



June 2004

EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

Highlights:

§ 1961 Rome Convention, p.1

§ EBLIDA focuses on Open Access, p. 2

§ Council conclusions on the information and communication strategy for the EU , p. 9

Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Rome Convention (1961)

International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organisations

<http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/rome/index.html>

The WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) met from 7 to 9 June in Geneva and recommended that the WIPO General Assembly consider convening a diplomatic conference on the protection of broadcasting organisations, which is the final step to develop a new international treaty. Endorsement of the SCCR recommendation is expected in September this year.

Updating the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of broadcasters, currently provided by the *1961 Rome Convention on the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organisations*, began in 1997. Differences remain on issues e.g. the scope of a new treaty; its beneficiaries (traditional broadcasters, cable casters and web casters) as well as on the scope of rights to be

granted e.g. limiting protection to rights necessary to fight signal piracy and on the term of protection of any new rights.

The next meeting of the SCCR will take place in mid-November and will discuss a revised text containing brackets around proposals having obtained limited support e.g. protection of web casters. The SCCR also considered the **issue of protection of non-original databases**. Collections of data e.g. telephone directories do not qualify for copyright, however they may deserve protection for the investment in their creation and maintenance, and to avoid unauthorised copying and dissemination, for instance over the Internet. The SCCR will take the issue into consideration during the second half of 2005.

Enlargement

EBLIDA present in Poland!

EBLIDA was invited to participate in the Conference "Polish Academic Libraries in the European Union", celebrated in Lodz (Poland) from 23 to 25 June 2004.

The Director of EBLIDA presented the main EBLIDA policy issues and acknowledged relevant matters of concern for the Polish library community e.g. Open Access, the European Higher Education Area and the Bologna process, Training and Intellectual Property Rights.

The Polish library devoted professionals, committed and enthusiastic, showed great interest in the EBLIDA lobbying mission

and its role in the defense and promotion of the interests of the library, archive and information sectors and professionals at European level .

EBLIDA wishes to thank the Library of the Technical University of Lodz and all the Polish colleagues present at the conference for their kind invitation, excellent organisation and warm support. Following the EBLIDA strategy towards the new EU countries, we are very much looking forward to welcome Polish members as part of the EBLIDA family soon!

See:

<http://bg.p.lodz.pl/konferencja/aindex.html>.

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Lobbying for archives and libraries

Collecting Societies

EBLIDA reaction towards the European Commission consultation

EBLIDA has recently issued a Position Paper in response to the Commission open consultation launched mid April 2004. In its *Communication on The Management of Copyright and Related Rights in the Internal Market* [COM (2004) 261 final, Brussels 16.04.2004], the European Commission states the need for specific Community legislation on the matter of management of rights which up to now has only been dealt with marginally within the *acquis communautaire* circumscribed to copyright and related rights. The aim of this Communication focuses on assessing whether the current methods of rights management may be hindering the proper functioning of the Internal Market, paying special attention to the implications within the digital environment.

The EBLIDA Response submitted to the European Commission welcomes the EC concern for seeking balance between the interests of rights holders and consumers and users and highlights the main issues impacting on the functioning of libraries,

EBLIDA focuses on Open Access

In the last few years the so-called Open Access initiative has become more and more relevant not only for the scientific and research community but for STM (scientific, technical and medical) publishers and libraries too.

Open Access publishing, circumscribed to the scientific and research areas, means, in brief, access to these publications free of charge to their users, the costs burden being supported by authors and/or their research financing source.

At present libraries and educational institutions are faced with the increasing raise in prices for the subscription of scientific journals, plus the VAT additional costs for electronic access to publications.

The European Commission has recently launched a study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe focusing on the main topics of the current public debate,

archives and educational and cultural institutions and the users' access to information, e.g. the definition of a community-wide licensing system, the safeguarding of the legal provisions of exceptions to copyright and the Digital Rights Management systems.

The full text of the EBLIDA Position Paper can be found at:

<http://www.eblida.org/position/index.htm#iprs>;

<http://www.eblida.org/position/CollectingSocietiesResponseJune04.htm>. For

background references please see:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/492&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>;

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/intprop/docs/index.htm

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the EBLIDA Secretariat.

such as the future of printed scientific reviews, the risks associated with increases in the price of publications in terms of access to information for researchers, open access to research findings for all and the need to reconcile authors' rights and the economic interests of publishers

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/press/2004/pr1506en.cfm>]. Results of this

study are expected to be available in 2005. In view of the relevant implications of this matter for libraries and educational institutions EBLIDA is closely following the subject and assessing further actions to be taken on this regards.

For background references see:

<http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>;

<http://www.ifla.org/V/cdoc/open-access04.html>;

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/index.en.cfm>;

<http://www.soros.org/openaccess/view.cfm>.

Audiovisual

CINE-REGIO and the Observatory present data on regional public funding

CINE-REGIO (<http://www.cine-regio.org>), an umbrella organisation of regional public funds initiated by ECRIF-av (European Coordination of European Regional Investment Funds - audiovisual), has agreed with the European Audiovisual Observatory (<http://www.obs.coe.int>) to work together to clarify the landscape of public funding for film, audiovisual and multimedia works at Community, regional and local level in Europe.

The Observatory is responsible for the KORDA database, (accessible free-of charge on <http://korda.obs.coe.int>), which includes details of more than 160 funding bodies in

35 countries. ECRIV-av will cooperate with the Observatory to enrich and update information about regional funds in Europe. Alongside KORDA, ECRIF-av will develop its own website and intranet system, which will be designed to allow cross-navigation possibilities with KORDA. The respective databases will be interconnected and simultaneously updated by both organisations.

ECRIF-av has the support of the Inter-regional IIC EU support scheme (Interreg IIC) which promotes new approaches and initiatives on a trans-regional level in Europe.

Co-operation with third countries

Nine new agreements to start off between the EU and Switzerland

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/switzerland/intro/index.htm

After several years of negotiations between the EU and Switzerland nine new sectoral agreements started off on 25 June in Brussels concerning: taxation of savings; fight against fraud; the Schengen *acquis*; participation in the "Dublin" and "Eurodac" regulations; trade in processed agricultural products; participation in the European Environment Agency and European Environment Information & Observation Network (EIONET); statistical

cooperation; participation in the **Media plus and Media training programmes** [see http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/activities/cine_en.htm] and on the avoidance of double taxation for pensioners of the Community institutions.

The nine draft agreements will be submitted to Council as soon as possible for signature and ratification by the Member States.

Declaration of Guadalajara, education policies

http://europa.eu.int/comm/world/lac-guadal/declar/01_ded_polit_final_en.pdf

Ministers agreed at the Guadalajara Summit held on 28 and 29 May in Mexico to extend the action plan (2002-2004) for building an **EU-Latin American Caribbean common area of Higher Education** until 2008. The signatory countries called on other countries in both regions to contribute to the improvement of the quality of higher education and invited the ministers

concerned to meet in 2004 to design programmes, projects and actions for the 2004-2008 action plan. Proposals made by higher education institutions and university associations and networks should be taken into consideration. In addition, ministers encouraged the participation of higher education and research institutions in the **Erasmus Mundus** programme.

ALFA, Latin America Academic Training

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/alfa/index_en.htm

ALFA focuses on the promotion of cooperation in higher education between the two regions.

The next deadline for submitting project proposals is **30 October 2004**. Revised

versions of the Guidelines for Applicants and Application Form are available from the website. ALFA is open to the participation of relevant organisations from the EU25 and the 18 participating countries from Latin America.



Co-operation with third countries

@LIS, Alliance for the Information Society

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/alis/index_en.htm

@LIS aims at reinforcing the partnership between the EU and Latin America in the field of the Information Society. Its objectives are to establish dialogue and cooperation on policy and regulatory frameworks in key areas and to boost interconnections between research networks and communities in both regions.

It seeks to promote the benefits of using information technologies and tries to bridge the so-called digital divide.

The first @LIS coordination meeting was held from 1 to 3 March 2004 in Quito (Equator). All the presentations are available at <http://www.alis-online.org>.



ALBan, High Level Scholarships for Latin America

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/alban/index_en.htm

ALBan, launched in May 2002, aims at reinforcing the EU-Latin America cooperation in the area of Higher Education and covers studies for postgraduates as well as higher training for Latin America professionals/future decision-makers, in institutions or centres in the EU. Participant countries are the EU25 and 18 Latin

American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The list of the year 2004 ALBan awards will be published in due course.



Culture

Use of the Structural Funds for culture

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/funds_structural_en.pdf

The Commission has recently published a working paper dealing with the use of the Structural Funds in the field of culture during the period 1994-1999 (*application of Article 151(4) of the EC Treaty*), which highlights the great diversity of the cultural projects supported by the Structural Funds, but also the fact that they are fundamentally different from the projects supported by the Culture 2000 programme. The former involve mainly cultural infrastructure, while in the latter the emphasis is on cooperation between cultural operators from several European countries.

The Structural Funds are the operational instruments of a structural policy which is based on financial solidarity between the Union's Member States. See Regulation *EC/1159/2000 of 30 May 2000* on information and publicity measures to be carried out by the Member States concerning assistance from the Structural Funds at http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/art46_en.pdf. See practical guide on the Structural Funds 2000-2006 at http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/country/commu/document/guide_art46_en.pdf.

Publishing for a better world 27th Union of International Editors Congress, Berlin

Commissioner Reding pointed out the specific and essential role of culture in creating a common European identity at the Editors Congress held in Berlin on 21 June. She highlighted that reading has an essential role to play in mutual understanding and can serve as a bridge between peoples. It was suggested that a European Year would be devoted to reading. Moreover, she noted the importance of publishers in the diffusion of

culture. The EU encourages the publishing sector to stimulate cooperation between publishers, encourage mobility and training of professionals and promote literature among the young and underprivileged.

The main challenge facing the publishing sector in the near future is the role the print media and books would have for future generations.

Culture

Europa Nostra Awards, European Union prize for cultural heritage

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/culture2000/special_events/patrimoine_en.html

http://www.europanostra.org/lang_en/index.html

The EU Prize for Cultural Heritage gives recognition to initiatives and best practices by either individuals or organisations which contribute to the protection/enhancement of cultural heritage in Europe. It aims at:

- § promoting high standards of conservation;
- § stimulating the exchange of knowledge and experience throughout Europe;
- § encouraging further efforts through the power of best practice.

The 2003 Prizes were presented in Munich

to 40 restoration projects from 18 European countries on 4 June. Collections, studies and exemplary services to cultural heritage were awarded e.g. Pedestrian zone along a central cultural and tourist axis in Madrid (Spain); collection of Gothic Architectural Drawings on Paper and Parchment in Vienna (Austria); the Encyclopaedia of Romanesque Art in Castile and Leon in Aguilar de Campóo (Spain) for the study of Romanesque architecture and art. The call for entries 2004 is open until 1 September 2004 (Category 2) and 15 September 2004 (1 and 3).

Aid for the distribution of cultural and social journals in Denmark

On 16 June, the Commission approved the Danish "Bill on aid for the distribution of certain journals and periodicals" (Bill no 1214 on Aid for the Distribution of Certain Journals and Periodicals of 27 December 2003). The bill establishes a scheme according to which postal distribution costs of certain journals and periodicals that are run on a non-profit basis can be assisted with public means. The scheme aims at disseminating cultural and social information and the activities of associations. It will assist non-profit organisations to pursue these goals by publishing and circulating journals and periodicals dealing with a wide variety of

cultural and social subjects.

The aid scheme will be administered by the Ministry of Culture and operated on an annual basis for an unlimited period of time. Around 2,400 publications are expected to be eligible for the aid.

According to the Commission, it is unlikely that the titles included and those excluded would be real substitutes and hence subscribers and/or advertisers would switch between them due to the subsidy, since content is limited to cultural and social issues. Thus, the distortion of competition and intra-Community trade is expected to be marginal.

Probe into State aid schemes for publishing industry in Italy

The Commission launched on 29 October 2003 (*See IP/03/1475 of 29 October 2003*) proceedings regarding two aid schemes in favour of the publishing industry in Italy. The notified scheme covers press agencies, multimedia undertakings, printing firms, distributors of newspapers, periodicals and books as well as radio and TV broadcasters. While some of the aid measures under review may indirectly result in promoting the

Italian culture and language a legitimate goal under state aid policy, some of the projects eligible for aid seem to go beyond the promotion of Italian culture e.g. projects of technical restructuring, vocational training, or involving new plants or equipment and patents necessary at all phases of the publishing production cycle.

The Commission is expected to give its views this summer.

Council of Europe to recognise seven key "Cultural Routes"

During a ceremony on 11 June, seven of the continent's symbolic "Cultural Routes" were certified by the Council of Europe. The titles awarded were "The Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" or "Major Cultural Route of the Council of Europe".

The "Cultural Routes" programme of the Council of Europe was launched in 1987, initially to revive the famous routes along which pilgrims from all over the continent travelled to Santiago de Compostela in the middle Ages.

Culture

Cultural organisations call for cultural action at EU level

http://www.efah.org/en/policy_development/manifesto_2004/appealen.pdf

<http://www.efah.org/>
<http://www.eurocult.org>

On the eve of the elections to the European Parliament and anticipating the adoption of the European Constitution, the European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (EFAH) and the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) called on all Europeans to re-affirm the power of culture in building the EU as a community of citizens, united in common goals.

It also urged future members of Parliament and Commission officials to develop a new strategy of cultural action that enhances mobility, strengthens cooperation, encourages communication and debate and consolidates trans-national networks, based on resources from the EU budget that are sufficient to attain all these goals.

Conference of professional cultural organisations in Seoul

Government officials, directors, writers and actors from 57 countries gathered in the Seoul (South Korea) from 1 to 4 June to discuss the value of culture in a nation's life and the role of cultural organisations and cultural diversity in the context of globalisation. The conference - third of its

kind, issued a joint statement calling on countries to promote an agreement on cultural diversity initiated by UNESCO which aims at creating a legal basis for nations to develop a cultural policy against pressure from international commercial agreements.

Enlargement

Bulgaria and Romania

The European Council underlined on 17 June that Bulgaria and Romania are an integral part of the ongoing round of enlargement which saw ten new Member States join the Union on 1 May 2004. The Union recalls that the guiding principles which applied to the accession negotiations with the ten new Member States continue to apply to Bulgaria and Romania, which are part of the same inclusive and irreversible enlargement process.

With a view to signature of the Accession

Treaty for Bulgaria and Romania as early as possible in 2005, drafting of the Accession Treaty for the two countries will begin in July 2004. The Union therefore urges both countries to further intensify their efforts to be ready for membership in January 2007. The Union underlines that particular attention should be paid by Bulgaria and Romania to improving their administrative and judicial capacity, as well as to continuing economic and structural reforms, and to the full and timely implementation of negotiated commitments.

Publications in the languages of the new EU member states

http://europa.eu.int/comm/publications/newmembers/index_en.htm

A new list that gives access to publications in the languages of the countries that joined the EU in May can be consulted at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/index_en.html (DG Enlargement). All these publications are presented in the eleven official languages of the EU on the "General publications" website. Links to other general information about the EU in these languages

can, amongst others, be consulted.

In addition, Decision no 1513/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (27 June 2002) concerning the **Sixth Framework Programme (OJ no 2002/L 232, p. 1-33 of 29 August 2002)** is also available in 20 languages from Celex at <http://europa.eu.int/celex/>.

Enterprise

Vademecum on European standardisation

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/standards_policy/vademecum/index.htm

The Vademecum aims at serving as a guide for Commission officials and compiles some key documents from the Commission services on European standardisation policy and related practice. It provides guidance without having legal status.

The Vademecum also seeks to help member states to understand the European

standardisation policy and related practice and to know the mechanisms of referring to European standards in European policies/legislation.

It can also be used by stakeholders in standardisation e.g. standardisers, enterprises and NGOs to gain a clear picture of the policies and processes of the Commission in this field.

EU Information Policy

Council conclusions on the information and communication strategy for the EU

Ministers for General Affairs adopted on 14 June conclusions calling on member states and institutions to explore how existing information provision services might be better communicated to citizens.

Regarding **priority information topics (PRINCE)** the Council recommends the future regrouping of the PRINCE budget in a single budget and supports the Commission's view that PRINCE should continue to be based on partnership between Commission and Member States. Moreover, it invites **member states to define and carry out joint plans** whose measures are financed separately but complementarily by member states and Commission. The Commission should take the necessary steps to allow **implementation of 'management and/or one-off partnerships'** with interested member states.

Concerning the **information relays and**

networks, the Council wishes to preserve their valuable experience and know-how; it agrees on the need to create a stable legal framework which guarantees funding of networks from 2005 onwards and their operability, and urges the Commission to adopt the necessary implementing measures without delay. Funding to similar networks in the new member states should also be provided. Furthermore, the Commission is to examine new proposals for the creation of major European Information Centres.

The Dutch Presidency intends to hold an informal ministerial meeting in October this year to stimulate concrete communication efforts and actions of member states and institutions.

See full text of conclusions at http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/80951.pdf (2590th General Affairs Council meeting Luxembourg 14 June 2004).

EU Research and Development

Proposal for a Council Recommendation, admission of third country researchers

On 8 June, Justice and Home Affairs ministers, pending Parliament's opinion, reached a general approach on the proposed Recommendation aimed at facilitating the admission of third country nationals to carry out scientific research in the EC. The recommendation, part of a "Package" also includes a proposal for a Directive on a specific procedure for the admission of

third-country nationals to carry out research, which will not come into operation until 2006 at the earliest.

The recommendation, which calls on Member States to adopt a number of practical measures without delay, is a further step to strengthen the actions being undertaken to develop the European Research Area (ERA).

EU Research and Development

EU offers new prospects for researchers' mobility

http://europa.eu.int/eracareers/index_en.cfm?l1=4

http://europa.eu.int/eracareers/index_en.cfm

A conference entitled “*Brain Drain, Brain Gain: New Challenges*” was held on 29 and 30 June in Paris (France) to bring together 350 leading personalities from European research, industry and politics. The event aimed at helping to gather and exchange information, reflecting on what it means to be a researcher in Europe today and discussing concrete steps ahead.

The event also presented new European initiatives in the field; amongst others it marked the launch of Europe's first Network of Mobility Centres, providing assistance to researchers and their families, which will

initially comprise 200 centres located in 30 countries.

The Commission in cooperation with EU Member States has launched a series of initiatives to improve the EU's attractiveness for world researchers, to remove obstacles to the mobility of researchers within Europe and to promote researchers' careers at the EU- level e.g. [ERA-MORE](#), a new European Network of Mobility Centres consisting of 200 centres throughout Europe; [ERA-Careers](#), a new mobility web portal for researchers; the 2005 “**Researchers in Europe**” Initiative.

The future of EU programmes to support research

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.html

The Commission proposed on 16 June orientations for the development of future EU programmes to support research activities and policies which imply a significant expansion of the EC research budget for the period 2007-2013 (an average of €10 billion a year for the duration of the next framework programme).

Six major objectives have been identified:

- § the creation of European centres of excellence;
- § the launching of technology initiatives;
- § better coordination of national research programmes;
- § the development of research infrastructure of European interest;
- § the creation of a European “agency” to support European basic research teams.

In its strategy document entitled ‘*Science and technology, the key to Europe's future - Guidelines for future European Union policy to support research*’, the Commission aims at providing a concrete response to the objectives of the

Lisbon strategy and at supporting the European Research Area (ERA) project (see *COM (2004)0353 of 16 June 2004* at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2004/com2004_0353en01.pdf).

Ideas expressed in the communication must be subject of a policy debate within the EU Institutions and a debate among the key players e.g. stakeholders, users. On the basis of the results, the Commission will present its proposal for the Seventh Research Framework Programme at the beginning of 2005, along with specific information about the financial support schemes and proposals for thematic research priorities.

Views and comments regarding the future European research policy can be sent to European Commission, DG Research, Unit A1, Office SDME 02/50, B-1049 Brussels. An online questionnaire as well as a specific email address will be available shortly.

EU Research and Development

Scientific publishing under Commission review

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/press/2004/pr1506en.cfm>

The future of scientific publishing led to the adoption of the **Berlin Declaration (October 2003)** calling for Open Access (OA) to knowledge. OA means that a reader of a scientific publication can read it over the Internet, print it out and/or distribute it for non-commercial purposes without restrictions and/or payments.

With this in mind, the European Commission launched on 15 June a study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe. Results will be available in 2005.

The study aims identifying measures at European level which could help to improve conditions governing access to and the exchange, dissemination and archiving of

scientific publications while guaranteeing a high level of quality, diversity and protection of authors' rights.

Its objective is to determine the conditions required for optimum operation of the sector and to assess how the Commission can help to meet these conditions. Main topics to be dealt with are the future of printed scientific reviews; the risks associated with increases in the price of publications in terms of access to information for researchers, open access to research findings for all; the need to reconcile authors' rights; and the economic interests of publishers.

See the Berlin Declaration and OA at <http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/signatories.html>.

Information Society

Council conclusions on the eEurope 2005 action plan

Telecommunications ministers adopted on 10 June, conclusions in response to two Commission communications: one on the update of the **eEurope 2005 action plan** and a second on connecting Europe at high speed - **national broadband strategies**.

With regard to the latter, the Council invited member states to put national broadband strategies in place by the end of 2004 and to review their implementation and update

them, if necessary, by the end of 2005 as well as to duly complete the effective transposition of the new regulatory framework for electronic communications.

The Commission in turn, intends to speed up implementation of the revised eEurope 2005 actions and to report on broadband deployment and take-up developments in the first half of 2006.

Council common position on the eContent plus

Telecommunications ministers reached on 10 June political agreement on the proposed Decision on establishing a multi annual Community programme to make digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable (**eContent plus**).

In particular, the Council agreed on a financial framework of € 135 million for the eContent **plus** programme (2005-2008). Once the text of the common position is finalised

and formally adopted, it will be transmitted to Parliament for second reading.

This proposed Decision aims at creating conditions for broader access to and use of digital content and where necessary for greater economic return from services based on access and (re)use of digital content through making a significant contribution to the eEurope strategy.

European IST Prize, 430 companies from 29 countries in competition

<http://www.it-prize.org>

France and The Netherlands have the strongest participation in this year's IST Prize, followed by Italy, Spain, Germany and the UK. The 70 European IST Prize nominees and, among them, the 20 winners, will be announced in late September. The 20 winners will exhibit their products at the European IST Prize Winners Village at the 2004 IST Event in The Hague in November.

Three Grand Prize winners will be selected and receive each € 200,000 and the

European IST Prize Trophy at an Awards Ceremony organised in early 2005. The decision will be taken by the Commission, based on a ranking proposal established by Euro-CASE, the European Council of Applied Sciences, Technology and Engineering.

See IST Event 2004 at

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/ist_event/2004/index_en.htm.

Advancing on WSIS agenda

Ministers for General Affairs approved on 14 June a strategy paper on the main procedural and organisational issues raised in preparations for the next World Summit on

the Information Society (WSIS), to be held in Tunisia in November 2005. The first preparatory meeting will take place in Tunisia from 24 to 26 June.

Internet

Towards a European Code of Conduct for Internet Service Providers

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/programmes/iap/index_en.htm

On 24 June, the Commission invited leading associations of Internet Service providers and industry players to a meeting in Luxembourg to discuss the scope for a **European Code of Conduct for Internet service providers**, particularly in the field of protection of minors. Such a code would build on, rather than replace, existing national codes of conduct.

The Commission suggested this work to be done in stages, identifying areas of greatest consensus and others where more work might be needed. Industry should take the

initiative in drafting the Code but other interested parties including user, consumer, child welfare representatives and regulators would need to be consulted before it is finalised.

EuroISPA (European Internet Service Providers Association) agreed to consult its membership on the setting up of an industry Working Group coordinated by EuroISPA and on the timetable for drawing up a first draft of a Code, and to give a rapid response to the Commission.

VoIP, public consultation on Voice over Internet Protocol

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/ecomm/doc/useful_information/library/commiss_serv_doc/406_14_voip_consult_paper_v2_1.pdf

DG Information Society published on 14 June an information and consultation document on the treatment of **Voice over Internet Protocol (IP)**. Written comments should be sent to info-b1@cec.eu.int by 31 August 2004 ("VoIP" in the subject line).

Under the EU Regulatory Framework, VoIP is a technology that can be used to provide a range of electronic communications services. The degree to which a provider of VoIP-based services will face obligations under the EU framework depends on the type of

service offered. The framework addresses all communications infrastructure in a coherent way, but does not cover the content of services delivered over and through those networks and services. Comments on the issuing of declarations to Public Available Telephone Service (PATS) providers; Article 23 of the Universal Service Directive (Integrity of the network); in-line powering of terminals; emergency services; interconnection; interoperability; numbering and extra-territorial providers are highly welcome.

Internet

Council agreement on Safer Internet Plus

Telecommunications ministers suggested considering the Presidency compromise proposal establishing a multi annual Community programme to promote safer use of the internet and new online technologies as a basis for negotiating with Parliament, in particular as regards the budget amount. At this stage, the Commission maintained its general reserve.

The proposed Safer Internet Plus programme responds to new challenges both in quantitative and qualitative terms and focuses on end-user, particularly on parents, educators and children. Four actions are foreseen: fighting against illegal content, tackling unwanted and harmful content, promoting a safer environment and awareness-raising.

Social Policy

Presidency Conclusions, Brussels, 17 and 18 June 2004

http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/81035.pdf

The European Council highlighted major progress in e.g. the financial services action plan; **mobility** of European citizens, businesses and services through legislation on recognition of **professional qualifications**, the **Euro pass**; **intellectual property rights** and arrangements for **patentability of computer-implemented inventions**; consumer protection through measures on **enforcement** and on **unfair commercial practices**. It regretted however

that unanimous agreement on the **Community Patent** could not be reached and urged that work proceed on the proposed framework **directive on services**, the White Paper on **services of general interest** and the encouragement for the **mobility of researchers**.

A high-level group will draft a report for the mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy, to be presented to the Commission by 1 November 2004.

Demographic, economic and social data on 258 cities across Europe

The **Urban Audit** is a joint effort by Eurostat and DG for Regional Policy to provide more comparable information on selected urban areas. Following a pilot study in 58 cities, Urban Audit has expanded to cover 258 large (over 250 000 inhabitants) and medium-sized (between 50 000 and 250 000 inhabitants) cities in the EU25, Bulgaria and Romania.

include demography, housing, health, the labour market, the economy, **education**, the environment, transport and **culture**. The data refer to the most recent year available, which is in general 1999, 2000 or 2001.

A description of the methodology and a larger set of data can be found at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/> under *Collection, News Releases, and Theme Population and social conditions*.

The areas covered by the variables collected

Report on the future of social policy in an enlarged EU

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2004/jun/hlg_social_elarg_en.pdf

The high level group on the future of employment/social policy completed in May a report aimed at identifying challenges and opportunities as well as contributing to the reflection on the social agenda covering the period until 2010.

action is insufficient and remains lagging behind. At this time, the participation in lifelong training in the EU average still falls clearly short of the 12.5 % target for all adults. For lifelong learning to pass from discourse into generalised action, three kinds of actions must be undertaken:

The Group proposes to focus the **European Employment Strategy** on three priorities: to extend working-life; to **implement lifelong learning** and to address economic restructuring. According to the report, lifelong learning is high in the discourse, but

§ Diversifying the means to supply lifelong learning e.g. **libraries**, multimedia databases and other products of the contents industry;
 § Fostering the demand for lifelong learning;
 § Sharing the costs of lifelong learning.

Social Policy

Employment Guidelines 2004

On 1 June, Employment ministers reached political agreement on a draft Decision on the guidelines for Employment policies 2004 and on a Recommendation on implementation.

The first will form the basis for the National Employment Action Plans, to be submitted

by member states by October 2004. The draft text sets out investing more in human capital and **lifelong learning**, amongst others. Both draft texts are to be adopted, without further debate, at a forthcoming session of the Council after finalisation in all Community languages.

Telecommunications

Final Report from the Mobile Communications & Technology Platform

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/ecom/comm/doc/highlights/current_spotlights/mobile_communications/workshop_11_june_04/Mobile_Platform_Final_Report_June_8.doc

On 9 June, the Mobile Communications & Technology Platform delivered its report on key policy and regulatory issues affecting the mobile communications sector in the future. In its mid term report in January 2004 the Platform had identified challenges e.g. **content**, network rollout, **research**, interoperability, appropriate regulatory

environment and security, m-payment and spectrum management. Those challenges are still there to be overcome. The latest report (work from January to May) focuses on **research and development, content**, interoperability, m-payment and security. With regard to **content**, strong copyright protection and DRM is recommended.

Commission communication on mobile broadband services

The Commission has adopted a communication on mobile broadband services [see *COM (2004)0447 of 30 June 2004* at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>] as a contribution to continued long term success. According to the communication, the availability of DRM systems and services for the distribution of content over mobile communications needs to be taken into consideration for the determination of the level of fair compensation applying in the case of private use in the light of the provisions of the Copyright Directive (*OJ L*

167, 22.6.2001, p. 10). The report on the application of the Directive, to be issued in due course, will provide the basis for the Commission to evaluate the situation in each Member State.

In addition, efforts to promote Community-wide licensing of mobile content, including through a one-stop-shop approach, should be further considered in the context of the current consultation process regarding the management of copyright and related rights in the Internal Market (*COM (2004)0261 of 16 April 2004*).

Trade Policy

Public consultation on VAT One-Stop-Shop project

http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/taxation/consultations/one_stop_en.htm

The Commission has launched consultation on a one-stop shop system, whereby a trader could fulfil his VAT obligations for EU activities only in the member state in which he is established. The consultation is **open until 31 July** and based on a paper that allows for a trader to use a single VAT number for all supplies made throughout the EU and to make VAT declarations to one single electronic portal that would then be

submitted automatically to the different member states into which the trader supplies goods or services. Its scope would be limited to supplies made by business to consumers (B2C).

Opinions would be taken into account in a further proposal that the Commission intends to put forward by the end of this year.

Trade Policy

Conference on TRIPS ten years later

http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/sectoral/intell_property/pr110604_en.htm

One of the outcomes of the Marrakech Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). A conference commemorating the 10th anniversary of its conclusion was held on 23 and 24 June in Brussels, aimed at assessing the implications of the TRIPS Agreement and future trends and challenges in global intellectual property protection.

The conference aimed at offering a high profile platform to address e.g. implications of TRIPS for developing countries; the interplay between intellectual property (IP) and human rights; enforcement challenges; the question on whether TRIPS is adequate

to the challenges of globalisation and the knowledge society.

There is a risk of IPRs marginalising the public domain; solutions appear to exist however, and can be addressed through cross licensing, patent pools, compulsory licensing, blanket licences or even entirely new systems, none of them prohibited by TRIPS.

The conference report will be available at http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/sectoral/intell_property/index_en.htm. See further information on TRIPS at http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/sectoral/intell_property/memo230604_en.htm.

Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/tbt/>

Incorporated into Community law in December 1994, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) was negotiated over eight years during the WTO Uruguay Round negotiations. It provides for a notification procedure which requires all WTO members to inform other members, through the WTO Secretariat, of their proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. It sets out the rules that governmental and non-

governmental bodies around the world must follow when developing **technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures**.

The system specifically allows the EC to be informed about proposals of third countries which may have an impact on exports of Community enterprises and also allows a dialogue to be initiated with trading partners before the adoption of such measures.

WTO Dispute Settlement on US Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC)

http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/respectrules/dispute/pr180604_en.htm

On 17 June, the US House of Representatives adopted the **Thomas Bill** repealing the **FSC/ETI**, in a further step in a long standing trade dispute between the EU and the US. The WTO found the FSC to constitute an illegal export subsidy under both the Subsidies Agreement and (in relation to agricultural products) the Agriculture Agreement.

The US was then given until 1 November 2000 to withdraw the FSC scheme. On 15 November 2000, President Clinton signed the **Extra Territorial Income Act (ETI)**, to replace the **FSC**. In January 2002, the WTO confirmed that the ETI Act also constituted a prohibited export subsidy and that the US had not, thus, complied with its

previous ruling. On 7 May 2003, the WTO endorsed the EU request for countermeasures for a level roughly equal to the estimated annual US subsidy, e.g. US\$ 4 billion. On 1 March this year, the EU imposed countermeasures consisting of an additional customs duty of 5% on a list of US products, followed by automatic, monthly increases by 1% up to a ceiling of 17% to be reached on 1 March 2005, if compliance has not happened in the meantime.

On 11 May, the US Senate adopted the **JOBS Act**, a Bill which repeals the **FSC/ETI**. The House-passed **FSC/ETI** repeal bill will need to be reconciled with the Senate-passed bill and signed by the US President before it can become US law.

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EUR-Lex: European Union law <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>
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.europa.eu.int/CD/application/pif/resources/shtml/common/home/home.html>.
EBLIDA Hot News electronic 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, such as preparatory legislative documents and questions put by Members of Parliament to the Commission and Council.

The C series is available on-line via EUR-Lex, <http://europa.eu.int/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. Henceforth the two-column presentation of the amended proposal will be replaced by two columns of continuous text. The text that has been deleted in the amended proposal will be struck through with a line and new or replacement text will be underlined.

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

About EBLIDA...

EBLIDA is the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations. We are an independent umbrella association of national library, information, documentation and archive associations and institutions in Europe.

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.