

Summer time and the living is easy. Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high: Happy Holidays



# Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmonthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • July 2003/No 45

Workshop in Nuremberg, July 18

## Enlargement programs funded by the E. C.

How can you get current contributions from Europe and the Enlargement countries free of charge? The answer lies in a workshop planned for CIRCOM Regional members on July 18, 2-4 pm in Nuremberg (Germany) at Bayerischer's Rundfunk Studio Franken.

The workshop is about the coproduction which is produced by the Bayerische Rundfunk under the title "Enlargement: The Last Straight Line".

Every CR member station can suggest contributions to this project and is allowed to use the topics, too, without spending money.

A TV station submitting contributions will receive money from the European Commission and on the other hand the station does not have to spend money for broadcasting topics concerning the Enlargement.

During the workshop all contributions produced in the last three months will be screened and each representative present will get a BETA cassette in case they are going to use the program. Contact person is Heike Stiegler in Nurnberg (tel. 49911-6550-314).

**16.000 USD for Int'l  
Festival of Nature  
Films winners in Poland**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Waga Brothers Int'l Festival of Nature Films will take place in Goniadz, Poland, March 31-April 4, 2004. The films should be in the hands of the pre-selection committee by Sept. 15, 2003.

16.000 US dollars is the overall sum of the prizes of the winners.

Declaration of participation should be sent to the Festival Office by Feb. 1, 2004.

Email: waga@festival.org.pl



The 35<sup>th</sup> Balkan TV Magazine Consortium Meeting was held in Ohrid, FYRO Macedonia, coinciding with the ECO Festival. Host Stalin Lozanovski is pictured above with CIRCOM Regional President Lefty Kongalides, Rossinka Radoykova (BNT, Bulgaria), Fuat Kale (TRT, Turkey), Andrea Onea (TVR, Romania), Petros Yiannatsis (ERT3, Greece).

## Nov. 17-22: the 4<sup>th</sup> Newsroom Management Seminar in Strasbourg

The 4<sup>th</sup> Newsroom Management Seminar organized by the CIRCOM Regional Deputy General Secretary at France 3 Alsace, Place de Bordeaux, Strasbourg, France with the support of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe will be held from Monday, November 17 to Saturday Nov. 22, 2003 (Travel: Sunday 16 & 23).

This is a week-long seminar for Directors, Editors-In-Chief and Newsroom Managers from the regional TV stations of Europe working in television news.

The senior seminar in newsroom management will be the fourth held by CIRCOM Regional, Europe's association of regional television. It is a logical development of the 23 CIRCOM Regional Workshops for young TV journalists held since 1994.

The senior seminar will be an opportunity for directors, editors-in-chief and newsrooms managers to share their experiences, learn best practice from each other, and to study the practical implications of new technology in TV news.

One day will be spent at the European Parliament (Enlargement, European elections...).

A registration form will be sent to all CR National Coordinators at the end of August, and will be on the CIRCOM Regional website:

[www.circom-regional.org](http://www.circom-regional.org)

Deadline for registration: Wednesday, October 8, 2003

## EU multimedia news project stimulates innovation

With a growing number of users logging onto web newspapers and news portals, there is an increasing demand for quicker and more innovative solutions for news delivery.

A recently completed EU project is helping the European media industry adapt to this evolving multimedia news landscape. Funded under the information society technologies programme of the Fifth Framework Programme, the multimedia content in the digital age project (MUDIA) gathers experts from research institutes and international media organisations in four Member States with a view to identifying emerging trends in digital production and distribution technologies, as well as the tools needed to manage such innovative solutions. To provide the so called 'hard information', the MUDIA consortium conducted a number of exploratory studies into the future trends in mobile newscasting; alternative forms of reading news online; the evolving needs of users and providers; and multimedia newsrooms. Since their publication, the reports have been used to brief media practitioners and subsequently stimulate innovative media practices.

## MEPs want new rules on TV

European Parliament members (MEP) are calling for a complete overhaul of the 'Television Without Frontiers' Directive. The Parliament's Culture Committee believes that the increasing concentration in the media industry throughout Europe presents a major threat to integrity and pluralism, and thus it seeks to establish EU-wide rules on ownership of television media. Improving on the recommendations laid down in the own-initiative report by Roy Perry, the Committee called on the Commission to monitor levels of media concentration in Europe and to draft an updated Green Paper on this issue by the beginning of 2004. Under the ongoing broad consultation process on the "Television Without Frontiers" Directive, the MEPs also urged the Commission to support the establishment of a working group of national regulators and representatives of public and private broadcasting systems who would be in charge of swapping best practice on all forms of regulation, including co-regulation and self-regulation in the area of advertising and consumer protection. According to the Committee, which adopted the Mr Perry report by a large majority, a complete overhaul of the Directive is needed to take account of latest technological developments and changes in the structure of the audiovisual market. The MEPs want the basic principles of the Directive to be brought together with the ecommerce directive and the directive co-ordinating certain copyright rules applicable to broadcasting and retransmission into a single package.

## BBC to overhaul news

The BBC's 24-hour news channel is to be extensively revised in the coming year to make it more distinctive from such rivals as Sky News and CNN. The BBC has admitted that it tried too hard to ape the style pioneered by Sky and did not think hard enough about how to be different. BBC News 24 was the subject of a government review last year, headed by the former Financial Times editor Richard Lambert, who said it was not "distinctive" enough. Its rivals complained that the BBC was able to cross-subsidise the channel, which they said distorted the market. In response the BBC has decided to make significant, but gradual, changes. Richard Sambrook, the director of news and current affairs, says the reform will be evolutionary: viewers will not "wake up one morning and find the set has turned green".

Greater use will be made of regional news teams and more prominence given to international news from the BBC's 45 bureaux around the world. There will be more emphasis on current affairs. The channel's primary focus will remain breaking news, however.

## Public TV system wants higher fees

The world's biggest and most expensive public television system, Germany's ARD/ZDF, has asked the German government to increase the tax paid by all television owners by 11 per cent to EUR18 a month starting in 2005, touching off a heated debate about the role of public television in a country where taxes are already above the international average. ARD and ZDF, the two national public stations, head a sprawling system of public television that has an extensive infrastructure in every state capital and nine regional broadcasters. The public station's mandate is to ensure diversity in television programming, with particular emphasis on cultural offerings. Opponents to the tax increase say the system's size exceeds its public mandate. The 11 per cent increase would bring in an additional EUR850 million a year for the system, which is also partially financed by advertising. Peer Steinbrück, the Social Democratic premier of North Rhine-Westphalia, argued that an increase for the public system at a time when private stations are struggling in an advertising market that has contracted the past three years, skews free-market competition. Pro Sieben Sat.1 Media, Germany's largest private TV group, had a net loss last year; RTL, the television subsidiary of Bertelsmann, saw its net profit decline drastically.

## Ban threat on 'raunchy' images

Sexist or raunchy images on television or in advertising could be banned across the European Union under a directive being considered by the European Commission. Anna Diamantopoulou, the Greek commissioner for social affairs, has ordered an internal study of gender questions outside the workplace, it was confirmed last night. But officials said discussions were still in their early stages, with different commission departments being asked for their views, and some already strongly opposed. Such a directive could have implications for Europe's media, advertising and insurance industries, and could stop TV programmes that stereotyped women - or men - and ban advertising that did not "respect human dignity". Draft papers on the issue say that while freedom of expression must be respected, sex discrimination and affronts to human dignity should be banned from media and advertising. Vivian Reding, the Luxembourg commissioner for education and culture, has made clear it she opposes anything other than self-regulation for TV programmes - suggesting her Greek colleague will face an uphill struggle.

## New online global weather solution

Reuters, the press agency and Custom Weather have created Reuters Weather, a global weather solution for online and wireless media. Reuters Weather is targeting websites seeking to include current and forecasted weather data. Reuters Weather will be available in different languages and covers over 125,000 searchable locations in more than 200 countries.

## TV trounced newspapers during recent Iraq war

Television won the battle against newspapers for media supremacy fought during the Iraq war, a study by the Readership Institute concludes. "By a large margin, TV won in Iraq - even in areas that papers expected to win," RI Director John Lavine told publishers at the Newspaper Association of America (NAA) convention on Tuesday. Readers rated the performance of television news during the Iraq war as the best news media in many areas. TV news was described as the media that was most complete, most accurate, most engaging, and that offered the best experts and greatest variety of viewpoints. Television's news triumph was among several preliminary conclusions from the study, which surveyed 1,550 people in 100 markets that were part of RI's mammoth Impact study of readership begun in 2000. The study was planned before the war to test how readership was affected by a big event. Perhaps the most surprising result was that people who were already "moderate" or "heavy" newspaper readers did not pick up a paper more frequently, spend more time reading it, or read more of the paper - the three factors that make up the RBS, or Reader Behaviour Score, which RI measures on a scale of 1 to 7.

## Murdoch's Sky Italia born

Rupert Murdoch's News Corp said it had completed its purchase of Vivendi Universal's Italian pay-TV unit Telepiu, bringing the media mogul closer to his goal of building a global TV empire. The deal, worth 871 million euros, including 457 million euros to be paid in cash, resolves months of regulatory uncertainty and tough negotiations over price. It results in Sky Italia - a near pay-television monopoly born of the merger of Telepiu with News Corp's Italian pay-TV firm Stream - and bolsters Mr Murdoch's foothold in Europe where News Corp controls Britain's leading pay-TV operator BSkyB. It also sets Mr Murdoch head to head with Italy's home-grown media magnate-premier Silvio Berlusconi, and his Mediaset empire, in a battle for the airwaves. News Corp hopes to turn the new platform to profit at around 3.2 million subscribers - a goal expected to be reached within 18-24 months of completion of the deal. News Corp said Sky Italia currently had more than two million subscribers and annual revenues of around one billion euros. Neither Stream nor its bigger rival Telepiu have made a profit since their launch in 1996 and 1991 respectively. News Corp stock ended flat at A\$11.38 (around 6.39 euros) in Sydney. Shares in Vivendi traded up 2.1 per cent at around 14.6 euros.

## New bill threatens journalists' sources

In a letter to French Justice Minister Dominique Perben, a press rights group has expressed serious concern over the introduction of a new bill regarding internal security. The bill includes provisions allowing for new means of investigation, notably in the areas governing police search and seizure. Mr Perben introduced a bill before the Council of Ministers with the stated purpose of "adapting the law to the development of crime." Current penal code clauses state that police searches of media outlets' offices believing that they are subject to judicial approval.

However, Reporters without Borders criticised searches of journalists' homes by Criminal Investigation Department officers do not benefit from any such protection. The Perben Bill represents a further step back in this regard, and also poses further threats to investigative journalism and independent journalists it adds. At present, journalists have no legal obligation to respect the notion of "professional secrecy", unlike lawyers or physicians. But when heard as witnesses in court, journalists do have the right to preserve the confidentiality of their sources (Article 109, paragraph 2 of the penal code).

## Parliamentarians call for reinforcement of EU support for Balkans

A pan-European parliamentary conference has called for a renewed Stabilisation and Association Process for the Balkans. The reinforced Pact should aim to increase social and economic cohesion, provide aid in the fight against organised crime, reinforce border security, enhance regional cooperation and stimulate an active civil society.

## New Russian media law to be submitted

A new version of the Russian law on the mass media should be submitted to the Duma next month, before the end of the spring session, according to Central Election Commission Chairman Aleksandr Veshnyakov. He said the draft is complete and being evaluated in the presidential administration. Russia's current law on the mass media was adopted in December 1991. It is generally acknowledged to be out of date, but the new version being considered by the authorities has aroused concern in the journalistic community. The Industrial Committee, an organisation of media owners and managers that is dominated by representatives of the state-controlled media, has taken the lead in drafting the new law on the mass media.

## Digital TV ambitions lowered

An ambitious proposal from the Danish government that all Danes should have digital TV (DTV) by 2007, has now been lowered. Only two of the four broadcasters plan to become digital and will meet the deadline. The reasons behind the lowered expectations are the experiences from Sweden and Germany, which show that consumers have not been taken on DTV and that it is not commercially developed enough to be profitable. The Danish government has, however, underlined that it has not given up on the plans, but has merely chosen to move along in a more steady pace.

## July launch in US of UK's Sky News

The UK's Sky News could be on US television screens as early as July. According to Broadcast magazine, Sky owner BSkyB is in negotiations with US platform providers, though pay satellite operator DirecTV - which BSkyB chairman Rupert Murdoch is currently seeking US regulatory approval to acquire - is the obvious route to market. Initially the service will comprise the UK channel being beamed into US households, but the move could presage the creation of a global news channel.

## Russian TV to broadcast to Germany

The All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company recently held the presentation of its RTR-Planeta television channel in which it announced plans to broadcast to Germany. The head of the VGTRK Foreign Broadcasting Service, Olga Porozhnyakova, told an RIA Novosti correspondent that the presentation in the building of the Russian Embassy in Unter den Linden was devoted to the beginning of broadcasting by Russian television in the all-German cable nets. "The RTR-Planeta is the first Russian television channel in history which has received a license for broadcasting in all sixteen federal lands of Germany", said Ms Porozhnyakova. "It is especially pleasant that this event took place at the time of the Russian-German Cultural Meetings of 2003-2004 under the patronage of the Presidents of Russia and the FRG - Vladimir Putin and Johannes Rau". According to her, the VGTRK project does not pursue commercial purposes but is aimed at satisfying the cultural and information requirements of approximately four million Russian-speaking citizens of Germany (about five per cent of the entire population in Germany). It also hopes to give diverse and objective information first hand from Russia to all those who are interested in this information, including politicians and representatives of the business quarters, she added.

## BBC to show more arts and politics

The BBC promised to rely less on lifestyle shows and instead produce more "memorable" arts and current affairs programmes. In the corporation's annual "statements of programme policy", Gavyn Davies, the BBC chairman, said it must improve the quality and distinctiveness of its output. The arts and current affairs are two areas which the BBC has been accused of marginalising for more popular shows. In his foreword to the statements, which outline the governors' main objectives, Mr Davies said the BBC offered a unique range, ambition and quality of services, but it could do better. Greg Dyke, the BBC's director-general, said the arts, politics and current affairs would gain a bigger peak time profile on BBC2. The shift in emphasis in the statements, Looking Ahead, comes as the BBC prepares to fight for renewal of its charter. The accusation that it has lost sight of its public service remit to provide distinctive programmes is one of its critics' main complaints.

## US cable war coverage criticised

The chief of the BBC and NBC News reporter Ashleigh Banfield criticised US cable news networks for overly patriotic coverage of the war in Iraq. BBC Director-General Greg Dyke said US broadcasters had undermined their credibility by supporting the war. He singled out Fox News Channel's "gung-ho patriotism." None of the American cable news outlets would comment on Mr Dyke's statements. Ms Banfield said that cable news operators had wrapped themselves in the flag and American television viewers didn't see what happened when the Marines fired their weapons.

"There were horrors that were completely left out of this war," she said. Ms Banfield used to have her own prime-time show on MSNBC but lately has been reporting for NBC News broadcasts. An NBC News spokeswoman said Ms Banfield didn't speak for the network and that NBC is proud of its war coverage. "We are deeply disappointed and troubled by her remarks, and will review her comments with her," spokeswoman Allison Gollust said. Mr Dyke said US broadcasters' coverage of the conflict had prompted some Americans to turn off homegrown TV news in favour of outside views such as the BBC's.

## Sports row threatens to explode in the UK

UK Newspapers are heading for a showdown with sports bodies over the way they cover soccer, golf and even tennis after a row that could lead to journalists being barred from top events. Sports bodies could face threats that sponsors' logos will be blacked out in the sports pages of some newspapers. Editors fear they are the unwitting victims of "ambulance chasers" who have convinced sporting bodies, small and large, that they can make money from the press at every point, by charging them for scores, photographs of players and even access to the grounds, golf courses or tennis courts. "We think it's absolutely outrageous that these different sports organisations are trying to control these rights. It's an attack on the freedom of the press. They're not only trying to control what pictures are published, but what words are used," said Lawrence Sear, the managing editor of the Daily Mail. "Then on the commercial side, they're getting a lot of money from their sponsors and attempting to stop us from using any material in a commercial way. They seem to forget the value of the publicity, whether pictures or text, is huge" he added. Newspapers are already heading for a clash with the Royal and Ancient Club over golf's British Open, which tees off on July 15 and is seeking to place stricter controls on reporters and photographers.

## Dyke attacks American media networks

Greg Dyke, director general of the BBC, attacked American television and radio networks for their "shocking" and "gung-ho" coverage of the Iraq conflict yesterday. He also issued a warning against US companies being allowed greater ownership of British media. Mr Dyke said that changes to legislation proposed by the Government would allow American media companies to take a greater share of British television and radio, which could lead to a loss of impartiality in news coverage. "We must ensure that we don't become Americanised," he said. Mr Dyke also accused the Government of trying to "manage public opinion" and "apply pressure" on the BBC. In his first public comments since the war, Mr Dyke said America had "no news operation strong enough or brave enough to stand up against" the White House and Pentagon. He said: "Personally, I was shocked while in the United States, by how unquestioning the broadcast news media was during this war." Mr Dyke said that since the 11 September terrorist attacks, many American networks had "wrapped themselves in the American flag and swapped impartiality for patriotism".

## US media laws set for sweeping change

Nearly 30 years ago, a young Republican lawyer named Richard Wiley led the Federal Communications Commission as it approved a landmark regulation that restricted a company from owning both a newspaper and a broadcast station in the same US city. US regulators are expected to repeal that rule in more than 100 cities as part of the most significant overhaul of media regulations in a generation. The change would be the culmination of a long campaign by the biggest US media conglomerates, which intent on entering new local markets and expanding in those where they already have a presence. It would come despite objections from an array of politically liberal and conservative critics who fear broad consolidation in the news and entertainment businesses. But those objections were no match for big media, whose top lawyer and chief Washington strategist is none other than Mr Wiley, now 68 years old, and by all accounts the most influential media and telecommunications lawyer in the United States. To critics who would accuse him of selling out the very public-interest safeguards he helped put in place as the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission during the Ford administration, Mr Wiley says simply that his policy views are now different because the industry is different.

# Romania's "Smog" wins ECO festival Grand Prix

The fourth International festival of television programs dedicated to the protection of the environment and the cultural heritage ECO-2003 was held in Ohrid on the 3<sup>d</sup>, 4<sup>h</sup> and 5<sup>h</sup> June 2003. The international jury consisting of Kalin Mitichi from Romania, Sukrija Omeragic from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Goran Trencovski from FYRO Macedonia, after viewing all the entered programs has made the following unanimous decision:

- The statuette "Macedonian orchid" from the Macedonian Ecological Press Center goes to the program "Smog" produced by the Romanian Television.
- The diploma of The International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communications on the Mediterranean, part of UNESCO for the program that best shows the values of peace and tolerance between people, goes to the program "A drop from a cup of immortality" produced by the Czech Television.

The jury gives out four separate awards, each amounting to 500 Euro, to the best program achievements shown at the festival. Apart from the cash awards, the winners also receive beautiful and valuable silver engraved works by Atanas Dudan, an artist from Ohrid.

- The award for best screen play or text, given by the Public Broadcasting Council of Macedonia, goes to Vladimir Arsovski and Maya Pandeva

## Whispers

...Mira Shuteriqi, Albanian's TVSH Int'l Relations Director, has retired.... At least eight CR stations broadcast the Euromusica 2002 concert.... Open for anyone interested is the site for holding the next Euromusica.... 25 countries with 43 program participated at ECO '03 Ecological Film Festival in Ohrid, FYRO Macedonia.... The Baltic Media Center held a meeting of the directors of public service television companies of South Eastern Europe in Stockholm, July 15....



for the program "The scream of the casts-outs" Produced by FYRO Macedonian Television.

- The award for best film direction, sponsored by the Macedonian Media Institute, goes to Gorgos Filipeos, for his directing of the program "Ships and the bottom of the sea", produced by ERT3 Greece.

- The award for best camera, sponsored by the "Ohrid Bank", goes to Reinhart Radke for his camera work on the program "Military Monkeys" produced by the second channel of the German Television in Mainz.

- The award for best editing goes to engineer Valja Kovacheva for the program "Fantasy for a town and a drum", produced by the Bulgarian National Television.

- The Grand Prix Award of the Festival for the best program in general shown at the festival goes to Turkish Radio and Television 2 for the programme "Before it's too late".



From Oct. 28-Nov. 1

## The 8<sup>th</sup> Int'l TV Festival Bar in Montenegro

The 8<sup>th</sup> Int'l TV Festival Bar 2003 will take place in Bar, Montenegro from October 28 – November 1.

Applications for the programs should be sent by Oct. 5, while tapes should be submitted by Oct. 10, to the following address: Medunarodni Televizijski Festival – BAR 2002 Direkcija Festivala 85 000 BAR, Crna Gora, Jugoslavija Jovana Tomaševića br. 57 85 000 BAR

The Festival has the following competitive categories:

1. Feature programmes - TV dramas and TV films (up to 90 minutes);
- 2) Documentary programmes: documentary TV reportage and a documentary TV film (up to 60 minutes);
- 3) Documentary programme on ecology (up to 30 minutes);
- 4) A commercial video on tourism (up to 60 seconds)

### JURY

The Festival is of a competitive nature.

There is an official or competitive category which is to be presented in the Festival. All the categories of the programmes in the official category are evaluated by one jury. The jury has five members. The jury is headed by its president, while the work is organized by its secretary.

### AWARDS

The International TV Festival Bar 2002 presents the following awards:

1. One best programme award is presented in each category. In the first two categories – documentary and feature categories, there are: the first, second and third best programme awards (the Golden, Silver and Bronze Olive), while one best programme award is presented in the ecology and a commercial video on tourism each.
2. Author's awards are presented in each category:
  - a) for the best screenplay, b) for the best directing c) for the best photography
- 3) Presented in the feature programme category is: a) the best actor award, b) the best actress award
- 4) The best programme at the Festival is presented with the Grand Prix of the Festival.
- 5) A producer award is presented for the best selection at the Festival.

The organizer will see to it that the recipient of the Festival's Grand Prix comes to the next Festival and the awarded programme will be shown at the opening of the Festival. Apart from the official awards, other awards can also be presented after being approved by the Executive Board of the Festival, based on the special Book of Regulations (award of the journalists' jury or of other organizations) TV festival is an international event in which all state /public/ and private television stations, as well as TV production companies, authorized for the professional production of television programmes, as well as authors with their programmes, have the right to participate.

The producers should submit their application for participation in the TV festival by October 5, 2003, and the programmes should be sent to Bar by October 10 at the latest, to the following address: Medunarodni Televizijski Festival – BAR 2002 Direkcija Festivala 85 000 BAR, Crna Gora, Jugoslavija Jovana Tomaševića br. 57, 85 000 BAR

Each programme should be separately recorded on a BETA –SP-PAL videocassette as well as on a VHS – standard videocassette. The programmes should have subtitles or should be dubbed in the English language. The dialogue lists in the English and original languages should be presented as well. Together with the main information about the programme, the main information on the producer and main authors should be provided as well. In order to be included in the festival's official category, a TV programme should satisfy the main ethic criteria of TV production, as well as the main professional and creative requirements, and it should also be of a high technical quality.

Each TV station can participate in one or more of the festival categories with one programme each, while the total duration of all the programmes of one television stations cannot exceed 180 minutes. Programmes produced in the last two years have the right to participate. Programmes which had previously been shown at some other festival also have the right to participate in the International TV Festival Bar. The owner will cover all the expenses regarding the videocassette, its insurance, transport from the place of origin to Bar. The programmes that are not included in the official category can be shown at the request of the producer.

# The CR Secretary General Report

## Secretary General Report

CR Executive Committee/European Board Grado, May 21st, 2003

### 2003 – a very busy 1<sup>st</sup> half

- 80% of the yearly activities in the first half of the 2003
- More to come:
  - Executive Committee, Liege, October 4
  - Newsroom Management Seminar, Strasbourg, November 17-22
  - Executive Committee, Wroclaw, November 28
  - European Board, Wroclaw, November 29

### Training – 4 done 1 to go

- AVID technicians training, London, March
- Middle management training, Zagreb, March
- Ethnic minority seminar, Budapest, April
- Annual Conference training, Grado, May
- Thanks to AVID, HRT, MTV and RAI for hosting them

### Co-Productions – good kick off!

- 3 meetings of the Subcommittee on CoPros (Trieste, November 2002, Munich, January 2003 – Budapest, February 2003)
- Launch of the 2 big EU enlargement CoPros
  - The New Teenage Europe
  - The Last Straight Line
- First broadcast via EbS in April 2003
- CoPro Office in Munich to transfer EbS coordination to CR Secretariat

- Prix Circom – Sinaia, Romania
- 137 entries from 25 countries in 2003 compared to 164 entries from 22 countries in 2002
- Quality of regional programmes rising – David Lowen
- Committee of the Regions for the first time sponsoring Cross-Border
- Prix Circom trainee Piotr Czyzkowski from TVP3 Wroclaw won News Grand Prix
- Prix Circom trophies redesigned – to be presented for the first time in Grado
- TVR, Elena Spanily – thank you for hosting us

### Annual Conference Grado

- Many participants - 180 + 35 in training
- Excellent list of speakers – lot of efforts invested by national coordinators and EC members
- RAI prepared a “Survey on regional broadcasting models” – 20 questionnaires returned from national coordinators
- Draft survey to be presented at the Conference
- RAI, Pier Luigi Malesani, Paolo Morawski – thank you for all the efforts invested in organising it

### A brand new face of Circom

- Redesigned web site attracts double traffic
- New Circom web site to be launched during the Grado Conference
- Circom logo and presentations being redesigned
- 2 issues of the SG Newsletter, along to monthly Circom Report
- More than 500 recipients of the Circom mailing list
- Four questionnaires (Membership, Training, Prix Circom, Euromusica) shed some new light on the old problems

## Questionnaires – Conclusions

- Who answered?
  - 28 national coordinators out of 38 (74%)
  - Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Netherlands, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK
  - Cyprus for the first time taking active part
  - Not consistent all the time, but still useful
  - Thanks to Branka for urging them all to send the questionnaires back to Secretariat

## Questionnaires – Membership

- How important is the CR membership (1-5)?
  - To you 4,57
  - To your bosses 3,47
  - To your colleagues 3,43
  - To your network 3,19
- Why is the membership of such low interest?
  - The bosses do not recognize it 5
  - We do not broadcast any CR programme 4
  - Too little benefit for membership paid 3
  - It is badly promoted and publicized 2
- We do not get any information regarding

Have you or your people participated in any CR activities in last five years?

- European Board 21 of 23
  - Training 19 of 23
  - Annual Conference 19 of 23
  - Prix Circom 18 of 23
  - Executive Committee 15 of 23
  - Coproductions 13 of 23
  - Euromusica 11 of 23
  - Reasons for not being active
    - Financial difficulties / travel expenses
    - No interest shown by responsible persons
  - What CR could do to improve or change this?
    - Circom could adopt a clear mission statement, a signed undertaking from DG of member organizations. Identify barriers for members putting from other regions on their schedules
  - Should CR accept independent producers and similar organizations as associate members?
    - 10 Yes / 10 No
  - Reasons for YES to independent producers:
    - Because the contacts would be wider which means new ideas and options – more opportunities for co-productions and programmes
    - Competition from private producers would only be good for coproductions. It would stimulate old CR member to work better. It would be “fresh blood” for CIRCOM
      - They should be involved in cooperation under the condition that even they need to pay the membership
      - In some countries independent producers could play important role in increasing values and professional standards of public
- We should disseminate knowledge and open our schedules to citizens across Europe. We should support and nurture people who share our goals

• How do you get information about CR activities?

- Circom Regional mailing list 20 of 23
- Circom Report 20 of 23
- Circom Regional web pages 19 of 23
- Annual Conference 18 of 23
- Europe by Satellite 3 of 23!!!!

## Questionnaire – Training

- Have you heard of the CR Training? 22 of 23
- How important is the CR Training? (1-5)?
  - To you 4,30
  - To your colleagues 3,95
  - To your network 3,63
  - To your bosses 3,63
- Why is the CR training of such low interest?
  - My station can not afford travel expenses 2
- Have you participated in any CR training in the last five years?
  - Up to 5 different training so far 14
  - More than 5 different training so far 5
  - Never 1
- How do you assess the quality of CR training
  - To your colleagues 4,26
- What kind of training did your people attend?
  - AC training for Young Journalist 15
  - Newsroom Management Seminar 15
  - Middle management seminar 7
  - Other circom trainings (when) 3
- Are these people still employed by your stations, if so on what positions?
  - Most of them still working, some promoted
- Reasons for no participation:
  - Financial difficulties / travel expenses 8
  - No interest shown by responsible persons 3
  - No interest from member stations 2
- What kind of training did your people attend?
  - AC training for Young Journalist 15
  - Newsroom Management Seminar 15
  - Middle management seminar 7
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  - No interest shown by responsible persons 3
  - No interest from member stations 2
- What CR could do improve or change this
  - Financial help, better promotion
- What types of training would you like to see?
  - New technologies, digital, not only journalists
- Should CR training be open to user-payer?
  - 6 Yes 9 No
- If No state why?
  - Need to explain the question in more detail, do not want to change existing training into user-payer



#### Questionnaire – Prix Circom

##### • Have you heard of the PRIX CIRCOM?

• 23 of 23

##### • How important is the PRIX(1-5)?

• <u>to you</u>	<u>4,43</u>
• <u>to your colleagues</u>	<u>3,90</u>
• <u>to your bosses</u>	<u>3,41</u>
• <u>to your network</u>	<u>3,29</u>

##### • Why is the PRIX of such low interest?

- It is badly promoted and publicized 3 answers
- It is just too much effort to enter 2 answers

#### Questionnaire – Prix Circom

##### • Categories of the PRIX (1-5)

– Documentary	4,81	
– News		4,53
– Current affairs		4,53
– Cross Border	4,33	
– Arts		3,25
– Politics		3,15
– Children's		3,14
– Other		3,00
– Music		2,85
– Sport		2,54
– Drama		2,50
– Entertainment	2,29	
– Comedy		2,08

##### •How and when should the award be given?

•Ceremony at Circom conference 4,90

•TV programme for viewers	3,00	
•Private ceremony for personals	2,00	
•What should the prize be?		
•Money award is important	4,26	
•Money up to 5000 euros	3,94	
•Money up to 10 000 euros	3,83	
•Certificate to display	3,80	
•Trophy of normal value	3,69	
•Money up to 3000 euros	3,36	
•Trophy if intrinsic value	2,92	
•Honour is enough	2,50	
•Who should receive and "own" the award		
•Station decides	4,06	
•Director	3,40	
•Producer and director	3,36	
•Station keeps	3,30	
•Producer	3,00	
•Individual keeps	3,00	
•Should the winning programmes be seen more widely		
•Winners should be widely viewed	4,80	
•Free for Circom stations	4,33	
•Free only to station who enter		3,33
•Showing winners should be compulsory	2,64	
•This commitment inhibits entries	2,13	
•Free showing unrealistic	1,83	
•No-one wants to show winner		1,40

##### •Did any of your stations broadcast Prix Circom 2002 Winners?

Grand Prix Circom regional, News

•1. Reporting Scotland 2

–			
•2. Objective			1
•3. Central news at six	0		
–Grand Prix Circom regional, Documentary			
•1. Dead silence			4
•2. L"hopital de la plage	1		
•3. Voyage dens L"entre deux	1		
–Current affairs			
•1. The smugglers			4
•2. Stephen's story	4		
•3. Life in Ribnovo			2
•Did any of your stations broadcast Prix Circom 2002 Winners?			
–Cross-border			
•1. Knowalski meets Schmidt			3
•2. The last stitch			2
•3. Catherine: the saint of two communities	3		
–Special			
•1. Winner below sea level			1
•2. The talents			2
•Have you heard of the CR Euromusica?			
•22 of 23			
•How important is the Euromusica (1-5)?			
•to you	3,05		
•to your network	2,55		
•Why is the Euromusica of such low interest?			
•This is no adequate programe for my station 10			
•My station can not afford travel expenses	5		
•It should be of a better quality	5		
•It is badly promoted and publicized			4
•Has your station participated in Euromusica?•Yes - 13 of 23			
•If Yes how many times			
•Up to 4 times	11		
•More than 5 times	2		
•Have you aired Euromusica 2002?•Yes - 6 of 23•By what means have you recorded Euromusica 2002?			
•Tape delivered by ERT			5
•Tape delivered by Circom Secretariat	2		
•Satellite EBU			1•Satellite EbS
•Do you plan to participate in Euromusica 2003?			
•Yes - 10 of 23•Have you heard of the CR Euromusica?			
•22 of 23			
•How important is the Euromusica (1-5)?			
•to you	3,05		
•to your network	2,55		
•Why is the Euromusica of such low interest?			
•This is no adequate programe for my station 10			
•My station can not afford travel expenses	5		
•It should be of a better quality	5		
•It is badly promoted and publicized			4
•Application of the CR Activity report			
•Approach the members that have not been very active within CR so far			
•Evaluate the messages from questionnaires to improve the existing projects and activities, make a move towards new ones			
•Evaluate the use and scheduling of EbS slotLast, but not least!			
• Extra funding – where and how?			
• New EU projects to be developed – tenders recently published			
• Strengthen the public awareness of CIRCOM Regional (PR)			
• Strengthen the very good participation of new DSG Hubert Schilling			

In Bulgaria's Slanchev Bryag, Sept. 25-30

## Golden Amphora Balkan Festival for Film and TV programs for Youth

The Fourth Golden Amphora Balkan Festival for Films and Television Programs for Children and Youths, will be held September 25-30 in the Slanchev Bryag – Sunny Beach international resort.

The festival has been organized under the patronage of Ms. Zorka Parvanova, wife of the President of the Republic Bulgaria.

This year the program will include the following categories: feature films and TV dramas for children, animation films for children, documentaries, educational films and TV programs for children and young people. A special section of the festival will be dedicated to TV coverage of "Children and sports game".

The festival will also organize an international round table discussing the subject: "Cinema, sport and music – protecting children from drugs".

Organizers of the festival are The International

Foundation the Children of the Balkans, the Bulgarian National Television, the Bulgarian National Cinema Centre, the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Culture, the International Association against Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse, the Municipality of Nessebar etc.

The Directorate of the Festival will accept one person from each country or organization, participating in the competition as its guest, covering all the expenses for the stay of that person. Travel expenses in both directions are at the expense of the guests.

Confirm by fax or e-mail participation no later than 14<sup>th</sup> Juny.

## Info sources from the European Commission

Important information sources from the European Commission, their web address, etc are included in the list set up by the Communication, Media & Services from the EC (Director Niels Jørgen Thøgersen).

1. EUROPA : <http://europa.eu.int>
2. Virtual Press Office : [http://europa.eu.int/comm/press\\_room](http://europa.eu.int/comm/press_room)
3. Audiovisual Library : <http://europa.eu.int/comm/mediateque>
4. Europe by Satellite (EBS) : <http://europa.eu.int/comm/ebs>
5. EUROPE DIRECT (Call Centre) \* <http://europa.eu.int/europedirect/> \* Free tel. n° inside the EU : 00800 6 7 8 9 10 11 \* Normal tel. n° from outside the EU : 00-32-2-299.96.96
6. Call for Proposals on TV and Radio Programmes on Europe (deadlines : 30 June and 15 September 2003) See : [http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/press\\_communication/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/press_communication/index_en.htm)
7. HIGHLIGHTS on events in EU the coming week (EuropeMedia) \* sent electronically each Friday \* Subscribe free of charge on : [http://europa.eu.int/comm/press\\_room/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/press_room/index_en.htm)
8. Spokespersons in the European Commission [http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/press\\_communication/contact.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/press_communication/contact.htm)
9. Journalist training Contact : Mr Antonis Papacostas : [antonis.papacostas@cec.eu.int](mailto:antonis.papacostas@cec.eu.int)
10. Overall questions Contact : Mr Niels Jørgen Thøgersen Tel 32-2-299.90.99 Fax 32-2-299.92.07 E-mail [niels-jorgen.thogersen@cec.eu.int](mailto:niels-jorgen.thogersen@cec.eu.int)

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

### July

- July 15-16: Brussels. EU Finance Ministers meet
- July 15-20: EU External Relations Commissioner, Chris Patten, visits the US
- July 16: Commission meeting, Brussels
- July 16: Paris. International conference of aid-donors. The EU is under strong pressure to increase its contribution to the global fund on AIDS
- July 17-18: EU Health Commissioner David Byrne visits Poland and Hungary
- July 18-20: Montecatini, Italy. EU Environment and Energy Ministers hold informal meeting
- July 22: Brussels. EU Foreign Ministers meet
- July 22: Hungary. Visit by EU Enlargement Commissioner, Gunter Verheugen
- July 22-23: Brussels. EU Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers meet
- July 25-29: Canada. Visit by EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler. Will reform of the CAP satisfy Canada's demands for an end to unfair European farm subsidies?

### August

- August 16-30: Padova, Italy. European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference
- August 21-23: Helsinki. International symposium on ethics in biomedical research will consider such subjects as stem cells, cloning and use of embryos. [www.hbgs.helsinki.fi/bioethics03](http://www.hbgs.helsinki.fi/bioethics03)
- August 22-24: Edinburgh. The 28<sup>th</sup> International Television Festival sponsored by the Media Guardian. [www.mgeitf.co.uk](http://www.mgeitf.co.uk) Email: [info@mgeitf.co.uk](mailto:info@mgeitf.co.uk)

### September

- Sept. 1-4: Strasbourg. European Parliament plenary session. [www.europarl.eu.int](http://www.europarl.eu.int)
- Sept. 5-6: Riva Del Garda, Italy. Informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers
- Sept. 5-6: Milan. Informal meeting of EU Health Ministers
- Sept. 8-12: (Saint Tropez, France) Le Rendez – Vous 2003 French TV Screenings [tvfi@tvfi.com](mailto:tvfi@tvfi.com)
- Sept. 12-13: Ostrea, Italy. Informal meeting of EU Finance Ministers
- Sept. 12-13: Rome. Informal meeting of EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers
- Sept. 14: Estonia. Referendum on whether to join the EU
- Sept. 14: Sweden. Referendum on whether to adopt the Euro
- Sept. 16-19: 14<sup>th</sup> Sportel Int'l Symposium (Monaco)
- Sept. 16-22: European Mobility Week, ending with Car-Free-Day on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hundreds of initiatives will promote alternatives to the car. London's congestion charging will be assessed by other European cities. [mark.o'donovan@cec.eu.int](mailto:mark.o'donovan@cec.eu.int)
- Sept. 17-18: Leeds. Musicnetwork – a workshop on future trends in music. supported by the EC. <http://callisto.dsi.unifi.it/events>
- Sept. 18: Berlin. EU Higher Education Ministers hold a 'summit' to review progress in creating a European Higher Education Area, (with compatible standards and qualifications). [barnev.trench@cec.eu.int](mailto:barnev.trench@cec.eu.int)

### October

- Oct. 10-14: (Cannes, France): MIPCOM – Int'l Film & Programme Market for Television, Video, Cable and Satellite [tvsales@reedmidem.com](mailto:tvsales@reedmidem.com)

### November

- Nov. 19-22: (Lubeck, Germany), Int'l Film Festival of Animation [tvbs@mediaschool.org](http://tvbs@mediaschool.org)

## Circom Report

The "CIRCUM Report" is a monthly publication of CIRCUM Regional, the European Association of Public Regional TV Stations-available on the CR Internet site and coming to CR member stations and personnel either through Email 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. Production and Design: **Eleni Masoura**. Phone (+302310) 299611-610 fax (+302310) 299655. E-mail: [pr@ert3.gr](mailto:pr@ert3.gr)

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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