

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmothly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • March 2003/No 41

From May 11 – 24

The Trieste Journalism Training Seminar to be held in Lignana Sabbadoria & Grado

The Trieste Journalism training seminar will be held from May 11th to May 24th 2003. The training will be held in two locations, Lignana Sabbadoria and then Grado (Hotel Mar del Plata). The hotel is three kilometres from the town of Grado. This will allow the delegates to join the annual Circom Regional conference being held in Grado, May 21 - 24.

An application form can be obtained from the Circom web-site <http://www.circom-regional.org>. The closing date for applications is April 14th 2003. Delegates will require approval of their application from their respective Circom Regional National Co-ordinator. Circom Regional will cover all costs of the training including accommodation, meals and transport to and from the venue. Travel from home countries to and from Trieste will be the

responsibility of the home station or delegate. The 10th annual Circom Regional Journalism Training Seminar is supported by the Council of Europe Human Rights Media Division, the Thomson Foundation and Avid Technology. Once again, the course will use DVCam filming equipment and Avid Xpress DV laptop editing facilities. There will be plenty of opportunity for journalists to gain hands - on experience.

Circom technical trainers of the future attend course at Avid Technology

Avid Technology's European headquarters was the location for Circom's technical training course organised to help improve the support given to the annual journalism training seminar. The training concentrated on the operation of the Avid Xpress DV editing software and was organised by Karol Cioma, the Circom Regional Training Project Manager and delivered by Trevor Bowden, Avid's Senior Training Manager.

The training was held at Avid's European HQ located at Pinewood Studios just outside London. Attending the course were Nina Thomas and Hans Zimmermann from Hessischer Rundfunk, Frankfurt, Darko Flajpan and Darko Horvatic from HRT, Croatia, Zemir Bajraktarevic from Javni RTV Service, Bosnia, Steve Hewitt from BBC Wales, and Gerard Le Coedic from France 3.

Karol Cioma reports, "The course was a great success. Not only did we get to know one another in a short space of time, but we had the



opportunity to learn new things about low-cost DV filming and editing. All this is good news for our journalism training in the future as these people will now be better equipped to pass on their knowledge to our trainees. Also Circom Regional has a much greater pool of technicians to call upon to help deliver their training"

The course was financed by Avid Technology and Circom Regional.

CR Calendar of Events '03

CIRCOM Regional Calendar of Events for 2003 includes three meetings of the Executive Committee in Grado (May 21), Liege (Oct. 4) and Poland (Nov. 28). Also two meetings of the European Board, in Grado (May 21) and Poland (Nov. 29).

The annual conference will be held in Grado, near Trieste, in Italy, May 22 – 24.

Prix Circom judging committee will be held in Sinaia (Romania), May 9 – 13 and the award ceremony in Grado, May 22.

Three different training programs will take place until the end of the year: in Budapest (April 28 – May 2) the Workshop for Ethnic Minorities and in Strasbourg (November) the TV Newsroom Management Seminar.

CIRCOM Regional programs on EbS

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

- * "Euro 3" (France 3 – Lille) and "When borders divide" (TV Syd) on March 12, 13 and 15
- * "Quartette" (TV Szeged) and "Quartette" (TV Poland) on March 19, 20 and 22
- * "Europeos" (France 3 – Alsace) and "Viewpoint Midlands" (BBC) on March 26, 27 and 29

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

CR promo spot for the conference

The hosts of this year's Annual Conference of Circom Regional, to be held in Grado, Italy, would like to produce a promotional spot on the Circom Conference, which will be broadcast before and during the Conference.

Therefore, CR members are kindly asked to send a Beta SP or Beta IMX digital of few minutes promotional on their TV station. The tape should be sent to: Mss. Elena Calamo Specchia, RAI - Relazioni Internazionali, viale Mazzini 14 - VIII piano, stanza 845, 00195 Roma - Italy

The AIB Global Media Business Conference in London, April 29-30

The AIB Global Media Business 2003 takes place at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, central London, on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th April. This is the conference and exhibition for the international broadcasting and global media industries.

The Global Media Business 2003 brings together professionals from around the globe involved with international broadcasting. Speakers come from major players in the industry, including the BBC, Discovery Networks, Radio Netherlands, Clifford Chance, Convera, CASBAA and MTV. Alongside the sessions there is an exhibition of the world's leading companies demonstrating the latest technologies for international and cross border broadcasting.

Simon Spanswick, AIB Chief Executive, comments "The AIB's Global Media Business conference 2003 offers delegates and exhibitors alike the opportunity to debate the latest issues facing our industry

at a time of enormous change and uncertainty. The full spectrum of technologies will be on display, along with expert guidance from companies, consultants and associations, all

helping to inspire delegates from across the globe to enter discussions and debate the real issues that face the industry."

Delegates are already registered from countries worldwide, including Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the UK, USA, Czech Republic, Germany and Poland. As a not-for-profit organisation, the AIB has kept the conference fee as low as possible!

Full details are on the new AIB



website, at www.aib.org.uk where you can download the delegate registration form today.

About The AIB
The Association for International

Broadcasting is the not-for-profit trade association for the cross-border broadcasting industry. Its growing membership reflects the diversity and the ever increasing significance of this multi-billion dollar worldwide industry sector. The AIB

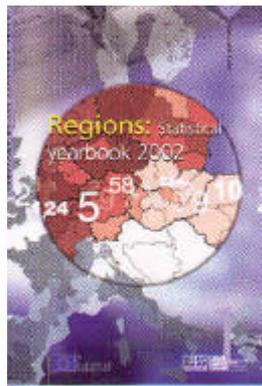
provides a range of services to its members, from lobbying through representation to consulting. It publishes a quarterly magazine, *The Channel*, which is read by more than 4,000 senior executives in more than 100 countries. The AIB's monthly eNews service reaches almost 10,000 decision-makers worldwide. Comprehensive information about the Association is available online at www.aib.org.uk.

The Regions: Statistical Yearbook 2002 is out

Two things gain great respect over time: reliable facts and prestigious wine. The 2002 edition of Eurostat's Regions: Statistical yearbook blends recent data with specialist knowledge to offer representative view of the social and economic situation in the European Union and candidate countries. Its wide selection of comparable statistics, complemented by detailed maps and graphs, amounts to a vintage edition and a reliable source.

In tune with Europe today, the Regions: Statistical yearbook has continued to evolve. A further four sections have been incorporated into the 2002 yearbook:

- Environmental data: examining eater supply and waste collection
- Urban statistics: data for 58 European cities from the Urban Audit Health: mortality and healthcare resources
- Business statistics: wages and salaries, industrial employment



Statistical coverage has been expanded and updated to include, in most cases, no fewer than 12 candidate countries, using an agreed regional breakdown similar to that for Member States (NUTS)

Available in three languages, the 2002 edition of the Regions: Statistical yearbook is a key source of social and economic facts and figures. Available in two formats: yearbook and CD-ROM (EUR 60) or simply in PDF format (EUR30), it can be ordered either by completing and returning the enclosed order form or directly via the Eurostat web site (www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/)



The Performing Arts Yearbook for Europe

The 2003 editions of PAYE (Performing Arts Yearbook for Europe) and MOD (Music, Opera, Dance and Drama in Asia, the Pacific and North America) have now been published - with over 1340 A4 pages containing 25,000+ entries from 65 countries they are an indispensable guide to the performing arts worldwide. Fully indexed and divided into easy reference sections you can source information by arts discipline and geographical area - find out contact details, keep track of changes and developments in your sector, discover how countries and regions fund the performing arts and other details to help you in your job.

They are your cost-effective and easy-to use guides.

To order one or both books plus a free CD Rom visit website at www.api.co.uk now - order on line and the two books PLUS the cd-rom are just £94 (approximately US\$151) including post and packaging.

For further information visit the website, call Marion Qazi on +44 20 7232 5800 or email yearbooks@api.co.uk.

Wireless technology speeds news delivery

Changes to mobile phone wireless technology could have major implications for online journalism, and a new programming language called Appli is providing the catalyst. It enables breaking news headlines to be sent directly from the web to mobile handsets. The Java-based technology has already taken off in Japan, where it has around 10 million users. Newspapers like the Mainichi Daily News, the Japan Sports Newspaper, and broadcasters including TV Asahi, Fuji Sankei and the Tokyo News Agency have already launched a wide range of information services offering hourly news updates.

Reuters' office in Japan is now creating a Java-based local news delivery system that will feed content to both wireless carriers and traditional media organisations. The new technology could also deliver TV news clips to phones. Traditional Japanese broadcast outlets, including Nihon TV, Tokyo Broadcasting System, Fuji TV's financial news, TV Asahi and TV Tokyo are among 23 news channels now available on NTT DoCoMo's M-Stage Visual mobile service, which provides 90-second video clips.

Bulgarian PM calls for public debate

Government spokesman Dimitar Tsonev announced that Prime Minister Simeon Saxecoburgotski will initiate a broad public discussion on a controversial draft law on radio and television. Mr. Tsonev's announcement came one day after a meeting between President Georgi Parvanov and media representatives, during which the draft law was harshly criticized. Mr. Tsonev stressed that the draft law will probably be changed between its first and second readings in parliament.

In Budapest, April 28 – May 2

Ethnic minorities workshop for TV companies in SE Europe

CIRCOM Regional and The Thomson Foundation have an advance notice of the first CIRCOM ethnic minorities workshop for TV companies in SE Europe, which will be held in Budapest from April 28th to May 2nd inclusive. The course will concentrate on increasing the awareness and importance of broadcasting issues of relevance to such minorities. Participants will explore the issues and prejudices towards ethnic minorities, including racism. The workshop will focus on how to inform and entertain regional audiences from the post-Communist countries of SE Europe. Two applications are invited from ethnic minority organisations involved in TV broadcasting from each of the following countries: Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Albania, FYRO Macedonia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo and Romania.

The lead trainer will be Arwel Ellis Owen, a former Head of Programmes, BBC Northern Ireland and who as a fluent Welsh speaker, is acutely aware of the problems facing ethnic minorities both politically and culturally. He has worked as a journalism trainer in many post-Communist countries during the past decade and is managing director of an independent TV company producing drama, documentaries and children's programmes.

Other speakers will be announced at a

later date and the seminar starts on the morning of Monday, April 28th with a presentation by EBU experts concerned with the promotion of its Intercultural Programme Group and City Folk co-production.

On Circom site <http://www.circom-regional.org> you will find more details on CIRCOM Regional Training activities as well as details of the upcoming trainings (one for TV technicians in London and one for Middle Management in Zagreb)

SMS voting in UK elections

Aiming to encourage more young people to vote, the UK government is testing a variety of e-voting methods in local elections this May. More than 1.5m British voters are to participate in the scheme, which will test voting via SMS messages, the internet, and digital television in several local council elections. The government hopes that a success in these trials will lay the groundwork for a fully e-enabled general election sometime after 2006. In Switzerland, residents of the village of Anieres have already cast ballots online in the country's first legally binding internet vote.

Patron saint for the internet?

The Archangel Gabriel is one of Christianity's great communicators - it was he who brought word to Mary that she would give birth to Jesus, the Bible says. So it was only natural that when a search began for a patron saint for the internet, Gabriel's name arose. According to a poll being conducted by a Roman Catholic organisation in northern Italy, he is now in sixth place behind a 20th century martyr, an educator and a publisher born in the 19th century, an 18th century evangeliser and a 13th century nun who saw visions projected on a wall. The web site, www.santiebeati.it, is soliciting votes with the aim of having an internet patron saint named by Easter. "We had lots of requests for a patron, so we decided the internet was the best tool for finding one," said Roberto Diani, an internet adviser for Italy's Conference of Bishops. The official choice will be made by the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Cult and Discipline of Sacrament.

Latvians promised digital TV by 2005

Digital television coverage will be provided in entire territory of Latvia by 2005, said the director of Digitalais Latvijas Radio un Televizijas Centrs (DLRTC), a company dealing with the introduction of digital television in Latvia. Guntars Spunde said that in Riga and the surrounding region, the broadcasting of digital television could start as soon as this autumn. With the introduction of digital TV, the costs to broadcasting organisations for use of the channels could decrease by up to 30 per cent, he added. Since transferring from analogue to digital will require a longer time, the digital system will be introduced gradually region by region. The analogue system will be operated in parallel until the digital system is made available to the entire population.

Autovision Festival in Frankfurt, Sept. 11

AutoVision is an international festival for videofilms, TV programs and multimedia concerning all fields of the automotive industry and traffic. The festival takes place during the International Motor Show in Frankfurt/ Main (IAA) and is organised in a co-operation of FilmService International and the VDA (Verband der Automobilindustrie). It started in 1993 and since then the Festival has grown to an internationally acknowledged event for the automotive industry. This year's award ceremony will be held on the IAA's opening day, September 11 at the IAA Congress-Centre.

During the last years several TV Stations and production companies have been participating in the festival. This year they want particularly to play a more significant role at the festival and therefore give these companies a better opportunity to present their programs to the industry and the viewers.

Therefore they want to invite companies and stations to take part in the festival. Any programme related to the automotive sector can be entered (test reports, motor

programs, event reports and much more...).

Companies/ TV Stations can enter their media in various categories. The "classical" categories Commercials, Informational Films, TV Programs and Product Presentations are standing next to "new" Multimedia/ Website categories like DVDs or new forms of online advertising.

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Deutsche Welle Digital shortwave broadcasts to begin in June 2003

At the official launch of DRM at the World Administrative Radio Conference in June 2003, DW will first initiate digital shortwave programmes in Europe and the Middle East. The required conversion of two transmitters at the relay station in Sines, Portugal will have been completed by then. From June 2003, DW plans to broadcast 8.5 programme hours daily in the DRM standard in German, English and Arabic to the target regions of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe as well as the Middle East.

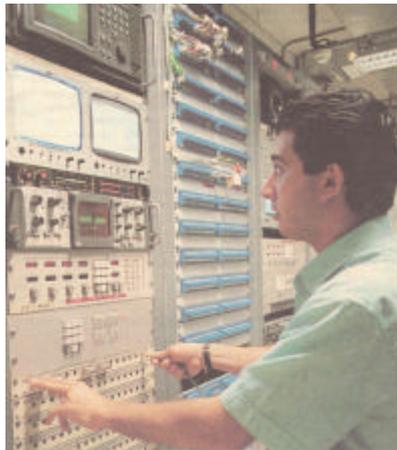
The second stage will expand the programme hours and languages for these target regions and introduce additional programmes for Asia. For this purpose, according to DW Director Erik Bettermann, a transmitter at the relay station in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, will be converted by 2003, making it possible to receive a total of six daily programme hours in German, English, Bengali, Urdu, Pashto and Dari in Asia. The Director General stressed that realization of the planned DRM launch is subject to DW's budgetary situation. If market developments allow, DRM broadcasts are planned for America in the year 2005.

This would require that further transmitters - for example in Antigua and Kigali, Rwanda - are converted.

Bettermann explained that establishment of the new technology on the market will require that many radio stations broadcast in DRM in the same target region and that the market offers suitable receivers at affordable prices. The long-term strategy of DW for the launch of DRM broadcasts will be aligned to that of the DRM Consortium and its members as well as other radio stations. "In a unifying Europe we must attempt to optimise the transmission capacities of larger international broadcasters by forming European programme groups," said Bettermann. www.dw-world.de/english

Turner quits AOL after record loss

The world's largest media company broke another record Wednesday by posting the largest annual loss in US history. Minutes after revealing a \$100 billion (93.1 billion euros) loss for 2002, AOL Time Warner also announced the departure of its vice-chairman Ted Turner, the maverick cable-TV mogul. Mr Turner, the company's largest individual shareholder, has seen his stake in the company drop in value by three-fourths since 2001. In the mid-1990s, the CNN founder sold his television empire to Time Warner, which merged with AOL in 2001. Mr Turner, who built a reputation as a philanthropist with his \$1 billion (931 million euros) pledge to the United Nations in 1997, has said he will now devote his energies to his charitable interests.



Russian state broadcaster increases activity in EuroNews...

The general assembly of EuroNews TV channel shareholders have approved an increase in Russia's share to 16 per cent. Thus, along with public broadcasters from France, Spain and Italy, RTR became one of the four biggest shareholders in Euronews, the press service of the Russian public broadcasting company has reported. The purchase of an additional share package creates a new situation in which, in addition to running the Russian-language version, the Russian side can take effective part in all aspects of Euronews governance, the press service said.

Russia TV launches to Western Europe

Russia TV has introduced a new pan-European channel called RTR-Planeta, on the air around the clock, free-to-air via the Hotbird 3 satellite. This new project is aimed at Russians living abroad as the interest in Russian programmes has increased significantly in the last few years. It will also be possible to watch the channel in America. www.rutv.ru

BBC plans war documentary

The UK's public broadcaster is planning to make a fly-on-the-wall documentary with unprecedented access to British forces during the anticipated war against Iraq. BBC chiefs currently are in negotiation with the UK's Ministry of Defence over the project, which would be the first time cameras have followed British soldiers at war in such intimate detail. The project is being executive produced by Simon Ford, who was behind the BBC's controversial documentary "Hunt for Britain's Paedophiles." In the new series, BBC cameras would follow members of the British army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force in the run-up to and execution of any military campaign against Iraq. Broadcasters are currently ramping up their news operations in advance of the expected war with Iraq. The BBC, as well as commercial British broadcasters ITN and Sky, are expected to spend millions of pounds reporting the conflict.

Europe plans cyber security agency

The European Commission is set to announce Europe's first cyber-security agency. Proposals will be published on Monday for a European network and information security agency, which the Commission hopes will raise levels of IT security and act as a central exchange for information on security. The European Council of Telecommunications Ministers has approved the agency's creation, making its launch later this year a formality. A spokesman for the Commission said that the agency will have a strongly practical remit. It will avoid policy-making and concentrate on helping businesses and governments to fight security threats, such as the SQL Slammer computer virus.

UK editors champion self-regulation

Standards in journalism have been improved by self-regulated codes of practice which are a better way of controlling the press than the law, the UK's Society of Editors told members of Parliament investigating privacy and media intrusion. The society said a code of practice, which was now part of most journalists' employment contracts, and the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) were a swift and inexpensive way for the public to raise grievances. In a detailed submission yesterday to the Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport, the society insisted that the system was "effective, efficient and accessible to ordinary people". "The code has succeeded in raising standards, because it provides a clear statement of both principle and practice," the society said. Allegations of media intrusion tended to hit the headlines when they came from famous people, but more than 90 per cent of complaints were from "ordinary people", it added. "The evidence is that those so-called ordinary people seem satisfied with the system."

Peter Chapman wins first Eury Prize for European journalism

EurActiv.com, the leading internet portal on EU affairs, awarded last month the first Eury Prize for best EU journalist to the UK's Peter Chapman. The new prize was organised in cooperation with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the European Centre for Public Affairs (ECPA). The campaign also had the support of Burson-Marsteller and Edelman.

The Eury Prize Committee consisted of: Aidan White, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Journalists, Tom Spencer, Executive of the European Centre for Public Affairs (ECPA), Christophe Leclercq, publisher of EurActiv and Willy De Backer, EurActiv's editor. The nominations were the result of email soundings with a sizeable sample of EU correspondents. The Committee then elected 12 nominees, the "12 stars" from the suggestions received.

In an online survey conducted by EurActiv amongst its portal users between 24 January and 18 February, more than 1500 people voted for their favorite EU journalist. The online survey was conducted in three languages (English, French and German). Peter Chapman (European Voice) received most votes, with Brandon Mitchener (Wall Street Journal Europe) and Ferdinando Riccardi (Agence Europe) coming in as second and third.

The award was given at Bibliothèque Solvay on 20 February. The winner will designate an NGO that will benefit from a promotion campaign on EurActiv.com, based on logo visibility and advertising.

Christophe Leclercq, publisher of EurActiv, said: "We are pleased with this first trial-run of the Eury Prize in 2003 and we congratulate the winner, Peter Chapman. As planned, we also promise to take into consideration the feedback received concerning this online survey. In due course, the Eury Prize will again contribute to raising the profile of EU journalism, showing its diversity to readers, and acknowledging some of its best practitioners".

During this first run of the Eury prize, the Prize committee received immediate support from nominees, many encouraging messages, and a

substantial vote turnout. The committee also welcomed some useful suggestions for the 2004 edition, for example:

- publish sample articles, biographies and pictures, as not all EU journalists are known outside their own circles (was implemented immediately: www.euractiv.com/eury12stars);
- rather than giving one prize only, one could create Eury prizes by language group and by specialty;
- broaden the sources of nominations, involve more media in the promotion and strengthen the selection criteria;
- the security measures corrected most attempts at multiple votes and left no doubt on the 2003 winner, but could be better communicated; further organisations could be involved in the prize committee.

Further comments are welcome at eury@euractiv.com.

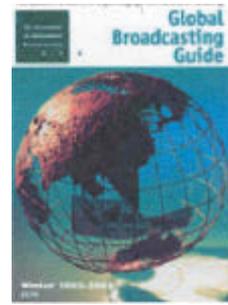
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The EurActiv website is available via www.euractiv.com

EurActiv.com is the leading private sector portal on EU affairs. With more than 650,000 page views per month, the site is an important working instrument for the majority of EU Actors (EU Actors are institutions, industry federations, NGOs, think tanks, the press and other organisations) involved in defining or influencing EU policies.

List of sponsors: General: European Commission, Solvay, CEPS, Club Europa Romania, Toyota Motor Europe, Microsoft; Section sponsors: APEAL, BP, Burson-Marsteller, Deutsche Bank, Edelman, EIPA, Eucomed, France Telecom, Hydro, Levi Strauss & Co, Michelin, Pfizer.

Plus special support from DG Education and Culture, and ERT - The European Round Table of Industrialists.



AIB publishes new *Global Broadcasting Guide*

The Association for International Broadcasting has published the latest edition of its twice-yearly *Global Broadcasting Guide*. Primarily aimed at consumers, the *Guide* is the definitive directory of international television and radio broadcasting in English, with extensive data on how to tune to broadcasts from around the world. Many professionals use the *Guide* to monitor the activities of competing broadcasters and to update their contact information as the *Guide* carries a wealth of detail about broadcasters worldwide.

Copies are available at GBP3.75 including postage worldwide - to order, send your name and mailing address, along with your credit card details (number and expiry date) to Guide Orders, PO Box 990, London SE3 9XL, UK, or e-mail to register@aib.org.uk.

Saudis gave Rolexes to journalists

Two prominent Arab journalists based in London have confirmed a New York Daily News column alleging that Saudi Arabian officials gave expensive watches, including Rolexes, to Western reporters. "It is a common thing," said Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor in chief of Al-Quds Al-Arabi, an Arabic-language daily newspaper, in a telephone interview from London. "It is not considered a bribe in the Middle East," he explained. "In the Arab world, it is a way of being generous."

Jihad al-Khazen, editor in chief of a joint news project of Al-Hayat, an Arabic-language daily, and the Lebanese Broadcasting Corp., said the gift-giving has been going on as long as he can remember. "There is a saying in Arabic that the presents of kings cannot be refused," he said.

The Arab newsmen did not identify any of the reporters who might have accepted the gifts, and neither did Zev Chafets, the columnist who made the allegations on December 4. And American journalists who were in the Middle East recently said that no Saudi official offered them anything.

Fast-forward to home networking

Audio and video material is likely to be what draws the average consumer into home networking, according to a new report. The study by In-Stat/MDR predicts that DVD players that can access PC video content to be played over television will be the first mass-market products to enable video-based home networking. Leading technologies in the home entertainment network area can expect to see exponential growth over the next three years, the study says. But, according to In-Stat/MDR, it is not yet clear whether PCs or other consumer electronics devices will take the leading role in the unfolding market for multimedia home entertainment.

Snapshots from Budapest



“Understanding Europe” conference in Brussels

“Understanding Europe - The EU citizens Right to know” is a one day conference organised by Friends of Europe, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Euro Citizens Action Service (ECAS) and with the support of ASCii and Euractiv.com on Thursday 3 April at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The aims of this conference are:

- Assemble as heterogeneous a range of professional skills and disciplines as possible, and to draw on the participants’ very varied backgrounds to stimulate fresh thinking.

- Make a substantial contribution to the current political debate on EU communication and information policies.

- Discuss the best means for the EU to communicate its raison d’être and its policies,

- The main questions that will be discussed: Can business and NGOs harness their communications skills to making EU policies more relevant and understandable to the EU citizens? Can the democratic deficit be challenged by more information? How the information on Europe and its policies should be presented to the citizens so as to make it attractive to them?

- Key speakers: Antonio Vitorino, EU Commissioner responsible for the Information, Alejo Vidal-Quadras Roca, Vice President of the European Parliament, Peter Balazs, State Secretary for EU integration and External Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary, Charlotte Cederschiöld, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Jacques Séguéla, Executive Vice-President of Havas.

- Participants: This event will bring together some 150 high-level experts coming from major corporations and communications agencies, NGOs and representatives of civil society, the international press and key EU and national government officials.

Practical Information:

Interpretation: English and French.

Venue: European Parliament, Brussels

Date: Thursday 3 April 2003

Time: from 09.00 to 16.30

How to participate? Fax the registration form.

For further information: Friends of Europe, La Maison de l’Europe at the Bibliothèque Solvay, Parc Léopold - 137 rue Belliard, B- 1040 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 737 91 45 - Fax: +32 2 738 75 97, www.friendsofeurope.org

In Grado, Italy, May 22 – 24

“Connecting the Regions of Europe” is theme of the 21st CR conference

“Connecting the Regions of Europe” is the theme of the 21st CIRCUM Regional conference to be held in Grado, Italy, May 22 – 24. Here’s the provisional program:

Thursday, May 22nd, 2003

09:00 - 10:30 Opening Ceremony

Plenary Session Introducing the 2003 Conference theme - "Connecting the Regions of Europe" - the role of regional televisions in an enlarged European Union. Welcome by our Italian hosts, and the President of CIRCUM Regional, with contribution from the Vice President of the European Parliament and the President of the European Commission.

10:30 - 11:00 Benchmarking Regional Televisions in Europe

The results of a new survey of the status of regional television across Europe conducted by CIRCUM and RAI. PowerPoint presentation of the key trends and strategies.

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:15 -12:15 Press Conference room: Press Conference by RAI President*, CIRCUM President, Minister of Italian Communication*, Vice President European Parliament*, Local Authorities (* to be confirmed)

11:30 - 13:00 Connecting Experiences

Plenary Session “Why Should your Regional TV Be Better than Mine”. Comparisons of different models of regional and local TV, presented by senior executives from Holland, Italy, Romania, France and Russia.

Moderator: Bob Collins, Director General of RTE

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00 Connecting the Content with Viewers

Plenary Session Which programmes and schedules work best? What is the most successful mix between news and other programmes? How local should we be? How important are links with the web? Examples from across the continent are shown and debated. Moderator: Bob Collins, Director General of RTE

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 - 18:00 Connecting Broadcasters

Plenary Session Are co-productions a mission impossible? Cross-border collaborations can work to bring new perspectives and fresh formats at low cost. Opportunities and examples. Moderator: Anna Vasova, EBU

20:00-21:00 Prix CIRCUM

The awards ceremony for the best regional programmes in Europe. Prix CIRCUM Chairman: David Lowen, Euronews

21:30 Dinner

Friday, May 23rd, 2003

09:30 - 11:00 Meet the Winners

Plenary Session How the award-winning programmes were conceived and produced? An illuminating debate about production techniques with the CIRCUM prizewinners. Moderator: David Lowen, Prix CIRCUM Chairman

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00 Connecting with Democracy

Plenary Session Across Europe fewer and fewer citizens are bothering to vote in elections. What is causing this worrying “democratic deficit”? Is TV partly to blame?

How do we make politics at the local level interesting and relevant to viewers? Broadcasters are urgently searching for new ways of reporting on democratic institutions. Example and case-studies of the latest ideas. Moderator: Rick Thompson. T-Media

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00 Connecting Communities with Global Events

Plenary Session Reporting the local impact of international conflicts, which can divide religious communities living close together. The crisis in Iraq requires sensitive reporting at the comments level and full understandings of diverse cultures. Experts in European minorities discuss the dangers of prejudice and stereotyping caused by fear of violence.

Moderator: Anita Bhalla, BBC

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 - 18:00 Workshop 1: When the Big Story Breaks

Workshop 1 In recent months many regional and local TV stations have suddenly found themselves at the centre of dramatic international stories including the Theatre siege in Moscow, the Prestige oil disaster, Etna eruption, the Dutch firework fire and the devastating Danube floods. How do small stations cope? What lessons can be learned? Moderator: Tim Johnson, TV2Syd, Denmark

16:30 - 18:00 Workshop 2: The challenge of EU Enlargement

Workshop 2 The historic enlargement of the EU brings new problems and opportunities for broadcasters. Does TV have a role to educate as well as report? How can the accession countries afford to cover EU affairs? Moderator: Boris Bergant, RTV Slovenia

20:00 Dinner

Saturday, May 24th, 2003

09:30 - 11:00 Connecting with Digital

Plenary Session The digital revolution is bringing many new ways of working. Technology is developing at bewildering speed. What are the latest ideas which can help regional televisions to produce better programmes and reduce costs? Demonstrations from experts in newsgathering via the Internet and digital productions. Moderator: Gerry Reynolds, RTE

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 12:15 Young CIRCUM

Plenary Session The young journalists who have been taking part in the 2003 CIRCUM Training Workshop show what they have been doing over the previous ten days and suggest future directions for regional television in Europe.

12:15 - 13:00 Closing Ceremony

Plenary Session: Conclusions and keynote summary of CIRCUM Regional 2003 Conference “Connecting the Regions of Europe”.

13:00 Lunch followed by Excursion including dinner

Alongside with the Conference - Coproduction Exchanges - Video Library

Second anniversary of TELE-SEE network

Two years ago, at the Budapest meeting 23-25 of February 2001, TELE-SEE – Network of Public Broadcasters of South East Europe was founded with the aim to promote peace, stability and mutual understanding in the SEE region by “developing regional SEE and international co-production activities, facilitating production of attractive and informative programs, developing regional long - term networking impact”.

During the last two years projects have begun to take shape. TELE-SEE has co-produced a large number of series, documentaries and news features on subjects relevant to the region; the network

Developed a powerful spirit of friendship and partnership between members, spirit that can be found throughout the productions’ content, too and – certainly – contributes significantly in creating the same positive climate among viewers.

Now the people of TELE-SEE would like to express their deep gratitude to all those organizations and people who made the TELE-SEE fruitful cooperation possible, public televisions-members, generous donors and dynamic coordinators, skilful experts and active partners, enthusiastic national coordinators and gifted producers and directors, colleagues and friends.

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European Telecoms Forum in Rome

IDC’s forthcoming European Telecoms Forum takes place April 7-8 at the Sheraton Golf Parco de’ Medici Hotel and Resort in Rome. This event features senior IDC analysts as well as major industry players and promises to be an arena where both strategic insight and IT industry predictions are presented for deliberation and consideration.

A brochure contains full details on the speakers and topics that will be covered at this event. Also up-to-date information on this event is accessible through: <http://emea.idc.com/forum/telecoms03>

Registration for all IDC events is complimentary to the press, so please contact Mathew Heath, Senior Marketing Specialist, Phone: +44 20 89 87 7107 email: mheath@idc.com if you wish to attend the European Telecoms Forum or any of other IDC event.

To arrange an interview with any IDC analyst for this event, please contact also Heath prior to for you.

Newsletter

Hike in TV tax sought

Germany's public broadcasters, ARD and ZDF, have announced that they will petition the government for an increase in the tax paid by all Germans who own a television or radio. The current monthly tax, fixed through 2004, is 16.15 euros per household. The broadcasters want a fee raise of between eight and 12 per cent beginning in 2005. A decision is due by the end of the year. The broadcasters claim they are squeezed between rising programming costs and legal restrictions on advertising sales that leave them with only five per cent of the market.

By M. Nemcic, CR General Secretary

Executive Committee meeting was held in Budapest on 22 February 2003. We do thank Judit Klein and MTV/Hungarian Television for the hospitality and perfect organisation of the meeting.

Main conclusions of the Meeting:

1. 21st Annual Conference, Isola di Grado, 22 - 24 May 2003

Annual Conference will, at the kind invitation of RAI, be held in Grado, Italy, from 22nd until 24th May 2003. Meetings of Executive Committee and European Board will be on 21/05/03. All information about the Conference, as well as the Accreditation Form, can be found on CR web site <http://www.circom-regional.org>. The theme of the Conference is: «Connecting the Regions of Europe», and main highlights are: Benchmarking of Regional TV Models in Europe, Why Should your Regional TV Be Better than Mine, Coproduction: Mission Possible or Impossible, Connecting with Democracy, EU Enlargement, When the Bit Story Happens, Connecting Digital...

In 2003 CR will be compiling the CR Database, comprising detailed up-to-date information on regional broadcasting across Europe. At present, there is no comprehensive picture of television at the regional level. Each CR National Coordinator is asked to fill in the Questionnaire for Survey of Regional TV in Europe. Would you please return the Questionnaire to CR Secretariat by 15 March, 2003. This is particularly important for future CR projects.

2. PRIX CIRCOM

Entries must be in by mid-March. By now only two entries have arrived (Poland and Germany). Do not miss to send your entries! Check the categories and the prizes and who is awarding.

1. Documentary - Grand Prix Circom Regional trophy 10000 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado Conference

2. Regional News - Grand Prix Circom Regional trophy 7000 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado Conference

3. Current Affairs - European Parliament award 6500 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado Conference

4. Cross-Border - Committee of the Regions award 4000 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado Conference

5. Special - Prix Spécial de France 3 3000 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado Conference

6. Most Original - TVP award 3000 euros, trophy, free visit to Grado Conference

3. Training

Since most of the activities related to Training are in the first half of the year, do profit from this opportunity and send your representatives.

- The TV Middle Management Course (March 12 - 15), thanks to the generosity of

the hosts, HRT Croatia, will be held in Zagreb. We can still accept 4-5 attendants more.

- The Ethnic Minorities Course (April 28 - May 2), the Course for participants from European countries (ATTENTION - no restriction on Stability pact countries as initially announced), will be held in Budapest with funding from the Council of Europe and organised locally by Judit Klein, MTV.

- The Annual Conference Journalism Training (May 12 - 23) will be held in two locations, Lignana Sabbadoria and then Grado, Italy. Training organiser is Karol Cioma and the Council of Europe will support the activities this year 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.

4. Coproductions

After the meeting with the CoPro Office in Munich, the Sub-Committee for Coproductions continued working on legal, programme and technological issues for developing potentials for coproductions in CR. Further more, we continue preparing two coproductions from the Enlargement project (The New Teenage Europe, The Last Straight Line). In a week's time, we intend to send the whole material, description of the project and all conditions for financing, what would probably contribute to the enlarged list of participants. The respond was good so far and we endeavour to work on this project with utmost professionalism from its very beginning.

5. Finances

The EC, after getting the opinion of Internal Auditors, has accepted the 2002 Annual Report. All the members who still have not settled their membership fees are kindly requested to do so ASAP.

6. Miscellaneous

After 9 years of highly professional, though most dedicated work, because of the new post, Mrs Marie-Paule Urban is leaving us from the post of Deputy Secretary General. Candidate for this post on behalf of FR3 is Mr. Hubert Schilling. We shall bid goodbye to Marie-Paule in Grado, and that will be the occasion to thank her for her work.

In Grado, TVP will present new National Coordinator who is appointed as of 1 March 2003, Mr. Piotr Borys. I sincerely hope that Mrs Barbara Lewandowska will contribute with her experience to the organisation of the 22nd Annual Conference of CIRCOM Regional in Wroclaw, Poland.

In the end, may I remind those of you who still have not filled-in the four Questionnaires (on Membership, Prix Circom, Euromusica and Training) to do so ASAP, as we intend to present the answers during the Grado Conference.

Annual Conference wise, if you have an idea or contribution for a Workshop, please do let us know.

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

- 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>

Circom Report

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

The "CIRCOM 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.

Eutelsat is the official CIRCOM Regional sponsor.

