

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmonthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • Dec. 2003/No 50

RAI's Paolo Morawski is new CIRCOM Regional President

New CR Executive Committee members elected are: Jean-Marie Belin (France), Angel Urreiztieta (Spain), Peter Sauer (Germany).

RAI's Paolo Morawski is the new president of CIRCOM Regional, succeeding Lefty Kongalides who was in the same position from 2001-2003.

With an unanimous vote of the European Board Morawski accepted the honor of leading



New CR President Paolo Morawski

Europe's only regional television association.

Morawski was instrumental in the success of the annual CR conference in Grado, Italy.

In a short speech Paolo thanked everyone and underlined that he will "listen, listen, listen" to what the members suggest and ask and he will do his best to carry on.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all CR members and their families

Kongalides, whose tenure as president ends December 31, added that the CIRCOM Regional years were the best of his career. Full of praise for the outgoing president were also CR General Secretary Marija Nemicic and European Board member Jean-Marie Belin.

New EC members

Three new members entered the Executive Committee: Jean-Marie Belin (France), Angel Urreiztieta (Spain), Peter Sauer (Germany). Judit Klein (Hungary) will be a member for another year. The tenure of Elena Spanily (Romania), Pierre Couchard (Belgium) and Zoran Medved (Slovenia) ends by December 31. Vice president is Piotr Borys (Poland) who will also be responsible for the 2004 annual

conference in Wroclaw.

The 9th President

Morawski is the 9th CIRCOM Regional President in the associations 20 years of activities following: Sergio Borelli (1983-89), Jean Suhas (1989-90),



Lefty Kongalides congratulates Paolo Morawski Boris Bergant (1990-92), David Lowen (1992-94), Harald Boe (1994-96), Carlo Ranzi (1996-99), Reimar Allerdt (1999-2000), Lefty Kongalides (2001-2003).

Member states slow in adopting EU's new 'anti - spam' regime

As from 1 November, the Member States must comply with the EU's new strict digital privacy rules. In practice, only Austria, Denmark, Italy and Sweden have met the deadline.

The EU's Directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications entered into force on 1 November 2003. Popularly known as the EU's 'ban on spam' directive, the technology-neutral regulations include provisions on security of networks and services, confidentiality of communications, access to information stored on terminal equipment, processing of traffic and location data, calling line identification, public subscriber directories and unsolicited commercial communications.

Enforcement of the new laws is left to the individual Member States. Several EU Members are running behind schedule with the new regime's implementation. Only Austria, Denmark, Italy and Sweden had brought their national legislation up to the new standards by the Commission's 1 November deadline.

Under the new regime:

- Cookies and other invisible tracking devices that can collect information on Internet users may be utilised only if the

user is given clear information about the purpose of any such invisible activity and is offered the right to refuse it;

- Location data generated by mobile phones can only be further used or passed on by network operators with explicit user consent. The only exceptions are the transmission of location data to emergency services, and transmission of data to law enforcement authorities, subject to strict conditions;

- E-mail marketing is only allowed with prior consent ('opt-in'). Disguised identities and invalid return addresses are also outlawed. The new regime also covers SMS messages and other electronic messages sent to any mobile and fixed terminal.

In February 2004, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will host a conference to discuss the issue of multilateral co-operation in the fight against spammers and cookie use on the web.

EC launches website for the European Year of Education thru sport

Euro 2004 in Portugal plus the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Athens will place Europe at centre stage as far as international sport is concerned in 2004.

For this reason, the European Union has chosen to name 2004 the European Year of Education through Sport (EYES) with the slogan "Move your body, stretch your mind".

Around 200 events will take place in 28 countries to promote links between education and sport in Europe and to raise the European public's (in particular young people's) awareness of the importance of sport in developing their personalities and social skills.

Sports federations across Europe, including the European Olympic Committees, the International School Sport Federation and the International Ski Federation, are backing EYES.

On 30 October, the Commission launched a new website dedicated to the European Year of Education through Sport (EYES).

The site provides information about education and sport, online games and news about upcoming events.

EU Environmental policy for Irish media

The future of Europe will be strongly influenced by decisions taken by the European Union.

Journalists need to know about the current policy debates in the European institutions and their historical background.

The European Journalism Centre in Maastricht, in co-operation with the European Commission's DG Environment, has designed a two-day programme to help journalists to better know EU environmental policies before the EU Irish Presidency.

The course "EU Environmental Policy for Irish Media" to be held in Brussels, Dec. 15-16, consists of seminars and visits and is sponsored by the DG Environment.

Clear – sighted about truth and reality

The BBC's head of television news has repeated his defence against claims of liberal bias within the corporation, but said the charge was worthy of debate. In a lecture, Roger Mosey said the BBC had to be "clear-sighted about the truth and about reality". Mosey also praised the pioneering achievements of Sky News as one of the few bonuses in the advent of digital television, which overall he described as a "genuine disappointment".

Meanwhile, Mosey has been given a boost by new figures which show the BBC's Ten O'Clock News is the most watched British news show of this year. An average of 5.2m watched the show, up 500,000 on last year, while ITV's rival News at Ten - which has suffered from frequent scheduling changes - lost 150,000 viewers in the same period to leave it with an audience of 3.5m. Channel 4 News enjoyed the best year, boosting its figures by a fifth to just over a million viewers.

CE Media Division's activities in November

Here's a list of council of Europe's Media Division activities this month:

- Expert meeting on the draft amendments to the Moldovan Law on Public National Broadcasting Company Teleradio-Moldova 31 October - 1 November, Strasbourg (France)
- Conference on digital television in Europe 3 November, Rome (Italy)
- 60th meeting of the Steering Committee on Mass Media (CDMM) 4-7 November, Rome (Italy)
- Training seminar for civil servants of European standards concerning freedom of expression and information, organised in the framework of the Joint Programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in Ukraine 13 November, Kiev (Ukraine)
- 4th European Seminar on newsroom management, organised in co-operation with CIRCOM Regional, in the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe 17-22 November, Strasbourg (France)
- Follow-up training seminar for judges and other legal professionals, organised in co-operation with the Executive Office of the President of Azerbaijan, in the framework of the Joint Programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe 19-20 November, Baku (Azerbaijan)
- "Know Thy Neighbour": bilateral meeting of newspaper editors-in-chief from Bulgaria and Albania, organised in co-operation with the Free and Democratic Bulgarian Foundation, in the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe 18-20 November, Sofia (Bulgaria)
- 35th meeting of the Standing Committee on Transfrontier Television (T-TT) 20-21 November, Strasbourg (France)
- Training seminar for members of Economic Courts on Article 10 ECHR and journalistic freedom and responsibilities, organised in the framework of the Joint Programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in Ukraine 26-27 November, Kyiv (Ukraine)
- Conference on Freedom of expression, defamation, slander and insult, organised in the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe 27-28 November, "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
- Round table on media concentrations, organised in co-operation with the Institute for International Relations, in the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe 28 November, Zagreb (Croatia)
- Workshop on the rights of journalists, organised in the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe 28 November, Bucharest (Romania)
- Training seminar for judges and other legal professionals on European standards and media legislation, organised in the framework of the Joint Programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe 28-29 November, Yerevan (Armenia)

BBC3's Fightbox on the ropes

BBC3's £4m interactive show Fightbox, in which contestants fight with virtual warriors they have developed online, has proved the digital TV youth channel's latest ratings flop, costing £136 per viewer per episode

The BBC spent four years and an estimated £3m-£4m developing Fightbox - but after three weeks on air the show has an average audience of just 22,000 viewers.

Assuming each episode of the 20-part Fightbox series cost at least £150,000 to make, it amounts to a cost of £136 per viewer per episode.

Fightbox has been broadcast each weekday evening at 7.30pm since Monday October 13, hitting a high of 56,000 viewers last Thursday, followed by a low of just 6,000 the following night, a figure that is perilously close to a zero rating in the BARB audience measurement system.

The Saturday night omnibus repeat, Fightbox Stack, has fared slightly better, averaging 36,000 viewers.

Fightbox has been described as a cross between Robot Wars, the popular show which has just switched from BBC2 to Channel Five, Gladiator and computer fighting game Tekken.

Each episode of Fightbox features four contestants pitting computer-generated fighters that they have developed the show's website against each other and a group of house combatants in a series of hand to hand combat situations.

The action takes place in a real life indoor arena and is shot as a live event, with the crowd and viewers at home following the combat thanks to special effects that make the computer-generated fighters appear to be in the studio.

Fightbox began with 60 contestants, who will be whittled down to 16 for a quarter final round and just four for the grand final.

The show is in one of TV's toughest slots at 7.30pm, up against either Coronation Street or EastEnders every night.

And Sky One often grabs the top rating multichannel show in the slot, with repeats of The Simpsons gaining around 500,000 viewers.

Fightbox is also due to be repeated later this autumn on BBC2, where it will attract much bigger audiences.

BBC3 was launched in February, taking over from BBC Choice, with a government-backed remit and a £97m budget to provide a showcase for new talent and programme formats.

New shows such as drama Burn It, animated sketch show Monkey Dust and comedy shows Little Britain and 3 Non

Blondes have been well received by many critics.

However, BBC3's original programming has often struggled to attract decent ratings - even by multichannel standards.

And some shows have failed to attract viewers and been panned by the critics.

Vinnie, the 20-part documentary about footballer turned bit part movie actor Vinnie Jones, was pulled after ratings slumped from 100,000 to just 10,000.

Vinnie was described by one reviewer as "unrolling like the 100 Years War, only slightly more slowly and with less immediate prospect of peace".

The channel's top rating shows have tended to be movie repeats, same night repeats of BBC1's EastEnders and premieres of US thriller 24 scheduled immediately after the episode broadcast on BBC2.

The BBC3 controller, Stuart Murphy, has reorganised the channel's schedule this autumn in order to make it more viewer friendly, with zones where the people can find certain types of programming on particular evenings.



The BBC said it did not judge a show's success solely by its ratings and claimed the programme had attracted 200,000 users in the first four weeks of its launch on the associated website.

"FightBox on BBC3 and soon to be seen on BBC2 is not just about the actual viewing figures.

The programme brings together computer gaming, internet and TV technology to create a new and innovative entertainment format," it said.

The BBC said the format would be released as a computer game next February and that production had tested technology to its limits.

"The format is also a key part of BBC3's commitment to start risk-taking shows online and then moving them to TV as seen previously with Celebdaq," it added.

Russia plans 24 – hour news channel

The All-Russia State Television and Radio Company (VGTRK) plans to establish a 24-hour news channel by the end of the year, VGTRK Deputy Chairman Aleksei Malinin announced.

RIA-Novosti reported the content will be made up mostly of VGTRK material, as well as reports from Euronews.

The channel will initially broadcast in Moscow, mostly via cable. According to MR Malinin VGTRK does not plan to make the channel a full-fledged federal news channel, but will instead make it available to satellite-television operators for inclusion in their program packages.

Bulgarian TV Channel may be closed over “Racial Intolerance”

Bulgaria's state Council for Electronic Media (CEM) launched a procedure for closing down private Den TV channel after a "racial discrimination" scandal was prompted by a Den live broadcast, Bulgaria's Dnevnik daily wrote.

The channel's management was already imposed a BGN 15,000 ticket due to the controversial comment that German-descended TV host Nick Stein has made. He criticized the refusal of a member of the Movement for Rights and Freedom (MRF), junior partner in the country's ruling coalition, to speak in Bulgarian at a press conference. The member of the ethnic-Turks dominated party chose to speak in his mother language instead, which aroused Stein's criticism.

The following raid against Den was initiated the Council's Chairman Raycho Raykov. However, he was opposed by CEM member Georgi Lozanov, who claimed that closing down Den would be interpreted as a political decision, Dnevnik revealed.

The TV channel's owner Denka Ivanova is set to be ready for appealing against an eventual court decision in favor of the CEM.

“The Farm” becomes most watched entertainment show on Norway’s TV2

The second season of Strix's original in-house format 'The Farm' finished on a high Nov. 9 as it became the most watched entertainment programme ever on Norway's TV2 television channel. The ratings for the show have reached all time highs during the Fall and this Sunday's final programme of the season was watched by 1,276,000 viewers, achieving an average rating of 34.3, equivalent to a 61.1% share of viewing. The show achieved a staggering 70.2% share of viewing amongst 20-29 year olds.

'The Farm' was first aired in Norway in 2001 and was an instant success, making TV2 the most watched channel in Norway.

The latest run of 'The Farm' on Swedish television is now in its eighth week and is delivering similar outstanding ratings. The average number of viewers is up to 1,131,000 per programme and the average share of viewing is 34%. TV4 Sweden has recently commissioned a fourth season, which will be recorded in South Africa for the first time.

The African version of 'The Farm' will air in Sweden next spring and Strix is in talks with a number of broadcasters regarding producing new series of the format in Africa. 'The Farm' has to date been aired in 7 European countries.

Bulgarian National Television celebrating 44 years of operation

Bulgarian National Television was founded in 1959. Its official launch was on December 26 of the same year.

Presently Bulgarian National Television operates on the basis of the Law for Radio and Television from 1998.

It is a national public broadcasting station.

It has four regional centers situated in the cities of Blagoevgrad, Varna, Plovdiv and Russe.

Since July 19, 2001 BNT has been a licensed nationwide communication operator and TV broadcaster with its Channel 1 as well as the regional stations' programs – "Pirin", "More", "Plovdiv" and "Sever".

BNT is financed from a few different sources – part of its budget is granted by the state and the rest – from commercial revenues.

A transition towards financing through the collection of license fees is expected to be implemented.

The first broadcasting in Bulgaria was the live transmission of the parade on the occasion of the anniversary of October Revolution which was held on September 9 Square (now called Alexander Batenberg Square) in 1959.

In 1974 a second BNT channel was launched.

It was created especially for the purpose of promoting cultural programs.

On June 1, 1993 the First Program was given the name "Channel 1" and the Second Program – "Efir 2".

In May, 1999 BNT started broadcasting the "TV Bulgaria" Satellite Channel.

On October 4, 1998 after the closing down of "Efir 2" BNT continued fulfilling its obligations as a public media through the Channel 1 24-hour program schedule and TV Bulgaria Satellite Channel.

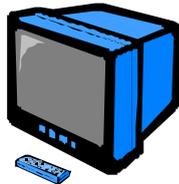
TV Bulgaria is a unique television channel which broadcasts 100 % Bulgarian programs.

The channel transmits through EUTELSAT and covers the whole territory of Europe, most of Ukraine, the European parts of Russia, Western Asia and Northern Africa.

The application of TELETEXT technology will give additional opportunities for the Bulgarian Satellite Channel.

TV Bulgaria will turn into a real television with its own content by financing its own production.

Promoting Bulgaria on the satellite channel as an attractive place for tourism and recreation will undoubtedly contribute to the long-term interests of foreign investors towards the country.



During the past several years BNT programs won prestigious awards at Prix

Danube Festival (Slovakia), the Golden Vityaz (Russia), Prix Nike (Portugal), Prix Jeunesse (Germany), Prix CIRCOM, Golden Albena (Bulgaria), Bar (Montenegro), Golden Cairo Film Festival (Egypt), Golden Rose (Switzerland), etc.

BNT also regularly participates with own programs in numerous international festivals such as Japan Prize, Monte Carlo International TV Festival, Thessaloniki International Festival for TV Documentaries, International TV Festival for short-feature films in Oberheim (Germany), the International Documentary TV Festival in Cracow (Poland), the FIAT International Festival for archive materials, The Golden Prague International Festival, PRIX Italia, etc.

BNT is an active member of the European Broadcasting Union.

It is also a member of the following international organizations: EGTA, IMZ, CIRCOM Regional and FIAT.

www.bnt.bg

Cyprus state TV lost the lead

The Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, established with Cyprus' 1960 independence, used to operate as a semi-governmental organisation in conditions of monopoly until 1990. Pluralistic radio and television were introduced in Cyprus in 1990 and 1992 respectively putting an end to the state monopoly since the 1950's. In the Republic of Cyprus, there are two state and five private television channels with an island-wide coverage and three state and six private radio channels with an island-wide coverage. There are also about 40 local radio and TV stations. The state channels have lost the lead in the numbers of viewers and listeners to private channels. In the Turkish occupied area of Cyprus, the Broadcasting Service is operating under the absolute ownership and control of the Turkish-Cypriot administration. In fact, the Turkish authority-controlled radio and television is more than 80 percent fed from Turkish national television.

Further, a number of channels from Turkey and one from Greece beam directly to Cyprus while satellite television with the world wide coverage is becoming increasingly widespread.

BBC racism expose case dropped

An undercover journalist who exposed racism within police forces will not be charged with any offence, the Crown Prosecution Service announced yesterday. Mark Daly, who works for the UK's BBC, was arrested after Greater Manchester police discovered he was working as an undercover journalist.

Six officers, from three northern forces, resigned and two more have been suspended following the broadcast of Mr Daly's BBC documentary, *The Secret Policeman*.

The programme showed recruits making racist comments and one of them disparaging the character of the murdered student Stephen Lawrence.

The Police Complaints Authority has launched an investigation. Mr Daly had been arrested before the footage was broadcast, on suspicion of obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception, and damaging police property, but the charges were dropped as there was insufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction against Mr Daly.

Greater Manchester police said no further action would be taken: "We were shocked and saddened by what the documentary revealed and are determined to ensure that we learn from the insight obtained."

Animal Planet gets makeover

Animal Planet is re-launching with a more adult look and focus, complete with over 500 hours of new programming and the introduction of theme nights.

Themes include *On the Edge*, featuring programming from Animal Planet hosts like Jeff Corwin; *Fame*, highlighting rising animal actors; *The protectors*, *Unexplained* and *Unexplored*; and *Revealed*.

The 28th Golden Chest International TV Festival has turned into a real celebration for the TV professionals and the public of the beautiful town of Plovdiv.

It was held from October 18 - 25 welcoming films from over 40 countries from four continents which competed in four categories – feature films and series for adults, for children and adolescents, documentaries and the newly established category – “First Steps” – students feature works, documentaries and animation.

The parallel program included presentations for the world-famous

Russian film director Karen Elephant”, etc.

Shakhnazarov, premiere of the controversial Dutch film “The Milosevic Case”, as well as presentations of Syrian TV, the IAT Film School in Lisbon, the Children’s TV Festival “Golden

Visit the official site of Golden Chest – www.goldenchest.bnt.bg to see the complete list of prizes and learn more about one of the most prestigious festivals in Europe which has over 30 years of history.

Films from over 40 countries at the 28th Golden Chest Festival

Golden Chest Int’l TV Festival prizes

The Golden Chest Grand Prix for Category One – Feature Film and Series for Adults to the production of Bulgarian National Television “Under the same sky”, director Krassimir Krumov – Bulgaria.

The Special prize of the Jury for Original Achievements in TV Feature Films TV to the production of Art Fest “Rhapsody in White”, director Stephen /Tedy/ Moskov - Bulgaria

The prize of the Municipality of Plovdiv to the production of Mentor Cinema “Railway Romance”, director Ivan Solovov - Russia

The prize for Best Script to Shinichi Ishikawa for the film “The Dance of Remembrance”, NHK – Japan. The prize is bestowed by the Union of Bulgarian Filmmakers.

The prize for Best Film Director to Ivan Nichev for the film “Journey to Jerusalem”, National Film Center/mdr/bnt – Japan. The prize is bestowed by the Union of Bulgarian Filmmakers.

The prize for Best Director of Photography to Konstantin Zankov for the film “Warming up Yesterday’s Lunch”, Galafilm – Bulgaria. The prize is bestowed by the Union of Bulgarian Filmmakers.

The prize for Best Actor to Egor Beroev for his role in “Railway Romance”, director Ivan Solovov – Russia.

The prize is bestowed by the Union of Bulgarian Actors.

The prize for Best Actress is given to Maria Kavardjikova, Tzvetana Maneva, Plamena Getova, Mariana Zhikich and Evgenia Alexandrova - the female cast of the film “One Calorie of Tenderness”, director Ivanka Grabcheva – Niki Film – Bulgaria.

The prize is bestowed by the Union of Bulgarian Actors.

The prize for Music to Leonardo Rosenmann of “Jurij”, director Stefano Gabrini – RAI TRADE – Italy.

The prize is bestowed by the Union of Bulgarian Filmmakers.

Category Two – Feature Films and Series for Children and Adolescents

The Golden Chest Grand Prix for Category Two – Feature Film and Series for Children and Adolescents to the production of YLE, “Nowhere at home – The Story of a child Evacuee”, director Kirsti Tulonen-Seppaenen – Finland/INLAND – for the humanism in the message of the film and the high professional quality of the realization.

The special prize of the Jury for original Achievements in TV Feature Films for Children and Adolescents to the production of Bulgarian National Television – CINEMAQ “Rosy Pelican Reserve”, director Ivailo Jambazov – Bulgaria – for the fascinating twists in the storyline and the concerned appeal to protect nature.

The prize for best Child Actress to Marianna Kesseli for her role in, “Nowhere at Home – The Story of a Child Evacuee”, director Kirsti Tulonen-Seppaenen – Finland – for her compelling and talented performance in the main role of the film.

The special prize of the Jury of Children from the city of Plovdiv to the production of YLE, “Nowhere at home – The story of a child Evacuee”, director Kirsti Tulonen-Seppaenen – Finland

Category Three – Documentary Films

The Golden Chest Grand Prix for Category Three – Documentary Films to the production of NHK, “Silent Village”, director Seigo Naito - Japan.

The special prize of the Jury for Original Achievements in TV Documentary Films to the production of Adela Media and Film and TV Productions “Whose is this song”, director Adela Peeva - Bulgaria

The prize of Novote Plovdiv ex Equo to the production of Korean Broadcasting System “New year’s day special: Snow falling on the mountains”, director Je-heon Lee – Korea and to the production of Bulgarian National Television “In the name of ...”, director Damian Petrov – Bulgaria

Honorary Diplomas to the Productions of: Viktor Asliuk “We are living on the edge”, director Viktor Asliuk – Belarus, Blagoevgrad TV Center “Slavka” director Ognyan Gelinov – Bulgaria, Plovdiv Regional TV Center “Young at heart” director Svetoslav Draganov – Bulgaria, aTV “Iraq – The 21st day”, director Elena Yoncheva – Bulgaria, RFF International “Bread over the fence”, director Stefan Komandarev – Bulgaria

Category Four - "Fist Steps" – Students Feature Films, Documentaries and Animation

The Golden Chest Grand Prix PRIX for Category Four – Feature Films, Documentary Films and Animation produced by students to the production “Let’s go home”, director Lisa Monthe - Drama Institute Stockholm - Sweden

The Special Prize of the Jury for Original Achievements in Students’s Cinematography Ex Equo to the production “40 Days of life”, director Radoy Nikolov – NATFA – Bulgaria and “In the name of the father”, director Julio Maria Pessoa – University of Sao Paolo – Brazil. The prize of Natfa “Krastju Sarafov” to the production “The portrait”, director Lucie Simkova – FAMU – Czech Republic. Special mentions to: “Tenue”, director David Cardona – University of Buenos Aires – Argentina, “I have to tell you something”, director Dragomir Sholev – NATFA – Bulgaria. “Cluck Cluck”, director Olaf Enke – HFF “Konrad Wolf” Potsdam – Germany

The prize on the name of Galia Bachvarova is awarded to Ivailo Djambazov – director of the film participating in Category Two – “Rosy Pelican Reserve”. The Jury of the Association of the Cameramen in Bulgaria awarded: the prize for direction of photography to Konstantin Zankov for the feature film “Warming up yesterday’s lunch”, GALAFILM – Bulgaria

Diploma to Ivailo Penchev, director of photography of the film for children and adolescents “Rosy Pelican Reserve” – Bulgarian National Television/CINEMAQ – Bulgaria

Diploma to Anton Bakarsky, director of photography of the documentary film “Bread over the fence”, RFF International – Bulgaria

ECO 2004 in Ohrid, June 2-6

The 5th Int'l TV Festival on Environmental Protection and Culture Heritage

The 5th International Festival of TV programmes, titled "ECO-2004", is to be organized under the auspices of Co.Pe.A.M. in Ohrid, June 2-6.

The "ECO-2004" competition is designed to attract editions / programmes from all genres (informative, factual, documentary, educational, science, school topics, programmes for children, animation, light entertainment, and feature programmes) outlining themes dedicated on protection of environment and cultural heritage, as well.

All public TV stations / producing corporations are invited to send optionally up to two editions / programmes following each main category (one dedicated to the protection of the environment and the second dedicated to the protection of the cultural heritage).

There are no limits in conjunction with footage of the relevant material.

Only programmes produced after January 2002 are to be considered as eligible for the festival competition, which is all about environmental protection and cultural heritage.

All entries should be submitted on tapes - BETA, SP, PAL, dubbed or subtitled in English language.



Tapes should contain three copies of the script in the original language, as well as three copies of translated script in English.

Along with the closing ceremony (June 5 - the international ecology day), the festival jury composed of international judges is going to institute four creative awards: the best directing, camerawork, script, editing, as well as Grand Prix by Co.Pe.A.M. for the best programme in general competition, UNESCO Diploma, Statuette issued by the Macedonian Ecological Press Center.

All tapes and scripts of programmes, together with the remainder of accompanied promotional material should be delivered by April 15, 2004 (the latest) to the following address:

Macedonian Radio & Television (for "ECO-2004"), Bul. Goce Delcev b.b., 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia.

Too much sex on UK's TV say children

Two-thirds of children have seen TV shows which they thought had "too much sex," a study has found.

And many have a "cynical" attitude towards saucy pop videos, claiming stars such as Britney Spears are making up for a lack of talent by shedding their clothes.

Research among nine to 12-year-olds found the media were as useful as mothers for finding out about sex and relationships.

TV, newspapers and magazines were thought to be far more helpful than fathers in exploring such issues. Only 34% thought dads were a useful source, while mums and the media were both ranked highly by 66%.

The report, commissioned by bodies such as the Broadcasting Standards Commission, the Independent Television Commission and the BBC, looked at how children interpreted sex in the media.

It found a majority of children (two thirds) believed they had seen TV shows or videos with too much sexual content. Only 36% of those opted to stop watching.

Research director of the BSC Andrea Millwood Hargrave said: "They talk about being embarrassed and they talk

about dad hiding behind the newspaper. But very few said their parents actually sent them out of the room."

As part of the research the youngsters were shown a number of pop videos including Britney Spears' I'm A Slave 4 U, and the promo for Lady Marmalade by Christina Aguilera, Pink, Mya and Li'l Kim.

One 12-year-old boy said of the Britney video: "She's selling us her looks basically. I think she's not got anything in between her ears - and her voice isn't really that good either."

Leading soaps EastEnders and Coronation Street were mentioned by some of the children as helping to clarify issues about relationships, rather than youth-orientated shows such as Hollyoaks.

EU countries rank high in media honesty list

A survey by the Institute for Public Relations in the US has shown that, if you want to bribe journalists, you will have the least success in Northern Europe. Finland tops the list, which ranks countries in various categories such as the freedom of the press and ethical codes for journalists.

Denmark, Austria, Germany and the UK also feature in the top ten most honest media. Surprisingly, the survey demonstrates that the French media is the second most easily corruptible in the EU.

According to the report the most dishonest journalists come from Greece. Accession countries more bribeable.

Of the future EU states, Estonia's media is ranked as the least likely to be corrupt, but it is still placed one below Greece.

Poland is the worst accession country for bribery in the media, featuring in 41st place.

The worst country in the world for media corruption, according to the survey, is China, followed by Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.

Bulgarian cable TV loses license

The Council on Electronic Media, the state institution that regulates the media, revoked the license of the private cable-television operator Union Television for inciting ethnic hatred, news website mediapool.bg reported.

The council ruled that the anchorman of a call-in program on TV Den, which is run by Union Television, had incited ethnic hatred by allowing callers too much room to air their criticism that the government has granted too many rights to ethnic Turks and Roma.

Union Television has announced that it will challenge the council's decision before a court.

The Union of Bulgarian Journalists criticised the revocation of the license as too drastic and said such a decision must be justified before the journalists' guild and the public.

Murdoch eyes Russia's NTV

Moscow NTV, one of Russia's biggest national television networks, has been in discussions with Rupert Murdoch and News Corp. regarding the sale of NTV's satellite business.

Any sale, part of a broad restructuring by the television channel's parent company, Gazprom, would probably not take place until after a board meeting later this month. NTV Plus is a satellite subscription business with roughly 200,000 customers.

The state-controlled network is unlikely to change hands until after presidential elections in March 2004. A possible sale of Russian television assets, amid a broad government crackdown on the free press, has highlighted how politicised and tightly-controlled TV has become. Russia has three major television networks, NTV, Channel One and Rossiya, and each is now directly or indirectly owned by the Russian government.

Rupert Murdoch, founder of News Corp., is seen as someone comfortable doing business with state-controlled media markets. "Murdoch's got no problem doing business with the state," said a person close to Gazprom-Media. "He can toe the party line, like he did in China. He is loyal and he gets the business, because he's looking down the road five or ten years."

Snapshots from the Liege CIRCOM Regional EC conference





TRT's Fuat Kale new chief co-ordinator for BTM

TRT's Fuat Kale has been voted new chief co-ordinator of the "Balkan TV Magazine" project which was launched in 1994 and still going strong with the participation of the public TV stations of the Balkans (Albania, FYROM, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Turkey and Greece). Lefty Kongalides who was in the same position for seven years suggested Kale as a successor who, wholeheartedly, accepted. Kale is TRT's Director of Co-production & Sales Dept. His office is in Ankara.

Moldovan watchdog wants violence off TV

The Co-ordination Board of the Electronic Media in Moldova decided that films and programs shown on television must carry warnings if they include violent or pornographic scenes, Infotag reported.

The decision follows the monitoring of nine channels, which concluded that only the First Channel of Moldovan Television and the ORT -Moldova channel of Russian Public Television do not carry such scenes.

Board director Ion Mihailo said "violence and a lack of morality" are often displayed on the other channels, leading to "the perversion of our children".

Mr Mihailo said the monitoring has uncovered a new phenomenon: violence finding its way into news programs.

As an example, he cited the Pro-TV private Romanian channel's 5pm newscasts.

As a consequence, the board is demanding that the program be either cancelled or moved to a later hour.

EU's new anti-spam regime in force

The EU's Directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications entered into force on 1 November 2003. Popularly known as the EU's 'ban on spam' directive, the technology-neutral regulations include provisions on security of networks and services, confidentiality of communications, access to information stored on terminal equipment, processing of traffic and location data, calling line identification, public subscriber directories and unsolicited commercial communications. Enforcement of the new laws is left to the individual Member States. Several EU Members are running behind schedule with the new regime's implementation. Only Austria, Denmark, Italy and Sweden had brought their national legislation up to the new standards by the Commission's 1 November deadline. In February 2004, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will host a conference to discuss the issue of multilateral co-operation in the fight against spammers and cookie use on the web.

AXN's Euro rollout

Sony Pictures Entertainment has expanded the reach of its action-adventure channel, AXN, into six European countries: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria.

Tom Davidson has been named as the channel's GM, and will be based in Budapest.

RTL wing Croatian TV license

RTL Group, leading a consortium of local partners, has won a 10 - year license for a nationwide, free-to-air private TV station in Croatia.

Terms have yet to be finalized, but it is expected to be RTL - branded and will launch in the first half of 2004.

Iraq broadcasting tender attracts bid from ITN

ITN is preparing to bid for a lucrative deal to run a news channel in Iraq. The coalition authorities have put out to tender a contract worth \$10m (about 8.7m euros) over two years to re-establish the country's shattered broadcasting network. ITN Consulting, a division of the London news organisation's international wing, has a team in Baghdad assessing the contract.

The coalition wants to set up television news and general entertainment channels, and similar radio stations.

The successful bidder will also be expected to launch a national newspaper for Iraq.

It is likely that ITN would enter a consortium with a US engineering firm. Most reconstruction contracts are going to US companies.

Much of the transmission infrastructure in Iraq has been destroyed and ITN would need a big company to help restore it.

Festivals, Workshops and more around Europe and the world

December

- Dec. 15: Brussels. EU Transport and Energy Ministers meet.
- Dec. 16: Brussels. EU Finance Ministers meet.
- Dec. 16-19: Brussels. EU Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers meet.
- Dec. 19: Brussels. EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers meet.
- Dec. 20: Space. The European Space Agency's Mars Express spacecraft is due to reach Mars after a six-month flight, and release the British-built Beagle 2 probe for descent. (See Christmas Day) www.beagle2.com
- Dec. 22: Brussels. EU Environment Ministers meet.
- Dec. 25: Space. If it hasn't burned up or missed its target, Britain's 'Beagle 2 Lander' is due for a soft-landing on Mars on Christmas Day, before starting a 50-day search for signs of life using robotic techniques.

January

- Jan. 18-20: Natpe 2004 Conference & Exhibition, Sands Expo Center & Venetian Hotel, Las Vegas, USA. www.natpe.org
- Jan. 28-30: EPM - European Programmes Market, C.I.D. - Deauville Int'l Centre, France. www.ep-market.com

March

- March 22-23: Promax & BDA Europe. Cavalieri Hilton, Rome, Italy. www.promax.tv/europe
- March 27-28: Mipdoc, Hotel Martinez, Cannes, France www.mipdoc.com
- March 29 - April 2: MipTV, Palais Des Festivals, Cannes, France, www.miptv.com

Circum Report

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