

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmoonthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • April 2002/No 30



Marija Nemcic, Lefty Kongalides, Remy Pflimlin, Marie-Paule Urban, Jean-Marie Belin

In appreciation for the support by the French network

CR delegation to France 3 General Director R. Pflimlin

Rémy Pflimlin, General Director of France 3 welcome CR President Lefty Kongalides, CR General Secretary Marija Nemcic and Deputy Secretary General Marie-Paule Urban at the Francetélévisions headquarters in Paris, March 13 in presence of Jean-Marie Belin, Directeur de la Coopération Internationale France 3 and CR National Coordinator for France and Marc Lesort, Directeur de la Coordination France 3.

The delegation thanked him for the support that France 3, as founder member, is bringing to CR as regards France 3 Formation, coproductions –namely the three that were achieved in 2001 by France 3 in the frame of the *European Year of Languages: Diagonale, Européos, Alsaciens, Elsaesser-* exchanging programmes and, of course, the diverse activities of the Deputy Secretary General in Strasbourg to develop cooperation between members, relations with the European Institutions, organisation of the European Newsroom Management Seminar.

The delegation presented to Mr. Pflimlin:

- the activities and the new 2002 CIRCOM Regional strategy,
- the CR training programmes and, more specifically the *European Newsroom Management Seminar*, initiated by de DSG in Strasbourg, along with the European Parliament and the Council of Europe,
- the official invitation to attend and present a paper to the 20th CIRCOM Regional Congress in Kosice from Thursday, May 30 to Saturday, June 1st included, at the invitation of STV Kosice, Slovakia (one workshop will be devoted to the Digital Terrestrial Television).
- the two requests for participation : one journalist from a regional station to the *Training Seminar* which precedes the Congress (May 19 – June 1, 2002), one group of musicians taken in charge by a France 3 regional station for participation at the «EUROMUSICA» Festival, organized by ERT3 in ancient Olympia, Greece from June 11-15, 2002.

Atlantic TV festival
to be held in 2003



The Atlantic Television Festival Organization announced last month that the prestigious annual Mostra Atlantica de Televisao will take place every two years.

RTP-Azores director Antonio Frago underlines in an e-mail that the Festival will not be held this year but in June 2003 at the Azores Archipelago.

Thompson Foundation runs the Kosice training workshop

This year the Circom Regional journalist training workshop to be held in the wonderful city of Kosice, Slovakia promises to be an exciting event, it's the first time the Thomson Foundation will be running the workshop as training co-coordinators and the first time trainers will be working and training people with non-linear facilities, namely, Sony Professional DVCam camera products and Avid DV software on laptop computers. There are few opportunities in the world never mind Europe for this type of training so please make every effort to forward the names of your proposed delegates as soon as possible to Jennifer Dickenson at the Thomson Foundation,

dickensonj@thomfound.co.uk.

And don't forget, the network is growing and the spirit of Circom Regional is an added bonus, it's something that can't be described but has to be experienced.

Avid supports CR training

The next generation of Circom training has arrived. Circom Regional training will be supported by the latest version of Avid DVXpress software loaded on Dell Latitude laptops. This allows greater flexibility during the editing process and will introduce trainees to non-linear editing which is being installed in newsrooms across Europe. The Avid DVXpress version 3 software provides ease of use with the ability for more creative applications within the laptop. Circom Training is delighted to be able to use this facility and expect an increase in enquiries and requests for training places from member stations.

Four new speakers at the 4th TV Meets the Web Seminar

The latest update on the Fourth TV Meets the Web Seminar, due to take place on 16-17 May at the beautiful Royal Tropical Institute in central Amsterdam. This established event will address the hot topics and burning issues in media-convergent Europe such as the extension of media properties over multiple platforms, the integration and interaction of platforms, the new media formats that are changing the new media landscape and the business models and revenue streams that drive them.

Van Dusseldorp & Partners is delighted to announce four new speakers to the programme who will be sharing their experiences and expertise in these sectors:

- AOL Europe Mr. Michael Moore, Vice President, Interactive Marketing, United Kingdom
- Philips Digital Networks Mr. Paul de Bot, Chief Strategist, The Netherlands
- MTV Networks B.V. Mr. Eric Kearley, Vice President, General Manager, The Netherlands
- Microsoft Corporation Mr. Erik Huggers, European Business

Manager, Windows Digital Media Division, Italy

For a full list of speakers and the programme, please visit <http://www.tvmeetstheweb.com/may2002/index.php>

An additional bonus this year is the series of executive workshops, which will focus on specific topics such as Digital Rights Management, MHP, MPEG4, interactive marketing as well as an overview of the best in broadband and interactive services with demonstrations of the latest available services across Europe.

Public is paying more attention to news

A panel of top journalists said Saturday that the media reconnected with readers and viewers after the Sept. 11 attacks, but could lose ground if news companies cut resources to earn profits. "I have a sense that there is a serious mood in the country that has heightened an appreciation for a journalism that is both deep and wide," said New York Times Executive Editor Howell Raines. Panellists gathered at The Poynter Institute to mark the journalism education centre's 25th anniversary and the dedication of a new wing.

NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw said before the attacks the public did not take the issues of the day very seriously, paying more attention to the legal troubles of rap star Puff Daddy and his actress-girlfriend Jennifer Lopez than subjects such as terrorism.

That changed when the public learned the value of news as the attacks unfolded. The daily need for "reliable, contextual" information continues, Mr Brokaw told the gathering of about 120 editors and journalists.

Commission welcomes Parliament approval of .eu

The European Parliament's decision to adopt the new .eu top level domain met with approval from the European Commission and is expected to be passed shortly by the Council of Ministers. After Council's approval, the Commission will have to choose a registry to oversee the domain, a process that will start with a call for expressions, followed by an evaluation of the submissions.

Parliament and the Council recently agreed to a compromise, with a regulatory committee for the early stages and a more informal advisory committee for the final steps. After choosing a registry to administer and manage the domain, the delegation of the .eu to the registry will have to be organised with ICANN - the internet's authority for assigning web addresses.

Any decisions on public policy that involve the domain will have to be proposed by the Commission, who will consult the registry. "The creation of the .eu Domain is an important step towards increasing access to the Internet in Europe," said Commission member Erkki Liikanen. "It will provide additional choice for European businesses and citizens and will accelerate the uptake of e-commerce."

European award for BBC News Online

BBC News Online has been named the best European news site on the internet. The award - described as Europe's most prestigious - was made in Zurich at an internet content conference. Judges at the Interactive Publishing (IP) Awards rated sites in a number of categories, using computer-generated criteria. BBC News won against what was described as tough competition from the Guardian Online and the German website Spiegel Online.

The BBC was said to have distinguished itself in its use of the world wide web as an interactive medium, especially in its coverage of the war against terror.

Its use of audio and video "put the site in front", along with its up-to-date coverage of international news. The award was accepted on behalf of News Online by the BBC's Jonathan Halls who was in Zurich to speak at the content summit.

The award follows hard on the heels of BBC News Online's success in being named as Best News Site at the annual Baftas in October - the fourth such accolade in as many years.

Europeans prefer mobiles than PC's contents

Europeans are willing to spend more money on content for their mobile devices than on the web, a new study says. The report, by internet research company Jupiter MMXI, found that by 2006, Europeans will be spending E3.3bn for content on mobile phones, nearly twice what they'll pay for web content on their PCs. Nearly half of those surveyed in the report said they wouldn't consider paying anything for internet content on their computers. Newspapers and magazines struggling to generate profit from websites will find more success charging for content through mobile phones. Contrary to what some see as a warming up to paid web content, the vast majority of the internet will remain free - especially among narrowband users, the study says. Most of the consumer spending on the internet will come from broadband-related content.

Controlling the government's control over communications

Once upon a time, in Romania the authorities were always keen to know exactly how each machine typed. In the electronic era the Securitate was replaced by Intelligence and the Millitza by police. Technology and imagination took an impressive lead over the state's ability to control and regulate the internet. Only with the founding of Communication and Information Technology Ministry (MCTI) and the appointment of Dan Nica as minister did Romania begin to recover the time lost between 1996 and 2000, which also happened to be the pioneering years of world-wide internet and technology development.

The MCTI issued an entire legal framework for its area of activity and submitted it to the Parliament in such a short time that it overran any of the other ministries. Therefore, the government decided to create a General Inspectorate for Communications and Information Technology (IGCTI) actually a reorganised version of the existing General Inspectorate for Communications.

The internet's pioneer Mihai Batraneanu, the general manager of PCNet, says that any internet service provider has the technical possibility of 'listening' to its network's traffic for prevention. He also complains that Romania does not follow the US in investing in technology and local expertise. The problem is that the Romanian administration continues to invent controlling bodies, but fails to provide them with the necessary tools and clear legislation to stop the real criminals.

British ITN to drop Euronews

Five years after buying participation into the European news channel Euronews, British International Television News (ITN) consider selling its 49% stake in the Lyon-based broadcaster. Euronews Managers have announced to their employees they are currently looking for rescuer companies to take over ITN shares.

ITN bought 49% of Euronews in 1997, the remaining 51% are still the property of Secemie, a European Consortium of eighteen public service broadcasters including France Television, Rai (Italy), RTVE (Spain) and SSR (Switzerland).

One of the reasons for ITN's withdrawal from Euronews is its economic problems at home. ITN has announced massive advertising losses in 2001. According to M. Wheathley, Euronews CEO, "The advertising market nowadays is more difficult than it used to be in the past." Euronews is broadcast on the airwaves and by satellite, cable and herzian waves in more than forty-eight countries and reaches 94m European households. But Euronewshas always faced financial difficulties. Annual deficits range from E13m in 1994 to E2.7m in 1999.

In Europe, dreams of media moguls fizzle

"Investors thought they could replicate the US model in Europe," said Ian Whittaker, an analyst at Merrill Lynch. No amount of money or will could overcome the fact that Europe remains at least 15 distinct markets, with separate languages, tastes, business practices and regulations. Companies such as NTL in Britain and United Pan-European Communications in the Netherlands spent billions of dollars to wire homes with upgraded cable to deliver such services and to invest in a number of other European markets. For funding, they turned to the bond market. Cable companies account for the lion's share of sales of European junk bonds, but these bonds are now worth less than 20 cents on the dollar in some cases. When these companies ran into trouble, some found help in the form of deep-pocketed buyers.

In some markets, stiff competition comes from rival technologies such as satellite television and DSL lines, which provide telephone and high-speed Internet service. Market penetration for cable, satellite and other forms of pay TV, is still about 50 percent in Europe, compared with more than 80 percent in the US. But Merrill Lynch predicts that the European share will hit 85 percent by 2005. The profit potential will grow if consumers can be persuaded to switch their telephone service and Internet access to cable, once those systems have been upgraded.

Mezzo merges with Muzzik

The new French Mezzo channel, the result of the merger between the old Mezzo channel and Muzzik, will launch this month. The merged channel will broadcast 24 hours a day with four hours of new programmes each day. Mezzo and Muzzik are two competing French music channels, one on each digital television (DTV) platform (Canal Satellite and TPS), specialising in classical music, ballet, jazz and world music.

The new Mezzo will draw on the best of each of the two previous channels. It will have a permanent staff of 16 (nine from Mezzo and seven from Muzzik) and an annual budget of over E6m (the previous Mezzo had a budget of around E4.5m and Muzzik E2.6m). Some 45 per cent of the budget is for programming. It is owned 60 per cent jointly by the Lagardere and Canal Plus groups, 20 per cent by France Televisions and 20 per cent by France Telecom. Mezzo will be available in 25 countries, claiming 1.5 million subscribers in France and six million in other countries.

European broadband demand to rocket

PST Broadband subscriptions in Western Europe will grow more than seven times by 2008. At the end of 2001 there were 3.8m subscribers to broadband in Western Europe, but the number will climb to 28.1m by 2008, according to research from consulting firm Frost & Sullivan, quoted by Vninet.com.

But more competition is needed between telephone operators to drive broadband technology, Frost & Sullivan said. The analyst predicted telecommuting would boom in 2003, when the worldwide telecoms slump would ease, and the need for broadband would pick up.

Internet copyright rules take effect

The first of the International Internet Copyright treaties mediated by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) went into effect last month. The treaty is set to provide a platform for the publication of works of music, art and other software without fear of copyright infringements and piracy online.

It is, however, taking a lot of criticism from civil liberties groups that allege it hampers freedom of speech on the Internet. A sister treaty protecting sound recordings is set to take effect in May.

Committee of the Regions responds to Commission work programme

The Committee of the Regions has set out its views on the work programme of the European Commission in a resolution drawn up by the CoR's four political groups and adopted at the 13-14 March 2001 plenary session.

The resolution notably calls for more restraint from the EU institutions and member states in demanding new EU legislation. It also argues that the CoR should be involved by the European Commission in preparatory work for legislation relevant to local and regional authorities and for the compulsory assessment of the territorial impact of EU policies.

The resolution makes a number of points on specific policy areas, including:

- **Common European area of freedom, justice and security**

- Security is a priority theme;
- A democratic, open and stable society is the best safeguard against extremism and violence;
- Supporting economic and social cohesion, education and culture, fair trade and sustainable development also contribute to a safe living environment;
- More must be done to protect EU citizens from international organised crime, trafficking in human beings, the drugs trade and money laundering;
- Local and regional authorities have an essential role in fighting crime and terrorism.

- **The future of the EU**

- The CoR will actively pursue its priorities of a more democratic and transparent EU, with the institutional reforms necessary to make an enlarged EU efficient and effective;
- The Action Plan following the White Paper on Governance should include proposals for the closer involvement of local and regional authorities in EU decision making;
- There must be no unnecessary delays to enlargement, which might lead to scepticism in the existing and future member states;
- One of the basic principles of European integration is respect for and promotion of cultural diversity;
- There should not be two classes of EU citizens – the *acquis communautaire* should be applied in the new members from the

moment of accession wherever possible;

- Thorough reform of the CAP is urgently needed – the member states should show more courage and determination on this issue;
- Reform of the CFP should also be prioritised;
- The CoR believes that on the future of regional policy the overall objective will be that of strengthening solidarity and territorial cohesion within the enlarged Union; underlines the important role of the trans-European networks in the achievement of these objectives;
- Local and regional authorities in the candidate countries must be more closely involved in the accession process.

- **The external dimension**

- The CoR is pleased with the new focus on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership
- Interregional and regional cooperation partnerships are important for dialogue, peace and democratic growth.

- **Sustainable development**

- Full employment and social and territorial cohesion should be the goals of sustainable development
- An integrated approach to the environment and combating climate change is important.

- **Lisbon Strategy**

- The CoR underlines the key role of local and regional authorities in achieving the aims of the Lisbon strategy.

The full text of the resolution is available from the CoR Press and Communication Unit.

Mostra production for civil defence services in the EU

The European Commission has set up a European platform responsible for facilitating co-operation among the Member States' civil defence services. Civil defence is more than just a local matter. There are always lessons to learn from other countries' experience. Mostra has produced a film on this subject that shows a joint simulation exercise of a nuclear accident in Spain monitored by experts from all over Europe. For more information, please visit : <http://www.tvlink.org/environment/en/home.htm>

The BBC names new TV director

The woman behind the series Walking with Dinosaurs has been named as the BBC's new director of television, its second most senior position. Jana Bennett, a highly regarded American who ran the BBC's science department before returning to the US, becomes one of the most powerful women in British television. She succeeds Mark Thompson, who left last year to become chief executive of Channel 4. Ms Bennett will take charge of all the BBC's television output, including BBC1 and 2, and the digital channels BBC Choice and BBC4. In an indication of the challenges facing the BBC, the corporation yesterday highlighted her term at the Discovery network in the US, where she gained experience in a tough multi-channel market.

TBI Yearbook 2002 has been fully revised

TBI Yearbook 2002 has been fully revised to provide the most accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date information on the world's television industry. A dedicated research team has spent the past six months checking and cross-checking all the data to make sure the 11th edition of the TBI Yearbook is the best and most accurate ever!

TBI Yearbook 2002 still provides essential information on the major players in the free-to-air and pay-TV markets in the key television markets around the world.

A comprehensive introduction to country sections details key developments that have occurred over the last 12 months, and speculates on impending developments over the coming year, giving essential information on the current broadcasting climate to allow one to pinpoint markets ripe for investment. Ordered by country for easy reference, listings include:

- free-to-air broadcasters
- pay-TV channels
- pay-TV platforms
- comprehensive producer & distributor details
- regulatory organisations
- info: bookshop.informamedia.com/tbiyearbook

In Bristol, UK, Oct. 13-18

Festival of Moving Images from the Natural World

The call for entries to the Wildscreen Panda Awards 2002 has now begun. The festival of Moving Images from the Natural World will be held in Bristol, UK, October 13-18. Most categories will be familiar to previous competitors although a few have broadened in scope such as the One Planed and Natural Neighbors Awards, The HIT Wildlife Award for Innovation is an opportunity for productions that really stretch the possibilities of the genre.

New this year is the award for the best Presenter-led Show, reflecting the increasing trend of having a host, and the popularity of using celebrities. The second is the Panda-in-the-Pocket giving the judges the chance of rewarding a production that does not sit comfortably in a specific category.

Telling the World

Increasing awareness of the Festival is an ongoing task. New contacts or suggestions are always welcome so tell anyone you know who might be interested in entering a film or coming to the Festival. All the details are on the web site or they can contact the Festival office for an information pack.

Help is needed in finding as



many entries from around the world as possible in the Children's and Interactive categories. Budding filmmakers are urged to enter the BBC Newcomer Award. Many would be entrants are still unaware of the awards and it is difficult to reach them all without your help. Deadlines for entries are 30 April for all the paperwork and 15 May for tapes and disks. The Nomination Panel meets in mid-June so finalists will be announced in early July. Award winners will be announced at the Gala Award Ceremony on Tuesday 15 October at the Colston Hall in Bristol.

Website: www.wildscreen.org.uk

US sign language translator

Ryan Petterson, a Colorado high school student who invented a glove that converts American sign language into text on a portable screen, has won a top award for young scientists. His inspiration: a deaf teen at a Burger King counter trying to order a meal, and a fellow non-speaking student who attended all classes and manoeuvred the hallways with a translator at her side. "Teenagers describe to me what it's like being able to do what you want without having an adult follow you around all day," he says.

Educators want to see whether the glove can serve a purpose in schools. The glove, a basic golf glove (left-handed, so users can still use their right hand to write) is outfitted with sensors and a little transmitter about the size of a 9-volt battery. A handheld receiver, small enough to fit in a pocket, reads the hand gestures and displays single lines of text automatically.

James Battey, director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Mr Battey says "Most hearing-impaired people spend most of their day around people who do not understand sign language." With the translator glove, a user can offer up a handheld receiver when he's chatting with them so they can read or hear what he's fingerspelling.

Regional media: the bridge between EU & Italy/Balkans

The specific role of regional media, as a bridge between the European Union and the regions of Pouilles (S. Italy) and the Balkans, will be discussed during the meeting to be held in Bari, Italy, April 26-27.

The aim of the meeting, organized by Corecom of Pouilles, is to examine crucial issues such as the development of the local cultural community and the identity of the Adriatic sea, the redaction of a Chart of Intentions concerning the cultural exchanges, the co productions and cooperation with the overseas public TV stations.

The ambition of the organizers is to assure the presence of the European Commission, the European Center of Journalism in Maastricht, the media of Albania, FYRO Macedonia, Slovenia, Croatia, national and regional institutions, etc.

"Media in the Med" main issue of the Co.Pe.A.M. conference

Since its foundation in Palermo in 1994, Co.Pe.A.M. has hold its annual conference in Cairo, Marseilles, Tunis, Valencia, Casablanca, Thessaloniki and this year in Algiers, May 7-12.

The 2002 hot topic is: "Media in the Mediterranean as factors of Dialogue and Peace". This 9th conference will be based on two main sections: the forum of the Professionals and the General Assembly.



BBC digital stars 'paid too much'

A string of Britain's best rewarded TV presenters are working for a digital BBC channel which cannot be watched by more than half the BBC's licence payers. The disclosure, from a survey of productivity across the TV industry, has sparked calls for the BBC to review how much it pays stars. News presenter Christopher Price earns £404,000 (£250,000) a year at digital channel BBC Choice, a similar figure to established BBC anchormen Peter Sissons and Jeremy Paxman, and more than BBC1's Huw Edwards.

Latest audience figures obtained by The Observer, show that Price's programme is watched by an audience of just 17,000 people. He is being paid £23 (£14.70) for every viewer he attracts. His colleague Johnny Vaughan has a £4m (£2.5m) annual contract with the BBC. His new chat show on BBC Choice is attracting just 40,000 viewers.

Even with a repeat on BBC1, Vaughan is paid 20 times more for every viewer he wins than talk show host Michael Parkinson. Richard Bacon receives £194,000 (£120,000), while winning just less than 1 per cent of the audience of most mainstream quiz shows. Jocelyn Hay, chairman of Voice of the Listener and Viewer, said: "These are extraordinary sums for the BBC to be paying. This use of licence-payers' money should be urgently reviewed."



ERT3 signs protocol with RTR

ERT3 General Director Demetris Katsantonis and RTR (the public Radio & TV Network of the Russian Federation) Vice chairman Valery Neznamov signed a protocol for cooperation, exchange of programs, offer of services, live broadcasts, etc. in Thessaloniki, April 5

The protocol, the most important in the 14 year old history of ERT3 (who already signed similar agreements with FYROM, Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania and Moldova) includes also the staging of cultural and entertainment events in Greece and Russia and the mutual exchange of news coverage. Katsantonis underlined that "we are happy to prove that in Thessaloniki we undertake initiatives that bring people of different countries together and ERT3 and RTR are organizations that can play such a role, building bridges and demolish walls between people".

RTR, explained Neznamov, has 89 regional stations in Russia and two radio networks Radio Russia (AM and SW) and Mayak (AM and FM) and is an active member of EBU.

CIRCUM Regional President Lefty Kongalides, who was present in the signing, extended an open invitation to RTR to become member of CIRCUM Regional.



D. Katsantonis, L. Kongalides, V. Boyko, consul general of the Russian Federation in Thessaloniki, V. Neznamov and Sophia Prokopidou, head of the Russian TV News in ET3

Festivals, workshops and more around Europe and the world

- April 15-19: Mip TV (Cannes, France) www.reedmidemorg.com
- April 17-20: Prix CIRCUM jury meeting (Nuremberg)
- May 8-11: 9th Co.Pe.A.M. conference (Algiers)
- May 15: May issue of "CIRCUM Report"
- May 16-17: 4th Annual - TV Meets the Web Seminar (Royal Tropical Institute-Amsterdam)
- May 16-19: 2nd Public TV Broadcasters from the BSEC Member States (Kassandra Palace Hotel, Kryopigi, Halkidiki, Crece)
- May 21-23: Mediacast 2002. Excel, London, UK. www.mediacast.co.uk
- May 25: Eurovision Song Contest (Tulin, Esthonia)
- May 27 - June 2: CIRCUM Regional annual conference (Kosice, Slovakia)
- June 3-8: Int'l Animated Film Festival (Annecy)
- June 11-15: Euromusica (ancient Olympia, Greece)
- June 13-14: Vienna. European Radio Forum to be held by the EBU. Contact Thomas Alexanderson at EBU. +41 22 717 2601
- June 15: Euromusica Gala (Greece)
- June 15: June issue of "CIRCUM Report"
- July 1-6: The Monte Carlo Television Festival (Grimaldi Forum, Monaco) info@tvfestival.com
- July 15: July issue of "CIRCUM Report"
- August 22-26: "Balkan TV Magazine" meeting (Greece)
- September 9-13: Le Rendez-Vouz 2002. French TV Screenings (Saint Tropez) www.tvfi.com
- November: News Editors Seminar (Strasbourg)

The EU pays 17m Euros for high-speed network

The European Commission has granted Euro 17 million (US \$15 million) for the construction and testing of a high-speed network, called 6net.

Thirty commercial and academic entities will participate in the project. 6net will be using the latest internet protocol version 6 (IPv6) and allows speeds of up to 2.5 Gbps. Nine countries will initially be interconnected. Tests will focus on the use of IPv6 and its consequences for routing, security, DNS and multicast.

The latter is a technique allowing efficient use of bandwidth by offering multiple users within a single location just one signal, which is subsequently distributed to the users.

Call for copyright protection of digital broadcasts

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) has issued a call to industry from around the world to collaborate in identifying the best system of electronic "watermarking" to protect the copyright of digital broadcasts.

The need for a secure means of marking video and audio material is increasingly urgent at a time when digital technology enables perfect pirate copies to be made and distributed through a growing number of communications channels. The EBU's aim is to open up the work already undertaken to all companies working on audio watermarking, to broaden agreement on the theory behind the method proposed by the EBU, and to compare and assess existing systems by tests using the same methodology.

Circum Report

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

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

Production and Design: **Eleni Masoura**. Phone (30310) 299611-610 fax (30310) 299655. E-mail: 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.

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

See you in Kosice, Slovakia in May



CR training seminar in Budva attracts 30 journalists–technicians

Circom's second "South-East Europe Television Journalism Workshop" took place near Budva in Montenegro between March 17th and 24th 2002, and received enthusiastic praise from the young journalists who took part.

Twenty-eight journalists and technicians came from Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary and Romania, as well as from Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo. The editorial tutors were Rick Thompson, leading his last Circom workshop, Hans Jessen from ARD, Kicki Hultin from SVT, and Russell Peasgood from Irex in Belgrade, who collaborated with Circom for this training course.

The technical operations were lead by the Thomson Foundation's Project Manager, Karol Cioma. This was the first time that the production was all digital, with the shooting on Sony DV cameras, and the editing done on laptop computers using Avid software. It proved difficult to create a reliable digital work-area in a hotel in such a short time. There were difficult compatibility problems to overcome. But all could see the potential of this technology for lower-cost, more flexible TV news in the future.

With the help of the lightweight equipment, the participants produced more TV material than in any previous workshop. They made 4 "TV commercials" to practise telling stories with pictures only, 7 feature packages which were included in a 30-minute news programme, and a film about the workshop which will be transmitted on EbS at the end of April.

The main financial support came from the Council of Europe's media Division. The workshop was superbly arranged by Ljiljana Breberina, who also helped to secure additional financial support from Irex in Belgrade, the OSI in Montenegro, the Secretariat of Information in Montenegro, and the British Embassy in Belgrade.

At the end of an intensive but enjoyable week, many of the trainees had become close friends, and declared that they would keep in touch, expanding the "Circom network" of former trainees, which already has many hundreds across Europe who email each other regularly.

Seminar in Novi Sad

Following the Budva Workshop, Rick Thompson conducted a two-day Circom Seminar at the Novi Sad School of Journalism in Serbia. This was part of a collaborative arrangement with Irex/ProMedia in Belgrade, who provide support and tutors for the School. The seminar happened on March 26th and 27th, with 40 post-graduate students attending. The programme was an introduction to TV news for students who had studied print journalism and radio in the first part of their course. They used small cameras to make some basic reports, studied extracts of programmes from around Europe, and discussed the best ways of making TV news which will be respected and attractive to watch.



Kiril E. Gotsev is the new BNT General Director

Bulgarian National Television (BNT) has a new General Director. Kiril E. Gotsev, born Dec. 10, 1957, in Sofia, is now heading BNT. He speaks fluently English, German and Russian.

Gotsev, a graduate of the Technical University of Sofia (Dipl. Engineer, M.Sc.) has worked as Editor of News and Current Affairs in BNT's News Dept. as Executive Director of BNT, as Assistant Professor in Dept. of Mass Communications (New Bulgarian University), as producer and director of many documentaries, etc.



CR programmes on EbS schedule

The Balkan TV Magazine is on the April schedule of EbS to be broadcast on April 24 (22.00 CET) April 25 (05.30 CET) and April 27 (11.00 CET).

Also the France 3 production "Europeos No12" will be broadcast on April 17,18 and 20 with the same corresponding hours as above. And TSI Lugano production "Swiss World No 3" will follow the former broadcast.

SONY®

