



April 2005

# EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

## Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

### Highlights:

§ "Citizens for Europe", a new programme for active European citizenship, p.1

§ Implementing the information and communication strategy for the EU, p. 9

§ New EU Research Framework Programme for 2007-2013 unveiled, p. 10

### Enforcement of IPR, Article 2(1) of Directive 2004/48/EC

The enforcement of intellectual property rights Directive states in *Article 2(1)* that the Directive applies to any infringement of intellectual property rights as provided for by Community law and/or by the national law of the Member State concerned.

The Commission considers that at least the following intellectual property rights are covered by the scope of the Directive: copyright, rights related to copyright, *sui generis* right of a database maker, rights of the creator of the topographies of a semiconductor product, trademark rights, design rights, patent rights, including rights

derived from supplementary protection certificates, geographical indications, utility model rights, plant variety rights, and trade names, in so far as these are protected as exclusive property rights in the national law concerned.

The Commission Statement concerning *Article 2* of Directive 2004/48/EC on the **enforcement of intellectual property rights (2005/295/EC)** [OJ no 2005/L 94, p. 37 of 13 April 2005 can be found at [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l\\_094/l\\_09420050413en00370037.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_094/l_09420050413en00370037.pdf)].

## Culture

### "Citizens for Europe", a new programme for active European citizenship [http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education\\_culture/activecitizenship/new\\_programme\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education_culture/activecitizenship/new_programme_en.htm)

The Commission adopted on 6 April its proposal for the new "Citizens for Europe" (2007-2013) programme, which will take over the current programme in 2006 [see *COM (2005)0116 of 6 April 2005*, [http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education\\_culture/activecitizenship/new\\_programme/new\\_programme06042005\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education_culture/activecitizenship/new_programme/new_programme06042005_en.pdf)]. With a budget of € 235 million for the period 2007-2013, it will provide the Union with instruments to promote active European citizenship.

It responds to the need to improve their participation in the construction of Europe and will encourage cooperation between citizens and their organisations from different countries to meet, act together and develop their own ideas in a European environment which goes beyond a national vision, respecting their diversity. Mutual understanding, solidarity and the feeling of

belonging to Europe are reflected by the three different programme's actions: "Active citizens for Europe" (*Action I*) involving citizens directly, either through activities linked to town-twinning or other kinds of citizens' projects; "Active civil society for Europe" (*Action II*) is targeted to Europe-wide civil society organisations, receiving either structural support on the basis of their work programme or support to trans-national projects; and "Together for Europe" (*Action III*) supporting high visibility events, studies and information/dissemination tools, addressing the widest possible audience across frontiers and making Europe more tangible for its citizens.

The proposal has now been submitted to Parliament and Council to be examined.

*Co decision procedure  
First reading*

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## Audiovisual

### Articles 4 and 5 of Directive 89/552/EEC 'Television without Frontiers'

In his working document on the application of *Articles 4 and 5* of Directive 89/552/EEC 'Television Without Frontiers' (TVwF), MEP WEBER states that while the objectives of *Articles 4 and 5* have been achieved, substantial differences in the methods of applying and interpreting the provisions make it impossible to reflect the situation with any accuracy. The Rapporteur suggests that a standardised grid should be drawn up and submitted to Member States to allow more consistent results to be obtained.

The Directive needs to be revised to take account of technological developments and structural changes in the audiovisual market. Particular attention needs to be given to the question of programme access for the disabled. The standards laid down by the Directive are minimal; it should take into account all TV new forms while striking a balance between too much and too little legislation. Public access to high-quality content is becoming even more important. Digital 'literacy' - the increasing range and

diversity of services must be matched by the possibility for everyone to use them, and monitoring media concentration.

The revision needs to reconcile two contradictory aspects that appear to be in conflict: boosting European competitiveness in a global audiovisual market and maintaining programme quality and access. A hearing of the Committee on Culture and Education will be held on 13 September 2005.

In addition, the Contact Committee [[http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/regul/contact\\_comittee.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/regul/contact_comittee.htm)] met on 6 April [see agenda at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/regul/cc/22\\_cc\\_agenda\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/regul/cc/22_cc_agenda_en.pdf)]. The Regulation of TV and information society services in the different Member States of the EU (30 March 2005) can be downloaded from: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/regul/cc/050330\\_regulation\\_of\\_tv\\_and\\_informati\\_on\\_society\\_services\\_in\\_the\\_eu\\_print.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/regul/cc/050330_regulation_of_tv_and_informati_on_society_services_in_the_eu_print.pdf).

### Cinematographic heritage

#### Collection and preservation, competitiveness of related industrial activities

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/com2004\\_0171en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/com2004_0171en01.pdf)

According to the proposed Recommendation [COM (2004)0171 o 16 March 2004, OJ no C 123 of 30 April, p. 1], of non-binding legal nature, Member States should adopt the appropriate measures to ensure that the audiovisual heritage is systematically 'collected; catalogued (deposited); preserved; restored; made accessible to the public'. In her draft report (A6-0101/2005 of 25 April 2005), MEP GYULA recommends the compulsory depositing of one copy of each and every European film made for public distribution in the archives.

Ten Member States have established a legal obligation for producers to deposit their cinematographic works in the national libraries or film institutes. For three other Member States, the obligation of deposit, established by law or by contractual relationship, concerns exclusively films that receive public funding. In two Member States, the deposit is done on a voluntary basis. The

national film institutes and archives of Europe should harmonise and standardise their respective archiving systems.

The proposal includes two issues essential in dealing with the film industry: state aids and protection of film heritage. MEDIA 2007 Programme should be used to increase the budget dedicated to restoration purposes, provided that it will promote exchange of best practices and by all means cooperation between producers, distributors, broadcasters and film institutes. Another source of funding should be available for standardisation purposes.

Parliament voted at plenary on 10 May. The Commission in turn, adopted its common position on Parliament's amendments on the same day. The proposed Recommendation is now awaiting Council opinion.

*Co decision procedure  
First Reading*

## Audiovisual

### Co Decision Procedure First Reading

#### MEDIA 2007 Programme

In her working document on the proposed **MEDIA 2007 programme**, MEP HIERONYMI supports the objectives, horizontal priorities and scopes proposed for EU-action. MEDIA 2007 will establish a single integrated programme replacing MEDIA Plus and MEDIA Training, and integrate four budget headings into a single one (the two current programmes, the decision on the European Audiovisual Observatory and the follow up of audiovisual policy e.g. i2i Initiative from the European Investment Bank). The programme will support 27 countries (EU-25 plus Bulgaria and Rumania) with a budget fixed at € 1.055 million (2007-2013).

The Rapporteur calls for better access to credit; the system is **not** designed to support film companies. Broader cooperation as well as innovative criteria should be used for

priority support and Digitisation needs strengthening. She calls for MEDIA 2007 to consider the establishment of a strategy for building a competitive digital market place, to develop a definition of independent production, especially in terms of support to TV distribution and for actions to improve the visibility of and information about the MEDIA programme.

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) issued its opinion on 6 April. The need to strengthen initiatives to prevent too much concentration in the industry, to ensure that copyright is protected and to achieve an increase in public access to Europe's audiovisual heritage by means of its digitalisation and by setting up European networks are some of the specific comments. Vote in plenary is scheduled for 6 September 2005.

#### Study on co-regulation measures in the media sector

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/studi\\_en.htm#9](http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/studi_en.htm#9)

This study (*EAC/03/04*), which started at the end of December 2004, aims at providing a complete picture of co-regulatory measures taken to date in the media sector in the EU-25 and in three non-EU-countries, as well as of the research already done.

It will especially indicate the areas in which these measures mainly apply; their effects and their consistency with public interest objectives e.g. the study will examine how best to ensure that the development of national co- and self-regulatory models does not disturb the functioning of the single

market by re-fragmenting the markets.

The final report will be compiled by the end of December this year. A seminar was held on 28 April to present the preliminary results (interim report) of the work already done. Feedback for further work is welcome, in particular on those topics mentioned in the agenda, available at

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/2004/invitation\\_co\\_regulation%20seminar.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/2004/invitation_co_regulation%20seminar.pdf).

Notice of the contract, awarded to Hans Bredow Institute for Media Research and the Institute of European Media Law, Germany, will soon be published in the *OJ* Supplement.

#### MEDIA Programme, 12 EU supported films nominated at Cannes Festival 2005

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/index_en.html)

The Cannes Festival 2005 opening took place on 11 May. Twelve films supported by the **MEDIA Programme** were included in the Cannes selections for this year e.g. the opening film, *Lenning* by Dominik Moll, *Caché* by Michael Haneke, *Manderlay* by Lars von Trier and *L'Enfant* by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, all in the official selection.

The Commission also held for the third time together with the Cannes Festival organisers, a Europe Day on the theme of "*European films and the Information Society*". Viviane Reding, Commissioner for DG Information Society and Media, presented for the second time at Cannes, the EU "New Talents" Prize on 16 May.

## Consumer Protection

### Unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices

The Council adopted on 21 April a Directive prohibiting the unfair commercial practices by businesses that adversely affect consumers' interests, with the incorporation of all amendments passed by Parliament.

The Directive both establishes criteria for determining the unfair nature of a commercial practice and specifies two main types of unfair practice identified: misleading and aggressive practices.

The list of practices considered unfair in all circumstances, which is annexed to the Directive, will be applicable in all Member States. The new provisions will have to be applicable within two and a half years of its publication in the OJ of the EU.

The Directive updates existing Directives in respect of **distance contracts** (*Directives 84/450/EEC and 97/7/EC*); **injunctions** for the protection of consumers' interests (*Directive 98/27/EC*) and the **distance marketing** of consumer financial services (*Directive 2002/65/EC*).

Furthermore, in the margins of the Justice and Home Affairs Council held on 14 April, the ten new Member States signed the Convention on Accession to the **1980 Rome Convention** and the protocols thereto, as adjusted by subsequent Accession Conventions, which aims at establishing uniform rules on the law applicable to contractual obligations in the EU.

*Co decision procedure  
Second reading*

## Cooperation with Third Countries

### First package of financial support programmes for the Western Balkans

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/see/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/index.htm)

The European Commission adopted on 11 April its Annual Programmes for the **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Kosovo**.

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, € 184 million for Serbia and Montenegro (on State Union level and in the two Republics), and € 54 million for Kosovo.

In 2005, within the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS) Programme, € 34.5 million will be spent for the Former

The CARDS Annual Programmes for **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina** and the **CARDS Regional Annual Programme** are under development and will be approved later this year.

### Commission work programme to reinforce Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/euromed/barcelona\\_10/docs/10th\\_comm\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/barcelona_10/docs/10th_comm_en.pdf)

The Commission unveiled on 12 April a work programme to reinforce the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (**Barcelona Process**) over the next five years, which provides an agenda for discussion. In its communication, the Commission outlines proposals for concrete progress in three areas: Education; Sustainable Economic Growth; and Human Rights and Democracy. The work programme also covers social reforms, environment, migration, weapons of mass destruction and counter-terrorism.

([http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/euromed/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/index.htm)) and the **Anna Lindh Foundation** for Dialogue between Cultures (<http://www.euromedalex.org/>), inaugurated in Alexandria Library (Egypt) on 20 April.

Some areas of cooperation are **Euro-Med Heritage and Audiovisual**

Within EUMEDIS, 21 pilot projects are covering e-Business, Health, Tourism, Culture, Innovation and Education. The **EUMED Connect** project provides networking between universities and other research institutions in the region. At national level, a new MEDA project on "*New Approaches to Telecommunications Policy*" (NATP II) will be launched in 2005.



### Council conclusions on European Neighbourhood Policy

At its meeting on 25 April, the Council adopted conclusions on the **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP).

National reports give an accurate account of the progress made by each country, but also of the challenges to be taken up by each of them in political, economic and social terms.

The Commission has already begun discussions to prepare an action plan jointly with **Egypt** and **Lebanon** and has initiated

joint discussions to prepare an action plan for each of the three **South Caucasus** countries. The Commission also intends to draw up a national report on **Algeria**.

Member States will be kept fully informed of the progress of those consultations. The Commission intends to finalise the ENP action plans - to run for a minimum period of three years and be renewable by common agreement - as far as possible by the end of this year.

### Further cooperation between the EU and Russia

The **EU-Russia Summit** was held in Moscow on 10 May. The summit aimed at adopting a package of road maps to create common EU-Russia spaces in several fields.

With regard to **information society**, the main objective is to cooperate towards the creation of a common EU-Russia Information Society area. They also highlighted cooperation on joint research programmes taking into account those activities carried out in the context of the Common Space on Research and Education, including Culture (*St Petersburg Summit, May 2003*).

As regards **culture and education**, Russia and the EU should intensify links and exchanges in the fields of education, youth and culture and promote the identification and adoption of best practices.

Cooperation between museums; promotion of links between artistic universities and institutions; training of professionals in the audiovisual sector; integration and closer cooperation within the framework of the European Higher Education Area (Bologna Process); and promotion of lifelong learning are some of the initiatives foreseen.

### Lifelong Learning and ICT for the knowledge society

On 18 April, the European Training Foundation (ETF) organised a seminar in Turin, Italy on "*Lifelong Learning perspectives and ICT for the knowledge*" to share the results of a lifelong learning experience that has involved professionals of the education and training sector in the **Russian Federation and Serbia**.

The four main initiatives the ETF has been working on in the field of eLearning are the

report "eLearning in **Israel**"; the Survey on "Technology enhanced learning in the countries of **South Eastern Europe**"; the eLearning component in the Education and Training for Employment project in the **Mediterranean Region**; and the pilot online course for **Russia, Serbia and Albania** whose completion gave the opportunity for this seminar. Visit the EU portal on eLearning at <http://www.elearningeuropa.info/>.

### EEA Cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms

On 21 April, the Council approved a series of draft decisions by the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Committee amending the EEA Agreement concerning cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms, in particular a decision extending the duration of the "**Media Training**" and "**Media Plus**" programmes

for the year 2006.

The EEA Joint Committee must integrate all Community legislation relevant to the EEA Agreement in order to ensure the necessary legal certainty and homogeneity of the internal market.

## Culture

### Parliament resolution on working towards a Convention on cultural diversity

In October 2003, the UNESCO General Conference began work on an international Convention on Cultural Diversity. Negotiations currently under way aim at reaching an agreement on a text by October 2005. The Commission is taking part in these negotiations, alongside the Member States.

Further to oral question (*O-0037/05*) by MEP SIFUNAKIS, in a resolution (*B6-0216/2005*) adopted by a large majority on 14 April, Parliament has set out its expectations for the EU's position and for the Convention itself.

MEPs are in favour of a binding, standard-setting instrument on the protection of cultural diversity, and call on Member States to coordinate their positions. It believes that the Convention must provide for a simple,

single, binding mechanism for settling disputes to develop, in international law, case law relating to cultural diversity.

MEPs say the Convention must very clearly underline the right of States to develop, maintain and implement policies and laws designed to promote cultural diversity and media pluralism, notably regarding public broadcasters. MEPs also insist that the Convention must be based upon the principles of individual human rights as laid down in international instruments.

The Commission is to give Parliament a progress report on the substance of and timetable for the negotiations and fully inform MEPs about developments. The resolution is now awaiting publication in the Official Journal.

### Structural Fund assistance for culture promotion purposes

In an oral question (*H-0328/05*), MEP GERINGER DE OEDENBERG asked the Commission what are its views on a broadened scope for Structural Fund assistance for culture promotion purposes

and whether the scope for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding of culture-related infrastructure and services could be broadened and if so to what extent.

### Second interim evaluation of the Culture 2000 programme

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources\\_info/evaluation/evaluation\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/evaluation/evaluation_en.html)

Following an open invitation to tender, the European Commission chose ECOTEC to carry out the second interim evaluation of the **Culture 2000** programme.

This evaluation will enable the Commission

to present a full and detailed assessment report on the programme to the European Parliament and the Council in compliance with the fifth recital of Decision 626/2004/EC, which extends Culture 2000 to the years 2005 and 2006.

### Study on cultural economy in Europe

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index_en.html)

On 10 March, the Commission published in the Official Journal (*S series, no 49/2005*) a preliminary notice announcing the forthcoming publication of a call for tenders (*EAC/03/05*) to launch a study on the **cultural economy**, with a maximum value of € 325 000, which will examine how culture contributes to Europe's economic

and social potential and the Lisbon objectives.

The invitation to tender and the other tender documents can be consulted at <http://ted.publications.eu.int/> (*2005/S 49-046697 of 10 March 2005*) or email Sylvain Pasqua, [Sylvain.Pasqua@cec.eu.int](mailto:Sylvain.Pasqua@cec.eu.int).

### Candidates for European Capitals of Culture

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/other\\_actions/cap\\_europ/cap\\_futur\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/other_actions/cap_europ/cap_futur_en.html)

*Decision 1419/1999/CE* introduced a rotation system so that each Member State can host the event in turn. Based on this timetable, each Member State is invited to submit its application for one or more cities at least four years in advance. This rotation, established for 15 years, may be altered by agreement between the countries concerned.

The Commission presented in November 2003 a proposal which completes the chronological order established for nominations from Member States, without modifying the existing order, to enable the

new Member States to participate in the same way as the others.

The six member jury making up the selection panel for the European Capitals of Culture 2009 just revised the candidacies of Lintz and Vilnius, submitted in December last year. Austria and Lithuania were the only two Member States entitled to make proposals for 2009. The panel is expected to issue a formal report with recommendations to the EU institutions shortly. The Council in turn, will designate the European Capitals 2009 in September.

### A European policy in favour of the culture industries

The Luxembourg Presidency held on 20 and 21 April in Luxembourg a seminar on “A European policy in favour of the culture industries”, in partnership with the Federation of European Publishers [<http://www.fep-fee.be/>] and the European Music Office [<http://www.musicineurope.org/>]. The main objective was to express the need of EU support to the European culture industries, , mainly the book and music industries. Professionals from the music and book industries gathered together with representatives of Member States and EU

Institutions to look at the impact of the cultural industries on employment in Europe, their contribution to economy and the barriers and challenges they encounter.

They adopted a recommendation to make some concrete proposals help create efficient tools for the cultural industries in the future Culture 2007 programme e.g. needs of the non-audiovisual sectors and increase of funding for multi-annual cooperation projects; the recommendation will be forwarded to the next Council on Culture on 23 May.

## Education

### Universities to deliver full potential to contribute to the Lisbon Strategy

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/comuniv2005\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/comuniv2005_en.pdf)

On 20 April, the Commission issued its communication on “Mobilising the brainpower of Europe: enabling universities to make their full contribution to the Lisbon Strategy” [*COM (2005)0152, SEC (2005)0518*]. The communication, accompanied by a Commission Staff Working Paper on “*European Higher Education in a Worldwide Perspective*”, follows up on the 2003 consultation on “The role of universities in the Europe of knowledge” [*COM (2003)0058 of 5 February 2003*]. The latter led to a dual follow-up: outcomes of the consultation concerning research aspects and outcomes on higher education aspects.

The Commission urges all Member States to take action ensuring that their regulatory frameworks enable and encourage university leadership to pursue strategic priorities. It also urges national decision makers in all ministries to acknowledge that closing the severe funding deficit in higher education is a core condition for achieving the Lisbon Strategy. The mix of public and private, and of basic, competitive and output-related funding, will, however, remain different between countries, given the great diversity of cultures, economies and university traditions.

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## Education

### Universities to deliver full potential to contribute to the Lisbon Strategy

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/comuniv2005\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/comuniv2005_en.pdf)

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The Council is invited to adopt a Resolution backing a new type of partnerships between state and universities and sufficient investment to enable the modernisation of higher education.

The Communication is largely based on results of the consultation process, which identified three main challenges for

European higher education: achieving world-class quality, improving governance, and increasing and diversifying funding. It will be complemented by the Commission's forthcoming Action Plan on University-based Research and will aim at ensuring that universities receive adequate priority in the EU financial and policy instruments (2007-2013).

### Commission Staff Working Paper on Education and Training

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/progressreport05.pdf>

The Commission published on 22 March a Staff Working Paper [SEC (2005) 419] entitled "Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in Education and Training", which is the second annual report examining performance and progress of 30 education and training systems in the EU using 29 indicators identified and endorsed by experts from the participating countries.

Of the many observations and conclusions to be found in the report, the following come to the fore: the rate of adult participation in education and training in 2004 reached 9.4% in the EU (1.5% higher than in 2000; on average women participated more than men). After and before 2003 progress was slow. The objective set by the Council of achieving a 12.5% rate of adult participation (population aged 25-64) requires Member States to step up efforts

and to develop an integrated, coherent and inclusive **lifelong learning** strategy [see "Open Learning Environment" (Chapter V) which examines indicators relating to adult participation in **lifelong learning** (*Indicator 19*)]. Sweden, Denmark, Finland and the UK had participation rates of above 20%, while much lower levels were registered in most Member States.

The Commission is extending its research capacity in statistics and indicators in the area of lifelong learning by establishing a "research unit on lifelong learning" at the Joint Research Centre at ISPRA to enhance the analytical capacity in future annual reports. The next monitoring report "Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in Education and Training 2006" is foreseen for the beginning of 2006.

## Enlargement

### Eastern and Western Second European Forum on Culture

<http://www.ipw.lu/fr/forum.html>

A seminar entitled "Living with cultural diversity: rediscovering Europe", was held from 15 to 17 April in Luxembourg to allow political scientists and historians, creative artists and thinkers from Eastern and Western Europe express their ideas on Europe. Subjects under discussion included visions of Europe after enlargement; European identities and awareness;

opportunities and risks; outside views and Legitimacy of Europe.

The workshops analysed the activities of the networks of cultural operators supporting artists and creators from Eastern Europe, alternate East/West views on cultural policies within Europe and creative artists' perceptions of Europe.

## Enlargement

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### Signing of the Accession Treaty with Bulgaria and Romania

Romania and Bulgaria signed EU membership treaties on 25 April, which paves the way for the ratification procedures that will formalise their membership of the Union on 1 January 2007.

Considerable efforts have been made by Bulgaria and Romania to bring their laws, regulatory frameworks and administrative practices into line with the *acquis* of the Union. With the signature of the Treaty, Bulgaria and Romania must now focus on their final preparations for membership and

strengthen their efforts to be in a position to fully implement the *acquis* by 1 January 2007. The Union will follow this process closely.

As of 26 April 2005, the Union will be welcoming Bulgaria and Romania as active observers in the work of the Council and its preparatory bodies. At the very last moment Parliament forced the Council into restoring its budgetary rights as regards the funding to be allocated to Romania and Bulgaria until 2009, which sums had been laid down in the Accession Treaty.

## EU Information Policy

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### Implementing the information and communication strategy for the EU

The Commission presented on 20 April last year a communication [COM (2004)0196] aimed at implementing the information and communication strategy for the EU. The own-initiative report by MEP HERRERO-TEJEDOR (A6-0111/2005), a non-legislative document, was adopted by 30 votes in favour and 2 abstentions on 12 May.

The report stresses the urgent need to establish a decentralised and targeted information system, to make greater use of communications media with the technological capacity to reach the homes of all European citizens (TV, radio, Internet),

and to make existing tools e.g. Europe Direct more widely known. Member States should ensure that "Europe" be integrated in education curricula at all levels.

It also calls for the creation of the widest possible access to sources for all citizens seeking information on the EU's policies and activities. Better inter-institutional coordination is needed. The opinion of the Constitutional Affairs Committee relevant to the ratification process of the EU Constitution was integrated into this report (the first time that a parliamentary report on the communication policy is this critical).

### A future communication strategy for Europe

On 23 April, the College of Commissioners held a seminar on communication strategy aimed at exchanging views ahead of the future communication strategy, to be adopted in early June. The College supported an internal action plan and a **White Paper on Communication** to identify options and possible solutions to current challenges, involving all actors concerned within and outside the Commission. Five main areas for action have been identified; the new approach will follow three strategic principles: **listening to people**; **explaining**

**EU policies** and their impact on their daily lives; and **connecting with people**.

In addition, 200 broadcast editors and correspondents gathered in Brussels on 20 April for a conference entitled 'Putting Europe in the Picture' [[http://europa.eu.int/comm/avservices/EU\\_inpicture.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/avservices/EU_inpicture.htm)]. It is the first time that senior editors from both public and commercial TV, Radio and Online news outlets have been asked to contribute directly to the development of a new European Commission communication strategy.

## EU Research and Development

### New EU Research Framework Programme for 2007-2013 unveiled

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005\\_0119en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0119en01.pdf)

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First Reading

On 6 April, the Commission unveiled its proposal for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for EU research, accompanied by a Communication, '*Building the ERA of knowledge for growth*' [COM (2005)0119 of 6 April 2005] setting out the policy objectives. It also proposed a **Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme (CIP)** grouping all Community actions in the field of innovation and competitiveness. The relevant documents are available at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.cfm) (COM (2005)0118 of 6 April 2005, [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005\\_0118en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0118en01.pdf); for collaborative research in *Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities*, see Annex I, theme 8, page 31).

The Commission proposes doubling the FP7 budget compared with FP6, rising to € 67.8 billion (2007-2013). FP7 will be organised in four specific programmes, details of which will be set out in specific legislative proposals later in the year. The proposed budget of € 797 million for collaborative research in SSH represents a doubling of the **Priority 7** budget per year as well as an extension of its duration. At the same time, the SHH can

and should participate actively in other parts of FP7 e.g. research infrastructures, international S&T cooperation.

There are several new elements: more focus than in the past on developing research that responds to the needs of European industry; simplification of its operation; International cooperation will be integrated into all four programmes; a "Risk-Sharing Finance Facility" aimed at fostering private investment in research by improving access to European Investment Bank (EIB) loans for large European research actions. Despite this new approach, for the majority of participants, the programme itself will not change in practice, but participation will become simpler.

It will for the first time provide support to the best in European investigator-driven research, with the creation of a **European Research Council** [see [http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/pdf/hleg\\_fullreport\\_frontier\\_research\\_april\\_2005.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/pdf/hleg_fullreport_frontier_research_april_2005.pdf)].

The proposal for FP7 will now be subject of extensive discussions including the various groups and committees of Parliament (Rapporteur, MEP BUZEK) and Council.

FP7 will be organised in four specific programmes

- § **Cooperation** to be organised into sub-programmes e.g. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SHH)
- § **Ideas** (all scientific and technological fields, including SHH)
- § **People** (career prospects and mobility e.g. Marie Curie Actions)
- § **Capacities** (research and innovation capacity e.g. research infrastructures, SMEs)

### Special visas for admission of third-country national researchers to the Community

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First Reading

The European Parliament adopted on 12 April a resolution drafted by MEP PEILLON (A6-0054/2005) broadly approving the proposal on admission of third-country national researchers to the Community, with a few amendments.

MEPs called for greater protection of rights e.g. family reunification and direct access to social security systems. Parliament is only being consulted on this and any amendments

it adopts are non-binding on the Council of ministers. They passed an amendment to allow the visa holder to conduct part of his/her research work in another Member State, however the second Member State may require a new hosting agreement if it exceeds the three-month period.

The proposed directive is now awaiting Council opinion.

## Information Society

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### Information Society Policy Link, Projects and Success Stories

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/policy\\_link/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/policy_link/index_en.htm)

The Information Society Policy Link is an initiative launched by DG Information Society and Media in 2004 which links Information Society projects with relevant European policies; its pilot phase has led to the recognition of several promising Information Society projects and candidate

success stories covering a broad spectrum of ICT applications to EU policy areas. The findings are being published under the Information Society Policy Link series. The fact sheets for each policy area is also available as well as a general leaflet outlining the scope of the initiative.

### WSIS, IFLA Database to showcase the value of libraries to society

<http://www.ifla.org/III/wsis/announce02052005-e.html>

Within the framework of its activities for WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) and in order to contribute to the ongoing and long term presence of libraries in the world, IFLA has set up a database that

aims to showcase the value of libraries to society as a whole. Furthermore, IFLA has launched a call for contribution for the "Success Stories Database", available at the link above.

### ePSINet state-of-the-art update

[http://www.epsigate.org/cgi-bin/epsi\\_page.cgi?page=thing\\_5\\_1096\\_1057](http://www.epsigate.org/cgi-bin/epsi_page.cgi?page=thing_5_1096_1057)

The report on the proceedings of the ePSINet Conference, Athens, *14 January*

*2005*, with recommendations for future action can be found at the link above.

## Internal Market

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### Parliament report on the Professional Qualifications' Directive

For forty years the EU has been trying to set up a system for the mutual recognition of qualifications. The adoption on 11 May by Parliament of a report drafted by MEP ZAPPALÀ (A6-0119/2005) should speed things up. The draft directive covers all kinds of cases - jobs to do with the exercise of public authority lie outside the scope of the directive; notaries are also excluded. Qualifications will in future be recognised on the basis of coordinated minimum training standards. A definition of liberal professions in the directive should be included. An EU national wishing to have access to a regulated profession will be subject to the same conditions, in terms of qualifications, as nationals of the host country.

The directive lays down a number of reference levels reflecting levels of education and training, which in turn enable equivalences to be established between levels of qualifications in different Member States.

In a number of amendments, MEPs look at the role played by professional bodies in the procedure for recognising qualifications. A single committee for the recognition of professional qualifications will be created to replace the existing bodies.

By comparison with the Commission's initial proposal, the current text gives the host country greater powers to check qualifications and to make the right to practise a profession subject to certain constraints. Safeguards to prevent abuses have also been added to the original text. In this context, the draft directive is closely linked to the services directive.

The European Commission in turn agreed on Parliament's amendments in its opinion of 11 May. The proposed directive is now awaiting Council opinion, scheduled for 6 June.

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Second Reading*

## Internet

### Final countdown to .EU has begun

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/policy/doteu/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/policy/doteu/index_en.htm)

IANA, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (<http://www.iana.org/>) will soon put the .EU Top Level Domain (TLD) in the Internet root, further to a 21 March agreement between ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, <http://www.icann.org/>) and the .EU Registry. As from the beginning of 2006, businesses and citizens who register .EU Internet addresses will be able to benefit from higher visibility within the EU single market and a level playing field for electronic commerce.

This agreement makes also possible to include the .EU TLD in the Internet root file address. IANA will do this as soon as EURid (<http://www.eurid.org/>) has completed the necessary technical

preparations. Before the .EU Registry can accept the first applications to register .EU names, EURid must accredit Registrars - companies which can register domains on behalf of end users - and agree the details of registration policy with the Commission and other interested parties. EURid together with the Commission is working on these final preparations in view to launching the first phase of registration later this year.

Some companies are already offering to "pre-register" or "reserve" domain names. The use of "pre-registration" services is however not recommended by the Commission. In any case consumers and companies are encouraged to check exactly what is and what is not being offered.

### Safer Internet plus programme

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/sip/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/sip/index_en.htm)

ECOFIN ministers adopted on 12 April a Decision establishing a new programme on promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies, in particular for children, and on combating illegal and unwanted content.

The "*Safer Internet Plus*" Programme is established for the period from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2008 and entails four

measures, with expenditure being broken down as follows: fighting against illegal content (25-30%); tackling of unwanted and harmful content by the final user (10-17%); promoting a safer environment (8-12%); awareness-raising (47-51%).

The Decision allows for a budget of € 45 million, including € 20 million for 2005 and 2006.

## Telecommunications

### Commission launches infringement proceedings against ten Member States

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal\\_market/en/update/infr/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/update/infr/index.htm)

The Commission launched on 14 April legal proceedings against ten EU Member States to remedy infringements of EU rules on electronic communications. It points to defects in national laws, and incorrect practical application of EU rules in Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, and Slovakia.

The opening of these proceedings follows concerns identified in the Commission's Implementation Reports [COM (2004)0759, COM 2003)0715] on the electronic communications sector, the most recent of

which was published at the end of 2004 (primary legislation has been adopted in Estonia and the Czech Republic since the last Implementation Report). These ten Member States now have the opportunity to address the Commission's concerns, and thus avoid further enforcement action [one non-conformity proceeding against Germany is already at the second stage of a reasoned opinion].

This is only the first action; the Commission will continue examining implementation generally and will launch further proceedings as required.



## Trade Policy

### European Commission presents revised offer on services for Doha Development Round

On 20 April, the European Commission presented its proposal for the EU revised services offer in the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations, which builds on the ambitious initial offer the EU-15 submitted in 2003 and is made on behalf of the EU-25 (a market of 455 million consumers).

As regards services, no specific framework has been established. The Agreement sets May 2005 as the deadline for submitting revised offers. Since the July Agreement no substantive progress has been made (only 48 of the 148 members have submitted preliminary offers). The proposed revised offer ensures that public services within the EU are fully safeguarded and the ability to

exempt from international competition sensitive sectors that provide public services or that guarantee consumer or civilian safety. It does not contain commitments in sensitive areas such as education, health, or audiovisual services.

In addition, Parliament adopted the Moreno report (A6-0095/2005) in plenary on 12 May. Parliament asks that the liberalisation of services of public interest be approached cautiously and that services related to health, **education** and the **audiovisual** sector be exempted and also those which concern **people's basic needs**. It also requests for a new calendar of work to be established, setting a date for concluding the Round, which Doha laid down as January 2005.

## Youth Policy

### Youth in Action programme 2007 - 2013

The successor to the current Youth action programme comprises five action programmes with a total budget of € 915 million, is simpler than its predecessor and is open to young people aged between 13-30 in the Member States and third countries.

In her working document, MEP Gröner, Rapporteur for the CULT Committee, supports the Commission proposal; the programme is now funded from one budget heading rather than four as previously. Its projects will be managed de-centrally and it

will support informal education in the widest sense. The financial framework for implementing the programme is however insufficient. Budget for Action 2 should be limited to 25% of the total budget; Action 1 should receive 40% rather than the present 35% of the total budget; Action 5 should receive 3% more funding, etc.

There are several amendments regarding e.g. disadvantaged young people, an additional measure to enable young people to take part in the decision-making process.

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*Co Decision Procedure  
First Reading*

### The Luxembourg Declaration on Youth

<http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/documents/travail/2005/04/26declalux/youthforum.pdf>

The participants of the Luxembourg Youth Event, held from 24 to 26 April, welcomed the European Youth Pact initiative. The Pact can play a major role in bringing the problems and challenges for youth on a more prominent level in the political agenda of the EU. Although it includes many good ideas, some issues are missing e.g. participation is not touched; concrete targets for improving the living and working conditions of young Europeans. Ministers have developed several ideas on how to concretely implement the European Youth

Pact in a declaration which will be forwarded for consideration by the national governments, Parliament and Commission. They also stressed the need to involve youth and called on the Member States to pay specific attention to promoting voluntary activities, developing the different possibilities of volunteering and broadening its scope, removing the different obstacles to volunteering and the recognition of voluntary work as well as of the participatory youth organisations providing valuable contexts for volunteering.

## **EBLIDA, European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations**

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### **Information sources used include**

Bulletin Quotidien Europe  
Council Press Office Newsroom, <http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?lang=1>  
European Parliament Press Service [http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index_en.htm)  
RAPID - Press and Communication Service of the European Commission,  
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/welcome.htm>  
EUR-Lex, <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/>. Since 1 November 2004, EUR-Lex incorporates the CELEX service and provides free access in 20 languages to EU law.  
Europa, <http://europa.eu.int/>  
Various mailing lists

Calls for Tenders are published in the S series of the OJ as well as in the Tenders Electronic Daily database TED, <http://ted.publications.eu.int/official/> (new dates for the Official Journal Supplement since January 2005). EBLIDA Hot News online provides links to calls and programmes!

Calls are in general published in the C series of the Official Journal (OJ) of the European Communities, which comprises information and notices issued by the institutions of the Union e.g. preparatory legislative documents and questions put by Members of Parliament to the Commission and Council.

The C series is available online via EUR-Lex. Please note that the C E edition of the Official Journal, which is only available online, now publishes the explanatory statement for all Commission proposals.

EBLIDA encourages dissemination of our information. However, we would ask that the source be acknowledged. Documents are available at the EBLIDA Secretariat.

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Subjects on which EBLIDA concentrates are European information society issues, including copyright & licensing, culture & education and EU enlargement. We promote unhindered access to information in the digital age and the role of archives and libraries in achieving this goal.