

# Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmothly CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations March 2000 / Issue 6

A fruitful meeting of the CR Executive Meeting in Brussels was hosted generously by Tele Bruxelles General Director Michel Huisman.

The meeting was held in the premises of Tele Bruxelles, and lasted almost five hours. Right after that Mr. Huisman invited CR EC members at the Les Halles de Schaerbeek for a performance of the spectacle sans paroles *Visa pour l'amour* by the *Vis a vis* company from Toulouse, which was an exceptional show. Dinner followed at the beautiful *L Huitriere* restaurant offered by Tele Bruxelles. CR EC meeting agenda included information on the

## CR presentation well received in Bruxelles

preparations for the Potsdam conference, the agreement on the activities in south-eastern Europe, the Prix Circom, Euromusica and, among others, the current coproductions *Violence against women* and *The forests of Europe*. In the headquarters of the European Union in Brussels CR EC members had meetings with Steen Illeborg of the *Comite des Regions*

(*Chef d unite, Direction des travaux consulatifs*), Niels Jorgen Thogersen (*Directeur Communication*), Franck Biancheri (president of *Prometheus Europe*). A cooperation with the *Comitee of Regions* was decided and will proceed with mutual interest.

A reception was also given by CR at the EBU premises for representatives of the European Union, the European Commission and other authorities. A video presentation of the CR activities and a short speech by CR president R. Allerdt preceded. Both events were well received by more than 60 persons. Full report on Page 2.

## Deadline for the training workshop

CR National Coordinators are reminded that applications for the Potsdam Journalism Workshop, to be held before and during the annual conference, must be sent to Rick Thompson by March 31st. Already by the beginning of March, 20 applications from nine different countries had been received. The Executive Committee has agreed that, as in previous years, every applying country should get at least one place on the workshop. Other places will be assessed on the needs of the stations and individuals applying. The application form is on the website or contact Rick. Tel: +44 1564 785080 Fax: +44 1564 785321

## Black Sea resort hosts several TV festivals

TV world events 2000 takes place (immediately after the CIRCOM conference) in Albena - one of Bulgaria's best Black Sea resorts - in early June. Several years ago when BNT was no longer willing to support "The Golden Antenna" TV festival, it had become an independent initiative strongly supported by the Bulgarian TV World foundation and

several international companies as sponsors. The scope of the festival was broadened and it became a rather successful event in the last couple of years. This year - TV World 2000 incorporates many different events, including several TV festivals: the well known TV festival for entertainment programs which is now called "The Golden Albena", the new TV news festival "The Silver Satellite", a TV advertising festival, a press media festival and exhibition, an exhibition of TV equipment, live jazz and rock music festival etc. There is a web site (presently under repair, but still working) with the following address: [www.tvworld.bg](http://www.tvworld.bg).

## Int'l Documentary Festival in Thessaloniki

The promotion and introduction of the most important documentary productions, worldwide, and the creation of an int'l forum for the presentation and discussion of emerging media and information technologies are the aims of the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival *Images of the 21st Century* to be held in Thessaloniki, March 26-31. This international festival of film and videos is organized under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Culture with the support of the public TV network, NET and is administered by the Int'l Thessaloniki Film Festival. Contact: Phone (3031) 287269, Fax: (3031) 285759, E-mail: [newhor@filmfestival.gr](mailto:newhor@filmfestival.gr)

## Euromusica 2000 in the Adriatic sea resort Opatija

Euromusica keeps moving around. Last year in Umbria in Italy was hosted by RAI. This year Euromusica will be hosted and produced by Croatian TV. The plans are to have Euromusica in the town of Opatija by the Adriatic sea. Opatija is situated at the root of the Istrian peninsula close to the city of Rijeka. Euromusica will be held in the latter half of September, according to Vladimir Spicer. During this year Johan Forssblad will leave the coordinating duties to Eszter Farkas of Hungarian TV. Eszter is a Euromusica veteran as she produced the festival 1996 in SzØkesfehØrvÆr. The role as a coordinator will be the same as before, that is to work as a consultant and an adviser for the producing stations, helping to establish continuity from one year/one place to the next. All the production will still be made by the hosting station. Eszter and Johan plan to go to Opatija before the summer to meet Vladimir Spicer and discuss this year's festival and the coordination of future Euromusicas. If possible this meeting will take place in time that permits a report on the Potsdam Conference.

## At the Tele Bruxelles premises

A Circum Regional Executive Committee meeting was being held at the premises of the Tele Bruxelles in Brussels, February 21, from 14.30-19.30h. Present were the members of the EC Reimar Allerdt, Boris Bergant, Marie-Paule Urban, Gerry Reynolds, Grethe Haaland, Barbara Lewandowska, Sergei Erofeev, Roel Dijkhuis, Lefty Kongalides. Also present were the invited guests David Lowen, Jürgen Hassel, Rick Thompson, Maria Nemčič, Tim Johnson, Brigitte Wauer. A full report of this meeting, according to the minutes by Marjana Rupnik of the CR General Secretariat follows:

**The preparations for the Prix CR 2000.** David Lowen presented a detailed written report on the preparations to the Prix CR. As far as the rights of the winning programmes are concerned, the EC once again stressed that according to the decision of the EB they have to be available to the CR members free of rights. Exceptions have to be discussed and approved by the EB. Furthermore, David Lowen requested that the judges nominated by the stations for the jury meeting in Carinthia get directly in touch with him and he also requested the present EC members to think of two more candidates for the jury. Concerning the proposed BBC Trophy, the EC decided to study the proposal more thoroughly and to put it for discussion before the EB. Mr. Lowen was requested to inform the BBC World Service about CR's interest for the trophy in 2001. The prize-giving ceremony in Potsdam has to be either a professional staging with all elements required for the staging of such an event; if due to the circumstances such a staging (in organisation of the German hosting station together with CR) will not be possible, the EC agreed that the Prix CR prize-giving shall take place within a social event and formal dinner. As far as the ISPO award proclaimed already in '99 is concerned, explained the Secretary General, there has been a terrible delay in funding due to the renewal of all procedures by the EC. The prize will therefore be awarded at the 2000 prize-giving.

**The training seminar:** After discussion, the members of the EC agreed on the following points: Mr. Rick Thompson's budget draft for the Potsdam training seminar was accepted and sole responsibility for the budget and the selection of trainees goes to Mr. Thompson. Some of the subsidies for the seminar are depending on the choice of trainees, since they are targeting only participants from certain countries. The selection will as much as possible serve the rule to have one participant from every applying country, yet there ought to be a certain flexibility to it. The trainees will have to pay their travel expenses, everything else will be covered by CR. Concerning the offer of the ARD school to support the seminar with some people and equipment, it is up to CR to negotiate it. The offer needs to be studied and discussed with them, since it should fit the needs of the CR seminar and not vice versa. As far as the sponsorship



# The CR EC meeting in Brussels

negotiations with Sony are concerned, Reimar Allerdt explained that Sony wishes him and the Secretary General to attend a meeting with the Sony Europe directors in March. However, Mr. Rick Thompson was given green light to negotiate the technical equipment provided by Sony for the needs of the training seminar. The offers of the Brandenburg region, the Jena company etc. to have some films made by the participants of the seminar are optional and to be decided upon by the training co-ordinator. The Deputy Secretary General



informed the EC that the autumn training session in Strasbourg will be held during the plenary session of the European Parliament from November 13 to 18, 2000.

**Euromusica 2000:** The Secretary General reported that he has contacted Mrs. Ester Farkasz from MTV Budapest and that she declared herself willing to take over the Euromusica co-ordination from Johan Forssblad by the end of 2000. The location of the Euromusica 2000 hosted by the HRT will be Opatija in Istria (Croatia) in September. Mrs. Farkasz, Mrs. Nemčič and Mr. picer will meet on location and inform the EC about the details. All event details will also be available on CR's website and the national co-ordinators should encourage their music groups to participate.

**The Potsdam conference:** In a short introductory discussion, the EC worked out some principles on the conference schedule. The schedule represents a merely skeleton to be further discussed and decided upon by the organising committee and persons responsible for the single days (shape, panel guests, etc.) of the conference.

As responsible were appointed: Day 1 Gerry Reynolds and Tim Johnson, Day 2 Roel Dijkhuis, Day 3 Maria Nemčič, Day 4 Boris Bergant, Trip to Berlin Brigitte Wauer, Reimar Allerdt. The group decided to meet the next day in order to discuss the details of the schedule including possible guest speakers, etc. The deadline for the delivery of the final schedule shall be April 1, 2000. The social events accompanying the conference are the responsibility of the President. He pointed out that he is still looking for happy hour sponsors from different countries. Furthermore, the initially planned art exhibition of painters and sculptors from different countries proved impossible. The exhibition in the responsibility of Sergei Erofeev (assisted by Karen Schmidt) will now present an Italian and some Slovenian painters and the sculptors of Bulgarian sculptor Aper. The Secretary General requested Mr. Erofeev to consider the Eutelsat stand that needs to be set up in the lobby as well. The organiser of the exhibition shall be provided an exact plan of the premises and deliver the final set up of the exhibition by the end of March 2000. Proposals for workshop topics have to be submitted to Mrs. Valerie Joyeaux in Munich.

**Approval of minutes:** The President requested to add that the partnership for south-eastern Europe was discussed intensively, which is not clear from the minutes. The minutes from the EC meeting in Potsdam, on November 26, 1999 were approved without further remarks.

**South-eastern Europe:** Reimar Allerdt reported that the basic idea of the project is to promote public service broadcasting for south-eastern Europe. Since the countries in SE Europe still lack the legal framework necessary in order to establish public service networks, interested western European stations are called upon to produce programmes to be transmitted by

## The CR EC meeting in Brussels

## European broadcasters establish programming alliance

→ From page 2

night and then selected and broadcast by the SE stations during the day. It will certainly be a very comprehensive project that might include some 350 journalists going through the process of learning by doing, yet it will certainly not be possible without the financial support from the Stability Pact, maybe also the EU and Council of Europe. In case that the project will be initiated, the role of CR might be to work out a feasibility study, etc., yet the actual implementation would be up to a separate legal entity.

**Current coproductions:** Violence against Women :The project has been restricted only to EU member countries and supported by a subvention of 185.000 Euro. 10.000 Euro have been allocated to the participating stations from France, Germany, Italy, UK respectively. They delivered 30-minute documentaries, which will be merged into a summary in Ljubljana. The project ought to be finished by June, but will probably be concluded even earlier. The SG reported that the subsidy for this project will allow CR to invite some participants to the conference. Mrs. Lewandowska expressed her regret regarding the fact that project has been limited to the EU members countries, since the topic is highly relevant also in transition countries.

- The Forests of Europe : Mrs. Urban reported that this successful project is now running for the 5th year. This year it focuses on the forests of southern Europe. The European Commission has already signed the letter of agreement

- for the project and the actual work will start after an initial meeting to be held at France 3 in Bordeaux. As far as the project Eurojobs is concerned, the EC agreed that it is merely a multi-lateral production and has nothing to do with CR, since there was no application for funds, etc. from CR's side. IT could be discussed only if presented in Potsdam to CR members (contact Mrs. Valerie Joyeaux). All CR coproduction proposals ought to appear on the website, which would make them accessible to all members.
- Balkan Sports Magazine. Lefty Kongalides reported that in the framework of the Balkans TV Magazine the Balkans Sports Magazine will be relaunched due to the Olympic Games in Greece in 2004. In this regard the idea has been launched to invite all CR sports editors to Greece, which might be set up as a CR event under the auspices of the Olympic Committee. The EC agreed to pursue this idea.

**Publications:** The CR website and on-line services have been corrected and adjusted according to the EC decision, reported the SG. A first test chatroom meeting of the EC was concluded successfully and therefore the EC agreed. The EC expressed its appreciation for Mr. Kongalides' work on the CR News-report. The members furthermore agreed that 8 pages are a suitable volume; Mr. Kongalides pointed out that he urgently needs contributions for his monthly and the members obliged themselves to be more active in this regard. The daily newsletter to be issued during the conference days shall be issued the very same day on 4 pages in English (possible translated versions may be issued later on) and shall reflect the discussions and ongoing of the day. The chairpersons of the single sessions will have the obligation to deliver Mr. Kongalides a short summary.

**Financial issues:** The SG pointed out that all discrepancies in accounting between Ljubljana and Strasbourg have been cleared. The report (see attached file) will be passed on to the internal auditors and after their approval it will be sent into external auditing. The General Secretariat is always at disposal to answer possible questions. Katarina Novak reported that so far only 19 stations have paid the membership fee for 200, yet the experience from previous years shows that the majority settles the fee before the annual conference.

**Miscellaneous:** Reimar Allerdt reported that the Circorama project had to be dropped for 2000, yet that the idea might be pursued for one of the following conferences. He also expressed his resentment and reservations regarding the fact that the Euro TV Regio label has been registered and protected for France 3 and CR, which has the juridical implication that France 3 is free to use the title without seeking consent of CR and in such a case CR has no right to use the title anymore. The EC agreed that as a matter of principle a CR project, for which CR obtains the funds, has to be registered exclusively under the name of CR.

Seven European broadcasters have announced the creation of a television programming alliance 'dedicated to promoting cultural diversity' by offering what they anticipate will be 'innovative non-commercial' programming. Calling the project 'Night Trade', the alliance aims to establish regular late-night slots in the schedules of its participating broadcasters for programmes that would otherwise be unable to find airtime because of 'content, style or length'.

Initial members of the alliance are ZDF (Germany), YLE (Finland), ERT (Greece), MTV (Hungary), TG4 (Ireland), NOS (Netherlands), SVT (Sweden) and the Geneva, Switzerland-based European Broadcasting Union, which will coordinate the initiative. Other interested stations may join. 'Night Trade' wants to surprise audiences from Italy to Finland, from Ireland to Poland, with programmes they would not normally see, and to give them the chance to get to view programmes from other European countries and beyond,"said Eckat Stein of ZDF, a prime mover behind the initiative.

## Greek penalties for TV sensationalism

Programmers who allow scurrilous innuendo and sexual allegations onto television news programming in Greece have been placed on notice: Tone it down or we'll turn it off. Government spokesman Dimitris Reppas outlined a presidential decree February 18 that says private channels could be forced to suspend programmes, pay fines of as much as \$1.5 million and lose their operating licenses if they fail to temper their sensationalism, a staple on popular shows such as 'Jungle' and 'Yellow Press'.

The measures represent the latest attempt to bring some order to the brash frontier of the Greek airwaves, where five main private stations and 15 or more smaller channels increasingly dedicate news programmes and talk shows to any topic no matter how flimsy or scathing the accusations. But some critics believe the crusade could stifle investigative journalism in a nation that has seen its share of corruption and major foul-ups, including allegations of police protection to mobsters and last year's bungled attempt to give sanctuary to Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

The government ax dropped after the host of the popular investigative show 'Jungle' said he had evidence of a sex scandal involving a Greek politician and handed a public prosecutor the material. The penalties for the stations are not new, but the presidential decree adds unprecedented clout and could lead to the first big crackdowns on the reporting of sexually tinged rumours called 'pink scandals'. Such televised rumours threatened to

## BBC launches new programme code

The BBC has issued its programme-makers with new guidelines following a wide-ranging review. Director-general Greg Dyke launched the code, which sets out the BBC's editorial and ethical standards. It follows last year's controversy over The Vanessa Show, which caused embarrassment when it emerged that guests had been recruited from an agency. Now the new guidelines bring the corporation's online services into step with its TV and radio operations. The document, which weighs in at over 350 pages, sets out the BBC's principles on issues such as secret filming, stereotyping, privacy, taste, decency and fairness. Following the Vanessa controversy, the new guidelines emphasise the importance of checking that guests are genuine. The guidelines also say nothing should be put on the Internet which the BBC would not be prepared to broadcast. For example, pages aimed at children should not be linked to sites aimed at adults. Mr Dyke added the BBC remained committed to innovative and creative programming, saying that 'risk-taking is and must remain an essential part of the creative process at the BBC'.



# A brief report on TV in Serbia

## BELGRADE

It is not easy to understand the situation in television media in Serbia, because it is completely unique, just like the regime that had decisive influence in its creation. During the past ten years the regime did everything in its power to transform state TV Radio Television Serbia (RTS) into the speaker's platform of the ruling party, and to make every attempt of forming an alternative network impossible. In the early 90s the regime started to use the state media, which had thus far reported in a professionally correct manner, for its propaganda-first for political and then for war purposes also. Radio and Television Belgrade incorporated all RTV centers into a system called Radio Television Serbia (RTS) and laid off fifteen hundred people who did not submit their profession to the political interests of the ruling nomenclature. It was only the beginning of a process of destruction for a serious institution with a long history, which played an important role in the society and had its place in the family of European public Televisions. Other functions of a public television (education, art, entertainment etc.) were constantly neglected, and the news program degenerated so much, that it became widely known, not only in Serbia, as 'Virtual reality of RTS'. The process of destruction was sealed with the NATO bombing of RTS in April 1999. Ironically enough, not only that innocent people were killed and equipment worth millions destroyed, but it also opened the space for censorship never seen before, even on RTS! The only news program that can be seen on the whole territory of Serbia definitely lost any connection both with reality and profession. In the meantime, large number of private and so-called independent TV stations was created. Making a survey of number, present state and structure of ownership of the so-called independent TV stations in Serbia is not a simple task. The main difficulty derives from the fact that most of them are working without necessary permissions. It means that beside the permanent threat from the Serbian Information Law, their position is insecure also because most of them are functioning practically illegally. Milosevic's regime tolerates their status because of at least two visible reasons:

1. The greatest number of so-called independent or private TV stations is owned by businessmen close to the regime-men that are more or less eminent members of the ruling party or members of their family (That's the way big business is dealt with in the system of government like this one in Serbia).
2. These TV stations broadcast mostly domestic and foreign music, movies and sports events without buying TV rights low quality light entertainment programs and similar. They don't have their own news program, and a number of them retransmit the main news program of RTS TV Dnevnik.

It is almost impossible to find out the exact number of such TV stations. Two ministries in charge (Ministry of Information and Ministry of traffic and circuits) and their inaccurate documents are quoting the names of just few of them. Association of private TV stations Spektar (with headquarters in Belgrade and Nis) have 109 members, but they can not tell for sure how many TV stations operate without being members of the Association. For instance, in Aleksinac, little mining town in South Serbia there are two private TV stations, and in Nis, third

Party.

TV stations like that operate in Nis, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, but the most transmitters (on Lovcen covering Adriatic coast and Cetinje and on Bjelasica covering north part of Montenegro) as high points

reserved only for public Radio Montenegro, and denied Radio Elmag right to use them. By this act new government legalized, as far as media is concerned, legal insecurity of investments, which resembles very much monopolistic behavior of Serbian government. The second example has,

men dashed into NTV Montena studio during the interview with Stjepan Mesic (now President of Croatia, but at that moment not even a candidate for the post) only because public TV Montenegro financed his stay in Podgorica. Two editors cut off the interview in a rough manner and a big scandal occurred. This example illustrates monopolistic behavior of public TV Montenegro with the support of actual government.

**ZORAN PREDIC,**  
Editor in chief, TV Elmag  
Correspondent of Belgrade independent daily pa-

## The media situation in Montenegro today

### BELGRADE

TV Elmag is family television and it broadcast programs of all categories -from children, music, movies, sport and documentaries-to news programs. Blue Moon has the same concept, but the emphasis is laid on movies and serials. NTV Montena places an emphasis on political talk shows, and the similar concept has Sky Sat. Sky Sat is a member of Belgrade Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) and they transmit ANEM programs also. For all TV stations mentioned can be said that they are independent. There are also private local TV stations in Niksic and Budva. Currently there is a process of founding progovernmental city TV in Bar. Ethnic groups and national minorities do not have their TV stations, but there is Albanian radio station Radio Miri which operates in Tuzi. Communication between Ministry of Information and independent media is mostly correct, but there are also examples of giving advantage in a monopolist way to



The most drastic example of non-democratic behavior on the part of government towards independent media is the case of Radio Elmag, and in smaller amount that on NTV Montena. Radio Elmag was the first independent radio station in Montenegro founded six years ago. Its owner, private businessman, invested great deal of money into transmitters with the written consent of actual government.

However, when separation of two closest co-operates (Momir Bulatovic and Milo Djukanovic) took place, some of yielded frequencies, already publicly agreed and signed, came into question. New government pronounced some of important and the most famous one is ex-independent Belgrade TV station Studio B. Today, this TV station is under complete control of Serbian Renewal Movement, its news program is under direct supervision of that party and there is no possibility for political contents other than those approved by Belgrade City Government to be seen. With this kind of attitude, Studio B lost a lot of its quality and even more of its credibility. Viewers are looking upon this station now as the other side of the medal, and quote this example as an illustration what would really happen if the regime in Serbia were miraculously changed.

TV stations closest to real professional and journalistic independence in Serbia are members of the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM). This Association gathers 19 member stations. They represent an embryo of future independent, alternative TV network. Members of ANEM are co-ordinated by Belgrade independent radio station B2 92. They are financed mostly by donations from foreign foundations and only partly from their own marketing. All TV stations form ANEM network broadcast daily their own new program. They also broadcast programs produced by independent producers, such as VIN, Mreza, Media centar, TVB2 92 etc.

Cooperation with independent producers and their aptitude towards independent informing create all kinds of problems for ANEM members towards the government. On the other hand, the regime did not decide to close independent TV stations.

The most probable reason for this is that all these stations have small range and limited influence (for instance, not one ANEM member station can be seen in Belgrade). Instead of closing them, Milosevic's regime can always use them as evidence that there are democracy, freedom of speech and public word in Serbia.

Despite all of that, Anem member stations and their work in creating a network of independent TV stations are the most serious process taking place in the field of electronic media in Serbia today. In the future period Anem network is planning to buy TV rights for several foreign TV serials and basketball NBA league to enlarge the number of viewers.

Out of 19 member stations of Anem the most important are: RTV Bajina Basta, RTV Kragujevac, RTV Pancevo, RTV Nis and RTV Pirot. They have their own production and their

## Marked by two factors: persecution by the regime and war damages

The present situation in independent media in Serbia has been marked by two important factors: persecution by the regime and war damages.

Persecution: The history of independent media in Serbia is at the same time the history of their persecution by the regime. In the late eighties the regime started to turn media houses into its propaganda offices. Great number of journalists and other professionals were dismissed, forced to leave, or chose to go on their own. Therefore the process of forming independent and alternative media started to take place. It was also the beginning of the process of persecution. It took various forms, from media take-over and seizure of their property, to all kinds of harassment, including pressures, blackmail, threats, public accusations. Numerous independent media were closed or illegally taken over on the part of the regime. Representatives of independent media grew accustomed to temporary arrests by the police, rigged trials, prison sentences seizure of their private property

In 1998 a new surge of persecution started with an unprecedented force. The regime invented various instruments, both direct and indirect, to close or punish independent media:

### 1. Bidding of the Assignment of RTV Frequencies.

The Federal Telecommunications Ministry announced a competition for the assignment of frequencies in February 1998, using this opportunity to reject the independent radio and TV stations, although they had required documentation. This way a number of these stations were closed down while some others continued operating under the threat of immediate closure by the state authorities.

### 2. Serbian information law.

Under the NATO threats in October 1998, the Serbian Information Ministry passed a Decree enabling it to close down or punish the media of its choice, which resulted in closure of several newspapers. After the validity of the Decree had expired, the most rigorous of the provisions were translated into a legislation introducing impossible sentences for arbitrarily defined offences. Serbian Information Law is contrary not only to International Conventions dealing with human rights but to Serbian Constitution also. For instance, one of the provisions enables judges to punish media for quoting the statement of the third party. The fines set by this law are so high that certain media had to lose down or move out of Serbia, while others sustained severe financial losses. It is interesting that the biggest victims of this law are mostly printed media. The reason for this lies probably in realization that other methods, like disrupting of signal, or removal of transmitting equipment, are more successful with electronic media. The newest example is that of Belgrade TV Studio B.

Their signal has been disrupted for months, and when they found the way to avoid interference, their transmitting equipment was stolen from the transmitter on Kosmat on January 13, 2000. Two million people in Serbia lost the possibility to view their program, not to mention great financial loss..

3. War laws. The state of war was accompanied by the passage of a series of special decrees issuing unofficial but meticulous censorship. An instruction issued by the Serbian Information Ministry on March 24, 1999, when NATO strike on the FRY started, introduced substantial limitations for the work of journalists. Authorities have shown great readiness to use most brutal forms of repression against journalists in case they fail to observe the letter of instruction and daily guidelines for reporting given by the same authorities. A large number of radio and TV stations have been closed down their work was prohibited or they were taken over by the state. There were also a number of arrests including Veran Matic, editor in chief of Radio B 92, Stevan Niksic, editor in chief of the weakly NIN, Nebojsa Ristic, director of TV Soko who was sentenced to serve a year in prison for displaying a poster calling for press freedom in his own



## The situation in independent Serbian TV Media

They, by contrast from the state media, are not relieved of the enormous taxes and dues and they also do not have access to credits or privileged operations on foreign exchange accounts. The strongest economic firms in the country, being under regime control, cannot cooperate with these media. The regime also pressures and blackmails the important privately owned firms not to advertise in independent media. To this we should add an unusually vigilant eye of the inspectors who make work of these media difficult or impose drastic punishment for the slightest offences these media are literally forced to make under circumstances. As a very special form of economic pressure the authorities demand from the free electronic media to pay enormous fees and taxes for the use of frequencies, while the taxes are not collected from the RTV stations under their control.

War damage: The NATO bombing heavily affected the status of independent media, both directly and indirectly. Direct damage came from destruction of transmitters and infrastructure. Numerous transmitters of radio and TV stations were destroyed along with those of the state RTV, while the state

RTV took over the frequencies of numerous independent stations, once its own went out of use. As for infrastructure, there is no need to explain without power supply no medium can work, without telephones no information may be obtained, without bridges indirect consequences of NATO bombing for the independent media are enormous primarily because of the air strike on RTS and the killing of 16 of its employees, and the bombing of the Usce business center, that housed 7 media offices. Regardless of the objections to their editorial policy the bombing of media offices may not be justified as a form of democratic

had. The general feeling of the wrong effect of the bombing has also placed the representatives of democratic systems resembling those of the west into the worst possible position. Bearing in mind that the independent media are among the most important elements of democratic structures, their general position has thus substantially deteriorated. The attempt to respond to propaganda with propaganda via the programs in the Serbian language broadcast by foreign stations and the available satellite programs, where a wide audience had the opportunity to convince themselves of a high degree of unprofessional and propagandist work, has also aggravated the position of the independent media. The result of all that was even more persecution by the regime.

Conclusion: The surviving independent media and journalists of independent media who are out of work need all sorts of assistance. They are facing all sorts of financial problems. All the surviving media had to reduce drastically the salaries or else dismiss a large number of reporters. They do not have money for telephone bills, electricity, rent. Any form of indirect assistance is welcome from computers to other technical equipment, supplies and help in the payment of rent and other operating costs. In order to help the independent media on a lasting basis and enable them to live of their own work in would be necessary to create a system wherein this would be possible. It will be necessary to secure such conditions for the development of the media that would allow them to become economically stable and to exercise decisive influence in order to improve the situation in the society in support of its democratization and incorporation into the international community.

**LJILJANA BREBERINA**

\* Report made with the help of Media Center, Bel-



# The 2nd Audio-visual news report competition for young journalists

In the framework of its "Media and Sustainable Development" programme, the European University on Environment and its partners have launched the second edition of the European young journalists audio-visual news report competition (the Sustainable Development in the News Award) on the theme Health and the Environment.

## 1. General Competition Presentation

### 1.1 - Objectives

- To raise awareness among future news professionals of the importance of the environmental question,
- To encourage and develop new journalistic skills in handling everyday TV news topics from the perspective of sustainable development,
- To show that there is a place for this new approach in daily news reporting.

### 1.2 - Who can participate?

Participation is open to students of journalism schools and young journalists (who have been working for less than 18 months) from the member countries of the European Union, Switzerland, Norway and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

They can participate as individuals or as representatives of their journalism school / media.

### 1.3 - The Theme of the 1999-2000 edition

The general theme for the 1999-2000 Sustainable Development in the News competition is health and the environment. It will be a matter of handling news subjects and/or leading new investigations related to this theme, in the form of a news report produced within Europe (or, if desired outside Europe). Reports that employ an original approach to the theme Health and the Environment which go beyond the medical and ecological dimensions to include the economic and socio-political aspects of the subject will be marked highly.

### 1.4 - Selection criteria of the news reports

Besides the previous recommendations, the criteria that will be taken into account for the pre-selection of the news reports, (as well as for the selection of the competition winners), will be the following:-

- the relevance of the manner of treating the information to the principles of sustainable development\*; consideration of the ecological, economic and social demands; the links between the local and global levels; expression of solidarity with future generations,
- the capacity to raise the awareness of the public and relate to its concerns,
- journalistic and technical qualities.

\*Sustainable development was first defined in the 1987 Brundtland Report as:-Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. World Commission on Environment and Development. Our Common Future. New York, Oxford University Press, 1987.

2. United Nations Environment Programme. Global Environment Outlook 2000. 1999, 398 p.

3. European Environment Agency. Environment in the European Union at the turn of the century. 1999.

### 1.5 - Length of news reports

There are two categories according to the length of the reports:

- Category 1 : less than 2'30"
- Category 2 : between 5'-8'

### - HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

There are two stages to the competition.

#### 2.1- The pre-selection stage

The candidates must produce a written account of

N.B. : Each European school of journalism participating can be represented by several individuals and/or teams.

The written project must include the following elements :-

- a description of the proposed news report (no more than one page), defining the subject to be treated, what it will show and key production details (premises, contacts, organisation resources), the length selected (less than 2'30, between 5'-8'),
- a short list of points (no more than 1/2 page) on the interest of the report with respect to the objectives and criteria of the competition, the identity of the producers,
- the coordinates (address, telephone, fax and e-mail) of the school they represent.



N.B : In the case where a project is selected, the European University on Environment reserve the right to use the document as it sees fit for the duration of the programme "The media and sustainable development" with acknowledgement given to the authors.

The projects received will be examined by a Selection Committee drawn from the partners of the "Media and Sustainable Development" programme which will select 20 entries to be produced.

- fifteen projects will be selected
- in the first category (less than 2 30),
- five projects in the second category (between 5 - 8 )

#### The deadline is over

All applicants will be informed of the result of their application.

#### 2.2- The final stage

The news reports chosen by the Selection Committee will receive production expenses to a maximum level of 500 EUROS and their authors will be invited (transport and accommodation costs included) to the official projection preview in May 2000 in Paris. The conditions of this production support, as well as the technical and legal conditions of the production and the broad-casting of the reports will be fixed by agreement between the members of the result of their application.

European University on Environment and the author of the project (or their school).

Production of the news reports

The reports must be produced in Beta format.

They can be produced in any language but two versions have to be sent to the organizers :

- an original version (language chosen by the candidates)
- a version dubbed entirely either in French or in English (the version must be dubbed and not subtitled, interviews included).

The reports must come with a written version of the commentary and the interviews in French or in English (on PC disk or by e-mail).

The deadline for return of the news reports to the European University on Environment : is over

Projection of the news reports and selection of the winners by the jury. The official screening of the news reports in the presence of their authors and the selection of the competition winners by the jury will take place in Paris, in May 2000 (exact date to be precised). The competition jury, composed of 5 to 8 high-level people drawn from the world of media and sustainable development will designate :

- the three best news reports in Category 1 (less than 2 30 ),
- the best news report in Category (between 5 and 8 ).

#### 3- PRIZES

The winners will see their news reports broadcast :

- by European television stations,
- by multimedia,
- at European festivals.

They will be awarded with a prize of :-

1000 EUROS for the winner in Category 1 (less than 2'30"), 500 EUROS for the two runners-up, 1000 EUROS for the winner in Category 2 (5'-8').

#### 4- PROGRAMME PARTNERS

European Commission  
 French Ministry of the Environment and Regions,  
 ADEME - French Agency of the Environment and Energy Management  
 EPE - Businesses for the Environment  
 IFEJ - International Federation of Environmental Journalists  
 Fondation Journalistes en Europe  
 France TØIØ vision  
 TØIØ vision Ouest France  
 Televisio de Catalunya

National Swedish Television

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Le Monde

Courrier International

Centre d'Estudis D'Informacio Ambiental

Friends of the Earth Europe

Cold Center

#### 5- CONTACT-INFORMATION

Monique MARC - Douglas McMILLAN  
 UniversitØ EuropØenne de l'Environnement  
 6 rue de Chantilly, 75009 Paris - France  
 Tel : +33 1 45 26 46 25 - Fax : +33 1 42 81 25 78 - E-mail : uee@wanadoo.fr

# Golden Prague: the 37<sup>th</sup> Int'l Television Festival

The 37<sup>th</sup> edition of the Golden Prague International Television Festival will be held in Zlata Praha, Czech Republic, June 4-7, with the support of EBU. Over the years Golden Prague has profiled itself as a unique international cultural event hosting a competition of classical music, jazz, world music and dance television programs. Golden Prague intends to be more than just a showcase. In the future, the festival would also like to focus on supporting production and distribution of music and dance projects from all continents and various world cultures. Last year Golden Prague hosted representatives from 28 countries.

This year the organizers would like to further enhance the potential of the event, namely make it more attractive for program buyers and producers. As the first step on this way, they are planning to extend the services of Golden Prague videolibrary.

Besides the Official competition programs which will again be available on video, the library will include all projects which will not be a part of the festival program-the informative section.

The videolibrary and video booths, both located in the main festival center, will be open throughout the festival from 9:00 to 19:00 to all accredited participants.

All important European TV buyers specialized in music and art programs will be informed about the new perspectives of Golden Prague and will be invited to be a part of the event.

Interested parties are invited to use this opportunity and send programs according to their choice for both, the competition and informative sections.

The videolibrary will provide all necessary information and play an active role in promoting the programs to the buyers.

For further questions do not hesitate to contact Ms. Zuzana Lanska-



Television Market Coordinator or Mrs. Lenka Rybackova-Head of the Festival Office, tel. (+420)-2-6113 7454, (+420)-2-6113 7055, fax: (+420)-2-6121 2891 or e-mail: [golden\\_prague@czech-tv.cz](mailto:golden_prague@czech-tv.cz).

## TV Acquaintance : a new MPT show with foreign contributions

MPT, the Macedonian Radio & Television, is currently planning to introduce a new program on a monthly basis, titled TV Acquaintance . The aim of the show is to present programs from television networks and stations which have an agreement for co-operation with the FYRO Macedonian public TV station.

Shows up to 240m of duration include all genres, drama or TV feature programs, documentaries on various topics, prominent artists, scientists, urban settlement issues, monuments, music from folk heritage origin, popular and classic music, etc.

TV Acquaintance will be broadcast every Saturday, 9-11pm, on Channel 2. Contact person is Stalin Lozanovski.

## Around Europe Festivals, Workshops and More

### March

20: CR EC conference through Internet  
20-21: Promax & BDA Europe (Berlin)  
20-23: Sportel America (Miami)  
24-31: 2nd Int'l Documentary Festival (Thessaloniki)

### April

5-8: EBU Conference (Dubrovnik)  
6-10: Prix Circom Jury (Klagenfurt, Austria)  
8-9: MipDoc (Cannes)  
8-13: NAB (Las Vegas)  
10-15 April: MipTV (Cannes)  
14-18: 3rd Meeting of the Balkan TV Sports Department Directors (Iasi, Romania)  
25-29: COPEAM Conference (Casablanca)

### May

10-14: 3rd Meeting of Balkan TV Presidents/General Directors (Antalya, Turkey)  
11-12: Interactive TV Advertising 2000-Europe (Paris)  
14-17: 2nd Int'l Contest of Young Singers Mladi Upi -The Young Hopes (Radenci, Slovenia)  
30 May-2 June: CIRCOM Regional Conference (Potsdam)

### June

1-5: World Television Forum (Montreux)  
4-7: 37th Int'l Television Festival Golden Prague (Prague)  
28 June-2 July: Atlantic Television Festival-MAT 2000 (Sao Miguel, Azores).

### September

4-8: Le Rendez-Vous 2000. French TV Screenings (Saint-Tropez).  
8-12: Widescreen Festival (Amsterdam)

### October

3-7: 11th Rassegna Internazionale del Cinema Archeologico (Rovereto, Italy)

## Circum Report

The "CIRCOM Report" is a monthly publication of CIRCOM Regional, the European Association of Public Regional TV Stations - available on the CR Internet site and coming to CR member stations and personnel either through E-mail or as an A-4 size printed newsletter, through the CR General Secretariat from Ljubljana. The CR is also available on the Strasbourg site.

Director of publications is Marie-Paule Urban, CR Deputy Secretary General (Strasbourg). Editor is Lefty Kongalides, member of the CR Executive Committee (Thessaloniki). The "CIRCOM Report" is planned and edited in ERT 3, Thessaloniki, Greece. Phone (3031) 299611-610 fax (3031) 299 655. E-mail : [ert3pl@compulink.gr](mailto:ert3pl@compulink.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 CIRCOM**

# Whispers

**CIRCOM** Regional thanks Tele Bruxelles for hosting the Executive Committee meeting. Director General Michel Huisman did his best in a friendly and generous way...**All** the details of the CR conference program in Potsdam will be available on CR's homepage in the beginning of April...**Conference** posters in English are available at the CIRCOM Regional office in Munich (C/O Bayerischer Rundfunk, Florain Smuhlstr. 60, 80939 Munchen, tel 08998066035, 089-38065468, fax: 089-3806762, e-mail: real.ciom@gmx.de

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**The CIRCOM** Regional partnership project Southeastern Europe Television will be presented by the coordinator of the stability pact to the stability pact financing conference which will take place on March 28 in Brussels...**A clearing-office** has been established with BR Munich which collects and distributes all available information on media activities in Southeastern Europe. More about this office and its activities: [www.br-online.de/suedosteuropa](http://www.br-online.de/suedosteuropa) **Parallel** to the conference in Potsdam CIRCOM Regional plans to have an art exhibition in the conference-center (five artists, painters and sculptor, from five different European regions)

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**A conference** TV program will be available at Potsdam for the first time in the history of CR conferences...**The Expo 2000** will start in Hannover, Germany, on June 1 and last until the end of September. If conference participants would like to visit the Expo after the conference they should not forget that there is nearly no chance to get accommodation in Hannover. This is why Lufthansa and German Railways offer daily special tours to and from Berlin



**Things are** not completely clear for the frequency of Bulgaria's Channel 2 of BNT. Murdock's Balkan news corporation, announced as the winner of the tender, faced a protest at the supreme court and still noone appeared to receive the license

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**Thessaloniki** will host the 3rd World Conference for Children and Audiovisual to be held March 11-15, 2001...**The 2nd** Int'l Contest of Young Singers Mladi Upi-The Young Hopes will be held in Radenci, the spa resort of Slovenia, May 14-17...

**The National** Basketball Association (NBA) has signed new international TV agreements with NTK in Kazakhstan, Melita Sports Channel in Malta, Anem TV Network in Serbia and RTVM in Montenegro **Fox Éids** Europe continues its expansion with the launch of a local channel in Italy on April 1 **Nickelodeon** has launched a localized version of its channel of UPC's cable systems in Hungary as well as a 12-hour block on Zone Vision's Fantastic Channel in Poland 3 Ring Circus has completed a major on-air rebranding for Greece's Mega Channel

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**Spain's** leading digital satellite platform, Canal Satellite Digital, is now present in more than 800.000 households across Spain **The new law** on TV is to be voted by the new Croatian government which will transform HRT as an autonomous and modern public TV. The whole procedure might take another two or more months. A new TV management and consequently program policy is also expected **Media Market Monitor** offer updated financial information on each one of 300 world leading media corporations. Information is being supplied in Microsoft Excel format in e-mail, diskette or CD-ROM

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**"Who wants** to be a millionaire has been the television sensation of the year in the US, frequently pulling in 30 million viewers a night and propelling ABC to the top of the ratings **The Yahoo site** is among the most robust on the Internet, delivering an average of 465 million web pages to consumers each day **The Associated Press** and Real Networks Inc. are launching a real-time audio and video news service for member website called AP Streaming News. The project gives AP's newspaper and broadcast members easy-to-use, cost effective audio and video to enhance their website

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**Astra** claims now to reach around 74% of the world's population with its signals. Viewers from Ireland, Europe, India, Russia, China and South-East Asia can tune into either Astra or Asia Sat signals. Since December Asia Sat's 50% belongs to Astra **Topics** of the 1999 Balkan TV Magazine coproduction were: 1) Natural wonders, 2) Aids in the Balkans, 3) Foreign students in the Balkans, 4) Models agencies, 5) One day in the life of a journalist, 6) Ecological problems in the Balkans, 7) Young talents **Playboy** Enterprises launched erotic television in conservative Chile despite protests that it would corrupt traditional values in the predominately Roman Catholic country

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**The Russian** government will spend more than three million dollars to rebuild media organizations in areas of Chechnya under its control **Programs** from Timisoara (Romania), FYRO Macedonia and Bulgaria on the theme of the world at 50 are to be telecast in June by CBC, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation **The Swedish** parliament is scheduled to debate rules on pornography, following widespread concern about the increased amount of hard porn on cable television

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**Interactive** TV Advertising 2000-Europe is the theme of a conference to be held May 11-12 at the CNIT Conference & Exhibition Center in Paris **Privately** owned television channels are expected to start



soon in military-controlled Pakistan **"Who wants** to be a millionaire , the Godzilla of quiz show formats is stomping its way into Japan. Fuji Television has bought the rights to produce a Japanese version. The top prize will be \$90.000

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**A hard-line** Bosnian Croat television station in the southern town of Mostar was shut down under the watchful eyes of the international military force SFOR. TV Erotel, had refused to cease broadcasting following a ruling by the Independent Media Commission and occupied illegally some 147 transmitters across the federation **The Israeli** Supreme Court has ruled that the nation's lottery must pay damages after violating the copyright of Charlie Chaplin's heirs in a series of television ads **Private channels** in Greece could be forced to suspend programs, pay fines of as much as \$1.5 million and lose their operating licenses if they fail to temper their sensationalism, a staple on popular shows such as Jungle and Yellow Press -according to government spokesman Dimitris Repas

