

TRADE UNION INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Dublin Summit Paves The Way To Economic and Political Union.

The special European Council meeting held in Dublin on the 28 April marked an important step forward towards the goal of European economic, monetary and political union.

The special summit meeting had been called by the Irish Presidency of the Council to give European leaders an opportunity to consider the effects of German unification on the Community. As well as considering the implications of German unification, the European Council examined the whole range of political developments currently taking place in Central and Eastern Europe. They also examined the effects of such political changes on the current plans for the future of the Community - the determination of a timetable for progress towards economic and monetary union and the creation of new institutional arrangements appropriate to the enlarged responsibilities of Community.

It is quite clear from the conclusions of the Presidency of the European Council, issued at the end of the one-day meeting, that a large degree

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Published by the Trade Union Division of the Directorate-General for Information, Communication and Culture.

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (DGX)

200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.

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The views expressed in the Bulletin are those of the Editor and are not necessarily those of the European Commission.

DUBLIN EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING

of agreement exists between the leaders of the Member States with regard to the urgent need to accelerate the political and economic development of the Community. The key phrase of the Presidential conclusions stated:-

"A point has now been reached where the continued dynamic development of the Community has become an imperative, not only because it corresponds to the direct interests of the twelve Member States, but also because it has become a crucial element in the progress that is being made in establishing a reliable framework for peace and security in Europe. The European Council therefore agrees that further decisive steps should be taken towards European unity as envisaged in the Single European Act"

In particular the European Council:-

- applauded the continuing process of change taking place within Central and Eastern Europe and welcomed in particular the holding of free elections in the German Democratic Republic and Hungary.
- welcomed the prospect of German unification and looked forward to the integration of the territory of the German Democratic Republic into the Community.
- expressed the belief that German unification and the integration of the German Democratic Republic into the Community would contribute to faster economic growth in the Community as a whole. The Council emphasised that integration would become effective as soon as unification was legally accepted and that it could be carried out without revisions to the Treaties.
- called upon the European Commission to submit to the Council, as soon as possible, proposals for measures which will permit a balanced integration based on the principles of cohesion and solidarity.
- expressed its satisfaction with progress so far achieved towards establishing a single, frontier-free, market from the end of 1992 within which people, goods, services and capital can circulate freely.
- reaffirmed its desire to establish in stages an Economic and Monetary Union in accordance with the principles of economic and social cohesion. The Council agreed to further intensify the preparations for the Intergovernmental Conference on Economic and Monetary Union which will open in December. The Council called upon the Intergovernmental Conference to conclude its work rapidly with the objective of ratification by Member States before the end of 1992.
- welcomed the wide range of measures adopted over past months to give practical help and support to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The Council was of the opinion that transfers of private capital and investments towards these countries should be encouraged and invited the Commission to study the implementation of the most appropriate accompanying measures.
- expressed great interest in potential agreements with the EFTA partners on the establishment of a European Economic Area.
- agreed that discussions should start forthwith in the Council, on the basis of the Commission's communication, on Association agreements with each of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Such discussions should include an institutional framework for political dialogue. The Council stressed that the Community would work to complete Association negotiations with these countries as soon as possible on the understanding that the basic conditions with regard to democratic principles and transition towards a market economy are fulfilled.

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DUBLIN EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING

- confirmed its commitment to political union and decided to request a detailed examination of the need for changes in the Treaties with the aim of strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the union, enabling the Community and its institutions to respond efficiently and effectively to the demands of the new situation, and assuring unity and coherence in the Community's international actions. Foreign Ministers of Member States would carry out such an examination and prepare proposals to be discussed at the European Council in June with a view to a decision on the holding of a second Intergovernmental Conference to work in parallel with the Conference on Economic and Monetary Union with a view to ratification by Member States in the same time frame.

The decisions of the European Council meeting in Dublin have provided a great impetus towards the goals of both economic and monetary union and political union. The next few months are likely to see a wide-ranging debate, particularly on the need for institutional reforms to increase the democratic legitimacy of the Community. It is a debate in which all sections of Community opinion will take part. The European Parliament has already adopted a major resolution on the subject, a resolution which - in part - calls for better Treaty provisions in the social and environmental sectors to ensure that the Community is able to develop and manage more effective policies in these fields, so that the single market works to the benefit of all Community citizens and contributes to a better environment.

The European trade union movement is also seeking to ensure that its views are made known in the debate which will take place in the period leading up to the intergovernmental conferences. Already the Trade Union Intergroup of the European Parliament and the European Trade Union Confederation have issued a common statement calling for the Economic and Social Committee to be associated with the institutional preconference which is being organised by the European Parliament. They have also expressed a desire that the national social partners should be able to participate actively in discussions between the European Parliament and the national parliaments.

The Dublin European Council meeting has started a process of discussion and debate which will take the Community and its key institutions into the next phase of constructing a European union. It is a process which will have major implications for European trade unionists, and a process with which all European trade unionists will wish to be involved.

Trade Union Regional Network Conference.

45 Delegates from Denmark, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Germany, Gibraltar and the United Kingdom met in Granada at the end of March to attend the 1990 Workshop of the Trade Union Regional Network for Local and Regional Employment Initiatives (TURN). TURN aims to develop a network of trade union regional and local employment initiatives and to exchange and maximise the value of existing skills and experiences. The annual Workshop is held to assist the promotion of the TURN network and provide for the dissemination of best practice and the establishment of transnational programmes. Presentations were made by representatives of the several participating countries, given brief details of local employment initiatives with which the trade unions had been involved. The Workshop then divided into workgroups which examined TURN organisation and objectives, the Social Dimension of the internal market, the potential uses of electronic mail within the network, and the scope for transnational projects. In addition to the trade union delegates, the European Commission, the ETUC and a number of European agencies (LEDA, ICOSI, ELISE, IULA) were represented at the Workshop.

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NEWSBRIEF

Exposure to Radon

The European Commission have just published a series of recommendations designed to protect the public against indoor exposure to radon. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas associated with trace elements of radium-226 in rocks and soil. The major contribution to radon concentration in buildings is soil gas which may enter indoor air spaces through floors. Exposure to radon is not a new phenomenon, studies amongst groups exposed to elevated concentrations of the gas have revealed an excess of lung cancer deaths. Whilst at present there is no firm evidence of the effect of indoor radon exposure on the general public, on the available evidence the Commission believes it is prudent to make recommendations for limiting such exposure.

The new recommendations (Commission Recommendation of the 21 February 1990 - 90/143/Euratom) have been drawn up with the advice of a group of experts drawn from the Member States. They call for an appropriate system to be established for reducing any exposure to indoor radon concentrations, with particular attention being given to adequate public information and appropriate responses to public concern. The recommendations establish a reference level for radon gas to be used to determine when remedial action is required. It also establishes a design level (one half of the reference level) to be incorporated into codes of construction practice.

The recommendations also give advice on the best methods of assessing indoor radon levels and call for criteria to be developed to identify regions, sites and building characteristics likely to be associated with high radon levels.

Continuing Education

The European Parliament has backed the Commission proposals concerning an action programme (1990-1993) on continuing education. The Commission proposals, which were first published last year, call for an action programme of 88 million ECU aimed at ensuring that

all workers within the Community have access to continuing education during their working life. In adopting the Pagoropoulos Report, the European Parliament approved the principle of the action programme and called for its extension to cover young people, the unemployed and women who want to rejoin the labour market.

The European Parliament has also called for the Commission to submit a draft directive on continuing education as early as possible.

Action Programme For The Elderly

An Action Programme for the elderly covering the period 1991-1992 and backed by almost 2.5 million ECU is proposed in a new Commission communication to the Council of Ministers. The new proposals follow a series of resolutions from the European Parliament calling for increased Community efforts in the field of the social protection of the elderly and the inclusion of adequate protection of the elderly within the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights.

The Commission is proposing four key initiatives during the period 1991-92. These are:-

1. Community financed studies aimed at identifying the particular problems faced by the elderly within the Community and the positive contributions the elderly can make to society.
2. A series of Community funded demonstration projects designed to spread awareness of the problems of ageing and disseminate positive examples and experiences.
3. Preparatory work on the creation of a European information network which would enable a free interchange of information and project experience throughout the Community.
4. The Commission are proposing that 1993 is designated "European Year of the Elderly and of Solidarity among Generations". It is hoped that this particular initiative will concentrate attention on the problems associated with an increasingly ageing population.

THE SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Joint Opinion On Education and Training

A joint opinion on education and training has been formally adopted by the Social Dialogue Steering Group. The Steering Group, made up of senior officials of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the Union of Industries of the European Community (UNICE) and the European Centre of Public Enterprise (CEEP) and chaired by European Commissioner Vasso Papandreou, approved the Opinion which had been drawn up by a Joint Working Party. The objectives of the Opinion are twofold:-

1. It sets out and expresses the progress achieved in forming a common view shared by the social partners as to the general principles concerning education and training and their importance for a united Europe.
2. It defines common guidelines to be adopted by European management and labour in promoting quality education and training systems.

The Opinion stresses the importance of both basic training and retraining as a means of improving the competitiveness among Community firms and increasing the prosperity of Community workers. Among the general principles agreed between the social partners and listed in the Opinion are the following:-

Basic Education and Initial Training:

The Opinion calls for emphasis to be given to high quality education and initial vocational training leading to recognised qualifications. Education authorities should be encouraged to take the necessary measures to facilitate the transition from school to working life and the social partners should be actively involved in the design of such measures. The Opinion emphasises the importance of apprenticeship schemes and other forms of combined work and training. Initial vocational training must be accessible to all young people. Special measures should be introduced to -

- help young people who have not been able to acquire at school the qualifications needed to prepare them for an occupation or trade.
- enable those young people who have grown up outside their country of origin to acquire the basic training they need to find a job.
- help the disabled to enter the labour market.
- help unemployed young people to enter or re-enter the labour market.

Policies should promote equal opportunities between men and women and encouragement should be given to both men and women to choose careers which break with the traditional division of tasks. The social partners should be consulted in the planning and implementation of education and training policies and programmes.

Vocational Training and Adult Training:

The Opinion stresses that it is essential that company training plans and policies must take account of the needs of workers to improve their skills in line with the requirements of their jobs or in readiness for changes within the firm. The social partners agreed that continuing vocational training decided on by firms in the light of their needs should be financed by employers. In addition any employee wishing to follow a course of training of his or her choice which corresponds to a need for self-fulfilment and to his or her career development should be assisted to do so by means of training courses financed by public funds or tax deductions and in the framework of arrangements provided for by national legislation. The Opinion establishes the principle that the employer shall inform and consult employees and their representatives concerning training programmes organised by the firm.

The full text of the Opinion and a useful commentary on it has been published by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP FLASH 5/90). Copies can be obtained from CEDEFOP, Jean Monnet House, Bundesallee 22, D-1000 Berlin 15.

1992 - THE INTERNAL MARKET

The Economic Effects of the Single European Market

The single market programme is already having positive economic benefits for Member States according to a recent study undertaken on behalf of the European Commission. The study reveals that, three years before the final deadline for the completion of the internal market, many companies have already anticipated its arrival. International competitiveness has been increased - production has increased by 20% since 1984 and some 8.5 million jobs have been created within the Community.

A clear rise has been noted in trade between Member States; intra-Community trade accounted for 62% of all exports in 1988 compared with 55% in 1982. There are also clear signs that companies are significantly increasing their investments, both within their own domestic country and within other Community Member States. The report also records an increase in joint ventures and co-operative projects between firms within the Community, particularly in the field of research and development.

The main findings of the study have been included in a Commission Communication to the Council of Ministers which also constitutes the fifth periodic report on the Internal Market White Paper. The Commission points out that it has almost completed the drafting of texts prescribed within the original 1985 White Paper. Of the 282 White Paper proposals, only 5 have still to be submitted. The report, however, does stress the concern felt by the Commission over certain aspects of the overall single market project. In particular the report highlights the slowness of work in several fields, such as fiscal harmonisation, where Council unanimity is required. Equally the report calls for more urgent action by Member States in the elimination of physical controls on persons at intra-Community frontiers.

The report stresses that the overall evaluation of progress on the internal market is positive and that an "irreversible threshold" has now been reached.

Consumers and the Single European Market

The basic principles of Community policy on consumer protection were recently spelt out by Commissioner Karel Van Miert. He stressed that the Community could not move rapidly towards a single market whilst neglecting, or minimising, the important role played by its citizens as consumers. He pledged that the establishment of free movement of goods, services and capital would go hand in hand with a certain number of necessary changes to ensure that consumers had wider choices as regards not only price and quality but also a high level of safety.

Commissioner Van Miert specified four priority areas in the future consumer protection policy of the Community.

- 1. The Protection of Health and Safety:**
The Commission have already adopted an important draft directive on product safety which is designed to establish minimum Community safety standards and encourage Member States to actively monitor product safety standards.
- 2. Protecting Consumers' Rights:**
The Commission will introduce proposals for a directive on unfair clauses contained within contracts. Such a directive will set out the type of clauses which are unacceptable to consumers at a Community level.
- 3. Informing and Training Consumers:**
The Commission will promote the development of consumer education and training to ensure that consumers can take maximum advantage of the benefits produced by the completion of the internal market.
- 4. Legal Protection:**
The Commission is intending to present proposals to simplify the legal procedures by which a consumer can take legal action against a supplier from another Member State. The Commission believe that the procedures currently in force are long, complicated and very expensive - and an obstacle to the free movement of goods and services.

The Commission will present a three year programme on consumer protection policy during the first half of 1990.

SOCIAL CHARTER :

Commission Action Programme Checklist.

SOCIAL CHARTER ACTION PROGRAMME - CHECKLIST

In November 1989 the European Commission published a Communication setting out its Action Programme relating to the implementation of the Community Charter of Basic Social Rights. The Action Programme lists almost fifty new initiatives being which will be undertaken by the Commission during the coming two years. The following checklist describes each initiative and lists proposals and developments related to its implementation. The Trade Union Information Bulletin will update the checklist at regular intervals so that trade unionists can keep track of developments within this important field of Community activity.

Initiative:	Description:	Developments:
Employment Report	An annual report from Commission on the employment situation in the Community.	First Report published during the summer of 1989. Second Report due summer 1990.
The Labour Market	Creation of a employment forecasting and documentation centre.	Commission Communication due during 1990.
Action Programmes on Employment Creation	Development of specific programmes to identify most successful experiences and disseminate results.	LEDA (Local Employment Development Action) and ERGO (EC Programme to Combat Long Term Unemployment) already in operation.
Clearance of Vacancies	Revision of European System for international clearance of vacancies and applications for employment (SEDOC).	Regulation on the revision of the SEDOC system to be introduced by the Commission during 1991.
European Social Fund	Monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the European Social Fund.	On-going process. Results to be presented annually by the Commission to the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.
Equitable Wage	Opinion on introduction by Member States of a basic equitable wage.	Opinion to be published during 1991.
Atypical Contracts	Directive on employment relationships other than full-time, open-ended contracts.	Proposed Directive included within the 1990 work programme of the Commission.
Working Time	Proposal of minimum reference rules on adaptability of working time.	Proposed Directive included within the 1990 work programme of the Commission.

SOCIAL CHARTER - Action Programme Checklist.

Health and Safety on Board Vessels	Directive on minimum standards for medical assistance on vessels.	Draft Directive to be published during 1990.
Mobile Work Sites	Minimum health and safety requirements for mobile work sites.	Draft Directive to be published during 1990.
Exploration and Drilling	Directive to improve health and safety conditions.	Draft Directive to be published during 1990.
Quarrying and Open Cast Mining	Directive to improve health and safety conditions.	Draft Directive to be published during first half of 1991.
Fishing Vessels	Directive establishing minimum health and safety requirements.	Draft Directive to be published during first half of 1991.
European Schedule on Industrial Diseases	Updating of existing recommendations.	Recommendation due during 1990.
Safety Signs at the Workplace	Directive updating existing requirements.	Draft Directive to be published during second half of 1990.
Protection Against Dangerous Substances	Introduction of preventive and corrective measures.	Draft Directive on information for workers exposed to dangerous substances to be published in 1990. Draft Directive on exposure to risks caused by physical agents to be published in 1991.
Safety, Hygiene and Health Agency	Establishment of support Agency.	Draft Decision to be published during second half of 1990.
Asbestos	Amendment to existing 1983 Directive on risk protection.	Draft Directive to be published during the first half of 1990.
Safety and Health in Transport Sector	Directive establishing minimum standards.	Draft Directive to be published during 1991.
Protection of Young People	Approximation of laws on the protection of young people from exploitation at work.	Draft Directive to be published during second half of 1991.
The Elderly	Action Programme and initiative for the elderly.	Action programme published - April 1990.
Disabled People	Proposal for a third Action Programme.	Action programme to cover the period 1992-1996.
Travel Conditions for the Disabled	Proposals to increase the mobility of the disabled.	Draft Directive to be published during the second half of 1990.

SOCIAL CHARTER - Action Programme Checklist.

Collective Redundancies	Revision of 1975 Directive on collective redundancies.	Draft Directive to be introduced during first half of 1991.
Social Integration of Migrants.	Memorandum on the social integration of migrants from non-Member States.	To be published during 1990 along with an in-depth study of immigration within the Community.
Right of Residence	Revision of Commission Regulation 125/70 on the right of workers to remain in Member State after leaving employment in that country.	Regulation to be proposed during 1991.
Social Security	Application of social security systems to employees, self-employed and their families moving within the EC.	Regulation amending current 1971 regulations on social security to be introduced during 1990.
Working Conditions of Transfrontier Workers	Community instrument on working conditions applicable to workers from another Member State, particularly sub contracted workers.	Community instrument expected during the latter part of 1990 - as yet no indication of the type of instrument envisaged.
Labour Clauses	Proposal to introduce a "social clause" into public contracts to guard against "social dumping"	Community instrument to be introduced during 1991 - as yet no indication of the type of instrument envisaged.
Supplementary Social Security Schemes	Communication on the possible harmonisation of social security schemes supplementary to statutory schemes.	Communication to be published during the second half of 1991.
Frontier residents and frontier workers	Communication on the effects of the single market on living and working conditions of frontier residents and workers.	Communication to be published during the first half of 1991.
Social Protection - Objectives.	Design of a strategy to bring about convergence of objectives of social security systems of Member States.	Recommendation to be published during 1991.
Social Protection - Resources.	Creation of common criteria for minimum resources to assist disadvantaged citizens.	Recommendation to be published during 1991.

SOCIAL CHARTER - Action Programme Checklist.

Social Partners and Collective Bargaining	Development of European level collective bargaining and role of the social partners.	Communication from the Commission to the Council to be published during 1991.
Information, Consultation and Participation.	Community instrument on procedures for information, consultation and participation of the workers of European scale undertakings.	Instrument to be introduced during 1990. Certain provisions already contained within the proposed European company statute.
Equity Sharing	Community instrument on equity sharing and financial participation by workers schemes.	Community instrument due in the first half of 1991.
Equal Opportunities for Women	Third Community programme to be presented.	Action programme to be presented during 1990.
Protection of Pregnant Women at Work	Directive on the protection of pregnant women from risks to their health and safety.	Draft Directive to be introduced during the first half of 1990.
Child Care	Recommendation on ways to enable workers to combine family responsibilities and occupational ambitions.	Recommendation due to be published during first half of 1991.
Pregnancy and Maternity.	Code of Good Conduct on minimum standards on maternity and pregnancy provisions.	Commission Recommendation to be published during second half of 1991.
Vocational Training	Community instrument on access to vocational training.	Action programme on continuing training published in 1989. Community instrument to be published in 1991.
Common Vocational Training Policy	Updating of proposals on a common vocational training policy.	Draft Decision to be published during the second half of 1991.
Co-ordination of Action Programmes	Measures to rationalise, simplify and co-ordinate various action programmes relating to training and exchanges of young workers.	Programme on Young Workers and PETRA to be launched during 1990. Decision on second phase of Youth for Europe programme to be published during 1990. Joint programme for the exchange of young workers to be launched during 1990.
Qualifications	Further preparatory work on comparability of qualifications.	Work to be undertaken during 1991.

NEWSBRIEF

Unemployment

Unemployment is continuing to fall within the European Community. The percentage of unemployed workers during January 1990 was 8.6% - a 0.1% fall on the December 1989 level. Within the Community as a whole a downward trend in unemployment has now been maintained for the last six months.

Commission Vice-President, Henning Christophersen, stressed that unemployment was now static or falling in all Member States of the Community. He also announced that youth unemployment is falling at a faster rate than general unemployment, a trend which was particularly welcome because young people had been carrying a disproportionate share of unemployment over recent years. Vice-President Christophersen emphasised the importance of maintaining the employment creating strategy of the Community. He said that at last there was a possibility over the next few years of eliminating mass unemployment as we have known it since the end of the seventies.

Temporary Work

Almost one million workers within the Community are employed on a temporary basis and the number of temporary workers is increasing between 15% and 20% annually. These statistics - which will cause many European trade unionists some concern - are based on a recently published study of temporary work within the Community which was partly sponsored by the Commission's Internal Market Directorate-General.

The study, which was carried out by a Dutch research group, confirms the fact that legislation relating to temporary work and the conditions of temporary workers varies significantly between Member States.

The average age of temporary workers is below 30. Temporary work gives rise to permanent employment in about 30% of cases throughout the Community.

The Social Dimension and Eastern Europe

The social dimension must be integrated into the various aid programmes being designed by the European Community to encourage the economic development of Central and Eastern Europe. This point is forcibly put forward in a letter from three international trade union organisations to Commission President, Jacques Delors.

The letter comes from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the World Confederation of Labour and the European Trade Union Confederation. It stresses that the aid measures - being co-ordinated by the Commission on behalf of the Group of 24 - must encourage the development of a three way dialogue between the governments, trade unions and employers associations. In addition to calling for the involvement of the social partners within Central and Eastern European states, the letter asks that the International Labour Organisation should be fully represented at Group of 24 meetings.

Eurobarometer

The support of European citizens for the Charter of Fundamental Social Rights remains high according to the latest results of the Eurobarometer public opinion survey published in April. The survey, which was based on interviews in all Member States during the final quarter of 1989, indicates that over 70% of European citizens are in favour of the social charter.

Other findings of the survey show a large majority of those questioned (78%) in favour of German reunification, and over 70% believing that the events in central and eastern Europe oblige the Community to accelerate its economic, political and monetary union. The survey indicates that opinion is rapidly moving in favour of greater political unity between the Member States. A majority of those questioned wanted to see the creation of a European government which was responsible to a European parliament with increased powers.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

"THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES"
European File 13/89. October 1989.

One of the central objectives of the European Communities has always been the free movement of people between Member States. The concept of the free movement of workers is enshrined in the Treaty of Rome and since 1970 Community law has forbidden any job discrimination against Community citizens on grounds of nationality. Nevertheless the existence of non-compatible national qualifications has effectively provided a brake on the mobility of workers between Member States - whilst workers have been free to move they have - in many cases - been unable to take their vocational qualifications with them. During the sixties and seventies the Community introduced a number of Directives which attempted to harmonise vocational qualifications within specific occupations. This approach however tended to be both slow and complex - the completion of the internal market by the end of 1992 necessitated a new approach if true labour mobility was to be achieved.

Thus by 1988 the sectoral approach had given way to a new general system of mutual recognition. A Directive adopted in 1988, which comes into force at the beginning of next year, creates a mechanism for the mutual recognition of all diplomas which are awarded on completion of a course of higher education, at university level or higher, comprising at least three years' full-time study or the equivalent. A second Directive was proposed in July 1989 covering shorter courses and vocational training at secondary level.

The new general system for the recognition of diplomas is described in this pamphlet in the European File series. It examines the various sectoral directives and explains the system which will be adopted by Member States to administer the new mutual recognition provisions. It also briefly considers a

number of other Community initiatives which are aimed at increasing the compatibility of vocational training systems within Member States and a number of Community programmes - such as Erasmus, Comett and Lingua - which are designed to encourage mobility within the education system itself. It is important that trade unions - as one of the social partners - are fully involved in ensuring that the new system works to the advantage of all workers within the Community, and this European File pamphlet provides a useful introduction which will be of value to trade unionists active in the field of vocational training.

WAYS OUT OF LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

"WORK AGAIN - WAYS OUT OF LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE"

ERGO Work Again Series. 1989. 4.7 ECU.
Available from CEI Consultants Ltd, 205 rue Belliard, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium.

ERGO is the three-year Action Programme for the long-term unemployed managed by CEI Consultants Ltd and PA Cambridge Economic Consultants on behalf of the European Commission. The objective of the programme is to provide a network for the interchange of information and experience related to activities involving long-term unemployed workers throughout the Community. One aspect of the work of the programme is the publication of a series of short booklets - the Work Again series - which examine the workings of a variety of schemes from different Member States within a specific field of activity.

The booklet described above forms part of this series and looks at schemes in Belgium, Luxembourg and Italy which attempt to tackle the health and social welfare problems associated with long-term unemployment. The first scheme examined in the booklet is the Argos project based in Ypres in Belgium. Argos was started in 1982 by a group of six unemployed people and it aims to meet the social welfare needs of the long-

NEW PUBLICATIONS

term unemployed by providing training and developing work programmes which are specifically aimed at workers who have been out of employment for considerable periods and need support facilities in order to regain normal work disciplines. Argos acts as a catalyst rather than a manager of schemes, it sees its function as starting projects which it then hands on to others to run.

The second study within the booklet is of the Polygone project, part of Inter-Actions Faubourgs, based in the city of Luxembourg. The project works particularly with the young long-term unemployed, many of whom suffer from a number of other social disadvantages besides unemployment. It has three groups of activities - community development, work skills and training, and social work support. The third study looks at the Sol Co venture in Brescia, Italy. Sol Co is an organisation which provides support for a number of social solidarity cooperatives in the area. Social solidarity cooperatives are an important feature in Italy, bringing together paid workers and volunteers in order to provide social welfare support services for a local community. Such cooperatives attempt to remove many of the distinctions between paid professionals, volunteer workers and "clients" - they are democratic organisations in which decisions are made by the members themselves. The study provides information on some of the individual social solidarity cooperatives supported by Sol Co and an examination of the role of Sol Co in stimulating the development of cooperatives.

All Member States of the Community share the problem of the long-term unemployed. Valuable lessons and valuable experiences exist throughout Europe - and the Work Again series of booklets provide an excellent way of creating an interchange of ideas and thus making use of the Community dimension. Other titles in the series include Ways Out of Long-Term Unemployment Through - rural

development, energy conservation and the environment, construction and housing, and art and culture. Together they provide an invaluable reference source for those active in the field of combating the evils of unemployment.

INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

"EUROPE, OUR FUTURE - THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY"

Published jointly by the European Parliament and the European Commission.

This is a new version of an earlier 1986 European File pamphlet which briefly describes the work of the key institutions of the European Community. It is a simple, concise and clear introduction to the work of the European Commission, the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice and the Economic and Social Committee. The role and function of each institution is examined along with the ways in which the institutions work together in formulating and administering Community decisions. A number of graphs, diagrams and illustrations support the text and together they provide an excellent contemporary overview of the way in which the Community works.

The pamphlet was published at the end of 1989 and therefore takes into account the results of the third direct elections to the European Parliament. As well as the main institutions, further short sections of the pamphlet briefly examine the work of the Court of Auditors and the European Investment Bank. A final section attempts to encapsulate the key aims of the Community in its drive towards greater economic and political union.

The pamphlet is ideal for anyone looking for a short, but authoritative, description of the work of the Community and its institutions. Many longer books on the subject exist, but few achieve the clarity and style of this short pamphlet.

INDUSTRY FILE

MOTOR INDUSTRY

The current state and future prospects of the European motor car industry was the subject of a major debate within the Industry Council in March. Commission Vice President Martin Bangemann presented a detailed review of the performance of the Community motor car industry and referred to the challenge of Japanese imports. The ministers stressed the need to support competitiveness within the industry and increase research and development activities. Whilst there was general agreement that increased competition within the single market would provide an important spur to efficiency, the Spanish delegation emphasised that a balance must be sought between competition and economic and social cohesion. Another important feature of the industry discussed by the ministers was the programme of harmonised standards. The creation of common Community standards to replace the individual national standards should enable the motor industry to take full advantage of the benefits offered by the large internal market. Three proposals within the harmonisation programme are currently before the Council of Ministers. These relate to standards for tyres, windshields and the weight and size of vehicles.

RETAIL INDUSTRY

The Commission has just published the findings of a special labour market survey of the Community retail industry. The survey indicates that retailers are expecting that a slight increase in the number of workers in the industry during the next two years. The survey reveals that about three quarters of workers in the industry have received some vocational training although the proportion of trained workers varies considerably between Member States (50% in Portugal, 88% in the Federal Republic of Germany). 64% of Community retail workers are employed full-time compared with 85% for all Community workers. The average number of contracted weekly working hours is 39, whilst opening hours average 53 hours per week. When questioned about potential barriers to increased opening hours, retailers mentioned such factors as legal regulations, the lack of consumer demand, the costs involved in reorganisation, collective agreements and the lack of qualified job applicants.

MINING INDUSTRY

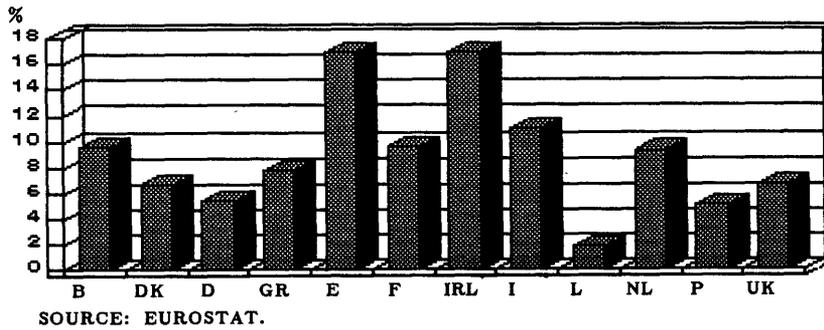
The Commission has just finalised a framework programme for the establishment of a Community mining policy, the aim of which is to initiate measures which will co-ordinate national and Community support services and investigate key problems being faced by the industry. Four subgroups will be established in order to further investigate 1. access to and the dissemination of geological and mining data; 2. problems relating to fiscal and social regimes; 3. the regulatory framework of the industry; and 4. the external trading policy within the mining sector. The various groups were expected to begin their investigations in April and will report their findings to the Commission. The groups will be made up of experts from the various Member States.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY

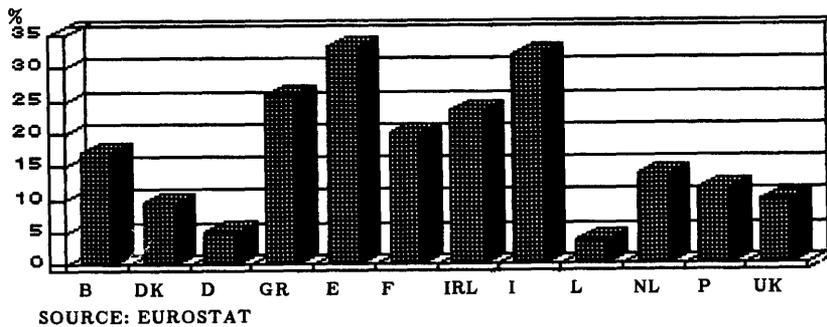
The possible dismantling of the Multi Fibre Agreement has caused the Community to review the state of the European textile industry and the European Commission has agreed to carry out a detailed study of the effects of an open market within the sector. The Commission will also examine the opportunities for Community involvement in the modernisation and reconversion of the textile industry, and examine ways in which the industry can be included within the new research and development framework programme. A recent Commission report on the industry concluded that technological development is still not fully exploited, largely due to the fragmented structure of textile companies within the Community. The Commission has also begun a study of how best to encourage and spread new forms of cooperation between Community firms.

EURODATA - STATISTICS

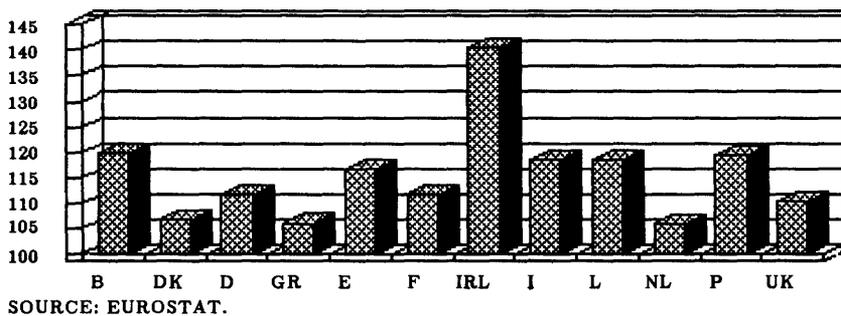
Total Unemployment In Member States : 1989



Youth Unemployment (under 25 years) in EC Member States: 1989



**Industrial Production in Member States : 1989
EC average (1985) = 100.**



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