

# Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional News monthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • Feb. 2002/No 28

## CR Executive Committee Meeting in Zagreb's HRT

The new headquarters of the CIRCOM Regional General Secretariat are officially launched with the meeting of the Executive Committee members and invited participants, Feb. 16, in the premises of the HRT / Croatian Television, in Zagreb.

Topics to be discussed include:

1. Approval of the minutes of the EC meeting in Kosice on November 23, 2001
2. Preparations to the Kosice Annual Conference (Z. Medved)
3. Prix CR 2002 (D. Lowen)
4. Euromusica 2002 (E. Farkas)
5. CoPro Office (C. Peters, V. Joyeux)
6. EU tenders, new proposals and development of present activities (P. Kraewinkels)
7. Report on training activities (R. Dijkhuis)

### Euromusica goes to Greece in June

Euromusica goes to Greece this year. At the invitation of ERT/ERT3 this main annual coproduction event will be held in the prefecture of Eleia in Peloponese, June 10-15.

The main site is ancient Olympia, the cradle of the Olympic Games, and cities and villages of the surrounding area.

All groups will be accommodated in a seaside hotel on the Ionian Sea golden coast.

Honorary president of the organizing committee is ERT President Pan. Panayiotou, president is ERT3 General Manager Demetris Katsantonis, coordinator is Fotini Yianoulatou, ERT Director of Int'l Relations and local coordinator is Vasilis Alexopoulos, ERT President's Press Officer.

8. Financial issues (K. Novak)
9. Presenting recent development in work of CIRCOM Secretariat
10. Miscellaneous

The executive Committee members to be present are:

Lefty Kongalides, Marian Kleis, Marie-Paule Urban, Barbara Lewandowska, Elena Spanily, Judit Klein, Zoran Medved, Roel Dijkhuis, Pierre Couchard

Invited participants are: David Lowen, Eszter Farkas, Christine Peters, Valerie Joyeux, Tim Johnson, Peter Kraewinkels, Katarina Novak, Gareth Price, Marta Gajdosikova



### 3000 Euros is the value of the Prix Special

The value of the Prix Special France 3 will be 3000 euros plus the costs of the winner attending the annual CR conference. It was mistakenly reported that the value is 3.500 euros.

Prix Special France 3 (Most Original Programme) is the full name of the award

### Sony continues to support Circom Training

Circom Regional has secured the first sponsorship for their journalist training programmes. Sony Broadcast and Professional Europe have agreed to provide up to five DV Cameras for Circom training courses during 2002. Sony will provide their latest cameras in DV CAM format from the high-end camera to the smaller cameras now often used for news acquisition.

Phil Wilton, Sony BPE's Group Manager Marketing is pleased for the continuing support of Circom's training. "We at Sony are delighted that Circom's training is moving into a new era and we're happy to support the initiative. The current global economic climate has affected all of us and Sony's marketing strategy has meant that we have had to look at our sponsorship very carefully. Although our commitment cannot be as great as it has been in the past we hope that the new partnerships being developed will prove to be a huge success, not just for Circom, but for all journalists attending Circom Training courses."

Karol Cioma, Circom Training's Project Manager is delighted with the news. "We decided this year to change our approach to training and we want our courses to reflect the recent trends in the broadcast industry. We have also learn from our past delegates that they would like a more hands-on approach to television journalism, including filming and editing. Sony's support now means that we can get more people shooting and editing their own material. Sony are the first company to commit to this new style of training and we are waiting news of further sponsors - watch this space".

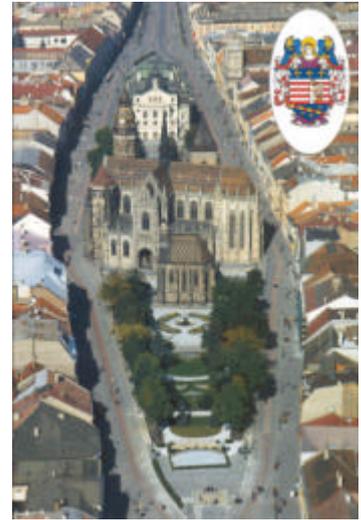
The first time the cameras will be used will be for the Circom Training for Journalists in South East Europe. This workshop will be the second of its kind and once again will be held in Budva, Monenegro starting on 17th March 2002. For further details contact either the Circom website at [www.circom-regional.org](http://www.circom-regional.org) or [kcioma@btinternet.com](mailto:kcioma@btinternet.com)

### Weekly dialogue on the phone for better communication

A new way of communication for the week by week follow up of what's happening in CIRCOM Regional has been launched since early February. CR Secretary General Marija Nemcic based in Zagreb, Croatia, calls every Monday at 11 am, President Lefty Kongalides in Thessaloniki, Greece, and Deputy Secretary General Marie-Paule Urban in Strasbourg, France. On the same line an almost 30 minute dialogue (conversation of three) takes place covering every single topic of the past and forthcoming week.

The site of the CIRCOM Regional conference in May

# Kosice: the natural metropolis of Eastern Slovakia



An important industrial centre with wide-ranging educational, cultural and research facilities. Kosice, with almost three hundred thousand inhabitants the second largest city in Slovakia, has been the natural metropolis of Eastern Slovakia ever since the time of its foundation.

The town grew at the eastern end of the Slovak Ore Mountains, at a natural passing place for the ancient trade routes connecting southern Europe with the Baltic regions. With time the trading network expanded, and another route was established through Kosice, this time from west to east, from Austria, the Czech lands and Silesia towards Galicia and Russia. From what existed at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century in the form of a royal residence, following the influx of colonists from Lower Saxony during the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, there grew a town in the true sense of the word, encircled with fortified walls.

The mediaeval history of the city is closely tied up with the growth of trade and the crafts. Kosice was at the same time both a focal point for many crafts which became associated into dozens of guilds, and a market centre bringing together surplus production from a wide surrounding area for subsequent trading in the Balkans and, more importantly, in Northern Europe around the area of the Hanseatic towns. Kosice remained an important name in long-distance trade throughout the whole of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was at this time that the town gained the privileges of a free royal city, one of the largest and richest in the whole of Hungary. This was also the period when the city's most beautiful historic buildings were erected. From the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, however, Kosice's mercantile fame went into decline.

After this period of economic bloom and relative peace, in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries Kosice went through some more eventful times as the country came under constant threat of Turkish invasion, and was then rocked by a series of social uprisings during which control of the city changed hands many times from one side in the struggles to the other. In addition, there was then the extra upheaval of the reformation and subsequently the counter-reformation. As a result of these frequent wars, Kosice was transformed



into the strongest city fortress in Hungary and became the head-quarters of the Captain-general. Despite all the clashing of weapons, it was at this time that the city became a seat of university and secondary schooling in connection with the re-Catholicization movement. Printing houses also started up operations here, and several new churches were built.

The birth-pangs of the modern age gave way to peace and steady growth through the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Kosice shook itself out of economic and demographic decline. New Baroque architecture caught on, to be overtaken in turn by Classicism and Romanticism, and as the nobility took up residence in the city there was increasing patronization of the arts and the theatre and development of refined social life. After the war events of 1848-1849, the growth of the city accelerated, and by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Kosice had become one of the most significant industrial centres in Hungary. The city increased in beauty as well as in size, and took on the character of an ethnic melting-pot containing Germans, Hungarians, Slovaks and Jews, all with their various religions and cultures.

Kosice maintained its cultural and ethnic variety up until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, despite the fact that from the end of 1918 it became part of the Czechoslovak Republic. and for a short

time in 1919 also part of the so-called Slovenska republika rad ("Republic of Councils"). The German occupation of 1938-1945 ultimately brought with it renewed economic and demographic decline, and in particular the annihilation of the significant Jewish community in the city. At the end of the Second World War, Kosice became for a time the capital of the reconstituted Czechoslovakia.

The 1950's saw the beginning of another period of lightning growth, accelerated mainly by the building of the East Slovakian Iron and Steel Works. At this time Kosice was said to be the most dynamically developing city in Czechoslovakia. Within one generation the number of inhabitants rose by five times, and the built-up area expanded by twenty years.

The city also assumed definitive Slovak character. Nowadays, Kosice is an important centre of population and industry with wide-ranging educational, cultural and research facilities, a kind of counter-point here in the east to Slovakia's capital, Bratislava, in the west.

# Media users engagement in new and evolving ways

4<sup>th</sup> Annual TV Meets the Web Seminar in Amsterdam examines interactivity

The possibility to engage media users in new and evolving ways, is at the heart of major changes in the European media landscape. Media and access companies are realigning to make best use of the promise of interactivity, platform providers are integrating a new array of services in their products, new appliances are entering the media scene and users are applying new rules to old media. As a consequence, the Fourth Annual TV Meets the Web Seminar has chosen Interactivity as its unifying theme.

What new interactive media formats are being developed? How are television formats integrated with on line services? Which online media productions are making their way to the television platform? In what capacity are media companies, access providers and platform developers working together? How do advertisers make use of interactive platforms? What is new, surprising and unexpected – and what is likely to happen?

Case studies presented will include the use of sms messaging as a backchannel for TV programmes, successful internet formats migrating to TV, digital rights management solutions for online video services, to the new business models surrounding interactivity: the programme will outline strategic visions, encourage lively debate and present relevant and exciting case studies. Taking place on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 May 2002 in the

Tropical Institute in central Amsterdam, the fourth in this hugely successful series of seminars will bring together over 250 delegates from the content, new media, broadcasting and telecommunications sectors to discuss the latest trends, issues and opportunities in European media convergence.

Prior to the seminar sessions that will start at noon on 16 May, a series of specialist workshops in the morning is planned which will focus on specific topics such as digital rights management, MHP, MPEG4, as well as an overview of the best in broadband and interactive services with demonstrations of available services across Europe. This will enable subjects to be explored and analysed in depth in a workshop environment. More information is available at

<http://www.tvmeetstheweb.com/may2002/>. If you want to be kept up to date on this event, register at <http://www.vandusseldorp.com/register>

## Germany expects 20 % advertising growth

There will be 20 per cent more internet advertising in Germany by the end of this year, according to a new study.

The research, published by Swiss research institute Prognos on behalf of media sales outfit SevenOne Media, says online adverts will eventually account for 3.5 per cent of the total market. Interactive TV is expected to create a 2 per cent revenue increase over the past year. The institute sets the average yearly growth rate over the next 10 years at 4 per cent.

## Nearly half of all Europeans online

Nearly half of all Europeans went online in January, a new study from research firm IDC says. Germany, the Netherlands and Southern European countries had the highest growth in internet users last year. The study also found that one-third of European internet users bought online in the first half of last year and the number of people buying goods online rose 45 per cent between the third quarter of 2001 and the same time the year before.

Norway, Switzerland, Germany and the UK topped the list of online shoppers in Europe. Books magazines, music, and travel related products and service were the most popular internet purchases in Europe, while groceries and news ranked low on the list of online services Europeans were willing to pay.

## IFJ condemns control of media

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) announced the findings of its report "Journalism, Civil Liberties and the War on Terrorism", which surveyed media coverage of the war in over 20 countries. It condemns various governments' attempts to control the media and urges them not to undermine civil liberties and press freedom in their "rush to legislate" against terrorism. IFJ singles out the governments of Canada, Great Britain, the United States, Australia, France, Russia and other countries within the European Union for rushing too quickly into drafting anti-terrorism laws. In the process, public scrutiny is being bypassed, says IFJ.

IFJ pledges to support journalists by launching an international campaign to distribute guidelines and resources for those covering the crisis; promote the importance of tolerance and counter prejudice in journalism; encourage international solidarity between journalists. At the same time, IFJ urges journalists to "exercise caution" in reporting on the scare associated with the recent mailings of anthrax to various media and government organisations. Since 11 September, one journalist-Robert Stevens, a photo editor for Florida's "The Sun" – had died from inhaling anthrax.

## Russian Duma curbs TV advertising

The lower house of the Russian parliament, the Duma, has overwhelmingly approved legislation to curb advertising on public and private radio and television.

The measure specifically prohibits advertisements during children's, religious and educational programming. Radio plays and feature films cannot be interrupted more frequently than every 15 minutes. Total advertising is limited to a maximum of 20% of output.

Some government ministers have expressed concern over the restrictions. The bill now needs approval of the upper house and presidential consent before it becomes law.

## BBC Online Changes to give real power

The BBC yesterday introduced changes to its online services with a new umbrella name BBCi. BBCi works across the web, interactive TV and personal organisers, providing a single signpost, and easier way of getting, to the BBC's information, entertainment and education services, no matter how it is accessed. The new BBCi logo will appear on the BBC's digital text services and across all the pages of [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk). An 'i' symbol will also appear next to programmes to let viewers know that there is interactive and innovative content attached to it, that will be easy to use either across the web, through digital television or both.

Katharine Everett, Controller BBC New Media, said: "BBCi brings together the best BBC interactive content and services under one name, so that our audiences can clearly identify and easily get to our content. It gives real power to people's fingers, whether that be on a computer keyboard, a television remote control, or your personal organiser."

Ashley Highfield, Director of BBC New Media & Technology said: 'BBCi is the new name for all our services, replacing BBC Online, BBC Text and BBC Interactive, with a single, simple identity. It is this simplicity, and the ease of our services, that will make the BBC the first stop for great interactive content and give more power to your finger.'

Seminar on evaluation

# The impact of measures concerning the promotion of production-distribution

In Brussels, Feb. 18

A public seminar on the "Evaluation of the impact of measures concerning the promotion of production and distribution of TV programmes in the European Audiovisual Sector" is organized in Brussels, Feb. 18, at 8.30 am, by the firm of "Uyttendale, Gerard & Doutrelepon".

The site of the seminar, a sequel to the one held in Brussels, May 21, 2001, is the headquarters of the European Commission.

This evaluation has been entrusted to the above mentioned firm to meet the obligation stipulated in Article 25 bis of the Directive under the terms of which "A further review as provided for in Article 4 (4) shall take place before June 30, 2002. It shall take account of an independent study on the impact of the measures in question at both Community and national level".

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish will be provided during the seminar. The Commission will not cover travel and accommodation expenses.

The seminar will open with an introduction by Jean-Michel Baer, Director for Culture, Policy and Sport at the European Commission.

For more information please call Michaela Kozaric, "Uyttendaele, Gerard & Doutrelepon", Attorneys – at – law, at 00-32-2-548-97-84. Fax: 00-32-2-548-97-80. Email: cdoutrel@skynet.be

## Sports news doubles in UK

Sports channel Eurosportnews had launched in the UK to six million homes. At a stroke the channel has almost doubled its distribution and is now available in 13 million homes across 44 countries and in four languages. Eurosportnews first launched in nine countries in September 2000.

Parent channel British Eurosport is the most widely available sports channel in the UK offered in over nine million homes via Sky Digital, NTL, Telewest, ITV Digital and Kingston Communications. Its average quarterly hour audience is 30,000 + while its average market share is 0.6.

The new UK channel features sports action, news and results from around the world.

It is carried by Sky Digital in 5.3 million homes and Telewest Active Digital adds another 560,000 households. Sky Digital now offers seven dedicated sports channels.



## TV Forum Europe in Barcelona financed by EC

The 1<sup>st</sup> European Programmes Market – TV Forum Europe, financed by the European Commission, hosting onlyh sellers from the EU 15 countries, will be held in Barcelona, February 18-21.

Five panels have been foreseen:

1. New centrality of the Mediterranean and need of a cultural dialogue.
2. Enhancement of the exchanges and the co-productions between the Mediterranean partners.
3. Financing policies
4. Training within the Mediterranean basin
5. Satellite television in the Mediterranean

## Int'l Documentary Grand Prix in Monte Carlo

The Universite Radiophonique et Televisuelle Internationale is organising within the framework of the Monte Carlo Television Festival, July 1-6, the Int'l Documentary Grand Prix. The prizes go to cultural documentaries which have been distinguished for their excellence in their choice of topic, quality in their technical approach in the domain of arts, sciences and society.

During the competition which will be held June 30-July 3, three prizes will be awarded:

- Int'l Documentary Grand Prix
- The Silver prize
- The bronze prize

Deadline for participation is May 15, according to Jean-Luc Meertens, Director of the Organising Committee. More information: <http://www.urti.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 E-mail or as an A4 size printed newsletter, through the CR General Secretariat from Zagreb. The French version of the CIRCUM Report is conceived and published by the Strasbourg Secretariat with support from the Region Alsace, the Conseil General du Bas-Rhin and the City of Strasbourg.

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

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All member stations are considered as potential contributors for this publication, with stories about new and innovative ideas, co-productions, exchanges, modern technologies, etc. Especially welcome are short stories and one-liners.

**\*Sony and Eutelsat are the official CIRCUM Regional sponsors**

From March 17-24

## South-East Europe Television Journalism Workshop in Budva

Circum Regional is organizing a second week-long "South-East Europe TV Journalism Workshop" in March, following the good reaction from the first one held last year. Once again, the Council of Europe is supporting the event, and CR is collaborating with Irex/Pro Media. Now is the time to send applications!

### The dates:

Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> (arrival day) to Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> (departure day)

### The place:

As last year, the location will be the Kraljicina Hotel on the coast of Montenegro, 8 km from Budva. Most participants will fly from Belgrade to the nearby airport of Tivat. It is also possible to get there by road from Dubrovnik or Podgorica.

### Who should apply?

Younger journalists (normally under the age of 32), who work on daily news, and who have the potential to be the editors or correspondents of the future. They must be able to understand English reasonably well. Hopefully, two people from each of the countries around Yugoslavia will be accepted so two nominations should be submitted.

### The workshop:

An international team of experienced tutors will try to help participants to make better TV news programmes – based on strong principles of good journalism, with the most professional techniques, and efficient organization. They will share ideas, compare what they do, and try some practical exercises, using small

digital cameras and computer-based editing provided by Sony and Avid.

### The cost:

The workshop will cost Circum Regional TV stations nothing. All tuition, accommodation and meals in Montenegro will be paid by CR. The only payment is for the travel to get the journalists there.

### The deadline for applicants:

Completed application forms must be sent to R. Thompson by Friday February 15<sup>th</sup>. He will try to confirm the list of accepted participants by Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February, which will give each one just under a month to arrange travel and to get visas if necessary.

For questions, please contact R. Thompson at any time.

Tel: +44 1564 785080

Mobile: +44 7967 008021

Fax: +44 1564 785321

Email: [rick.thompson@t-media.org.uk](mailto:rick.thompson@t-media.org.uk)

Gareth Price of the Thompson Foundation, which now coordinates Circum Training, has asked Thompson to organize this workshop with Karol Cioma, who is now also the Project Manager for future CR Training events.

## European Commission online consultation

European Commission launches online consultation on possible legal instrument for the exploitation of public sector information.

The European Commission has launched an online consultation on a working document outlining a possible legal instrument on the re-use of public sector information within the Community. The working document and the underlying documents can be found at <http://www.cordis.lu/econtent/psi/home.html>

Please see the website for further details about the consultation. Any comments are welcome to their e-mail [info-psi@cec.eu.int](mailto:info-psi@cec.eu.int). European Commission DG Information Society-Directorate D EUFO 01 / 1181 Rue Alcide de Gasperi L-2920 Luxembourg

Fax: +352 4301 34959

<mailto:info-psi@cec.eu.int>

## Positive image for Moldovan Media

"Ciment Lafarge," the Moldovan subsidiary of the well-known French firm, has announced a competition among local journalists to "create a positive image" for itself in the country. It is for the first time in Moldova that a private business is openly trying to involve large numbers of media professionals in promoting its activities.

The competition targets representatives from both print and broadcast media, and the winner is set to receive a E116 prize at a special ceremony next December.

## Head of Estonian television dismissed

The Estonian Broadcasting Council fired state-owned Eesti Television board chairman Aare Urm on 15 January.

The decision pre-empted his plans to resign after the Eurovision song competition.

Urm was charged with being unable to cooperate with the broadcasting council and ignoring laws by continuing the sale of airtime for commercials until the end of last year, even though the new broadcasting act abolished commercials on ETV beginning on 1 July 2001.

He was also accused of increasing the broadcasting share of entertainment and sports, such as purchasing the right to air Formula I racing, at the expense of education, culture, and public information programmes.

In Amsterdam, May 16-17

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual TV Meets the Web Seminar

2002 is now upon us, with the promise of continued revolution within the internet, new media, broadcasting and telecommunications marketplaces. With this in mind, Van Dusseldorp & Partners is organising the Fourth Annual TV Meets the Web Seminar, to be held in Amsterdam on the 16-17th May, 2002.

Interactivity has been chosen as the central theme of this year's seminar. Over the course of 2001, strategic concerns for industry players have focused on new and creative techniques of engaging media users, with the emergence of interactive applications from personal messaging systems to multi-platform gaming. Traditional media and access companies are repositioning themselves to make best use of the promise of interactivity, platform providers are integrating new services in their products and users are applying new rules to old media.

This annual high-level executive event is firmly established as one of Europe's leading discussion forums on media convergence, attracting over 250 delegates from the content, new media, broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. The programme will outline strategic visions, encourage lively debate and present relevant and exciting case studies. In addition, TV Meets the Web will offer a series of specialist morning workshops focusing on specific topics such as digital rights management, MHP, MPEG4, as well as an overview of the best in broadband and interactive services. Key seminar sessions will address the following:

- What new interactive media formats are being developed?

- How are television formats integrated with online services?
- In what capacity are media companies, access providers and platform developers working together?
- How do advertisers make use of interactive platforms?
- What have we learnt of end user experiences and most importantly, expectations?

Confirmed speaking contributions to date include representatives from the BBC, Silicon Artists and the European Broadcasting Union. For an updated list of speakers and programme details, please visit <http://www.tvmeetstheweb.com/may2002/index.php>.

Please contact Monique van Dusseldorp if you feel your company would like to contribute a case study or propose a speaker. If you are interested in sponsoring or exhibiting opportunities, please visit <http://www.tvmeetstheweb.com/may2002/art/sponsorpps.pdf> for further information or contact Lucie Hime, Director of Sales & Marketing on +31 20 535 6987 or on <mailto:lucie@vandusseldorp.com> to discuss your involvement. Van Dusseldorp & Partners BV De Ruijterkade 128 1011 AC Amsterdam The Netherlands tel +31 20 623 15 30 fax +31 20 623 15 22

# Austria's first private broadcasting license

Austrian media authority KommAustria has awarded the coveted license for national private television broadcasts to cable channel ATV. The next step in the private television process will be awarding of licenses for regional and municipal broadcasts. Firms in Vienna, Linz and Salzburg have all applied for municipal licenses.

ATV Manager Tillmann Fuchs is planning completely new programming, featuring sports and regional reporting. The company will conduct a massive publicity campaign in the weeks before it begins broadcasting in September 2002.

State-owned ORF is still the single terrestrial TV broadcaster in Austria, so ATV has to use the ORF facilities for signal transmission. The user fee, according to the private broadcast law, should be "moderate," but the exact amount won't be determined before negotiations between ATV and ORF wrap-up.

The other bidders, Projekte Kanal 1, Zett.at and A3, will be able to appeal the decision to the independent Federal Communications Senate, with further appeal to the High Court as a last resort. But a reversal of KommAustria's decision by a higher body is not expected to delay the start of ATV's private television broadcasts.



## K. Cioma: Project Manager for CR training courses

Karol Cioma studied film and television at Wrexham College of Art and Bournemouth Film School. This was between 1982 and 1986.

On leaving Bournemouth he secured employment as an Assistant Film Editor with HTV, Ltd., the independent television company in Wales. During his time there he moved from film editing into video tape editing.

He left HTV in 1990 to join BBC Wales, as a Video Tape Editor, at their regional station in Bangor. His main editing duties were working on rural programmes, news and sport. In 1997 he was asked to set up a new system of working in newsgathering in Wales. He was one of the first people in the BBC to be trained on camera to work as a shoot/edit person in a mobile facility. Karol worked closely with journalists in both the English and Welsh languages for regional and network programmes.

He was also instrumental in setting up an external business unit for BBC Resources in Wales. This saw him move into writing, producing and directing programmes for external business clients of BBC Resources. The clients included Sony, the Driving Standards Agency, the Drivers Vehicle Licensing Agency, Manweb, the Down's Syndrome Association, Gwynedd County Council, University of Wales and Safety Media Ltd.

In 1992 Karol was asked to become involved in television skills training for BBC World Service Training. His work in this area took him to Poland, the birthplace of his father, on several occasions between 1992 to 1996. Since then he has been sought after and his training sessions have taken place in Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Serbia, Palestine, Portugal, France and Nigeria. In October of 2001, Karol decided to leave the BBC to form his own company "K Productions". This services offered by "K Productions" concentrate on Karol's experience in the television broadcast industry, they are corporate video production and television skills training.

His most recent projects include a health and safety video for the Electrical Contractor's Association, and television training consultancy in Armenia and Azerbaijan, for the Human Rights Directorate of the Council of Europe. 2002 – 2004 will see Karol working for the Thomson Foundation, Cardiff, as their Project Manager for training course delivered to Circom Regional, a European wide organisation for regional television stations.

Karol Cioma

"K Productions"

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## EUROPEAN UNION



## Committee of the Regions

## Albert Bore elected President of the Committee of the Regions

Sir Albert Bore was elected President of the European Union Committee of the Regions at the plenary session of Wednesday 6 February 2002. He will serve as President for a two-year term until January 2004. He succeeds Jos Chabert (B-EPP) who was elected in 2000.

Albert Bore is a British member of the Party of European Socialists group on the CoR. He is a former university lecturer, who has been a Labour party member of Birmingham City Council since 1980 and its leader since 1998. A member of the CoR since its creation in 1994, he was leader of the Socialist group on the Committee during the 1998-2002 term. Speaking after his election to the presidency, he said:

"Local and regional issues are crucial if important discussions about the future of the Union are to connect to ordinary citizens. We should become the effective voice of local and regional government within European affairs, playing a complementary

role to that of the European Parliament. We face a major task: after two terms and despite a number of useful initiatives, the reality is that the overall impact of the Committee in the general scheme of European affairs remains marginal. We have got to do better: we have got to make a difference." The plenary session also saw the election of Spanish Popular Party member Eduardo Zaplana Hernandez-Soro (President of the Generalitat Valenciana, the Valencian regional government) as First Vice-President of the CoR until 2004.

## CR programmes on Europe by Satellite (EbS)

The programme schedule for the CIRCOM Regional transmissions on Europe by Satellite until the end of February includes:

- Feb. 20, 21, 23: "Balkan TV Magazine" and "Balkan-Video Clip-Magazine"
- Feb. 27, 28 March 2: "Mothers of the soldiers" (Center TV) and Euromusica"

The first broadcast on Feb. 20 and 27 is at 22.00 CET, the second one on Feb. 21 and 28 at 05.30 CET and the third one on Feb. 23 March 2 at 11.00 CET

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

- Feb. 16: CIRCUM Regional Executive Committee meeting in Zagreb (Croatia)
- Feb. 18-21: TV Forum Europe (Barcelona)  
[www.tvforumeurope.com](http://www.tvforumeurope.com)
- Feb. 20-21: Euroforum's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Digital Broadcast (Stockholm).  
[www.ibceuroforum.se/click.html](http://www.ibceuroforum.se/click.html)
- March 4-10: 4<sup>th</sup> Documentary Festival (Thessaloniki, Greece)
- March 13: Meeting of France 3 General Director with CR President, General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary (Paris)
- March 17-24: CIRCUM Regional Journalism Workshop (Budva, Montenegro)
- March 21: European Day Against Racism
- March 21-22: TV 2002 Conference (Prague)  
[rosie.nottage@centaur.co.uk](mailto:rosie.nottage@centaur.co.uk)
- March 21-26: Venice Int'l TV Festival (Lido di Venezia, Venice, Italy). Email: [mstren@aol.com](mailto:mstren@aol.com)
- April 8-9: Promax & BDA Europe (Seville, Spain) [www.promax.tv](http://www.promax.tv)  
[www.bda.tv](http://www.bda.tv)
- April 15-19: Mip TV (Cannes, France) [www.reedmidemorg.com](http://www.reedmidemorg.com)
- April 17-20: Prix CIRCUM jury meeting (Nuremberg)
- May 8-11: 9<sup>th</sup> Co.Pe.A.M. conference (Algiers)
- May 16-17: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual – TV Meets the Web Seminar (Royal Tropical Institute-Amsterdam)
- May 16-19: 2<sup>nd</sup> Public TV Broadcasters from the BSEC Member States (Kassandra Palace Hotel, Krypigi, Halkidiki, Greece)
- May 25: Eurovision Song Contest (Tulin, Estonia)
- May 27 – June 2: CIRCUM Regional annual conference (Kosice, Slovakia)
- June 3-8: Int'l Animated Film Festival (Annecy)
- June 13-14: EBU European Radio Forum (Vienna). Contact: Thomas Alexanderson at EBU +41 22 717 2601
- August 22-26: "Balkan TV Magazine" meeting (Greece)
- November: News Editors Seminar (Strasbourg)

## Small Screen Glossary

**Ad Banner**-An ad that appears on a web page or iTV screen.

**Ad Click Rate**-Often referred to as 'click-through', this is the percentage of ad views that result in an ad click.

**ADSL**-Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line-a fast digital connection that rivals ISDN

**Analogue**-A means of encoding information by varying phase, amplitude or frequency of a carrier wave.

**Back Channel**-A means of communication from users to content providers. Can be used to provide feedback, purchase goods and services, and so on. A simple example is an internet connection with a modem.

**Broadband**- A network capable of delivering high bandwidth.

**CPM**-The cost per thousand ad impressions or clicks for a particular site.

**Decoder**-Term sometimes used for set-top box.

**DOCSIS**-Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification-global cable data standard.

**Download**-The process of transferring a file from another computer's server to your computer.

**DSS**-Direct Satellite Service-the ability to receive data, audio, or video from a satellite. Another term used in conjunction with this is DBS, Direct Broadcast Satellite, which uses medium-to high-powered satellites to transmit programming or data directly to small satellite receiver dishes.

**DVR**-DVD-Recordable. The technology records and stores data on a disk.

**EPG**-Electronic Programme Guide.

**HDD**-Hard Disc Drive-allows recording of multimedia content in a set-top box.

**HTML**-Hypertext Markup Language-a coding language used to make documents for use on the Web or some iTV services.

**Hyperlink**-This is the clickable link in text or graphics on a web page that takes you to another place on the same page, another page or another site.

**Information Appliance**-A low-cost appliance that can connect to a network, often for a single purpose.

**Javascript**-Designed by Sun Microsystems and Netscape as an adjunct to the Java programming language, Javascript can be added to standard HTML pages to create interactive documents. As a result, Javascript has found considerable use in the creation of interactive applications.

**MPEG-2**-Global standard for video transmission.

**NVOD**-Near Video On Demand-the service of providing a movie to subscribers on multiple channels and staggering its start time (for example every fifteen minutes). Subscribers can then tune in to the next available showing.

**PCTV**-TV-ready PC-provides the capability of watching TV on a PC.

**PVR**-Personal Video Recorder-provides user control over programming schedules such as with TiVO.

**Terrestrial** - Non-pay TV-regular satellite broadcast channels such as the BBC.

**Timeshifting**-Allows audio or video to be viewed at your convenience. Rather than the broadcaster being in control of the viewing schedule, the viewer can watch programmes at various times of day.

**Zapping**-the ability to completely skip or eliminate ads in a TV broadcast.




## BSEC Public Broadcasters meeting held in Bucharest



## “The Euro and the Balkans” is the new topic of the Balkan TV Magazine

“The Euro and the Balkans” is the new program made up of 5 minuter reports on the topic by the public TV stations of the Balkans in the framework of the Balkan TV Magazine.

What ordinary people think? Will it change our lives? What does it mean for the economy of each country? Will our country use it? Would we like our country to have Euro used as a single monetary unit? Does it make easier our life when we are travelling? These and other questions are answered and discussed in the program to be broadcast by the participating stations from Albania, Serbia, FYRO Macedonia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Turkey.

The two new topics for the Balkan TV Magazine are a) national architecture in typical houses, b) popular markets.

Among other things discussed were:

- The Pegasus award will be given during the August meeting in Greece.
- No final decision was taken for the next host of the TV General Managers meeting.
- All members agreed to participate in Euromusica, next June.
- The Balkan Song Festival will be held at the Dion ancient theater, near Olympus mountain in Greece, co-sponsored by the Balkan Youth Festival.
- All members are supporting the EKO ecological TV festival in Ohrid.
- Next BTM meeting might be held in Moldova, April 26-28.

A meeting of the coordination group of the BSEC public broadcasters was held Feb. 7 in Bucharest at the invitation of the President of TVR (Romanian Television) Mr. Christian Hadji Culea.

After the screening of the programs – documentaries about the profile of the Black Sea Economic cooperation countries, ERT’s Fotini Yianoulatou director of Int’l Relations, make a presentation of the annual conference of the BSEC organisations and of the directors of the public radio and TV stations which is to take place in Kryopigi, Chalkidiki, Greece, May 16-19.

On the agenda was also the TVR’s and British Council’s in Romania proposal on the subject for the «Middle Management» seminar with the support of the Thompson Foundation.

The list of participants included: Vassilis Costopoulos (ERT S.A.– Director of Legal Department), Fotini Yiannoulatou (ERT S.A.-Director of Int’l Relations), Stella Gliana (ERT S.A.-Int’l Relations Dept.), Alev Bilingen (TRT-Director of Int’l Relations Dept.), Serdar San (TRT-Int’l Relations Dept.), Valentin Stoianov (BRT-Director of Int’l Relations Dept.), Nani Mchedlishvili (TV & Radio Broadcasting of Georgia-Deputy Director of Int’l Relations Dept.), Violeta Oltean (TVR-Director of Int’l Relations ) and Lefty Kongalides (CIRCOM Regional President)



The coordination group of the BSEC public broadcasters conference to be held in Greece May 16-19 During Their Meeting in Bucharest’s Hotel Bucuresti