

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmonthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • February 2003/No 40

Executive Committee meeting in Budapest on February 22

The CIRCOM Regional Executive Committee will have a meeting on Feb. 22 in Budapest, Hungary.

The meeting will start at 9 a.m. After luncheon participating members will proceed working in two groups on Enlargement and the Annual Conference.

Trieste Journalism Training Seminar

Calling all National Co-ordinators

The Council of Europe Human Rights Media Division has once again agreed to co-sponsor the annual Circom Regional Journalism Training Seminar.

The event will take place before the annual Circom conference. Delegates will be expected to arrive from the training on Sunday May 18th and depart on Sunday June 1st. The actual location and venue for the training has still to be decided, but will be confirmed within the next few weeks. Once again, the course will use DV Cam filming equipment and Avid Xpress DV laptop editing facilities. There will be plenty of opportunity for journalists to gain hands-on experience.

Places on the course this year may be limited so National Co-ordinators are advised to nominate their delegates, or express their interest in doing so, as soon as possible.

There will be no cost for the training but member stations are expected to pay for their delegate's travel costs to and from Trieste.

Please write to: Jennifer Dickenson, the Thomson Foundation.

Email: dickensonj@thomfound.co.uk and Karol Cioma, the Thomson Foundation, Circom Regional Training Project Manager. Email: kproductions@btpopenworld.com.

The 28th Golden Chest Int'l Festival in Plovdiv next Oct.

For over 30 years Bulgarian National Television has been organizing the Golden Chest annual international TV festival in its endeavors to contribute to the development of TV drama and to broaden mutual relations between authors and producers from all over the world.

The 28th Golden Chest International TV Festival 2003 will be held in Novotel Plovdiv, in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, October 19-27.

The Festival is a competition with three categories:

***Category One** - TV Films and Series for Adults (duration up to 120 min.)

***Category Two** - TV Films and Series for Children and Adolescents (duration up to 60 min.)

***Category Three** - TV Documentaries (duration up to 60 min.)



ЗААТАТА ПАКАА
GOLDEN CHEST

Every broadcaster or independent producer may present one program in each of the three of the categories.

Films submitted for participation must be sent no later than July 4, using the following formats: Betacam SP, PAL and VHS with English subtitles.

Important dates :

July 1 - Deadline for submitting the entry forms

July 4 - Deadline for receiving the cassettes

July 20 - Announcing the selection results

July 31 - Deadline for submitting personal application forms

Contacts, Mailing Address :

GOLDEN CHEST International TV Festival 2003

Bulgarian National Television

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CR's David Lowen is the new Euronews Managing Director

David Lowen, the CIRCOM Regional Prix Circom Coordinator is appointed EuroNews new Managing Director following the departure of Martyn Wheatley to join MBC (Middle East Broadcasting Centre) in Dubai as Managing Director of News. Martyn Wheatley, who joined EuroNews as Deputy managing Director on 1997, was appointed managing Director in May 1999 and helped make EuroNews into the most watched news channel in Europe. Among his many achievements was the growth of EuroNews into Russia and the United States.

Stewart Purvis, President of SOCEMIE, the operating company of EuroNews, said, "Martyn Wheatley has helped to transform the image and reputation of EuroNews around the world. He has created a legacy which I am sure others build on. We wish him luck at MBC".

The supervisory board of SOCEMIE has appointed David Lowen as Managing Director. David is an experienced television executive who has worked for ITV in UK and as a consultant for many broadcasters in Europe.

The EuroNews management team, led by David Lowen:

Luis Rivas will act as Editorial Director.

Alan Mercer is named Director of Resources.

Michael Peters is named Financial Director.

Dominique Gicquel becomes Human Resources Director.

Olivier de Montchenu continues as Sales and Marketing Director.

- EuroNews, the pan-European news channel, was launched in January 1993. It offers international news from a European perspective and simultaneously broadcasts in seven different languages: English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian.
- EuroNews now reaches in 78 countries more than 122 million homes through cable, digital platforms and terrestrial TVC in Europe, the Middle East, the American and African continents.

Tel: +33 472 188056 www.euronews.net

(More on p.8)

eContent Programme: third call for proposals

The eContent Programme has launched its third call for proposals. It invites proposals for demonstration projects and accompanying measures under the fixed deadline call with closing date of 21 March and definition phase projects under a continuous submission scheme (valid until 28 May 2004) within the scope of its three action lines:

- (1) improving access to and use of public sector information;
- (2) enhancing content production in a multilingual and multi-cultural environment;
- (3) increasing dynamism in the digital content market.

The call text published in the Official Journal, C 320/13, 20 December 2002 as well as the workprogramme 2003-2004 can be downloaded from <http://www.cordis.lu/econtent/call201202.htm>. Under the events section you will find more details of the upcoming national information days to present the call for proposals <http://www.cordis.lu/econtent/events.htm>.

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<http://www.cordis.lu/econtent/events.htm>.

The Commission was to organise an Information Day in Luxembourg on 11 February online registration and agenda available at <http://www.contentvillage.org/articles.asp?id=365>

For further information and assistance contact your local National Contact Points (see list

<http://www.cordis.lu/econtent/network.htm>).

Please do also make use of the pre-proposal service run by the Commission in order to guide proposers in determining whether their idea is in the scope of the eContent programme.

8th Int'l Prize for Med Documentary Film-making

The 8th edition of the International Prize of Mediterranean Documentary Film-making & Reporting will be held in Italy, early April. The deadline for the entries is March 4.

Three new program categories will be awarded:

- the best report showing better the mediterranean challenges Prize "Mediterranean Challenges" (5000€)
- the best mediterranean documentary Film making, prize of CMCA "Quality and creation" (5000€)
- the work describing better the capacity of actualizing previous facts, prize "Mediterranean Memories" (5000€)

Two special prizes, "Rai for the Mediterranean" and "France 3", will be given among the finalist works.

DTTV in France questioned

France's Secretary of Culture and Communication has claimed that the future of the public service is not linked with DTTV.

Mr JJ Aillagon added that the public service can flourish without DTTV: "One has no need to invent every morning a new channel, a new programme, a new project to be faithful to the public service missions," he argued. The comments were made during the debate on the 2003 budget in the Senate.

These opinions come in the wake of the Boyon's report, which recommended a "downsizing" of the public service area, aiming more specifically at a news channel, eight regional channels and a re-broadcast channel.

Fighting information overload in 21st century

Today's journalists have to deal with new technologies, convergence and information overload, plus the necessity of a 24-hour news cycle and consumer expectations of news on any device at any time. A new book suggests ways for news providers to meet the information and collaboration challenges of the 21st century. "Knowledge Management in the Digital Newsroom," by Stephen Quinn (Focal Press, 2002), covers topics such as newsroom culture, technologies for reporters, wireless access and capacity building, drawing on examples from news organisations around the world. The book calls for a variety of approaches, such as learning from the habits of librarians and information scientists, better newsroom design, software tools for sharing and re-packaging of information, a well maintained intranet and digital library, and familiarity with new devices like digital cameras and handheld PCs.

BBC links up with al-Jazeera

The BBC has given al-Jazeera its seal of approval by signing an agreement to exchange news material with the Arab satellite news channel. Al-Jazeera has been criticised by some in Washington for its coverage of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Footage gained by al-Jazeera during the war in Afghanistan was used by broadcasters all around the world – but the network was frequently accused of fuelling terrorism by broadcasting videos of bin Laden. However, such charges have not deterred the BBC from agreeing to share facilities and footage with the Qatar-based television network. Crucially, al-Jazeera has a bureau in Baghdad at a time when Western broadcasters are experiencing problems gaining access to Iraq. Al-Jazeera broadcasts in Arabic but has plans to launch an English-language website in February.

Germany's Tagesschau 50th anniversary

Tagesschau, Germany's most popular news show, celebrated its 50th anniversary last month. Since the show first went on air in December 1952, many households have made sure that the dishes are done before the clock strikes eight, and kids have always known that after the weather report it's off to bed. Stopping everything to be informed by Tagesschau presenters on the day's events is still a ritual for many Germans.

What started out as a production involving four people has evolved into a news factory of sorts, employing some 240 workers. While television has come a long way since the initial Tagesschau broadcast, the show has maintained its hold on the news market

AIB Global Media Business conference



The Association for International Broadcasting, the trade body for the cross-border broadcasting industry, announced that its annual *Global Media Business conference* will take place in London, on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th April.

The AIB's *Global Media Business conference* brings together the entire international broadcasting industry, from broadcasters to transmission providers, manufacturers to financiers, satellite operators to consultants. Taking place over two days at the Royal College of Surgeons in Lincoln's Inn Fields, central London, the event will offer delegates the opportunity to learn, discuss, network and debate.

The conference will cover four broad areas - audiences, content, technology and finance. The agenda is already well advanced, and the range of speakers is impressive, and reflects the truly international nature of this annual event.

Spain tightens TV ownership

Jose Maria Aznar ruling Popular Party has tightened TV ownership restrictions in Spain banning shareholders in nationwide TV operators from owning local or regional TV nets.

The rulings, announced Monday by the Spanish Minister of Science and Technology Josep Pique, will force Telefonica to sell its controlling stake in free-to-air broadcaster Antena 3 if it wants to push through the merger of its satcaster Via Digital with rival pay TV operator Sogecable.

The new rules will also oblige Prisa, the managing shareholder of Sogecable, to divest joint ownership of 65 local TV operators grouped under the Localia banner.

The Partido Popular's rulings may well increase the number of companies with significant TV assets in Spain. But observers say that the companies likely to benefit from the regs will be close to the government or at least far removed from Spain's socialist opposition. Pundits predict that Telefonica will push through the Via-Sogecable merger. It has the whole of next year to divest its 16 per cent stake in either Sogecable or Antena 3.

French broadband takes off

Broadband internet access has taken off in France - thanks to new pricing policies. Subscription to ADSL services has become more popular with the broader public since last year when the French ISP, Free, cut the price of its service by a third. Until then, ADSL clients had to pay not only the monthly connection fees, but also for an expensive cable modem and its installation by a professional. Now, all the ISPs offer free installation and a free modem. Customers can also purchase ADSL at the supermarket for around 30 euros a month.

By Christmas, France Telecom hopes to have 1.3 million subscriptions to its ADSL service. Last June, the state-run ISP registered around 40,000 subscriptions a month; it now achieves this figure every week.

In France, ADSL is the preferred solution over other broadband services, such as cable internet, which are now struggling to survive. If the client's telephone line is compatible with ADSL, the client can be connected in just over a week.

Official term for '@' approved in France

Even though French net surfers use the "at" sign for web addresses, the French General Committee on Terminology has officially approved naming the symbol as "arobase."

But the term is not French. Officials said the word is a derivative from an ancient Spanish and Portuguese measurement unit with the same symbol. Other terms approved included 'anneau de site' for webring and 'portail' instead of portal, but not all terminology alternations have been implemented. Five years ago attempts to replace e-mail with the word "mel" failed.

TV2 Nord launch trial service

Denmark's number two public service channel, TV2 Nord, has launched an interactive digital video broadcasting service named DVB-T. The service utilises Network Electronics' routers to carry signal switches, and is sponsored by both public and private funding. DVB-T is seen as a trial project to test how well a digital terrestrial broadcasting system would operate in Denmark. Viewers can watch 'interactively' or watch normally with improved picture quality.

EU bans tobacco ads

The European Union voted for a new rule to outlaw tobacco ads in magazines and newspapers. The law will also ban tobacco ads on radio and the internet, and prohibit cigarette companies from sponsoring events like Formula One motor racing. The 15 members of the union are obliged to incorporate the pan-European law into their national statutes by July 2005.

The union health ministers also signed a recommendation on how all member governments can further discourage tobacco use among children and adolescents. Among the suggestions in the document were banishing cigarette machines from places where children are allowed, banning billboards that advertise tobacco products and forbidding the use of recognised cigarette brands on other products, such as clothing.

The union's health and consumer protection commissioner, David Byrne, called the developments a "double blow against Big Tobacco." The addition of the print media, the internet and radio to the ban marks the second union attempt to silence the tobacco industry. The European Publishers Council, which represents many of the biggest European publishing houses, said it was opposed to the inclusion of print media in the new law.

BBC HQ plans hit snag

The BBC is facing opposition to the development of its planned #250m (382m euros) news centre in central London. Howard de Walden Estates, one of the largest landowners in the city is seeking to prevent the work, which it says breaches a contract signed when the BBC bought the site, near Regent's Park, in the 1930s. The landowner fears the new centre would diminish the value of its surrounding luxury residential buildings. Plans for the revamp of Broadcasting House include 140 studios, a central atrium and a newsroom the size of half a football pitch, making it the largest broadcasting centre in the world.

Construction is due to start in February. The new complex will include public spaces and amenities designed to make the BBC more accessible to visitors, whilst providing facilities for over 5,000 staff. Digitally equipped for radio, television and online production, the site is due to be completed in 2008.

Rory Peck Finalists Reflect an Extraordinary Year

The finalists for this year's Rory Peck Awards, sponsored by Sony, have filmed some of the most unforgettable images ever broadcast, demonstrating once again the vital contribution of freelancers to world newsgathering.

The Rory Peck Trust has received an outstanding range of news items as entries for this year's awards, which honours the work of freelance camera people. The entries cover news from around the world and draw from a year that has produced some of the most shocking and powerful images ever captured.

Finalists for the Sony International Impact Award were selected by a panel of European broadcasters who selected three pieces of footage including: State of Terror, which covered an investigation into Israel's actions during the occupation of Jenin, World Trade Center Attack 9-11-01-film of emergency services crews during the collapse of the first tower, and true extent of allied forces in the war against the Taliban.

Bob Jobbins, Chairman of the Rory Peck Trust, picks up the story: "We knew that these three were strong pieces of footage. They are powerful images of some of the most important events of the last year. When they were all included in the finals for the other awards, it became clear that these three images came to dominate our view of the year.

MINORITIES ACCUSE TV AND RADIO OF TOKENISM

Audiences from minority ethnic groups complained about tokenism, negative stereotyping and the simplistic portrayal of their communities on UK television in a UK report published yesterday.

The report, Multicultural Broadcasting: Concept and Reality, was released by the BBC, Broadcasting Standards Commission, the ITC and the Radio Authority. It explores attitudes towards multicultural broadcasting from the perspective of the audience and from within the television, radio and advertising industries.

The perspectives of ethnic and racial minorities were not featured sufficiently on terrestrial television, according to 69 per cent of those working in television. Of the radio sample, 45 per cent agreed. Groups from the Asian subcontinent spoke of the way in which arranged marriages were presented on television.

They felt treatment of the

issue was neither accurate nor reflective of the way in which the system has changed.

The issue of tokenism was also significant – some people felt characters from minority ethnic groups were included in programmes because it was expected they should be, resulting in characters who were ill-drawn and unimportant. It was seen as important that minority groups should be included in soap operas of game shows, as they have viewing figures.

Throughout the audience research there was an underlying feeling that as all people paid a licence fee for the BBC, it had a greater obligation to accommodate minority tastes.

BBC World wins Best News Channel at Hot Bird Awards

The BBC's 24-hour international news and information television channel has won the award for Best News Channel in the fifth Hot Bird TV Awards. BBC World was the only English language channel to win an award this year and was awarded the prize specifically for its coverage of the attacks on the USA on September 11th 2001.

Meanwhile the latest International Air Travellers Survey (IATS) Asia Pacific 2002 confirms that BBC World is the fastest growing international news channel in the region. The study measures the viewership of international television channels and readership of international publications among international air travelers.

Since the previous survey in 2000, BBC World viewership has grown by 6% to 13%, while other channels have suffered-CNN dropped by 24% from 26.1% to 19.8% (following a 13% drop the previous year), and CNBC are down by 34% from 10.4% to 6.9% (www.bbcworld.com)

EuroNews launches in Yugoslavia and on Czech cable network

EuroNews has concluded an agreement with the Yugoslav cable operator KDS. The English version of EuroNews is now available to 26,000 homes in Belgrade and Novi Sad. With this new territory, EuroNews has a presence in 77 countries worldwide.

Already broadcast partially on the terrestrial channel CT2, EuroNews has just concluded its first agreement with the largest cable TV operator in Czech Republic. UPC Czech Republic includes EuroNews in German and English to the Lifeline package consisting in 10 channels. Currently, 300,000 homes subscribe to this package and receive EuroNews as the unique channel broadcasting in English.

With these two agreements EuroNews is now distributed worldwide in 124 million households in Central and Eastern Europe on cable networks, satellite platforms and through terrestrial channel.

EBU to test video watermarking and tracking system

The EBU's Eurovision News Exchanges are to begin testing Teletrax, a unique video watermarking and reporting system, to monitor the broadcast of news programming on television stations across Europe.

"Teletrax is a major technological breakthrough for the television industry", said Tony Naets, head of Eurovision News Services of the EBU, which operates the Eurovision News Exchanges from its headquarters in Geneva. "The service promises us the ability to track where and when our members' video is televised, allowing us to monitor usage behaviour as well as to observe any unauthorized use".



Snapshots from Munich

Here are some snapshots from the first meeting of the Sub-Committee for Coproductions as well as the Enlargement held in Munich Jan. 18

Present on the part of CIRCUM Regional were Marija Nemcic, Peter Sauer, Tim Johnson, Pierre Couchard, Zoran Medved, Peter Kraewinkels, Valerie Joyeux



Coproduction projects in the Balkan for the Olympic Games & Traditions

Under his new capacity as Head of the Documentary Dept. of MTB, the Macedonian Television, Stalin Lozanovski, has come up with two new coproduction ideas in the Balkan area.

This is a preliminary contemplation upon upcoming Olympic Games where neighboring countries would be given an opportunity to express their appreciation and regards toward host of the Games. The series would be composed of two volumes forked into separate editions of 5 programmes each. The first 5 programmes are scheduled for spring-summer 2003, and the second round is reserved for the same period in 2004, ie 13 August, 2004 the latest, just before the beginning of the Games in Athens. Programs would be filmed on locations across antic amphitheatres in Saranda (Albania), Ohrid (FYRO Macedonia), Plovdiv (Bulgaria), Anthalia (Turkey) and Dion on the hillocks of the Olymp in Greece. (In the event that the idea starts to develop into "Balkan Sends Regards", and if possible we could include new modern scenes from Belgrade and Bucharest).

The programmes would be scheduled as live transmission on two weeks basis. All programmes should be thematically composed of diverse topics and filmed stories. The first edition should outline sporting potential disseminated through out the Balkan countries in the face of forthcoming Games, primarily showcasing overall sporting & hotel facilities, presentation of traditional landmarks, indigenous customs and dances, resorts and places of cultural heritage (mostly cities and location under the protection of UNESCO). The core concept should be the musical part of the programme that will comprise of ethno, classical, folk, as well as popular music items. The second edition scheduled for the next year could showcase each neighbor country Olympic selection partaking in "Small Olympic Games" in the shape of antic sporting activities organized on the ground of specially adopted antic scenes, as well as followed by exhibitions of young involved into the Games, etc. Musical part of the programme should be composed of authentic musical items, unique performance with ancient musical instruments, poetical messages, ie the main musical theme could be arranged as a joint effort together with musicians coming from the neighbor countries.

Show programmes shall be conducted by emcees from the host country upon scenarios in their native language, previously submitted by the TV Station

coming from each country participant.

However, we suggested the above scenario translation to be arranged with presence of separate programme announcers speaking their part of scenario in their original language, or through on screen scenario subtitled on 5 different languages organized from separate studios within the each country participant.

The last closing show set up should be organized with the amphitheater in Dion (hillocks of Olymp) encompassing all emcees and performers from each country participant in this project.

Financial support for each programme should be borne on the account of the host country, with possibility of additional financial assistance granted by Olympic Committees within each country participant, or direct support by International Olympic Committee (covering expenses related to promotion, propaganda and preparatory activities taken for the purpose of the Games).

At this stage, each national television should express its express readiness toward tangible participation within this project. The initiative should favorably emerge from Balkan TV Magazine Consortium that has already proven through its editions of "Balkan Magazine", particularly relying on experienced programming people in terms of existing teams of editors and executive producers within entertainment departments across the relevant TV stations.

Folk Music Project

MTB, the Macedonian Television, in the frame of the Folk Music Programme, will introduce a permanent feature called "Review of the Balkan Folk Music Scene", in which material, talks and songs will be introduced from the field of folk music and the folklore from the television companies of the Balkan countries. The editor of MTB folk music department will carry out the contacts and the agreements with his colleagues from all interested companies. Thus, MTB would like to ask for the name of editors in charge of the folk music department in the Balkan companies, or some other person whom they should contact (by phone, fax or email).

Eight Presidents and 4 Secretaries in CR history

Back in 1983, the launching year of CIRCUM Regional, there were only four participating with 48 regional public TV stations. Nowadays there are 38 countries being represented with almost 400 stations.

The presidents for CIRCUM Regional so far have been:

- 1983-89 Sergio BORELLI, RAI (Rome, Italy)
 - 1989-90 Jean SUHAS, FRANCE 3 Aquitaine (France)
 - 1990-92 Boris BERGANT, RTV Slovenija (Ljubljana, Slovenija)
 - 1992-94 David LOWEN, Yorkshire TV (Leeds, UK)
 - 1994-96 Harald BOE, NRK (Oslo)
 - 1996-99 Carlo RANZI, TSI (Switzerland)
 - 1999 Reimar H. ALLERDT, BR Munich (Germany)
 - 2000-03 Lefty KONGALIDES, ERT3 (Thessaloniki, Greece)
- The General Secretariat:
- 1983-86 Robert STEPHANE, RTBF (Belgium)
 - 1987-94 Peter ZIMMERMAN, ARD/BR Munich (Germany)
 - 1995-2001 Boris BERGANT, RTV Slovenia (Ljubljana, Slovenija)
 - 2002- Marija NEMCIC, HRT (Zagreb, Croatia)

EBU Meeting in Thessaloniki

The EBU Administrative Council will hold a meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece, May 14-15.

The works of the meeting will take place at the Mediterranean Palace Hotel.

Partners needed for an EC funded project

ERT 3 is seeking two partners for a new European Commission funded project under the name "European Commission Cards (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization) Regional Democratic Programme".

Eligible countries for the project are: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, FYRO Macedonia, Serbia, EU countries. Among other things this seminar is about seminars to be held in each country.

Book targets French press

A book due out this week will likely draw fire from both French politicians and journalists. In "Bien entendu c'est off" ("Of course, this is off [the record]"), Daniel Carton describes the cozy relationship between government officials and the French media. Mr Carton, a former journalist for Le Monde and Le Nouvel Observateur, talks about "la cour," the close circle of mainly Parisian journalists covering politicians who are also personal friends. Mr Carton says these circumstances lead to an unhealthy self-censorship of the press. Mr Carton writes that most of the major scandals of French political life were known by journalists long before they were ever reported. The book describes media training sessions for politicians, in which journalists ask them the tough questions they would never ask in a real interview, "because they are too eager to keep their place in the system," reports the Belgian newspaper Le Soir in a review of the book.



Coming in May 1-26

Euro Folk musical feasts in Bulgaria's Veliko Tarnovo

In 2002 Stara Planina Fest "Balkan Folk" proved itself as one of the most important Festivals in Europe for traditional folk arts. All the necessary information about the fest is available in www.eurofolk.tv.

Bigger part in the serious achievements of Stara Planina Fest "Balkan Folk" is due to the combination of the beauty and the power of the traditional folk arts with the contemporary television technologies. Till now the producers of the Fest – Euro Folk Academy and Balkan Folk Academy has made over 1200 television products, which are broadcast by 50 cable television stations in Bulgaria and by several satellite television stations with European holding.

With the cooperation of Bulgarian national television the producers of the Fest participated with 26 folklore television films in the Cannes Film Festival and in other international television markets. But on the background of the world-growing television expansion this seems to be not enough.

That is why the organizers decided on the basis of Stara Planina Fest "Balkan Folk" - to organize "Euro Folk 2003" Musical Feasts - The World is Television, which are going to take place in Veliko Tarnovo May 1-26. "Euro Folk 2003" Musical Feasts - The World is Television consists not only of Stara Planina Fest "Balkan Folk" but of six more international Festivals.

Main goal of "Euro Folk 2003" Musical Feasts - The World is Television is to create conditions for the transfer of ideas, opinions and musical TV products between people from all over Europe, who perform traditional folk arts on the one hand, and television companies and specialists, who are interested in this wealth of the European nations on the other hand.

With these festivals the producers give the opportunity to foreign participants to showcase their creative abilities by participating in three concourse rounds and by granting them with awards in each of the categories, stated by the regulations.

All participants in the television fests will have the right, free of charge, to film and broadcast all events on the "Euro Folk 2003" Musical Feasts - The World is Television.

Television stations are invited to take part in "Euro Folk 2003" Music Television and Internet Products Festival and in "Veliko Tarnovo 2003" Television and Internet Music Market, which will be held in Veliko Tarnovo May 7-11.

For the successful organization of the Festival programs, those, who want to attend and take part in them, should send by March 1 a filed application form stated in: for the "Euro Folk 2003" Music Television and Internet Products Festival:

for the "Euro Folk 2003" Music Television and Internet Products Festival:

for the "Veliko Tarnovo 2003" Television and Internet Music Market.

Expenses for participation are covered by the sender. All prices are stated in the regulations for participation in the respective festival:

for the "Euro Folk 2003" Music Television and Internet Products Festival:

for the "Veliko Tarnovo 2003" Television and Internet Music Market:

Regulations for participation, application forms and all the other necessary documents for participation in "Euro Folk 2003" Musical Feasts - The World is Television are stated in www.eurofolk.tv. Those interested will receive by post invitations, advertising material, regulations and application forms for the TV festivals.

President of "Euro Folk 2003" Musical Feasts and Chairman of Stara Planina Fest "Balkan Folk" is Iliyan Nikolov.

The full address of the organization is:
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Distance training: an online course

"Distance Training: Creating an online course", is the topic of an online class to be held Maastricht, March 11-12, 2003, organised by the European Journalism Centre, Maastricht.

The online class is the future of education as more and more students and professionals ask for distance training. In the coming years, remote teaching and learning will become a key part of all educational systems.

As a follow-up to last year's setting up an online classroom seminar, this two-day session will focus on how to create an online course and adapt existing face-to-face courses to an online environment.

Enlargement policies for EU media

The European Journalism Centre in co-operation with the European Commission's DG Enlargement has designed a series of 13 seminars focused on enlargement policies.

The courses consist of a one-day seminar in Brussels to meet key representatives from DG Enlargement and three days in the Candidates Countries to discuss in depth important enlargement-related issues with local decision-makers and representatives from the European Commission's delegation.

Festivals, Workshops and more around Europe and the world

- March 3-4: FT New Media and Broadcasting conference, with several European speakers, London
- March 5: Parliamentary elections, Estonia
- March 8: International Women's Day
- March 16: General elections in Finland
- March 22-23: Mip doc.
- March 24-28: Mip TV. Palais Des Festivals. Cannes, France.
- April 8-10: 1st SPORTELASIA Market. InterContinental Hotel (Hong Kong). <http://www.sportelmonaco.com>.
- May 15-16: 5th Annual TV Meets the Web Seminar (Amsterdam). The event will focus on digital media's path to profitability. <http://www.tvmeetstheweb.com/may2003>

Broadcast veterans to present the news in Britain's Channel 5

Britain's Channel 5 - or Five, as the nation's youngest network is now branded- this week continued its strategy of hiring broadcast veterans to present the news. Five is turning to Martin Bell, the former BBC war correspondent, to present its evening analysis of the impending conflict in Iraq.

Five News said Bell - who will be 65 this August - was a "natural story teller" with "great wisdom and insight". Last December Five brought Bell and four other news veterans - ITN's Sandy Gall, Michael Brunson and Carol Barnes, plus the BBC's Angela Rippon - back to the screen for a series of special reports. Five News chief Chris Shaw said many news veterans had been sidelined by rival broadcasters: "Some of them want to keep on working and the reason they are so good is that they're so enthusiastic."

That followed a sideswipe at the corporation by Peter Sissons, presenter of the BBC's flagship bulletin, the Ten O'Clock News. Sissons, 60, recently made way for a younger presenting team, but not before accusing the corporation of having a "tendency to ageism". "I've been to too many leaving parties for people who've turned 50 and they're at the height of their powers and they're out."

This week Dan Rather, anchor and managing editor of CBS News since

1981, and a CBS News journalist since 1962, told CNN's Larry King he would like to stay reporting live from Baghdad should war break out in Iraq. Rather, who turns 72 this October, made clear he has no intention of hanging up the microphone: "This is where I would prefer to be ... I've been so lucky and blessed over the years as a reporter and anchor sometimes that I can't and won't complain. Wherever they want me, that's where I'll go."

As networks around the world prepare to cover another complex conflict, news chiefs will doubtless have reflected on those it plans to use to present the unfolding story. Viewers are increasingly turning to television to provide context and explanation from a trusted source; they get the facts in a bewildering blur via the internet.

News chiefs would therefore do well to consider the 'old hands' that combine enthusiasm belying their age with wisdom and insight, to provide not only that background commentary, but reassurance too.

BBC archive web site

The BBC has launched an archive web site featuring news stories broadcast by the corporation since 1950. The 'On This Day' site will host more than 1,500 stories dating back 52 years from the BBC News archives with audio or video footage of the original broadcast. There will also be a minimum of three stories for every day of the year, all written in the current tense, with an 'In Context' panel explaining the event's historical significance.

News on SMS service in India

The BBC World Service has joined forces with mobile phone operator Orange to launch a 'BBC news on SMS' service in India. Orange users will receive SMS messages updating them on breaking international news, business and sports stories 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Users type 'BBC' and send it as an SMS message to a given number to receive the latest updates. Miles Palmer, head of business development at BBC World Service, said: "India is an information hungry country and mobile phones offer an additional opportunity to feed people's appetites."

Prix Circom judging in Sinaia, April 9-13

Prix Circom judging will take place in Sinaia, Romania, from April 9-13, at the invitation of Romanian Television.

Ireland Donegal TG4, supported by RTE, will host the judging in 2004.

CR's David Lowen is new Euronews Managing Director

(from p.1)

David Lowen, 55, is an Award winning Head of News for an ITV company in the UK. He is a formally Board Director of ITV companies with responsibility for programmes and commercial development. He helped launch digital television in the UK and ITV's new digital channel and interactive service.

David, has just completed the writing of the first charter for RTE, the Irish public service broadcaster, and establishing the strategies for commercial competition.

David has own his own media consultancy and has advised many public service broadcasters in Europe such as, France Télévisions, RAI, BBC, RTE, the Baltic channels (ETV Estonia, LTV Latvia, LTV Lithuania) and many Eastern and Central Europe public broadcasters.

David is President of Prix Circom (annual TV awards) and was President of CIRCOM Regional. David is a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Television Society.

Circum Report

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

The "CIRCUM Report" is planned and edited in ERT3, Thessaloniki, Greece.

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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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