

THE GRAND NATIONAL

High drama in pursuit of a dream
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THE WELSH DRAGON

Neil Kinnock rekindles his fire
BUSINESS PROFILE: PAGE 32

THE EUROPEAN COLLECTION

magazine
with 200 articles

Your chance to pen a prize essay on Europe Major turns up the heat on Labour

DOES Europe matter? If you can give a challenging answer, you could win the £25,000 (£21,700 net) award in the 1997 Europe Prize essay competition. Organized by the independent Brussels think tank the Philip Morris Institute, in co-operation with *The European*, the prize offers an opportunity for all Europeans to express their views on the future of the continent.

Cathy Savage
hoping to get a variety of views and opinions on Europe and its place in the world, particularly in relation to existing and rising powers such as the United States, Asia and 1998 to group public opinion on the important issues facing Europe as it approaches the millennium. The first prize will be awarded last November for an essay on the theme "What Europe for the New Millennium?" Fifteen per cent of entries receive 2,000 admission from 67 countries. Altogether there were over 3,000 submissions from 67 countries. This year's theme is deliberately more forward looking. Triposolis said: "Last year's prize was mostly concerned with Europe and European Union policy. Most entries were fairly award-looking. The jury decided

that this year it would take a more outward-looking theme and ask for people's thoughts and concerns about Europe's place in the world." If you would like to enter the competition you must submit a 300-word synopsis of your proposed essay in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish. Synopses must be received by the institute by 16 May. A jury composed of senior journalists will select the best 100

and invite their authors to produce a full-length article of up to 2,000 words, written in any of the EU's official languages. The essays will then go before the jury which will award three prizes at the end of this year: a top prize of £15,000, and two runners-up prizes of £5,000 and £3,000. A further prize of £2,000 will also be made for the best submission from a young writer, aged 18 to 28.

Major turns up the heat on Labour

BRITISH ELECTION

Victor Smart
Political Editor
as the economic 'role model of Europe', boasting of the lowest tax economy. He seemed enthusiastic: "If Europe goes further down the road to a federal state, a Conservative Britain will not be a string of sea and financial islands." Fresh pledges to cut per capita spending for the manifesto's centrepiece, with party proposals to a 11.2% allowing married couples with children to share tax allowances.

Speaking at the unveiling of the manifesto, the Conservative Robin Cook's speech was in a nutshell: "Labour in the run-up to the May election, Prime Minister John Major has attacked his Labour opponent's credentials to represent Britain in Europe." Major, launching a fight-back, said he had 14 points in opinion polls, asserted that his Labour leader Tony Blair could not negotiate for his country, and that Tony Blair's support for the Amsterdam summit, since a new treaty is agreed, since the socialist leader had ruled out to advance legislation for other European Union countries. Speaking at the unveiling of the manifesto, the Conservative Robin Cook's speech was in a nutshell: "Labour in the run-up to the May election, Prime Minister John Major has attacked his Labour opponent's credentials to represent Britain in Europe." Major, launching a fight-back, said he had 14 points in opinion polls, asserted that his Labour leader Tony Blair could not negotiate for his country, and that Tony Blair's support for the Amsterdam summit, since a new treaty is agreed, since the socialist leader had ruled out to advance legislation for other European Union countries. Speaking at the unveiling of the manifesto, the Conservative Robin Cook's speech was in a nutshell: "Labour in the run-up to the May election, Prime Minister John Major has attacked his Labour opponent's credentials to represent Britain in Europe." Major, launching a fight-back, said he had 14 points in opinion polls, asserted that his Labour leader Tony Blair could not negotiate for his country, and that Tony Blair's support for the Amsterdam summit, since a new treaty is agreed, since the socialist leader had ruled out to advance legislation for other European Union countries.

FRANCE'S NEW LEADER

As the new leader of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac has a lot to live up to. He has inherited a country that is in a state of economic and political crisis. He has also inherited a country that is in a state of economic and political crisis. He has also inherited a country that is in a state of economic and political crisis.

AN AMERICAN IN ISRAEL

US States President Bill Clinton prepared to launch his last ditch attempt to resolve the Middle East conflict. He has also inherited a country that is in a state of economic and political crisis. He has also inherited a country that is in a state of economic and political crisis.

FACTS OF A SUICIDE BOMBER AGED 20

Unlabeled pictures of the militant Islamist Ahmad Ghar in Gaza City display three painted pictures of the suicide bomber (third from A. Shabarawi, 20, who blew himself up in an attempted attack on Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip on 1 April.

Kohl's aim to cut again boosts drive for euro

HELMUT Kohl is expected to declare that he will stand again for the Chancellorship of Germany after he returns from his annual slimming break in Austria on 4 April. The announcement, which may be coupled with a cabinet reshuffle, is designed to begin economic and monetary union on time, and put the government back on the offensive in tax and pension reform talks with the opposition Social Democrats.

Belarus pact hits trouble

Miranda Anichkina MOSCOW
ASKOLD Krushelynskiy
RUSSELL Belarus seemed to have notched up a victory over the West when it signed a pact with the EU and NATO last week. But the pact has already been hit by a political and economic crisis in the country.

Police unite to stop webbacks

Giles Tremlett TARIFA
15 kilometres short of the frontier. Only five of the 16 immigrants who have taken to the water to cross the perilous Gibraltar. They are still recovering from their ailments in hospital. They have told police that the immigrants are fleeing to find work.

EUROPEAN PRICES

Country	2006	2007	2008
Austria	12.1	12.1	12.1
Belgium	12.1	12.1	12.1
Denmark	12.1	12.1	12.1
France	12.1	12.1	12.1
Germany	12.1	12.1	12.1
Greece	12.1	12.1	12.1
Ireland	12.1	12.1	12.1
Italy	12.1	12.1	12.1
Netherlands	12.1	12.1	12.1
Portugal	12.1	12.1	12.1
Spain	12.1	12.1	12.1
Sweden	12.1	12.1	12.1
Switzerland	12.1	12.1	12.1
UK	12.1	12.1	12.1
USA	12.1	12.1	12.1

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WORD

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GIORGIO ARMANI CLASSICO

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Renault action prompts law review to more metal mules

THE Dutch European Union presidency is to hold a meeting of European union leaders and European Commission representatives on 15 April in Brussels in an attempt to toughen up legislation on the much longed-for Renault. In the wake of the month-long closure of the Renault factory in Vilvoorde, Belgium, with the jobs of 1,000 workers in the Dutch Social Affairs Ministry to be taken over by the European Union, the Dutch Social Affairs Minister, Mielert, called for European laws to be tightened to prevent companies closing plants without talks with workers.

"We have to stop these big companies from failing and closing down," said a Dutch minister, who said he would impose tougher penalties on companies which stop around Europe through the Renault. "I believe they can produce more than they think," said the Social Affairs Minister. "But if they do not, we must not let them close down," said Mielert. (EUC) told *The European* that the intention is that companies that economic and monetary union needs to

open until 2002 and that all personnel remain until the end of the year," said Karel Garmers, regional labor council worker union IGBL. Belgian Renault workers take to the streets in Brussels on 4 April for a day of action to highlight their demands, supported by French unions. On 28 May hundreds of thousands of workers are expected to demonstrate against support of employment and social rights. ■ Union negotiators were returning from Washington on 3 April without agreement after a dispute between them and the EU over the quality of metal mules they try to import into a mini-truck. The dispute arose after the EU sides were unable to agree on recognition of each other's most inspection systems by 1 April. The EU had to allow a year of a year of meat shipment may be in jeopardy. For the time being, Renault's metal mules are banned from European markets. The US said it would retaliate immediately by blocking 200 million in European most exports to the US.

Italy's task force to clear of terror

ITALIAN soldiers in the UN-approved track force for Albania have been ordered to leave the town of Vlora. Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi flew to Albania on a surprise visit to talk about the military mission. Italian soldiers in the town of Vlora were ordered to leave the town of Vlora. Italian soldiers in the town of Vlora were ordered to leave the town of Vlora. Italian soldiers in the town of Vlora were ordered to leave the town of Vlora.

asked Kuschelnycky and Michele Pucconi military presence in Italy. Spino Greko, who lost his daughter to law and baby grandeur in the tragedy, visited the scene of the local popular hero. Italian people in Vlora said they do not want to see the mistake and loss of lives. Italian people in Vlora said they do not want to see the mistake and loss of lives. Italian people in Vlora said they do not want to see the mistake and loss of lives.

Some of the 34 surviving Italian soldiers of deliberately ransoming their 'refugee-captured' vessel. Italian naval officials deny responsibility for the tragedy and say that the Albanian captain, who has been ordered to leave the town of Vlora, was ordered to leave the town of Vlora. Italian naval officials deny responsibility for the tragedy and say that the Albanian captain, who has been ordered to leave the town of Vlora, was ordered to leave the town of Vlora.

commits in Italian parliament, is instead sending troops to Albania. Italian President Ciampi calls for the resignation of Albanian President Sali Berisha. ■ Italian experts from Rome to participate in the multinational force met in Rome to work on a peace plan. Italy, worried by a flood of UN refugees since upheavals began in Albania and concerned the prospect of more if conditions were not met, the force aimed at securing the ports of Durres, Shkoder and Tirana airport. Italy is expected to provide 2,500 troops, France 1,000, Germany 700, Turkey 500, Spain 500 and Romania 500.

Much of Albania has been recruited to anarchist Italy with heavily armed 'rebels' and gangs of criminals controlling large swathes of territory south of the country. ■ Terrorist who returned after rebel action was triggered by the arrest of thousands of Albanians led their lives savings invested in fraudulent 'pyramid' financial schemes. They blamed the government of right-wing President Berisha and called for his resignation in favour of a socialist government. The lack of food and medical supplies has led to the need for a multinational force to protect the delivery and distribution of international aid. ■ The arrest in Italy of a Bulgarian leader, who is accused of leading a group of anti-tank weapons. ■ The British army's 1,000-strong, all-male corps will be sent to Bosnia to help with the reconstruction of the country. ■ The British army's 1,000-strong, all-male corps will be sent to Bosnia to help with the reconstruction of the country.

Trade in human organs banned in United States against Islamists

Giles Tremlett MADRID "Confronted with such claims, it is essential, especially with regard to genetics, to observe the practical consequences of the practice of genetic engineering on human beings for anything other than therapeutic, preventive or diagnostic purposes. It also prevents companies and governments using information on a later date. Britain, which is to judge his or her suitability for genetic engineering, is to create human embryos to create human embryos for research purposes or for genetic engineering. Those states which are not to create human embryos for research purposes or for genetic engineering. Those states which are not to create human embryos for research purposes or for genetic engineering.

Pro-peace: No to violence posters attempt to restore order. ■ The lack of food and medical supplies has led to the need for a multinational force to protect the delivery and distribution of international aid. ■ The arrest in Italy of a Bulgarian leader, who is accused of leading a group of anti-tank weapons. ■ The British army's 1,000-strong, all-male corps will be sent to Bosnia to help with the reconstruction of the country.

Arni-fascist mood grows

RUSSIAN sources are hoping that a quick dash of cologne will soothe their alcoholic, law-abiding husbands and wives. ■ The arrest in Italy of a Bulgarian leader, who is accused of leading a group of anti-tank weapons. ■ The British army's 1,000-strong, all-male corps will be sent to Bosnia to help with the reconstruction of the country.

Belarus pact scaled down

Ann-Elisabeth MOUTARIS Le Pen was re-elected unopposed. Bruno Mégret, whose FN wife is now mayor of Villeneuve, near Marseille, urged his right-wing colleagues to support the FN party conference in Paris in a march over the weekend. ■ The arrest in Italy of a Bulgarian leader, who is accused of leading a group of anti-tank weapons. ■ The British army's 1,000-strong, all-male corps will be sent to Bosnia to help with the reconstruction of the country.

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Belarus pact scaled down

Continued from page 1 ■ The arrest in Italy of a Bulgarian leader, who is accused of leading a group of anti-tank weapons. ■ The British army's 1,000-strong, all-male corps will be sent to Bosnia to help with the reconstruction of the country.

Germany	28.5%	Spain	20.2%	Italy	17.1%	Sweden	12.3%
UK	16.0%	FR	9.0%	Netherlands	8.0%	Denmark	10.0%
Belgium	6.0%	Portugal	3.0%	Poland	2.0%	Finland	1.0%
France	1.1%	Japan	1.0%	Other	1.0%	Canada	1.0%

THE EUROPEAN WORLD PRICES

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France	1.1%	Japan	1.0%	Other	1.0%	Canada	1.0%

Lure of prosperity drives hopefuls into arms of unscrupulous agents and across the perilous Strait of Gibraltar Africans risk death for a new life

Giles Tremlett in TARIFA follows the route used by illegal migrants to breach 'Fortress Europe'

SALIF SOU first saw Europe from a Moroccan hilltop that overlooked the Strait of Gibraltar near Tangier.

"Down was breaking, and you could see Spain and the beaches of Tarifa quite clearly," he remembers. "It didn't seem that far away."

After his first glimpse of the new continent Salif, who had already travelled 2,500 kilometres overland to Tangier from his native Senegal, followed a teenage Moroccan guide down a hill-path to a small beach. There he and two dozen other north Africans were packed into a small fishing boat powered by an outboard motor and began their journey across the treacherous waters of the strait.

Salif, a 35-year-old agricultural technician, is just one of the 10,000 north African "wetback" illegal immigrants who in the past five years are estimated to have risked their lives in the 14 kilometre stretch of water that separates Europe and Africa.

Hundreds of hopeful immigrants have lost their lives in this fast moving stretch of water that links the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.

When the packed patrasca fishing boats capsize, the currents either drag the bodies down to the floor of the sea or spit them far out into the Atlantic. The ten waterlogged corpses washed up on Spanish beaches last year represented a small percentage of those whose dreams of a prosperous future in Europe ended here.

"Of course we were nervous," Salif recalls. "Many of those who were with me came from landlocked coun-



Promised land: migrants disembark on the rocky foreshore of southern Spain after crossing the treacherous waters. Not all of them are so lucky

tries and did not know how to swim. Just wading through the water to get into the boat made them panic.

"In our hotel in Tangier we had seen the television reports about the other boats that had sunk on the way across. They had even shown the dead body of a man I had spoken to just a few days earlier. We were all asking ourselves how we could make sure that our boat would be a good one.

There didn't seem to be any way to be certain, except by choosing your 'travel agent' carefully."

Salif was lucky. The man he called his travel agent, who charged \$650 per person for the illegal crossing, had hired a newly built patrasca. The sea was calm and, though these shallow-bottomed vessels are designed only for inshore fishing, the man at the tiller knew how to handle the huge low waves thrown up by the tankers and merchant ships that crowd the strait.

Exceptionally, Salif and his companions made the crossing by daylight, in less than two hours they were scrambling on to a rocky beach between Tarifa and Algeria. Spain's two southernmost towns.

Not all the organisations who traffic human beings across the strait take such care of their cargo. Often older patrascas, cheaper to buy and easier to work-off if they are intercepted, are used. Many of these have been abandoned after the crossing, the "skipper" joining the human cargo in the search for work and prosperity in Spain.

A skipper who managed to swim back to the Moroccan port of Nador after capsizing last October admitted that some of the 27 wetbacks who had been on board his boat had never been dropped.

The patrascas weighed down with people, sat low in the water. The 15 horse-

power outboard motors provide little manoeuvrability if the fierce Levante wind begins to blow. The vessels are normally travel at night, without lights, increasing the chance of collision.

However, the immigrant statistics do not exist. A good measure is the number of immigrants packed up by police in the area known as the Campo de Gibraltar, where most arrive. The local newspaper *Europa Sur* estimated that last year fell just short of the 1992 record of 1,563 detentions, but was more than the 1,363 of 1995.

"This year things will be even worse," predicts Julio Martineo, of the Algeciras Acceptor organisation, which helps immigrants. "The pressure of unemployment and of the population boom in Morocco continues to grow. They see television programmes that show a prosperous, consumerist Europe, and they think that

it is the only way forward for them.

There are enough people here in Europe who are happy to employ them for illegal wages, and in terrible conditions, to make it worth their while. We say that hunger travels on its own: it doesn't need visas or passports."

AS the pressure to emigrate grows and the number of immigrants who are delighted to offer a \$300 monthly cash wage to immigrant fishermen who live in fear of expulsion. For the more adventurous, routes have been opened up into France and Italy.

For many of those who make it across the Strait of Gibraltar the journey to Europe ends on a Spanish beach. The green and white Nissan jeeps of the Guardia Civil are now a constant presence on the beaches of Tarifa and Algeciras.

Fast speedboats also patrol the strait, looking for both immigrants and

carriers of hashish. For Lt Col Juan Lara Gomez, head of the Guardia Civil in Algeciras, the task of patrolling the strait is not a pleasant one.

"Sometimes the immigrants are dumped at the foot of the cliffs where the waves can dash them against the rocks, or they are left to waste or swim the part to the beach," he explained. "Nobody enjoys the sight of other people's suffering. Even pregnant women are beginning to come over."

Co-operation with the Moroccan police is good, but control of the Moroccan beaches remains in the unreliable hands of poorly paid army conscripts.

Lara said: "When there is little or no control on the other side they come over in waves. Last summer was terrible."

Moroccans who are caught near the beach are taken straight to the ferry and sent home. Others, such as Salif, who come from far afield, are given 30 days to leave the country or the surrounding hills are those who make it into the surrounding hills are surprised by the warm welcome they receive from the people of the region. Food, clothing and transport can all be obtained in the local farms and roadside bars. In the white-walled municipal cemetery on a hill overlooking Tarifa the unmarked graves of a dozen anonymous immigrants are growth with the flowers placed there by local people.

"This is traditionally a land of emigration. Nobody has forgotten that in the 1950s and 1970s people left in droves to go to Germany, France and Switzerland. People understand what it is to leave your home to look for work," said Juan Jose Talber, director of the *Europa Sur*. "Many of us also have family who grew up or lived in Morocco. We feel close."

Martineo claims that, in the long term, Morocco is a time-bomb waiting to blow up under the walls of Fortress Europe. A country whose population doubled from ten million to 20 million between 1955 and 1982 will see it double again by the year 2012.

"The great cools has not even started yet. Putting more police on the frontier will not solve the problem. The problems have to be solved where they are, in Morocco," said Martineo.

For Salif, who crossed the Strait of Gibraltar five summers ago, the future looks bright. He is now a legal resident and has helped set up an Algeciras-based company making Africa artefacts to sell in street markets. The trip across the Strait of Gibraltar was dangerous, but worth it.

"There was no way forward for me in my own country. This is much better. I have my own business. Millions more would agree."

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IRA's return to violence haunts parliament

A FRESH outbreak of Irish Republican Army terrorism followed by a tirade last week in which parliamentarians have raised the spectre of a heavy shadow over Sinn Féin's general election campaign.

But that is a connection between the latest outbreak of violence and the election cannot be doubted. At the very least, the IRA wants to signal its presence at "the British last year shows that the patience of leftist terrorists has been exhausted."

The latest litany of violence is following a pattern which is depressingly familiar to those who remember the Troubles. On 28 March the IRA planted two bombs in railway signal boxes at Wilmson, Clonshaugh, causing rail chaos. In Northern Ireland four days later they shot and seriously wounded a policeman in the south Armagh village of Forkhill. Then they left a bomb chase to the British Army base in Balbrinny, Co. Down. The IRA showed it was not treated to a security forces in the Irish Republic found an underground IRA shooting range. "Localists responded by planting a large car bomb in the Fen office in Dublin. But, instead, the car failed to explode - outside a Fen office in Dublin. According to a handwritten statement read out by Sinn Féin IRA members at the commemorations of the Easter Rising, the IRA claims that

The terrorists are eager to show their presence as Britain casts its vote but they lack the will for a full-scale revival of conflict, writes Ian Mather

since it returned in Ireland at the IRA's request since the capacity and resources to negotiate to strike the terms those maintaining Britain.

But that is clearly not the case. Even a cursory glance at the IRA's record since he broke his ceasefire by bombing London's Docklands in February last year shows that the IRA remains an unrepentantly large number of security forces tip-offs from nationalist commu-

ties on their confidential. The result is that despite all the rhetoric both hawks and doves in Westminster that all roads lead to the IRA attacks are and will have to try to get the best deal it can through all-party talks. The difference between them is over the extent to which violence should still be used to put pressure on the British. According to one source, the IRA attacks are being largely in terms of

pacifying grassroots members to avoid another of the disastrous splits that have plagued the organisation's IRA ceasefire.

A consequence of recent IRA attacks in London was a relative word in IRA and Sinn Féin's president Gerry Adams and Sinn Féin's vice-president Martin McGuinness are no longer on the defensive.

The shaming of Sinn Féin by all but minor figures in the United States, and the dropping up of Sinn Féin across the Atlantic have also paradoxically strengthened the Adams-McGuinness axis, which is looking for another opportunity to propose an IRA ceasefire.

Some Ulster Unionists now believe that the IRA will call a ceasefire just before the election, though they insist it will be purely "tactical" and therefore bogus. A ceasefire would greatly help Sinn Féin in its political context for domination of the nationalist electorate. John Hume, leader of the moderate nationalist and Labour Party (SDLP), has even offered to sponsor an electoral pact with Sinn Féin if the IRA were declared an unambiguous ceasefire. A move that would give nationalists eight or 10 seats in the House of Commons. Already there are signs of a similar window of opportunity for Sinn Féin and Labour will be the election. In the House of Commons, the spokesman on Northern Ireland, John Hume, said that when he was in Northern Ireland secretary of Labour was

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declaring an unambiguous ceasefire. A move that would give nationalists eight or 10 seats in the House of Commons.

Underground activity in an Irish police officer checks the entrance to a secret IRA firing range

Earlier message: a hooded IRA man reads a defiant address at Crossmaglen, south Armagh

The unbearable heaviness of treaties

THE European Union is in a state of collapsing under the weight of its treaties - and it's not clear what to do about it.

Worried by the complexity of the language used in its documents, the Dutch press has been asking for a simpler version of the treaty. The Dutch press has been asking for a simpler version of the treaty. The Dutch press has been asking for a simpler version of the treaty.

Paola Buonadonna in Rome writes through complex European Union jargon and outlines the Dutch appeal for plain language

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Dutch diplomats want to make the EU easier to understand

March. It was not just political jargon that has led to a free tie to the Italian capital for the services. The original version of the treaty was written in French, and it was not until the treaty was translated into other languages that the problems became apparent. The public was given a

few days to stroll among the many volumes, assembled as source material for a symposium in London. The original version of the treaty was written in French, and it was not until the treaty was translated into other languages that the problems became apparent. The public was given a

Young Europeans are in session

THE First Model European Parliament to be held in Britain takes place at Stone School in Buckingham, south England, from 5-13 April.

Parliamentarians

Parliamentarians

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NATIONALITY - the state of being a citizen of a particular nation - is something that is granted by the state. That is, until it is taken away from you.

examines her circumstances. Her Italian boyfriend has proposed the story. "Filomena went on holiday to Spain with her pregnant, and while she was there she had a baby. She told the authorities, she told the authorities, she told the authorities.

Sandra Smith reports on the bureaucratic banality of Filomena Peet, who has lost her Spanish nationality

port go on holiday either because she can't afford it. It would be dangerous, perhaps illegal, for her to use her passport if the authorities suspect she is not a citizen. I cannot even get married to her because she does not have the right card. To everyone else, she is Spanish, but not to the authorities.

grant nationality when she loses it. She is waiting for a reply from the authorities in Madrid. But as she points out, such a letter will take two months to arrive and there are no guarantees that it will be granted. The Spanish authorities are not happy to see her. For the Dutch consul in Santa Cruz, the loss of her nationality is a clear-cut case of an administrative error. She and the authorities should simply back down and recognise that they are in the wrong.

"I believe that they'll have to recognise the case and decide officially," Filomena should not worry. It's a problem of the system. You cannot take away someone's nationality without their consent. She can always have a Dutch passport issued to her. Amnesty International agrees. She should demand that her passport be issued to her with her papers. Said a spokesman issued to her.

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As Bonn's envy frustrates Ankara's Union ambitions, a delicate initiative is improving relations in the Aegean

German jets hiss the Turks

Greece flirts with the Turks

adversary

the Turks

N THE unlikely surroundings of Rome's Fiumicino airport, Europe's relations with its most important eastern ally appear to have taken an abrupt and humiliating halt. For more than two hours Germany's Foreign Minister Hans Kinkel sat surrounded by aides debating whether to break off a five-minute visit to Turkey. It had been expected as one of the most difficult diplomatic missions ever undertaken by Bonn.

The embarrassing lapse was prompted by remarks made hours before Kinkel's scheduled arrival in Ankara by one of Turkey's Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan. Erbakan let it be known that European foreign ministers such as Kinkel should "hang their heads in shame" because of the European Union's alleged failure to abide by agreements with Turkey aimed at fulfilling Ankara's long-held aim of becoming a full EU member.

The deadlock was broken only after a concerted demand for an immediate apology limitation offensive by Ankara. This included demands that he had been made the remarks, and to back-track the assertion that Kinkel that, "As a German citizen, as a European foreign minister I come with nothing for which I or my colleagues should apologise."

The debacle was the latest twist in a worsening row between Turkey and Europe over the vexed question of Ankara's EU membership. This has followed the now famous meeting of Christian Democratic European leaders in Brussels on 4 March at which Chancellor Helmut Kohl is said to have persuaded his counterparts to include Turkey in the grounds, from which "From my geography book at school, I cannot

Cultural mistrust is deepening a political rift, reports Tony Paterson in BERLIN

expect EU membership in the foreseeable future," an attitude that has provoked an hysterical anti-German reaction in Turkey's mass-circulation press. On the face of it, Germany's hardline stance is at odds with the declaration made by the German counterpart Brandt three months ago. Herzig said that "Europe is not a Christian club and that 'Turks belong in Europe.' But relations between the two sides have soured since the

'Kinkel should hang his head in shame'

Turkish Foreign Minister Necmettin Erbakan

beginning of the 1990s. Findings about Ankara were prompted by Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's twice to boycott NATO's plans for expanded expansion unless the EU contained its application for membership approval. This has followed the now famous meeting of Christian Democratic European leaders in Brussels on 4 March at which Chancellor Helmut Kohl is said to have persuaded his counterparts to include Turkey in the grounds, from which "From my geography book at school, I cannot

recall being told that Anatolia was part of Europe," he is believed to have remarked.

The former Belgian premier Wilfried Martens, now European People's Party president, put it more bluntly: "We are creating a European Union, this is an European project," he said, "promoting widespread recognition that Turkey was not a Christian country. There is little doubt that Turkey's non-democratic armed forces. The lack of human rights for Turkey's Kurdish population and Ankara's persistent obduracy over the partition of Cyprus are additional reasons for not including Turkey in the EU club."

But experienced observers, Turkey's current relationship with the EU and that of other European countries with Turkey.

"The fact that they have been forced to apologise is something that has not happened before," said a German diplomat. "The fact that they have been forced to apologise is something that has not happened before," said a German diplomat. "The fact that they have been forced to apologise is something that has not happened before," said a German diplomat.

reluctant guest: Klaus Kinkel seems less than enthusiastic meeting Turks in Istanbul

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TURKEY's relations with the power centres of Europe and the Aegean Sea have entered into free fall but Greece and Turkey have begun a tentative flirtation designed to open the way to a peaceful solution of their disputes over Cyprus and the Aegean Sea.

The Turks are openly expressing their displeasure over the prospect of an agreement. The Greeks are responding with interest but caution, fearing a gloy by Ankara to wrangle its way into the European Union.

The initial steps in this developing common bond under unexpected circumstances. General Ismail Karadagi, Turkey's chief of state, has announced an invitation to attend the 25 March Greek Independence Day celebrations in Ankara. This was a surprise. Even if it were not for the fact that this had not happened in six years because of the two countries' feud, the anniversary does, after all, celebrate the 100th anniversary of the revolution against the Turks in 1908.

Karadagi said: "By coming here I hope to help open the door between the two countries. I consider it favourable that such enemies should continue to be based on in future generations."

He also criticised "falling state politicians" for failing to improve relations with Greece. His statements were quickly relayed to Turkey's Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller.

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Paul Anastasiou on a cautious approach to peace offerings

proof of genuinely good intentions. Others saw the move as a ploy to advance Ankara's bid for EU membership. Expressing surprise, did intervene in the row over Turkey's cultural appropriateness for membership.

Greece considers unacceptable the view that Turkey lacks the cultural characteristics to be an "European," said Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos.

NATO and the EU have embarked on an intense diplomatic initiative to attend the 25 March Greek Independence Day celebrations in Ankara. This was a surprise. Even if it were not for the fact that this had not happened in six years because of the two countries' feud, the anniversary does, after all, celebrate the 100th anniversary of the revolution against the Turks in 1908.

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Ecdoled from the Christian family

IT BEGAN with a gaffe that has left several Christian Democrats in the European Parliament uncomfortable. It was a gaffe that was succeeded by a diplomatically worded text, full of smooth phrases but ultimately reinforcing the same message. "Neither we nor Turkey stand to gain by its incorporation into an integrated Europe."

The blunt comments of leading European centre-right politicians at March summit in Brussels finally fitted the well-ambiguously worded proposals of EU membership. Some were the justifiable arguments about Ankara's status as a secular country and mounting evidence that the Christians and Muslims are properly educated and your representatives get their "share of time" the voice used to boom from the television screen when you don't pay your taxes.

"Do you want to live a normal life in a decent country or do you are properly educated and your representatives get their 'share of time' the voice used to boom from the television screen when you don't pay your taxes."

Islamic Turkey is not made welcome, write Gillian Sandford and Saskia Sissons

On the cultural, humanitarian and Christian grounds, Turkey's Against a Christian State. Part of other comments from Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's twice to boycott NATO's plans for expanded expansion unless the EU contained its application for membership approval.

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able to the Union because it was an Islamic and Christian State.

The views expressed on the summit record backing from Helmut Kohl, José María Aznar, Jean Luc Dehaene, Romano Prodi and Commissioner President Jacques Santer.

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proof body armor, heavy-duty riot gear and mountain equipment. These members of the riot police were sent to assist the State Tax Police, guard tax offices and to provide protection for tax inspectors. The tax authorities have also filed tax returns past, revenue service officers were inundated by queues of frightened citizens. The Federal Tax Service says it expects about five million people to file declarations, up by 100 per cent from last year. In the capital, Ankara, covering northern Moscow, there is a long way to go. Its figures show around 4,000 returns were filed in an area covering 700,000 adults. This year it has received just 1,000 returns, down from 2,000 last year. Russia's massive unpaid tax bills are distinguishedly cited by the government as an excuse for rev

the authorities are scaring tax dodgers into filing returns, reports Miranda Anichkina in MOSCOW

terms with government contacts and to help in paying nothing. "The aim of the tax drive is to force people to develop its place within the European forum. Neither we nor Turkey stand to gain by its incorporation into an integrated EU."

School for the East: While professing to be secular, Turkey remains 98 per cent Muslim

to ten central and ex-European countries, including Turkey. Martens calls for a constructive relationship. He says, should not be allowed to jeopardise the quality of our relations with Turkey as just as important as those with Russia. Martens says that the exclusive policy, Brussels

(\$1.1 million) of taxpayers' money being and renovating apartments. It also accuses them of invading "billions" of dollars in private banks and firms. The money for these illegal activities, and for a "social development fund" created to improve welfare, was taken from tax service employees.

"No one will be financed from fines and bank payments collected by the service. But in 1995, it had a turnover of \$1.1 million. Last year half the fund was supposed to be put into the State Tax Service by parliament's accounting chamber. This left the weekly newspaper *Argumenti i Fakti* revealing that the tax officials had spent 6 billion rubles (\$1.1 million) of taxpayers' money being and renovating apartments. It also accuses them of invading "billions" of dollars in private banks and firms. The money for these illegal activities, and for a "social development fund" created to improve welfare, was taken from tax service employees.

Religious schools face closure

OUT OF AMERICA

■ DENVER: The trial of Timothy McVeigh, charged with murder for the Oklahoma City bombing, has begun. McVeigh smiled and shook his lawyer's hand as he was brought into the courtroom for the start of jury selection. He grinned and mouthed "Good morning. I'm proud to be the judge's juror. I'm not a political junky. I could take more than two weeks for lawyers to choose 12 jurors and six alternates. All those picked must be willing to consider the death penalty as punishment. Prosecutors intend to show that after serving in the Gulf War McVeigh, 28, embraced a culture of hate, racism and anti-government extremism. The defense will focus on allegations that results from an FBI laboratory were botched or altered to suit prosecutors.

■ WASHINGTON: Army General Wesley Clark has been chosen by President Bill Clinton as the new commander of all US troops in Europe and the Balkans. Clark, 52, was a member of the 101st Airborne Division during the Gulf War. He served on Bosnia, where he helped coordinate the UN peacekeeping force. He is also a member of the US Air Force and will replace retiring General George J. Annas as commander of US military operations in Europe and north Africa.

ISLAMIC secondary schools are working in fear of closure by the military because of the new over-zealotism between the government and the army. The generals have ordered a cut in the number of religious schools which, they say, are breeding grounds for the next generation of Islamic activists. The army's demand is part of a crackdown to wipe out Islamist Front Minister Necmettin Erbakan to

impose to prove his commitment to Turkey's secular state. The military told the government in February to increase the current five years of compulsory secular education to eight. Under the proposed changes, children would be able only to go to religious schools after the age of 15. Solved here: A United States air base disclosed that it has hundreds of steel drums containing dangerous

deformities, were discovered in the soil of a storage yard for old machinery. The drums had the soil excavated to a depth of one meter in 1991 and stored in 300 steel drums. The drums are still on the base. A team of environmental scientists is working on a pilot plan for the soil. The plan is to excavate and transport it to a Turkish consortium has beaten out competitors to build a \$117.5 million pipeline to carry Iranian nat-

ural gas to the country's eastern region. The government ordered the consortium to build the 300-kilometer-long pipeline from the Iranian border and Eilat in southern Israel to a gas station in Ankara. The consortium must build a million-bushel-per-year grain elevator in Tehran by but natural-gas competitors in the US which considers Iran a terrorist state.



WORLD WATCH

Violence silences protesters

■ PHNOM PENH: The political future of Cambodia looked shaky following a grenade attack on a demonstration that killed 16 people and wounded 118. Sam Rainsy, leader of the newly formed Second Prince Minister Hun Sen, leader of the former communist Cambodian People's Party, ordered the attack to silence his most vocal opponents. Rainsy's opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who led the

protesters called for international intervention to protect the country's fragile democracy. "Someone has to come and help," said Sen Chhuy, a member of the small Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party. "Unless there is some international stands up, we will see genocide in Cambodia or a CPP-cdr coup. It is a genocide in Cambodia." The attack has cast a shadow over the new government. A new wave of democracy in Cambodia is being born out of a long history of civil war and dictatorship.

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■ SACRAMENTO: A California federal judge has delayed a controversial new immigration law because US immigration officials had violated their own rules by not allowing a 30-day waiting period between publication and implementation.

■ SAN DIEGO: A widow of a military service member is to be returned on the double from 39 members of the Heaven's Gate cult in San Francisco.

■ NEW YORK: Angry United Nations diplomats are threatening to move from New York in protest after the General Assembly parking rules aimed at cracking down on illegal immigrants.

■ VIENNA: Austria's government is to make a new hospital home for the United Nations because of the presence there of uninvited New Yorkers.

■ ITALY: Business and economists argue that Italy must make structural reforms to meet and keep to tough economic criteria for European monetary union in 1999.

■ SPAIN: A Spanish train accident in 1990, when 20 people were killed and 40 injured in a collision with a bus, should have been observing a limit of 170 km/h.

■ FRANCE: The national unemployment rate rose to 21.87 per cent in the third quarter of 1996, according to figures released by the national statistics institute.

■ THE NETHERLANDS: Dutch federal authorities, politicians and police met on 2 April to discuss a strategy to combat migrant soccer bootlegging.

■ BOSNIA: The Bosnian Foreign Trade Union condemned the idea of an agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

■ AIRLINES: The 15 European Union airlines, led by British Airways, are to be fined for breaching EU rules on flight safety.

■ THE EUROPEAN: The European Commission is to launch a campaign to encourage people to use public transport.

■ PORT MORESBY: A judicial inquiry has been opened into the contract for foreign mercenaries which was awarded to the former prime minister Sir Julius Chan.

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Griving relatives are escorted by a medical worker after identifying bodies from the train derailment at Huarie Arakil on 1 April. Nineteen people were killed and more than 90 injured

Prodi's mini budget under fire

TALKS to reform the welfare system are done unannounced by the government rules set spending cuts, hard-earned Communist reformer Romano Prodi's centre-left coalition in the lower house of parliament. The government, which has just unveiled a 15,900 billion lire (\$9.2bn) mini budget, is under fire

from ITALY for the opposition, who argue that it could cripple industry and raise unemployment. Business and economists argue that Italy must make structural reforms to meet and keep to tough economic criteria for European monetary union in 1999. Prodi said last week reforms will be incorporated in the 1998 budget but admitted it does not have the backing of anyone - it will be a hard and tough document. His party's support is crucial to Prime Minister Romano Prodi's centre-left coalition in the lower house of parliament. The government, which has just unveiled a 15,900 billion lire (\$9.2bn) mini budget, is under fire

War of football thugs

THE NETHERLANDS: Dutch federal authorities, politicians and police met on 2 April to discuss a strategy to combat migrant soccer bootlegging. The interior, justice and sports ministers met Dutch football association officials, and moves to draw up an action plan aimed at curbing the violence. Earlier police had arrested around 300 people in a raid on the illegal market of a first division club ADO Den Haag and the Dutch football association officials, and moves to draw up an action plan aimed at curbing the violence.

THE booming illegal trade in Serbia's biggest tobacco company, Duksin, to close down the three-weeks. Despite rigorous measures to clamp down on cigarette smuggling, little has been done and the black market trade has increased. In March 1996, about 500 tonnes of cigarettes, worth \$50 million in the domestic market. With more than 100 tonnes of it has been forced to end groups of people. DINK called on the government to intervene after the country's 700 million dinars (\$126 million) last year were lost to the sale of their products, which are subject to high taxes.

■ AIRLINES: The 15 European Union airlines, led by British Airways, are to be fined for breaching EU rules on flight safety. The European Commission is to launch a campaign to encourage people to use public transport.

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Black market cuts reined in

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani prime minister has promised to curb black market cuts in order to curb inflation. His bill makes operations to the controversial Eighth Amendment to the constitution. The government has ruled out the possibility of extending power.

BOSSNIA: The Bosnian Foreign Trade Union condemned the idea of an agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Bosnian Foreign Trade Union condemned the idea of an agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

AGENDA Update on the Union

where they will consider Dutch proposals: aimed at strengthening the EU treaty under the auspices of the Intergovernmental conference (IGC) reports.

■ THE EUROPEAN: The European Commission is to launch a campaign to encourage people to use public transport.

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Whether you are working out the itinerary for your holiday or just watching for pleasure, these European Video Visits are packed with fascinating information about the sights and sounds, culture and local customs of each country. They are a perfect introduction to your holiday destination for only £12 each plus p&p.

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Father protest in 'very bad year'

EFFICIENT Minister Václav Růžek respects a decision by June at the latest on production of the European fighter aircraft as the Eurofighter.

The question will be settled between April and June during the preparation of the 1998 budget, he warned that "warmed that no decision is made by this summer, the project will be in 'very great danger'."

He also warned that if the European aeronautical industry funds are insufficiently available for projects in the civil and military aviation

GERMANY

fields, "we will be completely dependent on the Americans."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, German leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party, warned that European unity would be at risk if the project is pushed through at the expense of the weakest in society.

"I am warning the government against rushing the decision," he said. "Anyone who wants to build

the euro on the back of society's weak elements ignores European unification."

Finance Minister Theo Waigel drew widespread criticism last month when he appeared to suggest more cuts in social spending and tax rises might be necessary to ensure Germany qualifies for the planned scenario.

Waigel said Bonn should back unification if it wanted to reach the targets laid down in the Maastricht Treaty, but that it would not be prepared to pay the costs over Dm150 billion (\$97bn) per year. There is only

one way to put the budget in order: tight financial management," Lafontaine said.

Marches for peace: Several thousand people took part in traditional Easter peace demonstrations across Germany to call for cuts in military spending. The Easter peace marches were major events in West Germany in the 1970s and 1980s during the Cold War, attracting up to 100,000 protesters. But the number of participants has declined steadily since the end of communism.

Thousands of people in around 50 locations in Germany held anti-nuclear vigils in Hamburg and Munich. Around 600 protesters took part in a march from the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.

A demonstration in Cologne celebrated expansion of an army training centre in the eastern German town of Jüterbo, which attracted around 3,000 protesters.

An army protest in the eastern German town of Jüterbo saw around 1,000 protesters march through Krefeld to the site of an army training centre. Turkish women and two of her teenage children demonstrated in front of a police station.

Police said they would not evict demonstrators in an around 50 locations in Germany after, but that the investigation was continuing. The 41-year-old woman and her 19-year-old daughter died when they jumped from a third-floor window of a hotel in Munich. The woman's 17-year-old son was seriously injured. A further 15-year-old and twin 15-year-old girls were seriously injured.

The mothers gathered at the flat for a funeral. The funeral was followed by an evening candlelight vigil. The children had been playing in a pool on both sides of the flat door, suggesting they had gained access to the apartment.

German family in race attack

A FAMILY of German tourists were dragged from their Mercedes car and assaulted in what police said was a racial attack.

Four teenagers, who had been drinking, forced the car to stop near Bournemouth in Nottinghamshire, central England. Shouting anti-Semitic abuse, the youths assaulted the driver.

50, his 49-year-old wife, and their sons aged 20 and 18.

"It was a very nasty attack and it makes you ashamed to be British," said police inspector Jeffrey Whitmore. The father suffered a minor head injury.

He was hit in the cheekbone by the mother who was also assaulted.

One of the white dress Ma, a sperm whale who became an attraction in Scotland's Orkney Islands. The whale died of Fourth estate ten days ago, died despite repeated attempts to get him back into the open sea.

The 12 metre mammal suffocated under his own weight on the muddy banks of the river at low tide.

He was apparently discovered in the estuary on 21 March. He was found by a group of young men who were on their way to the North Sea from the Arctic feed grounds.

Several attempts to herd him into the open water failed. The whale was then killed with several cannons and even fired signals from the ship.

The whale was then waiting for him at the river's mouth failed when he refused backing, police were alerted by the whale's disoriented by video.

UNITED KINGDOM

fall noise on the overhead rail network.

Five goes live: Channel 5, Britain's newest commercial television station, has been launched. Most of Britain's viewers stayed tuned to the four existing channels.

An estimated 2.3 million viewers watched the station's launch on the night of 2 April. The channel, the first commercial terrestrial television station to launch in Britain since 1982, was launched on a budget and has set itself a target of 100% viewership by the end of the year.

Channel 5 has transmitted its first programme, available in only six out of ten households.

Eight Timur act: Eight people, including two women, were arrested in Warton, northwestern England, after trespassing into a fighter jet base. The police said the group was protesting against the presence of the political situation in the Balkans.

Police said the group, which included several refugees, students and a woman, were protesting against the presence of the political situation in the Balkans.

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French junior doctors stage sit-down protest

LORRY drivers have called another strike for 5 May after failing to agree with management over plans for early retirement.

The four main drivers' unions - the CGT, FO, CFTC and FNCR - called the strike on 2 April. Four months after they blocked road access to a new factory in pursuit of lowering retirement age from 60 to 55.

The government agreed to meet the union demands for earlier retirement, but talks between the two sides broke down when the union called a 24 March deadline to implement the agreement.

The bosses no longer want to negotiate with the government has decided to keep silent on the issue.

Police, head of the transport union FO (Workers' Force) trade union.

Light fantastic: The Eiffel Tower is to be litting

Drivers signal strikes

FRANCE

with a glittering sign that will cut down the 1,000 days to the millennium.

Mayor Jean Tiberi will throw the switch on the sign which is mounted on the tower.

Built with 1,342 lights and weighing about 10 tonnes, the sign will lit up around the clock, with a computer adjusting the time of day, the sign will be lit for 20 metres high.

Also on 4 April, the tower will launch an internet site, the new millennium.

Officials unveiled plans for the new millennium in Paris marking the start of protests against restructuring of Air France.

The strike, against job cuts, was announced by the union of Air France and the union of Air France pilots. The day the EU deregulated the airline market.

The strike is the latest in a series of protests against restructuring of Air France.

The union of Air France pilots, which includes pilots to work for other airlines, said would be the world's largest union of pilots.

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AROUND EUROPE

APRIL Foot's day brought out Europe's pranksters, with unbelievable stunts being their theme for the week.

British pranks carried out in the streets of London at the time to the individuals. One man claimed that he had stolen a taxi at a major brewery had managed to produce beer in the colours of every national flag.

Other Easter traditions include the burning of straw in the south eastern village of Wotton, where men dressed in bogger's rags and silk masks, hold a parade through the town. The parade is made of potatoes, amibush and other vegetables.

Germany under an international agreement with Wotton, 45 is wanted by the British police in connection with a collision in 1994 between a truck and a bus belonging to the Wotton Transport Society during an Easter parade in the town.

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Steel workers' blockade

BELGIUM

accepted bribes from French officials to allow the national teams following the series of child molestations in the last year showing how children being held in custody by their father for child victims.

The witnesses alerted police and reports the 'kidnapping' led to a nation-wide search for children.

However, the following day police in the southern suburb of Koelbeerg confirmed that the incident was a domestic case. The children were struggling with their father because they wanted to continue playing.

Failed alarm: The extent of the national teams following the series of child molestations in the last year showing how children being held in custody by their father for child victims.

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Steel workers' blockade

AUSTRIA

Manfred Willner, director of Austria Airlines, Bosnia office, said the company expected the flights to be about half full. When we opened the route it was not for symbolic purposes. According to our research the route is not profitable," Willner said.

The best victory for the Serbs in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, says he has begun to take them seriously.

Nothing could stop the violent abuses of the numerous Albanians in Kosovo.

This is what is most disturbing in Albania at the moment. Re-establishing law and order is the first step towards elections.

The UN presence is badly justified and not only to maintain peace but also to ensure such an emergency, if it is not possible to do so.

Even though the mission is not to be a permanent one, it is necessary to be ready and handy, with the numbers of the population of the area of Europe.

It is also to be established as part of the remit of the UN, which is to be established as part of the economic power of all European states.

Steel workers' blockade

BULGARIA

THE country's interim government has agreed to a 70 per cent pay rise for public employees.

The new government has moved swiftly to try to halt Bulgaria's economic decline, to water down the administration was forced to announce a series of massive street protests.

Numerous officials in charge of the country's economy have since been sacked for corruption.

Meanwhile, state-owned Mercedes-Benz, which had been set up by the communist government.

The government is seeking financial advisers for the planned sale of 22 state firms including Balkan Airlines, the National refinery, shipyards and other firms.

Companies on the list also include the Varna and Rousse and Bourgas shipyards, the Varna and Rousse steelworks, fertilizer plants, a major motor vehicle producer Mercedes-Benz, which had been set up by the communist government.

Steel workers' blockade

GERMANY

MMI Papandreu, widow of former prime minister Konstantinos Karamanlis, says she has lost her faith in the Greek government.

In the latest twist in the case, the family, she told journalists in Athens, had a 20% share in the company for 20, but she was right to lose faith in the government.

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Le Monde

AMONG more positive movements the left-wing gave birth to *Lepepiste*. Can it be that the 1990s, after late in the day will be the years of *antipepiste*?

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Albanians' political hopefuls must partake in waiting game

While President Berisha stubbornly clings to power in TIRANA, his successors jockey for advantage, writes Alex Standish

THE summer of 1993 was sentenced to 12 years in jail on corruption charges relating to the handling of Italian aid during his brief period in office, it banned from contesting elections until 1992. Although under a DP law passed prior to the general election in May 1992, he was freed from prison during the disturbances and then pardoned by the president, Nano. However, rumors that Berisha himself denied the charges against him, remains subject to the election rules which are still on the statute book. He may decide to take a back seat during the current crisis to order to emerge as a front runner after the next election. Observers in Tirana suggest that he is active behind the scenes but is reluctant to become too closely identified with Pino's precarious administration.

Nano is one of the few genuinely popular figures in Albania today, partly because he is seen as one of Berisha's victims and partly because he was completely untouched by the pyramid investment schemes which sparked off the uprising in the south. A foreign diplomat in Tirana told *The European*:

"Another key figure is Neritan Braho, the founder of Berisha's DP, but since his resignation opponents did agree to step down. Constitutionally, his interest successor should be Pjeter Arbnori, the party administration. Fino has possibly the most national task in European politics today. A member of the Socialist Party which grew out of Albania's former communist movement to spend most of his time in endless meetings yet his power is remarkably limited."

While he is always likely to be seen as the main figure, hardly anyone appears to believe that he has any great influence. The main reason for this is an undecided government facing a bitter ballot campaign elected in the next few months. The current incumbent is former Albanian minister of Finance, Fatos Nano, who in 1991.

However, 44-year-old Nano, who in

A candidate held in high esteem by Washington is Albania's best known visiting professor in economics at Scotland's Strathclyde university. Although Pashko recognizes that the task facing any incoming government is immense, he remains optimistic. "This crisis has put Albania's development back beyond the situation in 1991, but it is a small country and with a little effort you can actually achieve good results, so I'm hopeful," he said. He sees the main challenge as the restoration of law and order, but believes that the economy will start to recover once the government are off the streets. "Private business will thrive again. It's all a question of stability and confidence."

His personal choice for a future president would be Ceka, while he sees Nano as the strongest candidate for the post of prime minister after the next general election. "I don't believe that the crisis will create a new political class in Albania, but I do hope that the new government will learn from the mistakes of the past, of both the DP and the communists," he added. At the moment, however, there is one major obstacle to a return to power for Ceka, Nano and Pashko; the current incumbent of the president's office. There is no sign that, at present, Berisha can be persuaded to depart quietly. "My fear is that he may decide to fight it out and go down like Hitler in his bunker. If so, he could still take Tirana with him, in flames," Pashko warned.

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Palmer days ahead: neglected industries like tourism have been singled out for comprehensive restructuring

Al change as reforms in motion

State sell-offs, market reforms and membership of western institutions drive the country, writes Kate Connolly in BUCHAREST

ROMANIA is in a hurry. A trip on one of Bucharest's buses or the Gara de Nord station, commuters fight to leave the train as huge crowds of people on the platform hammer the doors in desperation; it feels as though this is the last train home for ever. The trouble is that Romania feels it may have already missed its chance. The bloody overruns of communist rule and the chaos that followed only to another seven years of communist rule, has meant that the country has changed, it was still more or less the former elite who ran post-Old War Romania. The momentum for reform came at the end of last year when the liberal Democratic Convention came to power, the first Romanian government committed to western-style reformist democracy, with its drawbacks as well as its advantages. Now the second largest country in central Europe is lobbying hard to join the European Union and enter NATO in the first wave of enlargement, expected to be announced in July. But the feeling is that even Prime Minister Viorel Barbu is not sure he can rebuild the country any more by himself. The 60-year-old Romanian was one of the richest countries in Europe with the fat times stronger than the rest of the world. But it has had to catch up. The 1990s reforms have been slow and laborious. Since December the government has been furiously trying tough measures to try to put the economy back on track. One of its most ambitious proposals was the recent announcement that 50 companies a week would be privatised. Other steps focus on a package of around 50 reforms, including the 1997 state audit which is to be put against assets credit from international banks, and the privatisation of the gas industry.

A government initiated conference in Bucharest's World Trade Centre earlier this month elected Romania at the head of a team of government ministers and European experts to outline a comprehensive blueprint for national restructuring and reform. The plan aims to attract foreign investment and reconstruction of a welfare state, attempts to attract foreign investment and reconstruction of the country's main industries, and the much neglected tourism industry. The need to stamp out corporate crime and money laundering, which at present is a major scandal, said to have a stranglehold on the economy is likely to be one of the list of priorities. It is not believed that Romania's black market is the same size, or if larger, than the state economy. At present inflation is running at around 40 per cent and the annual interest rate stands at about 130 per cent and rising. In Romania, the economy is falling into the poverty line.

"The delay in making the political and legislative changes, and the policies aimed at balancing the costs of economic reform have led to a loss of confidence," said economist Alexandru Athanasiu, addressing the conference. But the reformers remain optimistic. "The results of the restructuring will be the lowest debt inflation of all the transitional economies in Europe," he says. Many managers of middle-sized companies attended the forum to voice their dissatisfaction with the government. Maria Grapiu, general manager of a textile factory, said: "The government is not doing enough to support the consumer; so recycling saves money."

Germany has taken recycling seriously for years. It began collecting rubbish in the early 1980s and is still streets ahead of its European neighbors in terms of door-to-door collection. Figures for 1995 show Germany has the best record in Europe for recycling (about 70 per cent), steel cans (97 per cent), household paper (80 per cent) and household plastics (60 per cent). All these figures show a significant improvement on a previ-

ous survey in 1993. The one country which really comes close in terms of enthusiasm and action is the Netherlands, which has been recycling Germany when it comes to glass recycling (80 compared with 75 per cent), and it is also close second for steel (88 per cent).

The biggest waters in the Netherlands are glass and a petrol can. Currently recycling just 16 per cent of steel. Britain, currently recycling just 10 per cent of packaging material, is aiming at a target of a quarter. Germany, by contrast, is already recycling three-quarters, and the Netherlands is recycling 80 per cent. "Recycling is a serious matter," said Radke. "We are very conscious that in Germany and we try very hard to keep waste to a minimum and recycle everything we can."

"Part of the reason for that is because we have such a large population and therefore little room for the rubbish we produce. It is important to make sure people do their duty and do it in the most effective way possible." However, Stefan Krug of the German pressure group Greenpeace is sceptical about the environmental benefits of Germany. "This idea of policing the streets with recycling bins is a good one. You cannot change people's attitudes and the recycling bin is a very good piece of information to educate and encourage people to recycle. But the consumer; so recycling saves money."

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| Grazoç Pashko
(Democratic Alliance)
Leading DA member
Married, two children
26-year-old economist, co-founder of the DP (1990)
Deputy prime minister and minister of economics (1991)
Governor of the World Bank DP MP until mid-1992, then DA MP
Voting professor of economics, Strathclyde university, Scotland
Congressional fellow in US from 1995 | Fatos Nano
(Albanian Socialist Party)
SP chairman
Married, two children
44-year-old economist, professor at the Institute of Marxism-Leninism
Prime minister (1991)
Deputy prime minister (1991)
Banned for alleged corruption (1993)
Jailed from standing for election until 1997
Released from prison and pardoned (1997) | Neritan Ceka
(Democratic Alliance)
President of DA
Married, two children
Archaeologist, co-founder of the DP (1990)
Chairman of DP and MP (1991)
Co-founder of DA for Democracy (1992)
Leader of Forum for Democracy (1997) | Skënder Gjinnushi
(Social Democratic Party)
Professor of mathematics, postgraduate in France
Former chief justice of Albania in exile in US since he was ousted from his post in 1995 for proposing to rejoin the Nano case
Banned from standing for election until 2002
Leader of Forum for Democracy (1997) | Rexhep Mejdani
(Albanian Socialist Party)
SP secretary general
Married, two children
53-year-old professor of physics, postgraduate education in France
Former deputy prime minister and minister of education (1990)
Founder and chairman of SDP (1991)
MP (1991-1992)
Banned from standing for election until 2002
Leader of Forum for Democracy (1997) |
| Zef Brozi
(60 Democratic Party)
Former Chief Justice of Albania in exile in US since he was ousted from his post in 1995 for proposing to rejoin the Nano case | Kurt Kola
(Association of Former Political Prisoners)
60-year-old president of AFPP (1992)
Banned, Social Democrat Skënder Gjinnushi | Arben Imami
(Democratic Alliance)
Secretary-General of DA
Married, one child
53-year-old professor of physics, 38-year-old child and professor of drama at Albanian Academy of Arts
Vice-Chairman of DP (1992)
MP (1992-1996)
Banned from standing for election until 2002
Leader of Forum for Democracy (1997) | | |

Sorted: This bin says newspapers only, but in Pello so many other materials are getting mixed in that offenders now face penalties

Recycling slobbs for council fires

THE German passion for the environment has gained extra impetus in the northern German district of Pello, near Hannover. The local authority has taken the drastic step of hiring private detectives to catch smelly rubbish slobs. Frustrated by the activities of the *Umweltverschmutzer*, or environmental wreckers, who persist in dumping all sorts of waste next to the recycling bins, the authority decided that sending private detectives to uncover the local 1101 could be the answer to the problem. The council put the detectives on the beat in January, and so far 57 people have been ambushed. One attempting to abandon common rubbish alongside the recycling bins. The 57 culprits have been fined between Dm60 and Dm250 (£29 to £140). Figures for 1995 show Germany has the best record in Europe for recycling (about 70 per cent), steel cans (97 per cent) and household plastics (60 per cent). All these figures show a significant improvement on a previ-

A German local authority has got tough with citizens who fail to respect strict rubbish collection standards, writes Cathy Savage
The German passion for the environment has gained extra impetus in the northern German district of Pello, near Hannover. The local authority has taken the drastic step of hiring private detectives to catch smelly rubbish slobs. Frustrated by the activities of the *Umweltverschmutzer*, or environmental wreckers, who persist in dumping all sorts of waste next to the recycling bins, the authority decided that sending private detectives to uncover the local 1101 could be the answer to the problem. The council put the detectives on the beat in January, and so far 57 people have been ambushed. One attempting to abandon common rubbish alongside the recycling bins. The 57 culprits have been fined between Dm60 and Dm250 (£29 to £140). Figures for 1995 show Germany has the best record in Europe for recycling (about 70 per cent), steel cans (97 per cent) and household plastics (60 per cent). All these figures show a significant improvement on a previ-

The British Labour Party promises a 'constructive approach' to the IGC. After a year of fear' from Tories, Labour's realism is recognised as a tearful takeover

MILLAR'S EUROPE

German member has become a tearful takeover

BRITAIN'S relationship with the rest of Europe is at a crossroads. On 1 May the voters will be offered a clear choice of direction, to make a success of Britain's membership of the European Community or to turn down the path with drawal with the Tories.

Britain needs a government that can win the case for IGC reform, complete the single market, create more jobs and accomplish the task of preparing the ground for enlargement.

The Conservative Party would provide that leadership because its agenda for Europe is dominated by the reforms Europe needs, but by the gestures on which Tory prebendals feed.

Speaking in Bonn earlier this year, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hogg said: "I am not a Eurosceptic. I am a realist. I am not a Eurosceptic. I am a realist. I am not a Eurosceptic. I am a realist."

He spoke of Europe as if there were an immediate possibility to devour the continent. He spoke of Europe as if there were an immediate possibility to devour the continent. He spoke of Europe as if there were an immediate possibility to devour the continent.

Instead of telling the British people that the European members had led their party on a course of fear and despair, Douglas Hogg, Rifkind's predecessor, is content to say that July that other European members are "too often driven by an enemies and competitors strategy."

Britain's views were "not shared" and "totally unshared" because they seem to come from a background of "misunderstanding, not prejudice."

There is no more dramatic illustration of that failure than the government's handling of the beef crisis. More than 100,000 head of cattle was impounded, and more than 100,000 head of cattle was impounded, and more than 100,000 head of cattle was impounded.

Ministers have tried to overcome the Tory legacy of confrontation and incompetence. Europeans will not trust Britain's leaders.

Ministers have tried to intervene into a corner at the negotiations with the IGC.

Before many of the key issues had been debated, ministers were issuing a series of threats to the entire package.

They got their way. The proposal was not adopted. It was not adopted. It was not adopted. It was not adopted.

It is needed to achieve other reforms of benefit to Britain, it would consider it provided it was in line with the IGC.

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BRITISH ELECTION '97

As the UK prepares for its general election on 1 May, Shadow Foreign Secretary ROBIN COOK explains why a Labour government would not regard 'integration' as a dirty word

greater powers of scrutiny in those areas would help the fight against centralisation in the UK and Brussels.

We support the inclusion of an employment chapter in the treaty to ensure that as self-protection a European country is not prevented from pursuing its own employment policy.

The European Parliament is also in pushing for agricultural reform and making the European Commission more accountable. To it is needed to achieve other reforms of benefit to Britain, it would consider it provided it was in line with the IGC.

Labour rejects Major's "British flag" initiative. Major's initiative would mean half the million signatures on the dole. He cannot name a single company that has had to lay off a single employee because of measures agreed under the social chapter. This is because there are none.

Non-wage labour costs in continental Europe are the result of national legislation. The real threat to jobs would be the re-election of a Tory government that is isolating Britain from its most important markets.

The real threat to jobs would be to re-elect the Conservatives. We will be asking them to justify their claims. We will be asking them to justify their claims.

We will be asking them to justify their claims. We will be asking them to justify their claims. We will be asking them to justify their claims.

Do we really need more Europe?

Last week, Conservative Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind presented his case on Europe. Now Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown presents his party's European strategy

THE ALLIANCE: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Does Nato need a new Cold War?

DOES the alliance need to create a second Cold War to redress a useful role for itself, or is it simply plain foolish to incorporate a number of European states as a prole to their best membership of an enlarged European Union?

Has Nato changed from a nuclear defender against the Soviet threat to an aggressive security force for the world's remaining superpower, the United States? Or has it become a handmaiden of an expanding EU, the only way to ensure the security of its members?

It is a question of whether the alliance is to be a trid- and trusted way to divert attention. Cyprus might even suggest that the US not only wants to assert its NATO leadership but could be seeking to divide Europe and disorganise closer ties between Russia and the EU.

Boost for the communists

EVER since the appointment of Mladetich as president of the US, there has been a number of obvious things that she would try to do.

She has no aggressive interest in the Balkans. She has no aggressive interest in the Balkans. She has no aggressive interest in the Balkans.

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Looking for other enemies

IT IS hard to do so to Nato military exercises involving troops from Britain, France, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, Turkey and the US.

Nato's ability to carry out its operations will be tested. Nato's ability to carry out its operations will be tested. Nato's ability to carry out its operations will be tested.

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ON A street corner near where the Berlin Wall used to stand a memorabilia but otherwise unremarkable shop has been established during the years to play a series of crucial roles.

It was built, and first achieved notoriety, as the result of a search for a German office for the Luftwaffe's disbanded pilots on the rest of Europe. Then the shops have been using it to exact revenge on Germany for the work of the Luftwaffe.

It is a perfect metaphor for the work of the Luftwaffe. It is a perfect metaphor for the work of the Luftwaffe. It is a perfect metaphor for the work of the Luftwaffe.

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PETER MILLAR

It is a play on words in German, suggesting 'the end of the road'.

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Time for a home come strike

IT IS 22 years since the Irish won the world's greatest steeplechase, so surely this year it must be Time for a Run. The bay gelding, like his fellow Irishman Willie Hyde, in the same ownership, certainly fits the bill of a potential Grand National winner.

He was one of the best bets of the National Hunt Festival meeting at Cheltenham last month, and was backed accordingly, only to lose at a neck to the only possible danger after seeming sure to win at the last fence. Sometimes it happens like that with good bets. But the race should have run in its perfect form for Aintree.

As few as 30 runners may be declared to run in the 1997 National at the historic course in Liverpool on 5 April - the maximum is 40.

Partly, this is due to the firm state of the ground. Most long jump and steeplechase races feature a little malaise in the first of the Aintree race authorities would have paid a tidy sum for a share of the money which was washed out the Dubai World Cup on 29 March, which was previously rescheduled for 3 April. But the relative paucity of runners is also a sign that the race itself is a better quality contest these days.

- Last year's result**
- 1 Rough Quest
 - 2 Encore Un Peu
 - 3 Superior Finch

For those seeking something at Aintree, the odds, Eugene Un Deux at 10/1, are a fair one to follow.

How the European predicted the next long jump and the Grand National will run up perfectly to the name of its first winner - Lottery in 1830. But recent results show that these days, with the fences made less tricky and the qualifications harder, the race is a good target for high-jumpers. As a result fewer risk outsiders bother to turn up.

But that anything is likely to deter the real National enthusiasts, the owners, trainers and riders who live in hope of a dream come true and another 100 weeks for the *Fairfax* in 1997.

In a run, a 141 shot five days before the race, and both Hyde and Encore by renowned Irish gambler JP McManis, and Willie have been significantly backed. McManis is a man not likely to invest \$200,000 more if he finishes a horse.

The one potential problem is the ground. Both McManis horses would probably prefer a little rain before the

David Mellion eyes the field and offers his tips for the year's greatest steeplechase

race. But then there are always wild card factors at Aintree.

By the arcane peculiarity of the handicapping system, the shape of this year's National depends on whether top weight Master Oaks runs or not. A former Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Master Oaks is set to carry 11st 10lb (74.5kg) by the official assessment on the basis of his previous good form. If he runs, most of his rivals will be crowded on the compulsory bottom weight of five, although their real rating is much lower.

Master Oaks's trainer Kim Bailey was not making his mind up until the course on 5 April. But since this horse too needs softer going a look at the weather forecast should enable you to make an intelligent guess. What difference will it make? If Master Oaks runs, the next horse in the handicap, Challenger du Lac, will carry 10st 10lb, compared with Time for a Run's 10st - 90c less. If Master Oaks defects on 5 April, the weights rise by 15lb all round. Challenger du Lac must carry 11st 10lb, and Time for a Run 10st 9lb - 20lb less.

As for Master Oaks himself, he may be called a miracle for Bailey to receive such an interest. He was pulled up in Ireland on his first race after a long lay-off last month, and would take a miracle for Bailey to receive such an interest. He was pulled up in Ireland on his first race after a long lay-off last month, and would take a miracle for Bailey to receive such an interest.

If the ground is flat on the day, current favourite Lord O'Leary and Haydock trial winner Sam, Bay should be a danger to everything. However if it rains, those looking for an outsider could waste those that take an interest in 2001 shot Backdoor Bounce, with rising star Paul Barber, who is father with the National on 5 April. The last Irish-trained winner was a horse called *Time for a Run*. But if you're a rationalist in the sky, you should look to a steady rain to level the field home and finally achieve JP McManis's National ambition.



Home help: Belgians will reserve their loudest cheers for Museum in (front), who knows every cobblestone of the Flanders course

Freeze in hero

Patrick Cuseux profiles Tour de Flanders favourite Johan Museeuw. Belgium's number one cyclist

HUNDREDS of thousands of people will line the narrow cobbled streets. Forget the Tour de France as far as Belgium is concerned, Sunday 9 April marks the biggest day of the year for the country's cycling fanatics, who will only have eyes for the Tour de Flanders. One rider will get more vocal support than the other 210 combined, Belgium's Johan Museeuw, who since the races in 1993 and 1995, finished second in 1994 and third last year, can feel every single cobbled stone in his feet and take every curve blindfolded.

"It's one of the most beautiful races in the world," he said. "And winning it in front of my own crowd is a tremendous feeling."

This time, he is a bigger favourite than ever, going into the one-day race as both world champion and world cup holder when he might well have been a spectator himself.

Patrick Cuseux profiles Tour de Flanders favourite Johan Museeuw. Belgium's number one cyclist

His preparation for Sunday has not been ideal. At 40 riders set to the finish line at Milan San Remo, the first of the world cup classics. Last year, after falling to score any world cup points in Paris-Tours, Museeuw announced his retirement. He didn't give a big press conference, he just told of his mood. He had but enough. The travelling, being away from his wife and son, the media attention and so on. But his wife managed to convince him to keep going and one week later he won the world championship in his first season in an Italian team and his first contact with Italian training methods.

That year he also finished second overall in the world cup, and was starting to realise how good he was.

At first he may doubt about Italian training, though like devils that measure the heathen," he said.

But when I realised that those methods did work, I at once understood why the Italians win so many races. They do everything on a much higher level. From Sunday I started to notice that I was no longer a second-rate rider. I had talent.

It was in 1996 that Museeuw won more classics (Flanders and Zurich) and the overall world cup, which he successfully defended last year. And yet, despite all his successes, the one race most riders would fear for still leaves Museeuw cold. Three weeks of hard work he describes the Tour de France. "There is nothing in that race that gives me any pleasure," he said. "You don't know what it is to ride the Tour de France unless you've done it."

"Two hundred riders who want to win a stage and to wear that yellow jersey! I hate it. In fact I think that what we make us go through is very simple. There is a very fast week, then the Alps or Pyrenees and then a third week when they send you over the big mountains a day. And if you lose the day, you will feel that that's paying me. If you lose the day, you will feel that that's paying me. If you lose the day, you will feel that that's paying me."

Heres for courses. But if Museeuw wins on Sunday, his generation will be indisputable.

THIS WEEK ON



THE PPG CART WORLD SERIES HITS SURFERS PARADISE: CAN MARK BLUNDELL TRIUMPH IN AUSTRALIA ?

INDY CAR : 5 - 6 April, LIVE. The PPG CART World Series, Australia The second round of the fastest motor racing series in the world

FOOTBALL : 3 April, World Cup Qualifying, Poland v Italy This Group 2 clash could see Italy emerge as favourites to qualify for next year's finals

BOXING : 4 April, Chris Eubank v Camillo Alarcon The former Super Lightweight World Champion continues his comeback as a Light Heavyweight against the man ranked 6 in the world

CYCLING : 6 April, LIVE, The Tour of Flanders Europe's top riders meet one of the world's oldest races

French revival: Oliver Panis (foreground) and Alain Prost signal a new order at the top of F1

EUROSPORT

France's F1 challenge

France was more significant than that long awaited triumph for Ligier in Monte Carlo last year.

While that was a brilliant drive, the circumstances favored him, whereas this was proof that he and Prost, together with Bridgestone and for our engine suppliers, Mugen-Honda. Pans said: "Everyone has put in a lot of effort and the result is easy to see in the car and the way I could drive in the race. The car is quick and nicely balanced on the grid in my whole car. It also meant that I could be a bit more aggressive, by opting for one of the top four, instead of the top two. Too, was that Bridgestone. With their tyres we have no worries about excessive wear."

No one expected this from us, but I was able to share with Alex, Hakkinen and Schumacher without any problems. That means the car was as quick as the Ferraris.

Pans and Prost force a reshuffle

Significantly, among his broad beaming list of tributes, Pans gave his team chief to last. "It is fantastic to work with Alain Prost. He knows so much about Formula One and about tyre wear and so on," said Pans. "This is going to be valuable to us this year. I really believe that we can be a big threat to the top teams."

Prost himself, the pocket-sized team director with the stature of a Napoleon in a team plane, continued himself with praise for his driver. "I'm very pleased with the way he is doing. He is trying to win, and not to be content with anything else."

As Prost talked and Pans smiled, there was one figure in his bed and white driver's suit who stood in deep concentration studying the race. The man with the white hair, the man who had won the 1985 and 1986 Formula One world championships, Jacques Villeneuve, in a dark suit, was looking at Berger in a Birel team. He was looking at the man who had won the 1985 and 1986 Formula One world championships, Jacques Villeneuve, in a dark suit, was looking at Berger in a Birel team. He was looking at the man who had won the 1985 and 1986 Formula One world championships, Jacques Villeneuve, in a dark suit, was looking at Berger in a Birel team.



CYAN MAG YELLOW BLACK

Sarriera waits... as Italy bids for treble

Europe's three club competitions are down to the nail-biting semifinals stages

WHEN Borussia Dortmund take the field for their most important game in more than 30 years...

European Footballer of the Year... Sarriera's Borussia Dortmund still shakes his head in disbelief when he remembers the footie...

Europe's player of the year will be a bystander at his club's biggest match since 1966.

Arthur Romiti reports

It was the first East German player to play in the first final play in the European player of the year award since Franz Beckenbauer...

He thinks the timing of the game will favour the Germans. If he had had to play United last autumn, I would have been worried...

Victory over United and few would begrudge Sammer a king's ransom.

It may be the highest paid footballer in Germany, with earnings estimated at three million (\$3m) a year before tax...

Victory over United and few would begrudge Sammer a king's ransom.

Champions' Cup semifinal, first leg Borussia Dortmund v Manchester United

Cup Winners' Cup (10 April) PSV v Liverpool; Barcelona v Fiorentina

UEFA Cup (8 April) Inter Milan v Monaco; Tenerife v Schalke

Since 1989 Italian has been the lingua franca of European football.

Italy's 17 UEFA trophies in eight seasons by Serie A clubs has left rivals wanting to keep up...

It may not be an impossible task. Serie A had a five-year crest rating in 1990, but Juventus has since closed the gap...

Julian Coman

Supporters have complained of coming to games and a lack of colour in their playing garters.

Anyone who wants to inherit the mantle of the Italian footballer in Europe...

Betis unsets traditional order by eclipsing Seville

SPANISH football clubs have traditionally stood for more than just logos and names on the field.

Antonio Carlo

Colta Vigo on 3 April, what has made the club's season all the more sweet is that FC Seville look set to win the league just two years ago...

sorter out their beloved team, and are calling for his return.

In contrast Betis chairman Fran Lopez has transformed his club's finances through olive oil and clothing lines.

Russian boycott threat

THE coach of Alania Vladikavkaz, Russian champions two years ago, has threatened to pull his club out of the league just two games into the new season.

Security fears spread as Spurs turn to tech

THE use of the Internet by rival Dutch fans to provoke a mass brawl on the pitch further through the business resources of the Internet.

Outsourcing the police via the Internet could cause copycat clashes, warns Dominic O'Reilly

Dutch police appear to be aware of the dangers of the Internet. Dutch police appear to be aware of the dangers of the Internet.

Seville

Yet this season it is the poor who are smiling at Betis as running neck and neck with Barcelona for second place in the league.

Real Betis

A place in the lucrative Champions League would complete the rags to riches story for the club from the poor end of town.

Spain

But the Seville stars could have cost out of the competition because that's the only way to stop his antics.

Spain

Spain's 17 UEFA trophies in eight seasons by Serie A clubs has left rivals wanting to keep up.

THE EUROPEAN LEAGUES

Table with columns for Germany, France, Belgium, England, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain. Each column lists club names and their current league positions.

Table for EUROSTATS - SCOTLAND, listing Glasgow Celtic, Rangers, Aberdeen, Dundee United, Dundee, Falkirk, St Johnstone, Hibernian, Motherwell, Hearts, Perth, Dundee FC, Inverness, Ross County, Brechin, Arbroath, Forfar, Stirling Albion, East Fife, Arbroath, Brechin, Forfar, Stirling Albion, East Fife.

Tommy Johnson, the Aston Villa striker, has joined Glasgow Celtic for £2.5 million.

Mario Sarra, the Parma midfielder, injured his knee in a friendly warm-up game against Arsenal.

Non-league Clermont narrowly failed to reach the semifinals of the French Cup after losing 2-1 to former Nistic.

Georges Goun, the former Belgian national captain, now with Reggina, is to retire at the end of the season at the age of 35.

Table for LEADING SCORERS, listing players and their goals scored.

Table for BULGARIA, listing players and their goals scored.

Belgian hopes ride with Museeuw

page 14

THE EUROPEAN

3 · 9 APRIL 1997

Give Frenzenzer time, says Schumacher

TWO TIMES world champion Michael Schumacher has leaped into the defence of his Austrian teammate Heinz Harald Frentzen, who he starts to the Formula One season on the car carried by Damon Hill. Frenzen, who replaced defending champion Hill at Williams, has failed to score a point in the two seasons opening Grand Prix and finished ninth in Brazil on 30 March.

Robert Alexander

But it is too early to judge him," said Schumacher, who now drives for Ferrari. "From now come time from his own team after last week's race and the Williams team technical director Patrick Head dismissed him as a very poor indeed" and confirmed that they felt a need to sit down and discuss the matter with the German.

He had a pretty horrible weekend at Sao Paulo and it would be easy to pour scorn on him," Schumacher said. "But it is clear he had a few problems and I don't find out what they are and to work to get it right." The comments show he is of an alert." Frenzen's comments of Head, Frenzen's Williams team mate Jacques Villeneuve, a team favoured to win this season's championship, also came in for criticism.

"I did not have an easy start to my season but I had a good result in Brazil last year," said Villeneuve. "I do not expect you join a new team and I have the advantage now of having

and something new to be done quickly if he is to avoid being under immense pressure. What he really needs is a result." In Austria, Frenzen led the race and was running in a strong position until a problem during pursuit of victory when he was off the pace and had no success.

Summer: how we'll beat Man United

page 15

World war heats the pair of war

Forty Tiraspol jets that Sarajevo fired shot the blackened and burnt shell of the Zetra Olympic Stadium to help it attend the first World Cup match to be held in Bosnia.

Laura Hubber in Sarajevo reports on a match which opened a new era and all the players were shocked.

Despite being soaked by cold drizzle, a fan-packed Bosnia which staged the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics but suffered relentless rain during the 44-min Bosnia war.

The match against Greece was the first time the stadium, ravaged for last September's Solidarity Athletics meeting that welcomed Bosnia, had returned to World Cup game since the day of former Yugoslavia.

Since covered the south-western hills from the Serbia ground surrounded the city. But the unseasonal rain was not a problem for the fans but the players.

Bosnian captain Meho Kodro, fresh from the sea and of Terezie who plays his club football, said the game was one of the most important in his life and he would never have missed it.

The crowd is like another of the Bosnia players and they used to be adjacent to the stadium, they came as spectators on television.

"I'm so glad to see the Bosnian on television," Kodro said. "It is another year to walk around a war-ravaged city but for the people here and the world."

It was a welcome group of fellows who saw Serbia, the fans could see the match and they still bears the scars of war years, occasions such as this will not be forgotten to him to begin to.

The Bosnians showed their own professionalism by beating Italy in a tough at Kosovo Stadium last November that paved the way for competitive football to return to Sarajevo. The Yugoslavs first "home" World Cup match was against Croatia, was played in a town in Slovenia, raising fresh memories of the war.

France threaten to scrap Euro Cup

EUROPEAN rugby union's first major club competition has been planned into crisis after the French clubs, which have threatened the tournament.

EXCLUSIVE Ian Berthier PARIS

European Cup. He said the first 1980 (1980,000) was "laughable and totally insufficient," and that the French domestic championship will be killed off in favour of a new competition which will be held just one week before England's arrival at the 15 days holiday before having to prepare once again for club games. "It's an untenable situation," said French captain Abderhalim Benzaoui. "As usual it's the players who have to suffer. My union is at risk. Frankly this situation is bizarre."

Berthier, said Friday's meeting in Nantes to decide whether to continue to take part was no life threat. "I can mean that the European Cup will not take place this year, which is a shame," he said. "But it is, perhaps, better in the long run if I put out my head than start 'fresh next year' on a much more healthy basis."

Sweden's Arne Form Knocks Finland's Kari Rajala into the ice during their match at the 1997 Women's World Ice Hockey Championships. The competition, in Brno, Czech Republic, runs until 6 April and serves as a qualifying event for the Winter Olympics.

KATJA TAKES SOME STICK

Johnson hiding to take over the job in world football was in Turkey attending the 70th birthday celebrations of Hungary's Ferenc Puskas and Arne Form Knocks Finland's Kari Rajala into the ice during their match at the 1997 Women's World Ice Hockey Championships.

Johnson hiding to take over the job in world football was in Turkey attending the 70th birthday celebrations of Hungary's Ferenc Puskas and Arne Form Knocks Finland's Kari Rajala into the ice during their match at the 1997 Women's World Ice Hockey Championships.

'I'll blow whistle on Uefa'

THE Swiss referee banned for life by Uefa for attempted bribery has threatened to blow the whistle on European football, including two World Cup matches.

I'm simply asked whether, if someone was to offer, say, FF100,000 (\$58,000) to be the referee, what would you say? I was curious to know how M Vogel would react.

I will be interested in pre-factual treatment of the Swiss, which have also banned him until further notice.

Uefa, European football's ruling body, says Böttlinger has admitted in writing that he approached Grasshoppers general manager Ulrich Vogl and had asked whether the club would be interested in pre-factual treatment of the Swiss, which have also banned him until further notice.

WEATHER WATCH UNTIL 9 APRIL

On Friday much of Scandinavia will be cloudy and staid with periods of rain or showers. Snow will fall over hills and mountains generally across northern Denmark and Lapland. Gale winds are likely for a time over the Baltic states. After cold showery conditions will push southwards across eastern Europe, bringing further snowfalls to the Carpathian mountains and the Austrian Alps.

Turkey, and possibly Cyprus, later in the day. Cool, showery conditions will persist over Poland and Germany, and across northern France and Lapland. In Poland and Lapland will remain cold and cloudy with periods of more persistent sleet and snow. Further west, Norway will become little milder as some rain and drizzle reaches Oslo and the Austrian Alps.

On Monday an intense low pressure area will take hold over western Russia, bringing with it unseasonably heavy rain and gales conditions. After sharp falls in temperature, Finland and Sweden will become dry, with some sun. Further east, Germany will be mainly sunny with showers and some sleet or drizzle in the eastern Mediterranean. Italy in having a dry day with a bit of sun.

4-7 April	FRIDAY			SATURDAY			SUNDAY			MONDAY		
	MIN	MAX	SUN	MIN	MAX	SUN	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	SUN	
AMSTERDAM	2	10	4	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
BELGIUM	3	10	3	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
BREITENBURG	3	11	4	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
BURSA	3	11	4	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
COLOGNE	3	11	4	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
DUBLIN	10	15	3	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
GENEVA	5	13	3	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
HELSINKI	10	15	3	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
LONDON	14	24	3	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
LYONS	2	11	2	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
MUNICH	2	11	2	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
MOSCOW	3	11	4	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
PARIS	2	11	2	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
ROME	5	13	3	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
STOCKHOLM	12	18	4	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	
VIENNA	3	11	4	11	15	12	10	13	10	13	10	

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FOCUS • PAGE 21

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BUSINESS PORTRAIT • PAGE 32

Belgians count the cost of a calm

TELEPHONE users in Belgium pay more for their in-country calls than anywhere else in Europe, according to a comparative study by the country's consumers association.

Operator Belgacom is billing clients 35 per cent more than the European average. The consumer body Test Achats claims that the group complained to EU Competition Commissioner Karel Van Miert when the monopoly increased charges to private users by a factor of 10.

Tests Achats study, which says the cost of a 'handset' of calls, fixed charges and taxes in

Tony Snape
BRUSSELS

ten European countries. North America and Australia - also recognised methodology, and is the clearest evidence yet of the differences in billing between countries.

Calls and charges that come to the equivalent of \$300 in the library also UK market cost a Belgian user more than \$500, the study says. The EU average for the same package is around \$275, it adds.

Tests Achats researched prices in

the US, Canada and Australia to put European billing in a global context. The same basket in the US cost just \$237.

Along with consumers' association BELUC, Tests Achats lodged a complaint with the European Commission directorate (DGIV) last year, saying Belgacom prices rates to private users amounted to an abuse of a dominant market place position.

The Commission dismissed the case, saying a expected companies to "rebalance" their bills in line with actual costs after 1 January

1998, the date by which the EU telecommunications market will be liberalised.

It has emerged, however, that DGIV officials believed Belgacom could be in breach of the city of four counts: by raising the tariff for international directory enquiries eightfold, and for national inquiries fivefold; by raising its standard user subscription fee by nine per cent; by operating a 'no-credit' account club, designed to enrol members before full competition next year; and by soliciting information from club members for future marketing campaigns.

ANNUAL TELEPHONE COSTS



MERGERS

Lyonnaise battle with CGE hot up

DETAILS of the proposed merger between the Suzor holding company and utilities group Lyonnaise des Eaux will be revealed when the two companies meet on 11 April. The merger heralds the start of a global battle between Lyonnaise and its 100-year-old rival, the larger Compagnie Générale des Eaux (CGE) group. CGE had Jean Pierre Messier, who has an 18.7 per cent stake in Suzor via Belgium's Eurofinas, has had a battle of Suzor minority shareholders, who want Firmin (Suzor) competition in the form of a super dividend at the time of the two-for-one Suzor Lyonnaise share swap. Messier's aim is to weaken his rival, which will have to sue to force the competition for worldwide orders.

Alan Tiller, Paris

Italian firms profit from optimism at Barca di Roma

Nicholas Moss

THE European insurance companies may be drawn into a multi-billion dollar battle to win the market against Swiss European insurance firms and their families of victims of the Holocaust, according to the representative laws.

The suit, filed in New York on 14 March, names Allianz, Generali and BAS, as well as American Alliance and Swiss Reinsurance, among other defendants. It also names Austria's Wiener Allianz, the insurance of the Greek Alliance, and the Anker Allgemeine insurance, and the Swiss Generali, of France's victims of the Holocaust.

14,000 requests to the law firm to be included in its lawsuit against Swiss banks, said Fagan.

"Insurance is a very common way to save money, especially for doctors," said Fagan. The smallest policy will have a present value of \$160,000, while the largest is worth more than \$1 million.

The lawsuit said the policies were "improperly transferred, liquidated or cashed in the Nazi war effort and proceeds paid to German companies."

the companies failed to disclose claims from relatives of Holocaust victims who said it was unclear whether archives relating to the "spoiled policies" still existed.

Allianz said: "We care about what happens with these cases. The company does not have any limitations on the German statute of limitations with which we have a 'symbolic contribution' in the form of short term life insurance policies in cases from about 1930 on relatives of Holocaust victims. He said it would open its archives when the policies were managed by European insurance companies taken over by communist governments, who had probably lost the documents.

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ruth Sullivan MILAN

said group net interest rose 2.5 per cent to 1.47 billion while income from commissions and services rose 8.1 per cent to 1.63 billion and trading profits rose 61.5 per cent to 1.43 billion. Costs rose to 1.45 billion in 1995.

COMPUTERS

Prince trites as Apple

SAUDI Arabian Prince Al Walid Bin Talal has become a major shareholder of Apple Computer after buying 1.1 per cent of the troubled computer firm's stock. The Prince, who inherited an aggregate investment of \$15 million. I believe there is a good reason for this. The Prince has provided large returns to its stockholders again, as it did in the past." Last month the Prince bought five per cent of US airline TWA, and paid \$20m for five per cent of Norwegian Cruise Lines. Last week, he announced a venture with pop star Michael Jackson, Kingdom Entertainment, to produce entertainment based on "The Jacksons".

Reuter, London

EUROPEAN PROPERTY

Unions steered for jobs struggle

EUROPEAN steel companies are braced for further job cuts with trade unions as a result of new government subsidies by the partial merger of two weeks of talks between Thyssen and Knupp-Hoescht, representing thousands of jobs.

Almost 8,000 jobs are due to be lost in the two German companies by 2002, 4,000 from a direct steel plant and the businesses merging their high quality steel plants, but less than 10,000 more EU steel jobs will be shed the next two years. The United steel workforce has already shrunk to 245,000. Yet analysts say more consolidation in Europe is needed if it is to survive in Europe.

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last year the bank sold a range of interests, including its share in Pronto Italia, an Italian stocks in mobile phone operator Omnitel-Comtel Italia, and stakes in savings bank Cassa di Risparmio di Oveto.

FASHION

Gucci bags a profit

ITALIAN fashion house Gucci is opening new European stores after more than doubling profit last year to \$46.8 million from \$42 million in 1995. Profits are expected to increase by a further 18 per cent this year, with \$80m earmarked for new stores in Milan, Paris, Frankfurt, Zurich and Vienna. The London Group in Sharn Street is targeting its sales space. Gucci chairman and chief executive Domenico De Sole said profit growth this year will come from non-traditional products and such as its ready-to-wear collection and luggage. Last year, Gucci unveiled a new \$100 million 1947 bamboo handle bag, made up the region's sales with an additional reviving to \$57.2m from \$258m a year earlier.

De Sole, growth

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Storebrand's offer

NORWAY'S leading insurance Storebrand has offered to buy Christiania Bank, the country's second largest bank, in a friendly all-share transaction worth Nkr2.3 billion (\$1.8 billion) that would create the region's sixth largest financial institution. The two companies combined, which would be called Christiania Bank, would have a market value of \$4.6 billion and assets of Nkr2.75bn. After stock is swapped, the Norwegian bank would hold 25.5 per cent of the firm.

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ENVIRONMENT

Prison steps on the gas

The Italian treasury is set to fall of a third thanks of its remaining 69 per cent stake in oil and gas group Eni. The company is expected to supply weather information to a range of commercial users from broadcasters to shipping companies.

The Eni treasury has pushed the decision back to an earlier date and said it was investigated by the Italian government. The decision had been made.

Ruth Sullivan, Milan

PERFORMANCE

Steel companies

EUROPEAN steel companies are braced for further job cuts with trade unions as a result of new government subsidies by the partial merger of two weeks of talks between Thyssen and Knupp-Hoescht, representing thousands of jobs.

Almost 8,000 jobs are due to be lost in the two German companies by 2002, 4,000 from a direct steel plant and the businesses merging their high quality steel plants, but less than 10,000 more EU steel jobs will be shed the next two years. The United steel workforce has already shrunk to 245,000. Yet analysts say more consolidation in Europe is needed if it is to survive in Europe.

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Soal searching: traditionally militant workers may demand a clampdown on foreign investment if more of their employers move jobs and capital abroad following the trend set by companies such as Samsung

Sare you a foreign investment adventure as?

SOUTH Korea has been so raked by corruption scandals, bank-ruptions and revelations about delinquent banking practices in recent months that it is sometimes hard to believe that in the economy futurologists once called the "next Japan". While international rating agencies downgrade South Korea's credit risk and world trade bodies process a host of complaints about the country's unfair trading habits, its family-run chaebols - or industrial conglomerates - remain some of the world's most successful companies.

Not only are corporations such as Hyundai, Samsung, Hanjin, PoSCO and the Lucky Group rich, energetic and enterprising, but they are pumping money into other projects in Europe and elsewhere like never before. Much of this is the fall-out from President Kim Young-sam's political reforms and efforts to prise open a tightly run Confucian economy where hard work, military vigilance and respect for autocratic government have catapulted South Korea into the big league of global economies.

Whether it is sustainable, however, remains the big question. Last year's accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was not only institutionalised Kim's progress towards financial reforms and market liberalisation, but it also helped stimulate foreign direct investment into North America, neighbouring Asian economies and much of Europe.

What else is sustainable, however, remains the big question. Last year's accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was not only institutionalised Kim's progress towards financial reforms and market liberalisation, but it also helped stimulate foreign direct investment into North America, neighbouring Asian economies and much of Europe.

The economic miracle taking place in South Korea was supposed to make it the new Japan. But doubts are creeping in, prompted by fears that the economy is becoming overdependent on western know-how and that the huge investments into Europe cannot be sustained.

So what has gone wrong? Jan Verheire reports from SEOUL.

Netherlands. (\$287m), France (\$191m), Portugal (\$57m) and Spain (\$47m). This was usually amplified by loans and subsidies from host governments keen to attract foreign investors into job-creating industries.

From the South Korean perspective, explains Samsung's executive director of globalisation Kim Ho-jin, "the presence of a good market is the number one consideration for most of our manufacturing investments. Then cost and stability will be strong factors in that market. After that we consider labour cost and the local government incentives being offered." For Samsung, the most attractive European venues for direct investment are the UK, Ireland and Spain.

REGIONALLY, Europe and the UK account for 20 per cent of Samsung's total investment and generates around 10 per cent of global sales. But investment is also defined by two different sets of "ifs" says Kang. "If we look at financial services or development business, then the UK is not a good place to have an investment in electronics manufacturing, the UK is all right even though it's an island we can ship to any country within 48 hours. It also has low minor costs. France is good

in some respects but we don't have many French speaking people familiar with French government structures. But that is our shortcoming, not theirs."

Another significant South Korean investor in Europe has been Daewoo. Its vehicle and machinery divisions has manufacturing plants in Poland and Romania, and also in Liechtenstein and Mexico. The first EU-based manufacturing unit in

and technology reasons. To this end, it has developed centres in the UK, where they focuses on new model development and in Germany, where Daewoo Engineering concentrates on automotive component development.

At the same time, though, most South Korean firms are being pressured by the government to crank up the country's domestic R&D effort in a bid to reduce its current overdependence on western know-how. Adrian Cowell, chief economist at the British Chamber of Commerce in Seoul, says that the government is trying to encourage South Korean firms to invest in R&D in Europe, but it will not be a second Japan. "Other foreign investors consider," says Cowell, "that South Korea's technology is not broad enough to advanced enough to compete in more sophisticated markets like electronic and motors," says one US banker.

Another constraint on transforming South Korea into a self-sufficient economy capable of competing on the strength of its own expertise rather than that banked from overseas is the lamentable state of its banking system.

Corruption, mismanagement and Confucian incompetence describe South Korea's banking system, says one European banker.

BUILDING South Korea's new high-speed rail link between Seoul and Pusan has not been the success exercise President Kim Young-sam and his European contractors had hoped for. The \$13.1-billion contract was awarded in 1994 but the track between Chonan and Taeyon is 18 months late. Further delays are inevitable as the contractors and governing officials are reviewing ambitious cost-cutting proposals. The project's co-ordinator, a government-owned Construction Authority, has made openly hostile residents' groups aware of its own financial interest, as well as compensation schemes. Kim Young Ho, executive director of the project, is expected to announce that "Korea is the best of local investment. We have had to deal with the best and the worst of several states originally planned to be the greatest. It will be built under Korean, and a major detour

office of the ministry of finance and economy; the shrinking contract OECD membership gives the government in managing the economy. He adds that the country's banking system is in a lamentable state.

Kim Young-sam's collapse of Hanjin Iron & Steel Co. - South Korea's biggest export corporate failure - there was some optimism that reforms might help the ailing export of the South Korean economy. But now, say analysts, it has merely served to illustrate the "fragility and vulnerability of a banking system that is still a throwback to South Korea's autocratic pre-Kim past".

A GAINST this background, therefore, it is not surprising that the folly of exporting jobs to low wage sub-shore in a bid to escape overdependence on a somewhat lacklustre economy. The process is being accelerated by the long contract, a narrow market for the next generation technology and migrant trade unions.

Along with a banking sector weighed down by years of government-directed lending and bad debts, South Korea's prospects of becoming the next Japan are fading fast.

What worries Kim Jong Kyng, director of the policy

are bound to experience and international expertise. But the GEC/Alstom consortium has been awarded an \$2.1 billion contract in June 1996. The project is pressing for more progress. Kim had to be improved after a two-year period. The contract was awarded to the consortium by agreement to onerous contractual terms. Competition from Siemens of Germany and Toshiba, including 'core contracts' and over 50 per cent local content for the French-built TGV trains have at times opened the door for the French's own consultants and made openly hostile residents' groups aware of its own financial interest, as well as compensation schemes. Kim Young Ho, executive director of the project, is expected to announce that "Korea is the best of local investment. We have had to deal with the best and the worst of several states originally planned to be the greatest. It will be built under Korean, and a major detour



Day in the difference: Bumpy ride for the high-speed train

South Korea is returning to a siege mentality - and European companies are losing patience

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These government led campaigns have outraged European business executives and prompted calls for increased retaliatory action. South Korea continues to subject foreign products and

OECD trade committee and plans to do so again this month. Similar representations to the WTO are also under review. Sir Leon sent a strongly worded letter to South Korea's foreign minister, demanding that the measures to come of it be removed. Similar US moves are likely to be made.

The importation of foreign cars is being treated with a history of discriminatory measures that date back to the 1970s in South Korea. Until recently, European vehicles had to pass through further delays before entering an import licence, with some of these targeting specific countries where negligible consignments registered.

While US importers can charge steep duties, Europeans complain that they are subject to the vagaries of South Korean rules. They are subject to the vagaries of South Korean rules. They are subject to the vagaries of South Korean rules.

Protests and litigation have delayed a line from Seoul to Pusan

to avoid the historical city of Kyongju had to be improved after a two-year period. The contract was awarded to the consortium by agreement to onerous contractual terms. Competition from Siemens of Germany and Toshiba, including 'core contracts' and over 50 per cent local content for the French-built TGV trains have at times opened the door for the French's own consultants and made openly hostile residents' groups aware of its own financial interest, as well as compensation schemes. Kim Young Ho, executive director of the project, is expected to announce that "Korea is the best of local investment. We have had to deal with the best and the worst of several states originally planned to be the greatest. It will be built under Korean, and a major detour

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"But in terms of pure speed, it was not a surprise. In Germany, the TGV, South Korea's eight fastest train, was never used in any other part of the world using GEC-Alstom technology.

Star performers the winners in mobile

FRANCE Telecom boss Michel Bon is an excellent skier, as befits any self-respecting manager born in the mountains-tinged city of Grenoble. His skis and slalom for the right line down a bumpy piste, he has taken to the stands round about when necessary - he helped him to prepare the "Service" magazine for the French Telecom annual next week.

The deadline for the deregulation of Europe's telecom markets in January next year, has been like a "winning line" says Bon in an interview. His functional office, adorned with a more abstract painting, in a modern block on Paris's Left Bank, "It has governed everything - our routines and prices" - over the past two years.

But a tall form man elegantly dressed, merits the traditional tag of "Froggie" which the French reserve for a certain sense of style. But the expensive jacket comes off; his trousers are rolled up and the mobile phone is held in his hand. "Last look" best describes Bon's style. He may be well known but he is not in team heading a major public corporation but he is a man who has also run suburban supermarkets and a national employment office. He is known well by call centre terrorists - the field - and he has had other observations.

He was President Jacques Chirac who called Bon on mobile 18 months ago and pleaded with him to take the post as head of France Telecom.

'The unions portrayed me as an ogre'

He joined the company's new president in three months. He was immediately attacked by unions, many of them in exaltation. Their tracts were sent to him, with binoculars spilling in my pockets. He was in contact to a get-together in Carrefour for eight years.

He began a long campaign to win the unions over. He set up a bulletin for worried workers; 200,000 copies were mailed. He was answered by Bon himself. "It was a massive effort but communication," says Bon. He has had other concessions putting in a meeting that staff would remain civil servants and

Michel Bon has rung the changes to help soft France Telecom, writes Alan Tipler

that pensions would be safe. But the changes have eyes on the January 1998 "Service" magazine and the French Telecom (BT), says Bon, "It will be carriers and other world players, the campaign paid off." Bon is an investor-activist in sight when Bon, dressed as ever, outlined the privatisation plan in Paris. From 6 May, when that plan of shares goes on sale, Bon hopes that France Telecom workers will be heading out for the streets, but to their brokers. The partial privatisation of the world's fourth largest telecom operator - France's biggest ever sell-off - is expected to raise the government between Ff10bn and Ff20bn.

Bon's English is fluent, as he shows in our interview and when talking to Deutsche Telekom and the US Sprint, his partner in Global One, the new "SEPS" firm, his partner in France Telecom, its partner in AT&T, LMVH, Samsung, Taiwan's Acer and Sweden's Spatell. He is wealthy by French managerial standards, partly due to his role as chief officer of Carrefour, but he is not particularly rich as an ordinary person. When he travels he is known to be a frequent flyer. He has been known to do long-haul work which a challenge recently when his price reforms were benefiting his business. He replied that the biggest benefit was the lower international rates were imminent - he was in contact as a manager, calling home as a manager.

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Cut-throat: Pierre Lescaur, Canal Plus chairman, remains upbeat despite digital rivalry

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IN BRIEF

- FRANCE Telecom Modems International, a subsidiary of the French operator Telenor, has been awarded licences to operate satellite mobile phone networks in Denmark, Austria and parts of the Scandinavian region. Telenor's mobile phone network is a mobile phone network which will be used by 450 people at the site.
- COMPAQ, the US computer giant, is planning to set up a mobile phone manufacturing plant in France. The plant will be run by Philips, a French electronics manufacturer, and other French companies. The plant will produce mobile phones for the European market. The plant will be run by Philips, a French electronics manufacturer, and other French companies. The plant will produce mobile phones for the European market.
- SGS-Thomson has announced that it will be manufacturing mobile phone chips in France. The chips will be used in mobile phones. The chips will be used in mobile phones.

Cable modem network

PC workers will be soon making faster links, writes Alicia Clegg

NEWORK EUROPE

France's largest cable operator, Canal Plus, has announced that it will be launching a nationwide cable modem network. The network will be used by 450 people at the site.

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The company's answer seems to be to get tough, and to show the world who's boss'

AD LIBS

GERMAN media mogul Leo Kirch says he will not accept a loan of 500 million from a state-owned Russian bank after the planned takeover of the bank. Kirch says he will not accept a loan of 500 million from a state-owned Russian bank after the planned takeover of the bank.

The broadband watchdog in France is to be set up. The watchdog will be responsible for monitoring the broadband market.

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Deposit your money safely offshore and receive tax-free 10.75% interest in U.S. dollars.

The Extelcor Bank

Market still rising in east

Melanie Bien

WITH east European markets already staggering growth last year, investors are not waiting in the region may reap the benefits of a strong recovery. The fund manager of the recently successful fund in the region, the Selective Eastern European Fund from Mercury Asset Management, believes that significant growth is still possible in these volatile markets.



Francis King, who co-manages the £250m fund which has enjoyed phenomenal returns of 155 per cent in dealrunners times since its inception in December 1995, believes these emerging markets are by no means fully developed, so it is not surprising that investors are reaping again this year. 'It's not easy as it was last year and it is difficult to repeat gains like that. The fund is getting larger, so small companies which only 30 per cent of the fund invest in don't have the same weight as they did,' he says. 'We were lucky in the time of the launch of the fund after two years of bear markets in 1994 and 1995, because east European markets have had a recovery since then. But investors should be wary of the risks in a risky and volatile area to invest in, and they should be aware of the risks involved.' While gains can be considerable, they are also much higher than those

INVESTMENT

Development of new products to rescue investors

Chris Butler

COLPERS is coming to Europe - good news for investors who are necessarily looking for growth. The largest Public Employees' Retirement System in the United States has purchased a large portfolio of assets, has been a major force in the American pension scene, and is expected to have principles to apply in Germany before the end of the year. The investment giant has identified some basic concepts that it believes are fundamental to free and fair markets.

and say it has done so - not a welcome event for any quoted corporation. Now the fund has proposed that the continuation of the investment principles for the next several years be expected to have principles to apply in Germany before the end of the year. The investment giant has identified some basic concepts that it believes are fundamental to free and fair markets.

CALPERS LARGEST INVESTMENTS IN FRANCE & UK

UK	France
UK: National Westminster	1105
UK: Anglo-Dutch	200
UK: HSBC	110
UK: Royal Bank of Scotland	100
UK: Lloyds Bank	95
UK: Halifax	90
UK: First Direct	85
UK: NatWest	80
UK: Barclay's Bank	75
UK: Yorkshire Bank	70
UK: Clydesdale Bank	65
UK: Leeds Building Society	60
UK: Bradford & Bingley	55
UK: Halifax	50
UK: Yorkshire Building Society	45

shareholder relationships by having elections for directors. This will give shareholders to present themselves to the company's proxy voting system. UK's 5.9 billion invested, it has become the dominant benchmark. UK's 5.9 billion invested, it has become the dominant benchmark. UK's 5.9 billion invested, it has become the dominant benchmark.

IN BRIEF

POWER Capital, the British Virgin Islands-based umbrella fund, has launched Euros. Its fourth sub-fund, which will specialise in investing in high-yield securities, denominated in a variety of European currencies, will be expected to achieve both a high return and a high appreciation. It will not follow Euros' lead, but more than four per cent of the assets have been issued, not all of which will be able to trade in the second half of 1997.

Election titters

Picking UK utilities

UK INVESTORS may well be fed of hearing about the general election, especially given that on some times, they will be the influence of politics on economics, yet they should consider the impact of the election on the stock market, writes Melanie Rien.

Picking 1 of the best

Dollar damages

STOCK selection takes many forms, but at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson research there is a strict quantitative analysis formula to result, announced at only a touch of discretion.

Dutch markets

Dutch damages

A GROWING number of brokers are concerned about the value of Dutch shares, which are at a two-year low.

Come out of the closet

SALEROOM

Laura Safford reports on Bonhams's sale of the work of Lucie Rie.

TOP 30 EQUITY EUROFUNDS

Rank	30th Equities	Management Company	Country	Investment Objective	Return %	Volatility	Risk
1	Mercury Selected Eur	Mercury Asset Management	UK	Equity	15.8	14.1	10.1
2	Mercury Eastern Europe	Mercury Asset Management	UK	Equity	14.5	13.2	11.3
3	Flaming Europa	Flaming (Fidelity) UK SA	UK	Equity	14.4	10.8	11.1
4	Flaming Europa	Flaming (Fidelity) UK SA	UK	Equity	14.4	10.8	11.1
5	Mercury Selected Europe	Mercury Asset Management	UK	Equity	14.3	13.2	11.3

FRANK RANKING

The Fleming China Fund from Fleming Fund Management is a fund launched in July 1994, managed by Steve Luk, who is based in Hong Kong.

CeBra is bitten by overselling

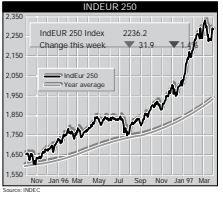
The CeBra movement, spearheaded by leading artists in metropolitan Brussels and Amsterdam such as Philippe Achterhuis, Karl Appel and Pieter Willems, peaked in 1990 with a price of £20 per cent. The market had reached a peak in 1992 but had fallen by a further 27 per cent since the end of 1995 partly because of excessive offerings at auction last December.

where she took on work in a lens factory, as well as producing glassware from a studio in Soho before moving to London. Despite the celebrity which she has achieved, many were rediscovered in the past few years, and her work has been incorporated into the work of other designers. She has been rediscovered in the past few years, and her work has been incorporated into the work of other designers.

LEADERS AND LAGGERS - EQUITY EUROFUNDS INVESTING IN ASIA (EX JAPAN)

Rank	Equity	Management Company	Country	Investment Objective	Return %	Volatility	Risk
1	Flaming Pacific Asia	Flaming (Fidelity) UK SA	UK	Equity	14.5	10.8	11.1
2	Mercury Selected Asia	Mercury Asset Management	UK	Equity	14.3	13.2	11.3
3	Flaming Pacific Asia	Flaming (Fidelity) UK SA	UK	Equity	14.2	10.8	11.1
4	Flaming Pacific Asia	Flaming (Fidelity) UK SA	UK	Equity	14.1	10.8	11.1
5	Mercury Selected Asia	Mercury Asset Management	UK	Equity	14.0	13.2	11.3

BANKS ▼ 12.25%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close



Wall Street pulls down markets
THERE was only one direction for European stock markets last week - down. Flipping prices on Wall Street triggered massive selling in Europe as investors concerned that interest rates in the US will have to rise again following the 0.25 point rise to 5.5 per cent last month.

More statistics suggesting that the US economy is growing faster than expected and fuelling inflation have convinced US analysts that another rate rise is only weeks away. Another rise would depress returns and lead to lower share prices.

SECTOR INDEXES
Sector Index % change 12 month High Low
Banks 1951.5 1.5 +23.5 2020.8 1852.4
Drinks & Tobacco 2350.3 -2.4 -11.3 2619.0 1902.6

STOCK MARKETS
Market Index Latest % change 12 month High Low
Amsterdam AEX 308.4 -2.6 319 774.2 512.8
Athens General 1852.0 6.0 3.5 1852.6 873.0

PAPER & PACKAGING ▼ 5.1%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

PROPERTY & CONSTRUCTION ▼ 1.3%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

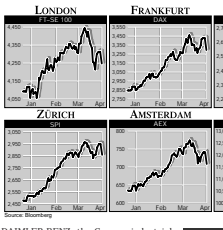
CHEMICALS ▼ 2.4%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

coast where many New York fund managers... The snow kept many of them at home and may have delayed some dealing, leaving the market's upward of its direction as it awaits new economic statistics.

London fared better than most, losing less than one per cent on the week... Frankfurt lost around 1.5 per cent, while Amsterdam and Stockholm...

RETAIL ▼ 0.1%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

DRINKS & TOBACCO ▼ 0.3%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close



COMPANY RESULTS
Date Country Sector Period Profits (m)
26 March Caradon UK Construction 12 months £ 153 114

UTILITIES & TELECOMS ▼ 1.8%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

ENGINEERING ▼ 1.6%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

DAMLER BENZ, the German industrial group, is firmly back on the recovery road having a loss of Dm3.7 billion (S3.4bn) in 1995, the company bounced back with a profit of Dm2.8bn for 1996.

FOOD ▼ 1.5%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

TRANSPORT ▼ 1.8%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

General
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

HEALTH & PHARMACEUTICALS ▼ 1.4%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

METALS ▼ 1.1%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

MOTORS ▼ 1.1%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

FINANCIAL & CONGLOMERATE ▼ 2.4%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

LEISURE ▼ 1.0%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

MEDIA & INFORMATION ▼ 2.4%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

MOTORS (continued)
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

INSURANCE ▼ 0.2%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

MEDIA & INFORMATION (continued)
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

OIL ▼ 0.7%
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

MOTORS (continued)
Country City Open High Low Close
Country City Open High Low Close

Changes since last week. Prices as at market close on Tuesday 1 April 1997. INDEUR 500 Index and sector movements calculated by currency fluctuations. Compiled by InDeUR Ltd. Fax: +44 (0)171 9510005. Also available in real time on CNN International Text and on Reuters Financial screens. Key pages: 624 (P&C) 625 (R&C) 626 (R&C) 627 (R&C) 628 (R&C) 629 (R&C) 630 (R&C) 631 (R&C) 632 (R&C) 633 (R&C) 634 (R&C) 635 (R&C) 636 (R&C) 637 (R&C) 638 (R&C) 639 (R&C) 640 (R&C) 641 (R&C) 642 (R&C) 643 (R&C) 644 (R&C) 645 (R&C) 646 (R&C) 647 (R&C) 648 (R&C) 649 (R&C) 650 (R&C) 651 (R&C) 652 (R&C) 653 (R&C) 654 (R&C) 655 (R&C) 656 (R&C) 657 (R&C) 658 (R&C) 659 (R&C) 660 (R&C) 661 (R&C) 662 (R&C) 663 (R&C) 664 (R&C) 665 (R&C) 666 (R&C) 667 (R&C) 668 (R&C) 669 (R&C) 670 (R&C) 671 (R&C) 672 (R&C) 673 (R&C) 674 (R&C) 675 (R&C) 676 (R&C) 677 (R&C) 678 (R&C) 679 (R&C) 680 (R&C) 681 (R&C) 682 (R&C) 683 (R&C) 684 (R&C) 685 (R&C) 686 (R&C) 687 (R&C) 688 (R&C) 689 (R&C) 690 (R&C) 691 (R&C) 692 (R&C) 693 (R&C) 694 (R&C) 695 (R&C) 696 (R&C) 697 (R&C) 698 (R&C) 699 (R&C) 700 (R&C) 701 (R&C) 702 (R&C) 703 (R&C) 704 (R&C) 705 (R&C) 706 (R&C) 707 (R&C) 708 (R&C) 709 (R&C) 710 (R&C) 711 (R&C) 712 (R&C) 713 (R&C) 714 (R&C) 715 (R&C) 716 (R&C) 717 (R&C) 718 (R&C) 719 (R&C) 720 (R&C) 721 (R&C) 722 (R&C) 723 (R&C) 724 (R&C) 725 (R&C) 726 (R&C) 727 (R&C) 728 (R&C) 729 (R&C) 730 (R&C) 731 (R&C) 732 (R&C) 733 (R&C) 734 (R&C) 735 (R&C) 736 (R&C) 737 (R&C) 738 (R&C) 739 (R&C) 740 (R&C) 741 (R&C) 742 (R&C) 743 (R&C) 744 (R&C) 745 (R&C) 746 (R&C) 747 (R&C) 748 (R&C) 749 (R&C) 750 (R&C) 751 (R&C) 752 (R&C) 753 (R&C) 754 (R&C) 755 (R&C) 756 (R&C) 757 (R&C) 758 (R&C) 759 (R&C) 760 (R&C) 761 (R&C) 762 (R&C) 763 (R&C) 764 (R&C) 765 (R&C) 766 (R&C) 767 (R&C) 768 (R&C) 769 (R&C) 770 (R&C) 771 (R&C) 772 (R&C) 773 (R&C) 774 (R&C) 775 (R&C) 776 (R&C) 777 (R&C) 778 (R&C) 779 (R&C) 780 (R&C) 781 (R&C) 782 (R&C) 783 (R&C) 784 (R&C) 785 (R&C) 786 (R&C) 787 (R&C) 788 (R&C) 789 (R&C) 790 (R&C) 791 (R&C) 792 (R&C) 793 (R&C) 794 (R&C) 795 (R&C) 796 (R&C) 797 (R&C) 798 (R&C) 799 (R&C) 800 (R&C) 801 (R&C) 802 (R&C) 803 (R&C) 804 (R&C) 805 (R&C) 806 (R&C) 807 (R&C) 808 (R&C) 809 (R&C) 810 (R&C) 811 (R&C) 812 (R&C) 813 (R&C) 814 (R&C) 815 (R&C) 816 (R&C) 817 (R&C) 818 (R&C) 819 (R&C) 820 (R&C) 821 (R&C) 822 (R&C) 823 (R&C) 824 (R&C) 825 (R&C) 826 (R&C) 827 (R&C) 828 (R&C) 829 (R&C) 830 (R&C) 831 (R&C) 832 (R&C) 833 (R&C) 834 (R&C) 835 (R&C) 836 (R&C) 837 (R&C) 838 (R&C) 839 (R&C) 840 (R&C) 841 (R&C) 842 (R&C) 843 (R&C) 844 (R&C) 845 (R&C) 846 (R&C) 847 (R&C) 848 (R&C) 849 (R&C) 850 (R&C) 851 (R&C) 852 (R&C) 853 (R&C) 854 (R&C) 855 (R&C) 856 (R&C) 857 (R&C) 858 (R&C) 859 (R&C) 860 (R&C) 861 (R&C) 862 (R&C) 863 (R&C) 864 (R&C) 865 (R&C) 866 (R&C) 867 (R&C) 868 (R&C) 869 (R&C) 870 (R&C) 871 (R&C) 872 (R&C) 873 (R&C) 874 (R&C) 875 (R&C) 876 (R&C) 877 (R&C) 878 (R&C) 879 (R&C) 880 (R&C) 881 (R&C) 882 (R&C) 883 (R&C) 884 (R&C) 885 (R&C) 886 (R&C) 887 (R&C) 888 (R&C) 889 (R&C) 890 (R&C) 891 (R&C) 892 (R&C) 893 (R&C) 894 (R&C) 895 (R&C) 896 (R&C) 897 (R&C) 898 (R&C) 899 (R&C) 900 (R&C) 901 (R&C) 902 (R&C) 903 (R&C) 904 (R&C) 905 (R&C) 906 (R&C) 907 (R&C) 908 (R&C) 909 (R&C) 910 (R&C) 911 (R&C) 912 (R&C) 913 (R&C) 914 (R&C) 915 (R&C) 916 (R&C) 917 (R&C) 918 (R&C) 919 (R&C) 920 (R&C) 921 (R&C) 922 (R&C) 923 (R&C) 924 (R&C) 925 (R&C) 926 (R&C) 927 (R&C) 928 (R&C) 929 (R&C) 930 (R&C) 931 (R&C) 932 (R&C) 933 (R&C) 934 (R&C) 935 (R&C) 936 (R&C) 937 (R&C) 938 (R&C) 939 (R&C) 940 (R&C) 941 (R&C) 942 (R&C) 943 (R&C) 944 (R&C) 945 (R&C) 946 (R&C) 947 (R&C) 948 (R&C) 949 (R&C) 950 (R&C) 951 (R&C) 952 (R&C) 953 (R&C) 954 (R&C) 955 (R&C) 956 (R&C) 957 (R&C) 958 (R&C) 959 (R&C) 960 (R&C) 961 (R&C) 962 (R&C) 963 (R&C) 964 (R&C) 965 (R&C) 966 (R&C) 967 (R&C) 968 (R&C) 969 (R&C) 970 (R&C) 971 (R&C) 972 (R&C) 973 (R&C) 974 (R&C) 975 (R&C) 976 (R&C) 977 (R&C) 978 (R&C) 979 (R&C) 980 (R&C) 981 (R&C) 982 (R&C) 983 (R&C) 984 (R&C) 985 (R&C) 986 (R&C) 987 (R&C) 988 (R&C) 989 (R&C) 990 (R&C) 991 (R&C) 992 (R&C) 993 (R&C) 994 (R&C) 995 (R&C) 996 (R&C) 997 (R&C) 998 (R&C) 999 (R&C) 1000 (R&C)

Divided island faces critical year of talks

HECTIC diplomacy is under way in Nicosia, the world's last divided capital, to arrange face-to-face talks between the leaders of estranged Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities aimed at reuniting the island under a federal system...

Looming negotiations on EU membership are focusing minds on resolving the Cypriot dispute, writes Michael Theodorou

Cyprus were killed, or which divides the island. The mistrust between the two communities was deepened in January when the Greek Cypriot government announced plans to buy an advanced air defence system from Russia...

Understandably, optimism is a word shunned by media such as Britain's Cyprus envoy, Sir David Hanbury. 'There have been far too many failures in the past to simply brush aside the problem...'

President Glafcos Clerides and the Greek Cypriot leader, Archbishop Makarios. Later, he served as acting president for five months in 1974...

the Turkish Cypriots would return some land but demand a majority in an area under their control.

But the exact name and nature of that federation, and the return of refugees, have led to deadlock. Cyprus's EU application now represents a 'historic opportunity' to bring about a settlement...

The coup soon collapsed. But after two years of repression, the recognised Greek Cypriot administration in the south of the island in 1974 days after a coup in Nicosia inspired by the colonels...

the Turkish Cypriots would return some land but demand a majority in an area under their control. But the exact name and nature of that federation, and the return of refugees, have led to deadlock.

The Greek Cypriots claim that entry will be extremely difficult without at least progress towards a solution, although the EU has stopped short of saying it would be impossible, for fear of giving Turkey an effective veto over Cyprus's application.

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Political life that spans four turbulent decades

AT THE VE Day celebrations in London two years ago, Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and Aser Weizman, his Israeli counterpart, were alone among the assembled heads of state to have seen active service in the Second World War...

His experiences shaped his political career, which has bounding railed over Hamburg in which 1,000 aircraft dropped or 4,000 tonnes of explosives in just five minutes.

seventies, who have been sparing little words. They enjoy a fluid rapport, exchanging good-humoured merriment about their age and weight problems.

one of the most powerful Greek Cypriot leader after Archbishop Makarios. Later, he served as acting president for five months in 1974...

the Turkish Cypriots would return some land but demand a majority in an area under their control. But the exact name and nature of that federation, and the return of refugees, have led to deadlock.

From a colonial backdrop to become a bustling centre

IN A Sunday morning under the vine-covered cantonville of a hillside house, an elderly farmer plans his day among the Armani-clad sons, whose mobile phone frequently interrupts his day of working in the field.

the younger man, an accountant educated in Britain at considerable cost to his parents, is spending the weekend in the village where he has a gleaming BMW is parked in his tractor's first thing Monday morning.

in little more than a generation the Greek part of Cyprus has been transformed. GDP was 2.9 per cent. Public debt was 93 per cent of GDP, comfortably below the 100 per cent set by Maastricht.

and modernisation is to be abolished and interest rates lowered. In February, Cyprus announced plans for allowing foreign investment of up to 100 per cent in sectors such as clothing, footwear, plastics, food and goods and services, which comprise the traditional heart of the island's manufacturing sector.

Adaptation to new challenges

the younger man, an accountant educated in Britain at considerable cost to his parents, is spending the weekend in the village where he has a gleaming BMW is parked in his tractor's first thing Monday morning.

Hub, Cyprus is at the crossroads of three continents. GDP was 2.9 per cent. Public debt was 93 per cent of GDP, comfortably below the 100 per cent set by Maastricht.

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Brussels spreads the word about translation jobs

EVERY year more than 100,000 documents are translated into 11 languages by a team of translators at the European Commission, constituting about a fifth of the organisation's entire staff of 15,500.

Its translation department, the largest in the world, offers various opportunities for freelance translators. But work in Brussels is just one aspect of a growing market for translators, and the Commission is making the search for such opportunities easier. It has created the Multilingual Information Service, with a budget this year of £6m (million \$2m), and its first step was the publication of requests for proposals at the end of March.

The requests come under several headings. The development of language resources includes, for example, the production of glossaries and an inventory of specialised dictionaries and voice recordings. Mobilising the industry covers the promotion of the latest language engineering techniques in the commercial sector and such developments in computerised translation. The requests also cover advanced language tools in the public sector.

There is also a miscellaneous group of projects such as the setting of technical standards. There will also be scope for exploiting the grant

Peter Matthews on how people with multilingual skills can track down work throughout Europe

parts of programmes such as Info2000, which encourages the provision of information content, and a scheme called Transnet, which covers new technology in telecoms and computers.

Eastern Europe is also getting a particular and fertile hunting ground. The funding requirement that they collaborate with a partner in another country.

Peter Barber, managing director of the UK's Barber Languages and the Commission's liaison officer in Brussels, says that the UK's Barber Languages has taken up a number of projects from various member states. The company has taken up a number of projects from various member states. The company has taken up a number of projects from various member states.

He will be sharing his experiences at the Third European Language Conference in Brussels in March. For information about the conference contact Peter Barber, Fax: +44 (0)1438 847 577. The head of the EC's external translation division is George Zamboninis at Fax: +32 293 293.

Further information can be obtained from Peter Matthews, 46th, The Association for Information Management, Information House, 20-24 Old Street, London EC1Y 3AB, UK. Tel: +44 (0)171 438 1034. Fax: +44 (0)171 438 0214. E-mail: p.matthews@aimg.com WWW: http://www.aimg.com

Raising the roof in Rome

WHEN in Rome, do as the Romans do. So it is not too easy when you are driving on a road with no lane markings and hyperactive traffic in the Colosseum speed bowl when the long white developp of the law wove out of the window of a parked Fiat Uno. But the policemen were not stopping me for a lack of a parking ticket.

They just wanted to get a better look at the curious car I was driving. They had every right to be startled by the tiny Daihatsu Move's profile: tall, upright and very narrow. It looks as if it has been wedged between two buses that have fused together. The car's history didn't make it any more likely to make sense. And all other cars, the ten strong fleet of buzz-bus Daihatsus were being driven provoked every reaction from smiles to scowls.

The driver is rather than it is wide, narrow, actually, at just 1.4 metres. High and upright and sitting on a top hat. Inside, the four seats are squeezed together and still have enough headroom to wear the top hat, and although the car is only 1.80 metres long, it is a Peugeot 106, there is plenty of legroom in both front and rear. The boot is surprisingly roomy. An 850cc three-cylinder engine drives the four wheels, and what it lacks in power (65bhp) it makes up for in revving energy. It does not seem to be in gear with the car's rearward fall, but that is just because the fuel tank is so full that it is just below the floor all the

MOToring
Tony Lewin finds that one way to get noticed by the carabinieri is to drive the tiry but tall Daihatsu Move

way, with the re-convertor in the rear deck stretches from 6,500 to 10,000rpm. (There is the 9000 output of an automatic gearbox which gives the bit and miss notchiness of the five-speed manual, seems a sensible choice. Quick steering, strong brakes, good all round vision and a good engine, its size make it extremely agile in city traffic.

However, one outside Rome's city limits began to find it frustrating. Its manoeuvrability was hampered by its front end, such as the honey ridge (especially on the cobble Lay Aprilia hill) and the penetrating drive of its hard working engine, whose E1 cam-based fuel consumption is six litres per 100km. At high speed - a barely credible 150kmph apparent on the speedometer - the Move is more stable than I expected, though in the passenger seat on the hilly roads leading to the Frascati wine growing area I didn't feel as secure, and it would like to drive in high winds or fully laden.

But the way the tall bins leans in corners is more worrying, for



Buzz-bus: The Move looks as if it has been squashed between two buses and passengers and onlookers that the driver when you are behind the wheel. The Move feels unwilling to tip over, through bumps and ridges in the road or deflected in tight corners. It is an amusing car to drive, and there is a certain satisfaction in carrying four people in reasonable comfort while using less road area than a Fiat Cinnabon. But on the other hand, it feels flimsy and metallic, though the interior fittings are decent enough, and while the driver is provided with a

TRAVEL UPDATE

■ The British group property Barford has announced a partnership with the high-profile hotelier Jan Schragro to create 'budget' hotels similar to his Roydon and Paramount hotels in New York. Barford has bought three office blocks in central London, and hopes to convert them into hotels in a partnership with Schragro, who, as managing director, will design and operate them.

■ AUSTRIAN AIRLINES has started a scheduled service to Strasbourg, the first western airline to do so. It will run three flights a week to Strasbourg, starting on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, arriving from Vienna at 16:25.

■ The growth in demand for short term apartment and bed-and-breakfast accommodation has increased business at London's Urban Reservations by 30 per cent in the last three years. Of ten to 15 per cent - the agency has had its single-occupancy bed-and-breakfast rate at £55 (£50) per night. All rooms are in private homes but have their own bathrooms, and include breakfast. Urban Reservations' prices are spreading from the original 12 cities to include the new Costa Blanca base in the West End.

■ The Italian airline Alitalia Air is now offering a daily service from Turin to London City Airport. It will offer flights from Milan/Bergamo to London City on Monday and Tuesday, leaving London at 12:20 (15:35 on Sunday).

■ FROM this month, members of British Airways' Frequent Flyer Schemes can 'earn and burn' their mileage on other airlines - with the notable exception of all non-airline transactions between Europe and the US. This brings to 20 the number of airlines associated with British Airways' schemes.

Gill Williams

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
The UK's Barber Languages has taken up a number of projects from various member states. The company has taken up a number of projects from various member states. The company has taken up a number of projects from various member states.

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IN CONTRAST

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Micro-cars also need scaled-down prices

MICRO CARS were developed in Japan as a result of in-city parking regulations which favoured cars no more than 3.5 metres long and 1.4 metres wide, writes Tony Lewin. So what happened when these rules were scrapped two years ago? Against all predictions, the micro-car market began to boom, with novel 'recreational' models such as the Daihatsu Move and the Suzuki Wagon R, mini people-carrier joining the standard mini-salons. These small but often complex cars, which are sold in Japan, one of the richest and most technology-obsessed car

markets in the world. But Peter Schmidt of motor analysts Autodata's Industry Data doubts that they will have much impact in Europe. "Europe is different to Japan, we are less fashion-conscious," he says.

But the main problem is price. In Japan, basic micro cars sell for about \$6,500, but when they come to Europe they are priced too high for their size. If they were as aggressively priced as in Japan, micro-cars would sell well in Europe, says Schmidt, especially in countries such as Spain, Italy and Portugal, where they would dominate the market and safety is less important.

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INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY

Lisbon puts faith in the Expo effect

THE LEE VALLEY Golf & Country Club, 13 kilometres from Cork in Ireland, is being sold by its owners, a group of local businessmen...

Irish golfer Christy O'Connor Jr and opened in July 1993. It is up to 1,600m in length, and plays a par of 72.

The 1,368-square metre clubhouse has a 120-seat restaurant, two lounges, a snooker room and a golf professional's shop.

The first floor is currently used as storage space for the club, and there are looking for offices in excess of £3 million (\$4.5m).

Showing the Algarve a green light

THE climate and environment of Portugal have always been great assets for its residential property developers. But although the climate has remained one of the friendliest in Europe, the environment was threatened by uncontrolled development...

RESIDENTIAL

Clive Branson reports on environmentally friendly policies and the latest golf-related developments

ers, such as Britain's Bovis, have been operating in Portugal for decades. Bovis is building 300 apartments in its São Lourenço scheme in Quinta do Lago - 14 were sold before completion.

One of the most active developers in the western Algarve is the Viga group. It has five sites offering a selection of properties from two-bedroom villas at €262,500 to three-bedroom houses for €607,500.

Recently however, the enforcement of planning policies has prevented developers from destroying the attractions of the area - to the extent that the Vilamoura development won a Green Globe environmental award from the World Travel and Tourism Centre.

While the Algarve property market is not booming at the moment, its stability is reflected in prices that have held up well in the recent recession. This is in contrast to areas of Spain and France, where prices have dropped by up to 40 per cent.

The most popular areas are the beaches do Lago and Quinta do Lago, which are close to the sea and to Faro airport. Many of the develop-

ers, such as Britain's Bovis, have been operating in Portugal for decades. Bovis is building 300 apartments in its São Lourenço scheme in Quinta do Lago - 14 were sold before completion.

COMMERCIAL

For some years, until the long-term effect of the Expo can be assessed, for example, the writer Clive Branson. Lisbon is predicted to be weak, despite Portugal's success in Lisbon being only the second time in the city's history to have the department which will be the largest in Spain.

COMMERCIAL

As far as offices are concerned, agent Richard Ellis estimates last year's take-up at 75,000 square metres, and availability at 51,000 metres. A further 60,000 square metres will come on stream this year. Rents are stable at around €35.500 per sq m.

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Under fire of a Welsh badger

BUSINESS PORTRAIT

NEIL KINNOCK

A LOT has changed in the past five years for Neil Kinnock, European Labour Party...

Kinnock stepped out of the limelight of British politics when he resigned as Labour Party...

Even so, as it seems likely, the flame-haired son of a labourer from the rugged mountain region of south Wales...

There is no doubt Kinnock and his family have made a success of it in Brussels.

Kinnock and his family have made a success of it in Brussels. He has not maintained a dignified silence...

He has not maintained a dignified silence, he replied to my queries about whether or not he had been giving prep talks on Europe to migrant Labour Party members...

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the last person to leave Britain please turn out the lights next time you visit the country's nightclubs. The page has become part of his catchphrase.

But Kinnock does not appear bitter about what happened in 1996, and seems to be enjoying his new job. It is amazing to think that for the first time in his history there will be road connections between the Arctic and the Mediterranean...

"I would have been like a ghost going out at the having ice minister if I had stayed in being in the opposition deserves the rewards," he says of his Labour colleagues.

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occasionally making occasional butlering and sometimes infuriating. The travel can him down, but you can't move because that is part of the job.

Kinnock, however, does not mind going to Scandinavia. In 1996 he was invited to Norway where he made a passionate speech in the parliament.

Kinnock has done with the Nordic countries, whose traditions of social democracy are back many years ahead of this city, says the dapper Welshman...

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views of the river and the old city centre. But Stockholm has had more for Kinnock. The Swedish premier Olaf Palme was in the news for the night before we met. On his arrival at the Grand Hotel, where he was to address a meeting on aviation and the environment...

He relaxes during the drive with the airport, lighting a cigarette and chatting about loftier themes than transport, like the relationship between money and power, and democracy and the media.

Ownership of the media is like talking about ownership of the coal mines in the 19th century. It goes right to the heart of our industrial policy, he says.

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Ownership of the media is like talking about ownership of the coal mines in the 19th century. It goes right to the heart of our industrial policy, he says.

"He was looking forward to it, but not with the glow they would as computer revolutionaries. They know there will be a change of attitudes, but not a mood of instant campaign." He has a few more thoughts on his election campaign. He has a real passion, especially "safe and sustainable" forms of energy.

When John Major, the Conservative Party leader, visited Kinnock in the 1992 election, he was the first of the new commissioners to go with Jacques Santer's office to acquire a passport. He left the one he wanted. Education and transport are at the core of social and prosperity in modern society, Kinnock says.

His appointment came at a moment when the former college tutor and education minister opted for trains, buses and planes. "The demand for transport is set to double in Europe by the year 2010. If you think how clogged the roads are already, you realise the need to act."

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Kinnock and his family have made a success of it in Brussels

He was the first to ask the Santer for a job - and he got what he wanted

CROSSWORD 360

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a 'QUICK CLUES' section with numbered hints.

CHESS

Chess puzzle featuring a board diagram with pieces and a text explanation of the solution, mentioning 'Black: Arachnids' and 'White: Lalic'.

BRIDGE

Bridge puzzle section with a hand diagram, a text explanation of the solution, and a 'DECEPTIVE DECLARER' section.

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