



November 2005

# EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

## Information Society

### Highlights:

- § I2010 Digital Libraries, p.1
- § EBLIDA Seminar in Riga, p. 2
- § Cooperation relating to public archives, p. 5

### I2010 Digital Libraries

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

On 14 November, Culture ministers held a debate on i2010 Digital Libraries, covering the following issues suggested by the Presidency:

- § the creation of a European Digital Library which would make European cultural content and information resources easier and more interesting to use in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual online environment;
- § the next steps that could be taken as a matter of priority at European level to achieve that vision;
- § The contribution to this initiative of existing and planned digitisation activities in the Member States.

The President noted that there has been a warm welcome to the Commission's proposals for the creation of a European Digital Library and highlighted that a series

of issues including the need to promote all European languages (minority languages); cultural diversity and encourage understanding between different ethnic groups; and regional identity should be taken into account.

The discussion also underlined some of the practical issues e.g. ensuring that Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are respected; the scope for working in collaboration with the private sector; and the sharing of best practice.

The Commission and Member States should take this forward in coalition to make this ambition available to the people of Europe through European portals. The outcome of the debate will be used in future discussions with the aim of adopting a Council Recommendation in late 2006 or early 2007.

### WSIS, EU brokers deal on internationalisation of Internet Governance

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/internationalrel/global\\_issues/wsisis/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/internationalrel/global_issues/wsisis/index_en.htm)

A worldwide political agreement providing for further internationalisation of Internet Governance, and enhanced intergovernmental cooperation was brokered at the second World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November. Discussions also focused on financial mechanisms to bridge the digital divide. The compromise text agreed was based largely on EU proposals presented in the discussions since June.

The key issue at stake is access to the domain name system (DNS) - essentially the list of all internet addresses - and the root zone file, where all the 248 country domains (.UK or .FR) and the 14 generic domains (.COM, .NET and .ORG) are listed. Both are controlled by ICANN, a not-for-profit organisation reporting to the US Department

of Commerce. Although the US government has never once interfered with any decision taken by ICANN, many countries are concerned that Washington exerts too much control over the Internet. Europe has suggested a compromise deal based on a "cooperation model" under which ICANN would be made independent of any government oversight, reporting only to an international forum of stakeholders to discuss technical issues.

A new international **Internet Governance Forum (IGF)** will thus be created to deliberate among governments, the private sector and civil society at large in a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to Internet Governance.

*...continues in Page 11*

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## Lobbying for archives and libraries

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### EBLIDA Seminar in Riga

<http://www.eblida.org/eblida/meetings/index.htm>

The EBLIDA Executive Committee met in Riga (Latvia) on 11 – 12 November 2005. The new members of the EBLIDA Executive Committee 2005 – 2007 discussed current EBLIDA matters and set up the work and priorities of EBLIDA for the next term (*See Draft Minutes on the EBLIDA website* [http://www.eblida.org/eblida/meetings/index.htm#executive\\_meetings](http://www.eblida.org/eblida/meetings/index.htm#executive_meetings)).

Parallel to this meeting and in line with the *EBLIDA Strategy 2004 – 2007*, a Seminar on current EU issues was organised by the EBLIDA Secretariat in cooperation with the Latvian colleagues, bringing together representatives from the library and archive sectors in the Baltic countries.

Among others, issues discussed ranged from the recent European Commission Communication 'Digital Libraries 2010'

to the main concerns for the Baltic library and archive community on European funding.

Mr. Pavluts, Latvian Secretary of State for Culture, was present and opened the Seminar with a speech on the most recent work that the Ministry has carried out regarding libraries and archives in Latvia, and the European scope of funding possibilities for these institutions.

EBLIDA wishes to acknowledge and thank Anna Maulina and Andris Vilks (National Library of Latvia, <http://www.lnb.lv/eng/index.php>) for their support and cooperation in making this EBLIDA Executive Committee and Seminar possible.

Contact the EBLIDA Secretariat for further information.

**Pía, Carmen and Martine wish you a Merry Christmas!!**



**Merry Christmas!**



**Happy New Year 2006 from the EBLIDA Secretariat!**



## Audiovisual

### Co Decision Procedure First Reading

#### Media 2007 Programme

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/ocil/file.jsp?id=5189552>

On 14 November, the Education, Youth and Culture Council reached a partial political agreement on a decision establishing the Media 2007 programme, due to the fact that the budgetary aspects have been excluded pending the outcome of the discussions on the future Financial Perspectives. This item will thus return to the (Education, Youth and Culture) Council's agenda at some future date to finalise the budget (budget proposed by the Commission is € 1 055 million) and its final breakdown aspects.

The programme, which combines the current Media Plus and Media Training programmes, is intended to support the European audiovisual sector. Parliament delivered its first reading opinion on 25 October (*P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0398*).

The proposed programme requires qualified majority in the Council and co decision procedure with Parliament for its adoption (*Articles 150(4) and 157(3) of the Treaty*).

## Cooperation with Third Countries

#### EU Strategy for Africa

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/country/country\\_africa\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/country/country_africa_en.htm)

On 21 November, External Relations ministers held an exchange of views on preparation of an EU strategy for Africa to be endorsed by the European Council at its meeting on 15 and 16 December.

With regard to “**Investing in People**”, ministers agreed to strengthen national education systems including the contribution to the Education Fast Track Initiative to help ensure that all girls as well as boys have access to free and compulsory quality primary education; and support for education as a lifelong learning process. They also agreed to promote development of Euro-Africa networks of universities and

centres of excellence, in tandem with AU higher education and science and technology flagship programmes, including support for the Nyerere programme for students across Africa.

The Council looks forward to the adoption of an integrated EU Strategy for Africa at the December European Council. The EU-Africa dialogue needs to be broadened and invigorated. In this context, the organisation of a second EU-Africa Summit should remain a priority for the EU. The Commission is invited to report on progress within its fields of competence.

#### EU-Canada Joint Statement

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

In its Joint Statement signed on 24 November, the EU and Canada welcomed the recent adoption of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions at UNESCO and agreed to promote

ratification and implementation.

In the margins of the video conference summit, an operational cooperation agreement between Europol and Canada providing notably for the possibility to exchange personal data was also signed.

#### Cooperation with EEA to promote safer use of the Internet

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

The General affairs Council approved on 7 November a draft decision of the European Economic Area (EEA) joint committee incorporating into the EEA agreement decision 854/2005/EC1 establishing a multi-annual Community programme on

promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies. The EEA joint committee must integrate all Community legislation relevant to the EEA agreement to ensure the necessary legal certainty and homogeneity of the internal market.

## Culture

### Culture 2007

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/ocil/file.jsp?id=5190192>

On 14 November, Culture ministers reached a partial political agreement on the proposed Culture 2007 programme, due to the fact that the budgetary aspects have been excluded pending the outcome of the discussions on the future Community financial framework (*Article 2* of the Commission proposal is not part of the agreed text). The (Education, Youth and Culture) Council will return to it at some future date to finalise the budget (budget proposed by the Commission is € 408 million) and its final breakdown aspects.

Regarding the only question that was still to be solved (the submission of the projects selection to the Comitology procedure), it was decided to accept a Presidency compromise whereby projects for which the total Community support proposed exceeded € 200,000 would be subject to the management committee procedure.

### European Capital of Culture event for the years 2007 to 2019

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/ocil/file.jsp?id=5251512>

On 14 November, pending Parliament's opinion, the Council agreed on a general approach concerning a decision establishing the European Capital of Culture event for the years 2007-2019, which aims at replacing the previous decision, which established the event from 2005 to 2019 (*OJ L 166, 1.7.1999, p.1, as amended by Decision 649/2005/EC [OJ L 117, 4.5.2005, p. 20]*).

The proposal (*COM (2005)0209 of 30 May 2005, <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>*) strengthens the European dimension and improves the transparency of the selection procedure. There is room for improvement, in particular in relation to competition between cities; the composition of the selection panel; guidance and monitoring, to be carried out by an advisory panel; European added value; extension of the time allowed for planning; and the award of a monetary prize for quality of the project.

In her draft report, MEP Prets (Rapporteur to the CULT Committee) stresses the need for the prompt provision of sufficient

It is recalled that the draft programme provides for three strands of intervention: direct financial support for cultural actions; support for bodies active at European level in the field of culture; and support for analyses, for the collection and dissemination of information and for other activities improving the impact of projects in the field of European cultural cooperation.

It is to be noted that both the Commission and the Council agreed, as proposed by the European Parliament, to transfer **strand 2.2** of the Commission's proposal, relating to actions for the preservation of memorials, to the proposed **Citizens for Europe** programme.

Parliament delivered its first reading opinion on 25 October (*P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0397*).

Community funds and proposes a prize to be awarded in the form of a financial allocation to the selected city. The Community contribution under the Culture 2007 programme will be three times that of the present programme.

The Rapporteur supports the Commission to allow third countries to take part in European cultural events by reviving the Cultural Month initiative or a comparable initiative (in this case the question of financial support needs clarifying); Romania, Bulgaria and other future accession countries should also be included in the initiative. She also calls for a website to be set up, constantly maintained and regularly updated by the Commission.

Furthermore, the Council designated Linz (Austria) and Vilnius (Lithuania) as European Capitals of Culture for 2009 and appointed Mr Claude FRISONI (Luxembourg) and Sir Jeremy Isaacs (UK) as Council representatives for the European Capital of Culture 2010 selection panel.

*Co Decision Procedure  
First Reading*

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First Reading*

## Culture

### Co Decision Procedure First Reading

#### “Citizens for Europe” to promote active European citizenship

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/oeil/file.jsp?id=5243942>

Three main actions, divided by measures, have been proposed to achieve the objectives of the programme; the total budget proposed is € 235 million (2007-2013); the budget allocates around 40% to Action 1, 30% to Action 2 and 15 % to Action 3. The remaining 15% cover administrative expenditure. The programme should be accessible to all citizens and not be limited to the elites.

In her working document, MEP TAKKULA (Rapporteur to CULT Committee) finds the Commission proposal well structured, but suggests however that, during the lifetime of **Town twinning**, the number of citizens' meetings should be increased from 8900 meetings to at least 10 000 between 2007 and 2013. As regards citizens' projects, the Rapporteur suggests that 60 of such projects should be funded per year on average, instead of 13.

With regard to structural support for **organisations of civil society at European level**, the Rapporteur requests for funding of 25 grants per year instead of 15; for projects initiated by civil society organisations, she

suggests including bodies such as adult education centres in the scope of this measure. At least 100 projects per year should be supported instead of 85. She also agrees to include high visibility events, studies and information tools in this programme (Action 3) and incorporated a new **Action 4 - Preservation of European memory**. The Rapporteur accepted to include the preservation of the memorial sites related to Nazi and Stalinist deportation and mass extermination in the Citizens' programme but feels that the overall amount needs to be increased to 60 projects per year (currently around 30 projects per year).

With regard to Management, the Rapporteur thinks that administrative expenditure should not exceed € 20 million (instead of € 27.5 million). Additional funding to the total budget proposed must be made available for the new Action 4 - one possibility could be to transfer the budget reserved for the memorial sites under the Culture 2007 programme into this programme. Taking into account all the changes proposed, the overall amount of the budget would be around € 290 million.

#### Cooperation relating to public archives

Culture ministers adopted on 14 November a Recommendation aimed at increasing EU cooperation in the field of documentary public archives (2005/L 312/, p. 55 of 29 November 2005 at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en>).

A Council Resolution of 6 May 2003 (*Official Journal C 113, p. 2 of 13 May 2003*) stressed the importance of archives for the understanding of the history and culture of Europe and for the democratic functioning of society. The Council now recommends that a group of experts from the Member States and the EU's institutions ensures European cooperation and coordination on matters relating to archives and follow up the implementation of: preservation and prevention of damage to archives; reinforcement of interdisciplinary cooperation on e-documents and archives;

establishment and maintenance of an Internet portal for documents and archives; promotion of best practice with regard to national and European law on the management of, and access to, documents and archives; and adoption of measures to prevent the theft of archival documents.

Where and when appropriate, the European Archives Group should also cooperate with other relevant European networks such as the National Representatives Group on Digitisation and the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation (EBLIDA).

Three years after the date of publication of this Recommendation at the latest, the European Archives Group should present a progress report on implementation of the priority measures.

## Culture

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### Support of artists and of creativity

[http://www.europarl.eu.int/hearings/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/hearings/default_en.htm)

The Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education held on 28 November a Public Hearing on "Dance, music, choirs, theatre: support of artists and of creativity".

The main issues discussed by the experts during the hearing were the a) Statute and working conditions of artists: economic and social problems; b) Conditions for artistic creativity support and c) European Policies

for cultural creation and artistic creativity.

The programme, poster, additional documents (policy overview, questions for discussion) and contributions by Camille Kerger (Luxemburg), Professor Éva Kollár (Hungary), Karl Regensburger (Austria), Rui Vieira Nery (Portugal) and Anita Debaere (Belgium) are all available at the site above.

### Tourism and culture, two forces for growth

[http://www.esc.eu.int/sections/int/conferences/18\\_11\\_05\\_tourism\\_culture/programme\\_en.pdf](http://www.esc.eu.int/sections/int/conferences/18_11_05_tourism_culture/programme_en.pdf)

On 18 November, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), in cooperation with the Province of Salerno and Federturismo/Confindustria, held a public hearing on tourism and culture in Paestum (Italy) to collect the proposals and suggestions made by organizations and institutions on the impact of culture in the field of tourism. Over the years the

Committee has been active in promoting various initiatives related to the tourism sector and it is now preparing a new own-initiative opinion on "Tourism and culture: two forces for growth" (Rapporteur is Patrizio PESCI, Group I, Employers, Italy).

Visit

[http://www.esc.eu.int/press/index\\_en.asp](http://www.esc.eu.int/press/index_en.asp)

## Education

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### Lifelong learning integrated action programme

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/ocil/file.jsp?id=5190202>

On 15 November, Education ministers reached a partial political agreement on a decision establishing the lifelong learning programme. Regarding the questions that were still to be solved - the submission of project selection to the Comitology procedure and the possibility for ministries to act as agencies - it was decided to accept a Presidency compromise whereby centralised projects for which the Community support proposed exceeded € 1 million would be subject to the management procedure; and to endorse the provision in the Commission proposal which prevents ministries from acting as national agencies.

As the other cultural and educational programmes, the budgetary aspects have been excluded pending the outcome of the discussions on the future Community

financial perspectives. The budget (budget proposed was € 13 620 million) and its final breakdown aspects will be finalised at a future meeting.

The new integrated programme will comprise COMENIUS, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, GRUNDTVIG – all part of SOCRATES - and a "transversal" programme incorporating four key activities (policy development, language learning, innovative approaches and dissemination of project results), plus a Jean Monnet programme to support action related to European integration and European institutions and associations.

Parliament delivered its first reading opinion on 25 October 2005 (*P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0395*).

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First Reading*



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First Reading*

### Lifelong learning and key competences for all

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/oel/file.jsp?id=5289042>

The Commission adopted on 10 November three documents on key competences for lifelong learning and on the implementation of the "Education & Training 2010 work programme" (ET2010), which aims at facilitating national reforms by providing a reference tool on key competences that all citizens should have for a successful life in a knowledge society.

The proposed Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning in Europe (COM (2005)0548) is linked to ET2010 in that it seeks to present a European reference tool for key competences and how they can be accessed by all of the EU's citizens through lifelong learning. In this context, the Commission suggests that the term "competences" refers to a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes.

The reference tool (*Annex*) identifies eight key skills or competences: communication in the mother tongue; foreign languages; basic competences in Maths, science and technology; Digital competence; Learning to

learn; Interpersonal, intercultural/social and civic competences; Entrepreneurship; and Cultural expression.

Its implementation is entirely up to the Member States. The proposal has no budgetary implication for the Community budget.

Moreover, the Commission adopted the **2006 progress report on the implementation of the ET2010** (COM (2005)0549 and SEC (2005)1415 [*Annex*]), which concludes that Member States must accelerate the pace of reform in their education and training systems, or large proportions of the next generation will face social exclusion. Presented to Education ministers on 15 November, the report will be finally adopted at the Council meeting in February, under the Austrian Presidency.

See also *IP/05/1405*, *MEMO/05/415* (Modernising Education and Training Systems) and *MEMO/05/416* (Key Competences FAQ) at <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/>.

### Call for action to promote Multilingualism

*"The more languages you know, the more of a person you are"*

The European Commission adopted on 22 November its first ever Communication on multilingualism, which sets out a new framework strategy for multilingualism with proposals for specific actions covering three areas where languages are of importance in the everyday lives of people in the EU - society, economy and the Commission's own relations with the EU's citizens.

The Communication stresses the importance of language skills to worker mobility and the competitiveness of the EU economy and calls on the Member States to play their part in furthering the teaching, learning and use of languages. The Commission in turn will publish a study on the impact on the European economy of shortages of

languages skills in 2006. Moreover, it will invest more in language-related research into ways of overcoming language barriers through new ICT as well as in the field of social and human sciences.

The Commission proposes the setting up of a High-Level Group on Multilingualism, made up of independent experts, to help it analyse the progress made by Member States. A ministerial conference on multilingualism will be held in the near future to allow Member States to share the progress made and plan future work.

To mark the occasion, a new Web portal on languages was launched at <http://europa.eu.int/languages>.

### Leonardo da Vinci

#### Community Vocational Training Action Programme (2000-2006)

Results and a products database on the Leonardo da Vinci programme can be found at

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/leonardo/new/leonardo2/products/recherche\\_prod\\_en2000\\_all.dfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/leonardo/new/leonardo2/products/recherche_prod_en2000_all.dfm)

## Education

### Council Resolution on mobilising the brainpower in Europe

On 15 November, Education ministers held an exchange of views on the Joint Interim Report 2006 on the ET2010 Work Programme, especially regarding the priorities, in relation to both economic and social objectives, that the 2006 Joint Report should set for the next phase of the programme.

The Council also adopted a Resolution inviting the Member States to address the issues raised in the resolution and report on progress in their contributions to the 2008 Joint Interim Report on the implementation of the ET2010 Work Programme. It invites Member States and the Commission to make use of peer learning and the ET2010 Work Programme Joint Interim Report to address the needs of higher education through more effective use of Community programmes e.g. European funding instruments of the European Investment Bank Group and the structural funds, where appropriate as well as to encouraging international cooperation between higher education institutions (TEMPUS, Erasmus Mundus).

In addition, the Council adopted conclusions on the **development of skills and**

**competences** as a key element of lifelong learning strategies. Parity of esteem and links between VET and general education should be fostered. Ministers agreed that close collaboration is essential with all relevant ministries to achieve this and invited the Member States and the Commission jointly to address the issue of Sectoral skills in the context of developing skills and competences and to use future Community instruments in the education/training field to support the development of sector-based approaches to skills and competences in relation to both VET and higher education.

Collaboration between education/training providers to exploit existing ICT infrastructures to widen participation in lifelong learning, and improve the level of e-skills of their citizens should be instigated. The Council invites the Commission to establish in 2006 a cluster of those Member States wishing to develop peer-learning activities on Sectoral skills and CEDEFOP and the European Training Foundation (ETF) to complete in 2006 an overview of different Sectoral approaches to skills and competences across the EU and in the accession and candidate countries.

### TEMPUS Annual Report 2004

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/tempus/doc/report2004\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/tempus/doc/report2004_en.pdf)

COM (2005)0515 of 18 October 2005

The Commission issued on 18 October the TEMPUS Annual Report 2004, guided *inter alia* by the conclusions/recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of TEMPUS III (2000-2006) (November 2003). The evaluation confirmed the relevance of the programme to support higher education reform and development as well as the validity of its intervention management approaches.

TEMPUS has been instrumental in supporting partner countries' efforts to put Bologna-related issues high on their reform agenda. The increased support for individual mobility of higher education professionals and the introduction of Structural and Complementary activities, coupled with dialogue and national priorities, contributed

to confirm TEMPUS as an instrument of choice for the implementation and formulation of partner countries' higher education policies.

In addition, the online application form for the December 2005 round of Joint European Projects is available at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/tempus/doc/jepform05.doc>. Please note that submission rules have changed; updated FAQ to provide assistance with IT, content and financial rules will be soon available at the site above. For details on the budgetary situation of proposals involving Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Belarus, visit [http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/tempus/budgettaxis\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/tempus/budgettaxis_en.html).

## Education

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### COMENIUS, improving the quality of European schools and teachers

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/comenius/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/comenius/index_en.html)

The Commission approved on 4 November, the use of €100 million under COMENIUS (part of the Socrates programme that targets schools) to support over 50 new European projects and networks that are designed to improve quality and strengthen cooperation in the field of school education.

In all, nearly 500 organisations across the 31 countries now participating in Socrates will implement the new initiatives.

€10 million has been earmarked for the 46 new European cooperation projects selected,

each of which has a lifespan of 2-3 years and a grant averaging € 220.000. The projects are for the professional development of teachers and they involve on average 8 partners from at least three of the participating countries.

€2 million have also been awarded to six new 3-year COMENIUS networks that will be concerned with such varying but essential themes as how to involve parents more effectively in school education; the results of new projects and networks will feed into the ET2010 initiative. In addition, a budget of €19 million is available for individual grants.

### Educational systems in the EU

*H-0979/05*

The Commission's most recent report (key figures for education in Europe 2005) expresses concern regarding the effectiveness of education systems in the EU, pointing to major disparities regarding student numbers as a percentage of total population, the sharp drop in numbers receiving education after the age of 19, large regional variations in this area and differences in the level of education expenditure in the various Member States. In

addition, shortcomings are detected (to varying extents) in all the education systems, with the result that pupils have to resort to private tuition.

In an oral question, MEP KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU asked the Commission in November whether it will redefine European criteria for making qualitative and quantitative assessments on the basis of specific education objectives and reporting on its findings, as it has done in the past.

## Enlargement

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### Turkey set to participate in the EU CULTURE 2000 programme

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources\\_info/official\\_doc/protocoles\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/official_doc/protocoles_en.html)

According to *Art 7-1 of Decision no 508/2000/EC (14 February 2000)* establishing the Culture 2000 programme, participation in the programme is open for the EU-25, EEA countries (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) and the acceding/candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy under Framework Agreements (Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, and Croatia).

The participation of the last two categories

of countries is effectively implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Communities. The memoranda provide a necessary legal basis for the inclusion of new participating countries and also contain specific financial provisions. Memoranda have so far been concluded with Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein, Bulgaria (*23 March 2005*), Romania (*4 April 2005*) and Turkey (*25 October 2005*).

## EU Information Policy

### Commission to launch a European Transparency Initiative

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/commission\\_barroso/kallas/transparency\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/commission_barroso/kallas/transparency_en.htm)

The College of Commissioners decided on 9 November to launch a European Transparency Initiative. A Green Paper is to be published in 2006 to launch a debate on how to improve transparency on the Community Funds, consultation with civil society and **the role of the lobbies and NGOs** in the European institutions' decision-making process; the debate could lead to new proposals in early 2007. Discussions will also be started at inter-institutional level to promote the EU's framework on professional ethic[s]. Lastly, the Commission will continue its progress on transparency by taking concrete action to

improve its own transparency *vis-à-vis* Europe's citizens. This initiative is a logical complement to **Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate**.

On lobbying, KALLAS will set out options including better reporting by the Commission of interventions, compulsory registration of all lobbyists and interest groups on consultative bodies. An existing (CONECCS) database could become a compulsory registration system for all lobbyists, including trade unionists, NGO and public affairs consultants.

## EU Research and Development

### 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/ocil/file.jsp?id=5243902>

On 28 November, the Competitiveness Council approved, by a large majority, a partial general approach (a way of fixing Council discussions on non-budgetary elements that are linked to the pending negotiation on the future financial perspectives) on the seventh Framework Programmes (FP7) for RTD (2007-2013) and EURATOM (2007-2011).

The Council debate was based on a compromise text established by the UK Presidency and focused on the adequate

support for SMEs participation in research projects and on the implementation arrangements of the future European Research Council.

The new FP7 is a major tool for strengthening European competitiveness by investing in knowledge, innovation and human capital. The detailed modalities for the implementation of the FP7 are set out in the Specific Programmes and in the Rules for Participation, to be discussed in detail by the Council.

### Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007-2013)

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/ocil/file.jsp?id=5243412>

On 28 November, the Council took note of a progress report on a draft decision establishing the CIP (2007-2013), and endorsed the approach to the horizontal issues that it sets out. The report clarifies the complementarities between the CIP and the FP7 and between the CIP and the Structural Funds. The Council identified, at its session of 10 May 2005, a number of horizontal issues requiring clarification as regards the proposal.

The proposal submitted by the Commission in April 2005 brings together several existing specific programmes into a single framework with three pillars: Entrepreneurship and innovation; ICT policy support; and Intelligent Energy- Europe.

Pending agreement on the financial perspectives for 2007-2013, the Commission proposed a total financial allocation of more than € 4 billion.

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## Council conclusions on 'Investing for Growth and Employment'

In its conclusions on '*Investing for Growth and Employment*' adopted on 28 November, the Council invites MS and the Commission to

- a) identify regulatory obstacles to new technologies/innovation; a useful input to these efforts could be provided by the INNOVA Initiative, the European Technology Platforms and EUREKA;
- b) strengthen information & support services on IPR and pursue work to improve the accessibility of Europe's patent system;
- c) explore ways to develop the potential of philanthropy as a source of funding for research and
- d) improve the mobility/career perspectives for researchers across the EU.

The Commission intends to provide

guidance to promote an optimal use of R&D tax incentives; develop the information system on national research policies (ERAWATCH) and the European Trend Chart on Innovation as well as to establish a European Industrial Research and Innovation Monitoring System. Moreover, it will issue a "handbook" for better use of public procurement; analyse National Reform Programmes and encourage the creation of a new European innovation prize.

It is also to prepare a report to the Council and Parliament by the end of 2007 on the outcome of the efforts undertaken at both EU and national levels.

## Information Society

### WSIS, EU brokers deal on internationalisation of Internet Governance

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/internationalrel/global\\_issues/wsisis/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/internationalrel/global_issues/wsisis/index_en.htm)

...continues from Page 1

Its first meeting, to be held in Greece, will be convened by the UN Secretary-General in mid-2006.

The text agreed will allow for enhanced cooperation among governments on public policy issues, on an equal footing. Such cooperation should include the development of globally applicable principles on public policy issues associated with the coordination and management of critical Internet resources. This cooperation will make use of relevant international organisations. There was also a consensus that countries should not be involved in

decisions regarding another country's Top Level Domain, thus meeting requests made, in particular, by the EU in the negotiations.

The Commission in turn will focus on gaining the support of other nations for the EU's policy of investing in ICT, as a means to overcome the digital divide and will reiterate its position on the need to safeguard human rights (freedom of speech).

For further information see *IP/05/1424*, *IP/05/1433* and *MEMO/05/428* (WSIS in Tunis, Internet Governance FAQ) at <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/>.

### Digital switchover - is 2012 feasible?

*B6-0583/2005*

In a Resolution adopted without changes on 14 November, Parliament asked the Commission on 14 November about the EU's proposed strategy for the digital switchover.

The Commission proposes 2012 as a common target date for switching off analogue terrestrial broadcasting and, with a view to the Regional Radio communication Conference and the World Radio

Communication Conference in 2006 and 2007 respectively, calls for the flexible use of the former analogue bands.

Parliament wants to know whether the 2012 switch-off date is feasible; how the RRC planning approach must be presented to maintain a balance with the common market and policy development; and how the Commission will play a leading role in initiating the research and development relating to new and innovative services other than broadcasting at a pan-European level.

### The digital divide in Europe

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/>

In the EU-25, 85% of students used the Internet (at least 1 during the 3 months prior to the survey) during the first quarter of 2004, as did 60% of employees, 40% of the unemployed and 13% of the retired, compared to an EU-25 average of 47% for individuals [18/2005, "Internet usage by individuals and enterprises 2004"] aged from 16 to 74. This divide by employment status is also found by educational level. Gaps remain in the use of ICT depending on e.g. their age, employment status, educational level and the degree of urbanisation of the area where they live.

This so-called digital divide has several origins: missing infrastructure or access; missing incentives to use ICT; lack of computer literacy or skills necessary to take part in the information society.

This information comes from a report [Eurostat, *Statistics in Focus, Industry, Trade & Services, 38/2005, "The digital divide in Europe"*] released on 10 November by Eurostat, which takes a closer look at the magnitude of the digital divide and some possible explanations for its existence.

### Commission brings a public register of expert groups online

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat\\_general/regexp/](http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/regexp/)

The Commission has set up a public register of the expert groups that help it in preparing legislative proposals and policy initiatives. It covers formal/informal advisory bodies and provides information on the nature and tasks of each group.

Participants are classified in broad categories (scientists, academics, practitioners, industry, NGOs...) but it does not contain any information on individual experts, mainly for data protection and privacy reasons. In some cases however, links to information about

the identity of members of specific groups will be included in the register.

The new register does not cover however the 250 so-called "Comitology committees" which assist the Commission in using its executive powers to implement legislation ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat\\_general/regcomito/](http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/regcomito/)), nor the joint bodies resulting from international agreements to supervise their implementation ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat\\_general/joint\\_entities/index\\_fr.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/joint_entities/index_fr.htm)).

## Internal Market

### Directive on Services in the Internal Market

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/oeil/file.jsp?id=240902>

The question of which country's laws apply to cross-border service providers dominated discussion and a vote by MEPs on the EU's controversial Services directive on 25 November. MEPs voted on 20 'blocks' of compromise proposals in a bid to simplify the procedure. A last-minute compromise deal has narrowed the gap between the various political groups on the Parliament's Internal Market Committee. But there are still deep divisions in two key areas: the scope and application of the directive and the so-called 'country-of-origin principle'.

Centre-right and Liberal MEPs argue that the country-of-origin principle underpins the premise of the EU's entire single market. They forced a postponement of the vote at

the last committee meeting in October on the grounds that the number of amendments made voting too complex.

Furthermore, Competitiveness ministers held an exchange of views on the draft directive on 28 November. Three key questions were the object of a requirement for a political input, concerning: the scope of the directive; workers protection; and free movement of services in the EU, regarding the possibility to reorganise provisions contained in the draft directive concerning the country of origin principle, to clarify those provisions that facilitate the free movement of services and those which enable member states to safeguard their key public policy objectives.

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## Internet

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### Europe gets its own Internet Domain Name

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

Since 1 December, the EU has its own .EU Internet Domain Name, comparable to .COM or .ORG. The EU is one of the biggest users of the Internet in the world and the introduction of .EU will create more opportunities to exploit online technology.

In December, the so-called “Sunrise period” that will allow holders of prior rights to register for .EU begins; from April 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 e-Commerce.

.EU will not replace the existing national domains, but will complement them and give

users the option of a European Internet identity for their websites and email addresses.

At the same time, the Commission will try to establish public policy rules to deal with e.g. speculative and abusive registrations of domain names, IP, language and geographical concepts.

For further information see *IP/05/467* and *SPEECH/05/457* at

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/>.

Visit the European Registry of Internet Domain names,

<http://www.eurid.eu/en/news> and ICANN,

<http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-23mar05.htm>.

## Youth Policy

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### Youth Action Programme for 2007-2013

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/ocil/file.jsp?id=5190212>

On 15 November, Youth ministers reached a partial political agreement on a decision establishing the programme Youth in action 2007.

With regard to the two remaining outstanding issues, it was decided to uphold the Commission text and not to submit project selection to the management procedure; and to reject the proposal to allow a Ministry to act as a national agency. The operational structure of the programme has been simplified. However, continuity with the current programme has been ensured.

Budgetary aspects have been excluded pending the outcome of the discussions on the future Community financial perspectives; it is thus expected that it will be discussed at a later meeting to finalise the budget (budget proposed is € 915 million) and its final breakdown aspects.

Parliament delivered its first reading opinion on 25 October ((*P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0396*).

In addition, Youth ministers adopted a resolution inviting Member States to continue implementing the common objectives agreed under the **Youth Open Method of Coordination** as well as ensuring effective follow-up of the European Pact for Youth when implementing the Lisbon Strategy. They called on Member States and the Commission to evaluate the framework for European cooperation in the youth field in 2009.

Moreover, the Council held an exchange of views on **bringing Europe closer to its young citizens**. Delegations considered that action should be taken to involve youth more intensively in the decisions that affect them besides the programmes already running in Europe.

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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.

## 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.