

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional News monthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • Nov. 2001/No 25

A warm farewell to CR General Secretary Boris Bergant upon the completion of his tenure

Thank you, Boris

Dear Boris,

It was the end of November 1994 during the CIRCOM Regional Executive Committee and European Board meetings at the European Parliament in Strasbourg when with the support of all our members you succeeded our friend Peter ZIMMERMANN as General Secretary and -with the numbers of CR members constantly rising from the original 4 in 1983 to nearly 380 today-, a new position as Deputy Secretary General was created and entrusted to me.

With you, under the presidency of the Norwegian Harald BOE (NRK Oslo 94-96), the Swiss Carlo RANZI (TSI Lugano 96-99), the German Reimar ALLERDT (BR Munich 2000), and currently the Greek Lefty KONGALIDES, we have worked in an intercultural, East-West partnership to create an efficient link between Ljubljana and Strasbourg, and also a man - woman outlook, sharing a common passion: **Audiovisual and Europe**.

Combining the talents, experiences and wise advice of all the CR members, we learned, as the days went by, to better know each other and especially to promote CIRCOM Regional, our International Cooperative for Research in Communication, the unique international audiovisual network of 376 public regional TV stations in Europe. Always in complementarity, I was in charge of the development of the relations with the European and Territorial Institutions with financial assistance for training seminars and the CR Prix, to communicate and promote CR, to participate and represent CR at audiovisual conferences and seminars, to strengthen the relations between our members, encouraging programme exchanges and coproductions with the support of the management of France 3 and France 3 Alsace. Together we carried on the mission that was entrusted to us with: **in Strasbourg** : → the Registration of our Association at the Court benefiting from the local Code of Law → the realisation of the CR logo, CR credits, CR trophy, CR newsletter, CR booklet and presentation film : the latter three being all bilingual in English and French. → the launching with **the European Commission** of : an **hour** weekly of CR's best European programmes and coproductions (repeats twice a week) broadcast on EbS, Europe by Satellite thanks to Niels THOGERSEN, Nicole CAUCHIE and Diederick BANGERT, presented together from the France 3 Alsace studio with Jürgen HASSEL, Prix CR President (89-99) and as of 2000 by David LOWEN. After this successful experience, the



By
Marie-Paule Urban,
Deputy
Secretary General,
on behalf
of every
CR member

coordination was taken over by the CR coproduction office in Munich. -a new Prix Category: **crossborder**, imagined with Jean-Pierre BERG, DG XVI, -a documentary collection (7 x 26') "**Man and the Forest**" with U.S.S.E.-Union of the Foresters of South Europe, -a prefeasibility study of an innovative, multicultural and multilingual channel "**EURO TV Regio**". **the Council of Europe**: of their campaign against racism, intolerance, anti-semitism and xenophobia "**all different, all equal**" and the support of the Human Rights Direction - Media Division, Christophe POIREL and Mario OETHEIMER. **the European Parliament** and more particularly the support of Jean-Charles PIERRON and Kirsten TINGSTED-ANDERSEN from the Audiovisual Division for : - technical support for CR members - videos on European subjects, - the new Prix CR category : **Current Affairs**, - the European Training Seminar on Newsroom Management taking place in Strasbourg, and to mark the turn of the century : - the coordination of the coproduction Radio Canada - CIRTEF of the series of 50 portraits- - documentaries of 26' "**50. et un monde**" with the French-speaking network of the Central and Eastern European Countries - CR members - elaboration of the historical **CIRCOM Regional** exhibition from its origin in 1983 to date - a new European training seminar **on newsroom management** organised by the CR DSG with France 3 Formation at France 3 Alsace in Strasbourg during the November session of the European Parliament in 2000 and 2001. You, Boris in **Ljubljana**, as a pioneer since 1995 → linked CR on the world's greatest on-line network with general information, video library, coproductions, programmes, newsletter. → realised a CR CD-ROM and had our bilingual presentation booklet printed → structured our Association according to its needs, namely with the new Independent States → participated and represented CR at the E.B.U. where you also act as Vice-President → took care of the multiple daily tasks of a General Secretary: finances - management -

meetings - conventions. Born diplomat, always positive and consensual, you inspired our group with a new dynamic. With you and thanks to you, we have:- developed the cooperation between our Eastern and Western members, - strengthened vocational training with a policy of active support to the Countries of Eastern and Central Europe, thus pursuing our mission of East-West cooperation, created the BoG - Board of Governors, coordinated by Rick THOMPSON, and successively chaired by Bob JARRETT, Gerry REYNOLDS, RTE - Cork, Ireland then by Roel DIJKHIS, RTV Noord - Groningen, The Netherlands - encouraged "**Euromusica**", annual televised festival of regional music and songs organised by CR and coordinated by John FORSSBLAD, SVT Karlstad, Sweden (1987-2000), and as of 2001 by Eszter FARKAS, MTV Budapest, Hungary - participated in the oldest CR cross-border coproduction "**Alpes- Danube-Adria**" in 1983, broadcast by 17 stations from Austria, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungaria - organised the 1st Ethnic Festival, -coordinated several European programmes: Women in Europe, "ISPO" about new technology, "Minorities in Europe", "Science in Europe" and many others. This is the reason why, at the turn of this **European Year of Languages 2001**, we all - Executive Committee, European Board and all the CR members-, as well as your closest colleagues - female colleagues should I say- as you always knew how to best surround yourself - Karmen, Katarina, Mariana, Marko, Stasa, Tina without forgetting your wife Verena, want to say to you in our various languages and dialects for the tremendous amount of work you accomplished: **A GREAT AND WARM THANK YOU**. While awaiting the elaboration with you of the **Year of the Regions in Europe**, we will together with Marija NEMCIC, our new Secretary General and Lefty as Captain, pursue our task in the same spirit and maintain the cape you marked out. More than ever in these troubled times - at a time of world competition and of regional digital televisions- we will continue to build all together with our richness and diversity of languages and cultures- a European audiovisual space, respectful of our national and regional cultural specificities and of essential values of Human Rights, in a democratic spirit, tolerant, pluralistic, in one word: **HUMANIST!**

Marie-Paule URBAN

CIRCOM Regional Deputy Secretary General

Journalists' continual exposure to trauma has an effect on them

From traffic accidents to child abuse cases, airline crashes to civil wars, there's nothing like a career in journalism for exposure to the worst the world has to offer

But reporters are traditionally loathe to admit that all this bad news might get to them, and the culture of journalism is quick to dismiss those who crumble under the pressure.

But bravado aside, continual exposure to trauma has an effect on anybody – journalists included. A new international organisation, Newscoverage Unlimited, has set out to draw attention to the vulnerability of journalists to mental health problems, to build up mutual support systems for them, assist them in seeking professional help, and encourage news management to understand and address the issues involved.

The organisation was founded by New York Times reporter.

Hungary tells Bertelsmann to give up medium

Bertelsmann, the German media group, must give up control of either the Hungary-based RTL Klub television channel or Nepszabadsag, the country's best-selling broadsheet, Hungary's national radio and television regulator (ORTT) said yesterday, Reuters reports from Budapest.

The ORTT said Bertelsmann's control of both media was in breach of Hungarian media law and must end within 180 days. Bertelsmann bought a majority stake in RTL, Europe's leading commercial TV broadcaster, which owns Hungary's RTL Klub, earlier this year.

The ORTT quoted Hungary's media law as saying the controlling owner, publisher or founder of a national newspaper may not control a national TV channel. Bertelsmann said the company was aware of the situation and would be working to find a solution acceptable to local authorities.

Robert Frank, who became interested after seeing the effects on journalists of 1998's Swissair crash off the coast of Canada.

"I simply had not expected to see signs of traumatic stress among the news people who covered the tragedy", he says.

"The families of the victims certainly. The recovery workers of course. But it had never occurred to me that simply reporting on a grisly story could produce these effects in reporters, photographers, editors."

CNN to launch Arabic language news site

CNN International Networks is launching an Arabic-language Web site, based in Dubai, in an effort to expand its reach among the 3.5 million Arabic-speaking Internet users in the Middle East.

The number of people who speak Arabic worldwide is more than 200 million. The new Web site, CNNArabic.com, is slated to be operational by the end of the year, and will also serve as a newsgathering bureau for CNN broadcasts, says Chris Cramer, president of CNN International Networks.

"If we're going to blast business forward we need to get more into local languages," says Mr Cramer. "I see this as the biggest language venture overseas since the brand began." Future plans call for a Hebrew-language Web site, as well as indigenous-language Web sites in India, probably initially in Hindi.

Microsoft waiting for UPC green light

Microsoft said it was ready to launch its interactive television software platform in Amsterdam pending the green light from cable operator UPC.

"Soon we'll hear more from (UPC) on what their deployment plans are. We're ready to go, as soon as they are," Microsoft TV's Director of Marketing, Ed Graczyk, said in an interview.

UPC said earlier this month it would roll out its interactive digital television services in five European countries in September, using two different technology platforms.

One will be a set top box from Philips with software from Microsoft, the other a box from Motorola with software from Liberate Technologies.

Discovery to relaunch 'Mastermind' show

Discovery networks Europe has unveiled its schedule for the Autumn/Winter season, which includes the revival of BBC quiz show "Mastermind".

The BBC cancelled the show about five years ago, after almost 20 years on the air.

Now, Discovery will launch the "new" programme with an interactive feature, allowing Sky Digital viewers to play along with the general knowledge rounds of the quiz.

Previously, Discovery employed interactive applications on its Discovery, Today magazine show and about thirteen other documentary features.

The channel intends to deploy further interactive enhanced programming, including a sequence of "Walking with Dinosaurs", a coproduction of Discovery with the BBC.

Nordic public broadcasters open joint office in Brussels

Headed by Olle Mannberg

Growing audience
for media online

Brussels/Geneva The public service broadcasters of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have opened a joint office in Brussels to represent their interests before the European institutions.

Headed by Olle Mannberg of SVT (Sweden), the Office of the Nordic Public Service Broadcasters forms part of the European Broadcasting House established in 1997 by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) only yards from the European Parliament.

The premises are already home to offices of the BBC (UK), France Télévision, RAI (Italy), RTVE (Spain), ZDF (Germany) and the EBU itself, which runs Eurovision and other services for its members from headquarters in Geneva.

The Nordic office was inaugurated with a reception attended by the directors general of SR, SVT and UR (Sweden), DR (Denmark), NRK (Norway), YLE (Finland), representatives from RUV (Iceland) and by numerous officials including Erkki Liikanen, European Commissioner for the Information Society.

In an inaugural speech, Christian Nissen, director general of DR, compared the arrival of the Nordic broadcasters with that of the Vikings more than 1,000 years ago. "But we are not here to trade fish, wool and mutton for silver, wine and women," he said. They were in Brussels in the interests of information and European cooperation.

"We have set up the office to learn more about the European scene in broadcasting, telecommunications, the media and information technology, but also to inform the European institutions, their parliamentarians and staff about the Nordic model of public service broadcasting," Nissen said.

The seven Nordic broadcasters already cooperate heavily among themselves in the production, technical and policy fields.

The EBU's 70 core members include the national public service broadcasters of every European country. EBU activities include operation of the Eurovision and Euroradio networks, the exchange of news, sport and cultural programming, the Eurovision Song Contest, technical research, training, legal advice and defence of public service values.

Statistics show that as more Americans turn to the Web for news, they are increasingly spending more time at the sites of large, high-profile offline media organisations.

Jupiter Media Metrix found demand for online news and information sites was up 14.7 percent from July 2000, while overall Web traffic growth rose 12.3 percent over the past year.

The average amount of time spent on news sites has also increased since last July: NYTimes.com users; 8.2 minutes, up from 6.8 minutes; WashingtonPost.com users; 7.7 minutes, up from 6.4 minutes; MSNBC.com users; 6.1 minutes, up from 4.8 minutes.

And while so far it does not appear that news Web sites are taking audience away from print and broadcast outlets, it does look like large, national sites are making it harder for smaller, regional news sites.

"Extraneous sites or weak local sites or television sites where there's a lessening of investment are weeding themselves out," said Merrill Brown, editor of MSNBC.com.

Videophones give
reporters an edge

For the past months, a crisis was brought viscerally close to home, boosted by the media's use of satellite communications technology that allows reporters to send back video reports from places where satellite camera trucks and ordinary camera crews could not go.

CNN uses a satellite videophone created specifically for such purposes by British company 7E Communications. The size of laptop computers, the machines have allowed the cable news network to transmit footage from areas unreachable by competitors using more traditional means. The device weighs about 10 pounds and can be operated by a single reporter.

Reporters using the units can power them with an ordinary camera battery, or a car battery. A high-quality camcorder or video camera is used to capture the video images, which the videophone then relays via satellite to a remote station.

Plan to watch Italy chief's news media

Here is the long-awaited plan for how Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi will deal with the inherent conflicts of interest that result from owning a number of the news media outlets that cover him and the other companies with business before his government: Parliamentary leaders from his own coalition will appoint the members of a watchdog group that will monitor possible conflicts, and report back to Parliament.

Even some allies of the prime minister, who is also Italy's richest man, allowed that the plan, was far from an ideal way to handle the situation. The political opposition said the proposed solution was just more evidence of the persuasiveness of the problem.

"He's trying to use what's happened in the world to hope that the public will ignore it, but it's a confirmation of the problem rather than a solution to it," said the opposition leader, Francesco Rutelli.

The prime minister owns three private networks, a newspaper, a soccer team and extensive land, publishing and insurance holdings. As prime minister, he is technically responsible for the management of state television stations as well, meaning that 90 percent of Italian national television channels are in his hands.

Most political commentators said the plan is probably the only option at this point, since Mr. Berlusconi refuses to sell his vast holdings, never said he would, and was elected anyway.

Nets divided over victim footage

Newsroom executives scrambling to convey the drama of the terrorist attacks grappled over whether or not to show graphic video of victims leaping from the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Many networks and stations showed shots of the buildings collapsing where it was impossible for viewers to distinguish between bodies and debris. But some opted for shots that seemed more clearly to be people jumping to avoid flames.

CBS did air footage of bodies plummeting from the World Trade Towers in prime time, although a spokeswoman said the scenes didn't show people landing.

Fox News network executive producer Bill Shine said his network regretfully showed footage once or twice. "That was early, it was wrong and accidental. We have [other] video in house that we've purposefully not shown and will not show," Mr Shine said.

CNN and MSNBC declined to show the desperate jumpers. "We tried to exercise good judgement and restraint and be responsible with what we show," said Eason Jordan, CNN's head of newsgathering.

Fox's two New York City stations took CBS' approach of showing snips of video, while WNBC-TV says its policy is not to show jumpers.

UK government plans to promote digital TV

The UK Government has proposed steps to improve the reliability, quality and geographical reach of digital television (DTV).

The measures include the launch of a pre-Christmas campaign to publicise digital TV, radio and equipment in general. The BBC will take part in the high-profile push to raise awareness of DTV services, along with many UK retailers and manufacturers, in order to convey accurate information to consumers.

The draft plan includes an outline for enabling DTV industry executives and members of the government to further the development and adoption of digital services in order to reach their goal of switching off the UK analogue signal by 2010.

Currently, around eight million households have DTV access in the UK.

RSF launches international network

Reporters sans Frontières (RSF) has announced the formation of an international network of affiliated press freedom organizations, aimed at strengthening information exchange, battling impunity and focusing wider attention on countries where repressive laws and regimes infringe on journalists.

The network brings RSF together with four other IFEX members - Democratic Republic of Congo's Journalistes en danger (JED), the Glasnost Defence Foundation (Russia), Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS-Peru) and PÉRIODISTAS (Argentina) - as well as the Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC), Burma Media Association, Afghan Center for the Promotion of Communication (Pakistan), Institut des Mass Médias (IMI-Ukraine) and Tunisia-based Observatoire pour la Défense de la Liberté de la presse, de l'Édition et de la Création (OLPEC).

Meanwhile, RSF has announced the opening of two new bureaus in Montreal, Canada and Moscow, complimenting its existing bureaus in Tokyo, Bangkok, Washington, D.C., Abidjan. It also operates nine national offices in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland, and a global network of roughly 100 correspondents.

Journalists line up to cover US strikes

Reporters from publications all over the US are vying for the opportunity to cover the developing story in Central Asia. While the excitement lures many to the conflict zone, Steven Butler, foreign editor for the Knight Ridder Washington bureau warned, "You have to get the story, but if you're not careful you can get shot."

Many editors are sending reporters with local language skills or past experiences in other dangerous places such as the Persian Gulf War, the Balkans, Chechnya or Latin America.

Reporters have to know how to work under difficult conditions and figure out practicalities like how to get money, file their stories or even where to get safe drinking water. Perhaps more importantly, they have to have a sense of when they are in real danger.

"The things you have to do there are things you only learn from doing," San Jose Mercury News national/foreign editor, Dan Sneider, said. "These are not things you learn in journalism school."

The weakest link rewrites history

Hong Kong's dominant broadcaster TVB has paid E25,230 to a losing contestant on a popular quiz show after mistakenly kicking him out of the game.

Student Gary Chan was eliminated during the final round of "The Weakest Link" after the presenter ruled he answered a question incorrectly.

The question was: "Which year did East and West Germany reunify?" With little hesitation, Chan replied: "1990". Chan was immediately overruled by the sharp-tongued host, actress Dodo Cheng, who said the correct answer should be 1989.

After receiving a complaint from a viewer, TVB said Chan's answer was correct because the official German unification was indeed 1990 -- although the Berlin Wall came down in 1989.

A spokesman for Television Broadcast Ltd (TVB) said "the question was not exact enough" and said it had agreed to pay Chan the same prize as the winner.

"The Weakest Link" is a winner-take-all quiz show with one of eight contestants kicked out after each round. The prize on the Hong Kong version can reach E422,000 the highest ever in local television history.

IFJ calls journalists not to risk their lives

Following the recent arrests of journalists in Afghanistan trying to cover the events, the International Federation of Journalists expresses its concerns that journalist are an easy target for the Taliban who charge them with spying.

"Journalism is about telling truthful stories, not espionage and it is ridiculous to suggest that [...] reporters [are] guilty of anything other than enthusiasm to carry out their job," said Aidan White, IFJ General Secretary of the IFJ, the world's largest journalists' group.

"No story is worth the life of a journalist and media organisations should ensure that their reporters are properly trained, equipped and informed about the problems they will face," said Aidan White.

The IFJ warns journalists against taking unnecessary risks and says that special attention should be paid to the needs of freelance reporters and photo-journalists who are often most vulnerable when reporting from high-risk areas.

"These are dangerous times for everyone in the region and journalists need to be more careful than ever," says the IFJ. Michel Peyrard, who works for Paris Match magazine, is still being held under Taliban custody and reported to be treated well. He has been charged with spying, an offence which carries a death penalty.

“Journalism Training Differences in the Media” conference in Maastricht

A seminar on Portaying Differences in the media and expanding a market is organised by European Journalism Centre, Maastricht supported by the Iris Association, Nov 16-17.

This two-day awareness-raising workshop is part of the project “Outlook II. Reflecting social and cultural diversity through the media” led by the IRIS Association.

This workshop is aimed at journalists/editors from key local and regional newspapers. Under the central theme of expanding your market and boosting circulation, it will look at how newspapers can better portray the different ethnic and other groups living in their area and better tackle issues such as prejudice, discrimination and living in a multi-cultural society.

The trainers are Rebecca Franceskides, Media diversity trainer and journalist, IRIS asbl, Brussels Lionel Morrison, OBE, MIPR, Journalism and training consultant, National Uniiion of Journalists, UK Tony Goldman, Journalism and training consultant, Diversity Online, UK.

CNN and illegal settlements

Just as the BBC last month ordered its reporters to use the phrase “targeted killings” for Israel’s assassination of Palestinians (see EJC Media News of 07 August 2001), CNN – under constant attack from right-wing Jewish pro-settler lobby groups – has instructed its journalists to stop referring to Gilo as a “Jewish settlement”.

Instead, they must call the settlement, built illegally on occupied Arab land outside Jerusalem, “a Jewish neighborhood”. This extraordinary climbdown in favour of the Israelis follows months of internal debate in CNN, which has been constantly criticized by CNN Watch and other pro-Israeli pressure groups monitoring all its reports on the Middle East.

Many journalists at CNN headquarters are angered by the new instruction. “There’s a feeling by some people here that what we are doing is searching for euphemisms for what is really happening,” said one of them.

However, by censoring the word “settlement’ for Gilo, CNN is perpetrating a lie. Gilo was illegally annexed by Israel after the 1967 war – now just “occupied” as CNN wishes its viewers to believe.

A CNN spokesman in Atlanta said last night: “We have no response to make to you. We don’t want to get into a discussion on this...In fact we’d rather not say anything about this at all”.

Al Jazeera says western media ‘envy’ Arab TV

The chief executive of Qatar’s Al Jazeera satellite television slammed Western media as “envious” of the success of his channel, which he described as “objective and independent.”

“(Some) Western media envy Al Jazeera’s successful coverage of international news,” Mohammad Jassem Al Ali told AFP without naming the media concerned.

“Al Jazeera gives the US viewpoint as much space as it gives the Afghan viewpoint,” Ali said, noting that the channel has three correspondents in the United States and is the only one authorized to broadcast continuously from Taleban-ruled territory in Afghanistan.

At the same time, he stressed that Qatar was rapidly evolving into a parliamentary democracy that embraced the whole scope of human and civil rights.

US officials said they had expressed concern to the Qatari ruler about Al Jaecera’s allegedly biased coverage of the Sept. 11 attacks.

“There is no pressure on us by the emir who, since the launch of Al Jazeera, encouraged us to be independent and professional,” Ali said.

Since its launch in November 1996, Al Jazeera has gained considerable popularity among viewers in the Arab world, while annoying many governments for tackling political, social and sometimes sexual issues previously regarded as taboo, as well as providing a platform for Arab dissidents.

BBC rethinks political coverage

The BBC director general, Greg Dyke, has ordered a major review of the corporation’s political coverage amid growing evidence that Westminster and Whitehall are a big turn-off for the under-35 audience.

The review, which will involve consultation with politicians, academics, viewers and journalists, was prompted by concerns that voter apathy in the general election may have been linked to media coverage of political issues.

Mr Dyke is known to have privately expressed concern that younger viewers find politics boring and that the corporation was not connecting with this audience in its coverage.

Senior figures said Mr Dyke was perturbed by research conducted by Labour after the election, which showed that viewers under 35 were no longer interested in politics and he wanted to find a way of reaching out to the grass roots.

Labour and Tory MPs will be invited to take part in a conference on media coverage of politics, with other possible guests including those who serve youth markets such as editors of magazines such as Dazed and Confused and ID.

The project will look at “how the BBC covers politics and to come up with fresh ideas to ensure the way we report politics remains relevant and engaging in the 21st century, devolved UK”.

UPC to start digital TV in Vienna

UPC Telekabel, the Austrian cable TV provider and subsidiary company of the Dutch cable operator United Pan-Europe Communications will begin broadcasting digital TV in Vienna this month.

The basic offer includes 50 TV channels, 40 digital audio channels, and near video-on-demand, an interactive TV application with web contents and e-mail via TV.

Each DTV subscriber will get an email address and can work directly on the TV screen with an infrared keyboard.

The UPC digital TV will cost E23.90 per month. About 19,000 Telekabel clients in Vienna will get the new set-top computer via a smooth roll-out campaign during the next months.

Boris Bergant snapshots





Circom Report

The "CIRCUM Report" is a monthly publication of CIRCUM Regional, the European Association of Public Regional TV Stations- available on the CR Internet site and coming to CR member stations and personnel either through E-mail or as an A4 size printed newsletter, through the CR General Secretariat from Ljubljana. The French version of the CIRCUM Report is conceived and published by the Strasbourg Secretariat with support from the Region Alsace, the Conseil General du Bas-Rhin and the City of Strasbourg.

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All member stations are considered as potential contributors for this publication, with stories about new and innovative ideas, co-productions, exchanges, modern technologies, etc. Especially welcome are short stories and one-liners.

***Sony and Eutelsat are the official CIRCUM Regional sponsors**



**Festivals, workshops and more
around Europe and the world**



NOVEMBER

Nov. 14-17: Sportel Monaco (Monte Carlo, Monaco)

www.sportel.org

Nov. 19: International Emmys (New York, USA)

www.intlemmyawards.com

Nov. 20: Digital Rights Management Seminar (Artis, Amsterdam), www.europedrm.com

Nov. 21-29: International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

www.idfa.nl

Nov. 22 – 27: Festival Du Film Jules Verne (Paris, France)

Nov. 22 – Dec 2: IDFA (Amsterdam, Netherlands) www.idfa.nl

Nov. 23 – 25 : Streaming Media Europe 2001 (ExCel, London), www.europe.streamingmedia.com

Nov. 27-30 Western Cable show (Anaheim, USA) www.cable.com

Nov. 28: Digital Content Europe (Liverpool, UK), www.digitalcontenteurope.com

Nov.28: Interactive TV Business Models (London,

UK) www.ef-commerce.co.uk/itvbiz

JANUARY 2002

Jan.15 – 20: 37th Solothurn film Festival (Solothurn, Switzerland),

www.solothurnerfilmstage.ch

Jan. 21 – 24: NATRPE 2002. Annual Conference and exhibition (Las Vegas). www.natpe.org

Jan.25 – 27: Moondance International Film Festival (Boulder, U.S.)

www.moondancefilmfestival.com

FEBRUARY

Feb. 4-8: Milia 2002. The World's Interactive Content Marketplace (Cannes) www.amilia.com

MAY

May 16-17: Fourth Annual TV Meets the Web Seminar (Amsterdam, Netherlands),

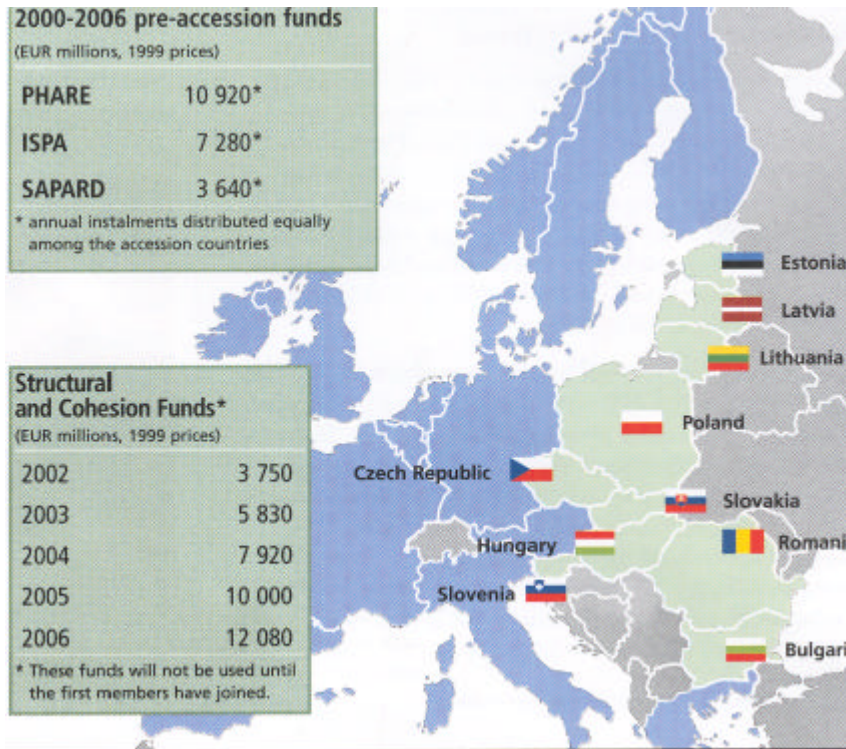
<http://tvmeetstheweb.com>

JUNE

June 13-14: European Radio Forum (Vienna, Italy) by EBU

SONY®





13 countries to join the European Union

Since the Helsinki European summit in December 1999, thirteen countries have been preparing to join the EU:

- Turkey, which submitted its application in 1987 but does not yet meet the political criteria laid down in Copenhagen in 1993;
- Cyprus and Malta, which applied in 1990;
- A group of ten central and eastern European countries (CEECs) that have been looking towards the European Union since the fall of the iron curtain in 1989 and attained candidate status in 1994-95.
- Six of these countries have been involved in accession negotiations since 1998 (Cyprus, Estonia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia) and the remainder since Slovakia, Romania and since 2000 (Malta, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria). In parallel to this process they receive pre-accession funding to finance the on-going process of improving businesses and infrastructures, while familiarising themselves with the management and implementation structures necessary for the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund.

Changing experience- the national and the regional television

Last month, the head of the news room from the national television in Bucharest, decided to meet some of the reporters of the regional television stations. He initiated a programme that for a week two of the reporters should go and work at the news department at the national TVR. So, two of my colleagues from Cluj went to Bucharest and worked for a week and after them, it was me and another colleague of mine who went there. They arranged everything for us: hotel, a daily time table (the first two days to stay with the team which works with the regional news room, another two days with the reporters and going out with them on locations where they shot their packages and, generally, to see how they work, and the last day at the international news gathering). They treated us as if we were some kind of observers or students and not as their colleagues who do the same things at home.

Everything was meant for us to see how they work and to understand what's happening at the other end of the "wire"- in the collaboration between the national and the regional television in Romania. The idea was good and it was a good experience for me, after all.

But, it didn't work as they planned it all the way. At the time I was in Bucharest, the boss of the news room decided to bring some new people to work at the correspondents office, the one the regional TV stations work with, and the old ones were moved to another department. Afterwards, they discovered there was nobody left to teach the new ones what to do and the boss asked me and my colleague to teach them everything: how to edit a package and how to deal with the regional televisions or correspondents and so on. So, I had a busy week working at the national television, instead of "observing and understanding" how things go there.

ALINA TAMAS
TVR Cluj, Romania

Whispers

MTV Europe has struck a deal with satellite broadband network provider Europe Online to launch MTV Live, a new music channel designed exclusively for IP broadband distribution, on PC's throughout Europe....Between 200 and 2010, 22 countries are forecast to more than double their net TV advertising revenues....Global TV advertising is still experiencing fast track – growth with net revenues forecast to almost double to us \$175 billion by 2010....

xxx

On Demand Television along with the overlapping developments of Personalised Television and Interactive Television is set to transfer control of viewing to the consumer and revolutionise the business model....MTV Live announced a deal with satellite broadband network provider Europe Online to make the service available on PCs throughout Europe, with further carriage agreements to be announced....Eutelsat has a new Atlantic Bird 2 Satellite to provide broadband and broadcast services over Europe, the Americas, North Africa and the Middle East....

xxx

News World 2001, the annual forum for the broadcast news industry will be held in Barcelona, Nov. 13-16....The future development of the set-top-box is set to resemble something out of a science fiction movie, with promises of a box capable of monitoring and billing the electricity supply, whilst it plans and pre-records the evening's television....Ted Turner will be speaking in Anaheim, Nov.28 during the Western show....

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The 2002 Annual Guide to European Broadcasting, Cable and Satellite is premiering in December, packed with statistics and country-by-country analysis....The Radio Commission of COPEAM will take place in Nimes, France Nov. 23. Among the sponsors are Radio France and France Bleu Gard Losere....The Algerian Television ENTV will host in Algiers, Nov. 9-12, a meeting of the coordinators of the news exchanges of broadcasters-members of CoPeAM to relaunch the Mediterranean ERN in collaboration with EBU and ASBU