

# Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmothly•CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries• April 2003/No 42

## High participation for CR's conference in Grado, Italy

"Very high participation" is the message CR received from RAI for the attendance at this year's CIRCOM Regional conference in Grado, Italy, May 21-24.

The deadline for registration is April 19.

Eight hotels with specially discounted prices ranging from 50€ (single) to 140€ (double) are at the disposition



of more than 300 delegates expected to participate.

Grado, between Trieste & Venezia, is only 60 klm (half an hour) away from the airport.



After nine years as CR Deputy General Secretary

## Farewell by M.P. Urban

She has been appointed  
France 3  
European Project Coordinator

After nine years of hard work for CIRCOM Report as Deputy Secretary General Marie-Paule Urban has to give up her position since she has been appointed by France 3 as European Project Coordinator.

"We shall miss her", said CR President L. Kongalides who added "we all appreciate her high level work and devotion to Circom Regional. At least we are happy that she has been promoted by France 3 – a tribute to her skills and experience. The doors of CR will always be open for her".

Hubert Schilling proposed by France 3, will take over as Deputy Secretary until May, when the European Board will designate his tenure. (More on p. 3)

## Trieste training fully booked

This years training workshop for young journalists, to be held in Grado prior to the annual conference, is full. Once again, there were more applicants than places. Circom Regional intended to restrict the number of places to 24 people, but such was the demand, that careful budget planning allowed an extra 3 delegates. 27 people from 13 countries representing 23 regional stations will be benefiting from the training which is sponsored by Circom Regional and the Council of Europe Human Rights Media Division.

The generosity of Circom member stations has meant that we will be joined by 13 leading professionals who have been released from their normal duties. These trainers and technicians, who will deliver the workshop for Circom Regional are from France 3, ARD Berlin, Hessischer Rundfunk Frankfurt, HRT Zagreb, the Thomson Foundation, BBC Wales and Nelson-media.

The workshop will run for 10 days prior to the annual conference and will then continue with a specially organised two-day workshop on video journalism, with journalists being introduced to the operation of DV cameras and editing equipment.

In South East Europe

## Satellite TV channel could be launched within 100 days

For the next conference on the future of the cinema and the audiovisual sector within the European Union enlargement that will take place in Thessaloniki, end of May, Eureka Audiovisual will put on the agenda the idea for the creation of a common satellite TV channel for South Eastern Europe.

The Task Force Group is working on the proposal how to launch the experimental phase of the project within 100 days.

Already the Bulgarian multimedia company "Interactive Technologies" has offered to participants, free of charge, editing, up-linking and space capacity during the experimental phase.

## CIRCOM Regional programs on EbS

EbS, the European Broadcast Satellite, will transmit the following CIRCOM Regional programs:

- \* "The Enlargement – The New Teenage Europe" (TV Syd & CR), "The Enlargement – The Last Straight Line" (BR & CR), "La Roue du Temps" (RTBF) on April 16, 17 and 19
- \* "The Enlargement – The New Teenage Europe", "The Enlargement – The Last Straight Line" (BR & CR), "Europeos No 21" (France 3) on April 23, 24 and 26

First transmission is at 21.00 CET, second at 05.30 CET and third at 12.00 CET

April 28 – May 2

## The Ethnic Minorities Seminar in Budapest

The Ethnic Minorities Seminar in Budapest, organised with the help of the Council of Europe, will be held at MTV premises, starting on Monday, April 28th 2003 at 09.00 and it will end on Friday, May 2nd 2003 at 14.00. Since the deadline was on March 31, for any late registrations check the Circom site <http://www.circom-regional.org> for the Schedule and the Registration Form for the Seminar.

## BMC workshop in Budva, April 26-27

A workshop in Budva (Montenegro) will be held April 26-27 by the Baltic Media Center. During the meeting a number of productions will be screened and also a look into basic principals of making news stories.

## French channel with a French perspective

President Jacques Chirac has set a deadline of April 22 for media groups to submit proposals for a new channel that would promote international affairs from a French perspective. The aim is for the channel, which would initially start off in French, to target Arab, African and European countries, while later branching out into English and perhaps Arabic. Le Monde put the cost at between €25m-30m while Francois Rochebloine, chair of the parliamentary committee on information, said it couldn't be done for less than €100m.

## AIB Global Media Business conference in London, April 29-30

Mark Byford, Director of BBC World Service and Global News division, will give the opening keynote speech at the 2003 AIB Global Media Business conference. Byford joins a strong line-up of speakers from across international media, including representatives from Discovery Networks, Radio Netherlands, Ipsos-RSL, InterMedia, Convera, Dalet A.N.N, German TV, CASBAA, Teletrax, Clifford Chance, LongAcre Partners and the BBC.

Over two days, delegates from all World. To register, use the online registration system at [www.aib.org.uk](http://www.aib.org.uk), or [download the PDF-format conference registration form here](#). Already registered are delegates from Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Tanzania, Czech Republic and Taiwan, representing public and commercial broadcasters, suppliers of services and equipment, regulators and consultants.

The Official Conference Partners are BBC World Service and BBC

## China's CCTV is now available on BSkyB

China wants to have it both ways to be a modern commercial state, and to preserve its unique Communist-based identity, which is a difficult balance to strike.

Looking outwards, China's CCTV English-language channel is now available on Britain's BSkyB and France's TPS. This is a big step forward for China's drive to gain understanding, as BSkyB is the largest and only service provider for direct broadcasting satellite television, with more than 200 channels and programmes for over 6 million subscribers in Britain, while TPS is one of the two largest service providers for direct broadcasting satellite television in France, with 1.2 million subscribers.

But at the same time, China does not want too much foreign influence in its colossal broadcasting market (population over 1 billion). The Chinese have very recently made it clear that there will not, as many in the global industry had believed, be a great deal of opening up of the market. CCTV Vice-President Zhang Changming said the key issues with regards to China's TV industry were how to improve cooperation with foreign broadcasters and allow Westerners to "understand" China's situation and views. "Overseas channels rarely carry programmes from China. It's very rare that you see content on overseas TV channels that is true or fair," he complained. "What we want to see is other networks

carrying our content. The key is to have overseas television stations carry the true picture about China."

The Chinese issued a complete list of approved foreign broadcasting organisations:

News; BBC World; Bloomberg; CNBC; CNN; Phoenix Infonews; Movie, music & sport; Cinemax HBO; Phoenix Movie; Star Movie; Channel V; MTV; ESPN; Star Sports; General entertainment; AXN; Discovery; Hallmark; JETV; Macau Asia; Macau Five Star; Macau Travel; National Geographic Channel-Asia; NOW; NHK; Phoenix Chinese; TVB8; TVB Galaxy; Yangguang Weishi; TV5.

Any further applicants may have a hard time of it.

## New Iranian satellite service

Test transmissions of a new Iranian satellite TV service called Al-Alam started. The director-general of the network said that Al-Alam is an international news network and its programmes will be broadcast in English and Arabic to North America, Asia and the Asia-Pacific regions via Hotbird 3, Arabsat and Asiasat satellites from 2030 to 1500 GMT. He said that the objective of launching this network was to interconnect the Islamic world and to disseminate news among them, not to propagate the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## BBC World now in over 200 countries

It seems to be ever upwards for BBC World, the BBC's international television service. The BBC reports good progress in Africa. Via TVAfrica BBC World now reaches an extra seven million households across the continent. TVAfrica, the largest free-to-air, pan-African television network already syndicates the overnight re-broadcasts of BBC World to its terrestrial affiliates to a new total of fourteen African countries; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Lesotho.

BBC World can now be received in over 250 million homes worldwide, in over 200 countries. The total has increased by 42 per cent in just 15 months. Things are going especially well in India and Europe, and BBC World is available on the two dominant satellites in the Middle East; Nilesat and Arabsat. Further distribution will come from a new satellite television channel, Eurasia TV, which will cover 21 countries including Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), most of Eastern Europe and China.

## News channel by ABC News

ABC News is to launch a 24-hour news channel only available to broadband internet subscribers. The channel - described by ABCNews.com VP Bernard Gershon as "baby steps towards the first internet news network" - will draw on ABC News' broadcast content and offer live coverage of UN debates and White House briefings. The service will form part of video streamer RealNetwork's SuperPass bundle of subscription channels costing \$9.95 per month.

## EBU reality show blasts off

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) is putting together an international coproduction with Channel One Russia to create a reality TV show during which a member of the public will be chosen to travel to the International Space Station for the first time ever. The EBU is looking to ink global sponsorship deals for the series, which will be filmed in Moscow.

# Deputy General Secretary Marie – Paule Urban leaves CIRCUM Regional

## A farewell letter reviewing nine years of hard work in the Strasbourg office

Dear colleagues and friends,

As you may well know, I have been appointed as France 3 European Project Coordinator. While this new function is being set up, allow me to tell you how much I appreciated, as much as Head of International Relations at France 3 Alsace, as CIRCUM Regional Deputy Secretary General our sincere and efficient cooperation.

You know the very active interest I always showed in carrying out this role created in 1995 and my attachment to the spirit and vocation of CIRCUM Regional. I am very proud of the achievements made during these 3 successive mandates, entrusted to me by the CR European Board even if, regretfully, the last one had to be shortened by six months. I am also very happy for the confidence our partners have shown in me during the past nine years: Channels, European Institutions and Regional Authorities.

Nine years, nine years already! since the Deputy General Secretariat has been created in Strasbourg and was entrusted to me thanks to the Directions of France 3 and France 3 Alsace, the support of the Council of Europe, European Commission and European Parliament, the City of Strasbourg, the Conseil General du Bas-Rhin and the Region Alsace.

Thanks to you all-and I do thank you all very warmly-we were able to establish together close relations and to develop the activities of this unique international audiovisual network of 376 public regional TV stations from 38 European countries, to make the vocation of this Cooperative Internationale de Recherche en matiere de Communication registered since 1995 at the Court benefiting from the local Code of law better known

Promoting Cooperation between our members and developing communication with new bilingual medium: newsletter, booklet and film presentations, creation of a logo, generic and the CIRCUM Regional trophy, historical exhibition from the origine in 1983 to nowadays, new crossborder category for the PRIX CR, launching of the programme Europe by Satellite from the European Commission with the 4-hour weekly broadcasting of our best programmes, campaign initiated by the Council of Europe All equal, all different, coast line CR Festival along with Brest 96, Charter: gateway to Europe, the active participation of CIRCUM Regional in our partners' associations ASITRA, CMCA, COPEAM, CORECOM, CIRTEF, CTF, EEBA, MAT TV, URTI.

Conceived: Euro TV Regio, innovative, multicultural and multilingual channel and obtain a prefeasibility study from the European Commission. Co-producing and exchanging programmes: by coordinating the participation of 6 CR East-European countries for the Radio Canada-CIRTEF coproduction, a series of 50 portraits (26') 50 et 1 monde, 3 special coproductions for 2001: European Year of Languages, initiating the European collection of 7 documentaries of 26' Man and the Forest in partnership with the Union des Sylviculteurs du Sud de l'Europe.

Strengthening life – Long Training across Europe: by organizing each year since November 2000 during the European Parliament session a new CR European Training seminar on Newsroom Management with translation in English of the book Television News Report of B. Besse and D. Sedormeaux.

In brief, 3 consecutive constructive mandates of 3 years each 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 (ERT3 Thessaloniki) with an intercultural link, East-West partnership with the General Secretaries: the Slovenian Boris Bergant (RTV Ljubljana 1995-2001) and the Croatian Marija Nemcic (HRT Zagreb). I wish my friend and colleagues Hubert Schilling complete success. He will take over the current affairs until the designation of a new Deputy Secretary General, position France 3 proposed him.

Inspired by this fascinating European audiovisual experience, I shall continue, in my new position, to plead in favour of the defense and portrayal of our cultures in all their diversity and our values of Tolerance, Democracy, Solidarity and Humanism.

Friendly Yours,



Marie-Paule Urban

## Serbia restricts media after assassination

Authorities in Serbia are calling on the domestic news media to behave "responsibly" under the state of emergency imposed after last week's assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic. Deputy Prime Minister Zarko Korac met with editors in chief this week and asked them to exercise caution in their coverage, to take full responsibility for their output, and not to report rumours or analysis based on rumours for as long as the state of emergency is in effect. Belgrade-based radio station Studio B, which can be heard across half of Serbia, has stopped rebroadcasts of Serbian-language programmes by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America on both television and radio. Broadcasts by CNN and other television news channels transmitted via satellite in major languages have not been affected. For hours on the day of the assassination, domestic news outlets were forced to rely on foreign media reports for news of Djindjic's death. State television RTS and even the private Beta news agency were unable to get official word about Djindjic's death for more than 2 hours and were merely quoting Western news agencies or rebroadcasting Western satellite news broadcasts.

## RAI top job filled amid controversy

A former news director of the Italian state broadcasting company RAI was made head of the company yesterday after another leading journalist turned the job down. Lucia Annunziata, nominated by the presidents of the two parliamentary houses, is the senior news executive of the independent news agency Ap.Biscom, and a former foreign correspondent for the newspapers Corriere della Sera and La Repubblica. The decision 24 hours earlier of Paulo Mieli to decline the job because of "political difficulties" sharpened the concern about the influence of the conservative prime minister and television tycoon, Silvio Berlusconi, on Italian broadcasting. Mr Mieli had been widely hailed as the man able to rescue the company after its former board resigned amid allegations that they had deliberately run the state service into the ground and systematically censored news in favour of Mr Berlusconi. The issue of political influence has become more sensitive since Mr Berlusconi became prime minister because his empire includes Italy's three biggest television networks.

## BBC axes 100 website jobs

BBCi, the new media division of the British Broadcasting Corporation, is cutting around 100 jobs on its websites to pay for increased technical costs and the expansion of its interactive television services. The job cuts follow an extensive review of the BBC's new media operation, which has grown massively over the past four years and attracted criticism from the commercial sector for squeezing out rival websites. The BBC head of new media, Ashley Highfield, has promised not to spend much more than the £111.6m (164.3m euros) the corporation spent in the last financial year. He has been forced to make the staff cuts to pay for increased spending on its technical backbone and interactive TV activities.

BBCi's technical costs have also shot up as its website has become more and more popular and it has introduced more audio and video elements. The cuts will come from the interactive factual and learning department responsible for websites accompanying broadcast series, the main new media department that handles the hugely successful BBC.co.uk homepage, and the interactive radio and music arm, which develops sites for the BBC's radio stations.

## Dr. Erhard Busek Award for better understanding in South East Europe

The deadline for applications is June 15

The South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO) is pleased to announce the Dr. Erhard Busek - SEEMO 2003 Award for Better Understanding in South East Europe.

This award is open to the nominees from South East Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Moldova, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia- Montenegro, Kosovo and Slovenia. A written application for this award will be presented to a jury of seven persons appointed by SEEMO. If no candidate receives a qualified majority, the award for that year will not be granted. Material will not be returned, so please always send a copy of your CV, report, article, video, audiotape or CD.

Sponsored by Dr. Erhard Busek, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact, the 2,000 Euro award will be given to a journalist, editor, media executive or person educating journalists in South East Europe, who, through the media, has promoted a climate of better understanding among peoples in the region and worked toward ending minority problems, ethnic divisions, racism, xenophobia etc. In 2002, the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO) and its international jury chose the Croatian journalist Denis Latin as the recipient of the Dr. Erhard Busek - SEEMO 2002 Award for Better Understanding in South East Europe, in recognition for outstanding efforts in journalism, which contributed toward

better understanding in South Eastern Europe. Latin was selected from among more than 400 nominations received by SEEMO.

If someone knows of any person or organisation who would be a worthy recipient of the Dr. Erhard Busek - SEEMO Award for Better Understanding in South East Europe, please send the application form to SEEMO at: SEEMO/IPI "Busek Award", Spiegelgasse 2/29, 1010 Vienna, Austria, Tel: +43 1 513 39 40, Fax: +43 1 512 90 15, E-mail: [seemo@journalist.com](mailto:seemo@journalist.com) The application form: [www.seemo.at](http://www.seemo.at) (Awards) The deadline for applications for the Dr. Erhard Busek - SEEMO Award for Better Understanding in South East Europe is: 15 June 2003.

## Slovak TV cuts 1,200 jobs due to chronic budgetary problems

Slovakia's state television broadcaster will dismiss 1,200 of its 2,000 employees by the end of this year due to chronic budgetary problems, Slovak Television Director Richard Rybnicek announced last week. Presenting what he described as an "emergency" programme, Mr Rybnicek also said Slovak-produced programmes are to be drastically cut and Slovak Television will move some operations out of its current building. Dismissal notices will go out by end of June, he said. Mr Rybnicek said the redundancy measures will cost 250m crowns (6m euros) in severance pay but should save 224m crowns (5.4m euros) over one year, which amounts to about one-third of the cost of running the station. By 2004, Slovak Television will no longer depend on government funding and will function solely on the basis of license fees and revenues it generates itself, Mr Rybnicek said.

## US and Europe see different wars

American audiences are seeing and reading about a different war than the rest of the world. The news coverage in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, reflects and defines the widening perception gap about the motives for this war. Americans, meanwhile, are hearing commentary on military strategy and the human interest angles on soldier life in the desert. Some analysts say that because press ownership is less concentrated in Europe than in the US, the European media are providing more perspectives than either the Arab or American outlets. In Frankfurt, for example, readers have access to 16 different German-language newspapers - many of which present different vantage points, which makes for a more lively and varied debate. European journalists also seem to ask different, more skeptical, questions about the war, often being the ones at White House and Pentagon press conferences to ask whether the invasion of Iraq has turned up any of the weapons of mass destruction that were used to justify the invasion - even as their American counterparts repeatedly focus on such questions as whether Saddam Hussein is alive or dead. Media watchers say the European press has tended to be more balanced than the US media in dealing with the war, in part because Europe is so much closer to the Muslim world.

## Truth is elusive in wartime

The media have faced difficulties establishing what is true in a war that is being fought as much in the press as it is on the battlefield. BBC director of news Richard Sambrook has admitted it is proving difficult for correspondents in Iraq to distinguish the truth from false reports, after a series of media claims about the progress of coalition forces turned out to be premature. "Nobody including the media has the full picture of what's going on. Reporting the war is about putting together fragments of information. We're all trying to work out this jigsaw and what the overall picture is," Mr Sambrook said. The Iraqi port city of Umm Qasr has been reported as being taken by coalition forces more than nine times since Friday and Basra has been the subject of further confusion after reports that Iraqi civilians were involved an uprising Wednesday proved premature. The British broadcaster has said that in reporting the war it will state clearly when a report has come from just one source. "We have to be completely transparent and clear with our audience, to say 'this is what we've heard, we'll try to check it out and do the best we can,'" Mr Sambrook said.

In Amsterdam, May 15-16

## Annual TV Meets the Web Seminar focus on digital

"Digital Media: The path to profitability" is the main topic of this year's Annual TV Meets the Web Seminar, which will take place on 15-16 May, in the Royal Tropical Institute in central Amsterdam. The fifth in this series of seminars will bring together representatives of broadcast, media and entertainment companies, telecom operators, consumer electronic manufacturers and IT solution vendors from across Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Expect to hear insightful keynote addresses, as well as specialty workshops which will help delegates understand the most pressing issues related to topics such as SMS television and its revenue streams, consumer sales driven TV formats, multi platform programmes and their revenues streams, retailers' television initiatives, broadcasters' use of streaming video and the negotiation of revenue-sharing deals between consumer brands, content producers and distributors.

This year also marks the fifth anniversary of the TV Meets the Web Seminar. To celebrate this landmark, Van Dusseldorp & Partners has added a special feature to the event: a multi-platform digital content showcase. Representatives



of broadcasters, media and entertainment companies and content production companies, will present their most creative, multi-platform content concepts and compete for the TV Meets the Web Excellence in Digital Media Award. Winners will be announced at the event. If you wish to attend, visit [www.tvmeetstheweb.com/may2003](http://www.tvmeetstheweb.com/may2003) to register online. You can also visit the site for updates on the programme and speakers, the participant list, and you can also sign up for free newsletters.

CIRCOM Regional holds in Budapest

## Ethnic Minorities Seminar in Budapest, April 28-May 2

The Ethnic Minorities Seminar to be held at MTV premises in Budapest, April 28-May 2, is designed to increase an awareness of the problems and possibilities facing managers, journalists and producers of TV stations, all members of CIRCOM REGIONAL, in dealing with ethnic minorities.

The problems include those facing all journalists - racism, religious sensitivities, even the vocabulary used in news magazines. The possibilities include the enrichment of each national heritage through the mosaic of minority cultures and the greater diversity of programmes which follow a higher profile of ethnic minorities.

Seminars will be led by Arwel Ellis Owen, a former Head of Programmes, BBC Northern Ireland and former Editor, News and Current Affairs, BBC Wales. He will conduct seminars on topics such as constructing a multicultural broadcasting schedule, on minority language broadcasting as well as the use of digital TV and the internet in increasing ethnic minority output.

### SEMINAR SPEAKERS:

Arwel Ellis Owen, former Head of Programmes, BBC Northern Ireland and Editor News and Current Affairs, BBC Wales  
Judit Klein, Hungarian National Organiser, CIRCOM REGIONAL and Producer, MTV (Hungary)  
Inger Etzler, Chairperson of EBU's Intercultural programme and Producer, SVT (Sweden)  
Erik Hogenboom, Executive Producer, City Folk, EBU and Producer, NPS (Holland)  
Lynne Polak, Project Manager, EBU, Co-productions and Exchanges  
Gunther Rautz, European Academy of Minorities  
Gordana Stosic, Director-General, Macedonian Radio and TV (MRTV)  
FYRO Macedonia and formerly General Manager, AITV, Skopje



### Concern over satphone use

With the US military targeting satellite phone transmissions to locate Iraqi military commanders, analysts worry calls from journalists and other civilians could appear as beacons for bombers. The US military won't discuss how precisely it can track people based on their satphone signals, and the satellite phone companies say they don't know. But military and intelligence experts say US targeting technology is not just possible, it's getting better. "It's just yet another thing journalists now have to take into account," said Kate Adie, a veteran war correspondent for the BBC. US military officials have urged journalists and other foreign civilians to leave Iraq for their own safety. Iraq's information ministry estimates 300 foreign journalists remain in Baghdad. Major satellite telephone providers have said they saw subscriptions and usage rise alongside the prospect of a US invasion. On Tuesday, Inmarsat said it was activating a fifth satellite to help ease congestion caused, in part, by transmissions of news video.

### News World Conference in Dublin, Oct. 21 – 23

The Banff Television Foundation - one of the broadcasting world's most respected conference organisations - is joining forces with the management of News World International to produce the company's next major conference in Dublin.

In a licensing deal that provides the world's premier news industry conference with well-proven infrastructure, logistical support and a wealth of complementary experience, the Canadian organization will manage marketing and management activities, allowing News World's existing UK team to concentrate on developing programme content for the ninth annual News World conference and exhibition, at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, between October 21-23.

The agreement adds News World to a portfolio of Banff events that include the prestigious Banff Television Festival and annual international conferences for history and science programme makers.

As well as putting its weight behind the October event in Dublin, The Banff organization will also provide support to the third News World Asia conference, to be held in Kuala Lumpur between May 30-June 1.

### BBC plans war Documentary

The BBC is planning the definitive televised record of war in Iraq, with a documentary featuring exclusive footage shot by camera crews going into action with British forces. Documentary crews from the UK broadcaster are already in the Gulf with units from the British army, navy and air force and are expected to film front line action when the assault on Iraq begins. The BBC will also have cameras inside British government offices at Whitehall and the country's armed forces HQ in Northwood, recording decisions taken behind the scenes by the prime minister Tony Blair, the defence secretary, Geoff Hoon, and military chiefs. In order to gain such unprecedented access the BBC series producer, Neil Grant, has had to promise the armed forces that none of the footage shot by his film crews, which could potentially give away important secrets about the joint UK and US military operation, will be broadcast on BBC news bulletins. The BBC has 17 production staff in the Gulf in total, with camera crews attached to several British military divisions. Mr Grant said he expected the documentary would eventually run to between three and six 60-minute episodes.

### US broadcaster targets Iraq

Radio Free Iraq is on the front lines of an escalating information war for the US-led invasion of Iraq. For 10 hours each day, David Newton and his staff of 18, most of them Iraqis, send their version of the latest news from Prague to the people of Iraq via shortwave radio. Mr Newton was ambassador to Iraq from 1984 to 1988. His current job, says the 67-year-old Newton, is to provide the Iraqi people with the most accurate stories possible so they can formulate their own opinions about the situation in their country. The station does that with a format of breaking news, weekly features, politics, culture and humor, he says. "We don't hide the fact that we are an American station, but we don't go on the air saying we are an American station," Newton says. "We come across essentially as an Iraqi station, which is our mandate." RFI was created by former US President Bill Clinton in 1998 in response to escalating tensions between Iraq and the United States and as a means of intensifying efforts to oust the country's leadership. The Iraqi government and some American media groups have called the station a propaganda tool of the US, an assertion Newton rejects. Newsweek magazine recently quoted US government sources as saying that Iraqi agents may have targeted the Prague headquarters of RFI's parent group, RFE/RL, for attack if the US carries out an invasion of Iraq.

### Turner says AOL should be dumped

AOL Time Warner's biggest shareholder Ted Turner has reignited the debate over the future of the world's biggest media company after saying the company might be better off without its troubled internet division, America Online. Mr Turner also said he was likely to remain on the board when he steps down as vice chairman in May. The outspoken media mogul, who claims to have personally lost billions of dollars as a result of the plummeting value of the company since the merger in 2001, became the latest in a string of AOL Time Warner executives to stand down earlier this year. "I wonder whether being part of AOL Time Warner is the best way," he said at a breakfast briefing organised by the New Yorker magazine. "I can't tell you one company that has had a foot placed in the old media business." In his interview, Mr Turner also sang verses of the Cole Porter song Don't Fence Me In and challenged fellow media veteran Rupert Murdoch to a fist fight. Through a spokesman, Mr Murdoch responded: "The last thing Ted needs these days is a licking from me."

## Balkan Folk Festival set in Bulgaria's Veliko Tarnovo

"Euro Folk 2003" Music Television and Internet Products Festival and "Veliko Tarnovo 2003" Television and Internet Music Market are on their way. Participating in the international jury are representatives of televisions from Moscow, Tokyo, Rome, London, Dublin, Stockholm and Nicosia.

In the course of work, several new decisions emerged, which are as follows:

1. It is not obligatory for the music TV products to have subtitles in English or Russian. It is sufficient the application form to be accompanied by summary in English or Russian.
2. In connection with the letter of Mr. Vladimir Spicer from the Croatian TV, the Organizing committee decided the category "Folklore products" to transform in 4 new categories:
  - o Folklore products /in general/;
  - o Folk songs;
  - o Folk dances;
  - o Folk customs.
3. Each participant in "Euro Folk 2003" Music Television and Internet Products Festival and "Veliko Tarnovo 2003" Television and Internet Music Market can send his/hers own advertising materials, which will be propagated free of charge together with the rest of the information materials.

All terms for participation are stated on [www.eurofolk.tv](http://www.eurofolk.tv). The application forms should have been submitted up to 31st March 2003. Simultaneously with the stated television events, in Veliko Tarnovo are held Stara Planina

fest "Balkan Folk 2003" - Number One Fest in Europe for traditional folk arts and four more international music festivals. Euro Folk will be held from July 30 – August 12 in Veliko Tarnovo. Six more festivals will take place from May 1-26.

"The beauty and the energy of the art of our ancestors are preserved in the live performances of the traditional folk arts. The combination between the contemporary television technologies with the live performances could preserve the traditions in the minds of the young generations and we stay hopeful that with the combined efforts of the deserving representatives from the European nations, this will become real", says Iliyan Nikolov, President of "Euro Folk 2003" Musical Feasts and Chairman of Stara Planina Fest "Balkan Folk".

You can contact the festival at the following address: 19 Christo Botev Str. C.4, Veliko Tarnovo 5000 PB 27, Bulgaria, tel. ++35962/621 541, fax ++35962/623 464, E-mail: [Tvfest@eurofolk.tv](mailto:Tvfest@eurofolk.tv)

## Council of Europe launches portals in new language versions

As of March 28, portals in German, Italian and Russian can be accessed on the Council of Europe website, together with portal sections offering compilations of the documentary resources in over 30 European languages.

"Thanks to our expansion on the Web, we want to use the new technologies to draw closer to the 800 million European citizens," Secretary General Walter Schwimmer pointed out. He went on to state the objective: putting the citizen at the centre of the

Council's activity by making the whole of its documentary resources accessible in his native language.

The Council of Europe on-line visit portal: <http://www.coe.int> - Email: [coe.online@coe.int](mailto:coe.online@coe.int)

## Truth is casualty in the Iraq war

The head of BBC News Richard Sambrook admitted that the pressure of filling 24-hours with news about the war in Iraq had led to truth becoming one of the casualties. "The difficulty with a 24-hour news channel is you're trying to work out live on air what's true and what isn't," he said. British veteran war correspondent Martin Bell also urged the media to ensure claims were substantiated or risk becoming a propaganda tool of the military. "I think it's time we took a good look at our journalists. Our news journalists on TV have been consistently reporting rumours that would have helped the allies as if they were fact," Bell said. "I think it's time for a great deal of caution and the old journalistic merit of scepticism," he added.

## News World rescheduled for October

News World - the most important gathering of the year for broadcast news journalists - has brought its 2003 event forward by a month to give delegates an early opportunity to review the state of the news industry in what will almost certainly be the aftermath of war. The ninth annual News World conference and exhibition, originally scheduled for late November, will now take place at The Burlington Hotel, Dublin, from October 21-23.

## Keegan attacks 'abysmal' war media

The Daily Telegraph's veteran defence editor John Keegan said he supports "100 per cent" the accusation by the commander of the British forces in the Gulf that the UK media are "losing the plot" over the war in Iraq. Air Marshal Brian Burridge launched a scathing attack on news programmes and newspapers in yesterday's Telegraph, accusing the media of turning the conflict into "reality TV", high on conjecture and low on analysis. While Mr Keegan praised reporters on the front line in Iraq, he expressed scorn for those sitting in studios trying to make sense of events as they unfold, and singled out Channel 4 News presenter Jon Snow as the worst culprit. Newspaper and broadcast news editors, including Sky News' Nick Pollard, Daily Mirror editor Piers Morgan and Times foreign editor Bronwen Maddox; rounded on Air Marshal Burridge over his comments, saying the British media was doing the best job it can in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

## May 30: BBC takes its services into the clear, dropping encryption

May 30th could be as significant a day for digital broadcasting in the UK as was the launch of digital satellite television itself. The reason is that May 30th is the date when the BBC takes its services into the clear using the saved cash to add the remaining regional variations onto the Sky platform.

The in-the-clear transmissions are possible because the Astra 2D satellite has a number of transponders that are tightly focussed on the UK. That means that the sports and movie rights holders who previously required the signal to be encrypted should be satisfied. Unlike Sweden's TV3, which had to encrypt its signal a few years back, because a testing station in Italy spuriously picked up transmissions of Italian football.

Currently the BBC transmits the four so-called 'National Regions' for BBC One serving Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The English version is the one for London with the four largest regions only available during the regional opt-outs that form a part of the Six O'clock News. The BBC's offer to Sky is to ensure that everyone receives the correct region according to where they live. When you press '101' you will get the correct version of BBC One for your part of the world, but only if BSkyB accepts the BBC offer. If all goes according to plan it will presumably be possible for this London resident to find out what's happening on BBC One East if

I'm prepared to enter the services menu of the Sky box.

Talk of rival satellite packages, which surface every time someone squares up to Sky, are clearly far fetched. There's nothing though to stop ITV doing the same when it's contract comes up for renewal in autumn 2004. When ITV first went on satellite a little over a year ago the prospect of using Astra 2D's tight beams was mentioned then.

If a deal can't be done we have the interesting possibility of the Radio Times publishing the instructions on how to add Other Channels into the Sky box - or any other box for that matter - the stock for channels broadcasting in the clear is suddenly rising. There's around 60 of them at the moment although about 30 are shopping channels. CNN, Sky News and Cartoon Network's Boomerang are among the more watchable. The BBC press statement even mentioned the £30,000 reputedly paid by CNN for its entry in the Electronic Programme Guide. Exactly how this equates with postcode mapping for 15 English regions is unclear.

[In Rovereto, Italy, Oct. 6-11](#)

## International Festival of Archaeological Film

The Civic Museum of Rovereto, in conjunction with the magazine "Archeologia Viva", is organising the XIV International Festival of Archaeological Film, which will take place in Rovereto, Oct. 6-11.

The participation in the XIV Festival is open to any film in the fields of archaeological, historical, palethnological and anthropological research and to any documentary aimed at preserving and valuing the cultural heritage.

Because of the increasing number of participants, a selection of the films to be shown during the Festival will be necessary. Anyway, all the works will be listed in the museum data-bank. The Festival, in conjunction with the magazine Archeologia Viva, promotes and values the documentaries through a variety of cultural, scientific and



educational events.

All films selected for the Festival can receive the "Città di Rovereto-Archeologia Viva" Prize given by the public to the most appreciated film. Besides, films produced since 2000 can participate - if selected by a Committee - in the VI competition "Paolo Orsi Prize". The theme of this year's competition is: "The artistic expression in ancient times: figurative art, literature, poetry, theatre, music.." The VI "Paolo Orsi" Prize - consisting of 5500 euro - will be awarded to the best film by an international jury. The deadline for the entry form is April 30.

## Int'l Conference on Cross-Media Service Delivery in Santorini

The 1st International Conference on Cross-Media Service Delivery (CMSD) Santorini, Greece, May 30-31st 2003 This event is being organized with the support of the European Commission IST Programme within the framework of the project CONTESSA (Content Transformation Engine supporting Universal Access, <http://contessa.intranet.gr>).

The CMSD conference addresses a constituency of researchers, technology experts, electronic media publishers, digital content providers, as well as e-business companies, ISPs, network operators, broadcasters, and multimedia equipment and software developers. High-level officials from the European Commission and CEOs from key industrial players are invited as well.

Furthermore, this conference is targeting activities which will be developed in the FP6 IST second call of proposals on Cross-Media content for Leisure and Entertainment. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with possible future partners and exchange ideas for proposals in this area.

For further information please consult the web site:

<http://contessa.intranet.gr/Conference/>

## GSTA conference in Glasgow, Sept. 20-24

GSTA is a network of 360 organisations that are involved with or interested in the giant screen film industry. An international association, GSTA holds an annual conference and trade show every September - the world's largest, dedicated exclusively to giant screen film. Half of the industry's focus is to meet lifelong learning missions through giant screen films using such topics as the natural world and history from a larger context, wildlife, and the ocean environment. The GSTA 2003 International Conference & Trade Show will attract approximately 700 delegates, including owners and operators of the majority of the world's giant screen theatres, film makers, film distributors, equipment suppliers, and other interested parties.

- \* Conference: Register for the GSTA 2003 International Conference & Trade Show, Sept. 20-24, Glasgow, Scotland
- \* Research: Enhance your understanding of the economics of the giant screen industry
- \* Marketing: Promote your business through GSTA advertising, sponsorship, or trade show
- \* Film: Present and receive feedback on your new film, short film, fine cut, film in progress, or film in development at the conference
- \* Resources: Network with professional peers from around the world; take advantage of "best practices" available to members; and access a number of available directories
- \* Publications: Keep up-to-date on current industry and association issues through your member-benefit subscription to The Big Frame
- \* Education: Participate in efforts to better understand the medium's impact on lifelong learning

# Newsletter #2

By M. Nemicic, CR General Secretary

Dear Colleagues,

As the period full of activities is fast approaching, I would like to inform you of what we have done so far and what is of great importance to us in the forthcoming days.

The **Training** - Out of five Trainings that are planned for this year, two are finished already and with great success, too.

From March 3rd through March 7th 2003, the CR **Technical Training** for cameramen was held in Pinewood Studio with AVID sponsorship and thanks to Karol Cioma. Seven cameramen from Germany, Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, France and UK, took part in the Training. It is very important that some of them, thanks to the knowledge they have got on the Training, will join us for the Training for Young Journalists in Grado.

The **Middle Management Seminar** was held from March 12th through March 15th 2003 in Zagreb, sponsored by HRT and Thomson Foundation. Nineteen participants representing eight countries attended. Positive participation and feedback demonstrate that the needs were satisfactorily addressed. I would like to thank Roel Dijkhuis who this year again joined the Seminar as an excellent trainer. The themes and questions that were addressed show how much needed such a Seminar is and I sincerely hope that we shall have the possibility to have such a Seminar next year, too.

The **Ethnic Minorities Seminar** is to be held from April 28th through May 2nd 2003 in Budapest. The Seminar is sponsored by CoE and hosted by Judit Klein. The Seminar is for the participants from all the CR countries and those who have interest in Ethnic Minorities issues, please register.

The **Judging** for Prix Circom will start this week in Sinaia, Romania, thanks to the colleagues from Romanian Television and to Elena Spanily. The co-productions «Enlargement, the New Teenage Europe» and «The Last Straight Line» are progressing very well, primarily thanks to Tim Johnson and Peter Sauer. I do hope that we shall have the opportunity to see some of these programmes in the course of the Annual Conference in Grado.

And now to the issues I need your help for:

1. The **4 Questionnaires** related to CIRCOM work (Membership, Prix Circom, Training, Euromusica) I do thank all those who returned the 4 filled-in Questionnaires and I do ask those who still have not done that (Andres Psaila, PBS Malta, Angei Urreiztieta, RTVE, Anne Flinnkila, YLE, Maria Eugenia Baptista, RTP, Mikkjäl Helmsdal SVF, Faroe, Pier Luigi Malesani, RAI, Sergei Erofeev, Russia, Tito Malaguerra, SRG and Zorica Kostovska, MRTV) to send the Questionnaires. This is particularly important, as the CR Secretariat would like to up-date the database until the Annual Conference.

2. The Questionnaire: **The Survey of Regional TV in Europe**

So far we have received the filled-in Questionnaire from Ahmed Hadzizamakovic, PBS BiH, Judit Klein, MTV, Kjell Jarle Hoyheim, NRK, Per-Ake Krook, SVT, Pierre Couchard, RTBF, Piotr Borys, TVP, Roel Dijkhuis, RTV Noord, Tim Johnson, TVSyd and Vladimir Spicer, HRT. I kindly ask the colleagues who have not returned the filled-in Questionnaire yet, to do it soonest possible, because we do need those data to prepare a Survey for the Conference.

3. Annual Conference, Grado

- If you, or some one from your Television, wish to take part in a Workshop, please let us know. So far, the participation of the very high and strong delegation of the BBC (thanks to Anita Bhala) and of France 3 (grâce à Jean-Marie Belin) have been confirmed

- Please send your Accreditations ASAP (all the Forms are on the web.site)
- For the Grado Training we already have many applicants. However, if there is interest in your Television for the Training, do apply, particularly if you have not applied so far.
- The Grado Training will have a special two-day Workshop for Video Journalism. Information and Application conditions for young journalists will be sent shortly.

With best regards,

Marija Nemicic

## Poll suggests US media failure

Somehow, despite the US media's exhaustive Iraq coverage, a very large segment of the American public remained underinformed about key issues related to the Iraqi crisis. In a January poll, 44 per cent of respondents said they thought "most" or "some" of the September 11, 2001, hijackers were Iraqi citizens. Only 17 per cent of those polled offered the correct answer: none. This was remarkable in light of the fact that, in the weeks after the terrorist attacks, few Americans identified Iraqis among the culprits. So the level of awareness on this issue actually decreased as time passed. In the same sample, 41 per cent said that Iraq already possessed nuclear weapons, which not even the Bush administration claimed. Despite being far off base in crucial areas, 66 per cent of respondents claimed to have a "good understanding" of the arguments for and against going to war with Iraq.

## Prix Europa in Berlin from Oct. 11 to 18

The 2003 Prix Europa will be held in Berlin, Oct. 11-18. The registration deadline for nominations will be July 1. More information is available on the web site: [www.prix-europa.info](http://www.prix-europa.info).

The Prix Europa is awarded to the best European television and radio programmes with the aim of publicising them throughout Europe and supporting their distribution. Since television and radio are good at overcoming borders, the also bear a responsibility for bringing the nations of Europe together. This also applies to their effective use of the Internet. Prix Europa's main concern is to promote the trademark "Made in Europe". Needed is the mosaic of programme quality made up by our many cultures – but also needed is a vigorous exchange of programmes on the audio-visual market. For all their diversity, the peoples of Europe are relatives in one big family. History has therefore given two tasks:

- \* To accept common destiny and learn solidarity
- \* To turn a continent of conflict into a continent of good neighbours

Every year, Prix Europa invites the best television and radio productions – as well as their makers and managers – from all the countries in Europe to engage debate and competition. It wishes to be a forum both for discussing the quality and future of programmes and for dialogue with those responsible for European media policy.

## Festivals, Workshops and more around Europe and the world

- April 16: Brussels. Meeting of the European Commission.
- April 16-17: Athens. The heads of state of the 10 countries due to join the EU next year are expected to sign Accession Treaties during a European Conference hosted by the Greek presidency.
- April 23: Brussels. Meeting of the European Commission.
- April 24: Turkey. Eminent psychiatrist and human rights activist, Alp Ayan is due to appear in court charged with excessive criticism of the authorities, in a case seen by some MEPs as a test of Turkey's reforms of free speech and human rights, which are necessary before it can start negotiating EU entry.
- April 29-30: London. AIB- Association of International Broadcasters holds its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference and technology exhibition. Email: [simon.spanswick@aib.org.uk](mailto:simon.spanswick@aib.org.uk) [www.aib.org.uk](http://www.aib.org.uk)
- April 30: Brussels. Meeting of the European Commission.
- May 1: Labour Day in many European countries.
- May 1-3: Cavtat-Dubrovnik, Croatia. The 10<sup>th</sup> "Copeam" conference of broadcasters from the Mediterranean region. This year's theme is TV reporting of sustainable development subjects. Contact Giulio Gordan. [sgcopeam@copeam.org](http://sgcopeam@copeam.org) [www.copeam.org](http://www.copeam.org)
- May 3: World Press Freedom Day.
- May 5: Athens. Informal meeting of EU Environment ministers.
- May 5-6: Brussels. EU Education Ministers meet.
- May 7: Brussels. Meeting of the European Commission.
- May 8: Brussels. EU Home Affairs Ministers meet.
- May 11: Lithuania. Referendum on accession to the EU.
- May 12-13: Corfu. Informal meeting of EU Agriculture Ministers.
- May 12-15: Strasbourg. European Parliament plenary session.
- May 13: Strasbourg. Meeting of the European Commission.
- May 13: Brussels. EU Finance Ministers meet.

## Circum Report

The "CIRCOM Report" is a monthly publication of CIRCOM 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 Zagreb. The French version of the CIRCOM 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.

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