

Project of a «Charter for the Defense of Women»

The «Commission of the European Parliament for Women's Rights» spent two days preparing the «Charter of 130 million European women», to be presented to the Assembly next February.

Written by Mrs. Johanna Maij-Weggen (Democratic Christian Party, Netherlands), it consists of 50 articles, subjected to 230 amendments. A final version of it will be ready during the next few weeks.

The text deals not only with women's condition in the European community but with that of other women as well. It warns against the acceptance of Greece, Spain and Portugal in the Economic European Council before obtaining from these countries definite pledges for improved treatment of their women.

African states and other countries connected with the European community are urged to give up archaic practices such as female circumcision and dowry. It is advocated that these questions be the subject of a new

conference between those states and the European Council.

The text claims for the European Community itself a reduction of the hours of work and a priority of employment for women and young people, considered as first victims of present unemployment. It condemns vocational discrimination, proposes a complex system of maternity — and paternity — leaves, and of cure for sick children. It claims vocational training and apprenticeship for women without any age limitation, and the establishment of nurseries in universities. Contraceptive methods are recommended provided a scientific study be made of their application.

Several articles are devoted to the migrant worker's wife who, in some cases, belongs to the European community but is unjustly treated in case of divorce, when the children keep the husband's nationality.

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