



October 2005

# EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

## Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

### Highlights:

- § New Recommendation on management of online rights in musical works, p.1
- § EBLIDA PEG meeting in Zagreb, p. 2
- § Lifelong learning, Erasmus monthly grant should be increased, p. 8

### New Recommendation on management of online rights in musical works

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal\\_market/copyright/management/management\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/copyright/management/management_en.htm)

New Internet-based services e.g. web casting, on-demand music downloads need a license that covers their activities throughout the EU. The absence of EU-wide copyright licenses has been one factor that has made it difficult for new Internet-based music services to develop their full potential. The European Commission has therefore adopted a Recommendation on the management of online rights in musical works, which puts forward measures for improving the EU-wide licensing of copyright for online services.

holders the choice to appoint a collective rights manager for the online use of their musical works across the entire EU (EU-wide direct licensing). Stakeholders were consulted on the three options last July. After consultation, the Commission recommends that right holders and commercial users of copyright-protected material should be given a choice as to their preferred model of licensing.

Three options have been considered: do nothing; improve cooperation among collecting societies allowing each society in the EU to grant a EU-wide license covering the other societies' repertoires; or give right

It also includes provisions on governance, transparency, dispute settlement and accountability of collective rights managers, which should introduce a culture of transparency and good governance. For further information read *IP/05/1261* and *MEMO/05/369* at <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/>.

## Culture

### UNESCO General Conference adopts Convention on Cultural Diversity

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/portal/action/diversity/unesco\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/portal/action/diversity/unesco_en.htm)

On 20 October, the UNESCO General Conference, held in Paris from 3 to 21 October, adopted with 148 votes for, two against, and four abstentions, the Preliminary Draft Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions.

The Convention, which was negotiated jointly by the European Commission, on behalf of the Community, and the Council Presidency, on behalf of the Member States, is an international normative instrument that will enter into force three months after its ratification by 30 States. It enshrines a consensus on a variety of guiding principles and concepts related to cultural diversity, forming the basis of a new pillar of world governance in cultural matters.

The next step is to implement the Convention. As regards ratification by the Community - which may become a contracting party, according to the text - the Commission envisages the adoption of a proposal for a Council decision as of this autumn.

The text of the Convention is available at [http://www.unesco.org/culture/culturaldiversity/convention\\_en.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/culture/culturaldiversity/convention_en.pdf).

Moreover, the Francophone Festival of International Film put in place the Declaration of Namur (*29 September 2005*) in support of the Convention, which can be signed online at [http://www.fiff.be/xml/ON\\_fiche-IDC--IDD-4580-.html](http://www.fiff.be/xml/ON_fiche-IDC--IDD-4580-.html).

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## Lobbying for archives and libraries

### EBLIDA PEG meeting in Zagreb

The EBLIDA Working Group on Professional Education held its third meeting in Zagreb (Croatia) last 14<sup>th</sup> October.

The in-depth useful discussions were focused on the core matters of this working group, e.g. the [Directive for the recognition of professional qualifications](#) [[http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal\\_market/qualifications/future\\_en.htm#20050907](http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/qualifications/future_en.htm#20050907)] and the European professional platforms, the EC Working Document “[Towards a European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning](#)” [[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/consultation\\_eqf\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/consultation_eqf_en.pdf)], the European Higher Education Area [[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/educ/higher/higher\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/educ/higher/higher_en.html)], the [Bologna process](#) [<http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/>] and the cooperation with [EUCLID](#) [<http://www.jbi.hio.no/bibin/euclid/>] on this regards.

The Archives' perspective was also on the Agenda, as well as the recently launched EC Communication “[i2010: Digital Libraries](#)” (COM (2005)0465)

[[europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/doc/en\\_comm\\_digital\\_libraries.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/doc/en_comm_digital_libraries.pdf)] and [annex \(SEC \(2005\)1194\)](#) [[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/doc/annex1\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/doc/annex1_en.pdf)].

The meeting, held at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, counted with the attendance of a relevant group of representatives from the Croatian Library Association, the National Library, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Sciences and Sport, as well as the participation of students of the Faculty of Librarianship in Zagreb, who exchanged their impressions and commented the national professional situation for librarians and archivists with the members of the EBLIDA PEG.

An article about this EBLIDA event was published in the Croatian newspaper “Vjesnik” [see below].

EBLIDA wishes to acknowledge and thank once more Prof. Aleksandra Horvat and her colleagues for their warm welcome and support, and for the excellent organisation of this rewarding EBLIDA meeting!

Petak, 14. listopada 2005. VJESNIK 65

KULTURA

Europski skup o školovanju knjižničara

ZAGREB – Na Filozofskom fakultetu u Zagrebu u petak, 14. listopada, održat će se sastanak EBLIDA-ine skupine za stručno školovanje. EBLIDA je krovna udruga knjižničarskih, informacijskih i dokumentalističkih društava u zemljama Europske unije, a cilj joj je da u Europskom parlamentu, Europskoj komisiji i drugim tijelima Unije zagovara interese knjižničarske i drugih informacijskih struka.

Kako saznajemo od doc. dr. Danijele Živković, iako Hrvatska nije članica EU, Hrvatsko knjižničarsko društvo pridružen je član EBLIDA-e i njegovo je aktivno sudjelovanje u njezini radu i dovelo do izbora Zagreba kao mjesta održavanja sastanka. Na skupu, na kojem će biti riječi o ulazi visokoškolskih knjižnica na kon prihvatanja Bolonjske deklaracije i preustroja europskih sveučilišta te o priznavanju stručnih kvalifikacija stečenih u jednoj zemlji u svim drugim zemljama članicama EU, iz Hrvatske će sudjelovati prof. dr. Aleksandra Horvat. [Ž. M.]

*Priznanja: Nobelova nagrada za književnost za 2005. godinu dodijeljena britanskom piscu Haroldu Pinteru*

# Dramatičar s političkim gnjevom

LADA ŽIGO



Uspješnica ZKM-a: iz predstave »Ana Karenjina«

»Ana Karenjina« na 45. MESS-u u Sarajevu

SARAJEVO – 45. međunarodni teatarski festival MESS počinje u petak, 14. listopada predstavom

## Audiovisual

### Media 2007 Programme

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

*P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0398 of 25 October 2005*

*Co Decision Procedure  
First Reading*

On 25 October, Parliament adopted the report by MEP HIERONYMI (A6-0278/2005) on MEDIA 2007, with amendments; the Commission presented its position (partial agreement) on the same day. The proposed programme is now awaiting Council's opinion.

According to the report, support will be concentrated on professional training and project development, cross-border distribution and publicity for European works.

The proposed appropriations of € 1.055 million (2007-2013) are the minimum needed to achieve the programme's objectives, which will support 27 countries (EU-25,

Bulgaria and Romania) with enormous differences in development. Its budget line will also integrate the i2i Initiative (*European Investment Bank*) and EU participation in the European Audiovisual Observatory.

There is an urgent need for far-reaching simplification of application forms/procedures. A major effort is also needed to facilitate access to funding for SMEs through specialist financial institutes. MEDIA 2007 must make a contribution to the digitisation of the European audiovisual sector and to the development and distribution of audiovisual works. Lastly, MEPs want to see innovative distribution platforms, more European film festivals and the establishment of a Pier Paolo PASOLINI mobility scholarship for young filmmakers.

### Cinematographic heritage and competitiveness of the European film industry

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/ocil/file.jsp?id=241852>

*Co Decision Procedure  
First Reading*

In agreement with Parliament (A6-0101/2005 of 25 April 2005), the Agriculture and Fisheries Council adopted on 24 October a recommendation addressed to the member states on film heritage and the competitiveness of related industrial activities (COM (2004)0171 of 16 March 2004), which aims at improving conditions of conservation, restoration and exploitation of film heritage and at removing obstacles to

the development and competitiveness of the European film industry.

The recommendation covers all aspects of film heritage: collection, cataloguing, creation of databases, preservation, restoration, and use for educational, cultural, research or other non-commercial purposes of similar nature, and cooperation between the bodies responsible at national and European levels.

### Between Culture and Commerce

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/revision-tvwf2005/2005-conference.htm>

A major audiovisual conference entitled 'Between Culture and Commerce' was held in Liverpool, UK on 22 September. Speeches and the final reports of the panels prepared by each Rapporteur are available for downloading at the website above.

The conference aimed at facilitating expert discussion of the revision of the "Television without Frontiers" (TVWF) Directive and at assisting the Commission in developing its proposals for the revision of the Directive, which are expected later this year.

### To Have or not To Have - Must-carry Rules

[http://www.obs.coe.int/about/oea/pr/irisspecial2005\\_2.html](http://www.obs.coe.int/about/oea/pr/irisspecial2005_2.html)

The forthcoming *IRIS Special* publication (*European Audiovisual Observatory*) will be dedicated to must-carry obligations currently applicable in Europe and the US. It is the result of a workshop held in April, which focused on the so-called must-carry obligation by (cable) TV networks to 'carry'

certain programmes judged to be catering for public interests.

Three studies and a detailed summary of the discussions which took place are included in the publication, which will be available from mid-November.

*IRIS Special  
2005 Edition*

## Total production of fiction in the five EU largest countries is on the rise

<http://www.obs.coe.int/about/oea/pr/eurofiction2005.html>

On the occasion of MIPCOM 2005, the *European Audiovisual Observatory* released on 11 October the latest figures on national TV fiction broadcast in the five largest territories in Europe, as elaborated by the EUROFICTION network. According to those figures, production volume grows in Germany, the UK and Italy but declines in France and Spain; contributions by private broadcasters are on the increase and by public broadcasters in decline.

The supply of first-run domestic drama (co-productions included) on the unencrypted

TV channels of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the UK has slightly increased in 2004 with regards to the previous year. And since in 2003 there was a relevant and generalized quantitative fall in the programming of local fiction across Europe, this means that the downward trend of the European TV industry has been halted, if not substantially reversed.

*EUROFICTION* is a research project sponsored by the European Audiovisual Observatory and the Italian public broadcaster RAI.

## Consumer Protection

### European order for payment procedure

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/ocil/file.jsp?id=242002>

During the Justice and Home affairs (JHA) ministers' meeting on 12 October, a large majority of delegations agreed on a uniform method for the production and examination of evidence, in the context of the negotiation of a Regulation creating a European order for payment procedure.

The application form would require claimants to describe the evidence that could be used in support; claimants however would not need to produce the supporting documentary evidence. It should include as exhaustive a list as possible of examples of the types of evidence that are usually produced, although it would be open to the claimant to refer to whatever evidence appears appropriate. The court would

examine it on the basis of the information provided in the form, allowing for automatic processing of claims and reducing the cost of the procedure (translation costs).

Pending Parliament's opinion, the Presidency will work further to reach a political agreement by the end of 2005. It should be noted that the proposed Regulation creating a **European order for payment procedure (COM (2004)0173 of 19 March 2004)**, as discussed during the informal JHA Council last September, would be restricted to matters having cross-border implications; having in mind that Member States that so wish can apply a similar procedure to internal cases.

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*Co Decision Procedure  
First Reading*

### Retention of data

The JHA Council held on 12 October an exchange of views on data retention. A large number of delegations could accept the elements set out as the basis for further work (scope, retention periods, costs and review clause), subject to maintaining the derogation in *Article 15(1) of the 2002 Telecommunications Directive*. However, a majority of delegations were also open to the idea of adopting a Directive. The Council agreed that work should be taken forward urgently and that informal contacts with Parliament should continue to maximise common ground on issues of substance, while respecting the Council's position. It also agreed to have a

final decision before the end of the year.

A proposal on data retention was made in April 2004 by France, Ireland, Sweden and the UK under the so-called 'Third Pillar'. For its adoption, such proposal needs unanimity at the Council; but the Commission considers that the categories of data to be retained and the period for retaining such data fall within the 'First Pillar' and should be adopted by the Council in *co decision* with Parliament. Thus, the Commission adopted on 21 September a proposed Directive on retention of communication data (*COM (2005)0438*).

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*Co Decision Procedure  
First Reading*

## Exchange of law enforcement information amongst Member States

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/oel/file.jsp?id=5275032>

The European Commission adopted on 12 October a proposal for a Framework Decision on exchange of information under the principle of availability, which aims at making certain types of existing law enforcement relevant information available in one Member State also available to authorities with equivalent competences of other Member States or Europol. It will be followed by legal instruments dealing with specific types of information e.g. DNA-profiles, fingerprints, vehicle registration information, telephone numbers and other communication data, and names contained in civil registers.

The Framework Decision applies to information exchange in the phase before a prosecution has started, and does not affect existing mutual legal assistance mechanisms or future European evidence warrant. It intends to oblige Member States to ensure that law enforcement relevant information is

shared with equivalent competent authorities of other Member States and with Europol and to share available information either by online access or by transfer based on an 'information demand'.

Before information exchange on this new basis may begin, Member States will first notify which authorities will be concerned, and the conditions under which they can access information.

This will have an impact on the personal data of many citizens, thereof the proposed Council Framework Decision on the **protection of personal data**, adopted by the Commission on 4 October (see *IP/05/1220 of 4 October 2005*). Both instruments were presented to the JHA Council on 12 October; the negotiations on both proposals should begin without delay so that the Framework Decisions can be adopted by the Council as soon as possible.

## Cooperation with Third Countries

### EU Declaration on Belarus

In a declaration signed on 5 October, the EU expresses its concern for the future of the independent press in Belarus following the harassment of the last remaining independent daily newspaper *Narodnaya Volya*. The EU condemns the crippling fine imposed on the newspaper and the termination of printing and distribution contracts by the state owned monopoly printers and distributors.

The EU regrets that the media space is

increasingly controlled by the government thus further limiting the access of the Belarusian people to free and objective reporting of events in the country. The EU calls on the Government of Belarus to respect its OSCE commitments on *Freedom of Expression, Free Media and Information* and to allow the independent media to operate freely. The EU also calls on the Minister of Information to meet with the EU Heads of Mission in Minsk to discuss the situation of the media in Belarus.

### EU-RUSSIA Summit

The leaders of the EU and Russia met on 4 October in London and focused on the practical implementation of the Road Maps for the Four Common Spaces, as agreed at the previous EU-Russia summit on 10 May 2005.

They took note of progress in the Common Space on Research, Education and Culture, above all the new impetus given to the Science and Technology Agreement. They also briefly discussed the future of EU-

Russia relations after the expiry of the first period of validity of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in 2007.

In the Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice, they welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on visa facilitation/readmission. They also noted the results of the second round of EU-Russia Human Rights consultations held on 8 September, and looked forward to further regular rounds of consultations in the future.

## Cooperation with Third Countries

### Agreements with USA and Canada on cooperation in higher education

The Agriculture and Fisheries Council authorised the Commission on 25 October to negotiate two agreements renewing cooperation programmes with the USA in

higher education and vocational training and with Canada in the field of higher education, training and youth, to cover the period 2006-2013.

## Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

### Commission launches Action Plan to combat counterfeiting and piracy

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/customs/customs\\_controls/counterfeit\\_piracy/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/customs/customs_controls/counterfeit_piracy/index_en.htm)

COM/2005/0479 of 11 October 2005

The Commission presented on 11 October a Communication outlining a package of measures to strengthen protection for the EU and its citizens against counterfeiting and piracy. It focuses on the current legislation and its implementation, on an enhanced partnership with economic operators and on the promotion of cooperation with third countries.

The following actions are proposed: a new business-customs working group to consider whether there is a need to refine EU anti-counterfeit legislation; a new Task Force of Member States' Customs experts to improve anti-counterfeiting controls; the completion of an anti-counterfeiting risk management

guide; and a new electronic system of secure, real-time transmission of information for customs to accede to listings of companies and intellectual property databases.

As regards international cooperation, the Commission, together with Member States, will consider possible amendment to the World Trade Organisation Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement so that countries apply anti-counterfeiting controls not only on imports but also on exports, transit and transshipment movements. This line will also be promoted in the context of cooperation with other international organisations.

Read also *IP/05/1247* and *MEMO/05/364* at <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/>.

### Copyright Law in the Digital Age

[http://www.obs.coe.int/oea\\_publ/copyrightdigitalage/index.html.en](http://www.obs.coe.int/oea_publ/copyrightdigitalage/index.html.en)

*IRIS Focus, Copyright Law in the Digital Age (ISBN 92-871-4496-6)*, contains four contributions dealing with different aspects of the impact of new digital recording and broadcasting techniques on the legal protection of copyright and related rights: copyright/related rights in the **audiovisual sector**; the electronic rights war; **who owns electronic rights?**; **MP3: Fair or unfair Use?**

Furthermore, the *IRIS plus*, a supplement to IRIS, Legal Observations of the *European Audiovisual Observatory*, deals with DRM from the consumer's perspective in an effort to enhance people's understanding of this aspect of Digital Rights Management (see [http://www.obs.coe.int/oea\\_publ/iris/iris\\_plus/iplus8\\_2005.pdf.en](http://www.obs.coe.int/oea_publ/iris/iris_plus/iplus8_2005.pdf.en), August 2005).

A **patent** grants a property right to an inventor that will prevent anyone else from making any use of his invention. It lasts for a limited amount of time, usually 20 years. Since it is deemed to be "property", it can be bought, sold or licensed by the owner - something which is not possible with copyright.

**Copyright** protects original works based on ideas or concepts, such as novels, music, audio recordings, photography, software, video and cinema by preventing people from copying or commercially exploiting them without permission of the owner. The copyright on computer software lasts for 70 years after the death of the author.

## Culture

### Culture 2007, call to increase budget

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

*P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0397 of 25 October 2005*

On 25 October, Parliament adopted with amendments, by 553 votes in favour to 61 against with 29 abstentions, the report by Rapporteur MEP GRAÇA MOURA (*A6-0269/2005 of 12 September 2005*) on the Culture 2007 programme, calling for EU funding to be increased from €600 million rather than the €408 million suggested by the Commission for 2007-2013. It is to say that appropriations indicated in the Commission proposal beyond the year 2006 are subject to the decisions to be taken on the next multi-annual financial framework. Moreover, it proposed a new budget breakdown between the individual actions making up the programme and cut down to 6% the 8% figure proposed by the Commission to be used for administration.

The introduction of a programme objective around cultural heritage was narrowly rejected; a separate support strand for the non-audiovisual cultural industries e.g. publishers and music companies, was not created. Alongside the objectives set out by the Commission (trans-national mobility of

cultural players, trans-national circulation of art and intercultural dialogue), the report emphasises the importance of support for “cultural heritage of European significance” e.g. architecture, the plastic arts, music, literature and the performing arts. The funding for “sites of memory” will be moved from Culture 2007 to the forthcoming Citizens for Europe programme.

The possibility for third country participation in the programme was however not extended beyond the Commission proposal. Other amendments focus on simplifying the selection criteria and rules governing grants to foster participation by SMEs; each multi-annual cooperation network eligible for funding should consist of at least six operators from four countries (instead of six as originally proposed) participating in the programme. And for shorter projects three operators from three countries are enough. Lastly, the name of the programme has been changed from Culture 2007 to Culture.

The proposed programme is now awaiting Council's opinion.

### 2008 to be “European Year of Intercultural Dialogue”

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/portal/events/current/dialogue2008\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/portal/events/current/dialogue2008_en.htm)

The Commission adopted on 5 October a proposal for a Decision to declare 2008 “European Year of Intercultural Dialogue”, put forward initially by Commissioner FIGEL during his hearing before Parliament in September 2004. The full text of the proposal and annex (*COM (2005)0467 and SEC (2005)1202 of 5 October 2005*) can be found at

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/portal/events/pdf/proposal\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/portal/events/pdf/proposal_en.pdf).

With an overall budget of € 10 million, the Commission proposes funding for three Actions, which are to define the European Year (*Budget line 15.04.02.04*). It will draw on the wealth and diversity of a series of specific projects to be implemented during 2008 through programmes and other Community actions. **Culture, education, youth, sport and citizenship** will be the main areas

concerned.

The preparation for the Year will be closely coordinated with the preparations for and implementation of the **European Year of Equal Opportunities for All** in 2007 to maximise synergies between these two initiatives.

The first Action (*Community scale actions*) will involve an information campaign promoting the objectives of the European Year; the second will offer Community wide grants for a limited number of emblematic activities aimed at raising awareness. The third Action would be for national projects that have a strong European dimension.

The proposal will be examined by Parliament and Council for adoption (*co decision procedure*) by the end of 2006.

*Co Decision Procedure  
First Reading*

## Culture

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### The HEREIN Thesaurus

<http://www.european-heritage.net/sdx/herein/thesaurus/introduction.xsp>

The multilingual thesaurus attached to the HEREIN project intends to offer a terminological standard for national policies dealing with architectural and archaeological heritage, as defined in the Convention of Granada (October 1985) and Valletta (January 1992). At first, it will be conceived in English, Spanish and French; it will subsequently be possible to extend the thesaurus to other languages.

The multilingual thesaurus gives access, with one concept, to different national experiences or policies whose specific

designation, administrative structure, and development provide a view over the wide-ranging extent of European cultural diversity.

Besides which, the thesaurus offers the user a terminological tool which allows them to have a better understanding of all the concepts they come across when reading the reports; thanks to the hierarchical and associative interplay of terms, the users can complete or extend their knowledge of the subject.

### Measures to stop the fall in the number of visitors to museums in the EU

*H-0839/05*

According to the latest data, the number of visitors to museums fell significantly last year. There were in total 500 million fewer visitors to the 30 000 public and private museums in Europe compared with previous years. Furthermore, Euro barometer data on the cultural activities of Europeans show museum visits to be among the lowest ranked categories, with respondents' answers being close to 'almost never'.

The UK Presidency has included among its priorities in the cultural sector the promotion of initiatives to make it easier for museums to organise exhibitions through exchanges of cultural artefacts. On this

basis, MEP KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU asked the Council in October whether it intends to present specific proposals along these lines to Culture ministers at their meeting on 14-15 November. Moreover, he invited the Council to ask the Commission to carry out a study on the number of visitors to European museums, using qualitative and quantitative indicators, to tackle those factors which dissuade Europeans from visiting them.

Lastly, he asked the Council whether it will take practical measures to promote wide-ranging consultation with the Member States and competent bodies, and draw up guidelines for the EU-25 to attract the public to European museums.

### EU Capitals of Culture should focus on EU dimension

The directors of the 2005 and 2006 capitals of culture, Cork and Patras respectively, discussed the programme with the CULT committee on 5 October. Austrian social democrat MEP Prets who will report on the Commission's proposal on the future of the culture capital programme, said "the focus on the EU dimension should be stressed with less focus on the regional dimension."

Being named a European Capital of Culture gives cities a chance to shine and to attract

artists and visitors from across the EU, as well as having long-term benefits in attracting jobs and people. But the focus must be on the European dimension, and what Europe can learn from the city, MEPs say.

Talking about 2006, Giorgios Panagiotopoulos, Communications Director and spokesman for the project, said Patras aims to cover "every aspect of European cultural heritage."

## Education

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### Lifelong learning, Erasmus monthly grant should be increased

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

*P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0395 of 25 October*

On 25 October, Parliament adopted with amendments, by 549 votes in favour to 47 against with 23 abstentions, the report by MEP PACK (*A6-0267/2005 of 19 September 2005*) on lifelong learning, amending the Commission's proposal at first reading. Parliament backed the Rapporteur's call for an additional €980 million for the whole package over and above the multi-annual budget of €13.62 billion proposed by the Commission.

For Erasmus, Leonardo, COMENIUS and other sub-programmes that make up the EU Lifelong learning programme for 2007-2013, Parliament follows the suggestions of Rapporteur MEP PACK (*A6-0267/2005 of 19 September 2005*), who describes the Commission's proposal as "well-designed" while nevertheless calling for more money to cover proposed improvements. For

**Erasmus** (student mobility), the committee proposes to increase the monthly standard grant from €210 (2007) to €300 (2013), topping the Commission's figures of €200 and €250. It also agrees to cut back slightly the share of the budget for **Leonardo da Vinci** (vocational training). It also wants to increase the participation of pupils and teachers in **COMENIUS** (schools) and to create a new programme (COMENIUS-REGIO) to promote cross-border teacher mobility, especially between adjacent regions.

Other amendments focus on simplifying application and grant award procedures, the teaching/learning of official, regional and minority languages as well as two foreign languages, higher grants for disabled participants and support for sign languages and Braille.

The proposed programme is now awaiting Council's opinion.

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*Co Decision Procedure  
First Reading*

### European Register of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agencies

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/oeil/file.jsp?id=5207052>

*P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0380 of 13 October 2005*

Parliament adopted on 13 October the resolution drafted by MEP Novak (*A6-0261/2005 of 30 August 2005*), with a package of 18 compromise amendments that had been adopted by the CULT Committee. Four recommendations were made:

Member States must encourage all higher education institutions to introduce rigorous internal quality assurance mechanisms, in accordance with the Bologna process.

Instead of being required, as proposed by the Commission, quality assurance or accreditation agencies should be encouraged by Member States to be independent in their assessments.

Parliament replaced "European Register of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agencies" by "European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies". Member States must

encourage representatives of national authorities, the higher education sector and quality assurance and accreditation agencies, together with social partners, to set up a European Register based on national review.

The requirement on Member States to accept the assessments by all registered agencies as a basis for decisions on licensing or funding was deleted.

Member States are to allow higher education institutions to work towards a complementary assessment by another agency in the European register; they should promote cooperation between agencies and ensure public access to the assessments made by the quality assurance or accreditation agencies listed in the European register.

The proposed recommendation is now awaiting Council's opinion.

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*Co Decision Procedure  
First Reading*

## EU Information Policy

European Commission launches PLAN D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate  
[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005\\_0494en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0494en01.pdf)

COM/2005/0494 of 13 October 2005

The Commission launched on 13 October its 'Plan D - Democracy, Dialogue, Debate' laying the foundations for the debate in the next few months about Europe's future. The Plan D puts in place a framework, through national governments, for a 25 country debate on Europe's future, which aims at building a new political consensus about the right policies to equip Europe to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The Commission is proposing 13 specific initiatives at European level to stimulate a wider public debate, to promote citizens'

participation and to generate a real dialogue on European policies. Key elements of Plan D include: stimulating debate, the feedback process and key initiatives to strengthen dialogue.

All Member States have committed to undertake broad ranging national debates on the Future of Europe. The Commission will structure the feedback process; the first should take place in April 2006. A European Conference on the future of Europe will be organised on 9 May 2006 and then, the Commission will prepare a synthesis report for the June Summit under the Austrian Presidency.

## EU Research and Development

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

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

On 11 October, Competitiveness ministers held a debate on the sections dealing with **Ideas** and **Capacities** of the Commission proposal for FP7 (2007-2013). The other two parts of the proposal, **Cooperation** (collaborative research) and **People** (human resources) were examined in-depth by the Council last June.

The Presidency intends to draw up a revised draft text covering the whole Framework Programme proposal as a basis for future work to allow the Council to reach a partial general approach (a way of fixing Council discussions on non-budgetary elements which are linked to the pending negotiation on the financial perspectives for 2007-2013) at its session on 28 and 29 November.

The Commission envisage that the bulk of the FP7 funds would continue to go to collaborative, applied research as under FP6 but several new elements have been added. The main new actions proposed are funding for basic research through a European Research Council run by eminent scientists; support for large-scale public/private partnerships to take forward industrial projects; and funding for new research infrastructures.

FP7 proposals are to be considered in parallel with the proposal concerning the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP); detailed modalities for the implementation of the FP7 are set out in the Specific Programmes adopted by the Commission on 21 September 2005. Both the Framework Programme and the Specific Programmes have to be adopted within the Council by qualified majority; the Council will further debate it at its meeting on 28 November.

Furthermore, the JHA Council adopted on 12 October a directive on a specific procedure for **admitting third-country nationals for purposes of scientific research** and a recommendation addressed to Member States to facilitate the admission of third-country nationals to carry out scientific research in the EU. A further recommendation aimed at facilitating the issuing of visas was already adopted in September.

Member States have to transpose the Directive by October 2007, whereas both Recommendations apply immediately upon adoption.

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## Information Society

### **i2010, A European information Society for growth and employment**

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/europe/i2010/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/i2010/index_en.htm)

H-0881/05

The i2010 Strategy has a central role to play in attaining the Lisbon Objectives of employment and growth. The Strategy aims at ensuring that an operating environment is created in Europe which enables the ICT markets to flourish at the same time as guaranteeing that the interests of society and of citizens are satisfied. These objectives can be achieved only if adequate resources are allocated to them.

MEP PAASILINNA asked the Council in October how it will encourage the Member States to undertake concrete measures to

attain the Lisbon Objectives and above all to meet the targets for investment in research and product development set in the i2010 Strategy for ICT and what political support the Council will give to the i2010 Initiative.

Moreover, he asked the Council how it will take Parliament's view into account and how it will advocate the attainment of the i2010 objectives when adopting decisions on financial frameworks.

It is worth mentioning that the Digital Libraries Initiative (*COM/2005/0465 of 30 September 2005*) is part of i2010 (*COM (2005)0229 and SEC (2005)0717 of 1 June*).

### **e-Government 2004, Internet based interaction with European businesses and citizens**

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/>

In the EU-25, 45% of individuals aged from 16 to 74 who used the Internet and 51% of enterprises with Internet access obtained information from public authorities' websites during the first quarter of 2004. This information comes from a report released by Eurostat (*Statistics in Focus, Industry, Trade & Services, 35/2005*), which presents the results of surveys on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for interaction with governmental bodies (e-Government) in the EU-25, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Norway and Iceland.

The report also includes an analysis of the availability of public services online and covers the provision of e-Government services by public authorities. Based on this

analysis, services to citizens were most developed in the UK, Sweden and Austria and those to enterprises in Denmark and Estonia.

In the first quarter of 2004, among those individuals who used the Internet, the highest levels of access were recorded in Finland (62%), Denmark (56%), Luxembourg (55%), Spain and Hungary (both 54%) and Germany (51%). For downloading forms, the highest levels were observed in Luxembourg (44%) and Spain (29%), compared with an EU-25 average of 20%. For submitting completed forms, the highest levels were recorded in Luxembourg (32%), Estonia and Portugal (both 26%), compared with an average of 12%.

### **eEurope, extension of the MODINIS programme in 2006**

The Commission presented a draft Decision in July (*COM (2005)0347 of 29 July 2005*) to extend the MODINIS programme until 31 December 2006, and to adjust the overall budget.

The multi-annual Community programme MODINIS was adopted on 17 November 2003 for two years, with a budget of € 21 million subsequently increased to € 22.4 million to take EU enlargement into account.

MODINIS provides financial support for the monitoring of the information society in Europe and dissemination of good practice. Its extension will be of 12 months, with a budget of € 7.72 million. A specific work programme will be published containing the year's priorities and actions.

The ITRE Committee adopted the report by MEP Chichester (*A6-0302/2005*) on 17 October 2005; Parliament's vote at plenary is scheduled for 15 November 2005.

## Internet

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### **.EU domain registration to begin from 7 December 2005**

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

On 5 October, EURID, the independent organisation selected by the Commission to operate the new registry for .EU (<http://www.eurid.eu>), announced that its first phase of registrations for the new Top Level web Domain .EU will begin on 7 December this year. This marks the start of a 4-month "sunrise" period during which only the holders of existing trademarks or other prior rights may register. Registrations for .EU will be fully open to the public from the

beginning of April 2006.

Please note that there is no legal basis for pre-registration or reservation of .EU domain names. All enquires on how to register and on the applicable rules should be addressed to EURID. Those interested in a .EU domain name are advised to get in touch with an accredited registrar. EURID maintains a growing list of companies that are entitled to offer .EU domain names.

## Telecommunications

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### **European electronic communications regulation and markets 2004**

*COM (2004)0759 of 2 December 2004*

The ITRE committee adopted on 14 October the report by *MEP TOIA (A6-0305/2005)* on electronic communications' market developments and the main persisting regulatory issues. It is based on more detailed analysis and market data set out in a Commission services' working document adopted in parallel, and covers for the first time all EU-25.

The provision of a minimum set of services to all end-users at an affordable price and specified quality is a key principle of the regulatory framework. Member States are required to ensure that no undertaking or category of undertaking is precluded *a priori*

from providing **universal service**. The Commission is examining closely concerns that in some Member States the universal service provider may be designated without regard to this principle, or without the necessary transparency.

As regards **unsolicited commercial communications**, the Commission notes that, while the opt-in rules in the e-Privacy Directive have in general been transposed, there is a tendency to move also towards voluntary codes to protect users. This development is welcomed.

The draft report is now awaiting vote in plenary, scheduled for 30 November.

### **e-Communications, Commission takes action against nine Member States**

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

The European Commission sent on 13 October letters of formal notice to **Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Poland** for so far failing to notify it of e-communications market reviews required by the EU regulatory framework for e-communications. They now have two months to respond to the Commission's concerns.

Further infringement proceedings have been opened against **Estonia** for legal deficiencies

regarding definition of markets and transitional regime; and against **Cyprus and Slovenia**, where the independence of the national telecom regulator is not yet in line with EU law requirements. For a continued lack of number portability, infringement proceedings against **Malta** have been moved to the second stage (reasoned opinion).

The e-communications framework has now been in force for over two years in the EU-15, and 17 months in the EU-10.

## Trade Policy

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### New offer in Doha World Trade talks calls for movement on services

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/newround/doha\\_da/pr281005\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/newround/doha_da/pr281005_en.htm)

On 28 October, the EU tabled new proposals that must unlock immediate progress in **services**. The cuts offered are within the European Commission's mandate. Hong Kong must achieve modalities and targets in the services sector that will result in new or substantially improved market access. This will require agreement on a quantitative target (139 of the 163 services sub-sectors) applicable to the offers of all WTO Members, except LDCs and other small and vulnerable developing countries (93 sub-sectors) in a similar situation.

Specific qualitative parameters that will strike a balance in terms of ambition between the 4 modes of supply are also required as well as the launch of Sectoral negotiations in key sectors e.g. computer/related services, certain sub-sectors of professional and business services plus telecommunications.

Participation of developed WTO Members in these Sectoral negotiations for at least 12 of the 16 sectors identified; and of developing WTO Members in at least 8 Sectoral negotiations out of the 16 sectors.

### VAT, Council Directive to simplify value added tax obligations

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2004/com2004\\_0728en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2004/com2004_0728en01.pdf)

COM (2004)0728 of 29 October 2004

The proposed directive on arrangements for the refund to **taxable persons established in another Member State** (*direct. 77/388/EEC*) aims at laying down the rules for the reimbursement of VAT of those who are not registered for VAT within the Member State in question but who are registered elsewhere in the Union. The Commission has proposed an alternative way of modernising the current refund procedure but without changing its fundamental principles. Under the proposed directive, requests for refunds would continue to be dealt with by the Member State where the VAT was paid, the amount refundable would be determined under the deduction rules of

the Member State where the expenses are incurred, and the repayments made directly by that Member State to the requesting taxable person.

Along with two other legislative proposals under examination (see *P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0333 on exchange of information by electronic means*) and *P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0332 on one-stop scheme of 7 September 2005*), the purpose of this draft Directive is to simplify obligations relating to VAT for cross-border operators providing goods and services in other EU Member States.

The report is scheduled for adoption in committee on 14 November; vote in plenary is foreseen on 30 November.

## Youth Policy

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### Youth Action Programme for 2007-2013, increase in budget

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/ocil/file.jsp?id=5190212>

*P6\_TA-PROV (2005)0396 of 25 October 2005*

On 25 October, Parliament adopted with amendments, by 547 votes in favour to 76 against with 12 abstentions, the report by MEP GRÖNER ((*A6-0263/2005 of 29 September 2005*)) on Youth, amending the proposal at first reading. Instead of the €915 million budget proposed by the Commission, the CULT committee proposed €1.128 billion.

MEPs backed the Rapporteur's repeated calls for young people with disabilities to be included on equal terms and asked for the European Youth Week to become an established part of EU youth policy. The report describes the new programme as "significantly simplified and more flexible".

The proposed programme is now awaiting Council's opinion.

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*Co Decision Procedure  
First Reading*

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

We're on the Web!  
Visit [www.eblida.org](http://www.eblida.org)

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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.