

# Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmonthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • Sept. 2001/No 23

During a meeting of CR EC members and the Board of Governors

## New Training Co-ordinator to be decided in Groningen

A CIRCOM Regional meeting in Groningen, Holland, will be held Sept 28 – 30. Members of the Executive Committee and the Training Board of Governors will discuss, during the meeting, the files of the three applicants for the Circom Regional Training Coordination.

The actual meeting is set for Saturday (29) while departure is scheduled for Sunday (30). Circom Regional executive committee member and Board of Governors President Roel Dijkhuis (RTV Noord Groningen)

is the host.

Rick Thompson who has been Training and Development Coordinator is terminating his tenure with CIRCOM Regional at the end of the year.



**Euromusica 2001  
in Sopron-Eisenstadt  
from September 13-16**

Euromusica 2001 takes place in Sopron and Eisenstadt, Sept. 13 – 16. On Thursday (13) a meeting of the producers will be held and later on a reception for acts and producers at the town hall of Sopron.

On Friday (14) after a sightseeing tour in town guests will depart by train to Eisenstadt. Concerts will be given in Eisenstadt, Rust and Morbisch, organised by ORF Eisenstadt. A torchlight procession had been scheduled for the same evening in Sopron.

The main Euromusica concert will be held on Saturday (15), followed by a meeting of the producers and a farewell dinner. CR National Coordinator in Hungary Judit Klein invited by E mail all CR members in Sopron and Eisenstadt.

## Circom participation in the European Year of Languages

Circom Regional is actively participating in the European Union's project. The European Year of Languages. All details about the project are on Circom Regional's webpage. This coproduction co-financed by the European Union is on behalf of Circom coordinated by Tim Johnson, the Danish National Coordinator, and is still open to interested partners. Should CR members are interested to participate actively, as programme contributor or passively, as receiver of the complete material willing to broadcast items and programmes, they are kindly invited to join in. September 26 will be the Day of Languages and for this occasion Circom Regional prepared a short presentation piece about the Year of Languages, about its objectives and



activities, as well as the value of languages as communication tools and as creative media, which is at the disposal of CR members. Every Circom Regional programme aired via the Europe by Satellite channel is showing the Year of Languages trailer, as well as the items and programmes produced by CR members, which are at their disposal as well. More on page 3.

### **PRIX CR on Europe by Satellite in October**

The transmission of the two programmes that got a special commendation in the category News "Look North" from BBC North East and "Central News at Six" by Carlton ITV has been scheduled as follows :

Wednesday, Oct. 10th at 22.00 CET,  
Thursday, Oct. 11th at 5.00 CET  
& Saturday, Oct. 14th at 10.00 CET.  
A presentation program of few minutes produced in the framework of the European Year of Languages will be sent on EbS till October.

In Strasbourg, France, Nov. 12 – 17

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Seminar on Newsroom Management

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Seminar on Newsroom Management for Directors, Editors – in – Chief and Newsroom Managers working in television news is set at the France 3 Alsace headquarters in Strasbourg, France, Nov.12 – 17.

This second seminar follows the success of the first one held last year. This year it expands to six days – instead of five. It is, of course, limited to CIRCUM Regional members. The deadline for the nominated participants is October 8<sup>th</sup>, the latest.

## Themes

The importance of successful, popular, and respected daily news programmes, in an increasingly competitive broadcasting world.

What makes the news programmes successful? Relevant stories, picture-power, human examples, professionalism and a friendly style. Audience-focus. Clear editorial leadership. The importance of planning. How to achieve success on a low budget? Efficient management of people and resources.

Can new technology help to solve our problems? An introduction to the digital revolution. How far can multi-skilling help to improve your news service?

## Purpose

This senior seminar in newsroom management will be the second held by CIRCUM Regional, Europe's association of regional television. It is a logical development of the 11 CIRCUM Workshops for young TV journalists held since 1994, which were designed to help them make better daily news programmes. The participants have been able to improve their own reporting and production skills, but many have pointed out that they do not have the authority to change working-methods in the newsrooms. Modernisation of programmes, and the development of effective teamwork, must come from the inspirational leadership of the editors-in-chief.

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

## The Seminar

The Seminar will be limited to 15 participants, to allow maximum discussion, analysis of each other's programmes, and plenty of practical work with some of the latest digital equipment.

The programme content is being arranged by Didier Désormeaux, from France 3 Formation in Paris, with input from Rick Thompson (former Senior Editor BBC and Coordinator CIRCUM Training), Hans Jessen (Correspondent and Producer ARD Berlin). Technical support will be provided by Gérard Le Couédic (France 3

Formation), and Karol Cioma, (BBC). Digital equipment will be provided by Sony.

The Seminar is being organised by Marie-Paule Urban, Deputy General Secretary of CIRCUM Regional at the invitation of France 3 and France 3 Alsace and with the support of the Région Alsace, Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin, Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg and the Council of Europe.

## Facility at the European Parliament

The seminar coincides with a plenary session of the European Parliament, at its new headquarters in Strasbourg. Seminar participants will be able to spend Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at the European Parliament, as guests of the Audiovisual Division, to meet contacts with the directors of European TV Rédactions, see the television facilities and to be briefed on such issues as the Enlargement of the EU.

## Languages

The seminar will be conducted in English and French, with simultaneous translation available.

## Costs

Participants must pay only their travel to Strasbourg. CIRCUM Regional will cover all costs on location, including accommodation, basic meals, and the costs of the seminar itself.

## How to apply

The application form must be sent to Marie-Paule Urban, Deputy Secretary General CIRCUM Regional, France 3 Alsace, Place de Bordeaux, F-67005 STRASBOURG CEDEX.

Email: [circum@france3.fr](mailto:circum@france3.fr) Fax: +33 3 88 15 60 68.

## APPLICATION FORM

**Deadline : Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Member TV Station (with full address) : .....**

**Nominated Participant : .....**

**Name : .....** **Age : .....**

**Passport Number : .....**

**Contact Numbers : Tel : .....** **Fax : .....**

(Please type or write clearly)

**E-mail : .....**

**Job Title and brief description of responsibilities :**

.....

**Summary of qualifications and past experience :**

.....

**Main aims of attending this workshop :**

.....

**Previous workshops/Seminars/Training courses :**

.....

**Languages : Your native language is : .....**

**Other languages (state whether «fluent»,**

**«good understanding» or «notional») : .....**

**Nominated by (National Coordinator, CIRCUM Regional) :**

.....

# Celebrating Europe's linguistic diversity

And promoting language learning

## What is the European Year of Languages 2001 ?

The European Year of Languages 2001 aims to celebrate Europe's linguistic diversity and to promote language learning. The European Year is organised by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

What are the main ideas behind the European Year ?

\*Language skills give people opportunities.

\*If you understand someone's language, you can appreciate them and their culture better.

\*Everybody can learn to speak or understand a new language, it is never too late or too early. Language learning is a lifelong process.

\*The European Year is about all languages used in Europe. Each one is a key part of Europe's cultural heritage and of its future.

The objectives of the European Year are given in full in a European Union Decision and in official documents of the Council of Europe.

## 26 September 2001

A key date in the European Year of Languages is September 26<sup>th</sup> the European Day of Languages. On that day thousands of activities are being organised in 45 participating Member States of the European Union and the Council of Europe, to celebrate all aspects of multilingual Europe. There are competitions, festivals, conferences, publications, open days, TV and radio broadcasts, exhibitions, webcasts, language buses, language streets, language 'tasters', theatre and concerts: many activities everywhere to suit all ages and areas of interest.

Check out the national web-site in your own country. Many of the 185 projects co-financed by the European Commission will be celebrating the European Year. Many thousands more activities will be taking place.

## Look out for the Languages Lift-Off

In major cities across 18 countries Österreich, Belgique, Belgie, Danmark, Suomi, Finland, France, Deutschland, Ellas, Iceland, Ireland, Italia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Nederland, Norsk, Portugal, Espana, the European Commission is organising Languages Lift Off to celebrate the European Day of Languages. Thousands of balloons will be released from a landmark location. If you are lucky, you may even win a Languages Lift Off prize!

## Design your own publicity

Organising an event anywhere? Would you like to include the official logo for the European Year? Or make your own publicity

materials? Download any of the [graphic materials](#) that have been created at European level (designs available for pens, posters, leaflets, balloons, postcards etc). Please note that these designs have been made available in professional formats and you may not be able to read them directly from your own PC unless you have suitable software. Professional

printers and layout experts will however be able to read them and use them!

Who can participate and how ? Everyone can participate in the European Year of Languages 2001:

\*The first and best way is by beginning to learn a new foreign language or improving your existing knowledge!

\*Take part in events and activities taking place in your country or region.

\*Get together with other people nearby or in other countries to organise your own activities.

\*Join in the interactive language exercises, games and chats accessible



through the Internet site.

\*Enter the special competitions being organised.

\*Language teachers and trainers can use the European Year to help them motivate learners and to tell people about their work and about the importance of learning languages. They can also learn about the work of others in the field.

\*Journalists and broadcasters can cover activities during the European Year and contribute to the debates inspired by the Year.

\*Political decision makers can launch and respond to debate on language issues. They can also cooperate across borders, using for example town twinning arrangements.

\*Non-Governmental Organisations can use the European Year to organise activities and to encourage debate on questions of language learning and policy.

\*Companies and foundations may support and sponsor activities or simply encourage employees to take part.

\*The European Union and Council of Europe are offering the right to reproduce the European Year logo and slogans, free of charge and under certain conditions, to all of those who wish to make use of them.

For further details of all of these ways of getting involved, please contact your national coordinating body.

Council of Europe: National coordinators  
EU/EEA – National Coordinating Bodies

## The EC increases internet access efforts

The European Commission eEurope programme has increased its efforts to open up more varied, cheaper and better quality access to the internet.

The EC's latest effort to make internet access available to all throughout the European Union was to send out questionnaires at the beginning of August to companies providing high speed internet access.

The questionnaires meant to quiz the companies over the implementation of legislation designed to reduce the dominance of the incumbent operators will be reviewed and used by the EC to decide what, if any, further steps must be taken to reach EC internet access goals.

## Moscow takes control over broadcasting

As expected Russian President Vladimir Putin signed on 13 August a decree re-establishing federal government control over all of the Russia's broadcasting and relay stations for television and radio signals by consolidating them under the management of a single government corporation, ITAR-TASS and RIA-Novosti reported.

According to the text of the decree as published on the website strana.ru, the newly created corporation, Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Network (RTRS), will assume control over the federal signal distribution center in Moscow as well its regional subdivisions located in subjects of the Russian Federation.

The decree also empowers the government to cancel any agreements or deals that would result in the "illegal estrangement of technical means and objects from federal ownership."

## France multichannel over next five years

The French have lower than Western Europe's average access to the PC Web because they still have some unique concerns about the channel, according to Forrester Research

. The company said in the eyes of the French PC Web suffers from not being 'French' enough, and consumers' concerns over security are maintaining low levels of French home PC ownership.

However, despite the local concerns, the percentage of French consumers online via the Web grew from 13 percent in 1999 to 22 percent by the end of 2000, according to the research group.

The role France Telecom's own information network Minitel has played over the last two decades in France is expected to reduce as many more French users will go online using PCs, WAP and interactive digital TV (DTV).

Over the next five years, French consumers will go multichannel, breaking Minitel's dominance over its 15 million French consumers. By 2006, 86 percent of the French population will be online with access to at least one online channel, Forrester said.

## BBC boss blasts reality Television

One of the BBC's most senior figures branded reality programmes "humiliating, manipulative and sick" in an outspoken attack on a form of television that draws big ratings.

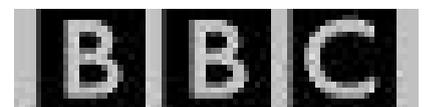
Vowing that such programmes would never be screened on the BBC, Lorraine Heggessey, BBC 1 controller, singled out for particular condemnation Temptation Island, in which couples are separated and urged to think about sleeping with other members of the show.

"When I saw that I felt physically sick," she told the Guardian Edinburgh Television Festival. "It was so manipulative."

Ms Heggessey, who has been accused of "dumbing down" BBC schedules in the race for ratings, said she "received dozens and dozens of proposals for reality television shows" but had not commissioned any. "I have not found one yet that meets the high quality threshold we have on BBC1."

But she defended reality-style programming on BBC1, including Castaway and Surviving the Iron Age. "They had a point. They were about people proving something to themselves, to their families, or to others. To get on BBC1 such programmes have to have a point. A lot do not."

Clinical psychologist and programme maker Dr Oliver James called on broadcasters to fund a study into the long-term effects of reality TV.



Set for Oct 4-6

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Int'l "At Home" Ethnic TV Festival in Krakow

The "At Home" Ethnic TV Festival, which is traditionally supported by Circom Regional, reviews and discusses programs about ethnic minority issues from all over the world, and awards prizes in various categories. This year's 5<sup>th</sup> festival takes place in Krakow (Poland), Oct. 4-6.

During the Festival there will be concerts, exhibitions and other events, inspired by cultural diversity and better understanding of different religions and ethnic groups. This year, there will be special focus on the so-called "new minorities" in Europe, and their portrayal in the media.

The main goals of the Festival are to compare practical ways of widening the knowledge of TV viewers of other cultures, to promote understanding rather than bigotry, and to demonstrate tolerance rather than conflict.

The Festival is organised by Telewizja Polska S.A. Krakow in collaboration with



Circom Regional, the European Ethnic Broadcasting Association (EEBA), Jagiellonian University, the State School of Drama in Krakow, and the Willa Decjusza Association.

## Hollywood to create online movie service

Major motion picture studios Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Universal Studios and Warner Bros have joined in a venture to create an online on-demand movie service.

Though the five studios have not yet announced a name for their venture or the launch date, they have disclosed that they will digitally deliver recently released films and video library content to US broadband internet users.

Motion Picture Association of America CEO Jack Valenti commented that this is a step forward for the industry, "confirms that film producers are eager for the internet to enlarge and flourish. For the first time in a very near future, a broad selection of motion pictures will be available online, protected by encryption and delivered directly to consumers at a reasonable price."

Webnoize digital entertainment industry analyst Matt Bailey Webnoize, stated that "People like to be able to watch movies when they want, without going to the video store and with no late fees." He also related that the video rental market is now E8.7bn a year and video-on-demand should get involved in the market.

Mr Bailey cautions, however, that the time may not be right yet for this technology since many of the broadband connections the studios cited "are in workplaces, and people are not going to be able to watch movies at work."

## Pro-lifers win right to challenge BBC ban on film

The possibility of graphic images of aborted fetuses being broadcast on British television moved a step closer yesterday after the Court of Appeal allowed an anti-abortion group to challenge a BBC ban on its party election broadcast.

The BBC refused to air the film, which showed lawfully aborted fetuses under 14 weeks old, saying it offended public taste and decency. The High Court upheld the BBC's decision in an emergency hearing days before the broadcast was to be shown in June.

Although the Pro-Life Alliance, which fielded parliamentary candidates across England and Wales, claimed the ban had no legal basis, Mr Justice Scott Baker refused the group leave to appeal.

A spokeswoman for the BBC defended its decision to insist on heavy editing of the broadcast.

"We thought that the court was right in the first instance and we will be resisting any appeal. All broadcasters decided that the first version of the tape that was submitted would not conform to our guidelines on taste and decency," she said.

The case is the latest in a string of legal actions by the Pro-Life Alliance, many of them successful. The Government has promised fresh legislation on cloning research after the group argued earlier this year that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 did not foresee the cloning in 1997 of Dolly the sheep by cell nuclear replacement.

## 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 A-4 size printed newsletter, through the CR General Secretariat from Ljubljana. 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 ERT 3, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Editor: **Lea Spiridou**

Production and Design: **Matina Petritsopoulou**.  
Phone (3031) 299611-610 fax (3031) 299 655.

E-mail: [pr@ert3.gr](mailto:pr@ert3.gr)

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

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

GDANSK, Poland –

Forty-one journalists and producers from regional TV stations in Belarus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine met at Czarna in the south-east of the Polish Bieszczady Mountains Sept. 10-11, to exchange ideas and discuss closer cross-border co-operation among the regions of Central and East Europe.

This international conference organised by TVP and the National Broadcasting Council was opened by Juliusz Braun, the NBC Chairman, who stressed that - at the time when Europe united - regional television had a very special role to play, namely, to integrate neighbours across their borders. He noted that Polish viewers often knew more about the events in the United States than in Slovakia; "Unfortunately, we know little about our neighbours, and we often live on stereotypes. It is obvious that television is particularly able to break down these stereotypes, and to enable people to get to know each other better." He expressed hope that the meeting in Czarna would become a useful forum for finding out what is already being done, and for talking about cross-border co-operation and any logistic, technical, or financial problems which might be encountered, in order to enable better and wider co-operation in that part of Europe.

According to Tadeusz Skoczek, Deputy Chairman TVP, "the role of regional television is to integrate the viewers with the 'local dimension' of their existence, and to reflect their civic relationship to their homeland. As local governments develop, the role of regional television is going to grow and become more important." He added that studies show that in highly developed societies, local identity does not degrade, but on the contrary, it becomes the essence of civic existence. In America, for example, "people concentrate mainly on their micro region and environment, while state, country, or international affairs are viewed only from a more distant perspective." He explained that TVP expected local/regional news and current affairs to become the most characteristic trait of (regional) TVP 3 in the near future, and hoped that the meeting in Czarna would enable better co-operation across the borders through getting to know each other better and finding new effective solutions.

Lefty Kongalides, President Circom Regional, talked about his experience in regional co-operation using "The Balkan Magazine" as an example. He was sure that regional television might help regional development by promoting local news and initiatives, inviting local guests to take part in programmes to assure the viewers that it was indeed their own TV station, and by participating in important and less important events in the region. He said, "In an era of globalisation, it often comes as a surprise to some people that regional television is still thriving with a dynamism of its own, proving that it will always be an endless source, an endless well, of fresh and new ideas, of new interesting personalities, of enthusiasm and ambition. After all, regions constitute the national identity all over Europe." The President then explained that Circom Regional could share their expertise and know-how relating to aspects of regional co-operation.

Professor Tomasz Goban-Klas from the Jagiellonian University claimed that in future there would be a great tendency towards stronger regionalism, and that regional and local media strengthened cultural identity of the particular region, expressing the principle of pluralism in social and cultural life. He also stressed that in the era of the Internet and

# Cross border co-operation in the regions of Central and East Europe

## Future prospects are optimistic

globalisation, there exists a strong counter trend to search for one's own local identity.

The first part of the meeting was concluded with a presentation of the selected regional programmes and a lively discussion.

Part two of the conference opened with a presentation by Wirtualna Polska devoted to the possible ways of transmitting picture and sound through the Internet. According to the WP representatives, and other multimedia specialists, the 'marriage' of the Internet and television was inevitable. Its accessibility and world-wide reach constituted the essential attractions of Internet transmission. The potential to treat each viewer individually (like - for example - providing language versions) only added to its attractiveness. Yet there were still many obstacles on the road to full and uninterrupted transmission of sound and picture on the Internet. Listed among them were insufficient capacity of the links, varying standards and programming, inability to guarantee proper reach, and content protection.

Andrzej Wierzejski, Head of Internet News TVP, prepared a presentation of the TVP Internet News page (<http://wiadomosci.tvp.pl>). He explained how the collaboration with the TVP regional web pages was organised. Talking about his experience in the Internet newsroom, he encouraged the participants by stressing that you do not have to be a computer wizard to be able to be an Internet journalist. This presentation was followed by an example of a regional web page. Jacek Szarek from TVP Rzeszow, the host of the conference, showed how his regional station reached its viewers though the Internet ([www.rzeszow.tvp.pl](http://www.rzeszow.tvp.pl)).

The final part of the conference was devoted to a 'round table' debate on regional co-operation in practice. Using their programme "Kowalski meets Schmidt" as an example, ORB Potsdam and TVP Wroclaw analysed programming, and the technical and logistic aspects of such cross-border production. Other examples of cross-border programmes were discussed: "The Quartet" produced by the regional stations in Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, or "The Neighbours" broadcast for the viewers in the Bialystok, Poland, and Grodno, Belarus, regions. The conclusions after the debate and at end of the meeting were optimistic about the future prospects for useful co-operation. There was apparent willingness for continuation. As Ryszard Paclawski, Head Regional Programmes TVP, stressed, contact and communication should become easier after the conference because the participants got to know each other, and understood the needs and expectations of others better. He hoped there would be similar meetings in the future to make sure the co-operation in the regions developed and helped to build regional identity among the viewers.

The very end of the meeting was disrupted when the first news from America came. The participants were distraught. Everybody just watched with horror and disbelief as the tragedy developed.

**BARBARA LEWANDOWSKA**

### Participants List

#### Germany

Stephan Abarbanell – ORB Potsdam  
Krzysztof Czajka – ORB Potsdam  
Barbara Glaubitz – ORB Potsdam  
Geri Nasarski – ORB Potsdam

#### Ukraine

Petro Petryk – TV Uzhorod  
Olga Petryk – TV Uzhorod  
Vasyl Voron – TV Volyn  
Jaroslav Klymovich – TV Lvov  
Michailo Khvoynitskyi – TV Lvov

#### Belarus

Aleksander Lasminski – TV Grodno

#### Hungary

Lea Tilles – MTV Miskolc  
Janos Jurkovic – MTV Szeged  
Erika Kocsor – MTV Szeged

#### Czech Republic

Vladimir Stvrtna – TV Ostrava  
Marta Svozilova – TV Ostrava

#### Slovakia

Marian Kleis – STV Kosice  
Luba Kolova – STV Kosice  
Marta Gajdosikova – STV Banska Bystrica  
Mikulas Kyslan – STV Banska Bystrica  
Peter Zemanik – STV Banska Bystrica  
Jan Dianiska – STV Kosice

#### Poland

Jerzy Kalina – TVP Bialystok  
Ruta Burdyn – TVP Bialystok  
Dariusz Szada-Borzyszkowski – TVP Bialystok  
Barbara Lewandowska – TVP Gdansk  
Wojciech Sarnowicz – TVP Katowice  
Ireneusz Kaznocha – TVP Katowice  
Krzysztof Krzyzanowski – TVP Krakow  
Waldemar Janda – TVP Krakow  
Jerzy Czerwiecki – TVP Lublin  
Andrzej Cudak – TVP Poznan  
Jacek Szarek – TVP Rzeszow  
Jezzy Oleszkowicz – TVP Rzeszow  
Elzbieta Bitner – TVP Szczecin  
Iwona Poczopko – TVP Szczecin  
Elzbieta Bis – TVP Szczecin  
Edyta Antosiewicz-Brzozowska – TVP Wroclaw  
Sebastian Fikus – TVP Opole  
Piotr Tyma – TVP Warszawa  
Beata Klimkiewicz – TVP Krakow  
Ryszard Nowak – TVP Wroclaw



The participants of the international meeting in Czarna, Poland, September 10-11



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



### **SEPTEMBER**

Sept.14-22: Atlantic Film Festival (Halifax, Canada)

[www.atlanticfilm.com](http://www.atlanticfilm.com)

Sept. 20 – 23: Silver Lake Film Festival (Los Angeles, U.K.)

[www.silverlakefilmfestival.com](http://www.silverlakefilmfestival.com)

Sept. 21 – Oct. 4: Vancouver International Film Festival (Vancouver, Canada)

[www.viff.org](http://www.viff.org)

Sept.24-29: Jackson Hole Wildlife Festival (Jackson Hole, USA) [www.jhfestival.org](http://www.jhfestival.org)

Sept. 27 – 30: Doclands Film Festival (Dublin, Ireland) [www.doclands.ie](http://www.doclands.ie)

Sept 28 – 30: Planet in Focus (Toronto, Canada) [www.planetinfocus.org](http://www.planetinfocus.org)

### **OCTOBER**

Oct 3 - 9: Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival (Yamagata City, Japan),

[www.yamagata.yamagatajp/yidff](http://www.yamagata.yamagatajp/yidff)

Oct. 5 – 12: IFP Market (New York, US), [www.ifp.org](http://www.ifp.org)

Oct. 8 – 12: MIPCOM (Cannes France) [www.mipcom.com](http://www.mipcom.com)

Oct. 9-11: East Cost Video Show (Atlantic City, USA) [www.ecvshow.com](http://www.ecvshow.com)

Oct. 18-24: New Zealand Mountain Film Festival (Queenstown, New Zealand) [www.queenstown.com/mtnfilm](http://www.queenstown.com/mtnfilm)

Oct. 12 – 21: Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival (Arkansas, U.S) [www.docufilminst.org](http://www.docufilminst.org)

Oct 19 - 22: World Congress of History Producers (Boston, U.S.), [www.banffvfest.com](http://www.banffvfest.com)

Oct.22 – 28: 7e Cinema tout ecran – International film and TV Festival (Geneva, Switzerland), [www.cinema-tout-ecran.ch](http://www.cinema-tout-ecran.ch)

Oct. 22 – 28: Sheffield International Documentary Festival (Sheffield, U.K.) [www.sidf.co.uk](http://www.sidf.co.uk)

Oct. 23 – 25: Columbus International Film & Video Festival (Columbus, U.S.) [www.chrisawards.com](http://www.chrisawards.com)

# SONY®

**EUTELSAT**

## BalkaNet starts in four countries on Sept 20

BalkaNet, a network funded by the European Union, for sharing the news on 24 hour basis with Albanian, FYRO Macedonian, Bulgarian and Greek public TV stations will be in operation by Sept 20. The news were broken during the 30<sup>th</sup> Balkan TV Magazine consortium meeting held in Leptokarya, Greece, last August. The BalkaNet is expected to expand to Serbia, Moldova, Romania and Turkey in the coming months.

During the meeting two new projects, namely the Balkan Sports Magazine and the Balkan Cultura Magazine were suggested but the final decision will be probably taken during the next meeting in Belgrade, early December. Rossinka Radoikova from Bulgaria's BNT has been named Deputy Chief Co ordinator for this project.



## Whispers

The 26<sup>th</sup> Golden Chest Festival, the int'l television festival for film productions, will be held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Sept 30 – Oct 6. TV fiction films and series and TV documentary films will be judged by two int'l juries....Consumer expenditure on t-commerce (transactional TV) in Western Europe is expected to reach 17.4 billion euros in 2005....Broadband Media is the first newsletter dedicated to covering the roll – out of global broadband networks across all platforms, including TV, PC, PDA and mobile....

xxx

The Nombre d'Or Festival in Amsterdam runs from 14 – 18 September. This year, the number of entries has almost doubled to 304 from 28 countries.... Sylvie Forbin has left Audiovisual Eureka, where she had a major role from 1993 – 2001. She is now working for the Vivendi Universal group in Paris.... The BalkaNet, a computer – based exchange of news program in the Balkan public TV stations is to be launched Sept 20, on an around the clock basis. Albania, FYROM, Bulgaria and Greece participate in the first round....

xxx

COPEAM has just issued its first "Newsletter", a quarterly 6 page A-4 size "information letter of the Mediterranean Permanent Conference of Audiovisual Operators"....BNT (Bulgaria) and ERT 3 (Greece) will be joint sponsors of a Greek music concert in Sophia, Sept 30....

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The 9<sup>th</sup> COPEAM conference and general assembly will take place in Algiers, May 8-11....The 5<sup>th</sup> Int'l Ethnic TV Festival "At Home" will be held in Krakow, Poland, Oct 4- 6. Website: [www.tvp.pl/krakow3/athome](http://www.tvp.pl/krakow3/athome).... The re -launching of the Balkan – Sports – Magazine is to be discussed thoroughly by the Balkan public TV stations during a December meeting....

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Cologne-based broadcaster RTL has increased its share of the German TV audience from 15.3% in March to 15.9% in April. ARD is placed second with a 12.7% audience share, followed by fellow public service broadcaster ZDF and ProSiebenSat1's Sat

1.... Greek DTH operator Alpha satellite TV has posted revenues of Dr25bn (\$62.7m) for 2000 up on the '99 figure of Dr39.7bn. Pre tax profits jumped Dr5.4bn to Dr7bn....The Beijing Broadcast Film and Television Group, a conglomerate of Beijing's main TV broadcasters has been formed to help its members compete with foreign companies and cope with the demand for TV and film production inside the country.

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Fox is set to launch a new 24-hour cable and satellite channel in Spain. Aimed at the 18 to 34-year-old demographic, the channel will bear the Fox name and will show a mix of movies and US dramas, including NYPD Blue and the X-Files....Warner Bros International Television (WBTV) has relaunched its client-services website, (wbiv.com). The redesigned site features the entire WBTV catalogue of more than 40,000 hours in a fully searchable database, which can be accessed by title, genre, talent/character, airdate or format....German news channel N24 has launched an interactive broadband service that synchronises additional information with high quality TV feeds.

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In the first of what could be a while raft of European pay-TV channel launches, Fox has launched a fully-branded entertainment channel in Spain....UK consumers are quickly warming up the idea of interactive activity via their digital TV. High up on the interactive wish-list (of both digital and non-digital TV viewers) is telephoning friends and seeing them on the TV screen; sending e-mails; listening to new music with a potential to buy; booking holidays; ordering takeaways; banking and getting the TV to alert the viewers' of the favorite types of programmes....German free-TV channels are consolidating to challenge the public channel 'clan' formed by ARD and ZDF. Meanwhile Kirch's pay-TV platform Premiere World is struggling against stagnation.