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TRANS EUROPA CANAL

Last September the opening of the 171 km long "Rhein-Main-Donau" canal took place, thus completing a new Trans-Europa shipping lane, from the North Sea to the Black Sea, from Rotterdam in the Netherlands to Ismail in Rumania, a distance of 3500 km, crossing 15 states. The major obstacle was the 175 m difference in altitude between the Main and the Danube where 16 gates had to be built to overcome the problem.

BREAD MUSEUM

In Echaland (Waadt) the Bakers' Association bought an old building and transformed it into a live museum dedicated to bread. Inaugurated in 1989 it has already been visited by over 100.000 people. The bakers not only work in full view of the visitors, but anyone can join in as well. So at the end of their visit many people leave the museum holding in their hands a loaf of bread or "Zopf" they have created and baked themselves. A great success for this enterprise which received last year, in Helsinki, the European prize for the best museum.

CRIMINALITY

Following a survey, 3 out of 4 Swiss are now afraid of the present criminality and consider it as no longer acceptable. Whilst 3 years ago only 55% of the population showed any concern in this respect, this has now increased to 75%. Strangely enough, the fear is greater in smaller towns than in the big cities. Understandably women are more concerned than men and over 83% of elderly people consider themselves now at risk. In this respect, Switzerland sadly enough does not seem to be much different from New Zealand.



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