257 788 000.

In ANNEX 1 Euroforum presents some strange and intriguing facts about Europe and Europeans.

** ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

"Virginiamycin" chickens, "ipronidazole" turkeys, "spiramycin" calves ... They sound like exotic new breeds but in fact those labels merely refer to additives used in animal feed.

In ANNEX 2 Euroforum looks at proposals put forward by the European Commission to ensure that animal feedingstuffs do not spoil consumers' appetites.

** WATER: EUROPE WILTS

Morning after morning Europe searches the skies for a rain-cloud to water its thirsty fields and swell its rivers. The level of the Rhône is keeping barges tied up at the quayside. Elsewhere ecologists are doing their calculations and wondering what will happen when nuclear reaction which depend on a good flow of water to get rid of waste heat find that the river has run dry.

Protection and rational management of water resources is a recurring theme in the European Community. It figured prominently in the first action programme on the environment and studies carried out by the European Commission in this connection have established that, although water supplies for the Community as a whole are sufficient to meet foreseeable demand, a number of regions do have supply problems. Under the new programme covering the years 1977 to 1981 action on water resources will concentrate on improving the utilization of available and potentially available resources, protecting high-quality resources and streamlining the presentation and comparability of balance-sheets relating available resources to foreseeable demand.

But Eurocrats have yet to be appointed Europe's official rain-makers!

** TELEVISION AND EUROPEAN CONSUMERS

More than 75 million television viewers were represented at the meeting organized in Copenhagen from 16 to 18 June by the European Commission's information service for producers of consumer information programmes screened by the Community's television networks.

Meetings of this kind are organized twice a year with the aim of improving consumer information by providing television producers with a forum for an exchange of ideas. Selected programmes are shown, the information techniques used are discussed and, on occasion, programme exchanges are arranged. The producers who attended the June meeting were unanimous in deploring the absence of their Danish colleagues, who were unable to send representatives despite the fact that the meeting was being held on their doorstep in Copenhagen.

** BUSINESS CHIEFS ARE HAPPIER

There has been a marked improvement in the outlook for industrial production in the European Community. This is the main finding of the most recent monthly surveys carried out among heads of enterprises in all nine countries. The improvement is particularly

noticeable in Germany and France but more and more industrialists in Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are now expecting a revival too. By contrast, the outlook in Ireland has deteriorated and no great change is expected in Luxembourg.

In Germany the outlook has improved most in the consumer goods and intermediate goods industries but manufacturers of capital goods have also begun to expect production to rise. In France too prospects in the consumer goods industries have improved. The growing optimism of French industrialists is probably linked to an improvement in orders for the home market; export orders are still on the low side.

These two countries reflect the overall trend in the Community pretty closely. Stocks of finished products are declining virtually everywhere though stocks are not yet back to "normal".

** IMPROVING LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, set up to advise Community institutions on "foreseeable objectives and guidelines", is to subsidize interesting experiments rather than engage in general studies itself. This essentially practical course was chosen by the Foundation's Administrative Board at its inaugural meeting in Dublin.

The work of the Foundation will fall into three main areas:

- . work organization, with particular reference to humanizing working conditions;
- . problems peculiar to certain groups of workers, notably school- and university-leavers, those approaching retirement, and immigrants;
- . subjects common to the life and work dimensions, in particular the ratio of working hours to leisure time.

The Administrative Board is chaired by Mr Carpentier, Director of the Commission's Environment and Consumer Protection Service. Its deputy chairmen are Mr Dua, President of the Belgian National Committee of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, who represents the employers' organizations; Mr Cardiff, of the Workers Union of Ireland, who represents the workers' organizations; and Mr Coln, of the Danish Ministry of Labour, who represents the governments of the nine Member States.

** 800 ITALIANS IN THE SAAR

There is certainly a lot of talk about the problems of migrant workers. Perhaps too much? A survey financed by the European Social Fund shows that in this instance public concern is more than justified. The survey was carried out by the Institut für Sozialforschung und Sozialwirtschaft at Saarbrücken and covered 800 Italians living in the Saar. The vast majority (almost 88%) of Italian parents originally came from the agricultural regions of southern Italy. They experienced enormous difficulty in adapting to life in an industrial area: hardly any of the couples interviewed had attended language courses or received vocational training before they left Italy and more than two-thirds of them had received no help of any kind on their arrival in the Saar.

More than 70% of heads of households have been living in Germany for more than ten years. Two thirds are skilled or semi-skilled workers. Just under 50% had left school by the age of eleven.

The position of children is affected by a number of factors: the region of Italy their parents came from, how long they've been in Germany, whether they go to school or not, their father's occupation, their knowledge of German, etc. Children lose out on two counts: they are badly integrated into the German school system, and have no chance of maintaining their cultural and national heritage. About 3% of children of school-going age do not attend primary school. A third of children who have reached school-leaving

age leave school without a primary school certificate and for this reason do not qualify for an apprenticeship. Very few children go on to secondary school; if they do it is usually because their parents have moved a rung or two up the social and vocational ladder.

Added to these social and linguistic barriers to integration is the fact that very little is done to help Italian children: only 21% receive extra tuition in German and no more than 12 establishments have been organized to help them with their homework.

The situation as regards vocational training is even worse: only one fifth of Italian children receive vocational training and the majority of these follow general rather than specialized courses.

** A RIVER OF MILK

According to figures now available deliveries of milk to dairies were as follows in each of the Community countries in 1974 and 1975:

	1975	1974	1974/75 (%)
Belgium	2 785	2 815	-1.1
Denmark	4 718	4 611	+2.3
France	21 285	21 137	+0.7
Germany	19 485	19 076	+2.1
Ireland	3 296	3 062	+7.6
Italy	6 655	7 142	-6.8
Luxembourg	236	239	-1.3
Netherlands	9 864	9 386	+5.1
United Kingdom	13 315	13 298	+0.1
EUR-9	81 639	80 766	+1.1

** VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN THE COMMUNITY

Vocational training systems in the nine Community countries are to be examined in detail in a study which should be ready by the spring of 1977. Monographs on Belgium, Germany and France are complete and are already being analysed. The remaining monographs should be ready and translated by the end of this year. A summary report assessing the various systems will round off the study and enable the European Commission to put forward proposals in what has become a very sensitive area.

** IRON AND STEEL: EXPORT ORDERS STILL LOW

New orders booked by the Community iron and steel industry during the first quarter of 1976 are encouraging: they are 31% up on the worst months of the crisis thus confirming the recovery which began towards the end of last autumn. However, even with these new orders, most of them placed by Community buyers, the industry is still only working at 70% capacity.

In March 1976 crude steel production, which had been hovering around 10 million tonnes for the previous six months, passed the 11 million tonne mark. But this is still well below the record levels - 13 to 14 million tonnes - reached in 1974. Exports will have to recover as dramatically as Community demand if these figures are to be equalled in 1976. They have a long way to go: exports for the first quarter were still 40% lower than in the good old days of 1974.

**** CONSUMER "SUMMIT"**

Representatives of consumer associations in the European Community are to meet in Brussels on 2 and 3 December 1976 for a European symposium. The central theme of this meeting, the first of its kind, will be consumer protection and information. The associations will have an opportunity of saying what the consumer expects from the Community and the European Commission will present a progress report outlining achievements to date and action to be taken under its medium- and long-term programme.

**** SAFER TRACTORS**

The career of Nicki Lauda, the Formula 1 racing champion, almost came to an untimely end when his vehicle turned over. And it wasn't a racing-car: it was the tractor he was driving on his farm! Farmers know that accidents of this kind are all too common and will certainly welcome the European Commission's proposals on roll-over protection structures.

Essentially the European Commission wants to introduce EEC type-approval for safety cabs or frames mounted on tractors. Type-approval would involve very stringent tests and mean that approved devices would have free access to all Community markets.

One slight legal difficulty cropped up: the problem of responsibility. The structure is not always fitted to the tractor by the tractor manufacturer but tests can only be carried out on structures that are already mounted. It was decided in the end that the manufacturer of the device will be responsible for conformity of the cab or frame and that the tractor manufacturer will be responsible for conformity of the fitting.

A first European Commission proposal on roll-over protection structures for tractors was presented to the Community's Council of Ministers as early as December 1974. A new text deals with unmounted protection structures too so that all possibilities are now covered. Driving a tractor should be a less dangerous business from now on.

**** THE ENVIRONMENT: COOPERATION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE COMMUNITY**

Mr Blair Seaborn, Canada's Deputy Minister of the Environment, went to a lot of trouble to receive Mr Scarascia-Mugnozza, Vice-President of the European Commission with special responsibility for the environment. He invited not only officials from his own department, but also senior civil servants from the ministries of agriculture, health, research ...

This was the first meeting to be held between Canada and the Commission since the exchange of letters on cooperation on environmental matters (see Industry and Society No 42/75). Cooperation is to concentrate on priority areas such as water quality and management, scientific criteria for assessing the quality of the environment, noise research, precautions against poisonous chemical substances, and so on.

**** FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE**

The European Community has made 350 000 doses of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine available to the Food and Agriculture Organization to help it combat two exotic strains (Asia 1 and A 22) - particularly dangerous to Community livestock - in South-Eastern Europe.

Since March 1973 the European Community has been building up a stock of vaccines for immediate use in the event of a foot-and-mouth epidemic in the Community, or indeed elsewhere.

Since 1974 the Community has supplied FAO with a total of 3 000 000 doses of vaccine at a cost of 664 000 units of account (1 u.a. = approx. \$1.1).

257 MILLION EUROPEANS IN THE SEVENTIES

In 1974 the population of Europe (including sailors at sea and diplomatic personnel abroad) came to a staggering 257 758 000. We will have to get out of the habit of talking of 250 million Europeans! Hundreds can be ignored, the odd thousand or two rounded down, but seven million can't be made to vanish like a rabbit into a conjurer's hat. After all seven million people could populate a (mythical) country midway between Denmark (5 million) and Belgium (9.7 million) in size. And the Community's population is still increasing though the rate has been tailing off from 1.2% in 1962 to a slow 0.6% in the seventies.

The life cycle

Death the leveller is not responsible for this development: in 1974 the mortality rate per 1 000 inhabitants was 10.4, a fairly normal figure. But the birth rate had been declining steadily for 10 years falling from 18.8 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1964 to 13.6 in 1974.

The less-favoured regions continue to be the most prolific - the phenomenon is well known to demographers. Ireland holds the Community record with 22.3. In Italy (national average 15.8) Campania comes top of the table with 20.7, closely followed by Sardinia with 19.2; the North-West and Emilia-Romagna bring up the rear with 12.6. Similarly in France (national average 15.2) the Nord region has the highest rate (18.1) and the Mediterranean area the lowest (12.8).

The war explains why there are more women around than men: in Germany there are 31 million women as against 28, men in France 26 million as against 24, and in Italy 27 million as against 26. In Ireland, which was not involved in the war, the numbers are approximately equal: nearly a million and a half of each.

Another factor to be taken into account here is the life expectancy of women at retirement age. In all countries the figures highlight the fact that large numbers of men die shortly after reaching retirement age.

Ladies' day

It looks as if the feminist movements will have it all their own way in the next few decades: the number of boys being born regularly exceeds the number of girls: competition will be tough when it comes to dating time! Even now in the 15 to 19 age group there are 2 234 000 boys to 2 118 000 girls in Germany, 602 000 to 576 000 in the Netherlands, and 2 141 000 to 2 040 000 in Italy. Young ladies everywhere in Europe will be able to pick and choose and young men will have to mind their manners if they don't want to miss all the fun.

In the seventies Europeans have got well used to moving to other regions in search of work. The figures available must be interpreted with caution but it seems that in 1973 more than a million people changed region in Germany, more than half a million in Italy, nearly 100 000 in Belgium and nearly 300 000 in the Netherlands.

Some surprising facts emerge from the figures for women at work. Who could have thought that in 1973 50.8% of agricultural workers in Germany were women? In the same year 24.9% of workers in industry and 44.3% of workers in services were women, which means that 35.6% of the total work force was female. The proportions were much the same in France, except that only 34.2% of agricultural workers were women. Curiously enough it is in the Netherlands that women represent the lowest proportion of the work force: only 22.2%. And the image of the Dutchwoman with a cheese under each arm takes a knock: only 5.3% of agricultural workers in the Netherlands are women! In the United Kingdom on the other hand women form 36.8% of the work force: 48% of workers in services are women but the proportion employed in agriculture is relatively low (16.4%).

Living conditions

How green is this Europe we are so keen to protect? A third of the total area is wooded in Germany, Luxembourg and France, approximately a fifth in Italy and Belgium, no more than a tenth in Denmark and even less (8%) in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The problem of conserving Europe's "lungs" is causing concern in many areas.

Nearly all houses have running water but figures for bathrooms and WCs vary widely. In Germany 71.5% of houses have a bathroom and 79.3% a WC. The corresponding figures for France are 48.2% and 55.2%; for the Netherlands 81% and 89.5%; for Italy 64.5% and 82.8%; for Belgium 47.8% and 59.5%; for the United Kingdom 87.4% and 88.1%; for Ireland 55.8% and 70.8%; and for Denmark 71.2% and 88%.

Figures for recently constructed houses (i.e. houses built after 1960) vary widely too: more than 21% of houses fall into this category in Germany, 13% in France, 31% in the Netherlands and in Italy, but only 15% in Ireland.

And how comfortable is the average European in his castle? The number of rooms per person varies from 1.38 in Germany to 1.09 in France, from 1.49 in the Netherlands to 1.05 in Italy, from 1.67 in Belgium to 0.98 in Denmark and from 1.70 in the United Kingdom to 1.16 in Ireland.

Health

Europeans worry a lot about their health. They should find some reassurance in the knowledge that they can find a doctor within a radius of 1.7 kilometres in Ireland, 1 kilometre in France and in Luxembourg, 900 metres in Italy, 800 metres in the United Kingdom and in Denmark, 600 metres in Germany, and 500 metres in the Netherlands and in Belgium.

They can also be fairly sure of finding a chemist. There are 39 per 1 000 inhabitants in Germany, 35 in France, 24 in Italy, 68 in Belgium, 49 in Luxembourg, and 53 in Ireland, but only 9 in the Netherlands and 7 in Denmark. Do the Danes molly-coddle themselves less than the rest of us?

Comfort seekers

Europeans in the seventies are as keen as ever on their creature comforts. Germany has 274 cars, 187 telephones and 279 television sets per 1 000 inhabitants; France has 278 cars, 104 telephones (a weak point) and 248 television sets; the Netherlands has only 187 cars (they didn't count the bicycles!) but 208 telephones and 257 television sets; Italy has 245 cars, 153 telephones and 207 television sets; Belgium has 245 cars, 167 telephones and 244 television sets; the United Kingdom has 247 cars, 51 telephones (can this be right?) and no less than 329 television sets; Ireland has 156 cars, 95 telephones and 168 television sets; and Denmark has 240 cars, 298 telephones and 303 television sets. The Luxembourgers have more cars than anyone else (339), are near the top for talkativeness (278 telephones) but close to the average for television sets (244).

These interesting figures come from regional statistics compiled by the Statistical Office of the European Communities over the last few years. They provide a rather unusual factual background to the stories we will tell our grandchildren.

Source: Statistical Office of the European Communities
Eurostat: Regional Statistics 1973-74 Population, Employment, Living Standards
Obtainable from: Publications Office of the European Communities
Boite postale 1003
Luxembourg
Price: Bfrs 150; DM 10.10; Dkr 23.50; FF 18.50; Lit 2 550; Fl 10.40; £1.70

ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

"Halofuginone" chickens; "virginiamycin" chickens; "ipronidazole" turkeys; "spiramycin" calves. They sound like exotic new breeds. But in fact they are ordinary animals which have been suckled, fattened and brought to early maturity on additives which, it seems, all calves, cows, pigs and chickens need if they are to grace our tables.

The temptingly red steak on the butcher's block, the tasty chicken's neck which the abattoir forgot - we eat them with such relish and never taste the hormones! But hormone-laden meat will soon be a thing of the past, thanks to the Community's Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers adopted a directive on 23 November 1970 in an attempt to regulate additives used in animal feedingstuffs. It limited the number of additives which could be used and represented a first step towards harmonization.

Cooperation between national administrations and the European Commission in this area has been getting closer and closer since the creation on 20 July 1970 of a Standing Committee for Feedingstuffs.

Each Member State is required to keep a close watch on additives; if a Member State is prepared to authorize the use of a new additive, it must send the results of tests carried out to the Commission and the other Member States within two months. The Commission then decides whether the additive can be approved or not; if it can, the annexes to the 1970 directive are amended.

A new directive based on a proposal from Mr Lardinois, Member of the European Commission with special responsibility for agricultural affairs, is now under discussion. It would allow the use of additives for rabbits (coccidiostatic meticlorpendol) at Community level and for chickens (coccidiostatic halifuginone) and turkeys (histomonostatic ipronidazol) at national level. The addition of copper would be allowed for pigs and meticlorpindol would be banned for rabbits. Another draft directive would allow the use of other additives for chickens (coccidiostatic decoquinate, monensin-sodium and robenidin) and turkeys (coccidiostatic robenidin) at Community level.

Obviously existing laws and regulations in the Member States had to be borne in mind so a number of exceptions have been made to the general rule where there is no danger to animal or human health and where adequate official controls have been carried out.

Breeding conditions in some countries, for instance, mean that young animals need larger doses of antibiotics than the directive allows. The European Commission has therefore agreed to allow these larger doses on a national basis provided certain conditions are met.

Strict controls carried out on a permanent basis ensure that these concessions do not harm the consumer.

The type and concentration of authorized additives used in animal foodstuffs must be shown on the packaging or the label.

If the concentration of additives in supplementary feedingstuffs is above the specified limit, the packaging must bear a label indicating the type of food, giving directions for use with each species and category of animal and the words "Supplementary feedingstuffs". Without this label it cannot be put on the market.

Member States remain responsible for the official control of animal feedingstuffs and must ensure that the conditions laid down in the Council of Ministers' Directive are satisfied.

Many people would like to see animal feedingstuffs for export included in the scope of the Directive.

Since the first animal feedingstuffs directive was issued six years ago, no less than fifteen further directives have been adopted. These are evidence of the European Commission's concern to improve the use made of additives and hence the health of Europe's consumers.

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