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TRADE UNION INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**Ergo Programme
Europe Without Frontiers
Social Charter**

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in the Bulletin are those
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COMMUNITIES.**

THE SOCIAL CHARTER AND THE STRASBOURG SUMMIT

The leaders of eleven of the twelve Member States of the European Community pledged their support for the European Charter of Fundamental Social Rights during the Strasbourg summit held on the 8th and 9th of December. The United Kingdom was alone in refusing to make a declaration of support for the Charter which is intended to provide a focal point for Community actions during the next two years. Despite the refusal of the British delegation to support the Charter, the Commission will go ahead with its plans for an action programme of legislative proposals designed to transform the principles elaborated in the Charter into binding Community commitments. Thus discussion and debate concerning the Charter is now shifted from the European Council to the action programme adopted by the Commission in November.

The action programme involves 45 proposals - amongst which there will be 17 draft directives and 6 draft decisions. Other policy areas will be covered by recommendations and communications. The Commission will make operational proposals during 1990 and 1991 (and possibly 1992) and thus the action programme will be directly tied to the completion of the single market. Draft directives are planned on health and safety at work, unconventional work contracts, the rights of pregnant women, minimum rights for young workers and dismissals. There are also plans for a directive on working hours which will establish certain Community-wide minimum standards. The question of worker participation will be dealt with both in the new proposals for a European Company Statute and the resumed discussions on the Vredeling Directive.

Draft decisions are planned on the development of local employment, the position of women in employment and the rights of handicapped people and other groups with special needs. Plans for draft recommendations include proposals for the convergence of social security systems in Member States and the creation of a Health and Safety Agency with the task of promoting compliance with agreed Community standards on health and safety.

The detailed content of these various proposals will be determined over the coming months. As yet it is not clear whether any of the proposals will require the unanimous support of the Council of Ministers or whether they will be able to be adopted on a qualified majority vote. The Charter itself was always designed as no more than an indication of commitment (a commitment which it is now clear that the vast majority of Member States are prepared to give). The real social dimension to the single market will be created during the coming months and years as each of the specific proposals becomes the subject of debate within Member States, the Community institutions and amongst the social partners.

Whilst European trade unionists will be disappointed that the Strasbourg summit did not produce unanimous support for the Charter, they will no doubt welcome the move towards the establishment of concrete proposals to guarantee the rights of workers within the single market. The Commission action programme clearly provides a basis for progress.

The Strasbourg summit produced agreement on the calling of an inter-governmental conference on economic and monetary union. This conference, which will begin its discussions at the end of next year, will be charged with preparing the necessary treaty amendments to achieve the aims set out in the report of the Delors Committee on economic and monetary union. It is also likely to discuss possible institutional reforms within the Community.

The third issue to dominate the summit meeting was the situation in Eastern Europe. Again agreement was reached on the important role of the Community in relation to the rapid political developments taking place throughout Eastern Europe. The officially agreed conclusions of the European Council meeting stresses that it is in the interests of all European states that the Community should become stronger and accelerate its progress towards European Union.

NEWS FROM EUROPE

EUROTECHNET II

The November meeting of the Social Affairs Council unanimously adopted the EUROTECHNET II programme concerning the adaptation of vocational training to technological progress. The programme will run for five years (1990-1994) and it has been given a budget of 7.5 million ECU for the first three year period. The programme includes the establishment of a network of national and transnational projects aimed at improving professional training schemes by adapting them to new technology. The final proposal included an undertaking that the social partners would be fully involved in the programme. This followed an amendment from the European Parliament to the initial proposal.

The Social Affairs Council also adopted a decision which allows the European Commission, on behalf of the Community, to begin negotiations with the International Labour Organisation on a convention and recommendation on the safe use of chemical substances in the workplace.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Council of Ministers formally adopted a further three directives on health and safety during November. These directives form part of the overall programme on health and safety based on the framework directive adopted earlier this year and intended as an essential part of the completion of the internal market.

The three new directives are as follows:-

1. Directive on the minimum standards for workplaces. Standards for new work sites will come into force at the end of 1992 whilst there will be a transitional period of a further three years for existing work sites.
2. Directive on the minimum standards for work equipment. This directive will come into force at the latest by the end of 1992, but there will be a further four year transitional period for old machines.

3. Directive on minimum standards for personal protective equipment. This directive will come into force by the end of 1992.

The Council of Ministers have defined a common position (the first stage of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament) with regards to the proposed directive on the protection of workers from the risks associated with carcinogenic agents in the workplace. The common position covers four areas of possible risk to workers:-

1. Exposure to aromatic polycyclic hydrocarbons present in soot, tar, pitch, coal dust or smoke.
2. The manufacture of auramine.
3. The production of strong acid in the manufacture of isopropyl alcohol.
4. Exposure to dust during grilling and electro-refining of nickel plate.

REGIONAL POLICY

The European Commission has announced the first phase of funding from the structural funds in favour of programmes of Community interest. In all 2.1 billion ECU will be made available during the 1989-93 period to the following programmes:-

RECHAR: 300 million ECU aimed at the reconversion of regions affected by the decline of the coal industry.

ENVIREG: 600 million ECU allocated to deal with environmental problems in less prosperous regions of the Community.

STRIDE: 400 million ECU aimed at improving regional research and technological development capabilities.

TRANSFRONTIER CO-OPERATION: 700 million ECU for the promotion of co-operation in such fields as infrastructure and energy supplies, particularly amongst less developed regions.

ULTRA-PERIPHERAL REGIONS: 200 million ECU to strengthen the socio-economic base of regions such as the Azores, Canary Islands and the French Overseas Departments.

EUROBAROMETER

ATTITUDES TOWARDS RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

In 1985 the European Parliament adopted the report of a special Commission of Enquiry into the rise of fascism and racism in Europe. One of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Report, and the associated draft resolution submitted by the Commission to the Council, was that there should be a survey conducted amongst the population of the Community on attitudes towards racism and xenophobia. The results of such a survey have now been published by the Commission in its "Eurobarometer" series. They provide a powerful stimulus to the vigilance required throughout the Community to ensure that the founding principles of the European concept - the preservation of freedom, democracy and human rights - are upheld.

The results of the survey provide evidence of both strong support for individual human rights and the democratic system of government. Nevertheless the survey provides evidence of an undercurrent of intolerance towards "others" (people of a different race or nationality). Such intolerance is not confined to particular Member States, nor is it greatest in countries with the highest numbers of immigrants. Intolerant attitudes are the preserve of a relatively small minority in all Member States, nevertheless the continued existence of such attitudes underlines the importance of positive policies designed to increase tolerance and integration. The survey found that 75% of EC citizens are in favour of improving, or at least maintaining, the rights of immigrants and they count on European institutions to do this. Thus the survey provides a valuable stimulus to policy making at a Community level.

The Eurobarometer Survey provides a great deal of statistic information. Here are just a two examples of the questions examined by the researchers and the results based upon a survey of almost 12,000 citizens spread throughout the Member States.

MOST IMPORTANT AND LEAST IMPORTANT ISSUES:

Question: In your opinion, which of the problems that seem to face us nowadays is the most important? And which of these is the least important?

Problem	Most Important	Least Important
Unemployment	49%	4%
The pressure of modern living	22%	9%
Fears about personal safety	13%	8%
Young people who do as they like, regardless	7%	16%
The immigrant population	5%	16%
Loss of religious values	5%	33%
None in particular	2%	14%

THE PRESENCE OF IMMIGRANTS:

Question: Do you think that the presence of people residing in your country who do not come from one of the Member States of the European Community is a good thing, good to some extent, bad to some extent or a bad thing for the future of your country?

A Good Thing	12%	Good To Some Extent	34%
A Bad Thing	11%	Bad To Some Extent	24%
No Reply	19%		

EUROPE WITHOUT FRONTIERS

..... half way there.

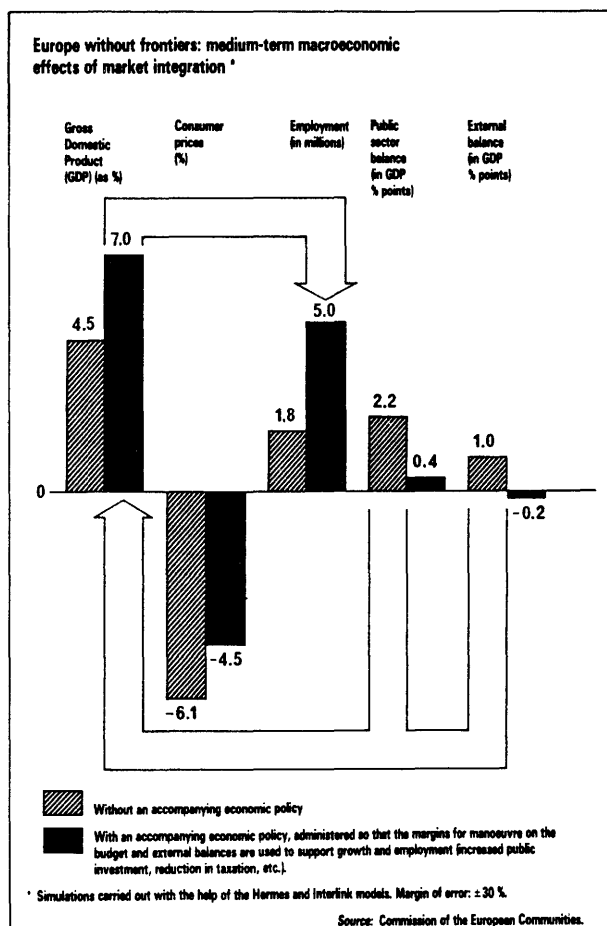
The task of transforming the European Community into a large area without internal frontiers and without barriers to the free movement of people, goods, services and capital was the objective set by the 1985 Commission White Paper on completing the internal market. From the very start it was a brave and challenging objective that would require both major changes in the decision making processes of the Community and a major political commitment from the twelve Member States. Some people thought that the deadline for the single market - the end of 1992 - was an optimistic one in view of the past record of Community decision making. Nevertheless it is an objective which is well on the way to being realised, according to a report drawn up by the European Commission. By the end of 1988 the Commission had submitted to the Council of Ministers the majority of the 279 proposals envisaged in the 1985 White Paper and the Council had reached agreement on 45% of the complete programme of changes.

The achievements of the single market programme are examined in a new pamphlet in the European File series - "Europe Without Frontiers: A Review Half Way To 1992" (European File 10/89). Whilst the achievements and successes are undeniable, it must be recognised that there are a number of causes for concern in terms of completing the programme of change. The pamphlet lists three key areas of concern.

1. Whilst the institutional reforms provided for in the Single Act have worked well, the Council of Ministers continues to be reticent in taking the necessary decisions in those policy areas (such as fiscal changes) which still require unanimity.

2. Despite the fact that nearly half of the measures contained in the White Paper had been adopted by the Council they still have to be translated into national legislation. To ensure that the complete programme is transposed into the necessary national statutes by the 1992 deadline an acceleration in decision making at Council level is required.

3. Progress in achieving agreement has varied between the three major programmes. Over two-thirds of the agreements so far achieved have been concerned with technical harmonisation. Changes relating to the elimination of physical and fiscal barriers are still lagging behind - a Commission Report claims that results in these areas have been "unacceptably poor".



The economic consequences of the single market are now far more apparent than they were when the 1985 White Paper was published. The 1988 Cecchini Report underlined the gains in Community GDP and employment and the potential price reductions that would accompany the completion of the internal market. It is these prospects which have motivated a great tide of support for the single market programme within all sectors of society.

EUROPE WITHOUT FRONTIERSHALF WAY THERE:

Besides examining the continuing areas of concern, the pamphlet underlines the very positive achievements of the single market programme. Singled out for attention are the opening of the European telecommunications and high technology markets, the liberalisation of capital movements, the proposed European controls of large-scale mergers and take-overs and the mutual recognition of diplomas and professional qualifications. The recent progress which has been made in the field of mutual recognition of qualifications does not detract from the fact that much still needs to be achieved in order to guarantee the full freedom of movement of citizens within the Community. The dangers of clinging to internal frontiers are emphasised by the pamphlet; despite the problems which remain such frontiers are incompatible with a true single market.

Finally the pamphlet examines the single market programme in the context of the longer term changes taking place within the Community. The single market was never intended to be an end in itself, merely a step forward towards a more fundamental objective. The pamphlet rightly links the single market programme with issues such as the social dimension, economic and monetary union and a greater economic and social cohesion within the regions of Europe.

Despite numerous encouraging signs, there are many difficult problems still to be settled, particularly in the area of tax approximation and the free movement of persons. The pamphlet stresses that the Community cannot allow itself to evade these problems. It cannot scale down its ambitions by weakening the concept of "a space without internal frontiers". It is to that concept that the people of the Community are clearly committed and it is to that commitment that the Commission and the Council of Ministers must continue to address themselves.

Economic and Social Committee

REPORT

THE SOCIAL CHARTER

The French Minister of European Affairs, Edith Cresson, spoke to the September Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee. She outlined the attitude of the French Presidency to a number of current European issues.

With reference to the proposed Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights, she stated that if unanimity was not possible at the Strasbourg summit the Community would have to make do with a text that could be used by those who agree with it. We shall go ahead even with ten or eleven Member States - although we shall leave the door open for the others - she declared.

On page 3 of 3/89 Bulletin the impression was given that the Economic and Social Committee consisted only Employer and Worker groups. This is inaccurate. The Committee is a tripartite body whose third group represents various interests, including farmers, consumers, small firms, professions, environment etc.

EUROPEAN UNION

Alberto Masprone, the current Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, emphasised the need to move further towards European union in a statement issued during the November Plenary Session of the Committee. Referring to the dramatic changes taking place in Eastern Europe, Alberto Masprone called on the leaders of the Member States to continue their efforts towards the achievement of not only the internal market but also the creation of strong social cohesion based on the recognition and guarantee of basic Community social rights.

European union will not develop without the contribution of the interest groups represented on the Economic and Social Committee, stated Alberto Masprone. He announced that during the coming weeks the Committee will, within the limits of its powers, be taking steps to realise the wish to build a Europe whose watchwords are freedom, responsibility, democracy and solidarity.

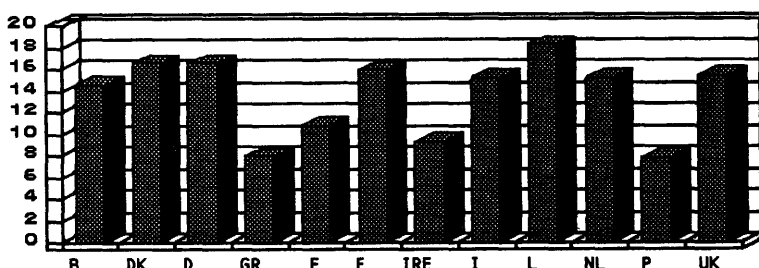
BASIC STATISTICS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

Eurostat - the Statistical Office of the European Communities - have just published the 26th Edition of their short statistical guide to the EC, "Basic Statistics of the Community". This review examines the range of issues covered by the guide and looks at some statistics of interest to trade unionists.

This new edition of the popular Eurostat publication follows the same format as previous editions and contains a mass of statistical information on all facets of the economic and social life of the Community and its 320 million citizens. The graphs, charts and tables are divided into seven sections. These seven sections cover - general statistics, the economy and financial statistics, population and social conditions, energy and industry, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, foreign trade, and services and transport. The information contained within the final six sections is in the form of statistical tables, whilst the first section contains a series of colour diagrams and charts. In the majority of cases statistical information on all twelve Member States is available and in some cases comparative figures for Canada, the United States, Japan and the Soviet Union are provided.

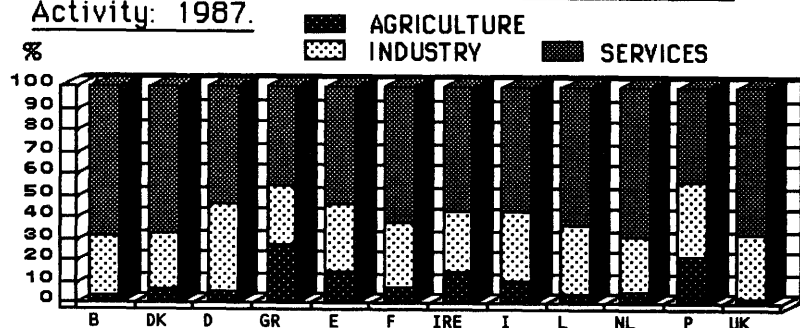
The first chart is based upon information on GDP per head of population. The figures relate to purchasing power and thus provide an effective means of comparing GDP between Member States. The figures are for 1987.

Gross Domestic Product at market prices per head (at current prices and purchasing power parities) 1987.



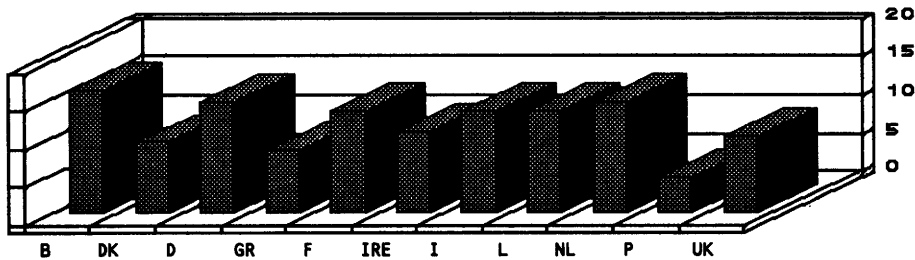
Purchasing power parities are calculated by reference to consumer prices. They therefore provide a better measure of real wealth than figures based on national currencies. The second chart examines the make-up of civilian employment in Member States. The proportion of employees engaged in each of the three sectors of activity - agriculture, industry and the service sector - are represented on the chart. Significant differences can be seen between Member States, particularly in the proportion of the working population involved in agriculture. There is a great deal of similarity between Member States in relation to the size of the industrial sector. It is also significant to note that, with the exception of Greece and Portugal, the service sector in each State account for a majority of the working population.

Civilian Employment by Main Sectors of Economic Activity: 1987.



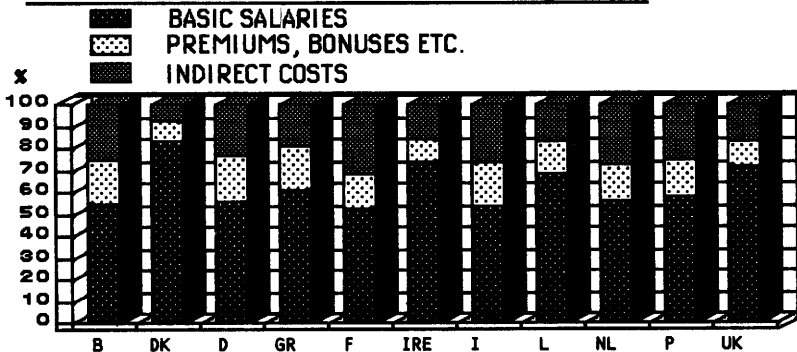
HOURLY LABOUR COSTS IN INDUSTRY

Manual and Non-manual workers :
In Purchasing Power Standards 1984.



Figures for Spain not available.

Structure of Labour Costs in Industry 1984.



Figures for Spain not available. Figures for Ireland are for 1981

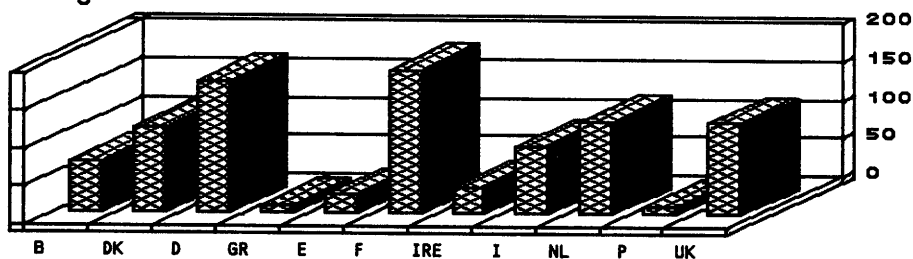
Charts three and four look at the question of labour costs. The first examines labour costs in terms of purchasing power parities, whilst the second looks at the composition of labour costs - broken down into basic salaries, premiums and bonuses and indirect costs. Significant differences can be seen in the comparative size of this latter element between the various Member States. It is also interesting to note that in some countries (Denmark, Ireland, the UK) premiums and bonuses only account for a relatively small proportion of total labour costs, whilst in other Member States (the German Federal Republic and Italy) they can constitute almost 20% of total labour costs.

The final chart examines total public expenditure on research and development and once again differences can be seen between Member States. This chart clearly demonstrates the importance of the various Community initiatives aimed at encouraging research and development, particularly amongst the less developed Member States.

Total Public Expenditure on Research and Development:

By Budget Appropriations, 1987

Figures in ECU per 1,000 capita at current prices and exchange rates.



Figures not available for Luxembourg.

***ERGO:* The European Community Programme to Combat Long-Term Unemployment.**

Ergo is the Greek word for work. It is also the title of a new Community Action Programme designed to combat long-term unemployment. The continual rise in levels of unemployment has been one of the main challenges facing the Community during the eighties. In order to meet that challenge the Community has been responsible for a wide variety of measures sponsored by the structural funds and other instruments of Community support. During recent years there have been signs of a reversal in the predominant trends in unemployment, partly as a result of the economic expansion generated by the single market programme. The commitment of the Community to take positive steps to aid the long-term unemployed remains and this is illustrated by the new three year ERGO Action Programme.

The programme was launched in December 1988 and its main objective is to establish a viable network linking government departments, voluntary agencies and other groups throughout the Community so that experiences can be shared and successful initiatives can be duplicated. Solidarity and action are the two watchwords of the programme - it hopes to stimulate and bring together into co-operation all those involved - including trade unions and the unemployed workers themselves.

The Commission set out three goals for the Action Programme when it was launched in December 1988. The first was related to information. Ergo set itself the task of gathering together all forms of information on current policies and initiatives being pursued within the Community in order to produce an up-to-date and reliable snapshot of the situation with regards to long-term unemployment. In so doing it makes full use of the information available from other Community initiatives such as the Mutual Information System on Employment Policies (MISEP) and various individual programmes such as PETRA, EUROTECHNET, IRIS etc.

The second goal was concerned with ensuring that the information gathered together should be made as widely available as possible. In this way groups involved with the long-term unemployed in the various Member States could learn from each others experience. By providing a central clearing house for information on schemes to help the long-term unemployed ERGO would be encouraging the development of cross-border projects and ensuring that both experience and information are used to their full potential.

The third goal of the ERGO programme was stated as being the assessment of projects. This is a difficult goal to achieve because no absolute set of evaluation criteria exist, nor would any single set of evaluation principles be suitable for all the different types of projects that ERGO will examine. Nevertheless a research centre has been given the task of creating a variety of assessment instruments for use with the various levels of intervention - from local projects through to more global plans and schemes at national level.

ERGO will not directly fund projects and activities, it will concentrate its resources on providing the best support mechanism for existing activities and encouraging new initiatives to take full advantage of funding possibilities within a wide range of Community programmes. It will mobilise energies and organise dialogues, meetings and other means of effective co-operation. It will publicise the best of current practices and provide a platform for those involved in working with the long-term unemployed. One of the ways this will be achieved will be via ERGO NEWS which will be published three times a year and will be available to all those concerned with the question of long-term unemployment. ERGO will provide a European dimension to the fight against unemployment, it will provide a valuable cross-border network. By so doing it will provide a positive encouragement to achieving the solidarity and action that are central to its objectives.

In the first issue of ERGO NEWS the general objectives of the ERGO Programme are examined and an attempt is made to illustrate the diversity of approaches to the problem of unemployment currently being undertaken within the Member States. Examples are given of schemes in Northern Ireland, Spain, France and Italy. The various programmes that can provide practical assistance to projects are also examined, programmes such as LEDA, PETRA and the European Social Fund.

Two examples of individual initiatives are also featured in the first issue of ERGO NEWS. One is the creation of a soap manufacturing venture in the Easterhouse district of Glasgow - an area with a third of its male workers unemployed. The new venture has been initiated by cosmetics group Body Shop International, and the financial structure of the new undertaking, Soapworks, has been constructed so that 25% of the post-tax profits of the venture are channelled into a charitable trust for the benefit of creating additional jobs in the Easterhouse area.

The second example is taken from the South Luxembourg Region of Belgium. RICEF is a small local development agency established by two local women, Claire de Pierpont and Colette Nicolay. It operates in three fields of activity - training, guidance for organisations and "springboard" activities for unemployed workers. It provides an example of what can be achieved with minimal resources but large amounts of dedication and enthusiasm. As such it could be a valuable example to activists in other Member States.

ERGO is already providing a valuable service in terms of co-ordinating the fight against long-term unemployment. As its networks develop and its information stock grows it will become an essential contact point for European trade unionists.

ERGO Action Programme is managed on behalf of the European Commission (DGV) by CEI Consultants Ltd. The Director of the Action Programme is William Roe. The CEI office in Brussels is managed by Karen Pacht. The ERGO Programme team can be contacted at:- CEI Consultants Ltd. 34, rue Breydel, 1040 Brussels, Belgium. Tel 32 2 230 5276, Fax 32 2 230 3482.

RADIATION AND YOU:

It would be difficult to identify a subject as immersed in controversy as that of radiation. It is a subject which is likely to cause extreme reactions amongst ordinary citizens, but it is also a subject clouded in a certain amount of misunderstanding. It is an important subject within the European Community, and has been since the days of the Treaty of Rome which established EURATOM, dedicated to the peaceful and safe exploitation of atomic energy. More and more, the Community is becoming involved in establishing rules intended to control the risks inherent in the exploitation of radiation. In order that the citizens of the Community can decide what controls they feel are necessary, it is important that they are fully informed of both the risks and the potential benefits of radiation in all its possible uses. As a contribution to this process the Commission have issued a new pamphlet entitled "Radiation and You", which examines the various applications of radiation, the effects of radiation and the current range of protection measures to be found within the Community.

One of the strengths of the pamphlet is that it does not seek to put a one-sided case either for or against the use of radiation. It objectively examines the various uses made of radiation - nuclear power, medical research - and attempts to identify ways of getting the greatest benefits from radiation at the lowest possible risks. It describes current Community laws in terms of the three basic requirements governing radiation emission - radiation exposure should be justified, in all cases radiation exposure should be as low as reasonably achievable and doses of radiation should be within set limits. It also looks at the problems of radioactive waste disposal and accidents associated with nuclear power stations.

"Radiation and You" is a useful contribution to the continuing debate concerning the use of radiation and as such will be of value to trade unions and trade unionists throughout the Community.

1992 : THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL DIMENSION

PATRICK VENTURINI

The European social dimension has emerged as one of the most important issues facing the European Community in the last decade of the twentieth century. The demand - from trade unionists, politicians and other groups representative of the citizens of Europe - for an active Community social policy has grown over the years. That demand has been underlined by the development of the 1992 internal market programme, for it is essential that the large market is not used to undermine the current working conditions of Community citizens. In recent years the social dimension has taken on a more definite structure. The Commission have outlined definite proposals, proposals which are already becoming reality. It is undeniable that, for a great number of Europeans, the concept of a frontier-free Europe will only generate enthusiasm and support if it is accompanied by a positive programme of social protection policies - a social dimension. The European trade union movement has been in the forefront of those demanding a realistic social dimension, such a demand is common both to individual national trade unions and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). Some progress has already been achieved and at this point of time it is useful to examine the nature of the social dimension, its achievements so far and its demands for the immediate future.

Such an examination is provided by an important new publication - "1992: The European Social Dimension". Published by the European Commission and written by Patrick Venturini, the booklet provides an essential overview to those already familiar with the social dimension and an invaluable introduction to those trying to understand the nature and content of Community social policy. It outlines the historical background to Community social policy, the various facets of the social dimension and the dynamics of their interaction. Thus it looks at issues such as employment, the freedom of movement of persons and occupational mobility, economic and social cohesion, the working environment, company law, technological change and industrial relations systems. It ranges over these issues with a clarity and style which can be appreciated by the most general reader and provides a useful starting point for further investigation of individual elements of social policies.

The pamphlet not only examines Community initiatives but also attempts to predict the future trend of social policy. It lists four "priority areas":-

1. The intensification of the social dialogue both in terms of qualitative advances and in terms of its decentralisation at sectoral level.
2. The adoption of a body of minimum social provisions - the European Charter of Fundamental Social Rights.
3. Achieving convergence between the various national systems of social welfare protection.
4. The co-ordination of policies with regard to migration and the development of an overall Community policy.

Both in its examination of the current social dimension and in its analysis of possible future developments, this booklet will be of considerable interest to European trade unionists.

"1992: The European Social Dimension" Patrick Venturini. Commission of the European Communities - Documentation Series. Available in all Community languages. ECU 9.75.

NEW

Recent Publications from the Commission of the European Communities

Integrated Mediterranean Programme.

**"THE INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES"
European File - 7/89, May 1989.**

Integrated Mediterranean Programmes (IMPs) have provided a valuable contribution to the economic development of a number of underdeveloped regions bordering on the Mediterranean Sea. Regions within France and Italy and the entirety of Greece are covered by IMPs - in all about 50 million Community citizens live within regions benefiting from such programmes. They have been designed to mobilise all available sources of finance in order to create a coherent set of measures to overcome structural weaknesses and stimulate both agricultural and industrial development.

Their importance has not been merely in the amount of funding they have been able to make available to the regions concerned. They have provided an innovative means of intervention based upon a number of key concepts such as the concentration of resources, the encouragement of innovation and the fostering of partnerships. As such they have provided an important example of the new Community approach to regional development which has since been reflected in the reform of the structural funds.

The nature, content and evaluation of IMPs is fully covered in this recent European File pamphlet. It provides a concise and factual account of the success of the programmes so far.

EEC Competition Policy in the Single Market.

**"EEC COMPETITION POLICY IN THE SINGLE
MARKET" European Documentation. Periodical
1/1989.**

With the creation of a unified internal market among the twelve Member States of the European Community by 1992, there is even greater need for an effective policy

to ensure fair competition throughout the Community. This new brochure in the European Documentation series explains the objectives and rules of European competition policy.

It examines in detail the various keystones of competition policy - Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome as regards competition rules which apply to undertakings and Articles 92 and 93 as regards to state aids. It looks at how competition rules affect agreements between undertakings - agreements such as research and development agreements, exchange of information agreements and non-competitive clauses. A special section of the brochure examines how small and medium-sized enterprises are affected by competition rules.

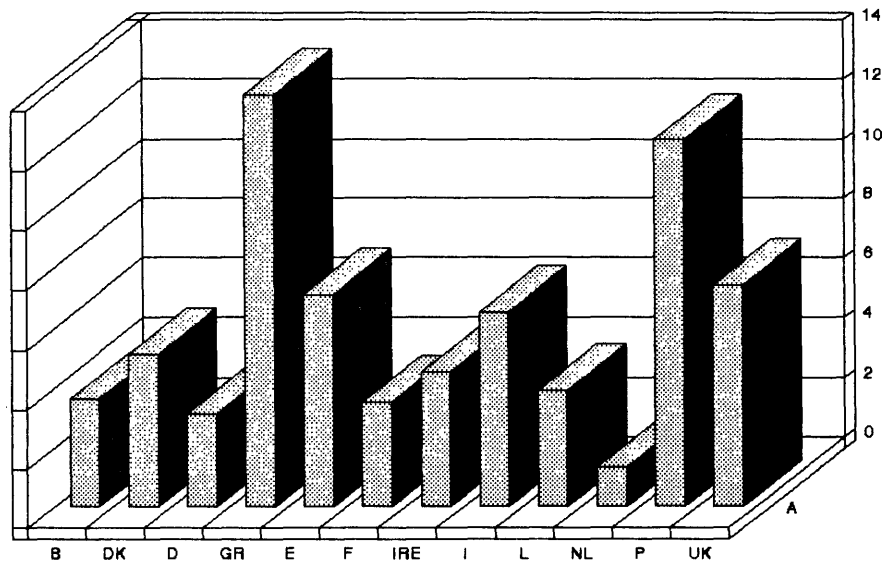
Competition policy is likely to become more and more important as the internal market develops. It is essential to have a strong policy in order to ensure that the single market produces benefits for all.

The European Community and Human Rights.

**"THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS"
European File 5/89, April 1989.**

Over the years the institutions of the European Community have taken numerous initiatives which underline the Community's attachment to human rights. This new pamphlet in the European File series looks at the role of the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers, the European Commission and the Court of Justice with respect to the protection of the rights of citizens. It also examines the links between the Community and the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights, the 1975 Helsinki Agreement and the work of the United Nations in this field. It briefly examines a number of areas where the Community has adopted positions in relation to human rights, for example in the field of racism and xenophobia and the protection of privacy. It once again emphasises that the construction of Europe is not solely a matter of economics.

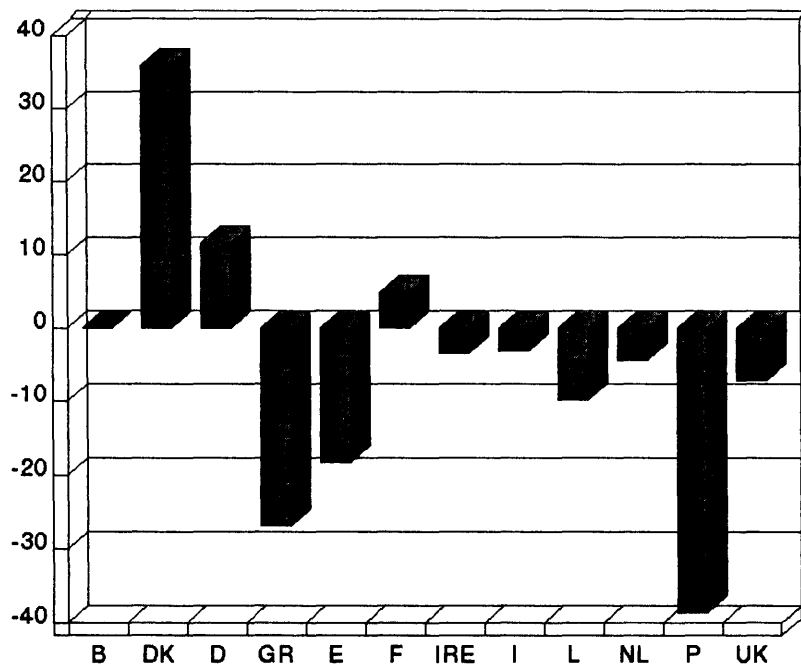
**ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE OF
INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES:
SEPT. 1988 - SEPT. 1989**



**PRICE LEVELS IN COMMUNITY
MEMBER STATES**

Comparative price levels for a selection of goods where
the price in Belgium = 100.

SEPTEMBER 1989 - Source EUROSTAT



.....TOWARDS 1992

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

PHARMACEUTICALS

At its meeting of the 6 December 1989, the European Commission adopted three proposals for Directives designed to complete the establishment of the internal market in the pharmaceutical sector. The common objective of the three new proposals is to achieve a more rational use of medicines. They cover the distribution and conditions for use of medicines throughout the Community as a whole. The draft directives cover the following specific areas:-

1. The first directive covers the distribution of medicines from the factory to the point of sale. It attempts to guarantee optimum conditions for the storage, handling and transport of medicines and establishes procedures for the withdrawal from the market of faulty products.
2. The second directive establishes conditions for delivering medicines to patients. It will harmonise the conditions relating to free sale and those attached to sale via prescription. It will also contain measures relating to the classification of medicines in terms of such things as toxicity, counter-indications, precautions for use, risk of dependency etc. The directive will allow citizens to carry medicines from one Member State to another and obtain medicinal products from another Member State.
3. The third directive aims to improve the information available to patients relating to medicines. It will improve the packaging notices in order to provide a greater level of consumer protection. It will also aim to give consumers more information so that they can correctly make use of the medicines consumed.

The completion of an internal market in pharmaceutical products was one of the objectives of the 1985 Commission White Paper, "Completing the Internal Market". Once these three draft directives have been approved by the Council of Ministers, that objective will have been fully realised.

INTERNAL MARKET COUNCIL

The November 23/24 meeting of the Internal Market Council made progress on a number of issues designed to achieve the completion of the internal market.

MERGER CONTROLS: Further progress was made based upon the compromise proposals agreed at the October meeting of the Council. It was agreed that the threshold level for Community surveillance should be set at 5 billion ECU for a transition period of 4 years and after that threshold levels should be set by qualified majority. Agreement was also reached on definitions of "legitimate interests" and the special case of public enterprises.

RIGHTS OF RESIDENCE: Agreement has almost been reached in two of the three outstanding areas - the right of residence of retired people and non-economically active people. Nevertheless agreement has still to be reached on the right of residence of students.

THE OPENING OF PUBLIC MARKETS: A preliminary discussion took place on the draft directive concerning the opening up of the public sector markets in the fields of water, power supply, transport and telecommunications.

RAILWAY POLICY

The European Commission has adopted a Memorandum on Community railway policy. This policy document examines the future of railway policy as it will be affected by the internal market. It covers such issues as network integration and the provisions relating to the monopoly position occupied by railway companies. The Memorandum stresses the potential of rail transport compared to road and rail transport. Nevertheless, despite the many potential advantages to be gained by fully exploiting rail networks, railway transport has regressed. The Commission is also intending to propose a "master scheme" for European high-speed rail networks to ensure the compatibility of the various measures being taken by Member States.

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