

The Foundation's recommendations are absorbed into the thinking of policy makers at European, national and local levels. Its programmes to date have spanned themes from social cohesion, to work-related issues, to the environment. The results of this work are put into the policy-making arena through personal briefings of individuals within the Commission, Parliament and other bodies of the European Union, and through extensive publication and conference programmes.

The current programme **Facing up to the challenges of European society**, taking the Foundation up to the year 2000, examines the issues the people of Europe must deal with in the coming years. They are :

- Employment
- Health and well-being
- Social cohesion
- Equal opportunities
- Sustainable development
- Participation

In developing the programme, the Director of the Foundation, Clive Purkiss, said, 'Europe's ability to adapt to the challenges and to exploit the opportunities being created by a rapidly evolving economy and society will require partnership between individuals, employers, unions and governments dedicated to managing change. If that change can be managed with determination and understanding of both the competitive pressures and the social implications, especially the effect on employment, then we shall all gain in the long run. It is in this way by confronting the challenges of European society that the Foundation will make its contribution over the next four years and into the next century.'

The Foundation's publications are available throughout Europe from the sales agents of the Office for Official Publications. An information centre at the Foundation's offices in Dublin receives and responds to enquiries. A newsletter, published in eleven languages, is available free of charge from the Foundation.

Effects on
employment
Health and
well-being
Social
cohesion
Equal
opportunities
Sustainable
development
Worker
participation

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EUROPEAN
FOUNDATION
for the
Improvement
of Living and
Working Conditions

Improving
Quality
of life
for
Europeans



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Over 372 million people live in the European Union. The conditions in which they live and work are the Foundation's business.

The European Union looks to ensure the economic and social progress of its constituent countries, to eliminate barriers which divide Europe. It has as an essential objective the constant improvement of the living and working conditions of its people.

The Foundation's raison d'être is to help the policy makers and decision takers of Europe and the Member States to work to these ends. Advancing technology, increasing wealth, or consolidation of the Single Market are worthwhile objectives because they can enhance people's quality of life. The Foundation's mandate is to help make sure that they do.

This mandate is pursued by the Foundation's staff and Administrative Board, working with experts throughout the Member States. Together they identify and prioritise issues affecting the lives of those 372 million people, search out innovative responses and present recommendations to those who are well placed to create a just and safe community.

Improving the lives of European citizens was an important aspiration of the Treaty of Rome. To assist in making this aspiration a reality, the Council of Ministers established, in 1975, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Council Regulation EEC No. 1365/75 of 26 May 1975).

For over 20 years, the Foundation has advised the European institutions, national governments and the social partners on the issues confronting European society

THE ADVICE

The sound basis of the Foundation's advice derives from two sources:

- the authority of its Administrative Board, comprising representatives of the governments and social partners of all Member States and representatives of the European Commission. Their joint discussions and agenda keep the Foundation's work firmly grounded in reality;
- the independent research carried out by experts and networks throughout Europe under the direction of the Foundation's international staff.

THE PEOPLE

In carrying out its work the Foundation has looked at how to help

- the carer looking after elderly relatives
- the neighbourhood voluntary group working with statutory and other agencies
- the migrant faced with problems of racism
- the long-term unemployed person trying to get back into the work force
- the individual juggling working and non working time
- the shiftworker coping with unsocial working hours
- the older worker coming to terms with new technology
- the industrial relations practitioner and many others